

Swiss Leading House VPET-ECON

A Research Center on the Economics of Education, Firm Behavior and Training Policies

Call for Papers

Third International Leading House Conference on the “Economics of Vocational Education and Training”

July 8, 2026 (late afternoon) – July 10, 2026 (lunchtime)
University of Bern, Switzerland

Keynote Speakers:

Simona Lorena Comi (University of Milano-Bicocca)
Kerstin Pull (University of Tuebingen)

The conference also features:

A Special Panel Discussion Celebrating 20 Years of the Swiss Leading House VPET-ECON
Panellists: **Giorgio Brunello** (University of Padova), **Bernd Fitzenberger** (IAB), **Sandra McNally** (CVER LSE), **Uschi Backes-Gellner** (University of Zurich) & **Stefan Wolter** (University of Bern)

Two Invited Speaker Sessions on

- (a) Current Research Topics in Economics of Vocational Education
with **Harald Pfeifer** (BIBB), **Samuel Mühlemann** (LMU) & **Arnaldo Camuffo** (Bocconi)
(b) Knowledge Transfer: From Research to Practice and Back
with **Ursula Renold** (ETH Zürich), **Eric Bettinger** (Stanford) & **Jürg Schweri** (SFUVET)

The Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Centre for Research in Economics of Education at the University of Bern with a keynote by **C. Katharina Spiess** (Federal Institute for Population Research, University of Mainz)

Topics of Interest The conference offers an opportunity to present theoretical, empirical, and experimental research. Topics of interest include but are not limited to: (vocational) educational reforms and labor market outcomes; characteristics of training programs and labor market outcomes; economic shocks and apprenticeships; training and firm level productivity; human capital and innovation; generative AI, automation, digitalization and labor market effects; interplay of cognitive and non-cognitive skills; returns to different types of education; skills formation across the life-span; social background and educational choices; cost-benefit analyses of apprenticeship training.

The conference consists of presentations and poster sessions.

Target Group We are inviting experienced and young researchers alike to present their research at the conference. We aim to lay the foundations for a strong network of researchers in the field of VET Economics. There are no participation fees. A small number of modest travel grants is available for young researchers undergoing financial hardship (detailed explanations required upon submission).

For more information see:
www.educationeconomics.uzh.ch/en

Leading House VPET-ECON
A Research Program of the State Secretariat for Education,
Research and Innovation (SERI)

Submission of Papers Researchers interested in presenting at the conference are invited to submit a full paper by email to vetconference@business.uzh.ch until

February 28, 2026

Please submit your full paper in the following format:

1. Submission-email including last name, first name, email address of corresponding and presenting author
2. Attachment with pdf document entitled:
„LastName_FirstName_ShortTitle“

Authors will be informed of their acceptance by the end of March 2026.

Further Information will be available on the conference website. In case of questions, please send us an email to vetconference@business.uzh.ch. If you know researchers who might be interested in presenting, please spread the word.



**University of
Zurich** UZH

Co-Director
Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Uschi Backes-Gellner

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Co-Director
Prof. Dr. Stefan C. Wolter

**UNIVERSITÄT
BERN**