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Austria

Styrian Employment Pact (STEBEP) and Regional Pacts

Territory covered by the partnership The Styrian Employment Pact covers the province of Styria with a population of about 1.2 million inhabitants and is divided into six pact regions: Western Upper Styria, Eastern Upper Styria, Liezen, Eastern Styria, Graz & Environs and South-West-Styria.

Policy areas Labour market and employment policy

Partners **STEBEP:** Provincial Government, Public Employment Service, Federal Office of Social Affairs, Economic Chamber, Chamber of Labour, Austrian Federation of Trade Unions, Federation of Austrian Industry, Representative of the Regional Pacts, Gender Mainstreaming experts, Non-Profit organisations
Regional pacts: Regional management association (pact co-ordination), Public Employment Service/regional offices, representatives of employees and employers, Gender Mainstreaming expert, representatives of regional non-profit organisations

Description of the Partnership **Mission:** The main goal of the STEBEP is to better link employment policy with other policies in order to mainstream employment policy on provincial/regional level. The Regional Pact opens the way to a broad and versatile network, especially to deal with specific regional needs and define regional strategies and measures. The network carries comprehensive know-how for planning and implementation of projects in the fields "qualification" and "employment". The Regional Pact Co-ordinators provide a wide range of service for the region (e.g. consultancy on EU funding, programming).

Objectives: The aim is to create a comprehensive partnership that combines activities pertaining to social and regional policy with objectives derived from employment and labour market policy. Funding and actions are to be pooled and co-ordinated to the end of combating unemployment and creating jobs.

Methods, policy instruments: Creation of jobs, qualification of unemployed and individuals threatened by exclusion from the labour market, implementation of the annual STEBEP programme, transnational co-operation with Hungary and Slovenia, integration of additional partners and further policies, STEBEP Platform to provide a basis for exchange of experience and dialogue between regional and provincial level.

Duration of the partnership: STEBEP: 2001 – 2005; regional pacts: 2000 – 2006

Added value of the Partnership Measures relating to employment policy are combined with those of other policy areas as well as with regional development and are planned and implemented in co-operation. This results in better co-ordination at the provincial and regional levels as well as in being able to obtain further funding from the public and private sectors.

Main source of financing of the partnerships and its projects The financial support structure is being offered within the framework of the Structural Funds' Programme (ESF, Objective 3, Priority 6, 2000-2006). Projects are funded by "Cooperative Qualification and Employment Programme" agreed between Public Employment Service and provincial government/Department of Economy, EU funds and other funding offered by the public and private sector.

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