

Standardisiertes Bewertungsinstrument für sozial- und integrationspolitische Maßnahmen

A standardised evaluation tool for activities in social and integration policy

Duration: from 4/2013 to 6/2014

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Short description of the project

The project aimed at

- Looking at the transitions from schooling into the labor market for young people with low or no qualification,
- With a specific focus on young adults with a migration background,
- In the former model region¹ of the Main-Kinzig district (south-eastern of Frankfurt),
- Realizing an evaluation report for this district,
- Conceptualizing a standardised instrument able to evaluate activities in the integration policy area, and,
- A handbook explaining the evaluation tool

Aim of the project

The federal state of Hesse is a pioneer in the field of integration monitoring and made itself an asset both for Germany and the EU by developing this field. The process of integration monitoring enables to track continuous trends and to identify possible erroneous developments.

¹ The program *Modellregionen Integration* tackled integration as an issue that concerns everyone in Hessen, not only persons with a background in immigration, and focused its attention on changing the structure of organizations within six chosen counties in Hessen. The *Modellregionen Integration* ran from 2009 to 2013, with an annual budget of 1.3 million Euros. The program employed six coordinators in their respective counties in Hessen. These coordinators helped facilitate and improve immigrants' access to public services and created networking opportunities between various local organizations, clubs and the public sector. Another goal of the *Modellregionen Integration* was to help specific communities in Hessen to capitalize on the diversity in their communities. Thus, these regions succeeded in increasing the interests of all in local services and institutions.

Monitoring is no evaluation. However, it can be a base for evaluation. One aim of the project was to link an evaluation to the existing monitoring system on a local level.

The findings indicate the efficiency and the effectiveness of the activities offered (language courses for example). To this purpose, the Hessian Ministry for Integration in partnership with the Main-Kinzig district developed a system of evaluation that is linked to the already existing Hessian system of monitoring.

The focus is placed on teenagers with and without a migration background with low or no final school exam who are in that transition from school into the labor market. This focus is justified by the fact that a successful integration into the society starts with employment which in turn is determined by the level of education.

This exemplary project analyses three different educational programs in the district of Main-Kinzig (please see details below).

Approach

At the beginning of the project, an inventory of the existent activities in integration and, more specifically, the ones taken to improve the transition from school to labor market was conducted. Activities/projects at school (SchuB - Study and Work at School and Business - and EIBE - Program for the Integration into the Vocational and Working) and from the local employment office (educational measures for vocational preparation) were chosen for the evaluation study.

The participants of the projects were interrogated on the basis of a questionnaire. (Sample: nearly 700 students.) The interrogation took place both at schools and in the courses offered. It equally surveyed the young adults who are just starting a program and the ones who are about to complete it. The institutions, including the partners from the municipality, were also asked to evaluate the different structural aspect of the actions and the cooperation of the various actors involved. Thereby we obtained a broad picture of the participants, the programs' structures and their effectiveness.

The programs

The program ***Study and Work at School and in Business (SchuB)*** which has been running since 2004 addresses schools of general education and supports academically weak students in achieving their secondary school qualification, offers career guidance, encourages personal development and helps finding an apprenticeship.

The target group is students, who will probably have small chances achieving their secondary modern school qualification due to considerable studying and performance deficits, who suffer from school fatigue or from other problems. The students have to apply for this program which covers a period of two years.

The aim of the work with the children in the SchuB-classes is to strengthen and stabilize their personality, to communicate key qualifications, to increase the employability and qualification capability, to provide a structured career guidance and practical experience, to achieve the basic school qualification and to place them in an apprenticeship. The classes are small with 12 to 15 students. The special needs of teenagers with a migration background are to be considered and the teachers are trained specifically for this, especially to teach German as a foreign language. All students will additionally be accompanied socio-pedagogical and participate

in a social competence training. Individual promotion plans for each student is the basis of the subject teaching. The students partake in overall four internships which each take three to six months.

The program ***Integration in the Vocational and Working Environment (EIBE)*** is organized by the Hessian Ministry of Cultural Affairs and is sponsored by European Social Fund (ESF). This program began in 2000 and will end after the school year of 2014/2015. EIBE is offered at four vocational schools in the Main-Kinzig district in one or two year full-time courses. The participants can achieve their basic school qualification in small classes of maximum 15 students and acquire basic skills in their chosen profession. The aim is to facilitate the transition into a vocational training, into a secondary school education or into an employment contract: young people mostly between the ages 16 and 19 years who have no or a very poor basic school qualification. It is specifically mentioned that there is a special orientation towards foreign teenagers. The lessons are concerned with general and vocational basic qualifications and are oriented towards the individual prepared promotion plans.

Internships are obligatory, German-language support and socio-pedagogical support is offered. An emphasis is on the improvement of the participants' soft skills: habituation to punctuality, fewer times absent, reliability, frustration tolerance, reduction of truancy, handling family problems.

Prevocational Educational Schemes (BvB) are organized by the Agency for Employment and implemented by two educational providers in the Main-Kinzig district. Goal is it firstly, to give participants the possibility to check their skills, capabilities and interests towards a possible career choice, to orientate oneself towards a vocation and to make a career choice. Secondly, participants are to gain the necessary knowledge and skills to acquire an apprenticeship or to be employed. Thirdly, participants are to be integrated into the training and employment market sustainably. The measure is conducted in full-time courses. The target group is people under 25 years of age who have not had a vocational education. Specifically teenagers, who do not dispose of the necessary vocational training maturity or vocational aptitude and who have "complex educational needs" due to personal and family problems, are to be addressed by this measure.

Results

The results for the Main-Kinzig district were summarized in a final report (in German). An excel-based tool was developed by the Hessian Ministry of Integration (in German) and constitutes an application-oriented guideline (in German). The educational organizations interested in evaluating their measures are now able to do so. They can easily obtain significant results at low costs concerning the quality of their programs in the social and integration policy areas and the impact it has on their students. – You can download the reports in full by clicking on the links at the right hand side.