SFIVET

The end of VET as we know it?
Skills development in times of technical and social change

**6th Congress on Research
in Vocational Education and Training**

**Swiss Federal Institute for
Vocational Education and Training (SFIVET)
Bern/Zollikofen, Switzerland**

4 – 6 March 2019

Deadline postponed! New deadline for paper submissions: 12 September 2018

ABOUT THE CONGRESS

For the sixth time, the Swiss Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (SFIVET) invites researchers to engage in an exchange of ideas and research findings and to reflect on VET issues.

"The end of VET as we know it" stands representative for a time of reconsideration of VET as a way of adequately preparing young adults for the world of work and for society. It is about coping with insecurity and disruption, building new technological and social competences as well as developing creativity for innovation. Demographic change and the expansion of higher education challenge VET as an attractive educational pathway to the labour market. With technological advances leading to more radical changes in the labour market, experts are calling for a reform of education, including vocational education and training, adult and professional education. An increasing decay of knowledge leads to a reconsideration regarding the kind of knowledge that is relevant as well as about the ways in which knowledge is acquired and how it needs to be combined within new forms of learning and working practices. Renewal and change requires building up and recombining a broad range of skills to work in various kinds of teams. Topics that concern education in respect to workforce preparation include migration and inclusion of foreign workers, hybridization of education, digital skills development, and reskilling and upskilling to avoid skills mismatches. The conference attempts to capture these developments through presentations coming from various disciplines, such as education, psychology, sociology, economics or political science.

Teaching and learning for both life and work skills

What we know about approaches to teaching and ways of learning has been partially challenged. The paradigmatic shift from being a teacher to being a coach and accompanying the learning processes of students more as a facilitator of learning

processes while learning from students as well poses many questions. Schools are starting to reconsider the meaning of learning locations and explore increasingly the ways in which learning can be supported by technologies. This includes approaches to online distance learning as well as learning with virtual reality and video applications. The integration of teaching and learning across different learning locations (school and workplace) remains a challenge in the practices of VET. Machine learning, cyberkinetic systems, the Internet of Things (IoT) or Big data are developments that will increasingly determine the ways in which we learn, work and live. The partially unknown demands of future workplaces require schools to focus on competence development in order to assure that students are equipped with the preconditions to plan their careers in the labour market of the fourth industrial revolution (industry 4.0). This raises the following questions: How do teachers need to be prepared for new forms of teaching and learning? How do schools need to change the ways in which learning is facilitated and their established learning culture? How can learning between the different learning venues (at school and at the workplace) be designed to support autonomous learning, critical thinking skills and creativity? How is the future workforce prepared to work in increasingly digitized workplaces and in the age of the fourth industrial revolution? How are learning-teaching processes structured so as to integrate the different learning experiences? How are gifted learners in VET supported in unleashing their creative potential and actively contributing to innovation at work? How does teaching respond to a diverse community of learners and contribute to inclusion in schools and at the workplace?

Enabling flexible learning and inclusive educational pathways

With the flexibilization of work, approaches to learning will increasingly be individualized. The rapid transformation of workplaces requires a constant updating of one's skills and knowledge. Therefore, adults need to have access to training and development. In the light of the current European policy agenda to make access to higher education (HE) more inclusive as well as to prepare students for the knowledge economy, permeability between vocational and higher education is considered key. This requires systems of vocational education and training as well as further education and HE to be permeable and easily accessible. It also requires affordable programmes in terms of financial means and time flexibility. The former institutional divide between VET and professional education and training (PET), as well as between VET and HE is increasingly challenged in terms of supporting the development of usable skills and qualifications. Pragmatism in respect of the use of knowledge and educational degrees and a demand for higher learning skills cause insecurity about the appropriate career paths. In this context, the value of practical and theoretical learning as well as the social value of training qualifications needs to be renegotiated. Questions in this respect are: How can the educational system accommodate different kinds of learners? How can social equality be supported by easing the access from VET to higher and further education and training? How can schools and training providers be informed about new labour market requirements and adequately respond to changing societal expectations? How can they make use of digital technologies to facilitate teaching and learning for adults who need to work while learning or who face social exclusion?

