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Trend Chart on Innovation in Europe

General presentation of the measure/scheme/action/regulation

Country

Germany

Geographical coverage, national or regional (state region)

(National)

Title of the measure

Green Card: Emergency programme to satisfy personnel demand in the IT sector

Information Source/Reference

www.bundesregierung.de/dokumente/Artikel/ix_9199.htm

Overview (nature, main goals)

The Emergency programme to satisfy personnel demand in the IT Sector was established to meet a shortage of qualified personnel in the information technology sector. The programme introduces the following measures:- Easier access to jobs for top-level IT specialists from abroad.- Training offensive by the information technology industry (vocational training).- Supplementary training measures for unemployed and permanent monitoring.

Action Plan objective addressed by measure

I.2. Mobility Students/Researcher/Teachers
II.4. Legal and Regulatory Environment
III.2. Strengthening Company Research

Administering agency

[Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Order - BMA](#)

Jägerstr. 9, Germany

Phone: +49-1888-527-0

Fax: +49-1888-527-2965

Web Site: www.bma.de

Name of the manager(s) responsible for the implementation of this measure with address, fax, phone

Projekträger
Federal Employment Agency
Regensburger Straße 104, Germany
Phone: +49 9111 179 0
Fax: +49 911 179 1343

Description of Scheme

General Information

Reference to legal basis (e.g. act, public document, ...)

§ 288 Abs. 1 Nr. 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 and § 292 Abs. 2 Satz 3 of the "Drittes Buch Sozialgesetzbuch" - Arbeitsförderung (Artikel 1 of the Law of March 24, 1997, BGB S. 594) www.bma.de/download/gesetzentwurf/itargv.htm

Does the measure receive central funding or regional funding?

Central

Start date

2000

Expected date of completion

2005

Previous measure (name, date, links with the current measure)

no

Reasons for launching/modifying the new measure

Shortage in qualified personnel in the IT sector, which can not be met in short time by additional training of employees and adjustments in the higher education sector. Therefore restrictions for the immigration of workers have been loosened for the IT sector.

Have any of the main features of the measure/scheme/action/regulation changed during its implementation

no

What is the predominant role of the government?

Regulator, legislator (changes to work visa laws)

Target Group

Who are the target groups of the measure?

Large Companies/Large Industrial Companies

SMEs/Industrial SMEs

Other

Organisation and Implementation

Organisation and Structure

Economic experts estimate a current shortage in the supply of qualified IT-workers of about 75,000. In July 1999 an offensive to reduce this shortage was launched including vocational training, higher education, and supplementary training institutions. The target was to produce an additional 250,000 specialists by the year 2005. In order to satisfy the short-term personnel needs in the IT sector the government opened up new regulatory avenues. At the same time industry called upon to expand their in-house training activities. The emergency programme is carried out by order of the federal government in Germany, under the administration of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. The main instrument of the programme is a new decree by the Minister for Labour and Social Order on Employment permissions for high-qualified foreign worker in the information and communication technologies. The German government will make it possible for up to 20,000 IT specialists from abroad to take jobs in Germany. Companies are called upon to post their job offers on an Internet homepage (Aktion IT 2000). Local offices of the Federal Agency for Employment will assist companies. Firms apply for working permits for personally named IT workers at these local offices. Applications are checked by the local offices. Working permits are issued for a maximum of 5 years, afterwards immigrants have to leave Germany. There is no right for family members to migrate to Germany.

What are the criteria for eligibility?

For receiving a working permit, applicants must either have a doctoral degree or employers must pay at least 51,130 Euro per year for immigrating workers.

What is the mode of delivery of the measure?

Working permits are issued to firms and refer to certain individuals.

Financing : Overall budget allocated to the measure

not available yet

Financing : expenditure per year

not available, but expenditures are low as this measure is a regulatory measure

Financing : other budgetary sources (additional financing)

no

Results

Result Measurement

What are the main indicators for the measurement of the results ?

Attract up to 20,000 IT specialists from abroad; create at least another 20,000 training opportunities in the IT industry by the year 2003 (in addition to 40,000 already promised the industry within the framework of the Alliance for Jobs); reduce the number of unemployed IT specialists and engineers in Germany.

Where an evaluation has taken place, what were the main results achieved?

no evaluation so far

If no official evaluation has been undertaken, have there been any indicators of success?

Until February 2001, about 40,000 applications and inquiries were received by local offices of the Federal Bureau of Labour. Due to long times of treatment of applications, only 5,7 working permits have been issued until March 2001.

Observations

Which mechanisms seem to function well in the measure?

the programme seems to function well

Which mechanisms seem to be less successful in the measure?

Local offices of the Federal Bureau of Labour seem to need fairly long to treat applications.

Are there any other measures planned or in operation as a follow up to this measure? Direction of the planned measures? Objectives? Target groups?

there is a discussion whether to increase the number of working permits



