

Employment Pact Styria (STEBEP) and Regional Pacts



Main partners **STEBEP:** Provincial Government of Styria (Departments for Social Affairs, Education and Economy), Public Employment Service, Federal Social Welfare Office, Economic Chamber, Chamber of Labour, Austrian Trade Union Federation, Federation of Austrian Industries, Regional Pacts, Gender Mainstreaming (GM) officers, NGO representatives
Regional Pacts: Regional Managements, Public Employment Service, social partners, GM Officers, NGO representatives

Parties to the contract **STEBEP:** Provincial Government of Styria, Public Employment Service, Economic Chamber, Chamber of Labour, Austrian Trade Union Federation, Federation of Austrian Industries
Regional Pacts: Public Employment Service, Regional Management Board, regional players

Contractual period STEBEP: 2007 – 2013 | Regional Pacts: different periods

Description of the partnership STEBEP has been conceived as a platform based on partnerships for activities related to employment policies in Styria; it has been renewed in 2001 and 2007. The Employment Policy Forum (Beschäftigungspolitische Forum) is a strategic steering group; the operational business is conducted by the STEBEP core team, which calls in additional members when dealing with specific issues. STEBEP provides a strategic umbrella for the individual Regional Pacts, which are formed as operational and regional strategy units with steering groups, working/project groups and pact coordination units.

Core function of the Pact STEBEP focuses on incorporating employment policy on a broad basis as well as on controlling, coordinating and supporting the Regional Pacts. Employment policy is linked with other policy areas, strategies and measures are planned and implemented based on cooperation.

Objectives The objective is to create a comprehensive partnership at the level of the Provincial Government and the regions, to promote employment-creating initiatives under a neutral umbrella and to establish links with regional priority policy areas. The financial funds and measures are to be bundled and coordinated to combat unemployment and to create jobs.

Range of measures and target groups The key themes of the STEBEP Working Programme for the period 2007-2009 are as follows: (further) training of skilled workers, choosing training and career paths as well as taking advantage of the potentials of specific target groups (young people, women, older workers, persons furthest away from the labour market). The priorities defined in the "Styrian Qualification and Employment Programme" of the Public Employment Service and the Provincial Government of Styria (Department for Social Affairs and Labour) are to improve the employment opportunities for specific target groups, the integration of those furthest away from the labour market and demand-oriented qualifications for skilled workers.

Activities and results 2008 STEBEP was positioned as a "Platform for Employment" in Styria; in this process the new organisational structure of STEBEP was implemented by establishing the first "Employment Policy Forum", the "enlarged core team" and theme-specific working groups. The Rules of Procedure and the Working Programme of STEBEP were adopted, a STEBEP folder was prepared and the STEBEP website was set up as a knowledge platform on employment. Three priorities of the Provincial Government regarding "older people in the labour market", choice of training and career paths as well as people furthest away from the labour market were addressed.

Priorities for action 2009 The working group "Employment Data" works on a compact presentation of relevant data on the STEBEP website, an internal work zone is set up as a knowledge and working platform for the STEBEP players. A dialogue event has been scheduled for autumn. The main issues addressed are training and career choices, skilled workers, older people in the labour market and people furthest away from the labour market (for Priority 3b projects, see overleaf).

Financing and funding In the framework of the "Cooperative Qualification and Employment Programme" of the Provincial Government and the Public Employment Service, measures amounting to about EUR 30,200,000 are coordinated. Funding from the budget for ESF Priority 3b, Operational Programme "Employment" for Austria 2007-2013, and co-financing under the Pact is made available for measures enhancing the integration of persons furthest away from the labour market. STEBEP coordination, PR work and the coordination of the Regional Pacts are funded under ESF Priority 5, Operational Programme "Employment" for Austria 2007-2013.

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