

Germany Newsletter February 2016

Update from your CIMA Germany contact: Raymond Gann



Keeping in touch

This is now the eighth biannual CIMA Germany Newsletter.

Review of recent past events

AGiG Regional Meeting in Hamburg on September 24.

A well-attended lunch-time speaker meeting was held after the committee meeting. Rick Payne, ICAEW Finance and Management Faculty, spoke on "Building effective finance functions". There were 28 attendees which exceeded the expectations of the committee and gave them encouragement to continue on this path. There will probably be a similar event in Munich in addition to the two biannual seminars.

CIMA Event at the PFH Göttingen on September 23.

The Round Table was convened to discuss two topics: "Finance Business Partnering" and "Controlling in Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises". The 20 attendees comprised Business Studies faculty members and students as well as qualified CIMA members practising in German industry.

The meeting was opened by Jakub Bejnarowicz, CIMA Head of Central and Eastern Europe.

The speakers at the event were Peter Simons (CIMA Technical Specialist Research and Development) for "Finance Business Partnering", with Joachim Algermissen (PhD student at the Uni Hildesheim) and Stefan Brinkhoff (PhD student at the Uni Göttingen), presenting a survey they had conducted under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Bernt R. A. Sierke on „Controlling in Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises”.

AGiG November 2015 Seminar

Matthias Schmidt from the IIRC spoke on "non-financial drivers".

The UK General Consul to Germany, Susan Speller spoke on "What the UK government does to encourage businesses in Germany". She also gave an off the record talk on "Brexit" which was accompanied by a lively Q & A. Simon Hurst from "The knowledge base" spoke on Excel which was a far more lively and interesting session than the title might suggest. Like most attendees I was energised to apply this newly acquired knowledge (which later I was unable to recall). Rick Payne and Stephen Ibbotson (ICAEW) spoke on Business Performance Management. Interesting to see how the ICAEW is getting more involved in topics more generally within the competences of the CIMA qualification.

Future event(s) - Dates for diaries

The next AGiG seminar is on **April 28th 2016** and will be held in Frankfurt as usual at the Frankfurt Novotel City Hotel.

The location of the pre-seminar dinner will be noted on the website nearer the date.

For full programme details please go to www.agig.de (hopefully the revamped website will be up by then) you can also register there.

The speaker panel has a real CIMA flavour. The speakers are:

- Professor Utz Schäffer (WHU – leading German business university) to speak on “Volatility”. The Professor is a real catch for AGiG and is one of the central figures of the German Controlling world. He is a member of the supervisory board of the International Controller Verein.
- Steve Swientozielskyj CIMA Council member to speak on “How accountants are challenged by the changing world of finance” Steve is vice President elect. He is a former Head of Finance Shared Services at Network Rail.
- Eric Mayer (Pohlmann & Co) to speak on “New Corporate Scandals and unprecedented international Enforcement: The inevitable necessity for an upgrade to Compliance 2.0”. Eric is a repeat speaker : very lively and knowledgeable
- Gerhard Schroeder (Uni Flensburg) to speak on “Predictive (e) valuations - a critical view on mark-to-models, Level 3 Fair Values, Black-Scholes etc.” This is a subject which definitely counts as CPD!

The 75th AGiG seminar will be held at the ESMT (European School of Management and Technology) in Berlin on April.25th 2017 The ESMT is located at Schlossplatz 1 and overlooks the resurrection of the erstwhile Hohenzollern Stadtschloss.

Latest CIMA News:

Have a look at [the video](#) featuring the President and CEO’s review of the December Council meeting and talk about the JV with the AICPA. This is also the subject of a couple of lively threads on the CIMA Group within [LinkedIn](#).

CIMA event at the beginning of Q2 to launch the Global Management Accounting Principles in German!

At the time of going to press details have not yet been finalised. CIMA Head of Central and Eastern Europe Jakub Bejnarowicz is working on an event which will showcase the launch of the German language version of the “Global Management Accounting Principles” and make German employers and academia more aware of the CIMA/CGMA qualification.

QTPs in Germany

The widespread network of QTPs (Quality Through Partnership) is a major hallmark of CIMA’s appeal to employers and students. Currently CIMA has about 1.500 individual agreements with employer’s world- wide. A closer examination shows that whilst many, as to be expected are in the UK where 70% of the CIMA membership is to be found, many can be found in South Africa, Malaysia, China and India, Ireland and the USA. The World Bank in Washington has a very high-profile QTP scheme.

Employers accredited under the CIMA QTP programme are recognised as providing a structured training environment. An experienced co-ordinator within the organisation acts as a mentor, sharing their knowledge and experience with CIMA trainees and guiding them through the approved training and development programmes. Employers can avail themselves of CIMA support regarding an ethics policy/code of conduct and training in this area. This is similar to the German “Duale Ausbildung” model of vocational training.

The categories of QTPs in ascending order are as follows:

Training Partner
Development Quality Partner

Training Quality Partner

As many of us know the “Controller” in German is not a professional. There is no real training in the finance area after a commercial apprenticeship (‘kaufmännische Lehre’)

An employer would have to do little more than: a) encourage the student to study for the CIMA exams via e-learning (with some study leave and support for the odd relevant course) b) Lay out a departmental rotation plan ensuring relevant work experience c) Assign a member of staff to assume the role of mentor.

The employer gains kudos of supporting young employees in the acquisition of an internationally recognised and portable qualification. The employee acquires the benefits of a structured and practical grounding in business finance.

Could any of you envisage the development of such a scheme in your organisations? This idea is of course at an early stage, but I would appreciate suggestions. We can then see whether these are acceptable to CIMA or not.

It will provide you with an opportunity to raise the profile of CIMA with your employer, and for them to be seen as a considerate employer.

Further information may be found on the website, or from CIMA at CTD@cimaglobal.com)



For more information please go to:
<http://www.cimaglobal.com/2015-syllabus/>

Kind regards
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