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Federal Department of Economic Affairs,  
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**State Secretariat for Education,  
Research and Innovation SERI**

**«Every good craftsman conducts a dialogue between concrete practices and thinking; this dialogue evolves into sustaining habits, and these habits establish a rhythm between problem solving and problem finding.»** — Richard Sennett, *The Craftsman*, 2008



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# Future International Challenges in Vocational and Professional Education and Training

WorldSkills São Paulo 2015  
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# Outline

Introduction

International Trends

Future International Challenges in VPET

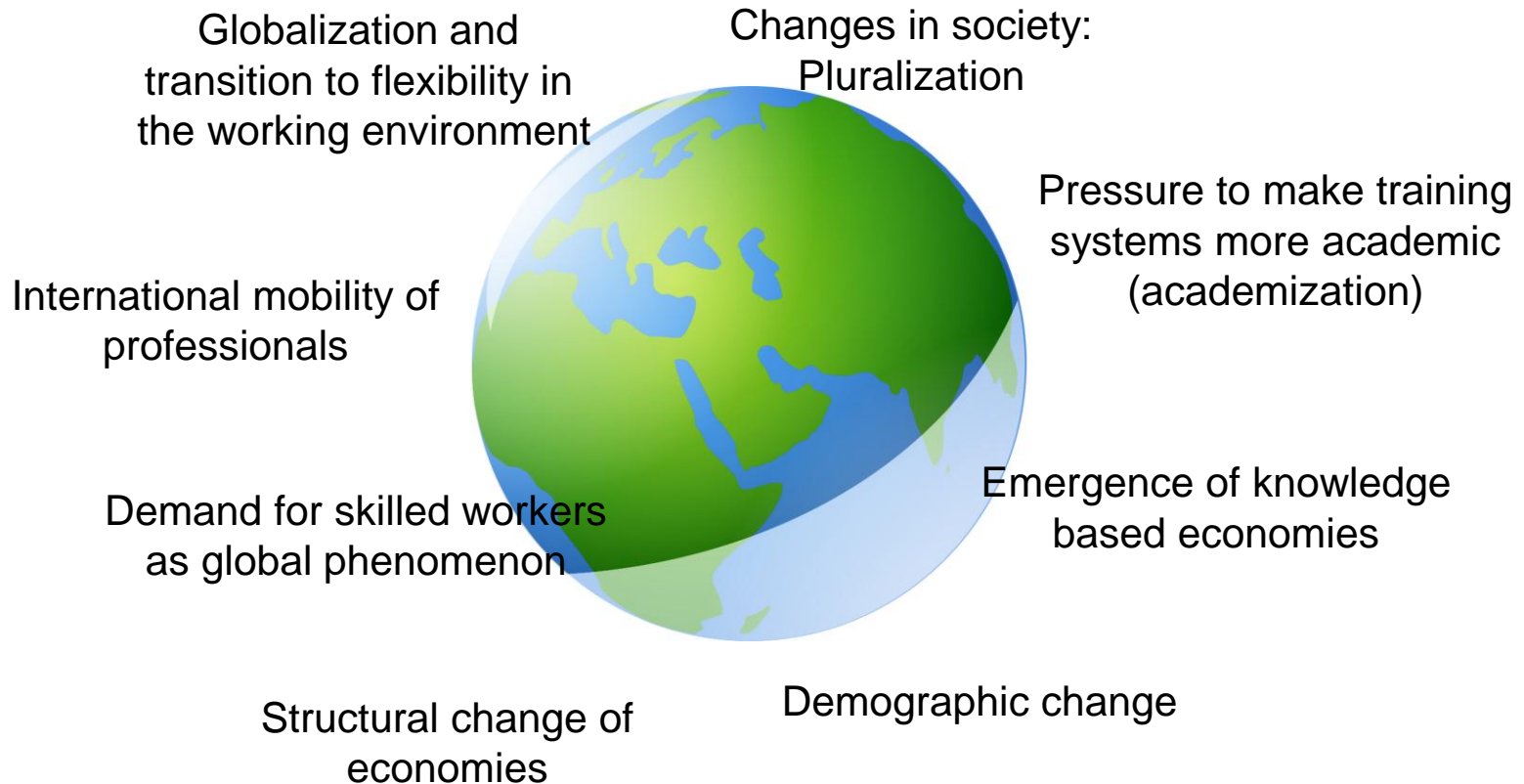
Swiss VPET System

Measures and Features to Address the Challenges

Discussion



# International Trends





# International Challenges in VPET

## Attractiveness

Image in society, for youngsters and companies

Prestige in comparison to general education

## Future International Challenges in VPET

## Flexibility

Need for different educational pathways

Continuous alignment to changing conditions on national and international level

## Rising expectations towards VPET

Antidote to (youth) unemployment?

## Quality

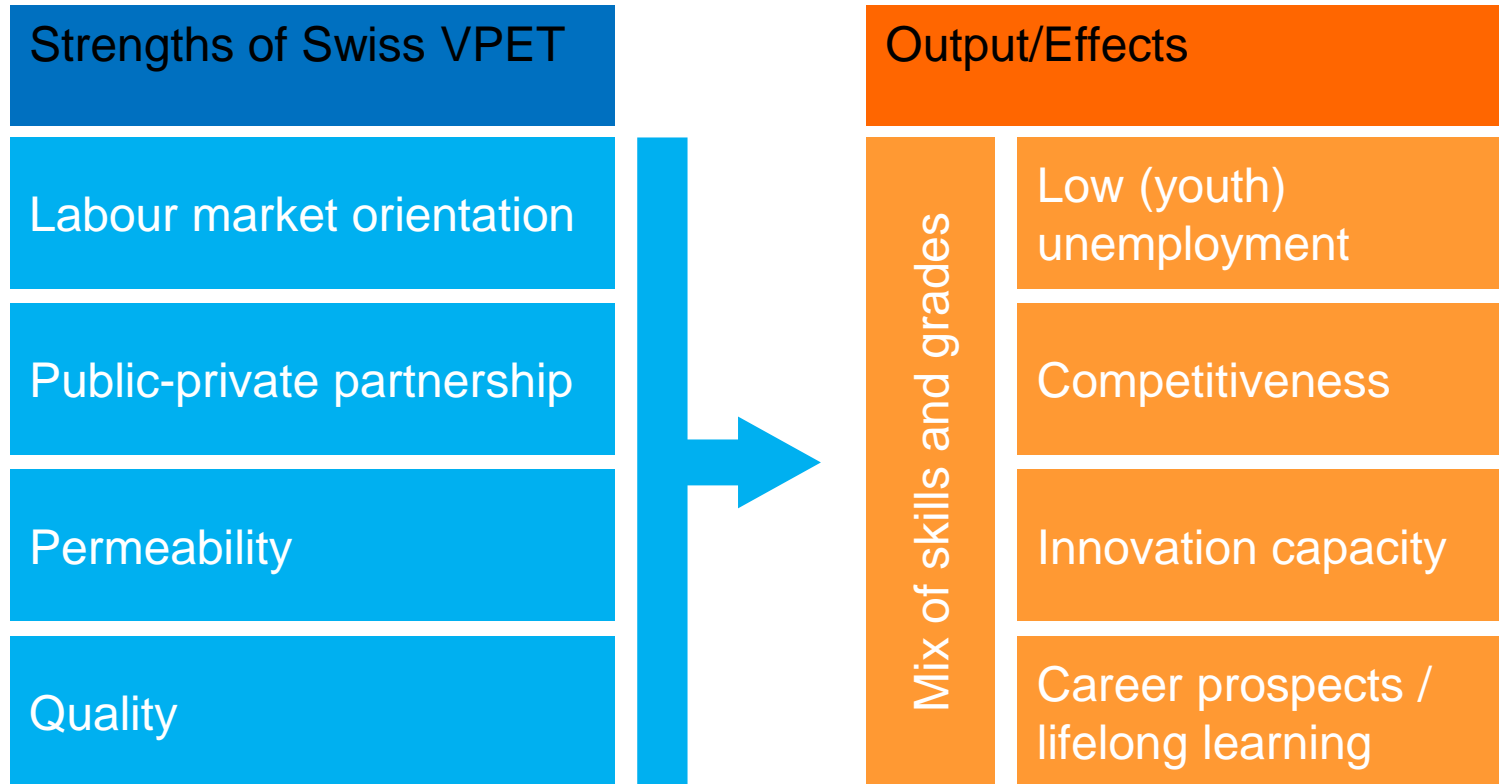
Respond to the needs of the labour market



