

The “School Companies”

Title	The “School Companies” (<i>Schulewirtschaft</i>)
Coverage	Germany
Organization/enterprise	Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft (Federal working group) - SCHULEWIRTSCHAFT
Topic	School-business partnership
Target group and outreach	Students, schools and companies
Purpose	The aim of this initiative is to improve the preparation of students for the world of work by teaching them skills that enhance employability. This is done by forging close partnerships between schools and enterprises. The initiative matches interested schools with a partner enterprise.
Key features	(1) Provides for a continuous dialogue between business and the education system (2) Working groups are locally organized within the federal states of Germany
Strategy and approach	<p>The federal working group SCHULEWIRTSCHAFT is a network of schools and enterprises. Since 1965 the initiative has coordinated the activities of working groups, which are locally organized within the federal states of Germany; it promotes an exchange of information and experiences through a lively dialogue between the two groups. The chair of the initiative is shared by a representative of academia and business.</p> <p>The Government, the federal states and enterprises have made concrete proposals to improve occupational decision making by students, the preparations for employment, and the employability skills that the student must attain before starting an apprenticeship. Led by the German Employers' Organization BDA and supported by the Institute of German Industry in Cologne, one of the working groups has developed a guidebook on occupational orientation and preparation to be used in schools across the country.</p> <p>The guidebook “<i>School and enterprise as partners to strengthen the occupational orientation and maturity of training and education</i>” provides schools, enterprises and other partners with suggestions, concrete instructions and approved tools to help prepare young people for the world of work. The guidebook includes information on the creation of networks and quality management systems, communication and cooperation tools and also provides checklists, standardized forms and concrete examples.</p>
Partners	BDA, government education councils and schools
Major achievements	A closer relationship between industry and schools allows for a much more practical cooperation in activities. The good practice examples help other companies and schools to form similar alliances or partnerships.
Additional information	

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Source: SCHULEWIRTSCHAFT