



RCE Oldenburger
Münsterland
Kompetenzzentrum für nachhaltige Bildung
Regional Centre of Expertise



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Youth in rural areas Regional Youth Report of Vechta

Okayama 2014
Detlev Lindau-Bank



RCE Oldenburger Münsterland

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REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXPERTISE
ON EDUCATION FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



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in the centre of North-Western Germany
became a boom-region in Lower Saxony in the
1990s. In the last 10 years

- the intensive livestock farming has increased
by 62%,
- the service sector by 63%.
- the export quota by 137%.

The main lines of industry are food and luxury
foodstuffs with a share of 49% of the industrial
turnover, followed by plastic processing with a
share of 14%.

These main lines of industry offer “complete
solutions” from one region for the world
market.



Our Region – Oldenburger Münsterland



0,29 Mio.
Inhabitants



2,03 Mio. Pigs



3,07 Mio. Turkeys



12,5 Mio. poultry



Project partner

- Vocational schools
- District of Vechta
 - Councilor Herbert Winkel
 - Youth department
 - Economic department
- University of Vechta
- Companies and enterprises

Goals

- Providing a data base for future (taylor-made) social and economic decision with regional importance
- Highlight the differences of the region comparing to the national and international youth research findings
- Systematic Collection, reflection and discussion of needs of young people and young adults to develop a sustainable lifestyle

Focus of the 1. regional youth report

- Entrepreneurship and employability of young people and young adults
- Avoiding a future lack of skilled workers

Design of the survey

- Qualitative Interviews
 - With young people (12 to 24 years old)
 - With representatives of SME, large companies, vocational schools
- Group discussion
- Future-workshop with students of the vocational schools
- Compilation and re-analyzing of the findings of 120 BA- and MA-Thesis focusing on sustainable livelihood and youth

Structure

- Time-line
 - Initial discussion: 2010
 - First report: October 2012 – April 2014
 - Ongoing
- Funded by
 - European Foundation of Regional Development
 - District of Vechta
 - University of Vechta

Collaboration and communication

- Advisory board
 - youngsters, youth-political actors
 - representatives from economy and companies, vocational schools, policymakers, University of Vechta, RCE OM
- Use of social-media
- Regional Activity plan will be worked out
- Lectures at University of Vechta and University of Bremen

Findings

- Regional challenges are known
 - Training not appropriate for students with learning disabilities, migration background, ...
- Regional challenges are unknown
 - Activities of different enterprises
 - Entry qualification is less important than attitude and identification (with the region, willingness to stay in the region))

Contribution to the global discussion

- Regional differences much more important than expected
- Request and interest of many districts in Germany
- We need more evidence-based research on regional level under a global umbrella

Thank you