# Swiss VPET System at a Glance



# Swiss VPET System





# Measures and Features

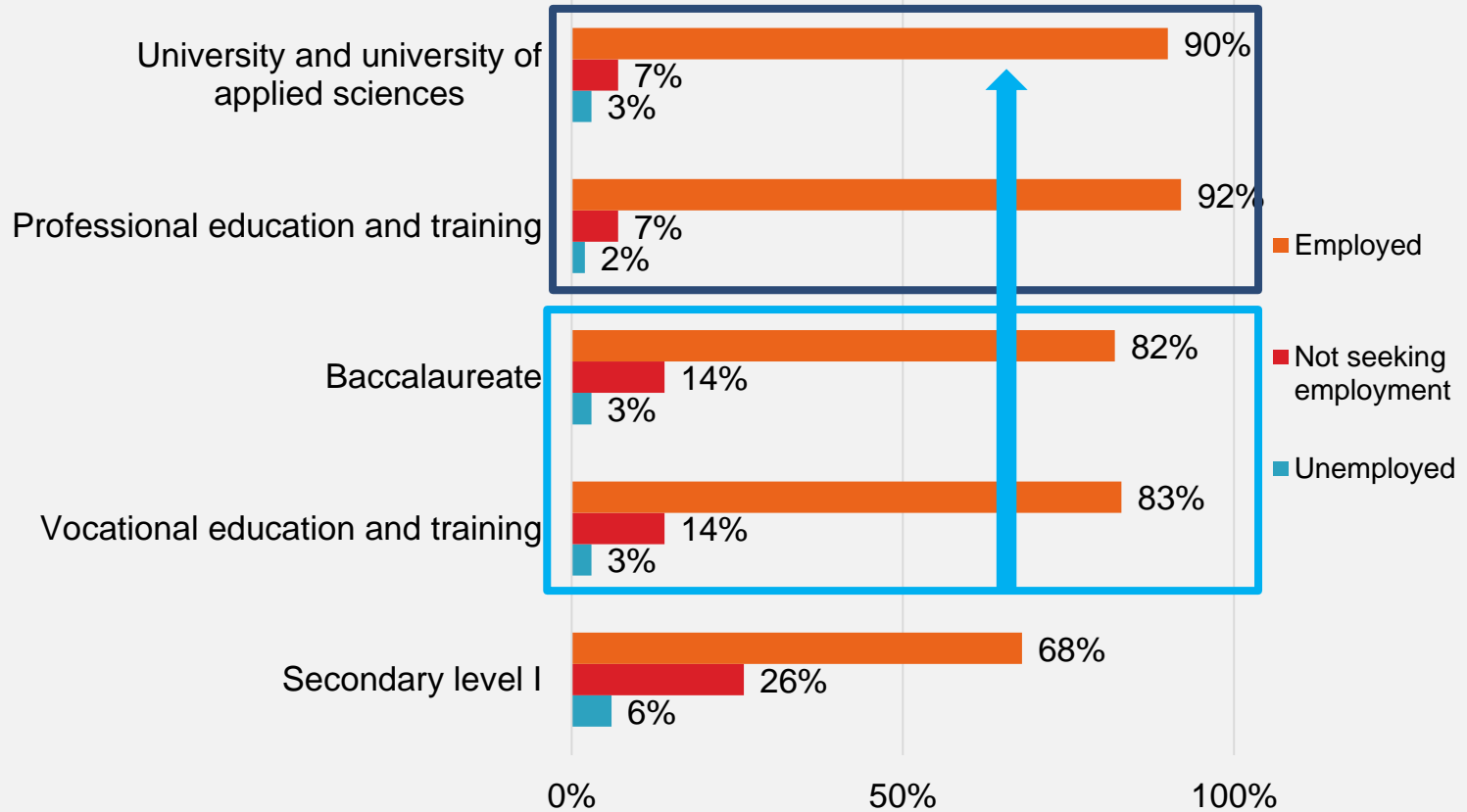
Attractiveness

Factors	Examples of Measures and Features to Address the Challenges
External factors	Cultural and socio-economic conditions
Promotion	Skills Competitions (World-, Euro- and national Skills) and success stories
Success (lifelong learning, employability, qualified workers)	Labour market orientation and permeability



