

Career check for young adults

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 AUSTRIA

Timeline

2019 Design

2020 Implementation

2021 Implementation

2022 Completed

ID number 38750

Background

The career centres of the Austrian Economic Chambers have been offering a partially standardised talent check for young people at the interface between lower and upper secondary level (7th and 8th grade) throughout Austria for several years. This talent check is supposed to consist of different test procedures on interests, abilities and personality and is usually accompanied by counselling services. In several federal provinces, the talent check is offered and carried out for all young people aged about 13 to 14 years.

However, vocational orientation is not only of great importance in the transition from secondary level to upper secondary level, young people who are about to complete a general or vocational secondary school or college also need support in their further education and career choices. To date, there has been no comparable offer by the career centres of the Economic Chambers for the transition from upper secondary school to the next level of education and training (e.g. universities) or the labour market to support career orientation in school.

Objectives

The aim of the measures is to use a combination of testing and counselling to find a further career path that best suits a person's interests, skills, personality traits, wishes and ideas so that they can make their education and career choices more easily.

This should also reduce a certain mismatch problem in the labour market by better matching the skills needs of companies and the skills development of young people.

Description

In 2020, the Career check for young adults was introduced by the Austrian Economic Chambers and rolled out in five federal provinces. The career check is a combination of testing and counselling that supports young people in their career development. The development of the career check started in 2019 in cooperation with experts from the career centres of the regional Economic Chambers with the support of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber.

The career check includes a test and an individually arranged counselling interview with a

psychologist. In the course of the first appointment, the participants complete a battery of tests consisting of an ability test that records their strengths and abilities in various areas, as well as interest and personality questionnaires. The time required for testing and counselling is about 4 to 5 hours. The battery of tests used was compiled on the basis of existing test procedures and adapted to the target group.

In the course of the counselling appointment, the results of the career check are presented and discussed in detail. The participants learn where their individual potential and inclinations lie and how they can incorporate these into their school and vocational development.

The career check for young adults targets individuals aged 17 to 25, particularly those transitioning from upper secondary education to the labour market or further education and training.

Typically, the career check costs around EUR 180, however in some federal provinces, subsidies from the provincial governments or other partners allow it to be offered at a reduced price or free of charge.

The career check for young adults is offered by the career centres of the regional economic chambers. By the end of 2023, it is planned that the offer is rolled out to the whole of Austria.

The development and implementation of the career check for young adults is part of the 'We educate the economy' initiative of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber.

2019 Design

In 2019, the Career check for young adults was under development.

2020 Implementation

In 2020, the development of the Career check for young adults was completed (initial work started in 2019) and offered in five of the nine provinces.

2021 Implementation

In 2021, the measure is in place and running in six federal states (Salzburg, Upper Austria, Lower Austria, Tirol, Vorarlberg, Burgenland). There have been no relevant changes or innovations.

2022 Completed

In 2022 no relevant changes took place. The check is being carried out in four federal states (Salzburg, Upper Austria, Lower Austria and Burgenland). In two federal states, the programme was not continued and replaced by new programmes developed independently at regional level.

Bodies responsible

- Regional entities of the Austrian Economic Chamber (WKO)
- Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKO)

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

Young people (15-29 years old)

Young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs)

Thematic categories

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Lifelong guidance

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Information and contacts for the career checks \(in German only\)](#)

Related policy developments

2025 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:

 AUSTRIA

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Career check for young adults: 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/38750>