



Expertise for Adult Education

German Institute for Adult Education | Leibniz Centre for Lifelong Learning

die

www.die-bonn.de

* The DIE was founded under the name "Institute for Didactics of Adult Education (PAS)" in Frankfurt a. M. in 1957. | Copyright: DIE/Lichtenscheidt



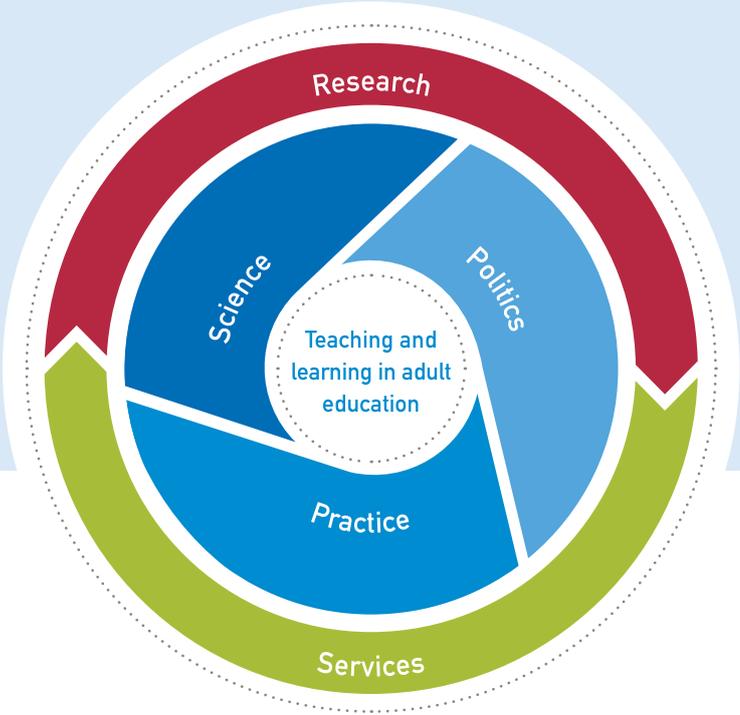
60*

For more than 60 years, we have provided knowledge and concepts for Adult Education.

Expertise for Adult Education

Enable lifelong learning. 4	12	Competence and knowledge for policy advice. Academic expertise.
Dialogue between practice, politics, science.
Successful cooperations. 6	14	Research and service. Close network.
Member of the Leibniz Association.
Innovative concepts for practitioners. 8	16	Relevant research. Example: Literacy and Basic Education.
Socially relevant.
Research for education. 10	18	Quick knowledge transfer. Example: An internet portal for educators.
Academic excellency.

Our work supports practice, research and politics.



Based on our research findings, we develop services to improve adult education efficiently.

Enable lifelong learning. Dialogue between practice, politics, science.

The DIE is the key institution for research, politics and practice in the field of adult and continuing education in Germany. Our interest is in the exciting issue of adult teaching and learning. We aim to explore, explain and communicate this topic.

We want to contribute actively to a more efficient education system. Hence, we aim to **improve the learning of adults** with our comprehensive academic work and research and to **increase the quality of continuing education** permanently.

It is our – equally social and educational – task to academically substantiate and successfully foster adult learning and education. It is our objective to improve personal development and social

participation as well as the employability of the German adult population.

Our range of tasks includes **research**, the provision of publications and research data as well as **counselling** for both **politics and practice**. Our services enhance and strengthen the competences of stakeholders in continuing education. We also develop **innovative concepts** for immediate practical use.



Theoria cum praxi –
Science for the people's
benefit and well-being.

Member of



We organised the second **Forum on Education Policy**.
Topic: "Educational Investments and Returns in Life".

Successful cooperations. Member of the Leibniz Association.

The DIE has been a member of the Leibniz Association since 1998. It belongs to **Section A – Humanities and Educational Research**. The Leibniz Association stands for research in the society for the society. Nationwide, around 90 research institutes work according to the principle: "Science for the benefit and good of humanity".

An efficient education system is of crucial significance in modern societies. It is the bedrock of the economic development, of cultural wealth and social cohesion. For this reason, academic expertise in education for all ages – from early childhood up to seniority – is of great importance in the Leibniz Association.

The **Leibniz Research Alliance "Leibniz Education Research Network (LERN)"** combines expertise in the field of education. The DIE has been actively involved since its founding in 2013. We are also a **member of the Leibniz Research Alliance "Healthy Ageing"**, exploring the biological and social basics of ageing. Here, we contribute our research findings on education and competences in older age.

About

700,000*

people work in continuing education in 2016 – more people than in the school sector.





Knowledge transfer. Infrastructure.

Innovative concepts for practitioners. Socially relevant.

Those who wish to educate successfully need the best support possible. In the German-speaking area, hundreds of thousands committed people work in adult and continuing education. The DIE aims at providing professional support and know-how for adult educators. We offer research-based services, such as **information, networking, exchange, teaching material and publications**. We have the largest specialised library on adult education in Germany, which is accessible to a wide academic and non-academic audience.

Our **internet portal for teachers in adult education** does not only support teachers and trainers. Its long-term perspective is to create a more attrac-

tive, inclusive and effective continuing education in Germany. Our educational materials for preparing, holding and evaluating a course in adult education are openly accessible online.

Once a year, we host the **DIE Forum on Continuing Education**. The conference aims at networking, discussion and exchange between stakeholders in research and practice.

In addition, the **Innovation Prize for Continuing Education** is awarded biannually. With this award, we honour outstanding initiatives in adult education. It illustrates the significant role of adult education in our dynamic society.



50%*

of all adults in Germany participate in continuing education at least once a year.





Research for education. Academic excellency.

DIE research focuses on adult learning and its conditions, forms and consequences. As a result, it includes all areas of continuing education.

