

DualReg

Locally rooted – worldwide linked up:

Mexico – Success conditions for transfer of vocational education and dual practices

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Objectives and Motivation

Interest in high-quality training in Mexico has been increasing over several decades. The combination of school-based and company-based vocational education and training (VET) is important in improving practical skills, meaning that cooperation between public and private actors is essential. Dual practices help modernise the VET system, and support companies generating skilled workers. In this context, the Mexican government has introduced a dual vocational training model (Modelo Mexicano de Formación Dual, MMFD), which they have started to implement in various regions of Mexico. Due to the strong economic relationship between Mexico and Germany, the German government has also been assisting the development of VET in Mexico since 2015. However, there is little research evidence for the cooperation of various players in VET. Consequently, the project aims to close this research gap with regard to the industrial and tourism sectors on certain territorial levels in Mexico.

Research Questions

- Which different actors interact with each other in the industry and tourism sector in Mexico on a multi-scalar level (regional, national and international), and what factors influence such collaborations?
- What are the conditions for success for international vocational training cooperations in Mexico, and what is the potential?

Theoretical Background

In recent years, questions regarding space and networking within vocational training research have become increasingly important. For this reason, the project approaches the questions from both an economic geography as well as an economics and business education perspective. With the interdisciplinary approach, the project is based on theoretical frameworks of regional industrial districts¹ and territorial innovation systems². Furthermore, the project ties in with international comparative studies on the implementation of VET³, qualification styles, control types and skill formation systems^{4,5}, while also taking into account insights at the micro level, such as acquiring skills at the workplace. Thus, the focus is the relationship between skills and regional development.

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Research Design and Methods

Research sectors: Industry and tourism

Research regions:

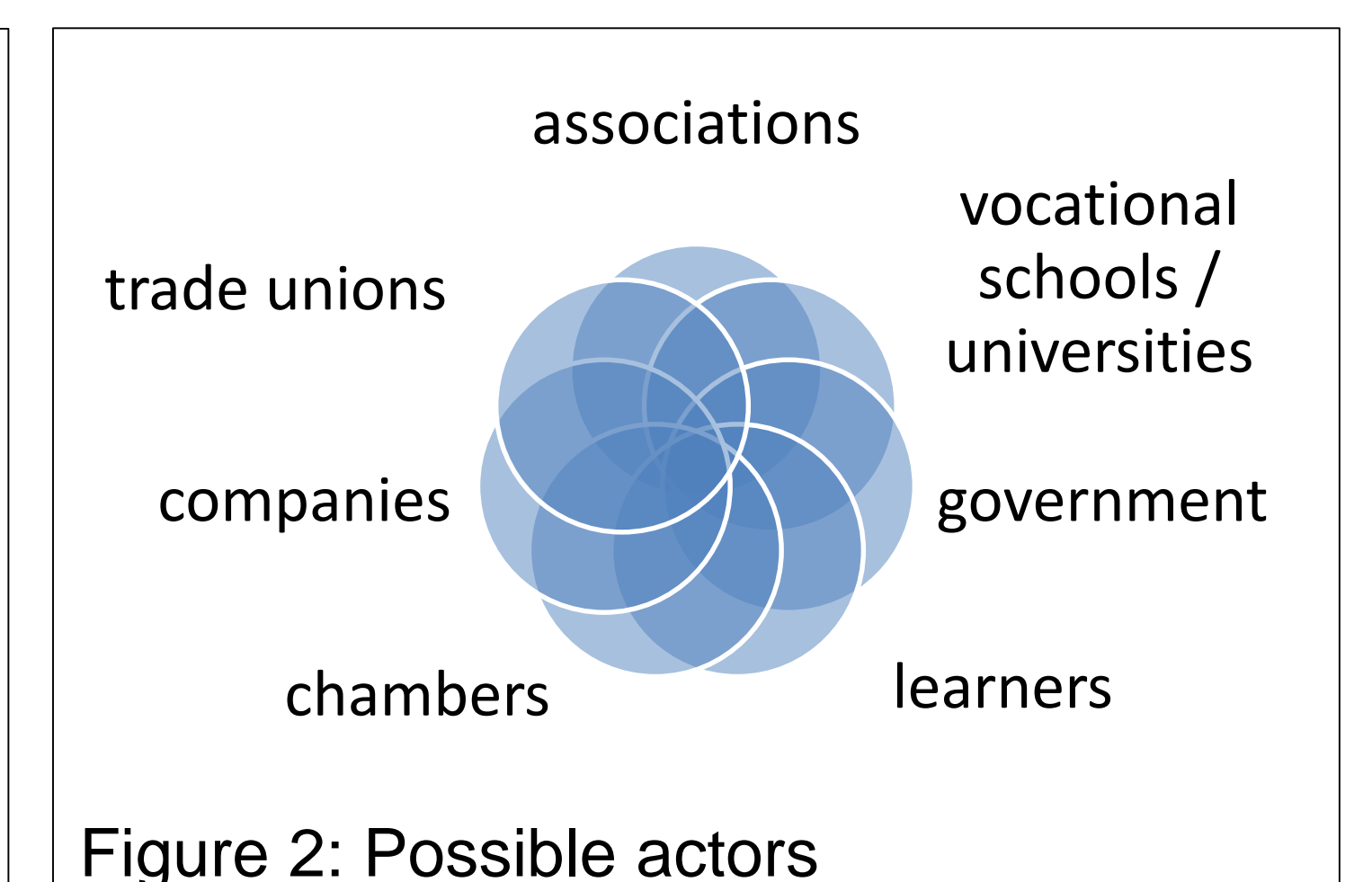
- In and around Mexico-City
- Tijuana urban area, with Baja California
- Quintana Roo

