

# Welcome to study visit

"Cooperation of schools,  
the world of work and social partners"

Berlin Germany, 6.-11.11.2011

# The Confederation of German Trade Unions

Der Deutsche Gewerkschaftsbund (DGB)



# The trade unions in Germany

**DGB**

## The Confederation of German Trade Unions

is the umbrella organisation for eight trade unions in Germany



IG Bauen-Agrar-Umwelt (Construction, Agriculture, Environment)



IG Bergbau, Chemie, Energie (Mining, Chemicals, Energy)



Gewerkschaft Erziehung und Wissenschaft (Education and Science)



IG Metall (Metalworkers)



Gewerkschaft Nahrung-Genuss-Gaststätten (Food, Beverages, Catering)



Gewerkschaft der Polizei (Police)



Eisenbahn- und Verkehrsgewerkschaft (Railway Workers)



ver.di - Vereinte Dienstleistungsgewerkschaft (United Services)

# DGB in numbers (2010)

The logo for the German Trade Union Confederation (DGB) is a red parallelogram with the letters 'DGB' in white, bold, sans-serif font.

## Members of the trade unions

• Metalworkers (IG Metall)	2.239.588
• United Services (ver.di)	2.094.455
• Mining, Chemicals, Energy (IG BCE)	675.606
• Construction, Agriculture, Environment (IG BAU)	314.568
• Education and Science (GEW)	260.297
• Railway Workers (EVG)	232.485
• Food, Beverages, Catering (NGG)	205.646
• Police (GdP)	170.607

**Members total**

**6.193.252**

# DGB structure

The logo consists of a red parallelogram tilted to the right, with the letters 'DGB' in white, bold, sans-serif font centered within it.

## The regional structure of the DGB

- is a democratic, bottom-up structure with 8 districts and 66 regions.

## The Federal Executive Board of the DGB

- on the Federal DGB Congress every four years, 400 delegates who represent all the trade unions, elect **five people** to their Federal Executive Board
- At the Federal DGB Congress the members take strategic decisions for the near future.

## The think tank

- Bildungswerke = educational centers of the DGB and trade unions
- Hans-Böckler-Foundation

# Federal structure

**DGB**

## The Federal Executive Board of DGB



Michael Sommer, President



Ingrid Sehrbrock, Vice President



Dietmar Hexel



Annelie  
Buntenschach



Claus Matecki

# Tasks of DGB

The logo for the DGB (Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund) is a red parallelogram with the letters 'DGB' in white, bold, sans-serif font.

- The DGB brings together the individual unions to work effectively.
- The DGB is the voice of the unions to the political decision-makers, parties and associations on a federal, state and municipal level.
- The role of the DGB is lobbying and mobilisation for political and social decisions.
- The DGB stands for a social solidarity. Work and income have to be distributed fairly and people must receive equal chances independent of their origin, skin colour or gender.
- The DGB offers future-oriented concepts for a social market economy which is tailored to the changes of the social conditions of today.
- **Humane modernisation and fair distribution: That is what we stand for!**

# Tasks of DGB

The logo for the DGB (Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund) is located in the top right corner. It consists of a red parallelogram shape with the letters 'DGB' in white, bold, sans-serif font.

## European and international relations

The DGB is a member of the

- European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
- International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)
- Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC)

The DGB represents the German union movement with international institutions such as the

- European Union
- United Nations
- IAO
- World Trade Organisation (WTO)



# Tasks of the trade unions

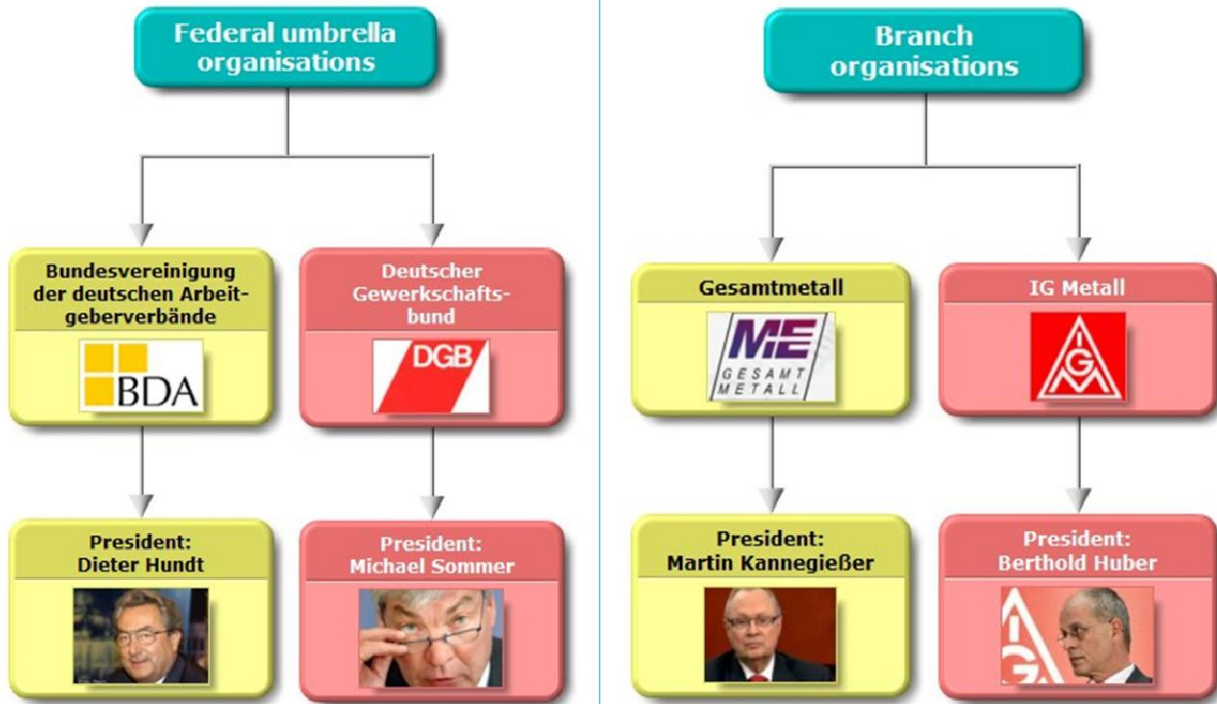
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- the unions negotiate collective agreements with the employers
- for income, working hours or holiday. In cases of labour disputes they organise strikes and pay strike support to their members.
- They help with the foundation of work councils, support employees during company conflicts and represent them during disputes with their employer.
- The union members in Germany enjoy free legal protection.

## **Social partnership in Germany**

**A culture of industrial relations quite different  
from the rest of European countries**

# Social partner organisations



# Tasks of the social partners

The logo of the German Trade Union Confederation (DGB) is a red parallelogram with the letters 'DGB' in white, bold, sans-serif font.

## **The guiding principles of social partnership**

- strong unions and employers' associations
- negotiating of sector or company collective agreements
- strictly bilateral negotiations
- no interference from the government
- more cooperative than conflictive

## **The legal Framework**

- Collective contract law
- Article 9 of the Constitution
- Co-determination law
- Company Constitution Act

## The Role of the Social Partners in Vocational Education and Training (VET)

- Dual Training in Germany
- Company Level: Works- Council + Youth and trainee delegation (JAV)
- Regional / chamber level (BBA) Vocational Training Committees of the competent body
- State level (State VET Councils,...)
- National Level (BIBB, Ministeries, ...)
- International Level (ILO, EU,)

**Thank you for your attention!**

