

Pilz University of Cologne G.R.E.A.T. Newsletter

Dear colleagues, partners and friends of G.R.E.A.T.,

we hope our mail finds you well.

Before we slowly head off into summer and the holiday season, we would like to inform you about some news from G.R.E.A.T.

In the study by Gessler, Nägele & Stadler (2021), a "scoping review" or "bibliometric mapping analysis" was carried out for the research field at the boundary between "learning and work". With a number of 28 publications between 2011-2020, Prof. Dr. Matthias Pilz was identified as the "most productive author" in this study. Of his papers, [his typology approach in the context of international comparative VET research](#) was cited most frequently. The study by Gessler, Nägele and Stadler was published in a special issue of the International Journal for Research in Vocational Education and Training (open access) and is available [here](#).

In addition, we want to share two of our latest publications with you:

1. Collective Skill Formation Regimes in Times of Covid-19: A Governance-Focused Analysis of the German Dual Training System.

*In International Journal for Research in Vocational Education and Training, 9(2), 167–194.*

**By Uwe Fassbender**

*Covid-19 poses major challenges for vocational education and training (VET), as VET—in contrast to general education—is closely linked to the economic system and cannot escape the impact of current economic restrictions. Additionally, strict infection control regulations, as well as temporary school and company closures, inhibit the teaching of practical skills at the workplace. Rapid action by the responsible actors is essential to ensure that VET can take place even under these difficult conditions. It can be assumed that both the complex decision-making processes and the multiplicity of actors involved in collective training systems complicate or delay the reaction to this exogenous shock. Using the example of the German dual training system, this explorative article aims to examine the ability of collective training systems to deal with the challenges posed by the pandemic.*

This Paper (open access) can be found [here](#).

2. Teaching entrepreneurship to life-science students through Problem Based Learning.

*In The International Journal of Management Education, online first.*

**By Uwe Fassbender, Jutta Papenbrock & Matthias Pilz**

*The study presented here investigates the question of how entrepreneurship education can be embedded into academic courses of life science students, to provide basic economic competencies. From the perspective of business education, a pragmatic approach has been taken within the framework of an interventional study. This approach combines entrepreneurship education with a problem-based learning approach and the case study method. Using a framework based upon knowledge, skills and attitudes, the students' acquisition of competencies has been evaluated. For this purpose, a longitudinal study with two cohorts (n = 23) was conducted in 2018 and 2019, which included a knowledge test and a self-assessment. The test instrument was based on two validated tests, namely the 'Test of Economic Literacy' and 'Questions on Economic Knowledge'. In addition, qualitative reflective essays were carried out to examine the development of student's skills and attitudes. Although the knowledge test did not show any increase in students' knowledge of economics, the results of the self-assessment and the reflective essays at least indicate a positive impact of the learning environment on students' skills and attitudes. Consequently, the teaching design considered in this study may also be relevant to other studies of embedded entrepreneurship in academic courses.*

This Paper is free to read for the next weeks and can be found [here](#).

If you want to find more up-to-date information about G.R.E.A.T. and G.R.E.A.T. in India as well as our current projects and activities, please visit our [website](#).

We thank you very much for your support and cooperation. Please don't hesitate to contact us for further information or feedback.

We also wish you a pleasant summer and are already looking forward to welcoming some of you back in person at the 4th International G.R.E.A.T.-Conference in Cologne in September.

Kind regards from Cologne,

*Matthias Pilz and the whole G.R.E.A.T.-Team*

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