**RCE Award Nomination Form**

*\* Please fill out one of these forms for each RCE Project you would like to nominate. You may duplicate this form for subsequent nominations.*

1. Name of RCE:

**RCE Oldenburger Münsterland**

2. Continent:

Europe

3. Country:

Germany

4. RCE Contact Details

Main RCE Contact:

Detlev Lindau-Bank – detlev.lindau-bank@uni-vechta.de

Secondary RCE Contact:

Lukas Scherak – Lukas.scherak@uni-vechta.de

5. Project Title:

**Youth in rural areas - Regional Youth-Report for the district of Vechta**

6. Thematic area/s addressed by the project

(select one or more from the following list by highlighting the text)

* Youth

7. Project Partner Contact Information (please provide information about the main contacts for the project):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  **Organization** | **Role** | **Main Contact** |
| 1.RCE Oldenburger Münsterland | Project consultant and networking | Detlev Lindau-Bank – detlev.lindau-bank@uni-vechta.de |
| 2.University of Vechta | ResearchExecutive management | Prof. Dr. Margit Stein - Margit.stein@uni-vechta.de |
| 3.District of Vechta | Contracting authority and consulting | District councilor Herbert Winkel – info.landkreis-vechta.de |
| 4. Department of economy of the district of Vechta | Networking and executive management | <https://www.landkreis-vechta.de/wirtschaft-und-arbeit/fachkraeftesicherung/laufende-projekte.html>  |

8. Project type (select one or more from the following list by highlighting the text):

* Capacity Development
* Community Engagement
* Networking
* Policy Engagement
* Research and development

9. Project Description – Please provide a short description of the project including regional challenges it addresses, its aims as well as project activities/strategies (max 500 words)

The regional youth reporting offers an important contribution to the future sociopolitical and economic decisions and development of the administrative district Vechta. Main goal of the pilot-project is to develop a quantitative survey for a regular and systematic regional youth reporting. It focuses on sustainable lifestyle. Every youth report will focus on one issue, which will investigate more deeply. The current youth report highlights entrepreneurship and employability of the young people and young adults.

The regional youth report raises data to explain the context between the professional awareness of young people and the needs and requirements of the local district business, economy and employers. The district of Vechta is a region of a highly developed agricultural industry. Unlike other rural regions it is structurally very strong but confronted with the problem of a future lack of skilled labors, which is increasingly reinforced by demographic developments and migration trends of young people. Finally the youth report provides informations about how the district of Vechta can attrack young skilled professionells.

Therefore the youth reports focuses on four activities:

1. Analysis of the current state: The regional youth report surveys young inhabitants and female inhabitants between 12 and 24 years as well as selected representatives from the SMEs, large companies, vocational schools and the association for commerse- and trade. Main focus is how the sample perceives the current situation.

2. Analysis of needs: What does young people require to stay or to come to Vechta and develop entrepreneuship and to foster their professional skills? On the basis of the raised data a criterion catalogue will be developed for future political taylor-made decisions.

3. Finding of specific regional features: The disadvantage of nationwide and international youth studies is that they often misjudge the specific situations and challenges of youngsters and young adults in rural regions (City-Bias) and meet the challenges of specific regions only insufficiently. In this sense the research project provides a scientific contribution to the development of precise elevation instruments and basic analyses for the purposes of use-oriented research for the regional youth reporting.

4. Establishment of an advisory board: For the support of cooperation and for the purpose of networking an advisory board was formed. The RCE Oldenburger Münsterland brought together experts from the informal, non-formal and formal educational sector to promote and activity plan for the district of Vechta and to develop guidelines based on the findings of the youth report. One important characteristic of the advisory board is the participation of young people from the vocational schools of the district.

The administrative district of Vechta and the European Foundation for regional development EFRD) funded the pilot-project. EFRD is one of the EU structural funds. Through this fund, financial aid is provided with the goal of enforcing economic and social consistency by equalizing the main regional differences. This fund supports development and structural changes in regional economies, including transformation of declining industrial regions and less-developed regions and through support of cross-border, national and international co-operation.

(<http://www.eu-info.de/foerderprogramme/strukturfonds/EFRE/>).

