

Good Practice: “Working in Germany”

a cross border partnership between
the Netherlands and Germany

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KWIZ (the Netherlands)

- Observatory for social issues
- Advising and strategy
- Partner for local governments
- Information and knowledge management
- Monitoring systems and management

Netwerk Noord/Netzwerk Nord

- A Cross border partnership (Netwerk Noord) between the Dutch municipality Oldambt in the northeast of the Netherlands and Landkreis Leer in the northwest of Germany.
- Main objective of the partnership is: to improve the cross border cooperation on trade and industry and labour market.
- They initiate of lot of projects at each side of the border.
- Key partners: policymakers, business, European Union (funding), VET institutes, job centers and employment services.

Context and Setting

- Eastern Groningen and its border regions have the highest unemployment rates in the Netherlands. Over the next years, these regions also face serious socio-economic challenges arising from a shrinking and ageing population.
- The unemployment rate in German border regions (northwest) is much lower than in the Dutch border region of Eastern Groningen. There is a high demand for personnel in various professions and skill-levels, due to a lack of work force.
- Boundaries between the Netherlands and Germany are fading, easing cross-border cooperation and a shared labour market.

Working in Germany

Project of the Dutch municipality Oldambt in the northeast of the Netherlands and Landkreis Leer in the northwest of Germany

Main objectives of the project:

- To qualify job seekers for jobs in Germany.
- Providing jobs for unemployed in the north east of the Netherlands.
- Companies involved: Volkswagen Emden, Meyer Werft Papenburg and Enercon Aurich.
- Program: education and training from a german vocational trainer, together with german job seekers to obtain the right skills.
- First a temporary job, than a permanent job.

VET and policy

- Different VET policy in the Netherlands and Germany.
- Different VET training: Germany better link to the labour market.
- Acknowledgement of qualifications: Dutch qualifications are not always suitable for the German Labour market.

Constraints

- Language and culture.
- Acknowledgment of qualifications both sides of the border.
- Laws.
- Mobility and transport.
- Commitment stakeholders.

Critical factors of success

- On both sides of the border the people, businesses and organizations are willing to work together.
- Starting on a small scale.
- Qualifying vocational education and training.
- Sharing knowledge of skills.
- Sharing information about laws and national systems.

Impact and replicability

- More than 100 job seekers found a job in 2 years.
- It improves the cross border cooperation on trade and industry and labour market.
- The companies have no problems hiring skilled employees.
- For replicating this initiative it is important to take in account the critical factors.