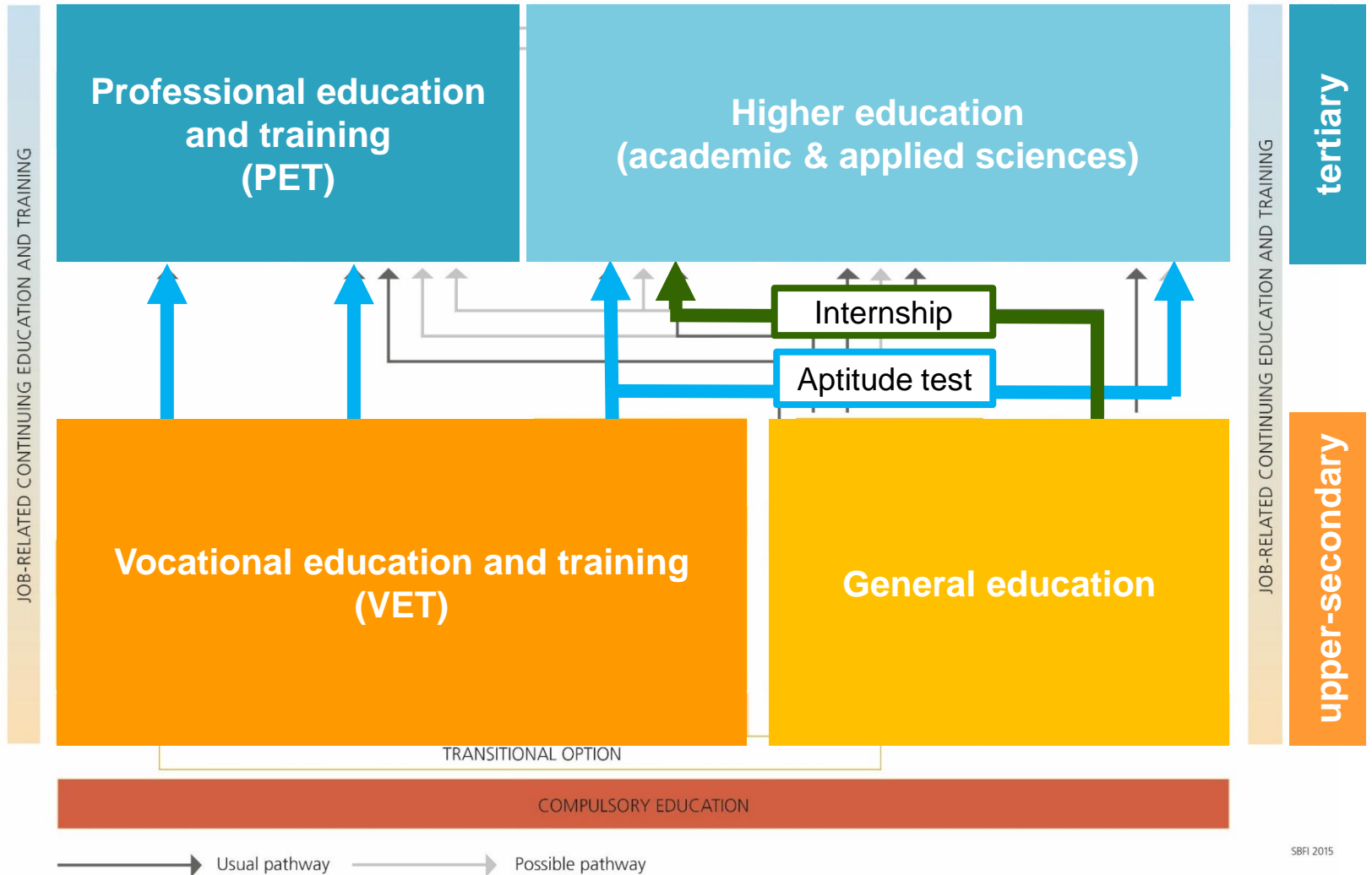


## e.g. labour market oriented Swiss VPET → high employability





# e.g. permeability in the Swiss education system





# Measures and Features

## Flexibility

### Factors

Lifelong learning for all members in society

Open to internationalization and mobility

Respond to different and changing needs in society (individuals and companies)

### Examples of Measures and Features to Address the Challenges

Permeability

Enhancement and differentiation

Balance of excellence and integration

Keep training content and syllabuses up-to-date and in line with the actual needs of the labour market



## e.g. balance of excellence and integration in Switzerland

- PET (tertiary B level)
- Federal Vocational Baccalaureate (access to UAS)
- Apprenticeship support
- Skills competitions
- Foreign languages
- Mobility

- Coaching / mentoring
- Bridge-year courses
- 2-year VET programmes
- Case Management

**Encouraging talent**

**Integration**



## e.g. establishing training content in Switzerland

Strong involvement of the private sector

Branch-specific specialists decide on training contents

Up-to-date

Training content is regularly reviewed and changed as needed

Partnership

Reforms and revisions of training contents are based on partnership dynamics



# Measures and Features

Rising  
expectations  
towards  
VPET

Factors

Effects in the long run

Relevance of different cultural and socio-economic condition

International dialogue

Examples of Measures and Features to Address the Challenges

Continuity and flexibility

Do not only copy and paste successful models, transfer the spirit!

WorldSkills, International Congress on VPET in Switzerland,...



**e.g. WorldSkills and the International Congress on VPET in Switzerland**



International Congress  
on Vocational and Professional  
Education and Training

**20 – 22 June 2016 in Winterthur, Switzerland**

[www.vpet-congress.ch](http://www.vpet-congress.ch)



