

P-39/63-E
Brussels, October 1963

INFORMATION MEMO

A study on "The vocational training of young people on the job in industry, the crafts and commerce in the EEC countries" has been published by the Commission of the European Economic Community in its Social Policy series.

The Commission entrusted this study to Mr. Karl Abraham, Director of the Frankfurt University Institute for Economic Pedagogy, a specialist in personnel administration and vocational training, who has the advantage of experience in Germany - a country where vocational training is generally done on the job.

In order to facilitate collaboration between the Member States on elementary and advanced vocational training as required by Article 118 of the Treaty of Rome, and to implement the common policy, as required by Article 128, the Commission must have precise information on the extremely diverse training systems applied in the various countries.

The structure and methods of vocational training vary considerably from country to country. In France and Belgium, for instance, workers are trained in schools, whereas in Germany and Luxembourg they are trained on the job. The purpose of this enquiry was to study the methods and content of vocational training on the job, taking into account historical, sociological and economic conditions, to examine its importance in relation to vocational training in general and to arrive at a clearer definition of training on the job as opposed to training in schools.

It is hoped that the study will fill a gap by providing a comparative table of the current situation in the six countries.

After evaluating the available statistics on vocational training, population and employment, the author analyses the legislative and administrative provisions in force in each country and considers how trade examinations could be brought into line within the Community at the lower level (skilled worker, for instance), as a first step towards the harmonization of vocational training.

The results of this enquiry show that the implementation of a common vocational training policy requires first of all a solid technical basis involving such matters as the centralization of the available information material and the establishment of comparative statistics. The next stage should be devoted to bringing

the qualifying examinations more closely into line, since at present the same paper qualifications do not always cover the same skills in the various Community countries.

We must obviously not lose sight of the educational aspect of the problem - neither in training on the job nor in training in schools.