- Who are the instructors and how does teaching and learning work in adult education?
- How can suitable continuing education programmes be developed?
- How are educational institutions organised for successful learning?
- What is the structure of the educational system in Germany and Europe?

We conduct **application-oriented basic research**. We aim to anticipate everyday problems in the practice of continuing education and put potential solutions up for discussion. Our research delivers

data for educational reporting. We provide **services, research data and findings** as a base for individual research. We **cooperate with numerous universities, institutes and researchers** of our field and interdisciplinary subject areas. We are also strongly committed to supporting young scholars. We host the editorial office of the **Journal for Research on Adult Education** (Zeitschrift für Weiterbildungsforschung – ZfW), which is a key journal in German adult education science. The journal has been published since 1978 and presents high quality research findings on adult learning.

A large blue banner with white and black text. At the top, the word 'Leibniz' is written in a cursive script, with 'Leibniz-Gemeinschaft' underneath it. Below that, 'Leibniz im Landtag' is written in large, bold, black sans-serif font. At the bottom, 'rn Argumente' is visible in white text, and 'Lunch ab 12 Uhr' is partially visible below it. The banner is set against a background of a modern building interior with a staircase and people.

Leibniz im Landtag

About

24,000*

providers of continuing education in Germany.





Consultative. Independent. Relevant.

Competence and knowledge for policy advice. Academic expertise.

Leibniz Institutes, such as the DIE, are competent contact partners for policy advice. The quality of their research and their academic work is of utmost importance. High quality is a prerequisite for its acknowledgement in research and practice. It is fundamental for policy advice.

Nowadays, politicians expect education research to produce know-how which helps to create excellent education systems and reduce social inequalities. Our analyses, trend reports, expertise and publications are aimed at making **education more transparent** for decision-makers in politics, administration and associations. They are also aimed at explaining and providing a reliable **foundation for decisions**. In our institute, researchers

work in **expert groups**, are appointed as **council members or experts**, and asked for their expertise on socially relevant issues such as literacy, professionalization and participation in continuing education.

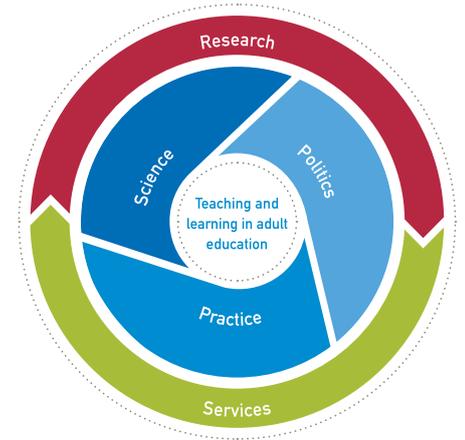
In addition, we are involved in events and conferences, which are aimed at decision-makers. Our researchers engage in direct contact with members of the State and Federal Parliament and provide information on topics such as "Literacy".

12 | 13



"Everyone has the right to education."

Universal Declaration of Human Rights
(United Nations 1948)



Research and service. Close network.

The DIE understands teachers' and learners' needs as a research motive. Research as well as the development and support of services and infrastructures are conducted in six departments, which exchange information and work together. Thus, the strategic objective of collaborative research, development and infrastructure services is pursued.

The close connection enhances an **intense knowledge transfer** between the departments. Research findings are disseminated immediately to practice and related services are developed. These services allow for research **not only within but also outside of the DIE**. This is an example of a successful, intelligent research infrastructure.

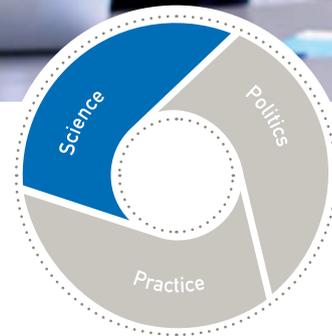
Our **services support stakeholders in the field of continuing education** and transfer academic findings into the public field. We enable and enhance research on adult education, provide research knowledge in publications and portals, and develop target group oriented services for teachers.



We conducted

43*

research projects on literacy
and basic education over the
past 30 years.





Relevant research. Example: Literacy and Basic Education.

At the DIE, research on Literacy and Basic Education has a long history. As early as the late 1970s, we contributed to the acknowledgement of the issue in educational policy. Ever since then, we have conducted intense research on the topic, developed didactic concepts and **materials for practical implementation**, and consulted national and international politicians on the **implementation of education programmes**.

The social necessity of this research is obvious. Nearly 20 percent of all adults in Germany are not or not sufficiently able to read and write. As illiterates, they are excluded from social life and encounter numerous problems in everyday life.

In a research project on financial literacy – www.die-curve.de – we explore solutions to help those 6.7 million people in Germany who are indebted. We develop models for **competences in personal finance**, design **consulting for people in need**, create **education programmes**, and, in cooperation with partners involved in practical social work, accomplish their **sustainable implementation**.



* During its first year, wb-web has contributed more than 600 articles on research for teachers in Adult Education. Copyright: DIE/Rothbrust

More than

600*

instructions, field reports,
knowledge building blocks,
checklists and news in 2016.



Quick knowledge transfer. Example: A portal for educators.

One objective of our academic work is to increase the quality of continuing education. This is achieved, for instance, with **www.wb-web.de** – a **portal for adult educators**. It provides valuable and essential suggestions and information for the educators' daily work.

Hundreds of thousands are committed and active in adult and continuing education with only little professional and straightforward support. Our **openly accessible and completely free online portal** supports continuing educators in the development of professional as well as didactically valuable continuing education programmes.

The quality of adult and continuing education is based on teachers' compe-

tences. Thus, our portal wb-web strengthens the professionalism of continuing educators.



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