

# Green transition in VET

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 AUSTRIA

## Timeline



ID number 44498

## Background

The transition of our societies to an environmentally sustainable and resource-efficient, circular and climate-neutral economy also affects the labour market and vocational education and training (VET). The qualification requirements for employees, job entrants and job seekers are changing. Without ensuring that all citizens acquire the necessary knowledge, competences, skills and attitudes to cope with these changes, a socially just transformation of the EU and its member states will not be possible.

In school-based VET, as well as in apprenticeship training and continuing VET, it is necessary to meet this growing demand by adapting the teaching content and identifying new training areas. There are already numerous training providers and training programmes that aim to teach green skills. However, the content is not always tailored to the needs of the labour market and companies. In addition, there is often a lack of networking and exchange between the training providers in order to structure and bundle the offers.

The National implementation plan (NIP) underlines the importance of these developments with several measures.

## Objectives

The main objectives of the packages of measures are:

- (a) the timely further and new development of training opportunities in the area of school-based and dual VET as well as in further training with a focus on green skills;
- (b) integration of green skills into existing and new training regulations and curricula;
- (c) creation of a uniform teaching principle as a basis for a common understanding of the topic that enables the teaching of relevant content across all subjects, forms and levels of VET;
- (d) establishment of competence centres on green skills and identification of green 'skills gaps' to ensure the availability of 'green skills' for regional development;
- (e) establish networks between green tech companies and education providers;
- (f) promote relevant projects at all levels of education;
- (g) further training of teachers for all education institutions to enable the teaching of green skills ('train the trainer').

## Description

Various projects have already been initiated and launched in recent years that serve to achieve the stated objectives. With the National implementation plan (NIP), these activities were bundled and intensified in 2022.

The sub-projects included in the bundle of measures 'Green transition' are the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) and, as far as apprenticeship training is concerned, also of the Ministry of Labour and Economy (BMAW) and the Austrian Economic Chamber (WKO).

The measures for green transition in VET can be summarised in four project bundles:

1) Integration of green competences into the training regulations of existing apprenticeships, the development of new green apprenticeships and of new modules for existing apprenticeships. These measures have been implemented continuously since 2021;

2) Integration of green competences into school-based VET (starting in 2022) through:

- (a) the development of a uniform teaching principle as the basis for a common understanding of the topic, which enables the teaching of relevant content across all subjects, forms and levels of VET;
- (b) developing an implementation plan for each VET school sector;
- (c) adaptation of existing curricula and development of new curricula;
- (d) teacher training according to the new curricula.

3) Establishment of competence centres for the promotion of 'green skills' in vocational schools (starting in 2023):

- (a) identifying and defining concrete areas/regions for 'green deal clusters' taking into account the business landscape;
- (b) establishing regional competence centres that define, among other things, specific qualification requirements at EQF level 4 and 5 that can be integrated into the VET system;
- (c) implementing regional projects to align the VET system with sustainability issues and establish skills eco-systems.

4) Strengthening regional cooperation among secondary and tertiary education institutions in 'green skills'. The core of this measure is the Erasmus+ project GREENOVET, involved 30 partners (18 full and 12 associated) from four European countries (Austria, Finland, Portugal and Northern Macedonia) and run until autumn 2024. The Ministry of Education accompanied the project, as its results should contribute to the achievement of the defined NIP measure to strengthen regional cooperation in green skills.

- (a) in the GREENOVET project, green skills gaps are to be identified and closed by analysing existing educational offers and developing new offers for gaps;
- (b) for this purpose, centres of vocational excellence (CoVE) for green innovation are established, which are embedded in local innovation and competence ecosystems. In Austria, the Green-TechAcademy (GRETA), coordinated by the Graz University of Technology and the Joanneum University of Applied Sciences, has been established until the beginning of 2022, promoting cooperation and networking in the knowledge triangle of research-economy-education and in which regional vocational schools are also integrated;
- (c) creation of a service portfolio in which the offers for teaching green skills are collected and presented, the needs of companies are identified and gaps in offers in the secondary and tertiary sector are closed. In addition, train-the-trainer offers will be developed so that teachers are able to impart the necessary competences;
- (d) networking of the green tech sectors with vocational training providers at EQF levels 4 to 8.

## 2020 Design

The Erasmus+ project GREENOVET was launched in 2020.

## 2021 Implementation

In 2021, two GREENOVET workshops were held with broad stakeholder involvement.

In the development of apprenticeship training green skills were integrated in several modernised apprenticeship profiles.

