



Erbil, 18.02.2009

Attention: H O L D B A C K until, 18 Feb 2009, 3 p.m. local time

Press kit

On the occasion of the grand opening of the ETTC Erbil (European Technology and Training Center) by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, 18 February 2009

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1. The European Technology and Training Center (ETTC) and its responsible organization AGEF gGmbH

Since 2005 the Association of Experts in the Fields of Migration and Development Cooperation (AGEF gGmbH) has got involved with reintegration and employment projects in Iraq, and in the Iraqi-Kurdish region in particular. The programme "Return to Employment in Iraq" (REI) is funded by several European nations and links several respective non-governmental organizations with each other within the project of „Integrated return management“. In addition to the target group of returnees from Europe there have quickly developed activities for local job applicants and capacity building measures for Iraqi authorities and ministries, too. Those activities and measures have mainly been supported by the Danish and the British governments.

Increasing challenges called for a building complete with modern equipment and sufficient for qualification, training and further education.

On February 28, 2008 the German ambassador in Iraq and the Minister for Education of the Iraqi-Kurdish region jointly laid the foundation stone for the "European Technology and Training Center Erbil" which has been inaugurated by the German Minister of Foreign Affairs, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, on the occasion of his visit on February 18, 2009.

The municipality of Erbil supports the project allocating the real estate for the period of twenty years. After the expiration of that time limit the municipality will continue using and managing the whole property.

The construction of the project will be executed as a construction site used for the vocational training of returnees and local job applicants funded by own resources of AGEF and by donations of – for example – the Daimler AG. The own resources will be earned by the vocational training of people for individual companies which pay for it and the respective own resources earned will be locally reinvested.

On the one hand, the ETTC shall document the way European countries (Germany, Great Britain, Denmark, Sweden) get involved with the civil fields of activities in the IKR. At the same time it shall improve the chances for returnees from Europe who will get prepared and trained here for a job in their home country. It shall also be a symbol showing that European companies become active in Iraq. A future focus of the activities of the ETTC will lie on a

variety of training and qualification measures for Iraqi decision-makers from ministries and public authorities. With this project the ETTC is also representing German initiatives and German commitment.

The ETTC consists of three complexes:

- A) **The main building** will be used for capacity building measures und trainings in fields such as IT qualification, language courses (for German and English, too), management training. There will be events on individual companies' or special topics taking place in the conference area (for example the 1st Health Forum Erbil in May 2009).

In the main building there are – in addition to conference rooms, six seminar rooms and a computer lab - also special rooms for counseling meetings with local job applicants and returnees. Moreover, there are offices for the administration of the activities in Iraq.

- B) **Vocational training facilities**

In addition to the rooms for the basic practical training of future car mechanics in the German Automotive Academy (GAA) Erbil which will be executed as a joint project in cooperation with the Daimler AG there will be workshops set up for welding technology, solar technology and for metalworking. Moreover, there are rooms planned for the theory lessons related to the individual professions. The construction of the building will be subsidized by the British government and the facility will start operations in June 2009.

- C) A **pavilion for exhibitions** is just being designed in order to create exhibition areas for companies but for artists, too.

AGEF is a non-profit GmbH, active since 1992 which has got its head office in Berlin.

AGEF is specialized in the execution of projects supporting employment and reintegration programmes in post-conflict countries. Measures and projects focusing on capacity building in those countries are part of the range of performances as well as projects on the prevention of terror and drugs (for more information see also www.agef.net).

2. Projects at the ETTC

In addition to the training and qualification measures for senior management and executives from Iraqi ministries the execution of the programme REI (Return to Employment in Iraq) is in the centre of the activities of the ETTC. By order of the ministries of five countries of the European Community the returnees from those countries will be integrated in the local labour market. As many of these people do not have a sufficient professional qualification the vocational training centre set up at the ETTC and funded by the British government is an important contribution. Many inhabitants of the region suffer from a lack of qualification, too. People who are well qualified are an important precondition considering the integration in the market and the economic relations to European countries and the EETC can make an important contribution to it. The vocational training centre is to start operations in June 2009.

If you go along the Nawroz street to the ETTC the design of the external wall immediately catches your eye. It was a joint project of AGEF/ ETTC and the Erbil Academy of Arts executed in January 2009. The German painter and graphic artist Uwe Mücklauch executed the works in cooperation with students from the academy. (*please see also page 13*). This cooperation is planned to be continued in 2009 by means of competitions and design works to the buildings of the academy as well as of the ETTC. Thus a joint workshop of German and Iraqi metal designers will take place in the course of the metalwork training in the vocational training centre in March and April.

3. Peacekeeping measures and measures to overcome conflicts by training courses for senior management and executives in Iraq

The project started on February 1 of this year and is subsidized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

By means of training and further qualification courses for senior managers and executives in Iraqi ministries and authorities as well as in the regional administrations and authorities e.g. in Iraqi-Kurdistan their skills will be improved in order to be better up to the different professional requirements they face, to fulfill their tasks and mandates in a responsible way and in accordance with good governance and to be able to confidently and competently act both, internally and externally.

