

Digitisation of training design and administration in dual VET

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 AUSTRIA

Timeline

2022 Implementation

2023 Implementation

2024 Implementation

ID number 44482

Background

Since the digital transformation is progressing particularly rapidly in companies and they cannot close themselves off from digital or technical innovations for reasons of competition, it is essential that apprenticeship training keeps pace with these developments. Digital change is also noticeable in the environment of the part-time vocational school, which complements in-company training. The preventive measures against the COVID-19 pandemic have accelerated this even more in the part-time vocational schools.

Apprentices should come into contact with digitalisation in a variety of ways during their training: it should be increasingly incorporated into the methodological-didactic design of training: At the same time, processes and procedures within the framework of training should become more efficient and resource-saving for training companies.

In addition to training design, training administration should also be increasingly digitalised. This includes the entire spectrum of activities, from registering the apprentice and recording the apprenticeship contract to registering for the apprenticeship-leaving exam and processing the company apprenticeship subsidy.

Objectives

- (a) Digitisation of processes of the design of training in the company; of support materials for training companies and processes of the administrative handling of apprenticeship training, including the company-based apprenticeship funding scheme.
- (b) Introduction of digital tools for teaching content in the company-based part of training.

Description

Within the framework of the Education of the economy initiative of the Austrian Economic Chamber, various activities and measures have been implemented since 2018, partly in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy, to advance digitisation in apprenticeship training both in terms of content and administration.

This includes increased consideration of digitalisation in content-related modernisation and new establishment of apprenticeship occupations, support of in-company training and

trainers with digital tools, and simplification of administrative processes through digital application and digital examination management.

Specifically, the following sub-projects are planned as part of the initiative and are already partly under way.

- (a) Implementation of an online tool to support apprenticeship design and documentation. The online tool Training roadmap is currently available for five apprenticeship occupations. Registration is required for use.
- (b) Training guidelines and training documentation: written training guidelines are already available for several apprenticeship occupations, which support trainers in implementing the training regulations. These are to be supplemented by digital training documentation.
- (c) Examples of good training practice: a separate web platform already provides extensive good-practice examples from company practice of how training can be designed. One focus is on providing a toolbox with many suggestions on the topic of 'digital learning and training', which is continuously supplemented and updated.
- (d) Within the framework of the in-company apprenticeship funding programme 'Funding apprenticeship', a funding focus is placed on the topic of 'digitalisation and innovation'. In this funding priority, projects are supported that aim at an innovative further development of dual training. The first projects under this funding priority have already been implemented and are currently being tested.
- (e) Implementation and expansion of LOS, an online service for company-based apprenticeship funding. This is intended to digitalise the application and processing of subsidies fully.
- (f) Application for process handling: since 2021, work has been underway on a digital application that will handle all processes in the area of dual training throughout Austria.
- (g) With the digital examination management, administrative processes (registration of apprenticeship contracts, registration for the examination, etc.) are to be digitalised; organisation and handling of the examination is also to be optimised with the help of digital tools (virtual reality, AI).

The related activities are part of both the National implementation plan (NIP) and the Economic Chamber initiative 'We educate the economy', which has been running since 2018.

2022 Implementation

While some sub-projects were still in a conceptual phase as part of the overall measure in 2022, others had been started in previous years.

For example, the trainers' platform 'ausbilder.at' and the training guidelines had been operational for several years and are continuously being expanded and optimised. As of the end of 2022, training guides are available for 78 apprenticeship occupations.

The online tool for the training roadmap clearly presents the contents of apprenticeship training and is used by companies, trainers and apprentices. It was piloted for five occupations and will be tested in 2022 to be expanded to other occupations.

The funding priority on digitalisation and innovation has also been running for several years. The first implementation results have been available since 2022 with the learning tool Competent in the office, a virtual training scenario with interactive tasks and gamification elements. In the Apprenticeship cloud project, SMEs, start-ups and part-time vocational schools in electrical engineering are testing the format of training alliances and carrying out job rotations.

The online service for company apprenticeship promotion (LOS) is also operational in 2022.

2023 Implementation

In 2023, the training guidelines, training documentations, and examples of good training practice were moved from the platform 'ausbilder.at' to 'qualitaet-lehre.at'. This service platform offers information and tools for groups involved in apprenticeship training (e.g. apprentices, training companies, trainers, examiners). Training guidelines and training documentations for around ten additional apprenticeship occupations were added.

Moreover, the Ministry of Labour and Economy and the Austrian Economic Chamber launched a new funding programme for dual training. The 'Digi-Scheck' provides funding for training measures that promote future skills in areas such as digitalisation, sustainability, and internationalisation. Thereby, it helps training companies to integrate the relevant content into dual training. The programme is scheduled to fund activities completed in 2023 and 2024.

2024 Implementation

In 2024, training guidelines and training documentations for about a dozen more apprenticeship occupations were added. The online tool Training roadmap was discontinued.

Bodies responsible

- Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKO)
- Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy (BMAW)

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

Education professionals

Trainers

Entities providing VET

Companies

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Optimising VET funding

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

Modernising VET infrastructure

Improving digital infrastructure of VET provision

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Diversifying modes of learning: face-to-face, digital and/or blended learning; adaptable/flexible training formats

Developing and updating learning resources and materials

Teachers, trainers and school leaders competences

Supporting teachers and trainers for and through digital

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

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

Osnabrück Declaration

Resilience and excellence through quality, inclusive and flexible VET

Establishing a new lifelong learning culture - relevance of continuing VET and digitalisation

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[Training guides to support in-company training \(only in German\):](#)

[Competent in the office - a digital learning tool \(only in German\)](#)

[Service Platform for training companies, trainers, examiners and apprentices \(only in German\)](#)

[LOS - online service for company-based apprenticeship funding \(only in German\)](#)

[Website of the initiative 'Funding apprenticeship' \(in German only\)](#)

[Funding programme 'Digi-Scheck' \(in German only\)](#)

[Trainers' platform on good practice in in-company training \(only in German\)](#)

Related policy developments

2024 Implementation

We educate the economy plan: promoting innovative and excellence in VET

The We educate the economy plan was approved in 2018 by the Austrian Economic Chamber and focusses on developing projects in five fields:

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Type of development

Strategy/Action plan

Subsystem

2022 Completed

Supporting the digitalisation of VET

In November 2017, the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber issued a call for tenders for a funding programme financed by the Federal Ministry of Digital and Economic Affairs to support projects on the use of digital opportunities in dual VET and the promotion of the development of digital competence

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Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). Digitisation of training design and administration in dual VET: Austria. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2024 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/44482>