

The Swiss Dual-Track Education System as a Model for reforming Guyana's Education System

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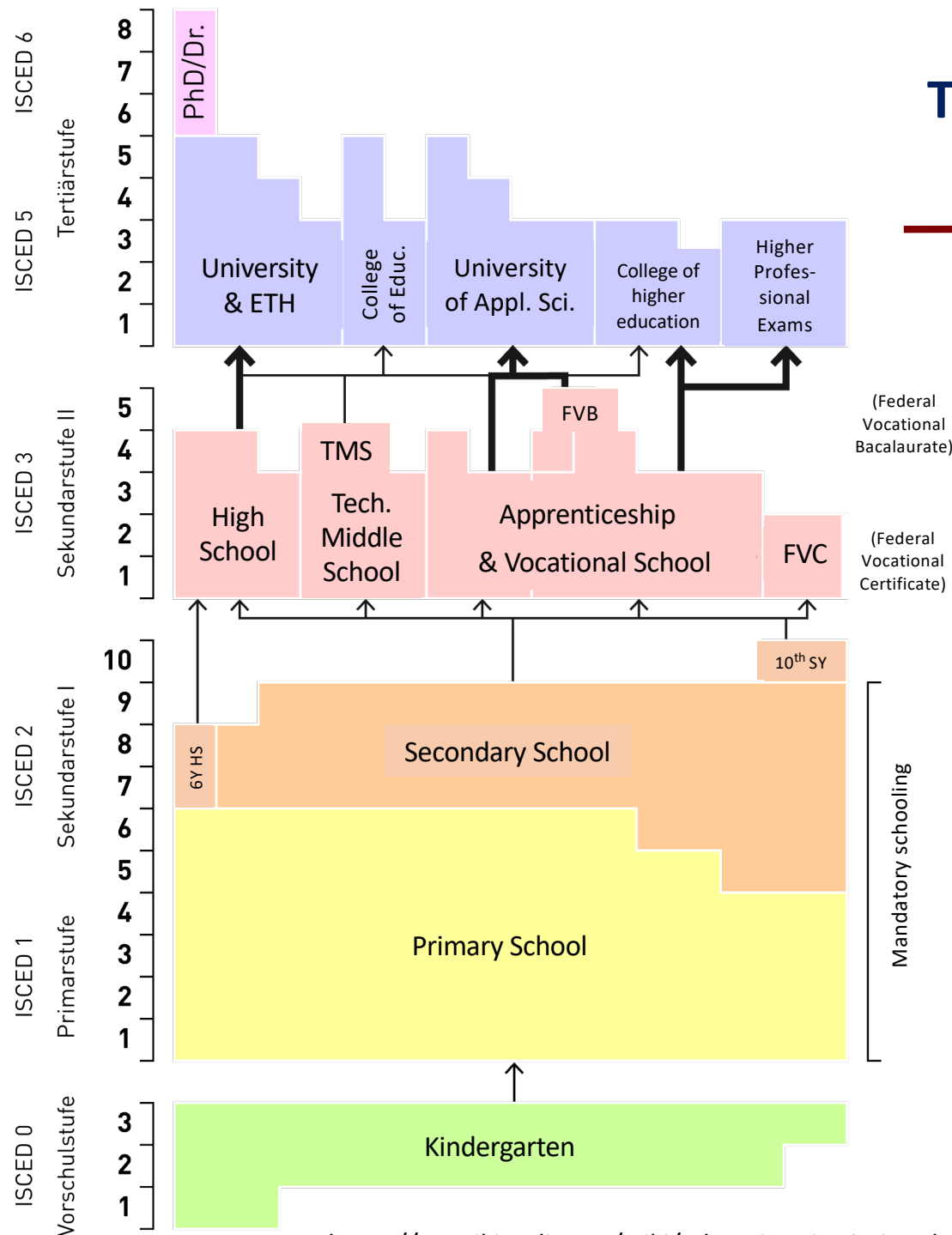
Hosted by *The Caribbean Policy Consortium* and the *Guyana Business Journal*

https://youtu.be/VxEeNil_I3w

Hallmarks of the Swiss Dual-Track Education System

- Dual-track system with academic & vocational/professional tracks
- Various crossover possibilities from one to the other track
- Nobody is left behind – options also for weaker students & adults!
- 2- to 4-year training programs for federal certificates or diplomas
- Vocational training occurs as a public-private partnership
- State-financed vocational schools are attended two days a week
- Host companies provide on-the-job training three days a week
- Part-time teaching faculty is recruited from industry
- Training in host companies is supervised by qualified staff
- Host companies pay apprentices a monthly wage
- No requirement for the host to hire apprentices after graduation