Social and economic foundations for education during digital transformations

Reskilling, upskilling and skills mismatch are recurring themes in the economics of education and address the challenge of adequately preparing the workforce for labour market needs. This is particularly demanding for groups of low-skilled adults or dropouts from the educational system, migrants and persons with special needs. Rapid economic changes and the quest for skills that meet new labour market needs enforces an increased participation in further education and training. Workers are forced to find the time and resources to participate in training as well as advice and coaching to decide about their career pathways. In the field of VET, this raises the following questions: How can the increased demand for further education and training be financed? How can workers be supported in their decision making upon further education? How can learning for new jobs be facilitated at the workplace? What kind of skills and competences are required in the future? How can disadvantaged groups be better integrated in the workplace?

Devoted to the theme "The end of VET as we know it: Skills development in times of technical and social change", the congress seeks to make a contribution to these topics and provide an overview of VET research activities in Switzerland and other countries. It is also intended to facilitate academic exchanges between leading institutions and to present the latest international research findings.

We welcome all areas of VET research and would like to encourage the participation of researchers from different academic disciplines.

The 6th Congress on Research in Vocational Education and Training is open to participants from all over the world. All presentations will therefore need to be given in English. A best paper award and a best photography award will be announced during the congress.

We are looking forward to receiving many interesting and inspiring submissions.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Prof. Dr. Christian Lyhne Ibsen
Michigan State University, USA

Prof. Dr. Alexandra Spitz-Oener
Humboldt-University Berlin, Germany

Prof. Dr. Elsbeth Stern
ETH, Institute for Research on Learning and Instruction, Switzerland

Prof. Dr. Leesa Wheelahan
University of Toronto (OISE), Canada

SUBMISSION: INDIVIDUAL PAPER PRESENTATION

Please submit via ConfTool (https://www.conftool.org/vet2019/)

- a short abstract of 100-300 words (for the program and if you submit a symposia summary); and
- an extended summary of 1000-1200 words. The extended summary should include information on the theoretical and methodological approach used as well as the findings obtained;
- if you wish to participate in the best paper award you may submit a full paper.

SUBMISSION: SYMPOSIUM

Symposia examine a single topic in depth from different perspectives, providing a coherent set of papers for discussion. Symposia sessions consist of three or four presentations and a contribution by at least one discussant. In each symposium, the participants come from at least two different countries.

If you are a presenter of a symposium, you will be asked to submit an abstract and an extended summary (or a full paper) for your individual contribution. Please mark your upload with "**SY" before the title**. In addition, the organizer of the symposium will need to submit the abstract for the symposium topic as well as the names of all contributors, the title of their presentations and their abstracts. For this part of the symposium submission the organizer does not need to upload extended summaries or papers for each individual contribution. Please submit your proposal via ConfTool (https://www.conftool.org/vet2019/). A symposium proposal will either be accepted or declined as a whole. If the symposium is rejected as a whole, but an individual paper within the symposium receives a high rating, it can be included in the program as an individual paper presentation. In this case the authors will be contacted by the organizers. Please also indicate if you like to apply for the Best Paper Award.

THE SMALLS – SHORT FILM ("ELEVATOR PITCH")

Showcase the essence of your presentation in a one-minute movie. All kinds of expressions, e.g. dance, paint, pantomime, spoken word… are welcome. The best contributions will be combined in a BEST OF SHORT FILMS that we will show throughout the conference. The short film might be combined with an individual paper presentation.

SCIENCE SLAM

A science slam is a scientific talk in which scientists present their own research in a 5 to 10 minute slot in front of a non-expert audience. The focus lies on teaching current science to a diverse audience in an entertaining way. The audience judges the presentations. Talks can be given directly at the conference or be videotaped and submitted. The best contributions will be chosen for presentation or broadcasting at the congress. An award is proposed for the best rated presentation. Ratings will relate to the ease of understanding of the scientific research, the scientific content itself and the presentation's entertainment factor. A committee of SFIVET doctoral students will review all contributions and choose the best ones. Submissions may include abstracts or short summaries, audiotapes and videotapes.

