

# Increasing internationalisation in VET

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY/ACTION PLAN

 AUSTRIA

## Timeline

2022 Design

2023 Implementation

2024 Implementation

ID number 44421

## Background

International competences are indispensable in a globally active society and economy. It is important to impart them to learners as early as possible. This presupposes that teachers, in their function as mediators and multipliers, also have the necessary competences. Specific competences in the area of international affairs, including language acquisition, intercultural behaviour and negotiation skills, knowledge of international economic relations and financial markets, are a prerequisite for the successful integration of VET learners into the labour market and the competitiveness of Austrian companies.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF), in coordination with the Ministry of Labour and Economy (BMAW) and the social partners, has therefore defined internationalisation as a core theme in education policy for the next few years within the framework of the National implementation plan (NIP). Among the goals to be pursued by 2025 is the 'establishment or further development of a structure for increased internationalisation of VET schools'. Transnational cooperation and mobility for students and teachers should become a regular part of education and training in both intermediate and higher vocational schools.

## Objectives

BMBWF, which is responsible for the VET schools (i.e. three- to five-year school-based VET programmes), is pursuing the following specific goals with the establishment and further development of a structure for increased internationalisation in VET:

- (a) promotion of international competences among students and teachers;
- (b) supporting VET schools in implementing their internationalisation projects/strategies;
- (c) promoting the European and international dimension in VET schools;
- (d) promote Erasmus+ accreditation to support VET schools' internationalisation efforts;
- (e) increase awareness of the Erasmus+ programme and its opportunities amongst students and teachers.

## Description

The Erasmus+ VET team Austria, located at OeAD, the Agency for Education and Internationalisation, plays an essential role in pursuing these goals. This is a network of

professionals with expertise in European VET topics and Erasmus+. OeAD, in cooperation with BMBWF, has defined the following procedure in connection with the above objectives.

#### Activity 1: Status quo survey and feedback from practitioners

In the course of this activity, interviews with practitioners from Boards of Education and schools will be conducted in the first half of 2023 to gain insight into existing internationalisation practices, especially in relation to mobility activities. In both cases, institutions with many years of mobility experience and those with little experience will be interviewed. Existing structures and processes will be discussed and challenges faced by the institutions will be identified. The interviews will also focus on wishes and suggestions as well as requirements that would be necessary from the practitioners' point of view.

#### Activity 2: Symposium

The results of the interviews will be incorporated into a 'practice report' containing recommendations for the (further) development of structures and instruments to support the internationalisation (mobility) activities of VET schools. In autumn 2023, the findings from the interviews and the recommendations derived from them will be discussed in a symposium.

#### Activity 3: Implementation by BMBWF

After the final 'practice report' is available (end of 2023), in which the results of the symposium are also incorporated, BMBWF will discuss the concrete implementation of the proposals with the responsible actors and take appropriate measures (planned period: 2024-25).

#### 2022 Design

In 2022, the design of the measure and procedure took place and the questionnaires for the status quo survey and feedback from practitioners were developed. The search for identification and selection of suitable interview partners and feedback providers began.

#### 2023 Implementation

In the period between March and June 2023, interviews were conducted with 17 representatives from schools in various subject areas and from all *Länder* as well as representatives from Boards of Education. These were intended to gather feedback on both positive aspects and challenges in connection with the existing structures of Erasmus+ mobilities.

The findings from the interviews and recommendations derived from them were discussed with teachers, school leaders and education directorates at an event in autumn 2023. The results and the recommendations derived from them were summarised in a report which was delivered in November 2023 (not published) and should subsequently help to make the necessary structural adjustments.

#### 2024 Implementation

There were no new developments regarding an implementation of the recommendations of the report of 2023.

## Bodies responsible

- Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF)
- Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation (OeAD)

## Target group

### Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices  
Young people (15-29 years old)

### Education professionals

Teachers

### Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

## Thematic categories

### European and international dimensions of VET

VET internationalisation strategies

Mobility of learners and staff

## European priorities in VET

### VET Recommendation

VET as an attractive choice based on modern and digitalised provision of training and skills

### Osnabrück Declaration

European Education and Training Area and international VET

## Subsystem

IVET CVET

## Further reading

[Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research \(BMBWF\) and Federal Ministry for Digitalisation and Economic Location \(BMDW\): National implementation plan \(NIP\) Austria. Vienna, May 2022.](#)

## Related policy developments

---

### 2024 Implementation

### Increasing international mobility of apprentices

In order to learn more about motives and expectations, as well as existing obstacles to mobility and potential incentives for mobility abroad, the project Partnership commissioned ibw Austria: Research and development in VET in 2020 to conduct the study 'Foreign mobility in apprenticeship trainin

**Type of development**

Practical  
measure/Initiative

**Subsystem**

IVET

---

“ ... ” **Cite as**

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). Increasing internationalisation in 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/44421>