


Financing adult learning database

Name of the instrument - Local language	Sozial- und Weiterbildungsfonds der Arbeitskräfteüberlassung Österreichs
Name of the instrument - English translation	Social and further training fund for temporary work Austria
Scheme ID	1
Country	 Austria
Reporting year	2020
Type of instrument	Training fund
Sub-type of instrument	Sectoral level collection and sectoral level distribution
Type of entry	Single instrument

Short description	<p>Agencies that offer temporary work are obliged by law to contribute a fixed share of their payroll costs (0.35%) to a training fund and may receive reimbursement of their training costs such as course fees and wage costs. Agencies can receive subsidies up to 200% (occasionally 300%) of their contributions to the fund. However, de minimis regulation applies, limiting large corporations' access to a full reimbursement of their incurred training costs. Current temporary workers can choose among training opportunities free of charge and receive a supplementing wage subsidy in case of entering a PES funded long-term training measure. Former temporary agency workers (currently unemployed) are also eligible for training subsidies. No preferential treatment for particular groups is applied. Only the education and training offered by recognised training providers (as reported in a list of eligible providers) is eligible. It includes programmes leading to a formal vocational qualification and short vocational courses (e.g. related to welding, forklift driving, and many more). The fund is managed by social partners (representatives of employers and employees). The Federal Ministry for Labour, Social Affairs, and Consumer Protection plays a supervisory role.</p>
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Level of operation	Sectoral
Name of a part of the country	Not applicable
Name of the region (for	Not applicable

regional instruments)	
Name of the sector (for sectoral instruments)	Temporary work
Relevance	Further instrument
Legal basis	§ 22a Arbeitskräfteüberlassungsgesetz - AÜG (Temporary Agency Work Act), of 23 March 1998
Objective(s) and target(s)	'It is the social and further training fund duty to support (former) employees of temporary work agencies in avoiding unemployment, stabilising their employment, additional qualification and improvement of their chances on the labour market and in the case of unemployment'.
Year of implementation	2014
Year of latest amendment	2019
Operation/management	The fund is managed by social partners (representatives of employers and employees). The Federal Ministry for Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection plays supervisory role.
Eligible group(s)	The fund supports temporary work agencies (employers), their current employees and former currently unemployed temporary agency workers.
Group(s) with preferential treatment	no
Education and training eligible	Education and training offered by recognised training providers (as reported in a list of eligible providers); offers include programmes leading to a formal vocational qualification and short vocational courses (e.g. related to welding, fork lift driving and many more).
Source of financing and collection mechanism	By law, agencies offering temporary work have to contribute a certain percentage of their total payroll costs to the fund (0.35% of the pay role). The levy is collected as part of the employers' contributions to the social insurance system.
Financing formula and allocation mechanisms	The fund contribute to the the training costs of employes, employees and former (currently unemployed) employees in different ways. For companies, it contributes 100% of the fees of the course providers. Moreover, it refunds 154% of the applicable wages for all course hours within paid working hours. However, subsidies for employers most not exceed 200% of the contributions made by an employer (respectively, 300% in agreed-on exceptions). Moreover, the support is subject to de minimus regulation (200 000 within three year from any source falling under the same heading per enterprise). For employees or former employees, it covers 100% of the course fees. When a tempoary worker participate in a PES program preparing for qualificaiton, the fund cover the loss in net income (by providing the difference between training allowance and the former net income).

Eligible costs	Course fees; wage costs during participation; additional grant compensating for the difference between the PES benefits and the net income in case of participation in a programme leading to a qualification.
Volumes of funding	EUR 10 000 000 / year
Beneficiaries/take up	Not available
Organisation responsible for monitoring/evaluation	The Federal Ministry for Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection supervisory committee for the fund.
Most relevant webpage - in English	http://eurofound.europa.eu/observatories/eurwork/articles/industrial-re...
Most relevant webpage - local language	https://www.swf-akue.at/
Recent changes	<p>27-02-2019. Instead of increasing the levy as previously foreseen in a step-to-step mode up to 0,8% in 2021, the current level of the levy has been confirmed for an infinite periode, reflecting higher than expected reserves accumulated.</p> <p>Recent changes in response to COVID-19</p> <p>No</p>
Sources	https://www.swf-akue.at/ http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/observatories/eurwork/articles/industria...