

Funding

The “weiter bilden” initiative is sponsored by the Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Soziales (Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs) and the European Social Fund.

Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Soziales (Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs)

Wilhelmstraße 49
11017 Berlin, Germany

Contact:
Birgitta Berhorst
Tel.: +49 (0)30/18527-4376
E-mail: Birgitta.Berhorst@bmas.bund.de

Further information:
www.bmas.de and www.esf.de

Partners

BDA | Bundesvereinigung der Deutschen Arbeitgeberverbände (Federation of German Employers' Associations)

Breite Straße 29
10178 Berlin, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0)30/2033-1500

Further information:
www.arbeitgeber.de

Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund (DGB) (Federation of German Trade Unions)

Bundesvorstand
Henriette-Herz-Platz 2
10178 Berlin, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0)30/24060-0

Further information:
www.dgb.de

Coordinating office

The coordinating office works on behalf of the steering committee and helps to organise and implement the overall programme.

The coordinating office advises and supports the people responsible for the programme as well as the social partners, helping to design, implement and further develop the “weiter bilden” initiative.

The responsibilities of the coordinating office include:

- Sensitising and mobilising social partners, companies, works councils, staff councils and employees for the initiative
- Advising companies and social partners on the development of projects and supporting its implementation
- Helping the social partners to prepare agreements on further training
- Creating a directory of the social partners' sectoral and regional agreements on further training
- Supporting the steering committee
- Transfer activities and programme-related public relations

The coordinating office is managed by the Forschungsinstitut Betriebliche Bildung (f-bb) gGmbH and the DGB Bildungswerk e.V.

Information on the initiative and the work of the coordinating office

Contact:
Jenny Härtel
Tel.: +49 (0)30/70 01 40-450



Contact:
Jens Martens
Tel.: +49 (0)211/43 01-454



Homepage: www.initiative-weiter-bilden.de
E-mail: info@regiestelle-weiterbildung.de

Status: March 2010



Federal Ministry
of Labour
and Social Affairs



weiter bilden

Initiative für berufsbegleitende Bildung

Promoting the Vocational Further Training of Employees



European Union

Vocational qualifications are a key factor in the competitive ability of Germany. Companies and employees are faced with the constant challenge of continuously adapting vocational skills to changing requirements. The continuous further development of technical, methodical, social and personal competencies decisively contributes to the employability of employees and the innovative capability of companies.

Further training is becoming more and more important, especially against the backdrop of demographic change, faster technological change processes and increasing internationalisation.

In the past few years, a multitude of innovative concepts have been developed and tested for implementing a new corporate learning culture. However, there is a great consensus among the social partners that further initiatives and stimuli are required to intensify the current efforts.

The ESF guideline for funding extra-occupational training of employees supports the efforts of the social partners to increase the participation of employees and companies in further training. The counselling and support of companies and employees can give an important impetus for implementation.

Objective of the funding guideline

The ESF guideline is intended to support activities of the social partners, especially in respect to increasing the adaptability and competitiveness of employees and companies under the changing conditions of the labour market.

The organisational and content-related implementation of the initiative is supported by a coordinating office. The coordinating office works on behalf of a steering committee with representatives from the Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Soziales (Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs), the Bundesvereinigung der Deutschen Arbeitgeberverbände (Federation of German Employers' Associations) and the Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund (Federation of German Trade Unions).

The following measures can be funded – also in combination – to increase the participation of employees and companies in further training.

Measures for improving the basic conditions for company further training

These include:

- Strengthening the advisory structures
- Determining corporate qualification needs
- Transfer of proven tools and methods in practice
- Cooperation in further training
- Increasing quality and the exchange of experience

Further training measures at companies

These basically include all measures for continuing, resuming or supplementing organised learning outside of the educational programmes of general schools and initial vocational training.

Participation in the initiative

The prerequisite for funding is the existence of a regional or sectoral agreement among social partners for further training in which the respective primary goals, focus areas and qualification needs are specified. The agreement can also be concluded with the intention of becoming active in the specific framework of the social partner programme.

Applications can be submitted by management and trade unions as well as social partners to implement existing labour qualification agreements or the above-mentioned agreements and by companies that fall within the scope of a labour qualification agreement or the above-mentioned agreement of the respectively responsible social partners.

With regard to the amount of funding, employee groups that are educationally disadvantaged and who have previously been underrepresented in further training programmes will be given special consideration.

ESF and federal funds to the total sum of 140 million euros are available for the entire funding period (2007 - 2013). Forms for expressing an interest in receiving a grant can be requested from and submitted to the coordinating office.

1 Submission of applications and advice

Coordinating office

→ Checks the letters of interest

→ Supports potential grant recipients

2 Evaluations of proposals

Steering committee

→ Decides on the projects

3 Authorisation of grants

Bundesverwaltungsamt (Federal Office of Administration)

→ Decides on awarding grants

Selection rounds

Letters of interest are voted on by the steering committee every 3 months but can be continuously submitted to the coordinating office.

More information at info@regiestelle-weiterbildung.de