

About the bifo working group (AG bifo)

AG **bifo** is a working group on education research at the Faculty of Educational Sciences, Institute of Education, at the University of Duisburg-Essen.

The work of AG **bifo** is conducted in an alliance of the units *Instructional Research*, led by Marten Clausen, and *School System and School Development Research*, headed by Isabell van Ackeren. AG **bifo** focuses the improvement of schooling from the perspectives of administration, schools, teachers and students, and also has an international comparative view on school development issues. In this, AG **bifo** cooperates with other German universities, and maintains a network of liaisons with researchers in different parts of the world.

Main Activities and Research Areas:

School System, Education Policy and Educational Governance Research

The work of AG **bifo** particularly looks at how administrators try to „move schooling in a positive direction“, and in that has a special focus on the use and effects of output control measures, such as exit exams, comparative testing and external evaluation of schools.

School Development Research

AG **bifo** also analyzes school development measures, for instance with regard to schools with challenging surroundings, or the use and maintenance of school networks. Furthermore, the research considers the impact of programs initiated by the government as well as competitions and offers made by external players like foundations.

Instructional Research

The third component of school improvement that AG **bifo** considers is the area of classroom and instruction, with a special focus on cognitive activation. The working group therefore examines classroom activities, for example in schools for high-achieving students.

Teacher Education and Teacher Labour Markets

AG **bifo** plays a strong role in teacher education and provides research for instance in the area of teacher education for individualized instruction, or with regard to the contents taught in the practical phase of teacher education. The information system “ISA - Informationssystem Studienwahl und Arbeitsmarkt” (Choice of Study & Labour Market) keeps track of developments in the employment outlook of students in teacher education.

Program Evaluation and Educational Reporting

Additionally, AG **bifo** provides scientific support and program evaluations, and is asked to appraise pilot projects of the ministry, the establishment of school inspection, or programs offered by non-governmental players such as foundations. The working group also helps constructing indicator-based local and regional educational reports.

Contact:

University of Duisburg-Essen
Berliner Platz 6-8
45127 Essen
www.uni-due.de/bifo

