

Ancient cities

and their reflection to today's world



Sokrates Grundtvig Learning Partnership 2010 - 2012
Volkshochschule Schrobenuhausen e. V.

Adult education possibilities: The German case



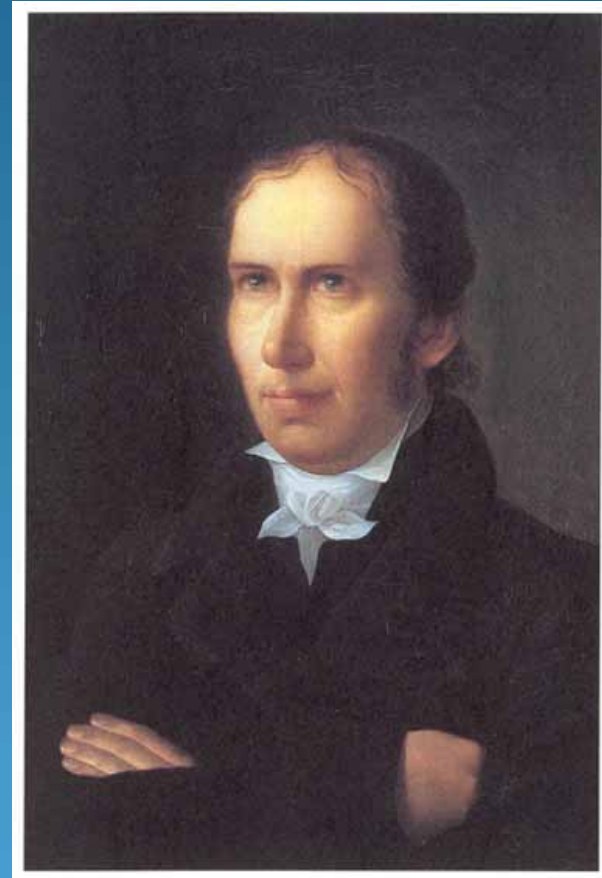
vhs Schrobenshausen's Head
Office in the historic town centre.

Presentation on the
occasion of the 3rd
ACT-Meeting
in Riga

June 2011

Adult education: A Glimpse of History (I)

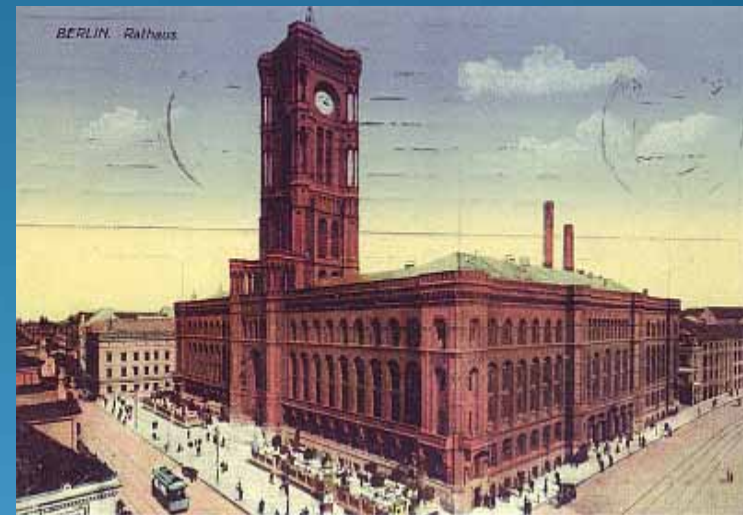
- Early rudiments date back to the 18th century (Age of Enlightenment)
- In 1844 Nikolai Grundtvig opened the first „volkehøjskole“ (Volkshochschule) in Denmark.



Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig
(1783-1872)

Adult education: A Glimpse of History (II)

- The origins of adult education in Germany go back to the workers' education organisations.
- The first “Volkshochschule” was opened in Berlin in the year 1902.
- Today there are in Germany 940 adult schools (“Volkshochschulen”) with 7 770 full-time employees and 193 000 part-time teachers. There are more than 9 000 000 attendants a year.



Adult education: A Glimpse of History (III)



- Volkshochschule (vhs) Schrobhausen was founded in 1947 as a non-profit organisation supported by the then American Military Administration.
 - There was a continuous development from 15 – 20 courses a year to presently more than 600 courses a year with more than 5 000 attendants.
- ◀ Programm flyer of 1948

Adult education: Basics of Organisation

- In Germany education is a task of the Federal States. Every Federal State has its own legislation for education and so for adult educations as well.
- In Bavaria adult education is in the responsibility of town and district administrations.
- In Bavaria quite a lot of adult schools are managed by local non-profit associations on behalf of the town administration, like in Schrobenhausen.
- These associations are funded by local administrations on the town and district level and scarcely by the state of Bavaria, but are often forced to act more in an economical than in a pedagogical way by lack of aid.

Schrobenhausen: We serve
35 000 inhabitants within the region



Financing adult education: Ideal (😊) and Reality (😞)

Ideal:

- 1/3 by the state
- 1/3 by the municipality
- 1/3 charges paid by the attendants

Reality (vhs Schrobenehausen):

- 5 % by the state
- 28 % by the municipality
- 53 % charges paid by the attendants

Neoliberally orientated market economy is not very interested in publicly financed common tasks like adult education.

Financing adult education: Managing the permanent lack of money

Due to lack of subsidies the last 10 years or so we had

- to reduce the number of courses by 10 %
- to reduce employees of the administration
- to cancel all performances (theatre, concert) and exhibitions
- to raise the charges to be paid by the participants of our courses
- to look for additional sources of money: donations, courses for companies etc.

As the money provided by the municipality is the most important and vital subsidy we are very dependent on the local political development and the value attributed to education by the different parties within the town council.

Managing the permanent lack of money

What we can offer – only a selection:

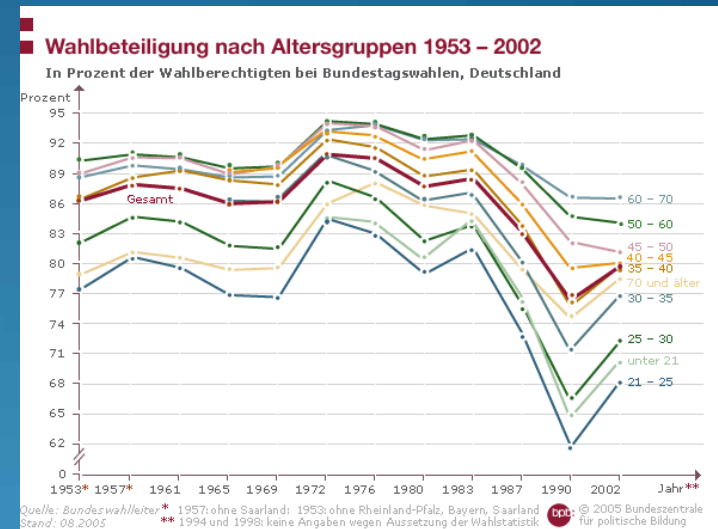
- For people valueing education we can offer quite a lot:
- Courses in 10 languages, information technology, psychology, education, history, law, literature, painting, music, health, dancing, cookery, ecology etc., etc., etc.



Managing the permanent lack of money

What we can't offer – only a selection:

- There is absolutely no money and there are no resources to battle against social shortcomings in a rapidly changing society: There is no chance to help the underprivileged who don't even wish to improve knowledge.
- There is a huge lack in political education, because it's too „uneconomic“ within our given budget.



Thank you very much!
Paldies par jūsu uzmanību!



www.vhs-sob.de