

Administration of VET in Switzerland

by Christoph Thomann

Verbundpartnerschaft (Network / Alliance Partnership)

Swiss vocational education and training is characterized by the so-called Verbundpartnerschaft (Network / Alliance Partnership). These are the federal government, the organizations of the world of work (OdA) and the cantons. These three collaborative partners largely dominate the scene with the following tasks:

Federal Government with the SERI

The Federal Government with the SERI (State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation) is responsible for the laws and also for the enactments of the professions, which are thus regulated nationwide. For each new law or ordinance, a hearing is planned, on which all associations can comment.

Organizations of the world (OdA)

Organizations of the world of work is actually a new term and refers to the professional associations that are responsible for the professions. They draw up the educational regulations and the education plan for a profession, which are then issued by the Federal Government. In the corresponding commissions, there is a representative of the Federal Government, who ensures compliance with the law, and a representative of the cantons, who looks after feasibility / practicability in the cantons. The teaching staff is also represented in these commissions.

Cantons

The cantons are responsible for implementing the professions in their cantons. They also determine the conditions of employment of teachers, where great differences exist. The cantons have two important organizations that have a great influence in the Confederation: The EDK (Erziehungsdirektorenkonferenz) which is roughly equivalent to the KMK and the SBBK (Schw. Berufsbildungsämterkonferenz).

Conclusions

From what has been said, it is clear that the individual teachers and even the individual cantons have little direct contact with SERI. Most of the activities are carried out through the aforementioned channels and the influence of SERI on the design of the professions is rather modest, even if SERI ultimately decides. For the teachers, two things are actually important: the influence on the design of the professions, which takes place in the commission of the Oda's (professional sections of the BCH) and the influence on the conditions of employment, which takes place in the individual cantons (cantonal sections of the BCH).

What has been newly introduced this year is the new committee structure of vocational education. This is actually the strategic leadership of vocational education and training, which gives the guidelines for SERI. This is the parliament, so to speak, which tells the executive, the SERI, what basically has to be done.



Thank you very much for your attention!