

## 2nd National Stakeholder Conference

# IC-VET Opportunities: Priorities, Paths, Perspectives

In the context of global economic and societal developments, and changes in the labour market and education, the Swiss system of vocational and professional education and training (VPET) must make the most of the opportunities provided by international cooperation in vocational education and training (IC-VET). Switzerland is therefore working in several policy areas to pursue VET activities with other countries. A wide range of players are involved, and some will be present at the 2nd National Stakeholder Conference on International Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training, which will be held in Biel on 14 September. This gathering will enable participants to discuss priorities, paths and perspectives.



Korean apprentices spending a few months training in central Switzerland at Maxon Motors AG.  
Photo: Maxon Motors AG.

Diversity and permeability are key characteristics of the Swiss education system. The system offers both academic education and practical training at all levels, and all qualifications lead to subsequent levels of education training. The VPET system, which is funded and jointly managed by the Confederation, cantons and professional organisations, makes a major contribution to ensuring the success of the Swiss education system. It provides young people with the skills needed by the labour market, and encourages innovation and cost efficiency. The Swiss education system thus promotes excellence, and the vast majority of those coming through the system are well equipped to find work.

At the same time, internationalisation of the labour market and society is having a direct impact on VET, and other countries are showing an interest in establishing their own VET systems. Qualified workers with skills and qualifications recognised on the labour market are highly sought-after throughout the world. As

many countries are faced with high levels of unemployment and underemployment, they are looking for ways to improve general levels of education and training.

### Federal IC-VET strategy

These and other factors are the reason for the growing national interest in the Swiss VPET system. Switzerland therefore needs to pursue international strategies in a range of policy areas (education, development cooperation, foreign affairs, business and migration) and to coordinate its IC-VET activities.

The federal agencies concerned, i.e. the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Political Affairs Directorate of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) and the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (SFIVET), have all aligned their objectives with the federal IC-VET strategy since 2014. These

objectives are: raise the international profile of the Swiss VPET system; help fund economic and social development in partner countries; and position Switzerland successfully at international level.

### 2nd National stakeholder conference

Since the IC-VET strategy was launched three years ago, Swiss VPET partners and other stakeholders have gained a wealth of experience. What are the key factors that have been attracting attention to the Swiss VPET system? What opportunities are available through international cooperation in VET, and which priorities, paths and perspectives are being chosen by the actors involved?

These and other questions will be the focus of the second national IC-VET Stakeholder Conference. Organised by SERI and the other federal agencies involved, this event will be held at the vocational training centre (BBZ) in Biel on 14 September. Participants will be able to exchange experiences and ideas, and benefit from this valuable networking opportunity.

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### Further information

Information about the stakeholder  
conference:  
🌐 [www.ibbz.admin.ch](http://www.ibbz.admin.ch)