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Employment system increasingly dominating the training places market
 On the responsiveness of the dual system of training
Beschäftigungssystem dominiert zunehmend Ausbildungsstellenmarkt
 Zur Responsivität des dualen Ausbildungssystems

Berufsbildung in Wissenschaft und Praxis - BWP 36 (2007) 4, p. 5

Taking the debate centring on the systemic crisis facing the dual system of vocational education and training in Germany as its starting point, the present paper adopts a longer term perspective in outlining analyses of the development of company training and selected general conditions. Although this reveals that recent years have seen a clear correlation between the extremely unfavourable development in employment and the reduction in company training capacities, no empirical evidence that the crisis within the dual system is essentially of its own making can be derived. The implication for vocational education and training compared to earlier phases is that company training supply will need to be closely linked to the current and future trade and industry requirements for specialist workers and skills.

ANJA HALL

Vocationalism: supporting or hindering flexibility?
 Changes in occupation by skilled workers trained in the dual system
Beruflichkeit: Fundament oder Hindernis für Flexibilität?
 Berufswechsel von dual ausgebildeten Fachkräften

Berufsbildung in Wissenschaft und Praxis - BWP 36 (2007) 4, p. 10

The results of a representative survey of workers conducted in 2006 shows that although a majority of those in employment still work within the occupation they have learned or in a related occupation, a considerable proportion of career paths undergo a change leading to the performance of activities unrelated to training and, in large measure, to employment for which workers are over-qualified. The flexibility of workers is, however, demonstrated far more by the work demands needing to be overcome, such as problem-solving competence and creative and learning requirements, rather than being reflected in a move away from the occupation in which they have trained. This means that the occupation continues to represent a foundation on which flexibility can be built.

ALEXANDRA UHLY, JESSICA ERBE

Trainees with a lower secondary school leaving certificate: becoming a marginal group rather than the norm?
Auszubildende mit Hauptschulabschluss: vom Normalfall zur Randgruppe?

Berufsbildung in Wissenschaft und Praxis - BWP 36 (2007) 4, p. 15

Since the mid nineteen-nineties, a growing number of young people have either not been able to obtain an apprenticeship place or have only succeeded in entering vocational education and training via a waiting loop. This has mostly affected young people with the lower secondary school leaving certificate, previously the classical prior learning for an apprenticeship. The present paper uses the vocational education and training statistics produced by the Federal Statistical Office to investigate the extent to which these young people are still represented within the dual system and in which occupations they are to be found. The shortage in training places is shown not to be the only reason for the longer term decrease in the proportion of lower secondary school pupils and the shrinking of the occupational spectrum for such school leavers. Their low level of representation in occupations in the services sector and in new training occupations indicates that tertiarisation and increasing work requirements are also bringing a decline in the opportunities afforded to lower secondary pupils in their wake.

UTA ROTH, SUSANNE THALEMANN

Knowledge management supports the development of vocational education and training
Wissensmanagement unterstützt die Entwicklung der beruflichen Bildung

Berufsbildung in Wissenschaft und Praxis - BWP 36 (2007) 4, p. 23

The ability to handle knowledge constitutes a major requirement for workers within organisations and represents the only way of securing competitiveness in the long term. The same applies to all those participating in vocational education and training. The specialist field dealing with knowledge in organisation is knowledge management. The present paper highlights the relevance of knowledge management for vocational education and training whilst also providing an overview of existing approaches being adopted and concluding with a forecast of future aspects of VET knowledge management.

RAINER BREMER

How European is the training in a European company?
Wie europäisch ist die Ausbildung in einem europäischen Unternehmen?

Berufsbildung in Wissenschaft und Praxis - BWP 36 (2007) 4, p. 27

The present paper focuses on an industrial production sector which is characterised by both high technology and forms of work similar to those found in manufacturing industry, which is of necessity oriented towards the world market and which is organised along transnational lines. This is a branch where the first moves towards the "future of vocational education and training" are already becoming apparent. The German partner within the group, AIRBUS or EADS, works within the scope of the German dual system to fulfil its training or qualifications function within a company largely characterised by a quite different training tradition. This is used as an object of comparison in a Leonardo Da Vinci project, on which the paper also provides information.

UTE CLEMENT, MICHAEL LACHER

Competence development within holistic production systems: global challenges – European solutions?
Kompetenzentwicklung in ganzheitlichen Produktionssystemen: globale Herausforderungen – europäische Lösungen?

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The introduction of holistic, standardised production systems, especially in the automobile industry, has created a new type of worker characterised by ambivalent employment and competence requirements, the qualified routine worker. This poses questions for the future of initial and continuing vocational education and training. Whereas the regulatory policy perspective of simple work is leading to the creation of shorter training pathways, the higher quality requirements of modern production systems, particularly in terms of participation, mean that such training pathways are inadequate. One solution could lie in the application of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF).

ISABELLE LE MOUILLOUR, DIDIER GELIBERT

If ECVET is to be implemented, ...
"ECVET REFLECTOR" and "ECVET CONNEXION" develop initial proposals
Wenn ECVET umgesetzt werden soll, ...

Berufsbildung in Wissenschaft und Praxis - BWP 36 (2007) 4, p. 37

In 2006/2007, BIBB participated in two European studies on the European Credit Transfer System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET): ECVET REFLECTOR and ECVET CONNEXION. The main aim was to explore the lie of the land for the implementation of ECVET in qualifications or VET systems and to formulate action research proposals for stakeholders involved in both European vocational education and training policy and in national and regional educational systems. More than 500 European organisations from 33 countries took part.

HERMANN SCHMIDT

"Tough choices or hard times"
US-Study calls for fundamental changes to the vocational education and training system in the USA
„Schmerzhaftes Entscheidungen oder harte Zeiten"
US-Studie fordert grundlegende Änderungen des Bildungssystems der USA

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Educational policy discussions consistently form a prominent object of the national debates conducted by all groups of society in the USA. A commission's report on this subject, entitled "Tough Choices or Hard Times", was presented in Washington D.C. in December 2006. This analysis addresses the current problems being experienced by all industrialised countries as they move towards the global knowledge society. The proposals for reform are radical, especially compared with the approaches to reform adopted in Germany, the latter being less painful. It is worth devoting attention to more radical solutions.