



Production Schools

School-to-work transition and further education and training offer for young people

AUSTRIA

Title of the practice (in original language)

Produktionsschule

Who was implementing the practice?

Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection

Which other organisations were involved in the practice?

Social Ministry Service; Public Employment Service (PES)

What were the main objectives of the practice?

“Produktionsschule” is an offer for adolescents and young adults who are seeking “individual training maturity” for their continued educational or professional training after completing compulsory education¹. Thus, it is not part of the formal education system.

Production schools are a low-threshold offer that support the development of workplace-related skills (e.g. ability to concentrate, diligence, punctuality, independence), social skills (e.g. manners, external appearance, dealing with criticism and conflicts) and shall lead to the ability to independently follow one’s career choices after completing the offer.

Each participant receives a specific and targeted recommendation for the next step in the education/training system when they leave the production school.

When was the practice implemented?

Production schools have existed for several years. Following the adoption in July 2016 of the federal law on Education and Training until the age of 18, the production school concept was modernized and the measure was prominently extended and integrated in the transition system between compulsory education and labour market (a pilot called AusbildungsFit – Ready for Education and Training started in 2013; the concept of this pilot and that of the former production schools were merged into the new concept of production schools in 2016).

Who was targeted by the practice?

The target group is young people after the end of compulsory school (mostly age 15) up to the age of 21 (or 24, if they have been diagnosed with special educational needs or disabilities, individual impairments or social disadvantages etc.), who are in need of assistance and whose enrolment in vocational training is likely to be difficult (likely drop-out etc.) due to skills deficiencies.

Participants enter a production school after clearance through Youth Coaching.

¹ Compulsory education in Austria lasts nine years.

What activities were carried out?	<p>The production school is built upon four pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training modules: Training modules focus on the following topics: Activation (introduction), Exercise (training, professional orientation, etc.), Specialisation (for specific professional training) • Coaching: A coach accompanies participants throughout their stay at the production school and examines progress approx. every 3 months; supervises participants during the courses which involve internships in commercial enterprises, etc. • Knowledge workshops: training in competences required for the next step in education or training • Sports activities: Sports and exercises are of vital importance in production schools and are offered at different levels. <p>Before leaving production schools, participants receive a specific and targeted plan for further steps, called “future map”.</p>
What were the sources of funding?	<p>Social Ministry Service using ESF and the federal budget</p>
What were the outputs: people reached and products?	<p>There were 49 production schools with 3,776 participants in 2017 Gender: 62% men, 38% women Participation broken down by age: 15 year-olds: 14%, 16: 29%, 17: 24%, 18: 14%, 19: 7%, 20: 5%, 21+: 8%; average age of participants: 17,2 years</p>
What were the outcomes: medium-term results or effects?	<p>60% of participants left a production school with success, the average duration of participation is 10 months. Most participants leave the production schools with the recommendation to start an apprenticeship.</p>
What were the lessons learnt and success factors?	<p>Lessons learnt: Production schools are a key instrument in the transition system that is continuously advanced in course of the implementation of the federal law on Education and Training until 18: an increase in participation is expected thanks to the comprehensive monitoring system for detecting and (re-)integrating into education NEETs, early school leavers or those who lack individual training maturity. Data, studies and experiences with the programme reveal that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target groups that are hard to reach need more training offers and offers with a very low threshold. Thus, a pilot with very low-threshold entrance modules for production schools is currently implemented and evaluated; in case of success, nationwide implementation is foreseen in 2019 • The target group is increasingly heterogeneous: individual production schools focus for instance on formerly detained youth, those with mental health problems or offers for girls and young women (with care responsibilities) • Involvement of parents is often crucial for successful integration in continued education or training • Dedicated psychological support for young people with mental health problems would be crucial, as their number is constantly increasing in production schools. <p>Success factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth coaching aims to raise the motivation levels of young people to remain in the project -> the offer should not only focus on “learning” but also cover social issues, activities in groups, sports, group dynamics, etc. • Developing incentives (also financial) to participate in and complete the programme.

**What are key source(s)
of information?**

Yearly report (in German):

<https://www.bundeskost.at/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Produktionsschule-Jahresbericht-2017.pdf>

General information (in German):

<http://www.bundeskost.at/information/produktionsschule.html>

Brochures (different languages available):

<https://www.neba.at/produktionsschule>

Youth and Work in Austria (General information on all measures):

<https://broschuerenservice.sozialministerium.at/Home/Download?publicationId=29>