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Educational systems and labour markets as determinants of worklife mobility in France and West Germany: a comparison of men's career mobility, 1965–1970

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European Sociological Review, Volume 2, Issue 2, 1 September 1986, Pages 73–96,
<https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordjournals.esr.a036414>

Published: 01 September 1986 **Article history** ▼

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Abstract

Based on large national samples of male labour forces, the paper investigates differences in the amount and pattern of worklife mobility in France and Germany during the five year period 1965–70. The findings are compatible with the hypothesis of a dominantly organizational mobility space in France and a dominantly qualificational mobility space in Germany. In Germany, people are sorted into a narrow range of occupations and orderly career lines according to educational certification. In France, occupational placement during worklife is less dependent on generally valid credentials but more on specific work and training experiences and on attributes of the employing firm. In consequence, much more mobility occurs in France than in Germany, but mobility of a less orderly and directed kind.

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Online ISSN 1468-2672

Print ISSN 0266-7215

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