

Portrait

The Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt DBU was established as a foundation according to Civil Law in 1990, subject to a law passed by the German Parliament. With assets amounting to around EURO 1.3 billion from the proceeds of privatising the former steel group Salzgitter AG, it is one of the largest foundations in Europe. The income from its assets enables the foundation to carry out its promotional work with an annual amount of approx. EURO 45 million.

The Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt promotes innovative, exemplary projects for protecting the environment. Since 1991, almost 6,500 projects have received financial backing totalling about EURO 1.2 billion.

Fields of promotion

Model for the promoting activities of the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt is sustainable development. The Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt focuses on supporting projects which help to protect the environment by integrating products and production methods and by shaping attitudes with environmental education programmes aimed at changing patterns of behaviour.

According to the law, the subsidies are concentrated on small and medium-sized enterprises, with priority going to the support of pioneers with innovative environmental ideas.

The DBU particularly encourages co-operation projects between small and medium-sized enterprises and research institutions. Projects from institutions, associations and special interest groups in their role as multipliers are also very welcome.

The three main criteria for obtaining a

subsidy are:

- Innovation: the project has to be an advance to the state-of-the-art of current research and technology.
- Exemplary and model character: the innovation should be of interest to a broad segment of the population (e.g. a complete industry). It should also be possible to implement the innovation under commercial conditions within a brief time-scale.
- Environmentally beneficial: the innovation should lead to new, supplementary measures for the protection of the environment.

The decision to grant support largely depends on the concrete contribution which the project aims to make towards reducing environmental degradation. The Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt therefore supports additional measures for disseminating and consolidating project results.

The guidelines of support list 9 special fields including the topics of environmental technology, environmental provision and research, nature protection and environmental communication. These are completed by limited special focus programmes which are published and announced separately, one of them being *Integrated Biotechnology*.

Information on the topics and on further activities can be found in the Internet under <http://www.dbu.de>.

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