



PROJEKTFABRIK and the JobAct® Programme

A theatrical and work placement programme tackling youth unemployment in Germany.



Organisation Overview:

PROJEKTFABRIK is an independent educational organisation based in Witten, Germany with the aim of battling the problem of long-term youth unemployment across Germany, and with plans to expand throughout Europe. JobAct is a program developed by PROJEKTFABRIK which seeks to empower young people and develop practical skills for the workplace through a two stage combination of theatre work and training, followed by a 5-10 month work placement. JobAct is targeted specifically at long term unemployed young people with the ultimate aim of increasing their prospects of achieving permanent employment.

The programme is based on a three block educational method where participants learn (1) professional skills, (2) social skills and (3) creativity and self confidence. The challenge of each programme is for the group of young people to produce a play from start to finish, through which they not only develop the practical skills required (stage design, lighting, costume, marketing and PR), but also social and creative skills through performing and working as a team. Each participant finishes the programme with a work placement at a potential future employer.

Need:

Youth unemployment is a major problem not just in Germany, but throughout western Europe. PROJEKTFABRIK has expanded JobAct in the last three years to operate throughout Germany and has plans to expand the programme into other countries in Europe with similar youth unemployment problems.

Solution:

Through the JobAct programme, PROJEKTFABRIK is able to develop participants' key practical and social skills to enable them to enter permanent employment.

Benefit:

PROJEKTFABRIK ran 32 JobAct projects in 2010/11 with over 50% of JobAct participants achieving employment following the programme. To date over 2000 participants have completed the JobAct programme.

“The financial and administrative support that we have received from PEF has been instrumental in the transformation of ProjektFabrik into an award winning national organisation, creating opportunities for unemployed young people throughout Germany”

Simon Rieser, CFO, ProjektFabrik



“Through JobAct I became more sensitive for myself and for others. I started training my body again and I became much more self confident than before. Because of the work with the ensemble, I learned to listen to other people and to handle group situations.

All this will helped me with my upcoming job.“

(JobAct participant Konstanz, 2011)

Support received from PEF:

In August 2009 PEF entered into a 3 year funding partnership with PROJEKTFABRIK, during which time the number of projects has expanded steadily and the programme itself has been re-organised into a more professional and efficient organisation:

- 29 projects in 09/10, increasing to 32 in 10/11 with 38 projects in progress this year so far.
- The number of full-time members of staff at the Witten headquarters has grown in the last year from 10 to 15, with approximately 50 freelance staff across Germany.
- In October 2010 a COO was appointed to improve the internal leadership structure and the accounting and book keeping processes have been improved and a full-time chief accountant appointed in May 2011.

The expansion and organisational consolidation mentioned above have been made possible by the PEF grant in addition to the organisational support that the PEF has been able to provide.

Another huge benefit that PROJEKTFABRIK has gained from their partnership with PEF is through the introduction by PEF of the J.P Morgan Chase Foundation to PROJEKTFABRIK. In 2010 PEF introduced and helped to organise a funding partnership between PROJEKTFABRIK and J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation. Under this partnership J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation committed to a donation of EUR 2.5m over a three year period, which amounts to the largest donation by the bank outside of the US.

As well as increasing the number of projects and scale of the JobAct organisation, during the period of PEF's funding Partnership, PROJEKTFABRIK has received a number of awards and national recognition in Germany, including the Federal Cross of Merit awarded to the founder Sandra Schürmann in December 2010 and the institution of an Ashoka fellowship in 2009.

With the financial and organisational support given by PEF and the financial commitment made by J.P Morgan, the JobAct programme has been able to operate throughout Germany and will now be able to expand the programme into other countries in Europe.

Contact & More information

For more information about this or other projects supported by the Private Equity Foundation please visit our website at: www.privateequityfoundation.org or email us at: info@privateequityfoundation.org