Timeline of the Swiss Dual-Track Education System



Strengths

- Career Prospects
- Dual track approach to learning
- Cross-over options from one track to the other
- Labor-market focus
- Collective governance

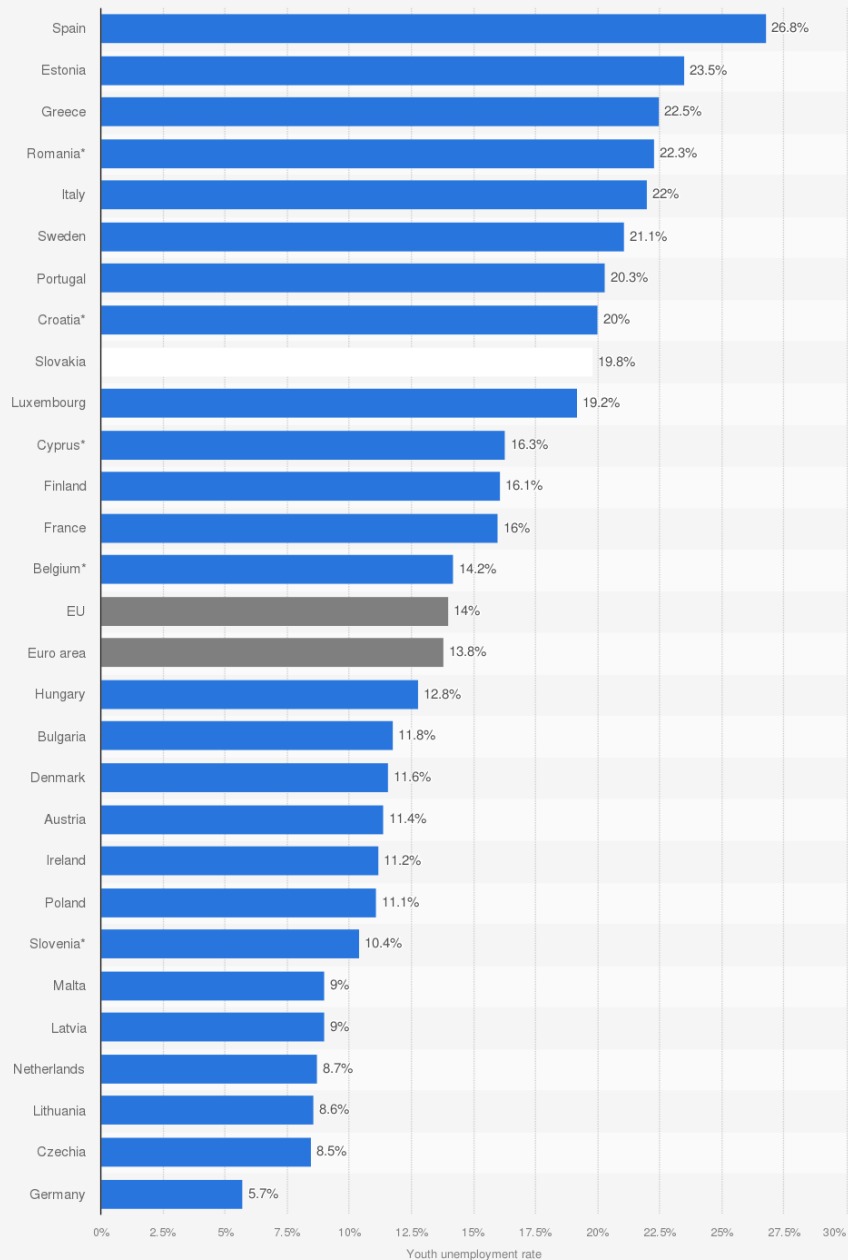
Some statistics and facts

- 245 different occupations to choose from
- 55 academic study programs
- 25% of the teenagers enter the academic track
- 75% of the teenagers enter the vocational track, of which up to 15% enter later the academic track

=> 30-40% of the Swiss students graduate with university degrees

- *Similar dual-track educational systems* are common in Germany, Austria, Netherlands, Poland, Czechia, Slovenia, and Hungary
- *Not common* in Southern European and Anglo-Saxon countries
- Teachers and educators at every educational level are well-paid

Youth unemployment rate in EU member states as of August 2023 (seasonally adjusted)



Source
Eurostat
© Statista 2023

Additional Information:
EU; Eurostat; August 2023

Countries with dual-track education systems have lower youth unemployment rates

Youth unemployment by country (August 2023)

