

Who receives the financial support?

As a rule project promoters receive the subsidies. These can for example be municipal authorities, associations, organisations or companies. In order to receive the subsidies they draw up a concept with concrete targets and for certain groups of persons who should take part in the project. The situation is different with the funding programme "Training Cheque". Here individuals can apply for the subsidy directly.

How many subsidies are there for Brandenburg and who makes the decision about these?

The EU makes around Euro 620 million available to the Federal State of Brandenburg for support programmes in the ESF period 2007 to 2013. These are supplemented by national funds, e.g. from municipal authorities, associations, organisations, companies, the Federal State of Brandenburg or the employment promotion of the Federal Job Agency.

The Ministry for Work, Social Affairs, Women and Family is responsible, as administrative authority, for the use of the ESF funds in Brandenburg. It cooperates closely with the other state ministries which also use the ESF for support programmes.

The aims and contents of the support programmes are coordinated with the partners in Brandenburg. These include e.g. the municipal authorities, the business and social partners, social associations and organisations advocating for youth, women and families.

There is a body for the cooperation on a partnership basis: the "monitoring committee Brandenburg of the EU funds". The support committee has the task to examine whether the support programmes are implemented in a good quality and effectively. You can find more details concerning the EU subsidies in the Federal State of Brandenburg under: www.eu-foerderung.brandenburg.de



European Social Fund – investing in your future

Ministry for Labour, Social Affairs, Women and Family of the Federal State of Brandenburg

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Concept/layout: Bergmann & Partner, Berlin
Photos: proof: eckedesign, Fotolia, BRANDaktuell-Archiv
Print: Feller, Teltow
Circulation: 500

November 2010

ESF-1071/002



Funded by the Ministry for Labour, Social Affairs, Women and Family with resources from the European Social Fund and the Federal State of Brandenburg



What is the ESF and what is it used for?

The European Social Fund (ESF) is a funding instrument of the European Union (EU). It is used in order to promote employment, reduce unemployment and thus strengthen the social cohesion between the regions in Europe and to reduce a backlog of development. The ESF has existed since 1957 already.

The state government uses the ESF budget for its labour policy programme "Invest in people – strengthen regions". This programme includes all ESF support programmes. The following aims are pursued hereby:

- create new jobs and good working conditions
- ensure the quality of the vocational training
- stimulate and support further training for employees and company managements
- achieve an improvement in being able to combine work and family
- improve the access to employment and promote the social integration of disadvantaged persons



This way the ESF-funded projects contribute to more occupation and to combating unemployment.

Measures are promoted which support people in certain situations in life:

- with professional orientation
- with employment access
- with further training, career advancement, professional reorientation or start-ups
- with the return to working life and the ability to combine work and family

How are the people informed about the ESF funding possibilities?

The population has to be informed about the EU financing of the ESF programmes. As the citizens should know which possibilities exist for them for subsidies and who receives the subsidies. All project promoters are obliged to inform their participants about the funding from the ESF. Corresponding funding references and logos have to be depicted in all publications and on websites.

What are the benefits of the ESF funding?

The people in the Federal State of Brandenburg and the regions in which they live, profit from the ESF. Within the framework of the labour policy programme "Invest in people – strengthen regions" more than 170,000 people in Brandenburg took part in ESF measures in the period of time 2007–2009 alone. They were able to further develop their know-how and their skills and adjust this to new requirements, improve their career prospects or gain new access to employment. They met other people, contributed their experiences and learned from each other – and hopefully also enjoyed it.

All information concerning the ESF can be called in the Internet: www.esf.brandenburg.de – simply have a look!



Selected support programmes

ESF for young people

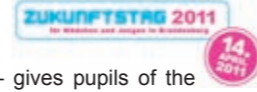
■ **Future day for girls and boys** – gives pupils of the years six to nine the possibility to get a completely different view of the working world. Whereas girls can gain a picture of the typical male jobs in the working world, boys can try out typical female professions.

www.zukunftstagbrandenburg.de

■ **Career entry period** – aims at the professional integration of unemployed youths and young adults aged up to 30 years with completed vocational training. Funded are specific advice and support offers for youths and for companies which hire unemployed youths (e.g. adjustment qualifications, also abroad). The programme is especially directed at young women.



■ **Projects for avoiding school dropout** – are jointly implemented as integrated projects by youth welfare organisations and schools. Youths who refuse to go to school receive individual school promotion combined with product-oriented work at out-of-school learning locations and intensive social-educational support. The aim is to achieve the capability to start vocational training and a consolidated professional orientation.



ESF for job seekers

■ **The regional budget** – is received by all counties of the Federal State of Brandenburg for measures which improve the chances of job placement and the social participation of unemployed women and men. The Ministry for Labour makes the "budget" available to the municipal authorities for independent use. This way they can better take into account the requirements on site and carry out additional projects above all for people who are affected by long-term unemployment.

■ **Pilot services** – offer women and men individual qualification and advice for setting up a company also during the entire pre-start-up phase. The pilot services will continue to be available as contact after the start-up.

ESF for employees

■ **The training cheque** – for employees who want to further educate themselves. With the education cheque costs for further training can be promoted up to twice a year with the amount of up to 500 EUR respectively.

www.bildungsscheck.brandenburg.de



■ **Development of competences in art and culture** – gives artists and cultural institutions the possibility to improve their competitiveness through qualifications and therefore secure their financial livelihood. Existing employment relationships in the field of culture are to be retained and new jobs created.

ESF for companies and their employees



■ **Promotion of qualification in small and medium-sized companies** – can be used by employers for themselves and their employees. Promoted is the qualification and further training in certain subject areas, however also individually. With the support programme qualification measures can especially be subsidised for women for professional promotion.



■ **Service agency for work environment and parental leave** – advises personnel managers in companies and (soon-to-be) parents concerning the planning of the parental leave and informs about the basic legal conditions. Above all small and medium-sized companies receive support concerning the bridging of the family phase of their employees by offers for the organisation of the parental period and for substitution and return into the profession. In cooperation with the job agency the service agency offers support with placement of suitable substitute workers.

www.arbeitswelt-elternzeit.de

You can find more detailed information relating to the programmes under www.masf.brandenburg.de or the special addresses which are stated above in the text.