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Why is the BMBF initiating this programme?

A recognised vocational qualification is the key to entering the world of work. Too many young people however struggle to make this on their own. These young adults need specific support on their way to a vocational qualification.

The aim of the structural programme “Vocational Qualification Prospects” with its 97 funded regional projects is to provide precisely this support. It contributes to better aligning the many existing funding schemes and support services in the individual regions to actual requirements and to interlinking them with each other. These networks are formed within two different funding initiatives: in “Regional Transition Management” and in “Certificate-Oriented Modular Training”.

Why two different funding initiatives?

Permanent integration into the employment system requires both preventative support measures to ensure successful transition into vocational training and measures for acquiring a vocational qualification later on in life in the sense of a “second chance”.

Our target groups, young people making the transition from school to vocational training and semi- or unskilled young adults, differ significantly in their life situations. Therefore their employment chances must be improved in designated ways to reach specific goals in target groups.

Who provides the funding?

Funding is provided by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research from federal funds and by the European Union and from the European Social Fund. In the time from 2008 to 2013 these institutions are providing a total of approximately €67m of funds for the “Vocational Qualification Prospects”.

Funding Initiative 1

“Regional Transition Management”

The funding initiative aims to initiate the development of a regional transition management scheme from school into vocational training, support the implementation of effective transition management procedures, and make the experience, insights, standards and tools derived from developing and testing transition management available for further use in politics, administration and practical application across Germany.

Funding Initiative 2

“Certificate-Oriented Modular Training”

The funding initiative aims to permanently create a suitable framework for acquiring qualifications at a later stage and thus offer semi- and unskilled young adults a second chance to gain a vocational qualification. Measures include integrating concepts for requirements-oriented second-chance training in a regionally adapted manner in collaboration with the labour-market stakeholders active in the region, making existing funding options transparent and bundling them, and developing advice and support structures for those affected and in particular also for small and medium-sized businesses.

Accompanying project on admission to the external students’ examination

In collaboration with the chambers involved in the regional projects, criteria and advice regarding admission to the external students’ examination are being developed which when observed by all involved parties are expected to significantly improve the chances of successfully completing the external students’ examination. In co-operation with the German Confederation of Skilled Crafts (Zentralverband des Deutschen Handwerks, ZDH), the Central Office for Further Training in the Skilled Crafts (Zentralstelle für die Weiterbildung im Handwerk, ZWH) is carrying out this accompanying project that supports the regional projects as part of the funding initiative “Certificate-Oriented Modular Training”.

Accompanying project on Cultural Mainstreaming

The MOZAIK non-profit organisation for intercultural education and advisory services and ten regional projects from both funding initiatives are hoping to gain regional migrant organisations as active network partners in eight test regions and raise their awareness of the educational policy topics dealt with by “Vocational Qualification Prospects”.

Horizontal themes Gender Mainstreaming and Cultural Mainstreaming

Gender mainstreaming as defined by the European Union requires that the gender perspective be integrated into all phases of the political process in order to promote the equality of women and men.

The principle of cultural mainstreaming is an approach politically and legally established by the European Union for public authorities and institutions with the aim of ensuring equal participation for people with a migration background.