

**EUROPEAN RESEARCH NETWORK  
ON TRANSITIONS IN YOUTH**

*Network Committee:  
Hans Dietrich, Yvette Grelet, Emer Smyth,  
Torild Hammer, Rolf Van der Velden, Walter Van Trier (chair)*

**FOURTEENTH ANNUAL WORKSHOP**

**MARSEILLES (FRANCE)**

**7-9 SEPTEMBER 2006**

**ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS**

The fourteenth annual workshop of the European Research Network on Transitions in Youth will take place in Marseilles (France), [7-9 September 2006](#).

Although the Network welcomes contributions on all aspects of the transition from youth to adulthood, and particularly the transition from education to labour market, the theme for this year's workshop is:

**Vocationalisation of Education:**

**how, where, when, why and in what sense does it matter ?**

The balance between the acquisition of generic skills versus specific skills is at the heart of an apparent conflict between the determination of European countries to increase the general level of qualification for the needs of the new economy as agreed in Lisbon and the tendency to expand and diversify the supply of vocational education in an attempt to provide the specific skills, required by the firms but lacking at present.

This paradoxical development raises several questions. To what extent can educational expansion be attributed to the development of vocational streams, both vertically by the spread to higher levels, and horizontally through the diversification of fields of study? What does educational expansion owe to internal transformations of initial vocational training and the increasing importance given to work-based training experiences, alternated training and apprenticeship as a reinforcement of the vocational aim of initial training and education. How are these changes embedded in national institutional settings, and specific characteristics of labour market and educational system patterns?

One of the major issues in this domain relates to the effects of spreading, diversifying and vocationalizing education on educational and labour market outcomes both at the micro and the macro level:

**1) *As regards individuals' choices within the education and training system:***

- in a context of scarce employment opportunities which affects more heavily young labour market entrants, does the prospect of a short-term better return on the labour market divert students from academic subjects? Is it possible to link the expansion of vocational education with the diversion of more and more students from scientific fields of study?
- How do young people build their skills' portfolio between schools and firms? Which are the relevant differences by gender, social or ethnic background and place of residence, as regards the choice of a field of study?
- How do the expansion, diversification and vocationalisation of education affect the different selection processes inside the education and training system?

**2) *As regards individual transitions on the labour market:***

- Are labour market entrants provided with vocational training in a better position on the labour market in terms of job opportunities, occupational position, employment stability, career and wage progression?
- What are the relations, if any, between selection for access to vocational courses and selection process on the labour market? Is the success of vocational training related to the addition of specific skills or to a signalling effect? Conversely, are difficulties related to the lack of general skills or to stigma effects?
- Do such advantages / disadvantages last in the course of working life, are they reinforced maintained, weakened, or even reversed?
- Does the top-driven expansion of vocational tracks hinder the employment prospects of those who enter the labour market with lower vocational achievement?

**3) *What is the role played by others actors and institutions?***

- To what extent and in which ways do employers, as social actors, contribute to the vocationalisation of educational systems? Does vocationalisation induce a windfall effect for firms, facilitating screening or the production of specific skills required? Does it favour more substantial transformations in firms' recruitment policies?
- Is there any difference in the way firms articulate initial and continuous vocational training for those young people with vocational qualifications they recruit?
- How are articulated labour market policies targeted to young people with educational reforms aiming at vocationalisation of training?

**4) *At a macro level, does it affect the regulatory system of the social and professional integration of youth?***

- Does vocationalisation modify the position of new labour market entrants relative to the more experienced labour force?
  - Does it enhance or restrain labour market mobility, or make it more predictable?
  - Does it produce changes in the different national patterns of labour market segmentation? Does it contribute to a transformation of internal & occupational labour markets (ILM & OLM)? Does it reinforce or weaken barriers to enter specific segments, increase or decrease occupational segregation (by gender, etc.)?
-

Anyone who wishes to present a paper at the workshop should send a *one-page abstract by post, fax or e-mail to the address below by April 14, 2006*. Note that the conference language (papers and presentation) is English. The conference organisers will confirm *the acceptance of each particular paper as part of the conference programme by May 12, 2006* at the latest. Papers will be selected on the criteria of their quality and relevance to the themes described above. In order for papers to be put on the conference website, *finalised versions should reach the conference organisers by August 15, 2006* at the very latest. Anyone who wishes to attend the conference without presenting a paper should notify the conference organisers, since only a limited number of places will be available. Please note, as mentioned on the registration form, that *the deadline for registration (and the payment of the conference fee) is June 12, 2006*.

The conference fee is €500. This fee includes 4 nights' accommodation (single room), lunches, and social events. The workshop will take place **in Marseilles, and be located in a seminar centre in the city centre.**

**Local Conference Organisers:**

Thomas Couppié, [couppie@cereq.fr](mailto:couppie@cereq.fr)

Jean-François Giret, [giret@cereq.fr](mailto:giret@cereq.fr)

Yvette Grelet, [yvette.grelet@unicaen.fr](mailto:yvette.grelet@unicaen.fr)

Nathalie Moncel, [moncel@cereq.fr](mailto:moncel@cereq.fr)

**SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS**

To submit an abstract, please, send it by post or (preferably) by fax or e-mail to:

Yvette Grelet

LASMAS-CMH

Maison de la Recherche en Sciences Humaines, Université de Caen

Esplanade de la Paix

14032 Caen Cedex

Fax : +33 (0)2 31 56 62 06

[yvette.grelet@unicaen.fr](mailto:yvette.grelet@unicaen.fr)

and to: [tiy2006@cereq.fr](mailto:tiy2006@cereq.fr)

**REGISTRATION PROCEDURE**

For registration, please, make use of form attached to this mail or to be found on the website of the TIY-Network: <http://www.roa.unimaas.nl/TIY/workshops.htm>

or to be found on the website of the local organisers: <http://www.cereq.fr/tiy2006/>