

Summary

Competence. A conceptual clarification of the new leading concept

Ulrich Papenkort
Catholic University of Applied Sciences in Mainz,
Federal Republic of Germany

The concept of competence has been advanced in Europe to a political and scientific key concept of education. Placed between politics and science, competence can be separated into two concepts covering two different meanings and corresponding to the difference between general and vocational education, or the difference between school and enterprise. In spite of this difference, they can still be reduced to one basic concept: performance ability. That is the thesis of this article. The author first excludes the original meaning of competence referring to jurisdiction, marks off ability against knowledge and motivation and then relates it to performance as a specific kind of activity.

Keywords: ability, competence, knowledge, performance, qualification.