By the composition of the groups in several selected seminars which both, ministry executives from Bagdad and from Kurdistan attend there will be a level of experience and understanding created between government representatives. During the opening event taking place from February 17 to February 19, 2009 the first training course for senior managers and executives will start simultaneously.

Dr. Ingo Risch, Chief Judge at the County Court in Duesseldorf will bring his long-time professional experiences along gained from both, the German legal system and his work as UN judge in the Kosovo area. In the past years he was also responsible for several similar projects in Central Asia. The attendant judges come from both, Bagdad and Kurdistan.

The expert knowledge imparted and the access to information will improve the executives' capacity to act and the legal certainty of the administrative system in general. Imparting the know how and methods to overcome conflicts on different levels is an important contribution to good governance.

Based on an analysis of needs executed in 2006 and a research done in 2008 a programme of further education and qualification is offered which is geared to the needs and the target set. About 1,200 executives from ministries and public institutions are to attend this programme. The planned programme - sub-programmes of which are just starting - includes:

- 12 Full-time courses which take four weeks
- 20 Extra-occupational courses which take six to eight weeks

- 10 Language courses (extra-occupational)
- 10 Courses on information technologies (IT)
- 8 Special courses (e.g. training for judges)

The Ministry for Planning and Development of the Iraqi-Kurdish government acts as a partner for the training courses for the senior managers and executives. This ministry has been put in charge of the matter of further qualification courses for the member of staff of the ministries. The cooperation is set by a memorandum of understanding. An advisory board will be set up including the different ministries. These measures shall guarantee that the training and further qualification measures meet the needs of the parties involved as well as their requirements related to the qualifications needed. The need is huge and the list of the subjects to be dealt with means a lot of work for several years.

On top of the list of the subjects asked for there is the appropriate and legally binding procurement management for public institutions and ministries (e.g. in the health system jointly with the Ministry of Health in Erbil).

Overview on training Subjects

1. Public procurement

- Tenders:
- Procurement and tendering procedures
 - EU rules for procurement

2. Management training for senior managers from ministries and administrations

- Tasks, structure and protagonists of the Civil Service
- Basics of the administrative organization
- Senior managers and personnel management (HR management)
- Introduction to quality management, monitoring and evaluating systems
- Administrative action
- Organizing structures and procedures in the Civil Service
- Presentation and communicative skills
- Event management
- Communication and public relations (PR)

3. Communication training

PR, press relations, communicative skills for senior managers

- 4. Judges, public attorneys, lawyers**
Detailed planning with Max-Planck-Institute
- 5. Team management**
HR development and team building
HR management tools
- 6. Budget and finances**
 - Budgets and financial management
 - Organization and procedures in public funds
 - Budget management and budget control
 - Basics of the administrative organization
 - Presentation and communicative skills
 - Project management
- 7. Management methods**
 - Feasibility studies
 - Project development
 - Project management
- 8. Quality management**
 - Quality standards
 - Quality assurance (QA)
- 9. Marketing methods**
- 10. Methods of data ascertainment**
 - Development and contracting of studies and surveys
 - Basic concepts of statistical methods
 - Analysis and interpretation of the results
- 11. Basic training** (full time training and extra-occupational training)
Topics required:
 - Office Management: basics, advanced
 - Computer: Windows, Office, Excel, PowerPoint, Internet, Administration of small networks, Database, homepage design
 - Language training: English, basic, advanced, business – German if required

4. The vocational training of car mechanics at the German Automotive Academy Erbil – a joint project with the Daimler AG

The ETTC in Erbil, Iraqi Kurdistan region, as an institution of the Association of Experts in the Fields of Migration and Development Cooperation also starts its task as a training centre for the vocational education on February 18, 2009. The practical training will begin in May 2009.

Vocational training and further qualification is offered by means of modules in the professional fields of car mechanics, metalworking, sanitary installation, electrical installation and solar technologies. It is also put into practice as a Public Private Partnership Initiative in cooperation with several private companies.

The opening of a course on car mechanics will take place on February 18, 2009. There will be information given on the content of the course, the planned schedule and the goals of the course. The concept of the course on car mechanics is based on the dual vocational training system. The practical part of the vocational training will be executed in the Mercedes repair shop of the company Bajger, Erbil. AGEF has been cooperating with the Mercedes Bajger Company in Erbil since 2007 when they started a first joint project and performed it until 2008. The Daimler AG Stuttgart will not only provide several equipment, models and work clothes but fund the cost of the execution of the first courses, too. The name "German Automotive Academy" has been selected for the form of the cooperation, the dual system (theoretical vocational training in combination with practical training units in real companies) and the quality management.

The course will take a period of time between four and five months and takes place on five days per week for four hours each. The maximum number of participants is ten to fifteen people in order to guarantee optimal learning conditions. The modules of the course offered correspond to local market requirements and will be supplemented by technical English and computer training.

A two-year vocational training for car mechanics in accordance with German standards and complete with the official certificate of the German Chamber of Crafts shall be offered after a modular testing period.

