

## Press Release

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### **New publication series: KOF Factbooks Education System**

**Why have some countries been able to integrate their own young people into the labour market better than others? Why has the Swiss vocational education and training system been particularly good at this? And how do labour-market oriented educational pathways in different countries differ from one another? In order to provide a basis upon which to answer these questions, the KOF has prepared a new series of “Factbooks” describing the education systems of different countries, with particular reference to labour-market oriented educational pathways. The aim of these Factbooks is to cast light on the cultural, economic, political and social characteristics of these countries in order to be able to classify the structure of the relevant education system, along with governance and education processes. This basis for comparison will subsequently facilitate a discussion of “best practice” examples.**

The success of the Swiss vocational education and training system in integrating young people into the labour market is capturing attention. Political decision makers in a number of countries now regard the Swiss vocational education and training system as a model for their country. These include for example the USA, which recently signed a declaration of intent concerning closer cooperation with Switzerland in the area of vocational education.

The Education Systems research area at the ETH Zurich's KOF Swiss Economic Institute is thus increasingly operating as a point of contact for queries from countries looking for support in establishing how a comparably successful vocational education and training system could be implemented in their own country. The first step is to answer the following question: What form do the educational pathways that are comparable to a vocational education and training system take in these countries? Or alternatively: How are these educational pathways embedded into the education system as a whole? Until now, there has been a lack of internationally comparable reference documents providing systematic clarification in particular of the interface between education systems and employment systems.

These gaps should now be closed with the publication series “KOF Factbooks Education System”. When presenting the education systems from selected countries, authors focus above all on labour-market oriented educational pathways.

Since these educational pathways are heavily centred on the requirements of the labour market, which in turn is dependent upon the structure of the economy in the relevant country, it may be helpful to focus in greater detail on both aspects. Thus, the first chapter of the “KOF Factbooks Education System” describes the economy and the labour market, and in particular the youth labour market in the relevant country. In order to understand the embedding of labour-market oriented educational pathways within the rest of the education system, chapter two

provides an overview of the education system as a whole. Alongside a general description of the labour-market oriented educational pathways in chapter three, other factors that are of decisive significance for the operation of these educational pathways are also mentioned. These include amongst other things legal framework conditions and governance, curricula development and the financing of these educational pathways.

The first series of KOF Factbooks describes the education systems in Switzerland, the United States of America, Singapore, Hong Kong, Chile, Costa Rica and Nepal. Further publications will follow at irregular intervals.

The currently available Factbooks may be consulted on the following page:  
<http://kof.ethz.ch/en/publications/kof-factbooks-education-system/>

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