



Germany

Local Pacts for Economy and Employment

Framework and setting

Geographic scale In Berlin, the capital city of Germany, twelve Local Pacts for Economy and Employment (BBWA) are in operation.

Policy framework The Local Pacts for Economy and Employment are implemented within the framework of the Berlin strategy “Pacts for Economy and Employment”.

Partnerships at work

Rationale Local strategies, designed with the participation of various local stakeholders, can help improve employment perspectives and strengthen the local economy.

Objectives The BBWA’s goal is to create employment and training opportunities and to support local businesses by establishing networks at the local level.

Functions In line with local action strategies, each area takes an individual approach and develops its own action plan. The local bodies, so called “Co-ordinating Groups” have a responsibility for bringing together local coalitions (pacts). Members of the Co-ordinating Groups include representatives of the City of Berlin, the administration level, the business community, professional bodies, the employment agency, trade unions as well as representatives of the third sector. The partnerships are co-ordinated by the “Berlin Senate Department for Integration, Labour and Social Issues”.

Policy areas Labour market policy and economic policy

Policy tools/ Instruments Local Pacts for Economy and Employment use different tools, such as networking; co-ordination and assistance in the implementation of initiatives; and technical support in fundraising.

Timeframe The Local Pacts for Economy and Employment were established in 2000. No time limitation.

Partners The partners are local / district administrations, business support structures, business associations, employment agencies, workers’ organisations, welfare charities, citizens’ groups, representatives of the third sector, housing associations, professional bodies, universities and other educational institutions.

Contracts Agreements between local partners are informal.

Legal status None

Sources of Financing Various funding sources are used to fund BBWA projects (e.g. the City of Berlin, the German Federal Government, European Structural Funds).

Results Since 2000, coalitions of this nature have been established in all twelve districts of Berlin. They have been initiated successfully and have intensified the co-operation between various organisations. As a result, priorities have been defined collectively, new projects have been carried out and diverse activities have been initiated. New vertical and horizontal contacts have been made for future co-operation.

Contacts **Partnership co-ordinators at national level**

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Partnership co-ordinators at regional/local level

Each of the twelve local BBWAs can be contacted through the Berlin Senate Department for Integration, Labour and Social Issues.

Partnerships' highlight

Programme/ Project Implementation of the Berlin programme "Local Social Capital" (LSK) within the framework of the Local Pacts for Economy and Employment.

Timeframe August 2003 - ongoing

Objectives The major objective of the "Local Social Capital" programme is to support local initiatives and micro-projects.

Activities Projects' initiation and implementation, support of local organisations (e.g. informal groups, voluntary groups) and establishment of local business networks are the core activities of the "Local Social Capital" programme. The target group covered by the LSK programme include:

- youngsters without completed education;
- disabled persons,
- homeseekers;
- migrants;
- older workers;
- single parents;
- long-term unemployment; and
- recipients of different types of social benefits.

Results More than 770 projects were implemented within the framework "Local Social Capital" till end of December 2008. The list of supported projects is available on the website www.loskap-berlin.de. In addition, a publication "Local Pacts for Economy and Employment in Berlin - Project Examples 2000-2007," providing information about the objectives and activities of the Local Pacts for Economy and Employment, was issued and an international conference on "Local Alliances, Pacts and Partnerships in Labour Market and Vocational Training Policy – Approaches, Experiences, Criteria for Success" was organised by the Berlin Senate Department for Integration, Labour and Social Issues in Berlin, Germany in 2008.