„The economy and dual system vocational education and training in Germany – a very special relationship"

Professor Friedrich Hubert Esser
President of the German Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training

Brussels, 21 January 2015
The German dual system of VET

Two venues for learning

In the company

At part-time vocational college

Responsibility of the Federal Government

Responsibility of the Federal States

Photograph: SIEMENS Professional Education

Photograph: BIBB/ES
Countries with dual vocational education and training systems, such as Germany, Austria and Switzerland, lead the way in Europe!

- economically powerful SMEs and skilled crafts and trades businesses
- significantly low youth unemployment rates
- excellent export performance
- high nominal added value per capita
Unique selling points of the dual VET system

*Five unique selling points make the German dual system of vocational education and training attractive!*

- Close co-operation between state and industry
- Acceptance of national standards
- Learning in the work process
- Qualified teachers and trainers
- Institutionalised research and advice
Industry and the state jointly safeguard the framework conditions of vocational education and training!

- Pro rata funding
- Occupational orientation
- Joint vocational education and training provision
- Shared quality assurance
Vocational education and training is a cost-effective investment for German businesses!

- Future viability
- Long-term return
- Staff recruitment
- Corporate identity
Safeguarding the skilled labour supply for the industry and the crafts is the dual system's key challenge!

due to

- an increasing trend to study
- demographically caused shrinkage
- changes in the structure and offerings of universities
- uncertain assumptions regarding future qualification requirements
Thank you for your attention!

Contact: Professor Friedrich Hubert Esser
Tel.: +49 (0)228 107-1000
Email: esser@bibb.de