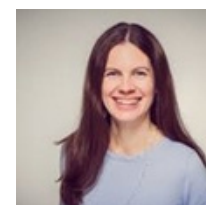


Summary of the Regional Action Plan

The first concrete action of the RAP for Germany builds on a row of workshops for re-starters performed in such a protected space for people in or after a business crisis. The participants can remain anonymous if they like to. They are supported by crisis-experienced trainers in dealing proactively with an entrepreneurial crisis or insolvency experience and enabling a successful restart. In addition, the participants get a sensitization training to strengthen skills for early crisis management. These so-called “Re-Starter Workshops” are funded by the Ministry of Economics of Baden-Württemberg as a pilot project within the regional campaign Start-up BW, in cooperation with the regional chambers of industry and commerce. This is the first public initiative in the country that tackles the topic of second-chance entrepreneurship and initiates a cultural change in the German society towards stigmatization.

Kristine Simonis, an entrepreneur who lost her business in the COVID crisis, who participated in a re-starter workshop, reports about her experience: Business crisis and insolvencies imply an extremely hard time for those affected, not only financially but especially on an emotional level. Questions regarding cost savings and revenue generation are accompanied, if not overshadowed, by self-doubt and fears, not to mention the negative connotation of failure in our society. Under these conditions, a new start is always an enormous challenge. Insolvency and the associated feeling of personal failure might be considered as a final dead end, but it could also be a turning point and an opportunity to emerge from it strengthened and motivated. The re-starter workshops helped me to bring up the necessary energy and confidence and exchange with other entrepreneurs. Also, getting professional advices from successful re-starters (the trainers) about crisis management was a great support that helped me to quickly look forward into a positive future again.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yA-AvxMLmpc&t=78s>