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Presentation of the Berlin Database for Continuing Education (www.wdb-berlin.de)

Berlin, 25 October 2012

The Berlin Database for Continuing Education is an integral part of the Berlin Senate labour market policy. Its task is to create transparency on the education market in the region. The relevant target groups include training seekers, enterprises which care for the training of their employees, education providers as well as trainers and counseling points. In addition the database provides a lot of information on the subject of education in Berlin.

The database can be used to find training courses, offers for initial and retraining in almost all professions. The interactive tools help to determine the education needs of the individual or the company as well as find funding programs for financing the different courses. The database contains about 20000 entries from about 900 education providers.

The search portal (www.wdb-suchportal.de) contains courses from both the Berlin and Brandenburg databases, because the markets of the two neighbouring regions are merging. About 20 % of the courses offer language learning as a subject. About one third of them are dedicated to the German language. There are German courses for native speakers as well as for so called people with a migration background. English is the most common foreign language in offer, which is reflected in the database. To look for a suitable course one simply needs to enter the post-code, the region where the course should take place and as a search word the relevant language, e.g. “English”.

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When making a full text search (post-code: 10178, region: Berlin, exact search word: English) 881 offers are found. The full text search finds courses which may contain other different subjects but also include English.

A full text search for different languages in Berlin brings different results:

Language (full text)		Number of courses found
Deutsch	German	over 1000
Englisch	English	881
Französisch	French	74
Spanisch	Spanish	145
Russisch	Russian	34
Türkisch	Turkish	32
Chinesisch	Chinese	53

If you look for the same languages, but only in the titles of the courses your search will produce more target-oriented results.

Language (search only in title of course)		Number of found course
Deutsch	German	355
Englisch	English	291
Französisch	French	48
Spanisch	Spanish	79
Russisch	Russian	16
Türkisch	Turkish	15
Chinesisch	Chinese	18

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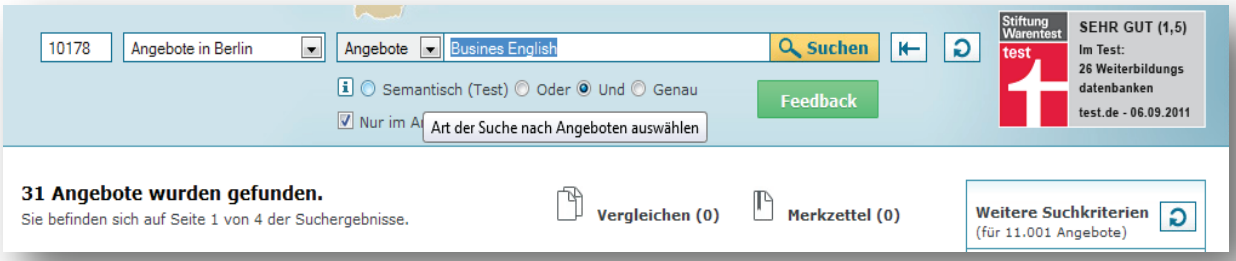
By specifying special individual needs by adding additional keywords such as business or tourism the results are narrowed down considerably. If you search for “Business” “English”, only in the titles, you get 31 results.



One can search for a language based profession, e.g. “Fremdsprachenkorrespondent” (foreign language correspondent). With this

keyword you will get 15 results (full text search) or 8 results (title search) in the Berlin region.

There are also additional search criteria, for instance: funding, the quality of courses and the degree of certification. For example “English (and) LCCI” (LCCI = examination by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry.) in Berlin produces 91 results.

A search for “Englisch” and Förderung “Arbeitsagentur” (100 % funding by the unemployment agency) in Berlin produces 695 results.

