

Focal points of the IdA programme

Improving opportunities through transnational mobility for disadvantaged young people in the transition from school to career (“first threshold”)

Up to now, disadvantaged young people in the transition from school to career had very few opportunities of gaining work-related experience in another EU country. By offering internships abroad, IdA is helping to improve young people's ability to work as well as to promote their integration in the labour market.

Supporting the transition from training to employment (“second threshold”) for young unemployed people through work experience abroad

The transitional phase from training to employment is not always a smooth one for those who have finished their course of training. To ensure young unemployed adults who have completed a course of training can gain practical experience in another EU country, the IdA programme supports work placements and internships.

Supporting the labour market integration of young single mothers through transnational mobility

In Germany young single mothers represent the group most at risk of poverty. Furthermore, the demands placed on employees in terms of their mobility have risen continuously in recent years. That is why IdA also offers young single mothers the opportunity to gain professional experience in another EU country. Any child-care costs incurred in countries within the EU will be covered.

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The Integration through Exchange Programme – IdA is sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the European Social Fund.

What is IdA?

IdA stands for Integration through Exchange (Integration durch Austausch). October 2008 saw the launch of the IdA programme, which aims to help people who are experiencing difficulty accessing the training or labour market find a suitable course of training or employment through transnational mobility projects. To achieve this goal, local welfare agencies, employment agencies, training and educational institutions, charities, professional associations, businesses and societies have come together to work with partner organisations from across Europe.

IdA is being implemented in two rounds of funding, the first of which is aimed at disadvantaged young people and unemployed young adults. Around 69 project associations are working on improving training and employment opportunities for up to 10,000 disadvantaged young people, unemployed young adults and young single mothers. The focus of their activities is a supervised one to six-month stay abroad (internship, job camp or training course) in another EU Member State.

The call for the second round of funding took place in September 2010 and is aimed at people with a disability.

A total of around 120 million euros have been set aside by the European Social Fund and around 25 million euros from funds provided by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs for the implementation of IdA, covering the duration of the programme from 2008 to 2015.



**Integration through
Exchange**

**Improving training and employment
opportunities for disadvantaged
young people through transnational
exchange**



EUROPEAN UNION

Participant



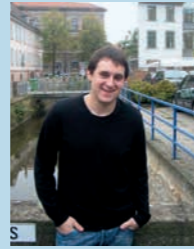
Nauras, Koblenz

“Actually I decided early on that I wanted to work in a kitchen. How the meals are prepared is something that fascinates me. And each day is different. Originally I wanted to be a confectioner, but there are really few opportunities in the Mayen-Koblenz area to do that. After leaving school I tried for years to find an apprenticeship but had no success. As a foreigner with a secondary modern school-leaving qualification, it’s difficult to find a training place or a job.

But then I received an offer to take part in the IdA programme. And it’s been really worthwhile. Of course, you have to put a lot in for it to pay off in the end. My stay in France wasn’t all fun and games: However I did learn a lot, gaining experience and working with other people, at the same time using the opportunity to get to know French cuisine and deal with a different mentality and culture.

I’ve now found my dream job. Since 1 July 2010 I have been training to be a chef in the hotel of the Gastronomic Training Centre of the Koblenz Chamber of Commerce and Industry. I feel I’m in really good hands here. Once I qualify as a chef, I would like to train to be a pastry chef.”

Participant



Dennis, Göttingen

“I took part in the IdA programme because my attempts to find a training place after gaining my secondary school-leaving qualifications were unsuccessful, and I wanted to improve my chances on the job market. As part of the IdA programme, I completed a six-week work placement in a language school in Malta. There I worked in the data processing team. What’s more, in the preparation stage and during my stay abroad I was able to improve my English considerably as result of the language courses on offer, as well as through my contact with the Maltese people, of course.

What I found particularly gratifying was that I was offered an apprenticeship as a warehouse logistics specialist following an interview I had on my return home. According to my future boss, I was offered the training place primarily because my application stood out from the rest thanks to my stay abroad and the experience and knowledge I gained from it, and experience abroad and language skills are important in an international forwarding agency.”

Welfare Agency / Employment Agency



**Kevin Huhs,
Careers Advisor, Kiel Employment Agency**

“Everyone who took part in the IdA programme spoke enthusiastically of their experiences. The experience of spending four weeks in a foreign country excited and motivated them and showed them that they have the ability to grow and excel themselves. This is something they will never forget. Besides the technical knowledge they have gained, it is this new self-esteem which stays with them – and that is the very reason why I am supporting the IdA programme.”



**Tim Gerber,
Case Manager, Göttingen**

“Challenge abroad!” This is the heading by which the IdA programme is known. In my job in case management, I come across many customers for whom dealing with life in a familiar environment alone is a challenge which often seems insurmountable. Initial reluctance and scepticism among both customers and me as a case manager grew weaker each day the IdA programme progressed. Apart from learning a new language, the ability to explore unknown territory, the sometimes very clear improvement in one’s social skills as well as putting oneself to the test in a completely different working environment, I believe it is the development of one’s personality, the clear strengthening of one’s character, the ability to assume greater responsibility and open oneself up to new career prospects, in particular, that makes this the success of which participants can be so proud.”



**Konrad Schleicher,
Team Leader for Market and Integration,
Jobcenter Sächsische Schweiz-Osterzgebirge**

“The Sächsische Schweiz-Osterzgebirge team first came into close contact with the IdA programme at the end of 2009. Besides the negative attitude initially displayed towards the IdA project by those ALG II recipients who were invited to take part, scepticism about the success of IdA was prevalent amongst staff within the centre.

The first IdA project group successfully completed the programme at the end of 2010. The results achieved go way beyond all initial expectations. In addition to the fact that all young people within the group took part right up to end of the project, developing their personal skills and abilities and being able to show real results of their work from the project, the fact that almost half the participants have since been integrated on the regular labour market is what makes the project such an outstanding success.

Thanks to the IdA programme, young people have been given a positive outlook on life as well as career prospects. From its launch at the beginning of the year up to now, the IdA program has progressed really well within the Sächsische Schweiz-Osterzgebirge Jobcenter.”