

Information on the Initiative of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology „Fit for the Knowledge Competition“

Within the framework of the action programme of the federal government „iD2010 – Information Society Germany 2010“, fields of activities are addressed which shall improve economic and technical general conditions in vital issues of information society. One field of activity is the consolidation of knowledge management in small and medium-sized businesses. Today knowledge is a central decision parameter for businesses. The knowledge-oriented corporate management is an indispensable foundation for the assurance of the innovation and competition capabilities of German enterprises.

In the last few years the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (*Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Technologie* (BMWi)) conducted the initiatives „*WissensMedia*“ (Knowledge Media) and "*Fit für den Wissenswettbewerb*" („Fit for the Knowledge Competition“) to support small and middle-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Until 2007 "*WissensMedia*" assisted the development and testing of new technologies on knowledge management in SMEs and in public administration in seven projects. In contrast the initiative „Fit for the Knowledge Competition“ has been realising tested concepts and methods in SMEs since 2002. In selected model projects the opportunities to apply knowledge management concepts and systems are currently being demonstrated in medium-sized businesses and crafts enterprises. As knowledge management is widely acknowledged as an important issue in medium-sized businesses, the experiences with the supported approaches and solutions to knowledge management are communicated and published through different transfer channels.

The central information platform of the „Fit“ initiative can be found on the website www.wissenmanagen.net. Current and finalised projects and ongoing events open to interested parties are covered here. The tool kit offers some first assistance to the topic knowledge management (e.g. guidelines, contact persons, publications). The offer serves as an introduction to the subject and search for competent contact persons for interested and users.

Goals of the „Fit“ initiative:

- Strengthen knowledge management in medium-sized businesses
- Publicize good examples and experiences with knowledge management
- Enable businesses the exchange of experiences
- Provide devices for practice
- Link experts and users
- Establish transparency on the offers from the projects

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