

Towards a strong career learning environment: results from a Dutch longitudinal study

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Towards a strong career learning environment: results from a Dutch longitudinal study

Aniek Draaisma, Frans Meijers & Marinka Kuijpers

Abstract

To prepare students for the flexible labour market of nowadays, schools are increasingly acknowledging their responsibility to guide students in their career development. The project 'Career Orientation and Guidance in Secondary Vocational Education' was developed to encourage Dutch schools to initiate and/or continue the creation of a strong career learning environment for their students. Central in this learning environment is a dialogue with the students, where meaning is attached to concrete experiences with work. This longitudinal study is designed to gain theoretical and practical insight into the influence of the project. Results show that, although the school's vision on career orientation and guidance is clear to the teachers, it is not supported by all of them. It appears that the renewed vision is imposed on the teachers, and this absence of a shared and widely supported vision appears to withhold the teachers and the project managers to engage in collective action.