



# Promoting the apprenticeship scheme granting access to higher education

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

**REGULATION/LEGISLATION** 

**AUSTRIA** 

## **Timeline**

2015 Approved/Agreed 2016 Implementation 2017 Implementation 2018 Implementation 2019 Implementation 2020 Implementation 2021 Implementation 2022 Implementation 2023 Implementation 2024 Implementation

**ID number 27979** 

# **Background**

The scheme was introduced in 2008 by the Federal Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture. It enables apprentices to take part in preparatory courses for the so-called *Berufsreifeprüfung*, the exam giving access to higher education for those VET graduates enrolled in programmes that did not automatically lead to it. Previous amendments to the law had already provided for an extension of the apprenticeship period in such cases. The first funding period of the new model, introduced in 2008, ended in 2012 and the next funding period ended in 2015.

# **Objectives**

Promoting the apprenticeship scheme granting access to higher education aims to:

- (a) increase the share of apprentices opting for the apprenticeship scheme giving access to higher education (*Lehre mit Matura*), from under 10% in 2014 to 15% by 2020;
- (b) allow training companies to receive subsidies for the extension period.

# **Description**

The 2015 amendment reduced red tape by allowing the apprentice and the training company to agree to extend the training period for the duration of the exam preparation without having to ask the consent of the regional apprenticeship advisory board.

Education provider who offer the *Berufsreifeprüfung* receive funding which is determined periodically. At the end of the respective funding period, an evaluation usually takes place. In 2015, the new funding period started until 2018, accompanied by the measure to extend the duration of training.

While the responsibility for the scheme in general lies within the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW) is responsible for all regulations under the

Vocational Training Act that affect the company-based part of apprenticeship training. The BMDW is also responsible for the amendment to the Vocational Training Act that allows for an extension of the apprenticeship period to attend and complete the *Berufsreifeprüfung*.

#### 2015 Approved/Agreed

2016 Implementation

2017 Implementation

2018 Implementation

#### 2019 Implementation

In 2019, a new funding period was introduced. Education institutions can apply for funding to provide preparatory courses until 2025. The Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) provides a maximum grant of EUR 6 000 per participant for subsidised preparatory courses for the *Berufsreifeprüfung*. Interested apprentices need to apply through an education consultant and prepare a letter of motivation. These measures should reduce the dropout from the support programme.

#### 2020 Implementation

According to the latest available participant figures from autumn 2020, around 9 400 people participated in the programme as of May 2020, which means that currently about 5% of all apprentices participate in the *Lehre mit Matura* model. Overall, around 9 900 people successfully completed the *Lehre mit Matura* model in total between May 2012 and May 2020. According to information from the Ministry of Education, 36% of participants do not successfully complete the programme.

The set target of 15% of all apprentices has not been reached so far.

#### 2021 Implementation

According to the latest available participant figures from autumn 2021, around 10 500 people participated in the programme as of May 2021, which means that currently about 6% of all apprentices participate in the *Lehre mit Matura* model. Overall, around 10 900 people successfully completed the *Lehre mit Matura* model between May 2012 and May 2021.

### 2022 Implementation

In 2022, the programme is operational and runs as a regular practice; no updates or changes were made. According to the latest available participant figures from autumn 2022, around 10 500 people participated in the programme as of May 2022, which means that currently about 6% of all apprentices participate in the *Lehre mit Matura* model.

Overall, around 11 900 people successfully completed the *Lehre mit Matura* model between May 2012 and May 2022.

#### 2023 Implementation

No changes were made to the programme in 2023, and it continues to operate as a regular practice. Between November 2022 and April 2023, approximately 10 750 individuals participated in the 'Apprenticeship with Matura' project, accounting for around 6% of all apprentices opting for this training model as of May 2023.

Since 2011, the 'Apprenticeship with Matura' programme has seen a total of 13 025 graduates as of May 2023. Although not all participants successfully complete the program, the number of graduates has been steadily increasing. Unfortunately, current data on dropout rates is unavailable, with the most recent figures dating back to 2020. According to the Ministry of Education, around 36% of participants had exited the

programme by that year.

#### 2024 Implementation

In 2024, the programme remains fully operational and continues as a standard practice. Official statistics on participants for 2024 are not yet available at this time.

# **Bodies responsible**

- Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF)
- Federal Ministry of Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW) (until 2022)
- Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy (BMAW)

# **Target group**

#### Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

## Thematic categories

#### Modernising VET offer and delivery

Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

#### Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Permeability between IVET and CVET and general and vocational pathways, academic and professional higher education

# **European priorities in VET**

#### **VET Recommendation**

Flexibility and progression opportunities at the core of VET

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

# **Subsystem**

**IVET** 

# **Further reading**

The 2015 amendment to the Vocational Training Act (Berufsausbildungsgesetz -BAG)

Information on the new funding period (in German only)

Cite as

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