



The European Social Fund 1994 - 1999 Success Stories in Germany

Project title: Training scientists in Berlin-Adlershof

Promoter: Witega Angewandte Werkstoff-Forschung g. GmbH

Partners: Grünenthal GmbH, Bayer AG and others

Beneficiaries: Unemployed scientists and technicians

Description: As a result of the structural changes in former East Germany, many research institutes were closed and thousands of scientists, despite being highly qualified, lost their jobs or had to resort to short term contracts. The problem was especially acute for scientists over 40 years old. To try to combat this problem, an pilot project was launched in 1998 at Berlin's Adlershof Science Park. As part of a 3-year retraining scheme, financed by the ESF, 46 chemists and technicians were given the opportunity to broaden their skills and knowledge, in particular in analytical methods and applied chemistry. As well as the training side, the course also allowed the scientists to establish contacts and co-operation with industry. Indeed, after 2½ years on the retraining scheme, the scientists have decided to launch their own company.

Main Objectives: The main objective was to broaden the skills and experience of participants by providing hands on training as well as fostering links with industry.

Main Results: The project was planned originally for 46 participants but so far some 70 people have taken part. On completion of the course, over one quarter of the participants found a new job, while a core team of scientists will remain at the campus to set up their own company, dealing with contract research. The outcome of the project is therefore very encouraging.

EU Funding: 2.80 Mio EUR (= 5.48 Mio DM)

National Funding: 1.73 Mio EUR (= 3.39 Mio DM)

For more information on this project, please contact: Useful Links

Dr. Christine Wedler,
Witega Angewandte Werkstoff-Forschung g. GmbH
Justus-von Liebig-Strasse 3
D-12489 Berlin
E-mail: wedler@witega.de

For more general information on the ESF, please contact: Useful Links

Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Sozialordnung
Referat VIIa3 - Rochusstrasse 1
D-53123 Bonn
Tel.: +49-228-527.27.16
Fax: +49-228-527.12.09

European Commission
Directorate-General Employment and Social Affairs
"Communication" Unit
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium
Fax.: +32 2 295 49 18
E-mail: empl-info@cec.eu.int

The ESF in Germany
<http://www.bma.bund.de/>
(Europa - Sozialfonds)

The ESF in Europe
<http://europa.eu.int/esf>