

Saxony-Anhalt regional conference

“Changes in the workplace – what role does basic education have to fulfil?”

Workshop B: Regional strategies – European perspectives

1. STRAIGHTEN BASIC SKILLS, Rosemarie Klein, Office for Vocational Training Planning
2. “Alpha-Alliance: building local networks”, Anna Gabai, Arbeit und Leben – DGB/VHS Berlin Brandenburg

As the workshop’s title – **“Regional strategies – European perspectives”** – suggests, the two speakers Rosemarie Klein and Anna Gabai presented possibilities for creating regional and European basic education activities.

Rosemarie Klein, Office for Vocational Training Planning (Büro für berufliche Bildungsplanung or BBB) Dortmund, has helped to successfully launch and coordinate workplace-based basic education projects both in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia and within the European education programme. The BBB is involved in a range of different projects, for example, the European Basic Skills Network (EBSN – www.basicskills.eu) where they lead the workplace-related basic education team.

The issue of workplace-related basic education has been one of BBB’s core activities since 2007. The topic is echoed throughout their vocational education programmes all the way to human resources and organisation management and skills development guidance. The main focus in all this is on providing responsive adult education. It quickly became clear that this topic is often met with a great deal of resistance and that a lot of work is still needed. BBB therefore also became active at a European level and has successfully found partner institutions to cooperate with on European projects.

As part of this collaboration, BBB has also developed a set of performance indicators for the sustainable implementation of workplace-based basic education and accompanying European action strategies. Ms Klein went on to describe the strategies for “Professionalisation and programme quality” as well as “Company access and cooperation” in detail in her presentation. According to her, the quintessential points are as follows: We should assume that, even if a company does not immediately recognise the need for workplace-related basic education, they are still interested and can be approached. In order to arouse this interest, firstly, it is important to present these companies with a catalogue of training options and to apply these to the relevant work situations and processes. Secondly, individual multipliers should attempt to establish contact with companies through face-to-face meetings. This makes it easier to recognise and address needs directly.

In the second presentation, **Anna Gabai (Arbeit und Leben Berlin-Brandenburg)**, regional coordinator of “MENTO – cooperative network for basic education and literacy”, spoke about her networking project in Berlin and Brandenburg. The aim of her work is to increase the number of learning opportunities, raise awareness of key institutions and speak directly to the general public. In order to achieve these goals, nine Alpha-Alliances have been created since 2012 as part of the Berlin-based initiative to promote basic education. At the same time, great importance is placed on the relevance of the private lives of those concerned.

Ms Gabai reported on the Tempelhof-Schöneberg district in Berlin where the range of learning opportunities for affected citizens is expanded by adult education centres and other educational institutions. In addition to this, eight mentors have been trained in the district as part of the MENTO project while district mayoress Angelika Schöttler has agreed to be the patron of the project. The alliance's activities primarily focus on business development work as well as cooperating with job centres, advisory structures and migrant organisations. The official launch of the alliance was held on 7 November 2017 and Ms Gabai kindly reminded the workshop participants that they were all welcome to attend. To finish with, Ms Gabai spoke about the creation of basic education centres in the state of Brandenburg, emphasising the various different approaches and challenges faced when establishing basic education centres in urban areas.