

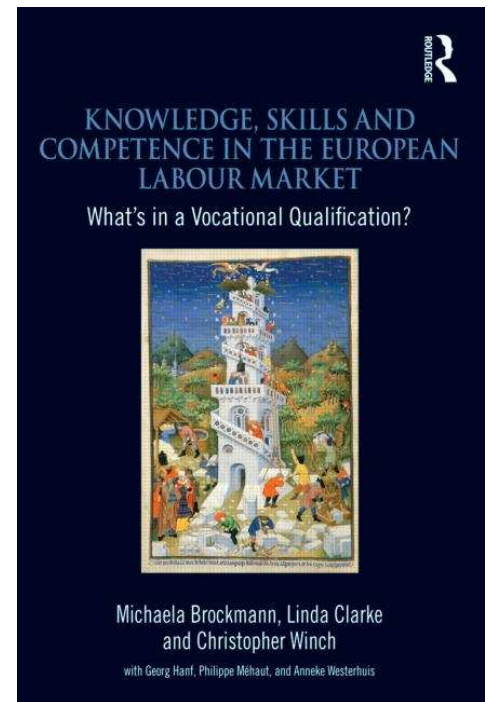
Seminar and Book Launch Event

Mobility and Transparency of Qualifications across Europe: how can VET in UK achieve this?

Friday, 10 June 2011

The Nuffield Foundation, 28 Bedford Square,
London WC1B 3JS

With the implementation of the European Qualifications Framework well underway and important UK government initiatives expected in the wake of the Wolf Review, these are critical times for Vocational Education and Training. We are taking the opportunity of the launch of our book *Knowledge, Skills and Competence in the European Labour Market* to discuss the state of English VET and particularly the prospects for mobility and transparency of English qualifications in the European context.



13:30	Registration and coffee	
14:00	Welcome	Josh Hillman <i>Nuffield Foundation</i> Linda Clarke, <i>University of Westminster</i>
14:10	Introduction: English VET in the European context	Tom Leney, <i>Institute of Education and Danish Technological Institute</i>
14:30	The impact of the Wolf Review	Hilary Steedman, <i>London School of Economics</i>
14:50	Mobility and transparency: some cautionary thoughts	Michael Young, <i>Emeritus Professor, Institute of Education</i>
15:10	DISCUSSION	
15:30	What is needed from a German employer's perspective	Bob Bischof, <i>Chief Economic Advisor, German Industry UK; Managing Partner SCCO International</i>
15:50	The EQF and the Trade Union perspective	Jeff Bridgford, <i>ETUC</i>
16:10	DISCUSSION	
16:30	Understanding European VET and the significance of <i>Beruf</i>, <i>savoir</i>, competence and skill: reflections by the authors	
	The changing relevance of the <i>Beruf</i> in Germany	Georg Hanf, <i>BIBB, Germany</i>
	<i>Savoir</i> – The organising principle of French VET	Philippe Méhaut, <i>Université de Provence, Aix-Marseille</i>
	The meaning of Competence in Dutch VET	Anneke Westerhuis, <i>CINOP, Netherlands</i>
	Skill – A concept manufactured in England?	Christopher Winch, <i>King's College London</i>
16:50	DISCUSSION	
17:00	Drinks and book launch: introduced by Michaela Brockmann	
	Knowledge, skills and competence in the European Labour Market: What's in a vocational qualification?	

For further information and to reserve a place, please contact: Amanda Willmott A.Willmott@westminster.ac.uk

Knowledge, Skills and Competence in the European Labour Market

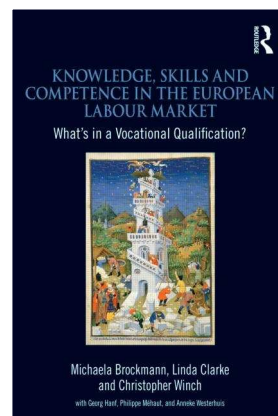
What's in a Vocational Qualification?

By **Michaela Brockmann, Linda Clarke and Christopher Winch**
with **Georg Hanf, Philippe Méhaut and Anneke Westerhuis**

Establishing transparency and comparability of qualifications across member states is vital for the free movement of labour in the European Union.

This book examines how qualifications, knowledge, skills and competences are understood in different national contexts and transnationally and reveals a complex picture of differences and similarities both within and between countries. Against the background of EU policy initiatives, and in particular the European Qualifications Framework, a central focus is on the prospects and difficulties of establishing cross-national recognition of qualifications.

Drawing on case studies of particular sectors and occupations in England, France, Germany and the Netherlands, this insightful and informative book, written by leading academics in the field, will be a vital resource for students and researchers involved with vocational education and training, labour market studies, continuing professional development, human resource management and European Union policy.



Reviews

'This book courageously confronts the issues with which the whole of Europe is struggling: qualifications and the labour market! Its challenge is to show how, despite strong path dependency, there can be as much diversity between as within countries in the understanding of knowledge, skills and competences. This is a very valuable contribution to present European debates on the "legibility" tools that are the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET).' - Annie Boudier, Centre d'Études et de Recherches sur les Qualifications (Cereq), France

'This is a timely book, providing, for the first time in English, detailed and critically informed accounts of the historical and conceptual basis of vocational education in Germany, France and the Netherlands. It will be a unique resource, not only for comparative studies, but also for policy makers seeking to build on the possibilities of the European Qualifications Framework.' - Michael Young, Institute of Education, University of London, UK

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Author Biography

Michaela Brockmann is a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Westminster. She has been working on major studies on vocational education and training across Europe and has published widely, including the *Oxford Review of Education*. Her research interests include qualitative methods and biographical approaches to youth transition.

Linda Clarke is Professor of European Industrial Relations at the University of Westminster, undertaking research on vocational education and training, skills, and labour relations in Europe, particularly the construction sector. Her publications include *Vocational Education: International Approaches, Developments and Systems*, with Christopher Winch, Routledge 2007.

Christopher Winch is Professor of Educational Philosophy and Policy at King's College, London, researching aspects of vocational education - including declarative and practical knowledge, and vocational agency. In addition to *Vocational Education* with Linda Clarke, his publications include *Dimensions of Expertise*, Continuum 2010.

To Be Published May 31st 2011 by Routledge

Hardback: 978-0-415-55690-3: **£95.00 DISCOUNT PRICE £76.00** Paperback: 978-0-415-55691-0: **£29.99 DISCOUNT PRICE 23.99**

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