

IAB-Colloquium

zur Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschung

Déjà Vu? Short-Term Training in Germany 1980 - 1992 and 2000 - 2003

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The study is part of the two projects "On the effectiveness of further training programs. An evaluation based on register data provided by the Institute for Employment Research" and "Employment effects of further training programs 2000 - 2002 – An evaluation based on register data provided by the Institute for Employment Research". These projects are joint with the Swiss Institute for International Economics and Applied Economic Research at the University of St. Gallen (SIAW) and the Institute for Employment Research (IAB).

Short-term training has recently become the largest active labor market program in Germany regarding the number of participants. Little is known on the effectiveness of different types of short-term training and on their long-run effects. We estimate the effects of short-term training programs in West Germany starting in the time period 1980 to 1992 and 2000 to 2003 regarding the two outcomes employment and participation in longer training programs. We find that short-term training shows mostly persistently positive and often significant employment effects. Short-term training focusing on testing and monitoring search effort shows slightly smaller effects compared to the pure training variant. The lock-in periods lasted longer in the 1980s and 1990s compared to the early 2000s. Short-term training results in higher future participation in longer training programs and this effect was much stronger for the earlier time period.

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