Erich Herber I Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)

DIGITAL PRO BOOTCAMPS

10.11.2021

Development of Digital Skills

Digital Pro Bootcamps

The funding programme "Digital Pro Bootcamps" supports SMEs in Austria in developing digital skills of their employees in specific fields of digitalisation.

- **Growing Need of digital skills** - the key to international competitiveness and growth.

- **Gap between large companies and SMEs** in terms of the degree of digitalisation and high level digital skills.

- To close the prevalent skills gap in digitalisation, **upskilling of staff** is an important requirement.

Digital Pro Bootcamps

https://www.ffg.at/digital-pro-bootcamps

– Digital Pro Bootcamps are projects that provide **intensive digital skills training programmes** for employees of Austrian companies - particularly SMEs.

– The training has a duration of several weeks and is implemented as a **'bootcamp'**.

– The funding programme provides funds to support the **design and the implementation** of the bootcamp.

– **A main aim is to teach advanced digital skills and practical skills (e.g. data science)** – Participants build up on existing skills, work on IT projects and receive expert feedback throughout their training.

– **Scientific partners design the training programme** in cooperation with companies. The design particularly targets at the practical needs of the companies.

– **Agreements** – Companies send highly motivated staff members to the training and agree on **IT projects** that shall be implemented in the company.

Digital Pro Bootcamps | Calls

	First Call of Projects (2018-2019) funded by the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs	Second Call of Projects (2020) funded by the National Foundation for Research, Technology and Development
Funded Projects	4 projects (total funding: EUR 1.67 Mio.)	3 projects (total funding: EUR 0.65 Mio.)
Funded Partners	34 companies, 11 scientific partners	20 companies, 5 scientific partners
Topics adressed	Data Science, Data Security, Artificial Intelligence	Workplace Integrated Learning, Cyber Security, Smart Factory
Project Duration	12 – 18 months	6 – 12 months
Training Duration	9 weeks	4 weeks
Consortium (Minimum)	1 Scientific Partner + 5 SME	1 Scientific Partner + 3 SME
Funding Rate	Scientific Partners (100%); Companies (50%-70%)	Scientific Partners (100%); Companies (50%-70%)
Max. Funding per Project	500.000 EUR	250.000 EUR

Info: https://www.ffg.at/digital-pro-bootcamps

Conclusions

- The **format of the bootcamp** has contributed to reach the target groups, especially SMEs, as well as objectives of the programme (upskilling support to companies / knowledge transfer).

- **Strong company involvement** in the design of the training (IT projects) and **accurate duration** of the bootcamp are important for the success and impact of the training.

- The intensive cooperation of the consortium had a positive impact on **mutual knowledge transfer** between research and companies.

- **IT projects** and **peer learning activities** during the training contributed positively to the rapid transfer of skills into practice.

- Throughout the implementation, some companies had to deal with **unpredictable challenges** (e.g. time conflicts, everyday business, fluctuations, etc.).

- Parts of the bootcamps were successfully converted to **distance learning** during the coronavirus pandemic.

Erich Herber I Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)

THANK YOU!

10.11.2021

DATA SCIENCE TIROL

Funded project of the first call

Source: University of Innsbruck

The focus of the Digital Pro Bootcamp was the training of **digital professionals** in the field of **data science**. The aim was to achieve a high degree of **interdisciplinarity** and extensive **expert knowledge**.

The consortium involved **service and production companies** of various sizes and industries, as well as scientific partners.

In the bootcamp, practical experience was gained through excellent **use cases** and **IT projects**. In-house **data science** projects were intensively processed and **networking** was provided with the help of an Alpine accompanying program.

Parts of the bootcamp were successfully converted to **distance learning** due to the restrictions of the coronavirus pandemic.

Project Info: https://projekte.ffg.at/projekt/3384402