# Measures and Features

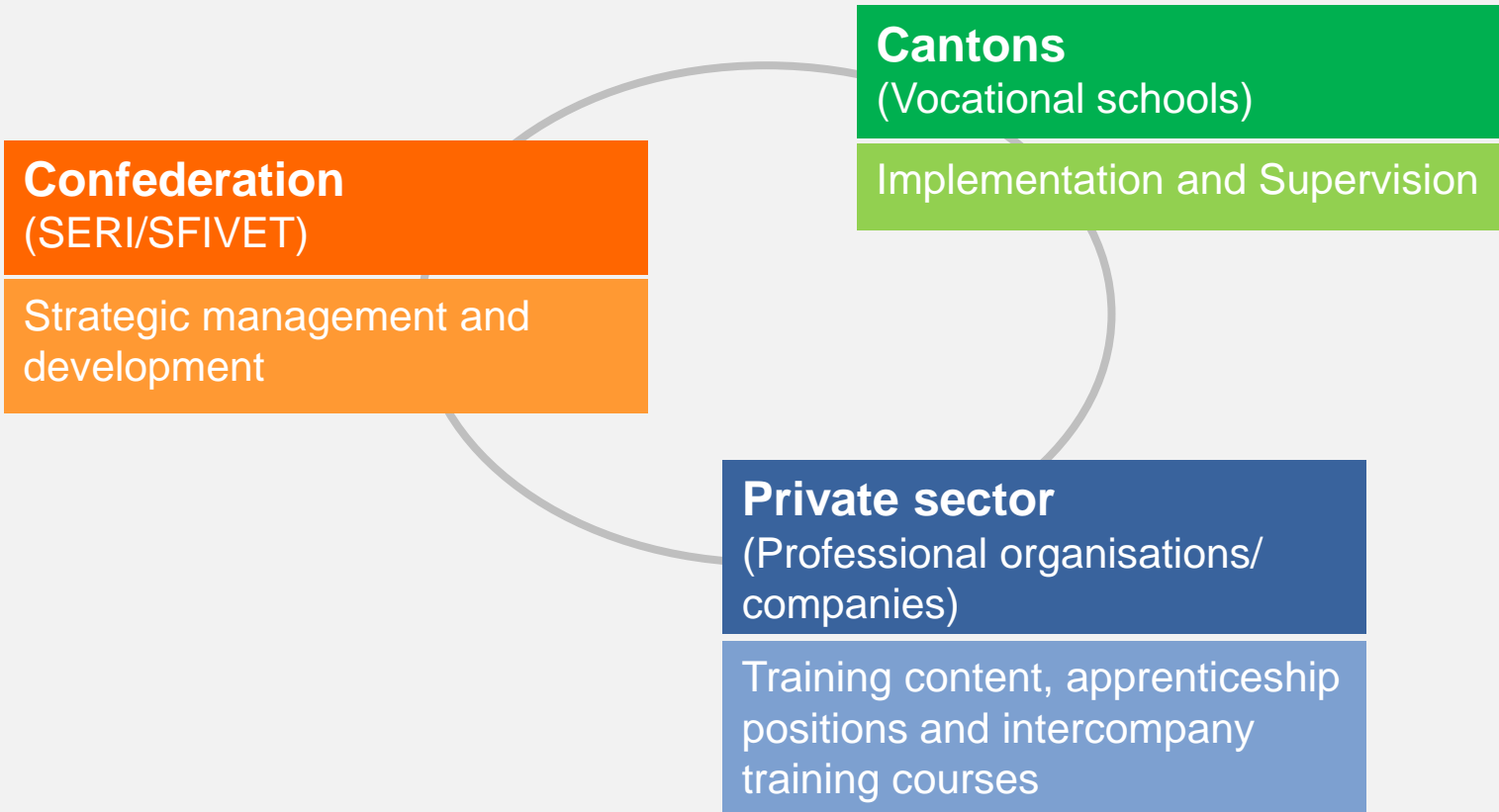


Factors	Examples of Measures and Features to Address the Challenges
Quality control and management	Shared responsibility
Labour market orientation	Dual-track approach
Outcome orientation	Emphasis on competences in training document





## e.g. quality control and management in Switzerland: three main partners





## e.g. Swiss dual-track approach to VET



### Practice

In-company training  
(3-4 days per week)

