



## Network on Innovative Apprenticeship

### Apprenticeship in a Globalised World: Premises, Promises and Pitfalls

5<sup>th</sup> International INAP Conference  
April, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 2013

In cooperation with

The Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector  
Education and Training Authority (merSETA),  
University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, and the  
European Research Network in Vocational Education and  
Training (VETNET)

## CALL FOR PAPERS

The International Network on Innovative Apprenticeship (INAP) invites contributions to its 5<sup>th</sup> international research conference, which will address the following topics:

- Introducing apprenticeship: backgrounds, chances & difficulties
- Enabling learning opportunities in workplaces and informal contexts
- Apprenticeships and National Qualification Frameworks (NQFs): does VET fit into NQFs?
- Managing transitions from VET into the world of work

### General guidelines

The conference organisers welcome contributions based on original research that facilitate knowledge transfer to regional, national and international policy-makers and actors in accordance with best international standards. Papers will be selected for presentation on the basis of the recommendation of an academic review panel according to the procedure outlined below. Contributors are asked to submit a two page outline of their paper that includes:

- a summary (including research question, methodology and findings) of the paper of around 500 - 700 words,
- a provisional table of contents and
- bibliography.

In the outline, the issues addressed in the paper and their relationship to the conference topics (see below) should be described. The research methodology should also be presented. Outlines should be sent to the organisers by Nov, 1<sup>st</sup> 2012. In order to permit a blind review process, contact information on the authors should be provided on a separate sheet. Following completion of the review process, the authors of the most interesting proposals will be invited to give a presentation at the conference in Johannesburg. In order to be included in the conference proceedings, authors must submit a 2000 word summary of their papers by Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> 2013.





## Network on Innovative Apprenticeship

### **Topic 1: Introducing apprenticeship: backgrounds, chances & difficulties**

In many countries the traditional practise of apprenticeship in which on-the-job training and classroom instruction are combined is currently questioned. Successful apprenticeships require stable basic conditions such as, for example, well-organized employer organisations and trade unions, the acceptance of both sides of industry as well as close relationships between schools and firms. For many countries, meeting these basic requirements imposes a great challenge. Papers submitted for this session should focus on backgrounds, chances, and difficulties when introducing apprenticeship. Who are the responsible bodies and consortiums of implementation? Which role do research, science, and VET colleges play?

### **Topic 2: Enabling learning opportunities in workplaces and informal contexts**

There is agreement in research that if learning is more closely linked to workplace, it is generally more efficient. Papers should address the question how workplaces could be turned into learning sites? How can the above concepts and theories be applied in practice? And how can another approach to the design of jobs/should jobs be designed to lead to better learning opportunities through work? Does informal learning reflect the novice expert paradigm and the concept of situated learning?

### **Topic 3: Apprenticeships and National Qualification Frameworks (NQFs): does VET fit into NQFs?**

In a globalised world, it is crucial that general and vocational learning outcomes are describable for all levels of qualifications regardless of where, i.e. in which country or organisation/workplace, they were acquired. Hence, throughout the world, many countries have started to develop national frameworks. Papers are welcome that examine how general and vocational knowledge, skills, and competencies fit into NQFs and that further discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the introduction of NQFs. Does vocational education become less important because of NQFs? And how can informally gained competencies be assessed?

### **Topic 4: Managing transitions from VET into the world of work**

Although a good apprenticeship is one of the best requirements to be successful on the labour market, the transition from apprenticeship into gainful employment is often problematic. In diverse countries, this problem is well-known and a great variety of so-called interim solutions have been developed. Papers in this session should present analyses and critical reflections on the question, whether vocational education is able to deliver the necessary skills and competencies to meet the demands of the labour market and discuss the criteria to assess these skills and competencies. Which forms of support need to be established in the different educational systems?

### **Topic 5: Open Session**

Welcome and accepted are papers on issues that reflect the overall conference theme: apprenticeship in a globalised world: premises, promises and pitfalls.

### **Conference location, organisation and fees**

INAP 2013 will take place in Johannesburg, South Africa. Detailed travel information will be provided by the organisers in due course. The working language is English. In order to cover some of the organisational costs there will be fee of 100 Euro/1050 ZAR for active participants and 150 Euro/1580 ZAR for guests. Conference proceedings including summaries of papers will be handed out to all participants. Moreover, authors of the best contributions will be invited to publish their research findings in an edited book.

#### **Conference Committee:**

Prof. Felix Rauner (TVET Research Group (IBB), University of Bremen), Prof. Erica Smith (University of Ballarat, Australia), Prof. Zhiqun Zhao (University of Beijing, China), Prof. Salim Akoojee (merSETA), Dr. Ludger Deitmer (Institute Technology and Education (ITB), Bremen)

#### **INAP Conference Organisation:**

Silke Pieneck  
Chair for VET and Teacher Training  
University of Zurich, Switzerland

#### **For any correspondence:**

INAP2013@ife.uzh.ch

#### **INAP-Website:**

<http://www.inap-network.de>

#### **Local Conference Organisation:**

The Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority (merSETA), with the Education Policy Unit, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa