



Bundesverband  
der Lehrerinnen und Lehrer  
an beruflichen Schulen e.V.

## **Vocational Education and Training**

**A joint resolution by the teachers associations SNETAA, France and BLBS, Germany**

**To be adopted by the 5<sup>th</sup> World Teacher Congress (22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> July 2007 in Berlin).**

### **PREAMBLE**

This resolution has been developed on the basis of the authors' perception that the educational systems of all nations are composed of general education and vocational education and training as the basic elements.

General education not linked to vocational backgrounds is as incomplete as vocational education and training without further general development of the personality.

General education and vocational education and training are the basis to initial training, which is a necessary condition to lifelong learning.

This resolution contains the essential values for vocational education and training, which can be shared by all nations.

We propose this resolution to be adopted by the delegates of the 5<sup>th</sup> World Teacher Congress.

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## **THE 6 ESSENTIAL POINTS TO STRENGTHEN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING :**

### **1. Vocational education and training : an efficient high-grade system.**

The position and importance of vocational education and training in the context of the whole educational system of a nation must be clearly defined.

The educational system must guarantee on the one hand the transition of young people from the system of general education into the professional life by providing them with professional competences, and on the other hand the continuation of the holistic educational process of the individual. The national vocational education and training system has therefore the task to guarantee the supply with qualified workers.

Furthermore, it has to offer the chance to carry out studies in higher education.

### **2. Appreciation of the teachers.**

The social appreciation of the teachers within a national vocational education and training system must correspond to the complex qualification job of the vocational education and training system. The teachers of the national vocational education and training system make a decisive contribution to the power of the economic system and to the overall level of education. This high responsibility of the teachers must be taken into account in the form of adequate payment, working time and working conditions.

The teacher profession on the whole must be arranged so attractively, that this is desirable for the coming generations. The initial teacher training must be of equal quality in general education and vocational education and training, and must do justice according to the up to date claims of a nation concerning the educational system.

### **3. Free choice of occupation.**

A modern system of vocational education and training accepts the right of young people to a free choice of vocational education and training. It must therefore provide an adequate number of training places within the educational system of a country, within the economy and teachers within the school system.

The public group responsibility for the training places can be shared with the economical system, but can't be the responsibility of this sole system. The right to vocational education and training must be undertaken and guaranteed by the state.

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#### **4. Accreditation of qualifications and degrees.**

It is crucial in an increasingly global business world that the vocational qualifications and degrees are approved without any restrictions on the labour market of an economical area like EU, for example.

Vocational qualifications and degrees must also offer the chance to young people to complete their studies in higher and further education, and must be nationally and internationally approved.

#### **5. Vocational education and training : a holistic educational system.**

Vocational education is an important element in the personal development of every individual. Besides acquiring job related competences, it also contains further development of general education. It is therefore totally different from the “training-on-the-job”, which only aims at instant usable contents and skills for the workplace.

One of the aims of vocational education and training is to provide a job to the individual, another is to enable them to take an active part in social life.

#### **6. Educational footbridges and the possibility of carrying out studies.**

Vocational education and training must offer the possibility of getting certified qualifying degrees of different levels. It must also create educational footbridges between these levels and offer the possibility to young people to carry out their studies within the occupation system and to get higher education degrees.

**Berlin / Paris 17.02.2007**

**Snetaa**

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