

Prof. Dr. Felix Rauner

Towards a European VET Architecture Dual Study Programmes for Technicians

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The employees in Europe have a right to be qualified as European skilled workers, not just as British, German, Finnish or Romanian skilled workers.

Unfortunately this is exactly what happens in many business sectors.

Scientific Communities:

The academic
professions are
INTERNATIONAL
organised

Vocational Communities:

The vocational
occupations are
NATIONAL
organised

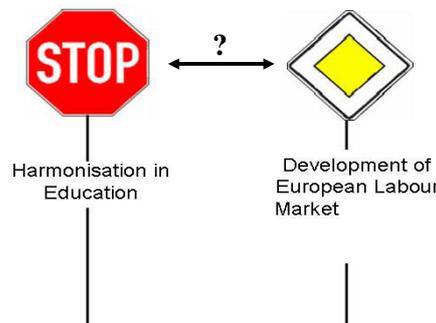
Wherever business sectors with their enterprises,
social partners and training institutions with the
support of vocational education and training
research, embark on the preparation of their
employees for the European labour market,
European structures of vocational education and
training develop.

European VET policy has moved into a dead end.

The legal and political framework puts a virtually impossible mission on the Commission.

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The Contradiction between National Education Systems and the realisation of a European Labour Market



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How can this contradiction be solved?

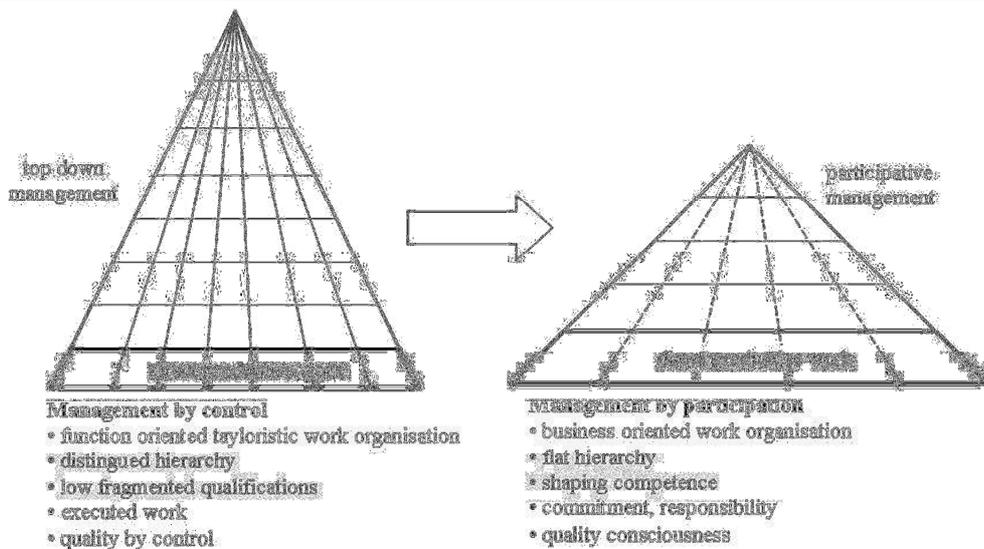
Rather than anything else this can be achieved by defining the qualification of employees as a dimension of European innovation, labour market and economic policy.

This procedure is necessary in my view, since the qualification of employees is a dimension of

1. corporate organisational development
2. organisation of innovation
3. improving the competitiveness of enterprises
4. and thus a basis for the realisation of a European labour market.

What can be done?

1. extension of common European understandings of occupations and professions.
2. realisation of lean management structures and thus a dehierarchisation of organisational structures



Qualification Levels in the Employment System

One can distinguish three to four different levels in nearly all sectors of the employment system:

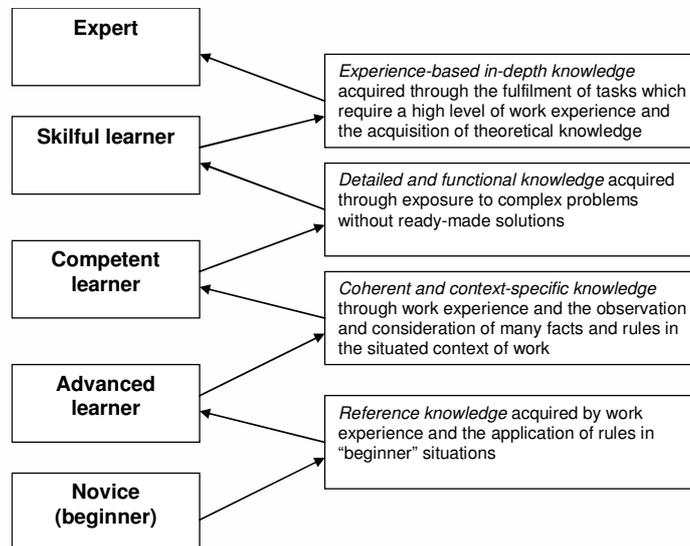
- unskilled and semi-skilled workers
- skilled workers
- highly qualified employees

Qualification Levels in the Employment System

The results of labour market and qualification research suggest a vertical differentiation into four qualification levels:

- Unskilled and semi-skilled workers
- Intermediate level 1
- Intermediate level 2
- Highly qualified employees.

Novice/Expert Model of Learning



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Education and Training for Technicians

The structural change in the enterprises and the emergence of lean organisational structures lead to an increasing demand for professionals above the level of skilled workers and below the engineers' level, who are able to take over management tasks in the domain of their professional tasks.

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Education and Training for Technicians

Training of Technicians in Technical Colleges

The training of technicians in technical colleges aims at a level of technical qualification that is located between the levels of skilled workers and engineers.

Technicians also become mediators between the scientific knowledge of engineers and the practical knowledge of skilled workers.

Education and Training for Technicians

Training of Technicians in Technical Colleges

It can be assumed that a two-year dual study programme immediately following the initial training will lead to the same qualification level as a three-year alternating dual training where one year of professional experiences is followed by two years of study.

Specific objectives of dual integrative training at technical colleges:

1. The attractiveness of the training of technicians shall be enhanced for a broad scope of enterprises and students.
2. Studies at the technical college can be entered immediately after completion of the dual vocational training programme.

Specific objectives of dual integrative training at technical colleges:

3. The dual organisation of the training of technicians entails the opportunity to achieve vocational proficiency already upon completion of the training programme.
4. The employment relationship with an enterprise leads to an income that allows students to finance their studies on their own.