VET IN AUSTRIA

Eastern Partnership Annual Regional forum on Work based Learning in VET
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Statistics Austria

- Surface: 83.871 km²
- Capital city: Wien
- Inhabitants: 8,7 Mio
- 9 federal states
Unemployment rate: 4.8% (07 2018, EUROSTAT)

(EU28-unemployment rate: 6.8% (07 2018, EUROSTAT)

Youth unemployment: 9.4% (age 15 - 24, 07 2018, EUROSTAT)

(EU28 - youth unemployment: 16.6% (age 15 - 24, 07 2018, EUROSTAT)

Young people in initial VET at upper secondary level: 80%

Highest percentage of all European Union and OECD Countries
VOCATIONAL COLLEGES

- **Colleges of engineering, arts and crafts**: e.g. mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, electronics, computer systems and organisation, construction technology, chemical engineering, textile engineering

- **Colleges of fashion and artistic design**

- **Colleges of service industries and tourism**

- **Colleges of business administration**

- **Colleges of agriculture and forestry**: e.g. agriculture and horticulture, wine and fruit growing, forestry, dairy production)
VOCATIONAL COLLEGES

- Offer general education and occupation related training

- The curriculum is divided into three equal parts:
  - general education, vocational theory and vocational practice
  - (in school work shops, laboratories, virtual companies, kitchens and other practice facilities)

- Compulsory periods of practical training in business and industry during the summer holidays
VOCATIONAL COLLEGES

Admission:
- successful completion of the 8th grade, in some subjects entrance examination or aptitude test (arts)
- **Duration**: 5 years (from 14 to 19)
- **Qualification**: matriculation examination giving access to all universities + vocational qualification giving access to regulated trades;
- **ISCED Level 2011**: 5
- Good career prospects
- **Enrollment**: 26 % of an age cohort
VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

- Wide range of subjects
- Offer general education and occupation related training
- The curriculum is divided into three equal parts:
  - general education, vocational theory and vocational practice
  - (in school work shops, laboratories, virtual companies, kitchens and other practice facilities)
- Compulsory periods of practical training in business and industry during the summer holidays
VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

- **Duration**: 1 – 4 years, the majority has a duration of 3 years (age 14 – 17), **ISCED level 2011: 4**

- General education, vocational theory and vocational practice

- Focus on *practical training* in school workshops, laboritories and practical classes

- **Compulsory practical training** in an enterprise during the summer holidays

- School leaving certificate does not give access to universities, but there is a possibility to follow „bridging courses“ (2 to 3 years) leading to the matriculation examination

- School leaving certificate gives access to **regulated professions**

**Enrollment**: 14% of an age cohort
DUAL TRAINING SYSTEM

- Training takes place in **two places** ("dual system"): training enterprise and part-time vocational school

- **Duration**: two to four years, mostly three years
DUAL TRAINING SYSTEM

Entrance requirements: to be over compulsory school age (successful completion of lower secondary school is not a condition)

Duration: 2 – 4 years (in most cases 3 years)
3,5 or 4 days: training in the company
1 or 1,5 days: in part time vocational school
in rural areas: Block system, several weeks in school and rest of the year in the company

In the part time vocational school:
⅔ occupation related technical tuition, ⅓ general education

Enrollment: 38% of an age cohort
ISCED Level: 4
DUAL TRAINING SYSTEM

- **Conditions:**
  - Willingness of companies to train the apprentices
  - Qualified and interested students
  - Well defined curricula and standards for the qualifications
  - Definition of the qualifications in co-operation with the trades and social partners
  - Co-operation between school and company
DUAL TRAINING SYSTEM

- 214 Apprenticeship vocations
- 110,000 Apprentices
  = 40 percent of the peer group
- 32,000 apprenticeship training companies
DUAL TRAINING SYSTEM

Berufsreifeprüfung (BRP) – A-Level exam

- Introduction in 1997 to increase permeability and attractiveness of VET

- Attract ambitious and talented young people
  No dead-ends in education

- Gives access to all forms of tertiary education and to public employment at respective level

- Four partial exams: German, mathematics, foreign language, specialist area

- Target group: people with VET qualification - apprenticeship graduates, graduates of VET schools, etc.
DUAL TRAINING SYSTEM – Supracompany Training

