

## Getting entrepreneurial spirit into our schools

**The most important places for learning - including learning about business - are schools. They are educating tomorrow's entrepreneurs. The Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy therefore encourages schools to create space and attention for business themes in classroom teaching. The aim is to lead school students towards business life as early as possible. The website „Gründung in school“ provides examples and encourages people to venture into business.**

### **Support in the classroom**

It is still rare to find business studies taught at German schools. But it is important for school students to learn how to think and act like an entrepreneur, no matter whether they go into business or not in later life.

To help teachers integrate business theory and practice into their classes in a stimulating way, the website offers information on projects and contact points, materials, and online training courses. Also, the Economic Affairs Ministry has developed practical teaching aids. The information and materials provide ideas for classroom teaching and entrepreneurship projects. For example, the website sets up contacts with business people, e.g. in business plan games like *business@school* or *school bankers*. Another practical classroom project could be to have school students set up companies and develop business ideas.

### **Information, games and projects for school students**

School students themselves can use the “Gründung in school” platform to work on business topics. The site has a dedicated section for young people. It offers specially prepared information as well as business projects for school students to help them approach business topics in an entertaining way. A special highlight here is the Student-Business-Award, in which prizes go to the best business projects by school students in Germany, Austria, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

### **The group of initiatives**

A large number of initiatives has been brought together under the umbrella of the Economic Affairs Ministry. The group of initiatives entitled “Gründung in school” consists of a number of projects and initiatives:

Bankenverband, Bildungswerk der Bayerischen Wirtschaft (bbw-Gruppe), BUSINESS@SCHOOL - A BCG INITIATIVE, Deutsche Kinder- und Jugendstiftung GmbH, Deutscher Gründerpreis für Schüler:innen, Genoverband e.V., Futurepreneur e.V., Hans Lindner Stiftung, Initiative FRAUEN unternehmen, IW JUNIOR (Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft JUNIOR gGmbH), JUGEND GRÜNDET, kobra.net, NFTE Deutschland e.V., RKW Kompetenzzentrum, SCHULEWIRTSCHAFT Bayern, Start-up BW Young Talents, Stiftung Bildung, Technische Universität Dortmund, Wissensfabrik - Unternehmen für Deutschland e.V., Wirtschaftsjuvenoren Deutschland IWJB gGmbH, cooperatives of school students.

The members of this group of initiatives aim to strengthen the culture of entrepreneurship in Germany and safeguard it for the future. To this end, they foster and develop entrepreneurial thinking and acting. Young people are particularly receptive to new ideas, and want to make their ideas happen. Gründung in school provides a platform for this.

The initiatives help teachers by

- organising and managing competitions between school students, companies set up by school students and other business-related projects,
- setting up contacts with the business community,
- providing extra classroom materials,
- organising talks and excursions.

The school students are encouraged

- to be bold and creative, to learn about their own interests and abilities,
- to develop and build social skills,
- to assume responsibility in companies of school students,
- to discover how business works in an exciting way,
- to try out their own business ideas.

The Gründung in school initiative does not aim to make as many school students as possible feel that they ought to set up their own company in later life. Rather, the aim is to foster creativity, responsibility and social skills. Learning by doing.

[www.gruendunginschool.de](http://www.gruendunginschool.de)