Cross-border vocational education and training as a process of cross-border learning.

The example of the Saarland-Lorraine border region

ABOUT

Cross-border vocational education and training (VET) becomes more and more important in the Saarland (DE)-Lorraine (FR) border region – even if so far there is only a small number of cases. It may be a solution for high youth unemployment rates in Lorraine and difficulties to find appropriated apprentices in Saarland.

The main research questions of the research project are: 1. How does cross-border VET develop since the introduction of the Framework agreement on cross-border vocational and further training Saarland/Lorraine in 2014? 2. Which learning processes are related with the development of cross-border VET?

ABSTRACT

CONCEPTUAL BACKGROUND
Adaption of the concept of Rural Regional Learning (Wellbrock/Roep/Wiskerke 2012)

STEPS OF ANALYSES
2015/16: 20 problem-centred in-depth interviews in Saarland
2018: Evaluation of the developments since 2016

MAIN RESULTS
Positive development of cross-border VET...
• Different forms of cross-border VET for different needs
• More and more enterprises are interested
• Pioneers boost the development
• Emerging “real” cross-border structures
• Growing confidence in partners
• Experts with in-depth know-how and contacts to other border regions

... but
• Cross-border VET needs very intensive and individual support
• Tacit knowledge is hardly accessible for some actors
• Discontinuity of financial support for structures
• Opportunistic behaviour in some cases
• Language and intercultural barriers

The cross-border learning processes are:
• intra- and interregional
• based on learning-by-doing
• region-specific
• contingent

How to foster these learning processes?
• By making know-how easier accessible
• By the adoption and implementation of experimentation clauses
• By manifold forms of interaction and exchanges

REGIONAL LEARNING IN THE SAARLAND-LORRAINE BORDER REGION

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