



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
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Federal Department of Economic Affairs,  
Education and Research EAER  
**State Secretariat for Education,  
Research and Innovation SERI**

## International Congress on Vocational and Professional Education and Training Skills for the future



Switzerland stands out as place of business thanks to low unemployment, high competitiveness and a strong innovation capacity. Our country owes this success, among others, to its much advanced education system, in which vocational and professional education and training plays an important role. Vocational and professional education and training allows for the creation of a hub of qualified professionals and managers and guarantees high employment and prosperity. Traditionally, the private and public sector share the responsibility for vocational and professional education and training. To enshrine this success as enduring, Switzerland depends on a prosperous and organised vocational and professional education and training based on this partnership.

In 2014, Switzerland will launch an international congress devoted to vocational and professional education and training. The main themes featured will be image building of vocational and professional education and training, exchanges between businesses and policymakers, as well as the presentation of best practices in use in training companies and vocational schools.

By organising this congress in Winterthur, the partners in vocational and professional education and training that are the Confederation, the cantons and the professional organisations aim to contribute to the position of the vocational and professional education and training on a large scale and promote exchanges between major players of vocational and professional education and training on a national and international level. The establishment of a dialogue should achieve the creation of better frameworks in view of an international cooperation in this field.

As host to this event, Switzerland will share its expertise with interested parties and showcase the Swiss know-how in vocational and professional education and training.

I am very much looking forward to welcoming you to the International Congress on Vocational and Professional Education and Training in September 2014 in Winterthur.

**Federal Councillor Johann N. Schneider-Ammann**

Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research EAER

## Information

The International Congress on Vocational and Professional Education and Training will take place in Winterthur (Switzerland) from 15 to 18 September 2014. We have the pleasure to present you WorldSkills International as a special guest for this first of three editions of the congress.

The congress is supported by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), several cantons and professional organisations, and the Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften (ZHAW) and the Swiss Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (SFIVET).

## Target audience

The congress is intended for an international audience from political, economic and scientific circles responsible for decision-making on vocational and professional education and training matters.

## Programme

- 15.09.2014: Welcome event: cocktail party
- 16.09.2014: Official opening; speeches from key players in politics, economy and science; panel discussion; thematic seminars
- 17.09.2014: The Swiss vocational and professional education and training system in a first-hand experience: visits of host companies, vocational schools and other training schemes
- 18.09.2014: Speeches from key players in politics, economy and science; visit of SwissSkills Bern 2014, the first edition of the Swiss vocational education and training competitions on national level

## General conditions

The congress is limited to 400 participants.

Attendance fee excluding travel and accommodation expenses: CHF 700.–.

Languages: English (main), German, French (simultaneous translation will be provided).

Online registration will be possible from March 2014.

Information and registration: [www.vpet-congress.ch](http://www.vpet-congress.ch)

## Organised by

Standortförderung Region Winterthur, [www.standort-winterthur.ch](http://www.standort-winterthur.ch)