

Germany - Network 'Ed for Resource Conservation and Efficiency'. Networks stakeholders to exchange ideas

Title of inspiring practice	Network "Education for Resource Conservation and Resource Efficiency" (Netzwerk, <i>Bildung für Ressourcenschonung und Ressourceneffizienz (BilRes)</i>)
Geographical area	Germany, at the national level.
Period of implementation	<p>The BilRes network was officially launched in September 2014, emerging from the BilRes project which had started in 2012.</p> <p>A second project phase followed from 2015-2019. The current third phase started in June 2019 and is expected to be institutionalised as a permanent initiative.</p>
Rationale	The network is a successful example of connecting stakeholders from several sectors of education to exchange ideas and knowledge on the topic of resource efficiency and conservation. For the field of VET, the provision of resources and teaching materials for training staff is of particular interest.
Scope of the practice	All levels of VET as well as other education sectors.
Educational level	EQF 4
Introduction and context	<p>The initiative engages a network of 620 members (status January 2022). This network is funded by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) and implemented by the Institute for Futures Studies and Technology Assessment (Institut für Zukunftsstudien und Technologiebewertung, IZT) as part of VDI Competence Centre for Resource Efficiency (VDI Zentrum Ressourceneffizienz).</p> <p>The main driver to start the network was to support the goals of national resource policy (German Resource Efficiency Programme (ProGress)) in the context of (vocational) education, which functions as a cross-cutting instrument.</p> <p>The successful initiative is in its third phase of funding. The most important goal of BilRes is the networking of as many actors as possible within and outside the education system who are critical to integrating resource education in the various areas of education (school education, vocational training, higher education, further education) as well as in politics, business, social partners and civil society.</p>
Key activities and outcomes	<p>The initiative involves the organisation of network conferences and all the events aiming at building and strengthening the network.</p> <p>Furthermore, key activities are organised to support the exchange and development of educational materials and best practices on the topic of resource conservation and efficiency for all education sectors, including VET. For example, materials on 20 training occupations were designed to support teachers in developing "raw material competence" in trainees, The 6-page leaflets can be downloaded here.</p> <p>The network also takes care of the mapping of environmental education institutions in the field of resource conservation, as well as of the development of concepts for advising environmental education institutions.</p> <p>In 2021, the BilRes network awarded for the first time as part of the "Jugend forscht" ("young researchers") regional competitions in Hesse and Berlin, the Special Award "Resource Conservation and Resource Efficiency". The special prize honours projects of</p>

	<p>pupils that contain special ideas and achievements for the careful and efficient use of raw materials.</p> <p>Finally, the network is actively engaged in the BilRes Travelling Exhibition. Under this initiative, two educational games have been developed on the basis of which pupils and vocational students can experience resource competence. The educational games are geared towards everyday action (educational game "My World – My Things") and the organisation of events (educational game "My Event – My Celebration"). They are suitable for general education from the 9th grade onwards as well as for the general subjects of vocational schools. They are also used for pedagogical training. A detailed description (in German) on these games can be found here.</p> <p>On 20 November 2019, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the German Commission for UNESCO awarded the BilRes network as an "outstanding educational initiative for sustainable development".</p>
Contacts and sources	<p>BilRes network website (in German): https://www.bilress.de/</p> <p>If you would like to learn more about the initiative, the EU-VET project team at BIBB is happy to help. Please contact us at: eu-vet@bibb.de</p>
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