

# ASEM LLL Hub Research Network 2 – Workplace Learning

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*RN2's face-to-face meeting at Innsbruck, Austria -November 2019*

# Recent progress:

***Workplaces as Learning Spaces: conceptual and empirical insights (2017) awarded Bernd Rode award for project excellence in 2019.***



**Research sub-groups have worked on 3 topics between 2017-2020.**

- Employer engagement in skills development and lifelong learning (ecosystems approach) [\[AT/DE-CN-TH-MY-UK\]](#)
- Understanding learning in global work [\[FI-FR-IT-SG\]](#)
- Professional identities of young adults learning in the workplace [\[DK-IN-TH-MY\]](#)

# Learning of professionals in global work



- Scope: exploring experiences of professionals engaged in global work, recruited through purposive sampling in four locations – Austria, Italy, the Netherlands and Singapore.
- Outcome: an analytical framework to understand and support the productive professional learning of those engaged in global work.
- Implications for policy and practice: new curricular approaches for those currently underserved given the national orientation of most VET and PD ecosystems.

*[Forthcoming publication by Hanna Toiviainen, Sahara Sadik, Helen Bound, Pier Paolo Pasqualoni & Padma Ramsamy-Prat]*

## Reflection by the Team

“The power of the international collaboration was the exposure not only to different disciplines within the group, but also to different cultural ways of thinking. These added to the richness of our interactions and to our outcomes.” – *Helen Bound (Singapore)*

“We built on the work and outcomes already achieved in the network, particularly the book (Learning spaces). We worked on empirical data that was collected by the group globally.” – *Hanna Toiviainen (Finland)*

“There was a good spirit from the start as we knew each other from former conferences...the richness of interactions resulted in improvement and creativity.” – *Padma Ramasamy-Prat (France)*

“We built trust among us. We accommodated everyone's research interest and preferences. We have clear agreements on our reciprocal roles and contributions.” – *Pier Paolo Pasqualoni (Austria)*

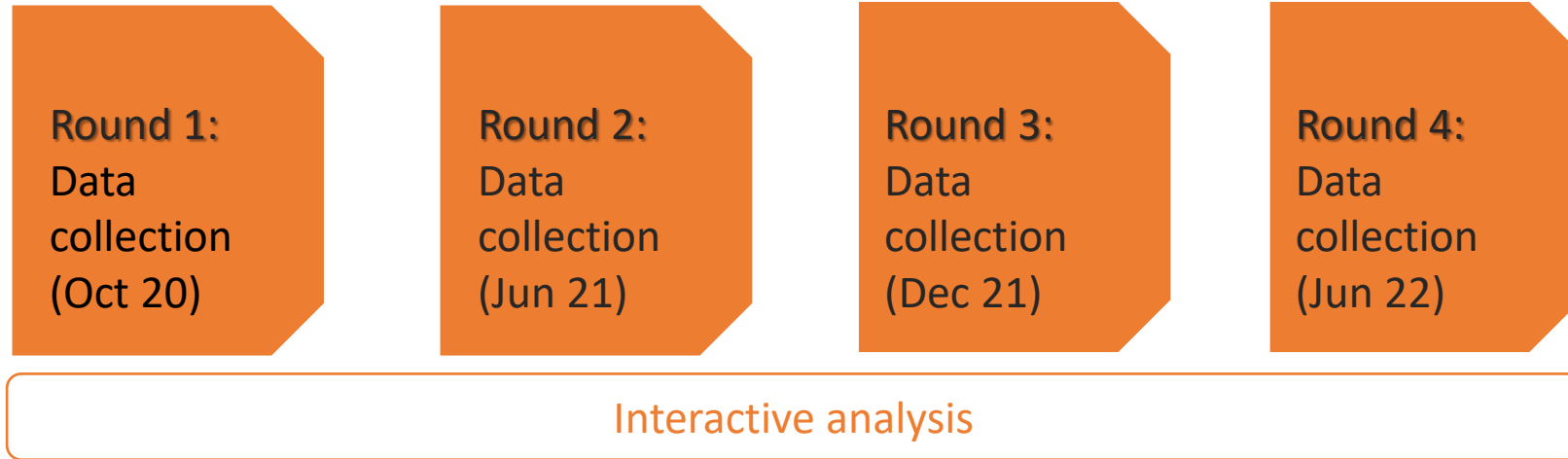
New  
collaborative  
project 2020  
- 2023:

**Resilience of skill ecosystems in Asian and European countries in pandemic times**

- Broad sequential surveys of pandemic responses, strategies and effects, through key informants and use of online survey tool.
- Comparisons according to structural similarities of countries/pandemic situation/vocational training systems/policies... so that different strategies and effects can be identified.
- focus includes the initial training situation in the countries as well as continuing education/workplace learning) and forms of school-to-work transitions.

# ASEM RN2 Resilience of skill ecosystems in Asian and European countries in pandemic times (2020 – 2023)

*Participants to-date: Germany/Austria, France, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Singapore, Thailand, UK*



## **Possible outputs of our research:**

1. Dense descriptions at country level (country reports using summaries of expert survey rounds and statistical data collected), possibly edited volume
2. Comparative analysis of policy strategies with regard to vocational training structures of the whole group
3. Bilateral comparisons
4. Publications in journals, congress contributions
5. References for further research agendas

## Cross-cultural exchanges

“...Asian thought and values provide a powerful source for reflecting on the European traditions (Chisholm 2011). Having analysed the first results of the survey, she noticed that Asian employees responded that they experience more recognition for their learning, while employees in Europe tend to be more critical regarding employers’ commitment to learning provision and recognition. Europeans have high expectations of almost everything, including recognition for their individual work and learning effort, and so it can be hard to satisfy their need for recognition. Subsequently she questions whether Europeans are self-centred narcissists and Asians authoritarian and obedient people? No, only if you are prejudiced, she confirmed.”

*Dang, Q.A. (2013). ASEM – the modern Silk Road: travelling ideas for education reforms and partnerships between Asia and Europe, Comparative Education, 49:1, 107-119*