



Dieter Kabalo,
57 years old,
training leader at the Teaching Workshop at Stabilus

Mr. Kabalo, you've been with our company for over 43 years. Do you still remember your first day at Stabilus?

Yes, I remember it well. The year I joined the company, Stabilus had just started training apprentices in the Industrial Teaching Workshop (Industriellehrwerkstatt, ILW). You have to know that the ILW is a training facility for technical occupations which is run as a cooperative by several industrial companies in the same training field. So I was among the first apprentices at Stabilus to benefit from this facility during my first year of training. So on the first day of my second year as a "Toolmaker Apprentice," I walked through the older factory halls of Stabilus, some of them made of brick, and I was curious as to what would await me.

Please tell us something about your career in the company

After I completed my apprenticeship, I first worked in what was then "tool making," today's machine and tool construction department. I had a wide variety of tasks there - I would build gauges and worked in the area of stamping and cutting tools. That means I built manufacturing equipment needed in Production for manufacturing parts. After that, I worked for a while as a safety coordinator and journeyman in machine and tool construction, until I completed my "Meister" as master craftsman. Since then, I have been the training manager in the company's internal teaching workshop, which at that time had just been founded. That was 28 years ago. Over time, the training offered has been expanded, so today, my deputy and I train young people for a variety of vocations, such as industrial mechanic, machinist, electronics technicians, and so on. We are also in charge of internships for high school and university students, as well as regular continuing education and training for existing employees.

What do you like most about your work?

The continuous technical development of the company. It is truly impressive what modern technology can do and how quickly it can be replaced by even better technology.

When I think about how the tasks in my former department - Machine and Tool Construction - have changed, especially with regard to technology and work processes, and sometimes that happens due to globalization, then I'm totally thrilled.

Let's roll back the years a few decades. If you were 20 years young again, what would you do differently today?

Nothing, I'd do it all over again.

Today, I sometimes train children of colleagues who I trained as apprentices. This validates my work. And that's why it feels right to say I'd do it all over again.