- Training guarantee for young people who cannot be placed into regular apprenticeship posts
- Company replaced by a training center
- Participants receive an apprenticeship salary from the government
  1st and 2nd year: 300 €/month, 3rd and 4th year: 600 €/month
- Approximately 9,000 participants
- 100 different trades
- Total cost per year and participant: 14,000 to 16,000 €
DUAL TRAINING SYSTEM – Integrative VET

Special apprenticeship programs for young people at risk

Vocational training for socially disadvantaged or less gifted people

Types:

a) Acquisition of partial qualifications – duration: 1 to 3 years
b) Apprenticeship with a longer training period: prolongation of the programme by 1 to max. 2 years
DUAL TRAINING SYSTEM – RNFIL

- Application at the Ministry of Economic Affairs
- Admission to the Final Apprenticeship Exam without previous apprenticeship
- Preparatory courses financed by the Ministry of Labour with a duration of up to 1.5 years
- Final Exam at the Regional Economic Chamber and Regular Apprenticeship Certificate
- Appr. 20 % of all Apprenticeship Exams come from this not traditional way
DUAL TRAINING SYSTEM – Regional Chambers

Apprenticeship offices (first-instance vocational training authorities):

- Set up at the provincial chambers of economy
- Apprenticeship authority at the first level
- Examination of suitability of training enterprises (personal and technical aspects)
- Checking and registration of apprenticeship agreements
- Secretariat of Provincial Advisory Board on Apprenticeship
- Advice for training enterprises
- Advice for apprentices
- Organisation of final apprenticeship exams
DUAL TRAINING SYSTEM – Costs per year

- **Apprenticeship (training company)**
  - EUR 5,650 (financed by training company) (all years)

- **fully school-based IVET (VET schools & colleges)**
  - EUR 9,530

- **ÜBA (supra-company training)**
  - EUR 17,270

+ voc. part-time school
DUAL TRAINING – FINANCING

- **Training companies** provide and pay for company based part of training and training infrastructure within the company
  - trainer salaries = employees,
  - apprentice remuneration (=wage for the apprentice)

- **Federal and regional governments** provide and finance the school based-part of training (pro rata)
  - The costs for equipment of part-time vocational schools (machinery, teaching material etc.) are borne by the federal provinces
  - The federal government and the provinces share costs for the teaching staff equally
DUAL TRAINING – FINANCING

Support to training companies by the government

- Basic subsidiation (1st year: 3 apprenticeship salaries, 2nd year: 2; 3rd and 4th year: 1)
- Quality-related subsidies – such as for training alliances, training of trainers, preparatory courses for examinations, Combination with Berufsreifeprüfung, Work placements abroad, ...
- Coaching for apprentices; practical help such as manuals etc.
- Waiving of insurance costs Application at Apprenticeship Offices of the Regional Economic Chambers
**Apprenticeship Training**

Predominantly: learning in training company (70-80% of total training duration)
=> 20-30% in comp. part time VET schools

**School based IVET**

Predominantly (up to 100%) learning in school, i.e. “fully” school based IVET
+ practical learning in simulation settings (work in workshops, laboratories, kitchens, practice firms, etc.)
+ voluntary/mandatory work placements in business (alternance / internships)
+ business projects
Apprenticeship Training  School based IVET

Demand-led system  => Youth is an employee (training contract)

Trainers (employees)

System is mainly governed by:


Student/supply-led system  => Youth is a student

- Teachers

- Ministry (of Education)
Success Factors of VET in Austria

- High Prestige of VET
- Permeability
- Good co-operation with the business world
- Labour-market oriented curricula and focus on employability
- Very diversified training offer at upper secondary level
- Safety nets for young people at risk
- VET teachers and trainers must have at least two years of practical experience
Ideas for Introducing VET and Workbased Learning in a new country/ context

„Apprenticeship light“

- Definition of qualifications in co-operation with the relevant business sectors
- Development of learning outcomes and recognition systems for non-formal and informal learning
- Improving esteem of VET through improved permeability to continuing and higher education
- Developing internships and forms of dual training
- Introducing vocational courses in schools for general upper secondary education
Thank you for your attention!