



Method Passport (Germany)

Summary

“Method passport” is a diverse training offer developed by the Innovation Support Centre of the Chambers of Industry and Commerce in Hesse to boost the innovation ability, process management and thus the competitiveness of the companies in the region. The training workshops targeted middle and top-level managers as well as other professionals, providing them with a toolbox for the introduction, management and improvement of innovation processes in their companies. Since the beginning of the project, *Method passport* has trained 500 people through 32 workshops. The practical applicability of the knowledge gained during the practice’s workshops and the high professionalism of the trainers have been listed by the participants as the main strengths of *Method passport*.

The project

Due to the competitive pressures of globalisation it is increasingly important for enterprises to innovate and to develop this ability amongst their management and employees. To compete successfully nowadays, more than ever systematic and strategic innovation needs to be combined with knowledge management.

Method passport is a training offer developed and delivered by the Innovation Support Centre of the Chambers of Industry and Commerce in Hesse. The training includes a toolkit for the management of innovation processes in private companies that could be used to boost competitiveness in the globalising markets.

Sector(s) covered

Main sector

Business & Entrepreneurship:
promoting innovation in business

Other Sectors

Education & Training: training in
innovation

The main activities of *Method passport* are workshops focusing on innovation management, project management, creative techniques, quality function deployment (QFD), the theory of inventive problem solving (TRIZ), value analysis, failure modes and effects analysis (FMEA), target costing methods and other techniques.

Approach

The practice offers different training modules in the form of one and a half day workshops that should enable the participants to introduce innovations in their companies in a straightforward, systematic way, anticipating challenges.

The main target groups for these training modules are:

- Engineers, line managers, natural scientists, IT specialists, marketing specialists;
- Top-level managers who plan restructuring processes in their organisations; and,
- People who want to profit from a practice related to vocational training in a changing job market.



The *Method passport* training offer should help to improve the efficiency of innovation processes. All teachers leading the training are qualified experts in their relevant areas. The workshops were first held on a regional level, but were soon extended to other parts of Germany, thanks to a strong partnership between the regional chambers of commerce.

In addition, an internet platform (www.innovationen-machen.de) was launched to exchange best practices among the different training initiatives and to inform interested participants on upcoming programmes and events.

Element of innovation – the process

The learning of creative methods allows participants of *Method passport* to apply their acquired knowledge in planning and introducing new processes and products in their company. Apart from dealing with practical problem solving in innovation processes, the practice fosters creativity, personal development and knowledge management. The toolbox with creative methods can be, and is shaped, according to the individual profile of the workshop participants.

Key successes (outcomes, results, impacts)

The improved knowledge among the workshop participants has led to a more efficient innovation process in their companies. The feedback has been positive especially with regards to the application and integration of good practice examples that illustrated the presented methods.

Method passport has trained 500 people through 32 workshops. The practical application of the knowledge gained during the vocational training workshops to business practice and the diversity as well as depth of the professional experience of the teachers have been listed by the participants as the main strengths of the practice.

Information about *Method passport* was disseminated through articles in various printed media, e-mailing lists, newsletters, the project website, lectures and personal recommendations from previous workshop participants.

Challenges

The biggest challenge of *Method passport* was to ensure quality assurance of the training offer. This has been maintained through continuous evaluation.

Transferability and sustainability

The *Method passport*, which was developed in the German region of Hesse, has been already transferred to other federal states. In the future there are also plans to expand the project by promoting the training also at European level.



Special Highlights

'Method passport' is a highly innovative and tailor-made training course developed by the Innovation Support Centre of the Chambers of Industry and Commerce in Hesse to boost the innovation ability, innovation processes of management and the competitiveness of the companies in the region. The main activities of 'Method passport' are workshops focusing on innovation processes of management in theory and practice.

The feedback of workshop participants has been very positive. They have confirmed that the examples and the methodological knowledge gained during workshops have been very useful in improving the innovation processes in their companies.

Key characteristics

General purpose of the practice	Stimulating creative/innovative behaviour and thinking
Target group	The practice is targeted at trainees, employees and employers as well as to private companies (training professionals in industry)
Type of learning	Formal and informal
Level of implementation	National
Funding	The practice is funded by participants fees
Time frame	Ongoing
Leading organisations	IHK - Innovationsberatung Hessen (ITB), Partners are the IHKs Kassel, Lahn-Dill, Limburg, Giessen-Friedberg, Fulda, Frankfurt/Main and Hanau.

Further information

Website of the project

www.innovationen-machen.de

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