

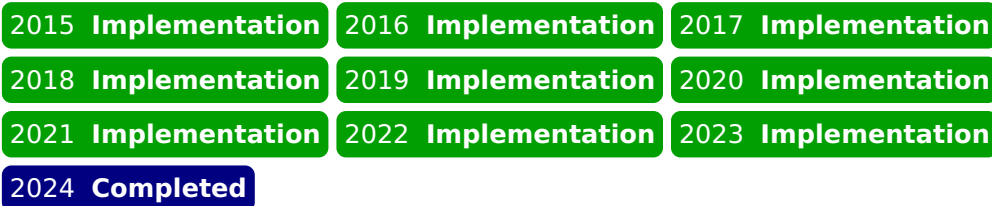
Long-term quality initiative for teacher training

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 GERMANY

Timeline



ID number 28143

Background

As a result of a joint conference in 2013, the Federal Government and the Federal States (*Länder*) agreed to launch a long-term quality initiative for teacher training.

Objectives

The quality initiative for teachers (*Qualitätsoffensive Lehrerbildung*, QLB) follows a comprehensive approach and aims to:

- (a) support teacher training from initial/pre-service training to continuing professional development;
- (b) make it more practice-oriented;
- (c) develop and adopt new teaching methods and use ICT/new media for teaching and learning;
- (d) help (future) teachers deal with heterogeneous target groups;
- (e) increase cooperation between the different actors in teacher training.

Description

The Federal Government and the Federal States (represented by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs KMK) have launched a joint programme, the Quality initiative for teacher training (*Qualitätsoffensive Lehrerbildung*, QLB), a funding competition scheme to strengthen initial teacher preparation (ITP) and raise the attractiveness of teaching. In 2014 and 2015, higher education institutions involved in teacher training were invited to submit project proposals QLB. The funding is planned until 2023.

The Federal Government allocated EUR 500 million to support the programme. During the first funding phase of the quality initiative QLB (2015-19), 49 projects at 59 universities/higher education establishments across the 16 Federal States had been

approved.

The TUB Teaching 2.0 project at the Technische Universität Berlin for example started in 2016 and is funded until 2023. It is concerned with two main topics: the accurate recruitment of heterogeneous students for the teaching profession at vocational schools and the professionalisation of these students, especially by building up competences in the field of heterogeneity-sensitive tasks. So-called cooperation labs have been developed within the framework of this project. These Ko-Labs are university didactic learning laboratories and offer a new learning environment in which students develop work- and life-world-oriented learning tasks for teaching at (vocational) schools. Current socially relevant cross-cutting issues are included in the development of the tasks. The starting point of the design process is the student's encounters with their future pupils' company-based environments.

The QLB initiative is accompanied by research and evaluated. The interim evaluation showed that while interinstitutional cooperation and interlinking theory and practice work well, there is still room for progress in digitalisation training. To tackle this, the Federal Government and the Federal States decided in June 2018 to offer additional funding for the digital training for teachers through the Quality initiative.

2015 Implementation

2016 Implementation

2017 Implementation

2018 Implementation

2019 Implementation

In May 2019, a call for proposals was launched for the QLB additional funding guideline on digitalisation.

The second funding phase for the QLB started in July 2019 and will last until end of to December 2023; it includes 48 projects at 58 establishments have been approved.

In 2019, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) published several new brochures:

- (a) *Interim results of the Quality initiative for teacher education – Initial findings from research and practice* (07/2019), a translation of the German brochure (11/2018);
- (b) *Interlocking theory and practice in teacher training* (03/2019);
- (c) several accompanying brochures *Materials and publications* (03/2019).

The KoBeg project (2019-23) is an example of QLB funded project of the second funding phase. It supports students in teacher training for vocational schools who have a heterogeneous level of previous education and provides them with different access routes to higher education. By means of a teaching/learning concept developed specifically for the introductory phase of studies, the acquisition of competences relevant to the success of studies is supported.

2020 Implementation

Since 2020, the Federal Government and the Federal States have supplemented the Quality initiative for teacher education with a new funding guideline. Funding is focused on digitalisation in teacher education and/or teacher training for vocational schools. 64 universities are involved in the 43 projects recommended for funding.

The final report of the external evaluation of the 'Quality initiative for teacher education (QLB)' published in Summer 2020 summarises the developments of the QLB programme in the first funding phase.

The BMBF website on the quality initiative in teacher education presents the special funding line for the education of VET teachers. It also features current project activities

and videos.

In 2020, the BMBF published several new brochures on teacher training: profile formation in teacher training; contributions of QLB to individual orientation, curricular development and institutional anchoring (01/2020), and an accompanying brochure entitled Materials and publications (03/2020).

2021 Implementation

In March 2021, the University of Osnabrueck hosted a virtual workshop in the framework of the QLB programme, which focused on the education of VET teachers and its challenges.

The project University & vocational school - Symbiosis for teacher training, is an example of QLB funded project. With an innovative university didactic concept, theory courses for prospective VET teachers are closely interlinked with teaching practice. They can develop competences that are specific to teaching at vocational schools - e.g. with regard to material content, but also to language support in all subjects and the use of digital media typical for teaching at vocational schools. The first project implementation report was published in March 2021. The dynamics of the QLB programme contribute to bringing different actors in teacher education into dialogue with each other. Since March 2020, a total of 91 projects from 72 teacher training universities throughout Germany have been included in the programme funding. In November 2021, the projects leaders came together with other decision-makers and designers of teacher education at the 3rd QLB programme congress.

