THE SWISS EDUCATION SYSTEM WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON VOCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

OECD/ED workshop
26th July 2016
Simon Marti
Office of Science, Technology and Higher Education
Embassy of Switzerland in the United States of America
Features of Swiss VPET system

- Public-private partnership
- Integrated into education system: Permeability
- Labour market orientation
VPET: 1 mission – 3 partners

Confederation
Strategic management and development

Cantons
Implementation and Supervision

Private sector
Training content and apprenticeship positions
Swiss education system
VET as the basis for entry into the labour market and lifelong learning

Labour Market

Vocational education and training

Cantonal universities / federal institutes of technology
(Federal vocational Baccalaureate + University Aptitude Test)

Universities of applied sciences (UAS)
(Federal vocational Baccalaureate)

Professional education and training (PET)

Vocational education and training (VET)
(Reorientation, further qualifications)

Job-related continuing education and training
Dual-Track approach to vocational education and training

2-year Federal VET Certificate
3-year or 4-year Federal VET Diploma
Federal Vocational Baccalaureate (FVB)

Practice

In-company training
(3-4 days per week)
industry courses

Theory

Classroom instructions at VET-School
(1-2 days per week)
Preparatory course for FVB
Apprenticeship market

Companies
Supply: 95’500

Apprenticeship market

Youth
Demand: 93’500

- Demand for qualified workers
- Future-oriented investment / social responsibility
- Favourable for the Image
- Financial advantages

Confederation

- Work experience
- Nationally recognised degree
- Very good job prospects
- Opportunities for a professional career

Economic competitiveness
Labour market adequacy of VPET
Low youth unemployment
Labour market oriented VPET →
High employability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Employed</th>
<th>Not seeking employment</th>
<th>Unemployed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University and university of applied sciences</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional education and training</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baccalaureate</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational education and training</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary level I</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Swiss Federal Statistical Office (FSO) / Swiss Labour Force Survey (SLFS); Estimates by Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER)
Precautions taken to prevent early dropout from VET Programs:

**Mentoring**

- Additional support with choice of occupations during compulsory education.

**Bridge-years**

- Offers for young people with difficulties in transitioning between compulsory education (secondary level I) and vocational education and training (upper secondary level II).

**Federal VET Certificates (2-year education)**

- Vocational education and training programs that are intended for students who are mainly practically talented.

**Case Management**

- Integration of young people with multiple problems into VET-programs.
VET pathways leading to tertiary level

Federal Vocational Baccalaureate as entry-level qualification for admission to Swiss universities of applied sciences

Ratio of FVBs to Federal VET Diplomas (2013)

- Only a Federal VET Diploma: 77.20%
- FVB 1 (during the apprenticeship): 10.50%
- FVB 2 (after the apprenticeship): 12.30%

Ratio of FVB holders who enrol in Swiss UAS (cohort 2008)

- Enrolment within 2 years: 58.30%
- No enrolment: 41.70%
Training contents: responsibilities

Confederation
• Issuance / recognition of ordinances and corresponding fundamental documents
• Supervision and support during process of reform and revision
• Strategic management

Private sector
• Definition of training contents
• Definition of qualification procedures
• Operational project management during process of reform and revision

Cantons
• Implementation of VET ordinances and training plans
• Supervision and support during process of reform and revision
Funding of VPET system

- Contributions to cantons
- Development of VPET
- Vocational schools
- Career guidance

Costs
- Training & wages of apprentices
- Branch courses

Private Sector: 60%
Cantons: 30%
Confederation: 10%
Cost/benefit ratio for Swiss companies offering apprenticeships in CHF million

- Net benefit: CHF 474 million
- Productive output of apprentices: CHF 5350 million
- Gross costs: CHF 5824 million
Challenges

Demographic changes

Demand for qualified workers

Internationalisation & mobility

VPET in Switzerland

Rising expectations and specifications

Changes in society

Structural change of the economy
Between excellence and integration

- PET
- FVB
- Apprenticeship support
- Skills competitions
- Foreign languages
- Mobility

- Coaching / mentoring
- Bridge-year courses
- 2-year VET programmes
- Case Management
Strengths of Swiss VPET system

- Labour market orientation
- Quality
- Permeability
- Public-private partnership
- Cost efficiency
Effects on macro level

- Low (Youth) unemployment
- Competitiveness
- Innovation capacity
- Career prospects / Lifelong learning
Thank you for your attention!

Further Information:

www.eda.admin.ch/washington

www.seri.admin.ch