



European Social Fund ESF

Keeping Hamburg in work



European Union
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Hamburg



**“We’re ready
for work!”**



Dear Reader,

the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg has for centuries been one of the world's trade capitals. As a logistics and industrial centre in an attractive environment, today our city is a desirable destination for companies and employees – and not only from Germany. Even though we are privileged to be one of Europe's strongest economic regions, it is important to keep a close eye on demographic developments in our city, as well as on the growing need for skilled labour in different sectors. The European Social Fund (ESF) is not only the European Union's most important financial instrument for supporting employment measures in the member states, but also a significant instrument of labour market policy in Hamburg.

Together with the Employment Agency and the 'Job Center team.arbeit.hamburg', as the Managing Authority for the ESF we have focused European funding strongly towards helping the citizens of Hamburg achieve professional qualifications and integrating them into the labour market. 'Leave no-one behind!' is the motto of the Hamburg Senate. The ESF is particularly well-situated to provide innovative options for further qualifications to those in work and to those looking for work, to open up better opportunities for people with roots abroad, and most of all to prepare young people – especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds – for vocational training and work.

Through the ESF projects we are striking out in a new direction and trying out concepts which will become self-sufficient or transferable to regular support in future. We are pleased if we can point the way towards a modern and targeted funding-policy in the labour market, and we look forward to the international exchange of ideas and concepts!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Detlef Scheele', written in a cursive style.

Detlef Scheele,
Senator for Labour, Social and Family Affairs and Integration

This is ESF Hamburg



In an economically strong region such as Hamburg, the ESF's objective is to **ensure regional competitiveness and employment**. In the first instance, this means supporting the integration into working life of all people who are able to work and seeking a job or a training vacancy. Qualifications and equal opportunities are key elements in the effort to give employees better skills and prepare them for future challenges. In brief, people are the focus of the ESF.

Qualification – the key to success

Accordingly, there is a broad spectrum of goals and target groups as the intended beneficiaries of the ESF's offers. In Hamburg, the ESF intends to:

- strengthen **skilled workers' employability** through qualifications, thereby securing jobs
- prepare **job-seekers** for the challenges of the labour market
- support **immigrants** in the recognition of foreign certifications
- introduce **young people** to vocational training early on
- open up equal opportunities for **women** through better career prospects and the same remuneration as men
- qualify **disadvantaged persons** – e.g. disabled people, older job-seekers or long-term unemployed – for participation in the world of work.

The key to success is qualification. This is clear when looking at the long-term unemployed: whereas their total number in Hamburg has been decreasing for years, the proportion of long-term unemployed without vocational training has increased sharply. The ESF makes training and qualification measures possible, and so works to improve the overall level of employment in the Hamburg labour market.



Strategic use of the ESF

As the ESF Managing Authority, the Ministry of Labour, Social and Family Affairs and Integration, together with the Employment Agency and the 'Job Center team.arbeit.hamburg', has developed a labour-market programme in which the ESF plays an important role. These projects offer the opportunity to try out innovative instruments and initiate new developments. 'Priority for Education' is a core objective of the labour-market programme. For the programming period 2007 to 2013, Hamburg received an amount of around 90 million euros in ESF funding, which the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg matched with a further 90 million euros. With almost 200 different ESF projects during the course of the programming period, there are many possibilities for the qualification and integration of Hamburg's citizens. By spring 2012, more than 60,000 citizens of Hamburg will have benefited from the ESF's services.

Realisation of ESF projects

The Operational Programme for Hamburg establishes and regulates the strategy for the implementation of ESF during the programming period. On this basis and with participation from Hamburg's authorities, new projects are as a rule put out to tender annually and are open for application from employment and qualification organisations, universities, research establishments, training and enterprise associations, chambers of commerce and other institutions in the public or private sphere. The process is transparent: all information about the call for proposals is available online at esf-hamburg.de. The evaluation of project proposals is carried out by an ESF Project Selection Committee. The process ensures that only those projects that are designed to be particularly effective and cost-efficient receive ESF funding.

Best-practice projects

'Come In'

GSM Training & Integration GmbH
<http://gsm-group.biz/come-in.html>



The 'Come In' project aims to help young people with their entry into the world of work. It is aimed primarily at young people who have difficulty in finding a job or training position. Reasons for this could be not just poor performance in school, but also family problems, drug use, debt, a police record or even a lack of social skills. 'Come In' works

to strengthen young people's individual competencies. The project's mission is to lead young people into vocational training or a job at the end of the support phase. However, for many young people, participating in a qualification measure or finding an internship is already a successful first step.

'Part-time Training in Hamburg'

Beschäftigung und Bildung e.V.
www.teilzeitausbildung-hamburg.de



At 'Part-time Training in Hamburg', a coordination and consultation centre, young women and men who are single parents, as well as people looking after family members at home, are given comprehensive and free information about part-time training. Companies can also learn about these training models and receive advice about opportunities for implementation.

Part-time training is a legally recognised form of vocational training for young mothers, fathers and carers who have been unable to complete training due to their personal circumstances. The weekly training period is usually reduced to 30 hours per week, so that it is easier to balance family obligations with learning and entry into the labour market.

'Counselling Centre for Recognition of Qualifications'

Diakonisches Werk Hamburg
www.anlaufstelle-erkennung.de



The 'Counselling Centre for Recognition of Qualifications' is an advisory centre for questions concerning the official recognition of foreign professional and educational certificates in Hamburg. Through individual consultation, the centre gives its clients information about recognition options and accompanies applicants as required through the recognition

process. The staff can help with applications, translations and explaining official letters. The consultation can be carried out in any major European language. The centre also organises training courses and events on the topic of recognising foreign certificates, and networks with agents in the area of vocational recognition and migration advice in Hamburg.

'Green Light for Europe'

Arbeit und Leben e.V.
www.hamburg.arbeitundleben.de



'Green Light for Europe' aims at trainees, teaching staff and multipliers at all vocational and nursing schools in Hamburg. Its goal is to promote intercultural experiences and to establish placements abroad as a fixed component of dual vocational training. The project team advises representatives of schools, training centres and companies

on the organisation and execution of placements abroad for their trainees. Placements usually last between three and six weeks and can be financed through the European Leonardo da Vinci Programme.

Contact

If you have any questions, the Hamburg Ministry of Labour, Social and Family Affairs and Integration will be pleased to advise you:

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Labour Market Policy and ESF Managing Authority
Hamburger Str. 47
22083 Hamburg, Germany
www.hamburg.de/basfi

For all general enquiries relating to the European Social Fund, please contact: Martin Weber
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For all matters relating to ESF public relations, please contact: Nora Obenaus or Claudia Hillebrand
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For further information about the ESF in Hamburg, please visit:
www.esf-hamburg.de

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Status: March 2012



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