Design of the survey:

- Qulitative interviews: 24 semi-structured Interviews were realized with young people (12 and 24 years old) and additionall interviews with selected representatives from the SMEs, large companies, vocational schools and the association for commerse- and trade.

- Group-discussion: For group-discussions were held. In all group-discussion members of the advisory board were involved.

- Future-workshop: Three future-workshop with students from the vocational schools were realized.

- 120 BA-Thesis focusing on sustainable livehood: In order to prepare the regional youth report a research project with student of the University of Vechta was established. Meanwhile 120 BA-Thesis were accomplished and re-analysed for the purpose of the pilot-project.

10. Project Status (select from the drop-down menu

(select one from the following list by highlighting the text)

* Ongoing
* Partly Completed, because the youth report will be done in a two-year-term

11. Provide references or links to any reference materials, if applicable:

All references in german language. If necessary we will translate, but currently we have no resources for it.

12. Duration of the Project

Start Date: October 2012

End date: April 2014 (End of 1st Youth Report)

13. Describe Coordination and management of the project. Please also reflect how the RCE as a network organization has contributed to the project and the challenges involved, if any. (max 400 words)

The RCE OM raises the idea, brought the experts together and chaired most of the meetings, especially in the beginning of the project. Members of the RCE contribute to the research design by providing the global perspective (e.g. introducing to the UNESCO-Report Education, etc.).

The challenge of networking is to maintain the relationship between the different partners. It needs connexions and regular talks.

RCE OM is located at the University of Vechta. Therefore RCE OM was involved into the development of the research design.

14. What are the current results of the project in terms of outputs (e.g. publications, developed practices, course materials)? (max 300 words)

Concerning the goal to achieve a regular systematic youth report:

1. Final youth report (will be published after assessment by the advisory board)
2. Different lectures and a publication in the Journal Kinder- und Jugendschutz in Wissenschaft und Praxis [KJug, 59. Jg., S. 43 (2/2014):](http://www.kjug-zeitschrift.de/kjug-59-jg-s-43-22014-prof-dr-margit-stein-detlev-lindau-bank-kinder-und-jugendliche-auf-dem-land-von-der-lebenslagen-zur-lebensweltbetrachtung/) *[Prof. Dr. Margit Stein, Detlev Lindau-Bank:](http://www.kjug-zeitschrift.de/kjug-59-jg-s-43-22014-prof-dr-margit-stein-detlev-lindau-bank-kinder-und-jugendliche-auf-dem-land-von-der-lebenslagen-zur-lebensweltbetrachtung/)* [Kinder und Jugendliche auf dem Land – Von der Lebenslagen- zur Lebensweltbetrachtung](http://www.kjug-zeitschrift.de/kjug-59-jg-s-43-22014-prof-dr-margit-stein-detlev-lindau-bank-kinder-und-jugendliche-auf-dem-land-von-der-lebenslagen-zur-lebensweltbetrachtung/)

Other publications will follow.

1. Quantitative questionnaire fort he next survey was developed. An application for funding the regular regional youth report will be prepared.

Concerning the goal to influence policy and awareness:

1. The expert's advisory board consisting of youngsters, youth-political actors and actresses, representatives from economy and companies, vocational schools and University of Vechta goes ahead to work for the youth report.
2. Taking into account that Internet communication plays a considerable role with the youth it was undertaken attempts to integrate social on-line media into regional planning processes, e.g. via facebook.
3. To increase the mobility of youngsters a call coach system which functions according to model of collective taxis, indeed, to a prize level of control tickets of the ÖPNV will be improved. (<http://www.moobilplus.de/author/admin/>).

Concerning the goal to develop an activity plan fort he district of Vechta

1. In cooperation with the universities in Vechta and Bremen. „virtual academy for sustainability“ was implemented. Lectures from different fields can be perceived at home. If the students want an accreditation of their studies (Credit Points in the frame of the European credtid point transfer system) only one real life meeting is necessary for the final examination. (<http://www.va-bne.de/>)
2. Regional Activity Plan – will be worked out by the RCE Oldenburger Münsterland and the advisory board.