5. Language training at the ETTC

On the opening day of the European Technology and Training Center its language courses in German and English start, too.

The training rooms will be equipped with high quality state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment and provide the basis for an effective training. Small groups are to allow for an intensive learning atmosphere.

The courses will be offered on different levels and for different application areas. Each level prepares for a language certificate which is internationally accepted. An individual entry test enables people interested in these courses to find the course level which is optimal for them.

Within the qualification „German as a foreign language“ (DaF) one of the highest levels can be mastered complete with a respective certificate highly appreciated. The certificate "TestDaF" which certifies the knowledge of the German language acquired after about 700 – 800 teaching units entitles the holder of the certificate to study at a German university.

The English language courses are offered for different entry levels from courses for beginners to courses for the preparation for the IELTS (International English Language Test System). The curriculum also includes special courses such as business English or conversational English. As hitherto Kurdish government employees and senior executives in particular can also take part in special intensive courses in English.

6. The programme "Return to Employment in Iraq"

Measures to promote employment have been taken in IKR since 2006 aiming at getting returnees from Europe involved in the economic development of Iraq in order to avoid a new potential for conflict arising. Local job applicants are offered access to some components of the programme thus guaranteeing an acceptance for the support of the returnees from Europe. This approach also improves the situation of qualified personnel available and the level of the professional qualification especially in the private economy. On the basis of experiences gained in other countries in a conflict or post-conflict situation the project is aimed at the peaceful stabilization of the region by means of several concerted measures.

The job chances of most different target groups can be sustainably improved by means of qualification courses based on the determined needs of the labour market and by means of “training on the job” courses. Experts can immediately be placed in open positions where – after a funded period of adjustment to their new job – they usually convince their employers of the advantages of competent human resources for their companies. Potential business founders will be supported if their business idea turns out to meet market requirements and to be well-projected. The demand for these flexible measures taken to intervene in the labour market is high and permanently increasing.

Between 2006 and the end of 2008 there got a total of 4,299 applicants registered within the project "Return to Employment in Iraq" (REI), 3,885 of which were returnees from different countries of the European community and Switzerland. Another 415 people were local job applicants. The majority of the returnees registered came from Germany and Great Britain and from Sweden and the Netherlands, respectively.

More than half of all of the job applicants have been placed on jobs since 2006. More than 50% of the local job applicants could find a job with the help of the programme, too.

More than three quarters of the returnees from Germany registered could be placed on jobs during the last three years. The proportion of job applicants placed on jobs is about one quarter where returnees from Great Britain are concerned and more than 60% of the returnees from Sweden.

The programme REI also offers the chance to take part in trainings aiming at a qualification the labour market demands for. Thus there have been language courses offered in English and German since 2005 as well as computer trainings, accounting courses, management courses and a vocational training as a car mechanic and welder in cooperation with the German Automotive Academy (GAA), a joint project of the Daimler AG and AGEF.

A total of 1,435 people have attended the training courses since the beginning of the project most of them attended English and computer courses.

Since 2006 there have been offered courses for people setting up their own businesses. Those courses were funded by Great Britain and Sweden for returnees from those countries and for locals interested in setting up their own business. More than 200 potential business founders have taken part in these courses so far.

In 2008 German funds from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs could be used to train 64 women from IKR for setting up their own businesses or for extending their business activities already in existence. The development and execution of adjusted concepts for the further qualification of women and of young adults in particular is planned to play an even more intensive role in the new training centre in the future. Thus there is a project just being developed to prepare students of the University of Erbil for independent entrepreneurship.

A system for the prevention of catastrophes - a system based on the local municipalities - is a further field of project activities. Raising the regional municipalities' awareness of catastrophes such as earthquakes, floods and droughts are as well in the focus of such projects as is the training of social multipliers in preparation for such catastrophes. Accordant discussions are just going on in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to coordinate respective activities.

7. First joint artistic project of Kurdish painting students and Berliner artist

Between January 12 and 23, 2009 the first joint artistic action of Kurdish painting students from the Art Institute of Erbil and the artist Uwe Muecklausch took place in Erbil.

The AGEF gGmbH initiated and supported this project, thus the Berliner artist and architect could travel to Erbil in order to perform the project to design the enclosing wall of the European Technology and Training Center (ETTC) jointly with the Kurdish art students.

After a first meeting with the Dean of the Art Institute a workshop with the students was agreed upon. Within this workshop Uwe Muecklausch presented the project. He discussed the idea and the technical basics with a teacher and the students of the Art Institute. Two days later the works began on the external wall of the building which AGEF had built upon the estate on the main road in the direction of the city centre of Erbil.

In the course of the following week five students worked jointly with the German artist. They were highly motivated, concentrated and enthusiastic about performing the design. The intensive interest in the wall painting by the people living in the surrounding area and their debates about it were especially impressive for all artists participating in the project. The result of their work confirms the attendant artists' performance. The first artistic project turned out successfully. It has got its own charisma which is attractive for the town and an incentive to perform the other projects the Kurdish and German artists aim at.