

“Ich kann was!” initiative



OBJECTIVE

Improve the digital skills of children and teenagers from difficult social backgrounds throughout Germany



PROJECT PARTNER

Institutions administering public child and youth development programs



DURATION

Since 2017

Numerous studies show that children and teenagers tend to have weaker digital skills if they hail from socially vulnerable backgrounds and are less integrated into the education system. However, digital skills have become more important than ever before in successfully navigating personal and professional challenges. Deutsche Telekom Stiftung’s “Ich kann was!” initiative targets these young people and gives them an opportunity to discover and develop their talents.

The “Ich kann was!” initiative mainly targets institutions that administer public child and youth development programs that serve socially and economically underprivileged communities. The institutions’ educators and social workers come into close contact with the everyday lives that young people lead in these communities. In many cases, these children and teenagers need special opportunities to show what they are capable of. They often struggle in school and other formal educational settings.

This is where the initiative comes in: it supports low-threshold projects that give young people creative access to digital media. The kids and teens receive the opportunity to gain and develop experience with digital media in their everyday lives. In the process, they acquire digital skills that will improve their career prospects and help them lead successful, independent lives of their own choosing.

Deutsche Telekom Stiftung specifically supports projects and institutions that teach digital skills to young people aged 9 to 16. Its project funding grants can be as much as EUR 10,000. To qualify, institutions have to tackle everyday issues and challenges faced by children and



Photo: „Ich kann was!“-Initiative

Over 75,000 children and adolescents have benefited from the “Ich kann was!” initiative.

DIGITAL SKILLS IMPROVE CAREER PROSPECTS.

teenagers using modern communications media, digital tools and technologies. Projects can fall into one of five categories: Programming, Robotics, Making, Social Media, Film and Photography. Digital tools can be used to design personal websites or special interest blogs in film, photography or graphics projects or to creatively design music and theater pieces, for example. Other possible projects include programming small robots and microcontrollers.

In addition, the initiative offers institutions in-depth networking opportunities, such as a yearly meeting of all supported institutions.

Since 2009, the “Ich kann was!” initiative has reached 1,100 institutions and 75,000 young people across Germany. In early 2017, Deutsche Telekom Stiftung took over management of this successful project from Deutsche Telekom AG.

More information:
www.telekom-stiftung.de/en/ikw



Funding criteria

All projects and institutions throughout Germany that meet the funding criteria can apply for funding from the "Ich kann was!" initiative. Institutions that apply for funding must:

- Carry out public child and youth development programs
- Pursue their work in economically and socially depressed areas
- Pursue skill acquisition and development as an educational goal, focusing on digital media and tools
- Conduct hands-on programs that relate directly to everyday life issues
- Offer special programs for children aged 9 to 16
- Include children and teenagers in the project planning and implementation process
- Have highly qualified employees
- Already have a secure source of funding for their basic operations
- Have ties to their local communities
- Constantly document the project's progress and accomplishments
- Be willing to participate in the "Ich kann was!" network

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Project Manager, "Ich kann was!" Initiative
Esther Dolas

Deutsche Telekom Stiftung
Graurheindorfer Straße 153
53117 Bonn, Germany
Phone: +49 (228) 181-74332
esther.dolas@telekom-stiftung.de
www.telekom-stiftung.de/en

DEUTSCHE TELEKOM STIFTUNG

Deutsche Telekom Stiftung was established in 2003 to strengthen Germany's position as an education, research and technology leader. It is one of the country's main corporate foundations with an endowment of EUR 150 million. Deutsche Telekom Stiftung's mission is to improve education in the digital world concentrating on the so called STEM subjects science, technology, engineering and mathematics. It focuses on four core areas: Education Drivers, Education Opportunities, Education Innovations and Education Dialog.

In Education Drivers, the foundation supports people who inspire others to study STEM subjects. Education Opportunities involves projects to prepare children and teenagers to succeed in STEM fields and participate fully in our connected world. In Education Innovations, the foundation invests in researchers and teachers who specialize in STEM subjects. Finally, Education Dialog comprises all the projects in which the foundation works with policymakers and civil society to improve education in a digitized world.