

Compulsory year of integration for refugees



Timeline



ID number 27980

Background

Those refugees entitled to asylum or to subsidiary protection usually have few chances of getting a first job and usually receive needs-based minimum benefits. At the same time, early integration into the labour market and social life is extremely important for their outlook and to force social integration.

Objectives

- (a) support participants in integrating into society and work;
- (b) raise the employability and integration of refugees into the labour market and society by fostering language skills and labour market orientation.

Description

The compulsory year of integration for refugees was decided in May 2017 by the Austrian parliament. It is mainly targeted at unemployed refugees, for whom it is mandatory. Since 2018, asylum seekers from Syria have also been allowed to participate in the integration year if there is a high probability that they will be recognised as entitled to asylum. The opportunity to register for work training during the integration year was extended until the end of March 2019. The year of integration is operated by the Public Employment Service (AMS), with the support of stakeholder organisations such as the Austrian Integration Fund (ÖIF), the Austrian Economic Chamber, the Chamber of Labour, trade unions and the Federation of Austrian Industry. The mechanism consists of modules offered according to individual needs, such as recognition of existing skills and qualifications, language courses, value courses, vocational guidance, work practice (including community service) and job search training.

2017 Approved/Agreed
2018 Implementation
2019 Discontinued Since 1 April 2019, no further admissions have been possible into the voluntary integration year or into work training through the Integration Year Act.

Bodies responsible

- Austrian Public Employment Service (AMS)

Target group

Learners

Learners with migrant background, including refugees

Thematic categories

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Lifelong guidance

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Parliamentary correspondence on refugees](#)

[Federal law consolidated](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Competence checking and training for refugees

In 2016, the following three programmes started to facilitate the integration of refugees in the education and labour market system:

 AUSTRIA

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem


IVET CVET

2022 Completed

Supraregional apprenticeship placement project

The Austrian Economic Chamber initiated the Supraregional apprenticeship placement project with a particular focus on young refugees, though Austrian nationals also have

access to all supporting measures. The project's procedure is as follows.

 AUSTRIA

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” **Cite as**

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/27980>