

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910255123003321
Titolo	Competence-based Vocational and Professional Education : Bridging the Worlds of Work and Education // edited by Martin Mulder
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2017
ISBN	3-319-41713-4
Edizione	[1st ed. 2017.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (1144 p.)
Collana	Technical and Vocational Education and Training: Issues, Concerns and Prospects, , 1871-3041 ; ; 23
Disciplina	370.113
Soggetti	Professional education Vocational education Higher education Lifelong learning Adult education Professional & Vocational Education Higher Education Lifelong Learning/Adult Education
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and indexes.
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Sommario/riassunto

This book presents a comprehensive overview of extant literature on competence-based vocational and professional education since the introduction of the competence concept in the 1950s. To structure the field, the book distinguishes between three approaches to defining competence, based on 1. functional behaviourism, 2. integrated occupationalism, and 3. situated professionalism. It also distinguishes between two ways of operationalizing competence: 1. behaviour-oriented generic, and 2. task-oriented specific competence. Lastly, it identifies three kinds of competencies, related to: 1. specific activities, 2. known jobs, and 3. the unknown future. Competence for the unknown future must receive more attention, as our world is rapidly evolving and there are many 'glocal' challenges which call for innovation and a profound transformation of policies and practices. The book presents a range of different approaches to competence-based education, and demonstrates that competence-based education is a worldwide innovation, which is institutionalized in various ways. It presents the major theories and policies, specific components of educational systems, such as recognition, accreditation, modelling and assessment, and developments in discipline-oriented and transversal competence domains. The book concludes by synthesizing the different perspectives with the intention to contribute to further improving vocational and professional education policy and practice. Joao Santos, Deputy Head of Unit C5, Vocational Training and Adult Education, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission: "This comprehensive work on competence-based education led by Martin Mulder, provides an excellent and timely contribution to the current debate on a New Skills Agenda for Europe, and the challenge of bridging the employment and education and training worlds closer together. This book will influence our work aimed at improving the relevance of vocational education to support initial and continuing vocational education and training policy and practice aimed at strengthening the key competencies for the 21st century." Prof. Dr. Reinhold Weiss, Deputy President and Head of the Research, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB), Bonn, Germany: "This book illustrates that the idea and concept of competence is not only a buzzword in educational debates but key to innovative pedagogical thinking as well as educational practice." Prof. Dr. Johanna Lasonen, College of Education, University of South Florida, Tampa, USA: "Competence-based Vocational and Professional Education is one of the most important multi-disciplinary book in education and training. This path-breaking book offers a timely, rich and global perspective on the field. The book is a good resource for practitioners, policymakers and researchers."
