

Voices of Students' Experiences on Labour Market Entry after Graduation from the Basic Level of Secondary Vocational Education and Training (SVET) in the Netherlands

Part of a Participatory Action Research towards Responsive and Sustainable Craftsmanship

Collaborative Action Research Network Conference, October 2018
Femke Bijker, PhD Student University of Groningen, f.bijker@rug.nl

- > Graduates from basic level SVET in the Netherlands possess a start qualification, which is considered the minimum education level needed for labour market entry (Bronneman-Helmers, 2011).
- > The concept of a start qualification does not support lifelong learning for those with basic educational qualifications (De Grip, 2009).
- > Urgent need to increase access and opportunities to participate in the labour market for those with basic qualifications (Social and Economic Council, 2017).
- > PAR in collaboration with two teams of educators basic level SVET: *Car Mechanics* and *Assistants in Care and Welfare*.
- > Three graduates of Car Mechanics –all employed- and six graduates of Assistants in Care and Welfare shared their experiences –four employed, two unemployed-.

'It isn't just cleaning in Home Care, it is not like 'I get there, clean and that's it'. That's not. You are a sounding board to these people.'



Important for Graduates in Their Professional Lives: Meaningful Relations (Ryan & Deci, 2000)

'Important, that is for real contact with colleagues. Sociability at the work floor, that is most important to me.'



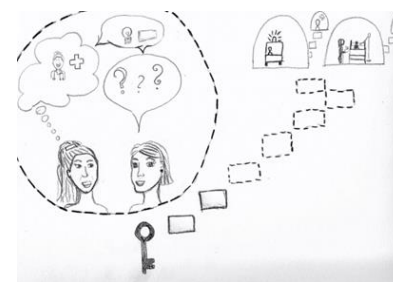
Important for Graduates in Their Professional Lives: Mutual Engagement and a Joint Enterprise (Wenger, 1998)

'Eh, I don't know. I will wait and see. And I don't really like to talk about what will happen in five years, you know.'



Employable in the Future Without Aspirations? (De Grip, 2009; Kirschner, 2017; Kuijpers, 2012)

'In five years I am a doctor.
That is what I said at school. So. We'll see.'*



Are the Unemployed Students Realistic in Their Aspirations? (Kuijpers, 2012; Stam, 2018)

** the profession changed in this quote*

'I don't even know who my boss is.'



Reflective Career Dialogues are Important to Remain Employable (Delfos, 2009; Kuijpers, 2012)

*'My boss said: 'You can continue to work with us.'
My motivation...they evaluate my achievement positively.'*



A Positive Focus and Genuine Interest are Important in Dialogues (Delfos, 2009; Groeneveld & Hermanussen, 2012)