15. What are the expected/confirmed outcomes (e.g. impact of the project) (max 400 words)

Presentation of selected results
Main result of the study is an in-depth insight into the perceiption of problems and cahllenges of young people in the region. This was made possible by a continuous feedback of the findings and interpretations from the interviews with young people, companies and experts to the participants in the research project as well as the discussions of the Advisory Board.

• Regional challenges are known
By the feedback of the findings from the interviews in the group discussions of the Advisory Board the perception of the problem how to bind skilled young people to the region has changed." The problem arises less exogenously (lack of influx of skilled workers) as by various factors in the region. So stronger regional approaches came into view.
Students and trainees with a migrant background, learning problems or who have become parents early and thus do not correspond to a "normal"-biography, face particular difficulties in the transition to working life.
Many young people find it difficult the transition from school to vocational training. Sometimes decisions for inappropriate apprenticeships are taken, which then lead to a discontinuation of training. But even simple deficits in vocational school or practice can - if not appropriate contact or support companies is available - lead over time to significant problems in training and raise all the training success to question. This is so far not new and not surprisingly.

• Regional approaches are less well known
Interestingly, however, was the realization that some companies and institutions have already developed groundbreaking models to encourage young people to choose the right training course. The insight has prevailed that with the appropriate support valued employees could be trained and qualified, even if their entry qualifications do not meet the normally desired standards. Therefore one company in the district of Vechta motivate their trainees to interrupt the training in the company for several weeks to be active in social projects. This enhances their responsibility and change their attitudes.
This experience of different organizational culture is reflected intensively with young people and promotes their sustainable social skills. This leads to the idea to collect best-practice-examples and to strengthen the cooperation among the companies.

• Young people and adults want responsibility
The project study also reveals that it is important to young people to delegate responsibility and to offer opportunities to grow in challenges. Gladly, the young people in our sample agree to the importance of being fully committed.

• Exploiting regional potentials
The cooperation and links between schools, vocational schools and companies should be strengthened. Parents also should be addressed, because the informal learning at home is important for the young people. The young people should recognize their own potential for change and shaping processes of change even more. Aim is to improve social integration and the development of a culture of tolerance and open-mindness. Both, enterprises and the region will benefit from it when they act on the national or global market.

16. Are there any unexpected/unplanned results achieved by your project? If yes, briefly describe or list them. (max 200 words)

One of the unexpected effects was the great interest of the different companies. This leads to a high commitment and approval for the regional youth report.

17. What are the remaining challenges and/or limitations for further development? (max 300 words)

We have to raise resources and funds. The importance of regional database and local investigation, which makes the difference to the national and international surveys, does not have got about to the funding institutions. So it is hard to raise money for the project.

18. What is the project’s contribution to innovative and transformative educational processes for sustainable development (especially regarding formal and/ non-formal learning/research)? (max 500 words)

The insight and willingness to cooperate in youth-centered project.

**19. How can you scale up and mainstream ESD and SD practices of the project and enable it to contribute to the implementation of the Global Action Programme as proposed by UNESCO? (max 300 words)**

We already applied for GAP. To scale up the impact we need more regional youth reports to illustrate the differences between the regions.

The global RCE conference may be a platform for this. The RCE Oldenburger Münsterland is prepared to work for this.

We present our project in different networks and get positive feedbacks.

20. How does you project contribute to institutional and policy reforms as part of sustainability change? (max 500 words)

Among other activities the regional youth report is a project that is now on the agenda of the district of Vechta. There is a commitment to achieve a durable regional youth report in future.

21. How does your project further improve capacities of various partners and stakeholders on the theme? (max 500 words)

At the current state it is not to assess.

22. How can global linkages be developed in order to strengthen activities in this area? (max 250 words)

Cooperation among networks in a European and global scale. RCE Oldenburger Münsterland is the hub for it. So RCEOM bring this topic in at several occasions.

23. What is novel about the project within the RCE network and what could other RCEs learn from this experience? (max 250 words)

The innovation is the regional focus, which is not defined by only a geographical or administrative scope. It tries to define region from different perspectives, especially from a economical and educational point of view. It opens a field for designing new projects.

24. What is the significance of this project for the region? How important are its results for its particular project category? (max 250 words)

see above.