Qualitative approach:

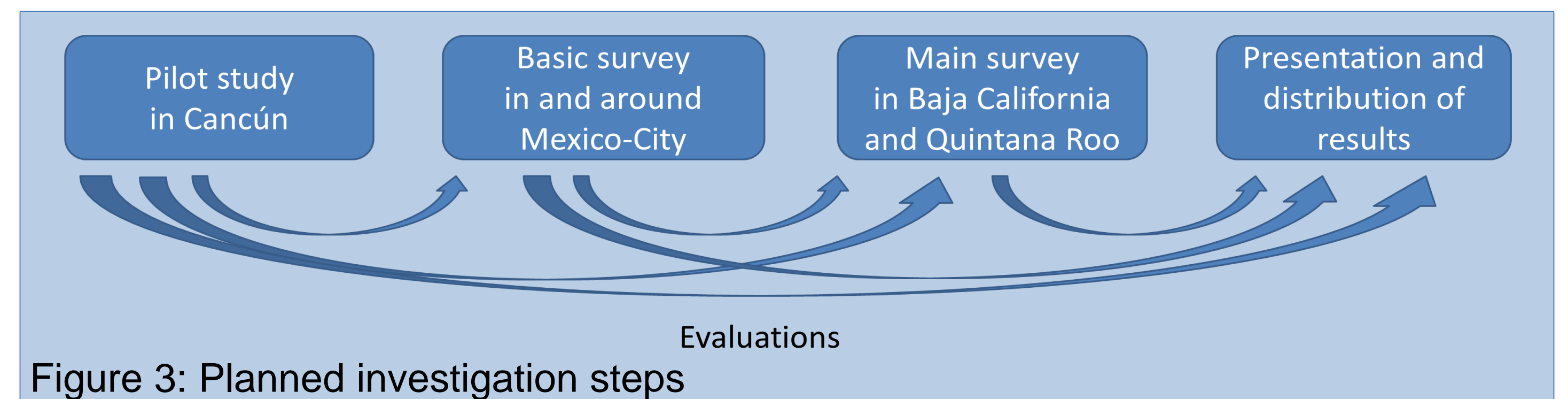
- In total 70 expert interviews with various actors relevant to VET
- Observations of 'work place learning settings', and in-depth visits to VET organisations
- Comprehensive document analysis on vocational training in the country or in the regions

Evaluation:

- Qualitative content analysis
- Structured comparison: sectoral and regional differences and similarities



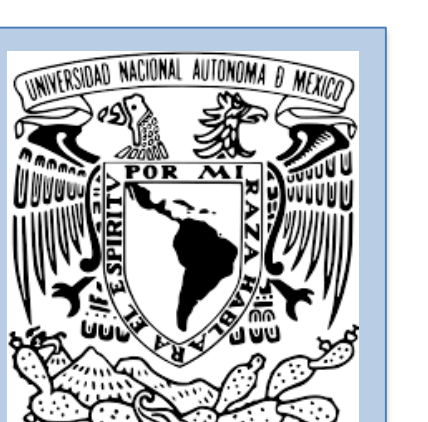
Conceptual Model



References:

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- [2] Etzkowitz, H., Leydesdorff, L. (2000): The dynamics of innovation: From national systems and "Mode 2" to a Triple Helix of university-industry-government relations. *Research Policy*, 29 (2), 109-23.
- [3] Pilz, M. (2012): International comparative research into Vocational Training: Methods and Approaches. In: Pilz, M. (Ed.), *The Future of Vocational Education and Training in a Changing World* (561-588). Wiesbaden: Springer VS.
- [4] Busemeyer, M. R., Trampusch, C. (2012): The Comparative Political Economy of Collective Skill Formation. In: Busemeyer M. R., Trampusch, C. (Ed.), *The Political Economy of Collective Skill Formation* (3-38). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- [5] Wiemann, J., Fuchs, M. (2018): The export of Germany's "secret of success" dual technical VET: MNCs and multiscale stakeholders changing the skill formation system in Mexico. *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*, 11 (1), 373–386.

Time frame: July 2019 – May 2022



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