

MARIUS R. BUSEMAYER

**Training of skilled workers in the context of education and employment systems**

The article addresses the extent to which vocational education and training systems influence strategies for the training of skilled workers. As a basis, it sets out a typology of vocational education and training systems, identifying four distinct models: the liberal, the statist, the segmentalist and the collective model. Taking different countries as examples, the fundamental features of these models are concretised. Reference is also made to the close links between vocational education systems, labour market structures and industrial relations between trade unions and employers' organisations. The article concludes with a discussion of how the vocational education system can influence models of skilled-worker training.

DIANA CÁCERES-REEBS, UDO SCHNEIDER

**Initial vocational training in Mexico – How the country is tropicalising the dual model**

Mexico is one of the world's largest economies and, as a G20 member state, an attractive location for international businesses including German companies. The provision of vocational education as a combination of theory and in-company training is acknowledged to be a successful strategy for training skilled workers to meet the qualification demands of the economy. For this purpose Mexico has developed a form of initial vocational training derived from the German model, and has adapted this to its "tropical" background conditions. The article presents the characteristics of Mexican dual vocational training and illuminates its commonalities and differences to the German vocational education and training system.

RALPH LINDE, STEFAN DIETL

**Providing training abroad – motives and experience of German companies, exemplified by China**

Interview with training managers Ralph Linde and Stefan Dietl

The dual model for the training of skilled workers, which has been peddled as a recipe for success in the European education policy context for at least a year, has been practised by German companies for quite a few years already in different locations worldwide. But what are the motives of German firms for adhering to the dual model of vocational training to train young people abroad? Which background conditions must be in place to permit the organisation of dual vocational training in a foreign country? And why is this commitment seen as worthwhile?

MAREN VERFÜRTH, MARTIN DIART

**Commitment to initial vocational training by German firms in India Impulses for the development of an effective qualification system?**

India faces the challenge, in terms of quality and scale, of investing in initial vocational training for skilled workers. In the process of establishing an effective vocational training infrastructure, attention turns to the commitment of German firms in India: how are these companies providing training, and which local structures can they rely on for support? These questions were pursued in an exploratory study on the vocational training commitment of German firms in India, which is presented in this article.

VOLKER REIN

**Pathways to Prosperity – developments in work-based learning in the USA**

To address chronic deficiencies in skilled-worker training in the USA, there has been a longstanding demand for the expansion of work-based learning. Amid the divergent agendas of education and vocational training, the development of this vocational qualification concept since the beginning of the 20th century in the USA has given rise to a variety of models and training objectives. The current "Pathways to Prosperity" initiative, supported by the business, research and policy communities, gives fresh impetus to the intermeshing of theoretical and practical training and is increasingly being discussed across all educational sectors in the USA. The article traces these developments and discussions.

ERNST DEUER

**Crises of gratification and tendencies to dissolve training contracts early – contexts and fields of action**

In spite of all efforts, nothing as yet has brought about a lasting reduction in the numbers of apprenticeship contracts dissolved early; in fact, Germany's latest Annual Vocational Training Report shows a distinct increase. This seems to indicate that previous studies to investigate the causes, and the measures subsequently derived from them, have still not been adequate to counter the problem effectively. The article takes up a model from the sociology of medicine and transfers it to the context of initial vocational training, making way for new insights and conclusions.

RAINER BRÖTZ, ANKE KOCK

**Method for the construction of commercial occupational groups**

The article explores what kind of methodological approach might be used in the composition of occupational groups. The method presented was developed in the project "Commonalities and differences in commercial and managerial initial and advanced vocational training occupations" (GUK) and is based on a content-analytical evaluation of the German training regulations and general training plans for those occupations. In this case, the method is demonstrated and exemplified for initial training occupations in logistics. Attention is drawn to the advantages and limitations of the methodological approach and its benefits for regulatory design.

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