Youth in rural areas
Regional Youth Report of Vechta

Okayama 2014
Detlev Lindau-Bank
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
3,07 Mio. Turkeys
12,5 Mio. poultry

2,03 Mio. Pigs

(Daten von 2007, aus: Klohn & Voth 2008)
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 livehood 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 interswt of many districts in Germany
- We need more evidence-based research on regional level under a global umbrella

Thank you