PHOTO AWARD

For the first time SFIVET launches this photo award. You are invited to submit a photo representing the theme of the conference with an accompanying narrative of about 100 words. The best photos will be exhibited at SFIVET throughout the conference. By submitting a photo participants must agree to the rules regarding copyright. These rules will be published by June 30, 2018 on the congress website. Photos must be submitted via ConfTool (https://www.conftool.org/vet2019/). They must have a resolution of at least 3307 pixels, preferably 4961 pixels, on the longer side (horizontal or vertical) in jpg format. Each participant can only submit one photo. The photos may be edited and manipulated by the participants (in color or composition, e.g. montage, collage, re-touching, etc.; re-sharpening or correction is permitted as well). The assessment of the photos will be based on the following criteria: originality and creativity, style, framing and choice of viewpoint, visual impact and aesthetics, as well as technical quality of the photos.

REVIEW CRITERIA

Submissions will be assessed on the basis of the following review criteria:

- Significance for theory, practice, or policy in VET
- Theoretical framework
- Clarity of research questions
- Research design and method(s)
- Presentation of (preliminary) results
- Overall quality
- Additionally for symposia: organisation and internal logic of the whole symposium

Please ensure that you can at least refer to preliminary results in your submission.

Deadline for submission is **12 September 2018**.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Prof. Dr. Antje Barabasch
Head of Research Theme: Current VET/PET Context
Swiss Federal Institute of Vocational Education and Training SFIVET, Switzerland

Prof. Dr. Carmen Baumeler
Head of National R&D Division
Swiss Federal Institute of Vocational Education and Training SFIVET, Switzerland

Prof. Dr. Patrick Emmenegger
Professor of Comparative Political Economy
University of St. Gallen, Switzerland

Prof. Dr. Laurent Filliettaz
Full professor in Adult and Vocational Education
University of Geneva, Switzerland

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Research on Vocational Education and Training
University of Osnabrück, Germany

Dr. Franz Gramlinger
Head of ARQA-VET and acting Head of the Programme Committee of the Austrian VET
Research Conference (BBFK)
ARQA-VET, Vienna, Austria

Prof. Dr. Christian Imdorf
Professor of Sociology
NTNU Trondheim, Norway

Prof. Dr. Elisabeth M. Krekel
Head of Department VET Research and VET Monitoring
German Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training, (BIBB), Germany

Prof. Dr. Samuel Mühlemann
Professor of Human Resource Education and Development
LMU Munich, Germany

CONGRESS VENUE

The congress will be hosted by the Swiss Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (SFIVET) in Zollikofen/Bern. With locations in Lausanne, Lugano, Zollikofen and Zurich, SFIVET is the Swiss governmental competence centre for the provision of tertiary-level basic and continuing training to VET actors, for the development of occupations as well as for VET research.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration for the congress can only be made online. Online registration will be available from 1 December 2018.

There are two registration fees: early bird registration (deadline 5 January 2019) and late registration (deadline 18 February 2019).

Students:
Early bird (before 5 January 2019)   CHF 200
Late registration (after 5 January 2019)   CHF 250

Other participants:
Early bird (before 5 January 2019)   CHF 300
Late registration (after 5 January 2019)   CHF 350

DEADLINES

Call for paper submissions: 24 May 2018
Deadline for paper submissions: **New: 12 September 2018**
Deadline for Science Slam proposals: **New: 12 September 2018**
Deadline for Photo Competition   **New: 12 September 2018**
Start of registration: 1 December 2018
Abstracts reviewed/confirmed: 1 December 2018
Submission Short Film/Elevator Pitch: 1 December 2018
Deadline for early bird registration: 5 January 2019
Deadline for late registration: 18 February 2019

CONTACT

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More detailed information about the congress can be found on the website http://sfivet.swiss/vet-congress