Industry courses



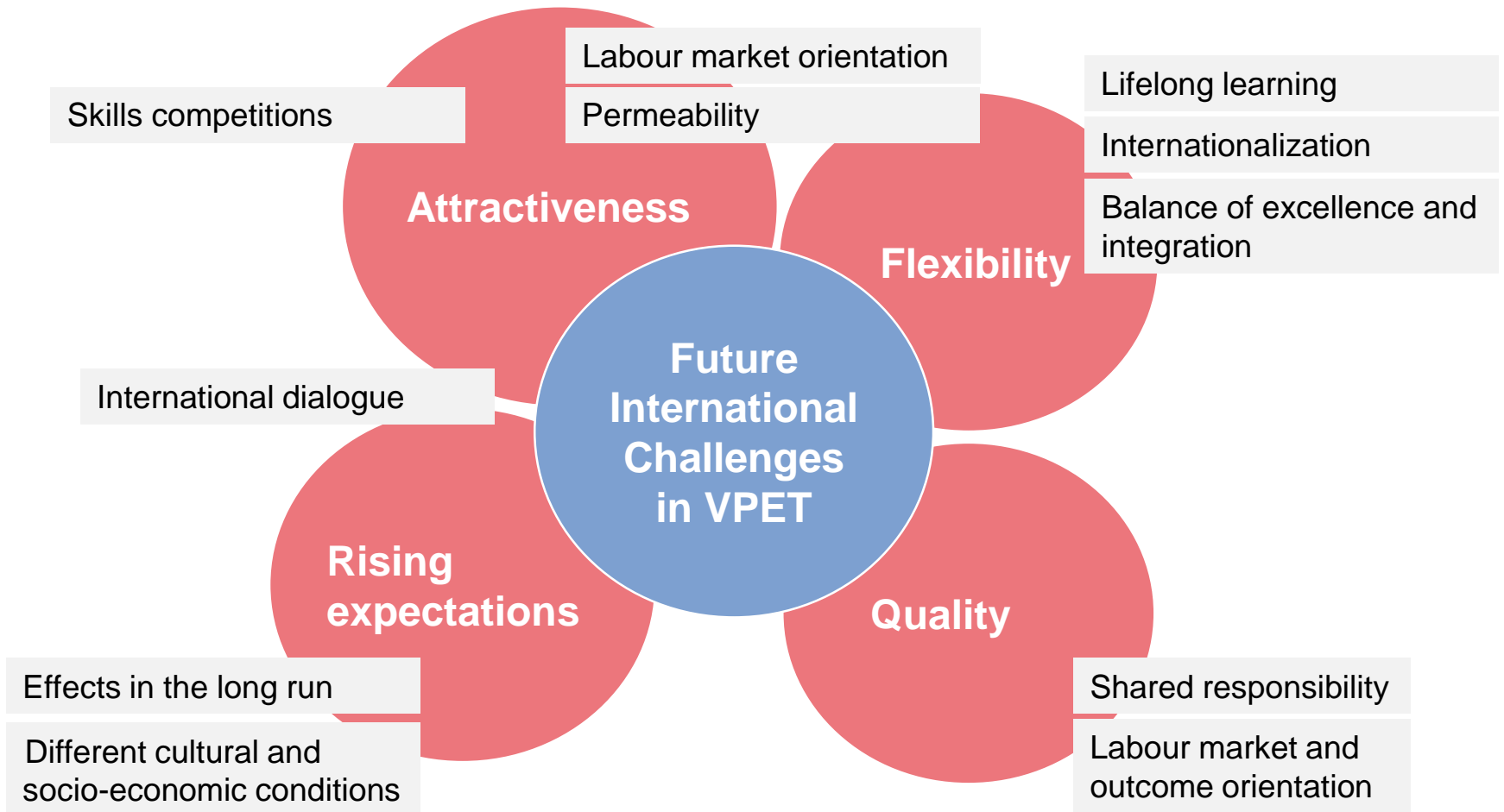
### Theory

Classroom instructions at  
VET-school  
(1-2 days per week)

Preparatory course for FVB



# Measures and Features: Summary





**«Não há saber mais ou saber menos  
– há saberes diferentes»**

*Paulo Freire*



# Discussion

Further international challenges?

Specific challenges in different countries?

Country specific features, good practices and measures to meet these challenges?



# Thank You for Your Attention!



International Congress  
on Vocational and Professional  
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Further information:

[www.seri.admin.ch](http://www.seri.admin.ch)

[www.seri.admin.ch/film](http://www.seri.admin.ch/film)

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