Mittelstand-Digital Zentren: Germany's network of SME digitalisation hubs

City Innovation Library · Good practice · Germany

Quality score: 71/100

Evidence strength: Strong

Summary

Federal network of 29 free digitalisation hubs (2021-2026) run by research-practice consortia. Ramboll's 2025 evaluation counted ~260,900 SME contacts in 2021-23 and rated impact 4.2/5, mostly from self-reported surveys with no control group for the hubs.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	2/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability	3/3
Sustainability / continuity	2/3
Innovation	2/3
Inclusiveness / equity	1/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-11-18

Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs (BMWK/BMWE), Mittelstand-Digital funding priority — accessed 2026-11-18

Ramboll final evaluation report (DE, 2025) — accessed 2026-11-18

Executive summary of final report (EN) — accessed 2026-11-18

Ramboll 3rd interim report on the MDZ network (Oct 2024) — accessed 2026-11-18

BMWK press release on evaluation (6 Mar 2025) — accessed 2026-11-18

Bundesanzeiger funding call for the 2027 network (Dec 2025) — accessed 2026-11-18

DATEV news: BMWE launches new MDZ network (Oct 2026) — accessed 2026-11-18

IW Köln: accompanying research / evaluation consortium — accessed 2026-11-18

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