

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

Dear Colleagues, Partners and Friends of G.R.E.A.T.,

we hope our email finds you well. In this newsletter we would like to provide you with information about recent activities of G.R.E.A.T.

International Journal of Training and Development (IJTD) – Call for papers for a special issue on 'Skills for Local Sustainability Transformations and Development'

This special issue focuses on 'green skills' and aims to investigate place-specific contextual preconditions, structures/processes of implementation, and impacts. The special issue seeks contributions dealing with the region of the Global South as well as the Global North.

Papers are invited from a range of perspectives from around the world inspired by, for example, economic/labour/human/political geography, business education, business administration, sociology, anthropology and political science. All contributions should comprise a theoretical contribution, a part on methods, and sound empirical evidence. Quantitative as well as qualitative methods are welcomed, including theory-driven case studies. Reviews of literature and policy papers can also be submitted.

Potential contributors should submit an abstract (about 500 words) by April 15, 2024. The deadline for the submission of full papers is July 19, 2024. For further information please find the full call for papers [here](#).

Starting of the Erasmus+ Project TeC@ses in December 2023

As part of the project 'Teaching case studies online: how to design and teach case studies in vocational schools', an innovative, web-based e-learning tool (TeC@ses tool) for designing and teaching case studies will be developed to support teachers in creating didactically high-quality case studies. The content of the TeC@ses tool will be presented in the form of videos, podcasts and exercise elements, among others. In the age of digital transformation, teachers can use the TeC@ses tool not only to train themselves via new channels, but also to develop the digital skills required for media-supported and innovative teaching. The TeC@ses tool will be available in English, German, Czech, Finnish and Dutch and can therefore be used throughout Europe.

To stay informed about the project progress visit the [project website](#) or [subscribe to the 'Business Cases & Online Learning' network newsletter](#) for regular updates.

New: Chair of Business Education and International VET Research

To emphasise the research focus, the Closer Faculty of the Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences of the University of Cologne renamed the 'Chair of Economics and Business Education' to 'Chair of Business Education and International Vocational Education and Training Research'. The Rectorate of the University of Cologne approved the change at the turn of the year 2024.

Panel discussion: The transition from school to employment in Japan and Germany in times of demographic change

On June 26, 2024, The Japan Cultural Institute in Cologne (The Japan Foundation) will host a panel discussion on 'The transition from school to employment in Japan and Germany in times of demographic change'. The panel discussion will compare the transition from school to the world of work in Japan and Germany.

Against the backdrop of demographic trends with shrinking birth cohorts, problems arise in both countries in the course of the transition process. While in recent decades in the context of periods of economic weakness the risk of youth unemployment in both countries was discussed, today the shortage of skilled workers and companies' search for young talent are the main topics of discussion. At the same time, however, there is also a certain proportion of young people who find it difficult to integrate into the employment system, despite their basically good starting position. In addition, there is a trend in both countries that the academisation of the younger generation is progressing and vocational training is becoming less attractive.

The event therefore addresses a highly topical issue and presents the current transition situation in both countries and compares the institutions, processes and challenges. Japanese and German experts in the field of transition from school to employment will provide insights into the various facets of this topic. Afterwards there will be an opportunity to exchange views and ideas in a discussion round. Further information on the event will be available [here](#) soon.

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

Chen, Pujun, Goncharova, Anastasia, Li, Junmin, & Frommberger, Dietmar (2023). Competence-based approaches in curricula: a comparative analysis of Russian and Chinese commercial vocational education and training programmes. *Research in Comparative and International Education*, 19(1): 63–90.

This paper can be found [here](#).

Hofmeister, Christian, & Pilz, Matthias (2024). Do cases always deliver what they promise? A quality analysis of business cases in higher education. *Education Sciences*, 14(1): 7.

This paper (open access) 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.

Kind regards from Cologne,

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

Chair of Business Education and International VET Research, University of Cologne