

Mission Statement

DIE - Know-how for successful adult education

The German Institute for Adult Education - Leibniz Centre for Lifelong Learning (DIE) successfully embraces the socially and educationally relevant task of substantiating learning and adult education. As a central institution for research, politics and practice, we support stakeholders in the field of continuing education with research findings and services. Our range of tasks includes application-relevant and fundamental research, infrastructural services as well as counselling for politics and practice. Our endeavour is to improve personal development, social participation and employability for the entire adult population in Germany. Therefore, we are the key interface between relevant sciences and adult educational institutions, association and initiatives.

Our objectives

Based on our mandate, our activities focus on two objectives: On the one hand, they support adult education science and research as well as other disciplines, which produce findings on lifelong learning, with national and international publications and research data. On the other hand, this knowledge contributes to the development and sustainable professionalization of practice. Our claim is to acknowledge the needs of science, practice and politics equally and include them in our work. A productive exchange with international stakeholders is another objective. With our research findings and services, we visualise adult education in Germany in the international context and position it in the European educational debate.

Our claim

As a member institute of the Leibniz Association, we pursue the principle: "Science for the benefit and good of humanity". We follow the academic standards established by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the international state of research. On that basis, we study the diverse facets of adult education and lifelong learning and share our findings with the various stakeholders in research, continuing education and training and politics. Based on our scientific expertise, we develop innovative concepts of knowledge transfer and provide information for various target groups i.e. teachers, counsellors, education planners, management in educational institutions, as well as researchers. The challenge is to address the relevant recipients in an interdisciplinary research field as well as in practice and politics effectively and provide support according to their individual interests.

Our strategy

Our employees elaborate research and infrastructural services in six departments, which are closely connected and cooperate in numerous projects.

The departments are equipped with relevant resources and supported by administrative services. We cooperate with national and international researchers and practitioners in many of our activities. The DIE focuses its research activities on the prerequisites, forms and consequences of adult learning. Our research activities cover all areas of continuing education: adult learning processes, didactic design of programmes, staff, organisation and management of continuing education institutions in various institutional contexts, and financial, political and legal aspects of the continuing education system. This range with its current social challenges and topics is transferred into a continuously developing research and development strategy. The research field's diversity is supported by the staff's interdisciplinary educational background - the qualifications include educational science as well as sociology, psychology, political science and economics. It is our strength and opportunity to provide holistic research and to develop and design continuing education. Our services are a supporting pillar of the academic infrastructure in German continuing education - increasingly often in open access. This covers publications, statistical services, professional data base and portals as well as an academic specialised library for adult education. Competences in information science is equally important as competences in media, journalism, documentation and statistics for maintaining and developing our range.

Our philosophy

Research findings and innovation develop best in an environment, which is inspiring and offers space for creativity and courage to think. We encourage our employees, within a thematic frame and under consideration of the objective and in compliance with academic standards, to act freely and independently. It calls for a high level of dedication and concentration on essentials but also creates spaces for aligning job and family. Our employees' satisfaction and health, a good work-life balance, and a chance for personal development are our key guidelines for a successful cooperation and employee management. Our particular concerns are gender equality and the appreciation of our staff's individual diversity. In our role as Leibniz Centre for Lifelong Learning, we encourage continuing education in general and support our junior researchers in particular.

**Executive Board
February 2017**