

Styrian Employment Pact (STEBEP) and its regional structures

Short information, October 2008

1 Basic information

Project name	Styrian Employment Pact (STEBEP)
County	Austria, province Styria
Name of coordinating organisation	Management Consulting BAB Ltd. www.bab.at
Partners	Government of Styria, Labour market service Styria, Social partners, Regional pacts
Project Duration	April 2007 - Decembre 2011
Total funding	approx. 3 Mio Euro
ESF funding	46 %
ESF funding type	ESF- program for employment, priority: Territorial Employment Pacts
Target group(s)	Unemployed people, e.g. elderly, women, disabled, young people, etc.

2 Main Goals of STEBEP

The main objectives of the STEBEP are:

- Integration of employment as cross-section-principle in every policy field on provincial and regional level
- to secure and create jobs
- to obtain funding for the region

3 Project activities / context

3.1 Establishing the regional structures beginning in 2000

- Regional development associations were authorized with the coordination of the regional pacts by provincial partners- there were some key points defined:
- Minimum standard for regional pact structure was defined by provincial level
- Objectives of STEBEP as common course
- Members of the regional steering group with representatives of
 - Regional Management and representatives of region
 - labour market Service- regional offices
 - Social Partners
 - NGO representatives
 - Gender Mainstreaming experts
- Definition of Common rules of procedure

All regional pacts have a common basis structure, which was adapted for each region. In the first years there was a lot of work done in more coordination and linking of regional structures with provincial level. This was supported through evaluation of pacts

3.2 Main work packages for every pact

- **Signed pact contract:** This is the foundation for the partnership- within this document the actors declare the commitment to the cooperation and central topics of the pact
- **Common rules of procedure:** Definition of the structures, e.g. steering group, and roles of cooperation
- **Working program of the pact for a period of 2-3 years:**
 - Regional Working Programme is part of STEBEP Working Programme
 - Framework is defined and provided by provincial level
 - Coordinated planning and development of common strategies for employment policy measures
 - Exchange and »fine-tuning« of the programs between both levels, with the objective of using the benefits from synergies and of avoiding »double-tracks«.
 - Approved Working Programme is basis for allocation of budget
 - Periodic reports about experiences and results within the region given to provincial level

This process of problem solving is close to the regional requirements, together with people concerned - that guarantees higher efficiency of measures

- **Accompanying measures**
 - Ongoing process of competence building with the key actors and common development of knowledge and increasing of formal and informal know-how. This is an added value for partners and strengthens the partnership as entirety
- **External monitoring and support through experts**

4 Project results

- Connection of employment policy and regional development has worked out very well
- Regional pacts opens way to a broad network, especially to deal with specific regional needs and define regional strategies and measures
- Access to new/additional forms of financing via networking structures
 - A established and good working partnership structure is a good basis to obtain funding for the region, e.g. from EU- funds, municipalities, entrepreneurs etc
- Network carries comprehensive know-how for planning and implementation of projects in the fields of employment and qualification
- Styria appears as the only province in Austria, where a two-level- structure was implemented successfully

5 Success factors

- High transparency and quality are important factors for commitments and communication/cooperation rules in partnerships and between regional and central level
- Competence building is very important for development of networks and for giving an additional benefit to the actors
- Pacts need accepted promoters and regional key topics to work well

5.1 Innovative character of STEBEP

- Establishing a structure of multi-level-governance
- Integration of NGOs
- Implementation of Gender Mainstreaming
- Ongoing process of development with the support of external evaluation, monitoring, competence building

5.2 Effectiveness

Every region/area has its own structure and involved actors- so in every case the model of partnership has to be adjusted to the needs of the region. There is a good chance to learn from other partnerships and to use guidelines, experiences, etc. of good practice.

5.3 Sustainability and transferability

Very important is to take enough time for a good foundation of the partnership, this is a process of some years which brings the result of a good working cooperation culture, that culture is a long-term benefit for the whole region.

6 Contact

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