Susanne Berger, University of Cologne/ Germany:

Fit for business - developing business competencies in school.
Differences between prescribed and enacted curriculum in pre-vocational education.
The case of Germany.

Abstract

The contribution presents a comparative research project on pre-vocational education in secondary schools within seven European countries which is funded as a multilateral project within the European Lifelong Learning Program.

The primary aim of the study is to analyse currently predominant understanding of how pre-vocational and economic/business curriculum is mediated through national cultures to form a basis for the school syllabus. The research is based upon the collection of secondary data through the analysis of curriculum documents within each country and the use of primary data sources through interviewing teachers as well as representatives of employer organisations and trade unions. The data collection period covers the years 2009-2011.

The contribution to this conference will focus on the German findings from the study. The main results will be presented with the aim to identify the potential gaps between prescribed curriculum and how pre-vocational curriculum is taught within compulsory schools in Germany.