



Wilton Park

Provisional programme

UK-Germany Dialogues

Supporting competitiveness and innovation: how to create the workforce of the future in the UK and Germany?

Friday 13 – Saturday 14 June 2014 | WP1332

The UK and Germany face a similar challenge in ensuring that the skills of existing and future workforces match the needs of their wider economies in an increasingly competitive global economy.

The UK government, business community and trade unions have all acknowledged the need to rebalance the British economy towards one with greater manufacturing and exports to promote economic growth. The corresponding need for skilled employees has led to a renewed recognition of the importance of education, workplace training and professional development.

Germany has long maintained a globally competitive export sector based on high quality manufacturing. However long-standing policy, driven by consensus among industry and government, does not include provision for emerging sectors of the German economy, whilst workforce demands for higher wages continue to grow.

This conference will provide an opportunity for policy makers and experts, the business community and employee representatives to discuss the creation and maintenance of skilled workforces in the UK and Germany. It will also provide the opportunity to identify opportunities for practical and achievable policy innovation.

The conference aims to:

- provide practitioners and experts with a forum to exchange ideas and share learning relating to enhancing competitiveness in the UK and Germany;
- identify practical and achievable policy innovations to enhance the global competitiveness of the UK and German economies;
- enhance links between practitioners and experts working on these policy areas in the UK and Germany.

This conference is the second in a series of meetings organised jointly by Wilton Park and the Bertelsmann Stiftung. The first meeting, held in Berlin in May 2013, examined the nature of public policy in the context of demographic ageing.

In partnership with:
Bertelsmann Stiftung

Friday 13 June

1200 onwards

Participants arrive

1230

Buffet lunch

1330-1345

Welcome and introduction

Robin Hart

Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning

Andreas Esche

Director, Shaping Sustainable Economies Programme, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Gütersloh

1345-1500

1. Creating skilled workforces: the challenges and opportunities for the UK and Germany

How are the UK and Germany approaching the longer term challenges of competing with the emerging economies? To what extent should the UK and Germany support their main economic sectors? What has enabled the UK to become a major exporter of services and encourage innovation? How does the UK develop an industrial strategy that boosts manufacturing exports? How does Germany plan to boost its service sector? What makes the high quality manufacturing sector of Germany so competitive?

Session Chair: Robin Hart

Director of Programmes, Wilton Park, Steyning

The global context

Paola Subacchi

Research Director, International Economics, Chatham House, London

Stefan Georg

Chairman, Delta Economics, London

The UK and German context

Werner Eichhorst

Director, International Labour Policy, Institute for the Study of Labour (IZA), Bonn

Lesley Giles

Deputy Director, Research and Technical, UK Commission for Employment and Skills, London

1500-1520

Tea/coffee

1520-1625

2. Where will future jobs be created?

What are the jobs of the future? What impact on the labour force of developments for example in 3-D printing or Industry 4.0? What skills will be needed for such developments? How to encourage start-up companies to grow and provide employment? Where can the UK and Germany learn from each other and share opportunities in innovation? What about the future of low-skilled transactional jobs?

Session Chair: Andreas Esche

Director, Shaping Sustainable Economies Programme, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Gütersloh

Belinda Johnson

Owner and Director, WorkLab, Reading

Carl-Ernst Forchert

Managing Director, i-vector Innovationsmanagement GmbH, Berlin

Ivor Parvanov

Managing Director, Social and Societal Policy, Bavarian Industry Association, Munich

1630-1735

3. The employer's and employee's perspectives: what sort of workforce will be needed for competitiveness?

Looking to the future, what kind of employee will major businesses in critical economic sectors in the UK and Germany need to recruit? What skills and competencies will the workforce need? What is the division of labour between the public and private sectors in creating this workforce? What policies, strategies and initiatives might further this? What can be learnt from current best practices in each country? How to further encourage a climate of entrepreneurship in both countries?

Session Chair: Robin Hart

Director of Programmes, Wilton Park, Steyning

The employer's perspective

Tim Wenniges

Head of Staff Unit, Governmental Affairs; Head of Unit, Higher Education Policy, The Baden-Wuerttemberg Employers' Association of the Metal and Electrical Industry (Südwestmetall), Stuttgart

The employee's perspective

Kay Carberry

Assistant Secretary General, Trades Union Congress, London

Hans Ulrich Nordhaus

Head of Unit, Department of Educational Policy and Work, German Confederation of Trade Unions (DGB), Berlin

1735-1800

Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1800-1900

4. Creating the workforce of the future: education, training and professional development

What can the UK and Germany learn from each other about creating skilled workforces through education, vocational and professional training? How to encourage entrepreneurs? How to empower women in business?

Session Chair: Andreas Esche

Director, Shaping Sustainable Economies Programme, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Gütersloh

Education and skills

Eric Thode

Senior Expert, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Gütersloh

Nicola Dandridge

Chief Executive, Universities UK, London

Eliot Bendinelli

Project Manager, ThinkYoung, Brussels

1930

Reception

2000

Dinner

Dinner discussion on skills and employment

Hosted by: Iain Ferguson

Chairman, Wilton Park, Steyning

Speaker: David Willetts

Minister for Universities and Science, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), London

Saturday 14 June

0800 onwards

Breakfast

0845-0945

5. Breakfast discussion

Skilled workforces of the future - innovations for the future

What innovations to policies and practices are necessary to ensure that the UK and Germany have appropriately skilled workforces? What are the blocks and challenges to bring about such innovations? What lessons can the UK and Germany transfer when undertaking reforms?

Short interventions by speakers to initiate discussion

Session Chair: Iain Ferguson

Chairman, Wilton Park, Steyning

Christopher Warhurst

Director, Institute for Employment Research, University of Warwick, Coventry

Wolfgang Müller

Director, European Representation, Federal Employment Agency, Brussels

0945-1000

6. Final reflections

Drawing on key issues raised in the roundtable discussions to identify policy and strategy implications for the future.

1000

Participants depart