



# Measuring vocational competence: An international perspective

24 - 25 May 2012

Location:  
European Training Foundation  
Viale Settimio Severo, 65-67  
Turin, Italy

## Symposium Programme

Organiser:

European Training Foundation (ETF) in cooperation with  
International COMET Research Network

Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2012

<b>SALA EUROPA Opening Session (Plenary)</b> Moderation Helmut Zelloth		
09.30 – 09:40	Madlen Serban	<b>Welcome</b> European Training Foundation
09:40 – 10:00	Anastasia Fetsi / Ursel Hauschildt	<b>Introduction to the Theme and Objectives of the Symposium</b>
10:00 – 10:30	Helmut Zelloth	<b>Challenges for competence development of VET students in selected ETF partner countries</b> – can measurement help to overcome these?
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break	
11:00 – 12:00	Hermann Nehls	<b>Keynote1: Competence Assessment:</b> A further step to establish a Tradition of Quality Assurance in European VET
12:00 – 12:30	Discussion	
<b>12.30 – 13.30 Lunch</b>		
13.30 – 14:30	Felix Rauner	<b>Keynote 2: Measuring and Developing Vocational Competence:</b> A Challenge for International TVET Research
14:30 – 15:30	<b>Workshop 1 (Part 1): Sharing experiences implementing competence measurement in VET</b>  <u>Speakers:</u> Martin Gonnermann, Germany Helen Brown, South Africa <u>Participants:</u> Delegations of China, Germany, Norway, South Africa, Switzerland <u>Moderation:</u> Felix Rauner	<b>Workshop 2: Introduction into the COMET methodology (Part 1)</b> (This session addresses participants who are less familiar with competence diagnostics)  1. The COMET approach: conceptual frame work and foundation 2. The concept of holistic problem solving of vocational tasks 3. Test tasks and solution space 4. Rating procedure <u>Workshop moderation:</u> Lars Heinemann, Ursel Hauschildt
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break	
16:00 – 17.30	<b>Workshop 1 (Part 2): Sharing experiences...</b>  <u>Speakers:</u> Zhiqun Zhao, China Peter Marbet, Switzerland Haage Nore, Norway	<b>Workshop 2: Introduction .... (Part 2)</b>  5. Vocational identity and commitment 6. Findings /representations(examples)
17.30 – 17.45	Dagmar Ouzoun	<b>Conclusions of Day 1</b>
19.30	Official dinner	

Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2012 Morning 9:00 – 12:30

9:00 – 9:15 Ursel Hauschildt Introduction to the Working Groups

## Working Group A: International comparative studies and context research: Status quo and perspectives

(Sala Europa)

International experiences and results are available in Electronics technician (Germany, China, South Africa) and Car mechatronics (Germany, China)

This session will review and summarise the main achievements, in particular the benefits of competence measurement for concrete problem solving in TVET planning and management, as well as for teachers and learners. The working group will also elaborate a research framework for the performance of international comparative studies, which indicates:

1. Which countries and vocations will participate and contribute to the COMET project
2. What needs to be done to adapt the methodology to low- and middle-income countries (ETF partner countries)
3. A differentiation according to the participating vocational tracks (as the case may be, also teachers and trainers)
4. Which further vocations shall be examined within the frame of the COMET project and who will get involved in the development of test tasks
5. Whether any country specific transfer problems could arise and how these could be solved
6. Where, how and when international research findings will be published or presented.

Besides the assessment of professional competence the COMET concept of competence diagnostics also includes surveys on the development of vocational identity and commitment. According to the state of the art in TVET research there is a close relation between the development of vocational competence and the development of vocational identity/occupational commitment.

This working group will discuss

1. possible application of the existing measurement instrument
2. whether any additional context research instruments should be developed in order to reach a greater depth in the analysis and interpretation of research results

The group will elaborate a scheme for an extension to the context surveys that take into consideration all personal and institutional parameters of TVET.

Inputs	Martin Gonnermann, Changwen Cai, Renate Fischer, Trine Deichmann-Soerensen, Ursel Hauschildt/Lars Heinemann, Peter Marbet, Deon Borchjes
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Moderation	Manfred Wallenborn/Lars Heinemann
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## Working Group B: Evaluation of competences for VET teachers and trainers (Sala Venezia)

In an initial sub-project (COMET Beijing) a group of 39 teachers (electrical engineering/electronics) took part in the test. If the vocational-pedagogical and subject-specific teaching competence of the VET teachers and trainers is to be tested as well, a competence and testing model needs to be developed. This working group

1. assesses a competence and measurement instrument for teachers and trainers taking into consideration international comparability and applicability
2. develops a programme for the psychometric validation of the measurement concept
3. discusses a possible design for the implementation of the a research project regarding the contextual validity of this test concept
4. develops a programme for international comparative studies.

Inputs Zhiquan Zhao, Jürgen Lehberger, Waldemar Bauer, Felix Rauner

Moderation Dagmar Ouzoun/Felix Rauner

## Working Group C: Test results and innovation transfer (Sala Roma)

What are the key results of the COMET research and what is their meaning and relevance from a scientific and VET policy point of view? Questions addressed in this session are:

1. the weight and relevance of test results with regard to reform initiatives of VET systems
2. practical meaning and consequences of the results for VET teachers and trainers
3. consequences for the shaping and organisation of vocational learning processes
4. factors determining the variance of test result/elaboration of a further research and development programme:
  - establishing national and international Graduate programmes (Ph.D.)
  - conducting further psychometric analysis for the COMET test instruments
  - the consideration of vocations in the fields of personal services and health care
  - the evaluation of VET teaching and training
  - the shaping of final examinations to evaluate vocational maturity.

Inputs Martin Gonnermann, Holger Bös, Helen Brown

Moderation Hermann Nehls/Helmut Zelloth

**12.30 – 13.30**

**Lunch**

**13:30 – 15:00**

**Workshops A–C to be continued**

Elaboration of working group results for plenary discussion

15:00 – 15:30

Coffee break

**15:30 – 17:00**

**Plenary discussion:** Perspectives of international co-operation in competence measurement & research  
Moderation: Manfred Wallenborn

Workshop A

Lars Heinemann

Workshop B

Zhiquan Zhao

Workshop C

Hermann Nehls

17:00 – 17:15

Synthesis and conclusions  
Felix Rauner/Helmut Zelloth

**17:15**

**End of Symposium**

## List of Participants and Contributors

### Australia

**Brian Knight** National Centre for Vocational Education Research, Adelaide

### Belarus

**Olga Dekhtiarenko** Republican Institute for Vocational Education, Minsk

### Brasil

**Prof. Waldemar Bauer** Universität Erfurt, Fakultät Erziehungswissenschaften,  
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### CEDEFOP

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<u>Occupied Palestinian Territory</u>	
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\*to be confirmed