

8-Point Plan for digital learning



Timeline



ID number 46977

Background

The rapid digital transformation of society and the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need for a comprehensive digital education strategy in Austria. Building on the foundation of the 'School 4.0' initiative, which focused on the development of digital skills, the Austrian Ministry of Education, Science, and Research introduced the '8-Point Plan' in 2020. This new plan aims to ensure continuity in digital education while addressing emerging challenges.

A key focus remains the development of digital competencies among learners and teachers, emphasising not only the use of digital tools but also fostering media competency. The ability to navigate digital information, critically assess media content, use digital tools effectively and creatively, and make socially responsible and ethically conscious decisions has become essential for both educators and learners. The '8-Point Plan' aims to integrate these skills across the curriculum, ensuring that Austria's education system can adapt to the evolving needs of a digitalised world.

Objectives

- (a) Introduce the new subject 'Basic digital education' (Digitale Grundbildung) into the curriculum, focusing on providing learners with essential digital skills, including safe and constructive online behaviour, understanding of digital tools and media, and fundamental programming skills. This subject ensures that learners are equipped with the knowledge needed to participate effectively in a digital society from an early age.
- (b) Enhance teacher training with a focus on digital pedagogies and tools.
- (c) Establish a unified digital communication platform to facilitate interaction between learners, teachers, and parents.
- (d) Standardise digital learning platforms across schools, reducing complexity and ensuring consistency in digital education.
- (e) Implement a quality assurance system for learning apps, introducing a 'Learning Apps Seal of Approval' to guide the selection of digital learning resources.
- (f) Expand IT infrastructure, providing digital devices to learners and ensuring schools are equipped for modern educational needs.

Description

The 8-Point Plan represents a strategic shift from the initial 'School 4.0' approach, which focused primarily on developing digital competencies among teachers and learners. The new plan, launched in response to the pandemic's challenges, aimed to provide a more integrated digital learning environment. Key measures included the rollout of a centralised digital school web portal and the distribution of digital devices to students in lower secondary schools, beginning in 2020.

A significant addition under the 8-Point Plan was the introduction of the new subject 'Basic Digital Education' (Digitale Grundbildung) into the lower secondary education curriculum. This subject aims to provide students with foundational digital skills, covering areas such as safe and constructive internet usage, data privacy, digital communication, basic programming, media education and media production. The inclusion of 'Basic Digital Education' ensures that students develop a comprehensive understanding of digital environments, enabling them to use digital tools responsibly and effectively and reflect on socio-cultural conditions and effects of new technologies.

The plan also introduced measures to improve the digital competence of teachers, offering additional training modules that focus on the effective use of digital tools in remote and hybrid learning settings. The certification of learning apps began in 2021, establishing a standard for digital resources used in classrooms.

2020 Implementation

In 2020, the 8-Point Plan started to be implemented in response to the pandemic, focus on teacher training and standardising digital learning platforms.

2021 Implementation

In 2021, the focus of the plan was on device distribution to learners (fifth and sixth grades of lower secondary school), improvement of the digital infrastructure at schools and certification of learning apps.

2022 Implementation

In 2022, the implementation continued, with an emphasis on the new subject 'Basic Digital Education' (Digitale Grundbildung). Conceptual preparatory work was started on a 'digitisation passport', which is to contribute to the strengthening and standardisation of basic competences in the field of digitisation for VET schools and colleges (BMHS, NQF levels 4 and 5). This initiative is identified as measures in the Austrian National Implementation Plan (NIP).

2023 Implementation

In 2023, AI-related initiatives in schools were introduced as part of the programme 'Artificial Intelligence - Opportunity for Austria's Schools'. This initiative aims to integrate AI as a tool for learning and teaching, helping students understand the fundamentals of AI and its applications while ensuring teachers are equipped to leverage AI tools in the classroom. Additionally, the preparatory phase began for adapting curricula in upper secondary education, building on the competencies developed through 'basic digital education' in lower secondary education.

2024 Implementation

In 2024, AI initiatives further expanded, with pilot projects implemented in selected schools to explore best practices for AI integration in the classroom. The adaptation of upper secondary curricula continues, aiming to align advanced digital skills with the foundations gained in lower secondary education.

Bodies responsible

- Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF)

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

Education professionals

Teachers
School leaders

Thematic categories

Modernising VET infrastructure

Modernising infrastructure for vocational training
Improving digital infrastructure of VET provision

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Acquiring key competences

Teachers, trainers and school leaders competences

Systematic approaches to and opportunities for initial and continuous professional development of school leaders, teachers and trainers
Supporting teachers and trainers for and through digital

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET agile in adapting to labour market challenges

Flexibility and progression opportunities at the core of VET

VET as a driver for innovation and growth preparing for digital and green transitions and occupations in high demand

Osnabrück Declaration

Resilience and excellence through quality, inclusive and flexible VET

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

Subsystem

Further reading

[Eight-point plan for digitisation in education \[8-Punkte-Plan für die Digitalisierung im Bildungswesen\]](#)

['Learning Apps' seal of approval \[Gütesiegel Learn-Apps\]](#)

[Digital literacy \[Digitale Grundbildung\]](#)

[Artificial intelligence - an opportunity for Austria's schools \[Künstliche Intelligenz - Chance für Österreichs Schulen\]](#)

Related policy developments

2024 Implementation

Upskilling in digital production in vocational training institutions

Qualification in the use of digital production tools should be introduced step by step via relevant BMHS curricula, UAS study programmes and other contemporary qualification methods and be designed in a practice-oriented manner.

 AUSTRIA

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET

2024 Implementation

Strategy for artificial intelligence in education and training

In 2018, the Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT) and the Federal Ministry of Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW) jointly published the paper Artificial Intelligence Mission Austria 2030.

 AUSTRIA

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2023 Discontinued

Digitalisation strategy School 4.0. - now we are going digital

Since autumn 2017, all new teachers must acquire standardised digital competences, including digital subject-specific didactic, within their initial teacher training programme.

 AUSTRIA

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” **Cite as**

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). 8-Point Plan for digital learning: 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/46977>