

BERLIN: CASE EXAMPLE 1

Establishing the JBAs in Berlins' schools

For the efforts to reduce the number of school dropouts to be successful, it is essential that all secondary schools know who their students can turn to for advice if their continuing their school career at their current school is not a viable perspective to further qualify them.

Besides the internal structures of the JBA it is of great importance that the institution as a whole is integrated into the pre-existing (school) structures so students and/or their parents can access possible support service offered by the various support services.

The vocational schools with their various options for continuing the acquisition of new competences play a key role here. To maximize the benefits for the students a new path of cooperation, an ongoing work relationship between secondary and vocational schools was strived for. A core aspect was the continual collaboration characterized by mutual trust between the persons and institutions involved. It was determined that each secondary school would get a team for career and university studies orientation (BSO-team). Each of these BSO-teams has three members: a senior member of from a vocational school, a counsellor from the Federal Employment Agency and a staff member from a secondary school. These three persons are granted a time frame allowing them to spend one day per week during the school year together. On these days they are available for answering the students' questions as well as offering activities focussed on the question "what next after finishing school?". The experts in the BSO-teams offer individual counselling but are responsible for implementing orientation regarding career and university studies into the school programs of the secondary schools.

During the course of the project „stay tuned“ it was observed that the BSO-teams have very different approaches to their work and the effectivity on the individual and structural level is hardly comparable. The networking unit of the JBS therefore decided to get in touch with all BSO-teams on an annual basis during "forum days" to develop quality standards, to communicate these quality standards and to develop standard work structures focussed on the teams' goals.

Due to the large number of involved persons four „forum days“ took place in 2018/2019. Finding a time slot during the school year turned out to be a challenge as the vacation periods as well as the exam periods and training periods were not suitable.

From the example described above we have learned how vital the intensive communication characterized by a sense of partnership between the ministerial level/network agency and the district level is. Furthermore it became evident that external moderation is very helpful for making



these processes work, particularly to avoid inflexible structures and behaviour resulting in hinderances impairing the project overall.

Due to the successful moderation and the multiple opportunities to communicate with each other the “forum days” were well-received by all persons involved. Therefore the evaluation carried out by the “networking agency” involving the moderators and the steering group of the “stay tuned” project includes the agreement to repeat these “forum days” annually in a similar way. The according funds in the Berlin state budget for the years 2019/2020 were provided.

