

Together against youth unemployment and skills shortage: thyssenkrupp Materials Services and JOBLINGE continue to join forces

- Collaboration to place disadvantaged young people in the labor market extended for another year
- thyssenkrupp Materials Services provides 1:1 mentoring and application support in the search for an apprenticeship
- JOBLINGE contributes its expertise in job placement, thyssenkrupp Materials Services offers internships and apprenticeships as well as insights into career fields

More than one in two companies in Germany considers the shortage of skilled workers to be one of the greatest business risks. These are the results of the latest [economic survey](#) conducted by the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DIHK) in February. There are approximately 260,000 unfilled apprenticeships in Germany, while about 180,000 unemployed people are looking for an apprenticeship. To help close this skills gap, thyssenkrupp Materials Services has become a regional partner of the non-profit organization JOBLINGE. After a successful start in 2023, the cooperation has now been extended for another year. The focus of the cooperation is on placing young people in apprenticeships who are often at a disadvantage in the application process due to their social or migration background.

As one of the world's leading mill-independent materials distribution and service providers with around 16,000 employees - about 6,000 of them in Germany - thyssenkrupp Materials Services sees itself as a responsible member of society. In line with its sustainability strategy "BEYOND", the company is committed to promoting education, diversity and equal opportunities. This is where the JOBLINGE initiative comes in: Together with its partners from business, government and the private sector, it helps disadvantaged young people between the ages of 18 and 27 to find an apprenticeship.

Martin Stillger, CEO of thyssenkrupp Materials Services, emphasizes: "Everyone deserves the chance to participate in the labor market. In a society based on respect and dignity, treating people without prejudice must be a matter of course. For us, the cooperation with JOBLINGE is an important part of the social responsibility, we are pursuing as part of our sustainability strategy 'BEYOND'."

Raphael Karrasch, Managing Director of JOBLINGE, explains: "thyssenkrupp Materials Services lives and breathes responsibility for the Ruhr Area in Germany. They create social justice by setting a good example. At the same time thyssenkrupp Materials Services recognizes the skills shortage and is taking a preventative approach with us in activating future skilled workers. This is important for the entire German economy and is the only way to create economic stability and social cohesion."

As part of the cooperation, thyssenkrupp Materials Services employees volunteer to take part in the JOBLINGE mentoring program. Over a period of four to six months, they each mentor a young person who has not yet succeeded in entering the job market on his or her own. The goal is to find an

apprenticeship. As experienced professionals, the mentors provide guidance and support on career development and entry into the workforce. Following the successful completion of the first mentoring program, the second round is currently underway.

In addition to mentoring, other thyssenkrupp Materials Services employees act as contact persons and experts at application days and training sessions organized by JOBLINGE. Open days and plant tours at thyssenkrupp Materials Services give young adults insights into the working world of a corporate group. In addition, thyssenkrupp Materials Services offers disadvantaged young people real career opportunities through internships and apprenticeships. thyssenkrupp Materials Services also supports the non-profit organization JOBLINGE with donations.

About thyssenkrupp Materials Services

thyssenkrupp Materials Services is one of the world's leading mill-independent materials distribution and service providers with around 380 locations – including around 270 warehouse sites – in more than 30 countries. In the 2022/23 fiscal year, the company generated sales of € 13.6 billion and earnings of € 178 million. The versatile range of services offered by the materials experts allows customers to focus even more strongly on their individual core businesses. As part of its strategic further development "Materials as a Service" the company is focusing on the supply of raw materials and materials as well as products and services in the area of supply chain management. Digital solutions ensure efficient and resource-saving processes for customers and thus provide the basis for sustainable action. From 2030 Materials Services will operate on a climate-neutral basis.

About JOBLINGE

JOBLINGE is a non-profit organization for young people who are looking for a connection to the world of work, combining the commitment and expertise of a wide range of stakeholders and institutions from business, government and society. The aim is to support socio-economically disadvantaged young people with difficult starting conditions and to integrate them into the first training and employment market. The target groups are long-term unemployed young adults between the ages of 18 and 27, many of whom have a history of migration or refugee experience, single parents or tolerated persons, who represent a great potential for securing skilled workers. Thanks to a hybrid full-time program with extensive personal and practical career orientation in partner companies, 1:1 mentoring and pro bono training support, over 70 percent of participants in the Ruhr Area in Germany leave the initiative with an apprenticeship and this is sustainable, as 86 percent are still employed after six months.

Around 65 percent of the program is financed by the public sector and 35 percent by donations from the private sector.

JOBLINGE was developed as a social franchise system by the Boston Consulting Group and the Eberhard von Kuehnheim Foundation of BMW AG. JOBLINGE gAG Ruhr has been active for over ten years under the umbrella of JOBLINGE e.V. in the Ruhr Area in Germany at four locations.

Image material can be downloaded here (Source: JOBLINGE / thyssenkrupp Materials Services):
https://transfer.thyssenkrupp.com/public/m144371d_5e6a21c73b230864c23f67/



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