## 2022 Implementation

In 2022, many projects and initiatives were still at the conceptual phase, while others have already been implemented:

An internal survey and clustering were carried out in apprenticeship training in 2022 to determine which apprenticeships make an explicit contribution to the green transition and can and must be further developed accordingly. In the modernisation of existing apprenticeships, an additional focus was placed on the consideration of green skills. In addition, the development of new apprenticeships was continued in the field of wastewater technology and started in the field of greening buildings.

In the GREENOVET project, strategic research into the status quo and the analysis of gaps in skills and training offers was started in 2022. In addition, the Green-Tech Academy (GRETA) was established at the beginning of the year.

Work has also begun on curriculum reform.

## 2023 Implementation

In accordance with the GREENOVET strategic research with main goal to lay the foundations for the establishment of CoVEs in green innovation in four European regions, a white paper which includes recommendations for building a proper model of such centres has been developed.

Following the skills gap analysis in regard to green innovation, publicly available in the report 'Green innovation in VET: status quo and challenges in the participating regions', the GREENOVET teams focused on identifying the status quo through critical self-assessment of the most important enablers, i.e. VET providers.

During September 25th and 26th, GREENOVET partners have gathered at the Forum on Vocational Excellence 2023 in Amsterdam. GREENOVET provided a workshop called 'Join the transition and be part of the solution', which aimed to boost green and sustainable innovation processes enabled by VET excellence.

## 2024 Completed

In March 2024 the GREENOVET's international project week took place in Leiria, Portugal, where participants visited the Escola Superior de Turismo e Tecnologia do Mar (ESTM) with focus on practical applications of the Blue Economy, and Sirplaste in Porto de Mós, where they learned about advanced technologies and methods used for plastic recovery.

From April 15th to April 19th the GREENOVET International competition took place in Graz (Styria).

A conference on 'Empowering sustainable futures through VET' was held on the 5th and 6th of June 2024 in Graz and online at the university of applied science Joanneum Graz & AIOLA. Target groups were VET professionals (secondary and tertiary), industry representatives, governmental organisations at all levels, and NGOs involved in skills development and the green transition.

The GREENOVET project was completed in 2024. The results are available on the project website for further implementation.

The Greentech Academy (GRETA) was renamed and further expanded to the Green Transformation Academy Austria (GREETA).

## Bodies responsible

- Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKO)
- Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy (BMAW) (until 2025)
- Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) (until 2025)
- Federal Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism (BMWET)
- Federal Ministry of Education (BMB)

## Target group

### Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

### Education professionals

Teachers

### Entities providing VET

Companies  
VET providers (all kinds)

## Thematic categories

### Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

### Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses  
Supporting Centres of vocational excellence (CoVEs)

### Teachers, trainers and school leaders competences

Supporting teachers and trainers for green transition and sustainability

### European and international dimensions of VET

Transnational VET initiatives, including joint VET programmes

## European priorities in VET

### VET Recommendation

VET agile in adapting to labour market challenges

VET as a driver for innovation and growth preparing for digital and green transitions and occupations in high demand

### Osnabrück Declaration

## Subsystem

IVET CVET

## Further reading

[Information on the Erasmus+ project GREENOVET](#)

---

[Info on the Green Transformation Academy Austria \(GREETA\) \(only in German\)](#)

---

[Greening apprenticeships: Austria - article by Cedefop community of apprenticeship experts](#)

---

[GREENOVET status quo analyses for enabler in different regions](#)

## Related policy developments

---

**2025 Implementation**

### Reform of upper secondary VET curricula

The implementation of new programme curricula is a three-step process:

 AUSTRIA

**Type of development**

Regulation/Legislation

**Subsystem**

IVET

---

---

**2024 Completed**

### ReBusk: Roadmap to education and training in sustainable building 2030

The ReBusk (Reboot Build Up Skills) project aims to implement the requirements of the EU Call Life 2021 CET Buildskills at national level.

 AUSTRIA

**Type of development**

Strategy/Action  
plan

**Subsystem**

IVET CVET

---

---

## 2025 Implementation

### Action plan for green transition in education and training

In order to set up the action plan for the green transition in education and training, the Federal Ministry for Climate Protection (BMK) together with the Vienna Public Employment Service (AMS) and the Vienna Chamber of Labour (AK) initiated the 'Just transition working group on training and furt

 AUSTRIA

#### Type of development

Strategy/Action  
plan

#### Subsystem

IVET CVET

---

---

## 2025 Implementation

### Transparent and unified development of apprenticeship profiles

In autumn 2018, the Federal Ministry of Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW) initiated the review (*Lehrberufsscreening*) and update of the content of apprenticeship programmes. The review was carried out by the two education research institutes, ibw and öibf.

 AUSTRIA

#### Type of development

Practical  
measure/Initiative

#### Subsystem

IVET

---

#### “ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Green transition in VET: Austria. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2025 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/44498>