

## Presentation of the book “Exportartikel Berufsbildung?” by Markus Maurer, Matthias Jaeger and Martin Faessler

SDC headquarters, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017

*On 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017, SDC hosted an event to present and discuss the book “Exportartikel Berufsbildung?” (Export Article VET?) – a new and highly recommended standard work for VSD professionals.*

**SDC Director Ambassador Manuel Sager** introduced the event by highlighting the importance of vocational skills development (VSD) as one of the priority topics of Swiss development cooperation together with basic education. Manuel Sager addressed some of the criticisms made in the book. He acknowledged that most VSD-projects contain a focus on poverty reduction and disadvantaged populations. However, in order to respond to the different needs and contexts of SDC partner countries, the SDC has to offer a wide array of solutions and approaches. In line with the new SDC education strategy, the SDC is determined to increasingly strive for impacts on Vocational Education and Training (VET) system's. SDC also recognizes the value of responding to the private sectors' skills needs in dynamic economic sectors.



After this introductory speech, the authors Markus Maurer, Matthias Jaeger and Martin Faessler presented their book and discussed their key theses with the over 50 participants from the Swiss administration (SDC, SERI, SECO and SFIVET<sup>1</sup>) as well as with representatives from implementing partners and Swiss VSD experts. A summary of the four main learnings is below.

### Main take-aways:

- 1) The authors suggest that SDC should overcome a restricted **target group orientation** in VSD. Whereas in some contexts (fragile countries, refugee camps...) and for addressing specific issues it makes sense to orient projects mainly towards labour market integration of specific target groups (minorities, women, unemployed), in other contexts SDC should focus on activities that strengthen VET system's performance and target young people at large. In these situations, projects should not just be measured on short term employment effects and training outreach. Other indicators of success, such as the impact on systemic change (c.f. Common Outcome Indicators for VSD) need to be used.

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<sup>1</sup> Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), Swiss Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (SFIVET).

- 2) Sustainable VSD should better respond to the **economy's needs and interests** (as it does in Switzerland) in order to make it attractive for the engagement of the private sector in training as well as for students. This has not always been sufficiently considered in SDC's previous project orientations, focusing on providing access to employment for vulnerable groups (unemployed, disadvantaged).
- 3) Skills Development has to contribute to **economic growth and job creation**. Switzerland's development cooperation should not only train job seekers, but should also train future job creators and innovators. This may include interventions on post-secondary VET or even on tertiary level (such as Universities of Applied Science), which is a main focus of SECO's engagement in professional skills.
- 4) Responding to the SDGs, there is need to join forces with other public and private actors in Switzerland and worldwide. A focus should be on **transformatory processes and inter-sectorial approaches**. VSD is able to contribute not only to SDGs 4 (Quality Education) and 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), but can also be an instrument in reaching other SDG's. This is foreseen in SDC's Education Strategy.

The SDC focal point employment and income (e+i) used this opportunity to refer to its new project typology tool which can be used as a guidance when defining the particular impact area, objectives and instruments of VSD projects.

#### Further information

- [More information on the book \(HEP Verlag\)](#)
- [SDC's Project typology tool for VSD \(new!\)](#)
- [SDC's Common Outcome Indicators for VSD](#)
- [SDC's Portfolio in VSD – Key figures \(new!\)](#)
- [SDC's Education strategy for Basic Education and VSD](#)





Amb. #Sager: #vulnerable groups, #women and #youth are main target groups of #SDC's engagement in #skillsdevelopment

Original (English) übersetzen



04.09.17, 16:17

Amb. #Sager: #vocational #skillsdevelopment #VSD in #Kakuma camp obviously needs other approaches than #VET systems development in #Serbia.

Original (English) übersetzen



Matthias Jäger: we also need #VET / #skillsdevelopment for potential #jobcreators, #performers and #innovators!

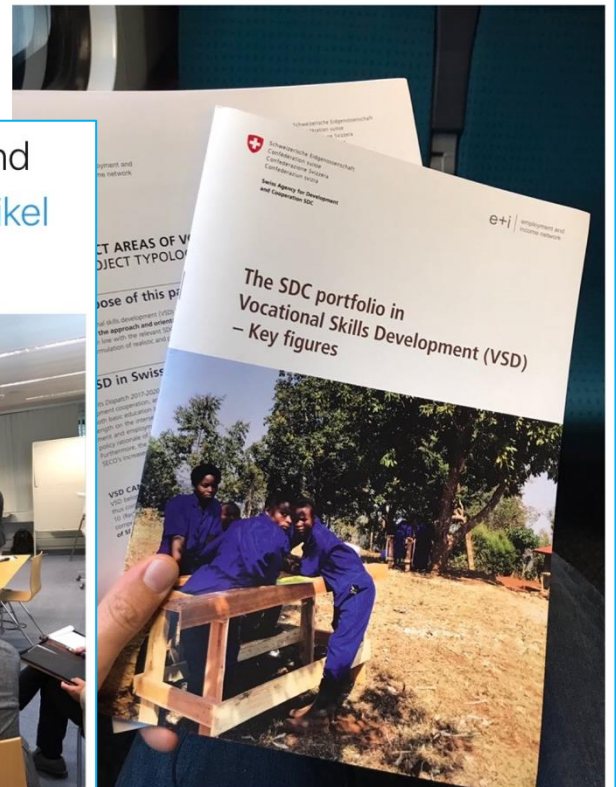
Original (English) übersetzen



Antwort an @romantroxler und @phzuerich

New publications really appreciated by the development professionals present at today's event

Original (English) übersetzen



#MarkusMaurer @phzuerich, #MatthiasJaeger and #MartinFaessler presenting their book #Exportartikel #Berufsbildung? to a lively #SDC audience



04.09.17, 19:22 von Bern, Schweiz

deine Antwort