

Supraregional apprenticeship placement project



Timeline



ID number 27968

Background

At the moment more than 6 500 young asylum seekers and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection are registered as unemployed in Austria, two-thirds of them located in Vienna (figures refer to January 2016). At the same time, the number of vacant apprenticeships that cannot be filled is increasing – particularly in the federal provinces of western Austria.

Objectives

To combat the lack of skilled workers by:

- (a) providing a professional perspective for young refugees;
- (b) enhancing the domestic mobility of young people so they can find a job;
- (c) filling the vacant apprenticeship places of training companies (local level).

Description

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.

At the beginning, young refugees run through an online test (available in German, Arabic, English, French and Farsi) to identify their strengths and interests. The results of these tests form the basis for finding suitable apprenticeship places for these young people and prepare them in the most appropriate way for their new tasks. Refugees and companies also have the possibility to get to know each other during a one-week internship. The entire process is accompanied by an apprenticeship coach. This coach is the primary contact person for the individual refugee when s/he moves to another federal province and when s/he needs to discuss professional as well as private questions. The apprenticeship coach not only supports the young people in their search for an apartment, but also organises psychological advice, if necessary. The coach can also be addressed by the training companies, helping them prepare for their work with the young refugees. This pilot project is in line with one of the additional measures (besides the basic measures) listed in the 'Directive on the funding of apprenticeship training' (*Förderrichtlinie*, according to § 19c, 1 Z

8 of the Vocational Training Act).

2015 Pilot
2016 Pilot
2017 Pilot
2018 Pilot
2019 Implementation In 2019, the Supraregional apprenticeship placement project was fully implemented following the piloting of this project in several federal provinces from 2015.
2020 Implementation In 2020, new information about the project, on apprenticeship training in Austria and on living and working in Austria, was introduced in different languages (English, Arabic, Farsi) on the website of the Austrian Economic Chamber to support the young asylum seekers.
2021 Implementation In 2021, there were no new developments.
2022 Completed Originally initiated by the Austrian Economic Chamber the project is since 2022 being carried out under the auspices of the Labour Market Service Vienna together with a training provider. The project has been fully implemented, and no further developments are expected.

Bodies responsible

- Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKO)
- Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection (until 2020)
- Austrian Public Employment Service (AMS)
- Federal Ministry of Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW) (until 2022)
- Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy (BMAW) (until 2025)
- Federal Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism (BMWET)

Target group

Learners

Learners with migrant background, including refugees

Entities providing VET

Companies
VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Financial and non-financial incentives to learners, providers and companies

Lifelong guidance

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Project overview \(in German only\)](#)

Related policy developments

2025 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

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

2019 Discontinued

Compulsory year of integration for refugees

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.

 AUSTRIA

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 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. (2026). Supraregional apprenticeship placement project: 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/27968>