Berk, Accountants en Belastingadviseurs

Working in an audit firm



Hans Koning
Managing partner







Berk. Werk in balans.



Accountants en Belastingadviseurs

Agenda

- Current situation
- Why choose to become an auditor
- Attractiveness of SMEs
- How to attract professionals
- How to retain professionals
- Lessons learned
- Questions?





Berk:

- Founded in 1914
- Core business accountancy and tax advice
- 18 offices in the Netherlands
- Professional support services
- More than 900 employees
- More than 10.000 SME clients





Job market:

- Average staff turnover in the sector 20%
- Big Four: high turnover professionals 3-6 years experience (because of higher awareness work/life balance)
- In the sector Finance & Accounting 41% staff shortfall expected (research Hay Group)
- 2006: 26% higher inflow accountancy students



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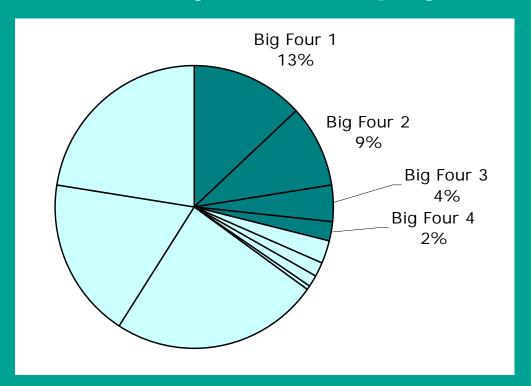
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Recruitment Berk:

- Staff turnover Berk comparable to sector average
- Growth in 2006: 80 employees
- 2006: new hires 224



New hires by former employer 2006:





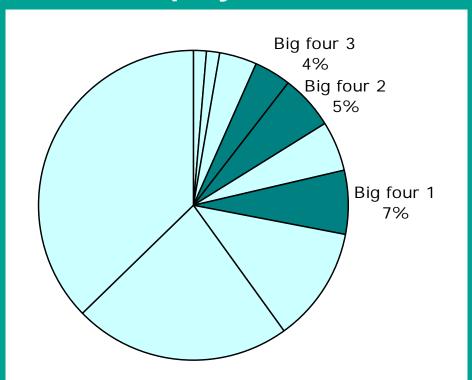


- Expected staff turnover 2007: 20%
- Intended staff growth 2007: 10%
- Target new hires 2007: 270





• Former employer first half 2007:







Why choose to become an auditor



Accountancy sector has to challenge grey mouses syndrom





Why choose to become an auditor

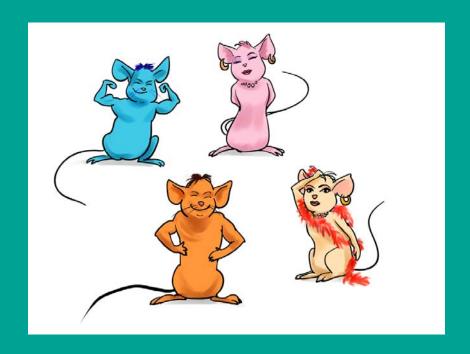


Image should change: colourful, challenging and exciting





Attractiveness of SMPs

- Relatively small assignments give variety in work
- Strong personal contacts with clients
- Responsibilities
- Relatively small offices: all employees know each other
- No strong hierarchy, very informal culture
- Work and private life in balance!
 (Research Nivra, Ebbinge & Management Team:
 nr. 1 priority)



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Recruitment campaign: Berk. Work in balance









Actions:

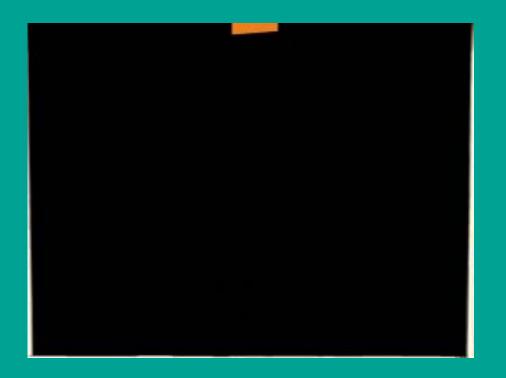
- Videowall
- Balance test
- E-recruitment
- ??







Balance test







Berk's e-recruitment:

- Second life
- Website (incl. web 2.0 elements)
- Social networks
- Jobpostings
- Target bannering







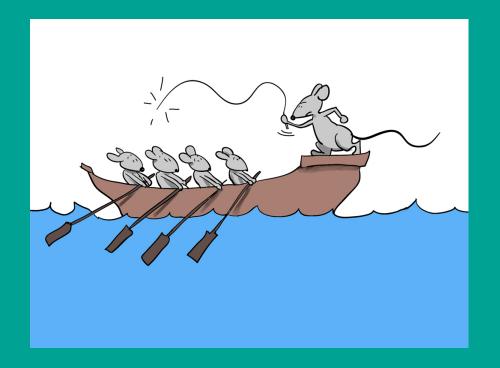
How to retain professionals

- Starters programme
- Focus on professional and personal growth of employees
- Talent Development Programme
- Management Development Programme
- Coaching
- Monitoring structure (day-to-day, career counseling, employee satisfaction surveys and exit interviews)





How to retain professionals



Partner ≠ hours billed





How to retain professionals



Servant leadership





Lessons learned

- No strategic herd behaviour; dare to be different
- Think about a distinctive promise
- Make a recruitment and retention plan with measurable targets
- The best salespeople for your jobs are your employees
- Invest in staff retention
- Recognize the needs and desires of the new generation.



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Accountants on Relactingadvisours

Questions?



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