The 2021 report of the QLB programme evaluation focused on strategies of the funded projects for sustainability and transfer.

2022 Implementation

In April 2022, the BMBF published an English summary of the QLB programme brochure *Milestones in teacher education* (German brochure published 11/2021), including a chapter on strengthening teacher education for vocational schools.

There is a considerable shortage of teachers at vocational schools, especially in the industrial-technical sector. QLB funded projects are addressing this with innovative concepts: ways are being tested to attract new target groups for vocational teacher training and to enable side entry through high quality further training programmes.

The project Edu 4.0 - *Teacher training for a culture of digital transformation at grammar and vocational schools* is an example of QLB funded project. Its aim is the interdisciplinary development of structures, offers and measures at the University of Konstanz to promote digital competences of student (VET) teachers. The second implementation report was published in April 2022. Under the motto *Shaping future perspectives through transfer and sustainability*, the third network conference of the *Quality initiative for teacher training* took place in Leipzig in October 2022. The film clip *Climate, Environment, Sustainability* was shown for the first time at the conference. It shows concepts for training future teachers of all disciplines on topics of environmental protection and sustainability in the classroom.

The 2022 annual report of the QLB programme focused on approaches for increasing the recognition and autonomy of teacher training at universities and in the scientific community.

2023 Implementation

In 2023, final events took place in many projects during this last funding year, with an outlook on future activities. Many projects were able to publish publications or present innovations. These can be found on the QLB-homepage, such as:

- (a) an anthology on educational technologies (EdTech) in vocational training and further education was published, as part of the project for teacher training at

- vocational schools;
- (b) the Cooperative Liberal Laboratory was opened (CoLiLab), which is accessible to teacher training students from all subject areas and offers access to digital and analogue tools for developing innovative teaching and learning formats. In addition to a support structure, the work is based on collaboration and interdisciplinarity.

After completion of the funding programme, the effects were summarised in the brochure published by the BMBF in English entitled *Qualitätsoffensive Lehrerbildung - A look back, a look ahead* (12/2023).

In order to make the potential for reforms in teacher training available even after the funding period, recommendations were made on how teacher training can be strengthened in the future. In its master plan for Reforming teacher training, the *Stifterverband* has published 75 measures for reforming teacher training studies.

The QLB initiative concluded at the end of 2023.

2024 Completed

After the funding programme has ended, the QLB-homepage remained still active in 2024. It contains updated information on the resonances of the QLB, but also on publications, networks, tools, curricular developments and teaching-learning laboratories, as well as the latest developments. Among other things, a new online portal for teaching materials and research contributions for the further training of teachers has been launched and further publications on the projects have been published.

A total of 20 funded projects throughout Germany were relevant to the training of vocational schoolteachers. Since 2020, thirteen projects on vocational teaching and four projects on digitalisation and vocational teaching were funded. Information and the final reports on these projects have been published in 2024.

After completion of the QLB, the need to further strengthen teacher training was recognised. For example, there is a need for discussion regarding the financing and responsibilities of future support measures, but also regarding the institutional framework conditions and requirements. In view of the shortage of teachers, some are in favour of continued federal involvement, whereas teacher training is the responsibility of the respective federal states.

During the project period, various QLB university locations joined together to form networks on the fields of action and on topics that went beyond them. The network initiative *Sustainable institutionalisation of teacher education* advocates the creation of a cross-phase, cross-state and cross-disciplinary institutionalised space for discourse in which participants from all phases of teacher education can exchange ideas. A coordinated strategy paper for the possible establishment of an alliance for teacher education was developed as part of QLB. It remains to be seen to what extent these impulses will be implemented in exchange with policymakers.

Bodies responsible

- Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) (until 2025)
- Federal States (Länder)
- Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (KMK)

Target group

Education professionals

Teachers

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Acquiring key competences

Teachers, trainers and school leaders competences

Systematic approaches to and opportunities for initial and continuous professional development of school leaders, teachers and trainers

Attractiveness of the teaching and training profession/career

Supporting teachers and trainers for and through digital

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[BMBF web portal Quality initiative for teacher education \(Qualitativoffensive Lehrerbildung QLB\)](#)

[BMBF brochure in English 'Quality Initiative for Teacher Training' - A look back, a look ahead' \(12/2023\)](#)

[Master plan for the REORGANISATION OF TEACHER TRAINING. 75 measures for the teacher training of the future](#)

[A QLB review from an scientific perspective](#)

[Dossier on teacher training for VET schools on QLB portal](#)

[Anthology 'Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality and Serious Games as Educational Technologies in Vocational Education and Training'](#)

[Initiative 'Sustainable Institutionalisation of Teacher Education'](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Qualifying trainers for the future world of VET

Since 2015, BIBB has funded eighteen 'VET for sustainable development' projects (BBNE). They experimented and evaluated relevant curriculum concepts, digital teaching, learning materials and examination questions on green skills for initial and continuing VET, e.g.

 GERMANY

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

CVET

2025 Implementation

Digital education and upskilling of VET teachers

Under its *Digital pact for schools* programme (2019-24), the Federal Government aims to fund the digital infrastructure in all German schools, including vocational schools, to promote the uptake of digital skills.

 GERMANY

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Alliance for initial and further training

The 2015-18 Alliance for initial and further training was agreed between the Federal Government, Federal States, business and industry, the unions and the Federal Employment Agency at the end of 2014.

 GERMANY

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Long-term quality initiative for teacher training: Germany. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2025 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28143>