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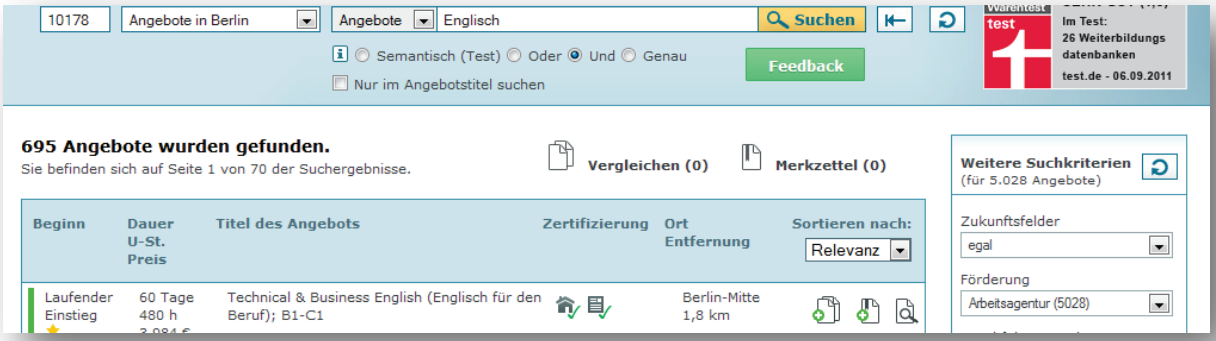
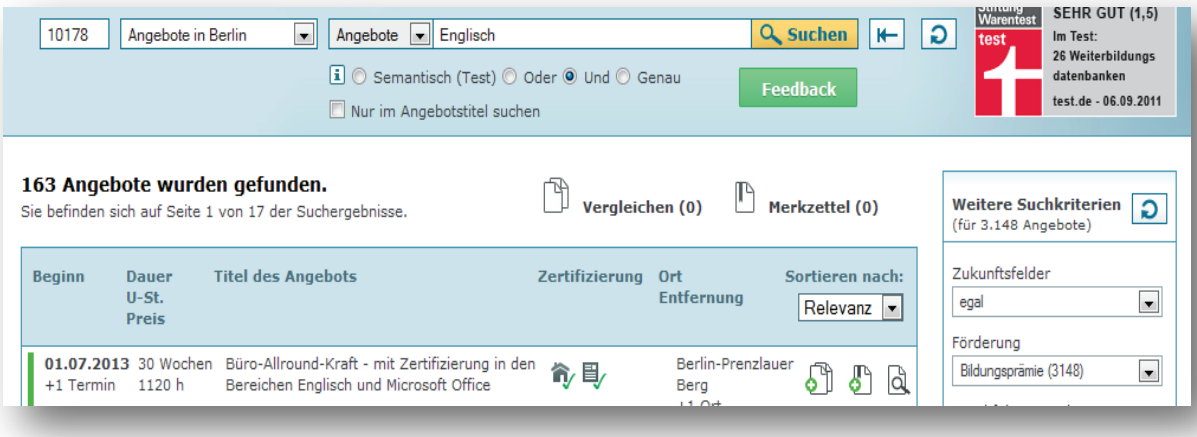


The Berlin database is also a counseling point for the "Continuing Education Grant" (Bildungsprämie).

The Continuing Education Grant was introduced to enable more people (employed or self-employed) to improve their job opportunities through continuing education – particularly those people who in the past have found it difficult to foot the cost of further training due to their limited income.

With the grant voucher, the Federal Government covers 50% of the cost of continuing education up to a maximum of 500 Euros. The process for the grant application involves providing the necessary documents indicating the eligibility for a grant at an individual counseling session. At the end of the session a voucher can be issued. The individual can then submit the voucher when registering with an education provider and will receive a reduced bill.

A search using the keywords "Englisch" and Förderung "Bildungsprämie" in Berlin produces 163 results.



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The database is funded by the Senate of Berlin and the European Social Fund. The database is run by EUROPUBLIC GmbH which is a subsidiary of EUROPANORAT Schulung Training Management Consulting GmbH in Berlin.