

Training guarantee extension up to age 25

POLICY DEVELOPMENT
REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 AUSTRIA

Timeline

2016 Legislative process	2017 Implementation	2018 Implementation
2019 Implementation	2020 Implementation	2021 Implementation
2022 Implementation	2023 Implementation	2024 Implementation

ID number 27991

Background

Before the introduction of compulsory training until the age of 18, a training guarantee of up to 18 years of age was valid in Austria. To give young people, who have already reached the age of 18 but have not yet achieved sufficient qualifications, better chances of a job, the labour market service, in cooperation with the responsible ministry, extended the training guarantee up to the age of 25.

Objectives

The aim of the measure is to provide a higher qualification for young people who have already achieved maximum compulsory school qualifications, thereby giving them better job market prospects and at the same time countering the impending shortage of skilled workers.

Description

In October 2016, the federal government extended the training guarantee up to the age of 25. This is a special Public Employment Service (AMS) scheme that guarantees young unemployed people aged 19 to 25, who have only completed compulsory education, the right to acquire VET qualifications by attending AMS programmes. To that end, AMS already uses tried-and-tested instruments and funding approaches to offer this target group the possibility of apprenticeship training in companies, alternance apprenticeship training (*überbetrieblicher Ausbildung, ÜBA*) or other workplace-related qualification measures.

2016 Legislative process
2017 Implementation
2018 Implementation
2019 Implementation

In 2019, no relevant changes took place

In 2019, no relevant changes took place.

2020 Implementation

According to the in 2020 available data, around 12 200 people up to the age of 25 received a qualification in 2019. Financial resources of around EUR 77.14 million were used for this. On average in 2019, around 13 500 young people between the ages of 18 and 24, with a maximum of compulsory schooling, were registered as unemployed (around 45% of all unemployed in this age group). The implementation takes place within the framework of applicable federal guidelines for the funding of AMS programmes, which are primarily aimed at vocational training qualifications.

The following instruments are used:

- (a) apprenticeship training for over 18 years old;
- (b) intensive training for skilled workers;
- (c) inter-company vocational training;
- (d) preparation for the final apprenticeship examination;
- (e) job-related qualification;
- (f) training within the framework of a labour foundation/ placement foundation;
- (g) school education.

2021 Implementation

According to the in 2021 available data, 11 890 people received a qualification within the framework of the training guarantee up to age 25 in 2020. Funds amounting to EUR 73.8 million were spent on this. In 2020 an average of 18 533 young people aged 19 to 24 with a compulsory school leaving certificate or less were registered as unemployed (approximately 45% of all the unemployed in this age group).

Beyond these subsidies, the Corona job offensive enables additional subsidy opportunities for the target group of young adults with low qualifications or qualifications that are no longer usable on the labour market. A total of EUR 700 million has been made available for this education and training offensive for the period from September 2020 to December 2021 to offer up to 100 000 people sustainable employment prospects.

2022 Implementation

According to the in 2022 available data, a total of 12 108 young adults participated in this programme in 2021. Funds amounting to EUR 79 million were spent on this. In 2021 an average of 14 300 young people aged 19 to 24 with a compulsory school leaving certificate or less were registered as unemployed (approximately 45% of all the unemployed in this age group) and were given the right to acquire VET qualifications by attending AMS programmes.

2023 Implementation

According to the 2023 available data in 2022, 11 957 persons received skills training under the Training Guarantee till 25, with a total of EUR 73.7 million spent on this programme. On an annual average, 11 845 young people aged 19 to 24 years with no more than compulsory schooling were registered as unemployed in 2022.

2024 Implementation

In view of the number of low-skilled, unemployed people between the ages of 20 and 30, the then Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW) and the then Federal Ministry of Labour (BMA) (now combined in the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy) agreed to set up the 'Just2Job' placement foundation. From October 2020 to the end of 2024, up to 1 000 young adults can join this foundation and complete a shortened apprenticeship at a company. The young people are to be permanently integrated into the labour market with the support of intensive individual support in

taking an extraordinary apprenticeship examination (shortened apprenticeship) in a company and then being taken on in a fully insured employment relationship. 100 supra-regional placements (training and employment at least 50 km from the previous place of residence) are financially supported by a special mobility package (relocation costs, rental costs, housing costs, travel costs and costs of special case management such as looking for accommodation, dealing with authorities). 100 returnees will be supported with a returnee package (childcare costs and travel costs in connection with childcare, extended part-time apprenticeship = longer stay at the foundation).

The expenditure from the company apprenticeship funding funds for this is expected to amount to around EUR 12 million by the end of 2024. In 2022, over 12 000 young adults up to the age of 24 with a maximum of compulsory school leaving certificate were able to take advantage of a qualification programme as part of the training guarantee up to 24.

Bodies responsible

- Austrian Public Employment Service (AMS)
- Federal Ministry of Labour, Family and Youth (BMAFJ) (until 2020)
- Federal Ministry of Labour (BMA) (until 2022)
- Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy (BMAW)

Target group

Learners

Young people (15-29 years old)

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

Persons in employment, including those at risk of unemployment

Low-skilled/qualified persons

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Federal Act amending the Federal Constitutional Law, governing the obligation to provide education or training for young people](#)

[Report on Youth and Work in Austria - reporting year 2023/2024 \[Bericht zu Jugend und Arbeit in Österreich. Berichtsjahr 2023/2024\] \(in German only\)](#)

[Report on Youth and Work in Austria - reporting year 2022/2023 \[Bericht zu Jugend und Arbeit in Österreich. Berichtsjahr 2022/2023\] \(in English\)](#)

[Active labour market policy in Austria 2015 to 2023 \[Aktive Arbeitsmarktpolitik in Österreich 2015 bis 2023\]. \(in German only\)](#)

Related policy developments

2024 Implementation

Training Obligation Act - training up to the age of 18

The legislation introducing a training obligation until the age of 18 was approved by parliament in 2016 and came into force in the summer of 2017.

 AUSTRIA

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET

2024 Implementation

Coaching and counselling for apprentices and companies

Coaching and counselling for apprentices and companies (in particular the apprenticeship trainers) has been mainstreamed across Austria since October 2015. These services were evaluated in a 2018-19 pilot project. In particular, guidance and counselling can be divided as follows:

 AUSTRIA

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). Training guarantee extension up to age 25: 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/27991>