

How to help young people at risk entering the world of work: The project LIFT

Lars Balzer, SFIVET, Switzerland

The pilot project LIFT (Leistungsfähig durch individuelle Förderung und praktische Tätigkeit - Performance by individual support and practical activity), maintained by the network NSW/RSE (Netzwerk für sozial verantwortliche Wirtschaft – Network for socially responsible economy) from 2007-2009, designs, implements, tests, and evaluates new approaches to strengthen young people at risk, in collaboration with schools, school authorities, parents, professional experts and others.

Main goal of the project is to significantly increase the chances for young people to find a good place in the world of work after school.

Key concepts of the project are:

- a) focusing on young people at risk not to find their place in the world of work after school
- b) early detection of them (from the 7th grade) to systematically train self and social competence and aspects of performance in school, personal responsibility, and motivation
- c) letting the young people collect practical experience at work in local firms during some weeks
- d) establishing a local economy-network

The project LIFT is still running, so no final results can be presented. Therefore, this paper emphasizes on the concept of the project as well as on the concept of the evaluation, which is conducted by the Swiss Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (SFIVET), including very first evaluation results. Also, the importance and chances of such a project to the practical field as a promotional and integration concept of young people at risk are discussed.