

department for

education and skills

creating opportunity, releasing potential, achieving excellence

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Endorsement

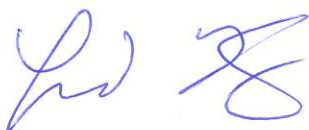
Goethe-Institut Initiative: Project ENGAGE

The Department for Education and Skills highly recommends the Goethe-Institut's initiative to encourage the building of sustainable partnerships between schools and businesses to support the teaching of Modern Foreign Languages in the UK. Languages are a very important element in economic strategies for overseas trade, inward investment, improving tourism and public services. British business recently pointed out the fear of falling behind in the global market if major efforts are not made to improve the UK's language skills significantly.

The Goethe-Institut has been a longstanding successful promoter of languages abroad, as indeed have all the foreign language institutions in the UK. It is the particular brief of the Goethe-Institut to promote the German language and to foster international cultural cooperation. Within this remit, the Goethe-Institut now has started a forward-looking initiative called project ENGAGE.

Project ENGAGE aims to build a three way partnership between businesses, local schools and the Goethe-Institut. In practical terms project ENGAGE means the development of events such as "Career Days", to develop projects in conjunction with schools and local business partners, such as the "Shoot-Out Challenge", resource materials, and virtual exchange through "the voyage", and finally build and strengthen long-term relationships with its partners in education, business and foreign agencies.

The DfES warmly welcomes the initiative and would recommend it to all LEAs and schools to react positively to project ENGAGE to ensure its lasting success.



Dr Lid King
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