

SYMPOSIUM 1: Thursday, 26th March 2009, 15:15 – 17:00 (room: aula)

The bottom-up way: How to formulate, model and measure competencies of teachers and trainers, responsible for apprentices

Chair: Sarah Heinzer, University of Fribourg, Switzerland

Discussants: Richard Shavelson, University of Stanford, United States

Gerhard Minnameier, University of Aachen, Germany

The current symposium focuses on new not yet considered research approaches to topics in vocational education and contributes importantly to the debate on quality in (vocational) education. Teachers' professionalism and improvement of teaching competencies are not only studied by means of a bottom-up procedure but by discussing different methods and research approaches out of a multiple and international perspective. So a first contribution emphasises the importance of individual intentions as a source for the social configuration of knowledge, competence and performance. It will be shown that the construction of knowledge is a dynamic process additionally influenced by emotions and motivations.

In a second contribution the question of teachers' professionalism and needed competencies is approached by a bottom-up oriented way including the involved persons and studying the real "emergency room" of teaching and training situations. As Bessoth and Weibel (2000) emphasize in order to enhance teaching quality a teacher should know about needed qualification and competencies in situations of insecurity and spontaneity. Finally, the third contribution looks at the research-based and evidence-based teacher training for VET in relation to the development of expertise. The focus will be on the question how researchers and the results of their studies can be made useable and fruitful for teacher actions. To know about needed competence profiles, to formulate and measure those, to stimulate or control for intentional, emotional motivational processes and to combine research and evidence means to better understand what quality is requiring. These aspects will be the central focus of this symposium.