



CALL FOR PAPERS

Unleashing the creative potential of VET

5th Congress on Research
in Vocational Education and Training

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

14 – 16 March 2017

Deadline postponed! New deadline for paper submissions: 16 October 2016

ABOUT THE CONGRESS

For the fifth 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.

“Unleashing the creative potential of VET” captures the essence of innovation across disciplines in relation to VET. It is about finding new and unexpected solutions for current challenges, questioning conventions, taking controlled risks and crossing boundaries. Renewal and change require creative minds that contribute at all levels at the workplace to better life conditions and economic success. The setting free of creativity in VET includes new approaches to teaching and learning across different learning locations, enabling individuals to steer their life courses according to personal priorities and in correspondence with labour market needs, the adaptation of educational organizations and institutions and their provision of credentials following a trend of increasing labour market mobility, transferability of degrees, permeability of educational institutions as well as governance structures that enable all of that.

a) Teaching and learning across different learning locations

The integration of teaching and learning across different learning locations (school and workplace) is at the core of VET and constitutes an important challenge for skills acquisition. It targets the preparation of creative workers ready to perform in an increasingly flexible and internationalized labour market. This raises the following questions: How is learning at school and at the workplace designed to support autonomous learning, critical thinking skills and divergent thinking? How is the future workforce prepared to work in increasingly digitized workplaces and in the age of the fourth industrial revolution (industry 4.0)? 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 contribute to innovation at work? How does teaching respond to a diverse community of learners and contribute to inclusion in schools and at the workplace?



b) *Enabling vocational and continuing education as well as career progress over the life course*

In recent decades, the institutional divide between VET and professional education and training (PET), as well as between VET and higher education (HE) has been increasingly challenged with calls for greater institutional permeability. In a lifelong learning perspective, permeability between VET/PET and HE is central to enhancing educational and social mobility and life chances. It allows people to change their first educational choice and provides a range of feasible alternative educational pathways at a later stage. It also enables the recognition of prior learning and the possibility for groups such as low-educated adults or older workers to acquire educational credentials. The creative design of multiple pathway opportunities, the co-operation between different educational settings and smart governance, both in terms of its potential to foster creativity in social and economic dynamics and to creatively transform its own capacities, are at the center of this research strand.

c) *Developing skills in (inter)national institutional arrangements*

Heightened global competition challenges national systems to improve their models of skill formation that foster and build up a creative workforce. There is widespread awareness of the importance of education and creativity in ensuring employability as well as social and political participation. In the field of VET, this raises the following questions: Which education reforms in VET/PET, HE and the education/economy divide may be undertaken to address these dynamics? What can we learn from others about new approaches to skills formation and the establishment of economically viable and socially acceptable VET designs? Furthermore, regarding international policy borrowing and lending, how can vocational education and training models be transferred and translated worldwide into different cultural contexts? What do we know about the tensions between allowing uncertainty and directing the process (limiting uncertainty) in creative collaboration, and how these challenges are dealt with organizationally as well as through different modes of governance? How are information sharing, dynamic interactions between collaborating individuals and groups as well as modes of coordinated governance facilitated or should be fostered?

Devoted to the theme “Unleashing the creative potential of VET”, 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 5th 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 will be announced during the congress.

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



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Prof. Dr. Pepper Culpepper

European University Institute (EUI), Department of Political and Social Sciences, San Domenico di Fiesole, Italy

Prof. Sandra McNally

CVER/London School of Economics, Great Britain

Prof. Dr. Justin J.W. Powell

Institute of Education & Society, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg

Prof. Dr. Lene Tanggaard Pedersen

Institut for Kommunikation, Aalborg Universitet, Denmark

SUBMISSION: EXTENDED SUMMARY OR FULL PAPER

Please submit via the congress website <http://vet-congress.sfivet.swiss>

- a short abstract of 100-300 words, and
- an extended summary of 1,000-1,200 words or you may submit a full paper. The summary should include information on the theoretical and methodological approach used as well as the findings obtained.

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 proposing a symposium topic, you will be asked to submit an abstract and an extended summary (or a full paper) for each individual contribution. In addition, you will need to submit an abstract for the symposium topic as a whole. Please submit your proposal via the congress website (<http://vet-congress.sfivet.swiss>). A symposium proposal will either be accepted or declined as a whole.

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.



SCIENCE SLAM

A science slam is a scientific talk in which scientists present their own research in 5 to 10 minutes 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 foreseen 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.

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 make sure that you can at least refer to preliminary results in your submission.

Deadline for submission is now 16 October 2016.

By 15 December 2016, submitters will receive an e-mail message informing them whether their paper has been accepted.

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.



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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

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

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

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

Prof. Dr. Christian Imdorf
SNSF Professorship for Educational Sociology
University of Berne

Dr. Jörg Markowitsch
3s Unternehmensberatung GmbH
Vienna, Austria

Prof. Dr. Gabi Molzberger
Professor of Education/Further Education and VET
University of Wuppertal, Germany

Prof. Dr. Stefan C. Wolter
Co-Director of the Leading House Economics,
Firm Behaviour and Training Policies
University of Bern



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration for the congress can only be made online. Online registration will be available from 15 December 2016.

There are two registration fees: early bird registration (deadline 1 February 2017) and late registration (deadline 3 March 2017).

Students:

Early bird (before 1 February 2017)	CHF 200
Late registration (after 1 February 2017)	CHF 250

Other participants:

Early bird (before 1 February 2017)	CHF 300
Late registration (after 1 February 2017)	CHF 350

DEADLINES

Call for paper submissions:	15 Jun 2016
Deadline for paper submissions:	16 Oct 2016
Deadline for Science Slam proposals:	16 Oct 2016
Start of registration:	15 Dec 2016
Abstracts reviewed/confirmed:	15 Dec 2016
Submission Short Film/Elevator Pitch:	5 Jan 2017
Deadline for early bird registration:	1 Feb 2017
Deadline for late registration:	3 Mar 2017

CONTACT

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More detailed information about the congress can be found on the website indicated above.