



## **Description of the Vocational Advancement Service**

The Vocational Advancement Service of the Association of Construction Industry of Berlin – Brandenburg was founded on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November in 1990 as a non – profit organization. The proclaimed goal of the Vocational Advancement Service is the first vocational education and the further education in the construction industry.

Since 2002 it has been certified according to DIN ISO 9001 : 2000 and since it has been certified according to PAS 1037: 2004 (QM for business – friendly first vocational education and further education).

The Vocational Advancement Service operates three Vocational Training Centres in the Federal State of Brandenburg for supplementary and external vocational training, further education, retraining and engages in numerous other educational activities.

The Vocational Training Centres of the Vocational Advancement Service are permitted as places of vocational education by the Social Department of the construction industry and therefore they have the permission of the management and trade unions of construction industry.

The Vocational Advancement Service is a provider of educational services for the construction industry, the building trades and the federal labour agency.

Thanks to generous subsidies from the German Federal Government and the Federal State of Brandenburg it was possible to establish three new apprentice construction sites in Frankfurt (Oder) in 1995, in Brandenburg (Havel) in 1990 and in Cottbus. The Vocational Advancement Service maintains 700 apprenticeship places at present. Hostels are provided as accommodation for students.

The Vocational Training Centres have developed into centres of excellence. The main areas of focus for the individual locations are, inter alia

### **Vocational Training Centre Brandenburg:**

foundation, trench and ground engineering; pipeline Construction; water – well construction; equipment, tool and machine operation; thermal, cold and Sound insulation fitting

### **Vocational Training Centre Frankfurt (Oder):**

restoration and monument conservation; timber construction; concrete construction and restoration: building preservation

### **Vocational Training Centre Cottbus:**

sustainable (environmentally sound) construction

In particular, the following trades can be learned at the Vocational Advancement Service: structural engineering; construction and conversion; civil engineering; masonry; concrete and reinforced concrete construction; carpentry; plaster, tile, paving and mosaic artistry; screed floor installation; dry wall assembly; road construction; sewer construction; pipeline construction; water – well construction; foundation, trench and ground engineering; cabinet making; road maintenance; office administration; construction equipment, tool and machine operation; thermal and noise insulation engineering; home economics.

In extended vocational training, courses are offered for those wishing to train as an assistant foreman, foreman or master craftsman for trades in structural engineering, construction and conversion as well as



civil engineering. Additionally, schemes for those wishing to train as a restorer in various sectors of the construction industry are offered.

Continuing education courses are offered for managers and employees in the technical and commercial sectors of construction industry.

All Vocational Training Centres of the Vocational Advancement Service cooperate closely with industry, the relevant chambers of industry and commerce, secondary school training centres, colleges and universities, industrial associations as well as the relevant industry committees, municipal and regional authorities, the federal Labor Agency, trainee organizations, etc. Tasks carried out jointly with our partners are set out in cooperation agreements. The Vocational Training Centres work actively in both local and nationwide networks.

The Vocational Training Institute maintains close contacts with the relevant ministries of the Federal State of Brandenburg. Staff of the Vocational Advancement Service also sit on the committees of the relevant federal ministries and federal industry associations.

All Vocational Training Centres serve as certified examination locations for the chambers of industry and commerce for first vocational education and also for further education.

The Vocational Advancement Service regularly involves its students and those who have successfully completed its courses in vocational benchmark tests in Brandenburg and nationwide. In recent years, former students have participated and achieved some top and first places in the national benchmark tests of the umbrella organization of construction industry. In 2004, the annual national benchmark tests were held at the Vocational Training Centre in Frankfurt (Oder). Apprentices also regularly take part in European youth exchanges.

International guests from European, Asian and African countries have visited the Vocational Training Centres of the Vocational Advancement Service for study purposes in the past few years. The Vocational Advancement Service offers educational services for foreign students and managers. Educational experts as well as instructors of vocational theory and practice from foreign countries (Central and Eastern Europe, China, Guinea, Ghana, Mongolia, Nigeria, Egypt) have studied here and acquired additional qualifications.

Employees of the Vocational Advancement Service have also recently acted as interim experts in , among other places, China, Russia, Egypt, Belarus, Iran, Kyrgyzstan and Latvia.

The Vocational Advancement Service took part in the “Mega –City – Project” of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research thanks to its experience in the field of education and training in construction industry.

The Vocational Advancement Service is currently collaborating on the development of modern vocational training programs for building trades in Egypt.

Over the past few years, the 85 full-time employees of the Vocational Advancement Service have gained a great deal of experience in apprenticeship training as well as in adult education and training of foreign specialists.