Publisher

The dual system of initial vocational education and training (VET) and company-based continuing vocational education and training gives the German VET system its particular shape. The central governmental institution is the Federal Institute of Vocational Education and Training (BIBB). BIBB has maintained a strong tradition of survey-based research since the 1970’s and implements the collection of individual and firm-level VET data.

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In 2008, BIBB complied with the German Commission on the Improvement of the Informational Infrastructure by founding a Research Data Centre to provide researchers with standardised access to BIBB-microdata. The BIBB-FDZ forms part of the data infrastructure of the German Council for Social and Economic Data (RatSWD) and operates in alignment with the Council’s criteria. The BIBB-FDZ offers several services for researchers:

- Standard access to well prepared firm- and individual-level data on the attainment and use of vocational education and training
- Documentation of these data sets, i.e. a description of their central characteristics, main issues and variables, data collection, anonymisation, weighting and recoding etc.
- Advisory service on data choice, access and handling of the data, as well as on research potential, the scope and validity of the data
- Supply of a range of data tools such as standard measures and classifications in the fields of education, occupations, industries and regions (if possible also including cross-national fields), formally anonymous data for Remote Data Access, or references to publications with the data
- Assistance and support for visiting researchers at BIBB-FDZ in Bonn

The BIBB-FDZ was founded in April 2008. Our main activities include the documentation and preparation of German language BIBB-microdata. Some English language information and documents are available on the English version of our website at www.bibb-fdz.de. If you are interested in analysing BIBB-microdata, please do not hesitate to send your request directly to fdz@bibb.de.

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Data Access

Access to BIBB microdata is governed by the regulations of German Data Protection Law (§ 40). Researchers can access the data via Off-site Use as Scientific-Use Files, Remote Data Access and On-site Use. Each type of data access corresponds with different levels of data confidentiality and requires formal application. Our website contains download links to the application forms.

Scientific-Use-Files

Factually anonymous versions of the data sets are available for Off-site Use as Scientific Use Files (SUF). All these data sets can be ordered from BIBB-FDZ or from GESIS – Leibniz Institute for Social Sciences.

Remote Data Access

More sensitive and less anonymous versions of the data as well as all kind of firm-level data can be analyzed via Remote Data Access and / or via On-site Use.

Remote Data Access requires that researchers use the test data available at our website to develop executable syntax-files (in Stata or SPSS) and send them to the BIBB-FDZ. We apply the programs to the original data, verify the analyses’ compliance with the data protection legislation, and send you back the results. All data sets are available via Remote Data Access.

On-site Use at BIBB-FDZ in Bonn, Germany

For data access via On-site Use, BIBB-FDZ provides separate safe workplaces for guest researchers at BIBB in Bonn.

Standardised access to the data set is only available for the purposes of non-commercial empirical research.

Selected microdata available at BIBB-FDZ

(By January 2012)

School

**BIBB Student Survey on Occupational Titles 2005:**
Cross-sectional survey of school leavers on occupational titles and the effects of these on young people’s occupational choices.

**„First transition“**

**BIBB School Graduate Surveys 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008:**
Representative cross-sectional surveys of German school leavers’ occupational prospects, preferences and choices.

**BIBB Transition Survey 2006:**
Representative German youth cross-section 2006 on the 1982 to 1988 born cohort's educational and occupational attainment process.

**Initial VET**

**BIBB Surveys on Costs and Benefits of Apprenticeship Training for Firms 2000, 2007:**
Representative firm level cross-sections on costs and benefits of apprenticeship training in German firms.

**BIBB Survey on Design and Implementation of Vocational Training the Firms Perspective on 2008:**
A representative cross-sectional survey on the design, procedure, basic conditions and quality criteria of vocational training in German firms.

**BIBB Survey Vocational Training from the Trainees Point of View 2008:**
A representative cross-sectional survey of apprentices on quality criteria of vocational training, their relevance for the apprentices and difficulties during vocational education and training (VET).

**BIBB Firm and Chamber Survey on the Stay of the „Ausbildungseignerverordnung“ 2007**
A firm and chamber survey on the stay of the regulations on the German Trainer Aptritude.

Online survey (access-panel) of vocational education and training experts on current issues of vocational training in 2005 and 2007.

Work and Employment

**BIBB/BaUA Employment Survey 2006:**
A representative employment survey of the working population on qualification and working conditions in Germany 2005/2006.

Continuing Education

**Monitoring Continuing Education 2007-2010:**
Annual online access-panel of German firms providing adult education on current trends in the field.

Data Documentation

**BIBB-FDZ services for microdata**

Our website contains download links to data-related documents:

- BIBB-FDZ Daten- und Methodenberichte (with details on data collection, variables, data preparation etc.)
- Questionnaires
- Test data (for Remote Data Access)
- Publications referring to BIBB data
- Application forms for data

**BIBB-FDZ metadata system**

The BIBB-FDZ is developing an online metadata system including content and variable related metadata and national and international classifications that can be applied to the data. Classifications cover occupations, branches, socio-demographic variables, and regions.

**BIBB has a strong tradition of survey-based research.**
It initiates and realises the collection of individual and firm-level data on crucial positions and transitions in the education and labour market system.

The BIBB-FDZ covers a variety of data deploying different units of analysis and temporal designs and focusing on various thematic issues. The upcoming portal structures data-related information at a meta-level and provides researchers with search tools for this metadata.