

Promoting VET's social agenda and quality development

POLICY DEVELOPMENT**PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE** **AUSTRIA**

Timeline

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

ID number 27973

Background

Apprenticeship training has traditionally been characterised by gender stereotypical apprenticeship choices and difficult access to training for disadvantaged target groups. This situation has hardly changed over the years.

Objectives

The objective of the funding programme is to ensure the quality of training and thus increase its attractiveness and to enable young people to have equal access to training, irrespective of gender, origin or personal disadvantages.

Description

Since 2016, the Austrian Economic Chamber, on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW), has funded up to 100% of the costs of projects supporting quality, gender equality and social integration in apprenticeships:

- (a) the quality strand addresses quality management and quality assurance in apprenticeship training, including training tools, innovative testing methods and competence checks, and quality assurance of dual VET;
- (b) the gender equality strand addresses projects that support the placement and successful completion of apprenticeships for young women in specialities with a female share of up to 30% and for young men in specialities with a male share of up to 30%;
- (c) the social integration strand also covers projects targeted at introducing disadvantaged young people (migrants, the disabled, young people with learning difficulties) to apprenticeship training, integrating them sustainably, and supporting their successful completion of apprenticeship certificates.

Only companies that are supported by research institutes or coaching partners may apply for funding. The Chamber of Labour is involved in the action. The opportunity is still

underused, however, as applicants are lacking and more funding is available than is used.

2016 Implementation

2017 Implementation

2018 Implementation

2019 Implementation

In 2019, implementation continued without any further changes.

2020 Implementation

In 2020, three new projects with a gender focus and two new projects with an integration focus were added to the funding programme. One project in each of the two priority areas was completed in 2020. Since the beginning of the funding programme, seven projects with a gender focus and 10 with an integration focus have been approved.

In autumn 2020, a new call for funding was published for projects starting on 1 July 2021. The previous funding lines of gender and integration were combined into a new funding line: inclusion and diversity. The new funding call also focuses on the topics of internationalisation and mobility and sustainability, climate protection and resource efficiency. Another focus is on new forms of training alliances and training in start-up companies. Overall, there has been a shift in the thematic focus from gender and integration towards quality development issues. Projects with a maximum duration of 24 months are funded with a maximum of EUR 250 000 per year.

2021 Implementation

In 2021, seven new projects focusing on quality were launched with a duration of 2 to 3 years. Two of the projects focus on the international mobility of apprentices, five on digital support services. One project with a gender focus was newly launched. The focus here is on digital onboarding processes. Three new projects were launched in the funding priority of integration.

2022 Implementation

In 2022, two new projects focusing on quality were launched with a duration of 2 years. One project focuses on digital learning support and the second on the start-up theme. One project with a gender focus was newly launched. The focus here is on raising awareness of gender issues amongst in-company trainers through the development of an online training course and support for companies in change processes. Three new projects were launched in the funding priority of integration. One of them is the continuation of an already existing project and aims at preparing young people with impairments for an apprenticeship in metal trades. Another focuses on developing multilingual information materials to inform apprenticeships and the third prepares people with autism for training in software occupations.

2023 Implementation

In 2023, 15 projects were completed, and one new project was launched in the funding line of integration. It is set to last till 2024 and focuses on preparing disadvantaged youth for apprenticeships.

2024 Implementation

Four projects were completed, and no new projects were launched in 2024. Since the beginning of the funding programme, seven projects with a gender focus, 10 with an integration focus, and nine with a quality focus have been approved.

I The funding programme is currently being revised, which is why no new applications are possible for the time being.

Bodies responsible

- Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKO)
- Federal Ministry of Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW) (until 2022)
- Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection (until 2020)
- Chamber of Labour (AK)
- Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy (BMAW)

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

Young people (15-29 years old)

Learners with migrant background, including refugees

Learners with disabilities

Learners from other groups at risk of exclusion (minorities, people with fewer opportunities due to geographical location or social-economic disadvantaged position)

Entities providing VET

Companies

VET providers (all kinds)

Other

Young

Women

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Further developing national quality assurance systems

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Integrating green transition and sustainability in VET curricula and programmes

Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Providing for individuals' re- and upskilling needs

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

European and international dimensions of VET

VET internationalisation strategies

Mobility of learners and staff

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET promoting equality of opportunities

Osnabrück Declaration

Establishing a new lifelong learning culture - relevance of continuing VET and digitalisation

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[Website of the initiative 'Funding apprenticeship' \(in German only\)](#)

Related policy developments

2024 Pilot

Training supervisors to support apprentices and training companies

At the suggestion of the social partners, the Ministry of Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW) commissioned a study in 2018 to evaluate existing support structures in apprenticeship training and develop a concept for comprehensive and consistent support for apprentices and training companies through

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Type of development

Strategy/Action plan

Subsystem

IVET

2024 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:

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Type of development

Practical measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

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:



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Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET

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