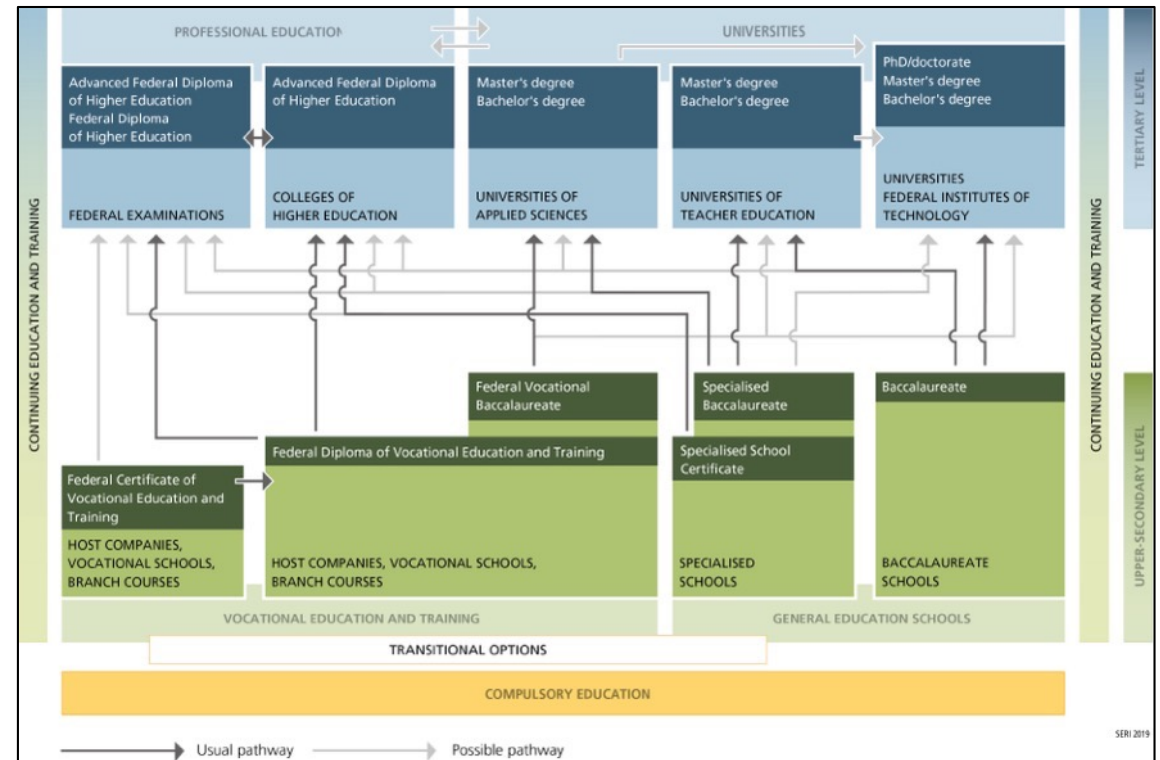
- EU (average): 14%
- Netherlands: 8.7%
- Czechia: 8.5%
- Germany: 5.7%
- **Switzerland: 2.2%**

Advantages of the Swiss Dual-Track Education System

- Ensures a supply of highly qualified specialists for the labor market
- Pathways to higher education for children of less affluent parents
- Move up the career ladder by qualifying for academic degrees
- Private-public partnerships train people that business and industry really need
- A skilled local labor force matches the needs of the labor market and attracts foreign companies
- Low youth unemployment rates (*2.2% for Switzerland*)
- Teenagers earn an income, which reduces youth crime
- Structured daily programs prepare for professional work life
- Addresses the oversupply of academics and lack of crafts people seen in many low and middle income countries

Summary of the Swiss Dual-Track Education System

- Dual track approach to learning
- Cross-over options from one track to the other
- Principle of tailored training
- Labor-market focus
- Collective governance
- Quality, Innovation & Efficiency
- Openness to diversity
- Attractive Career Prospects



=> The Swiss educational system offers a broad, varied, and flexible range of educational opportunities

Reference:

<https://www.sbf.admin.ch/sbf/en/home/services/publications/data-base-publications/vocational-and-professional-education-and-training-in-switzerland.html>

Ten recommendations for Guyana

- 1) Transform Guyana's vocational education system into one based on public-private partnerships
- 2) Establish vocational schools, where companies are located
- 3) Invest heavily into your teaching staff and infrastructure
- 4) Offer attractive salaries for qualified teaching staff
- 5) Where necessary, recruit qualified teachers from abroad, *e.g.* CARICOM nations
- 6) Provide scholarships for teaching staff to get training abroad
- 7) Enforce performance requirements for students and teachers
- 8) Introduce collective governance involving all stakeholders
- 9) Bottom-up is better than top-down, avoid partisanship
- 10) Be realistic about what is possible for a nation of under 1 million