

Pact for Employment and Qualification – Upper Austria



Main partners and parties to the contract Provincial Government of Upper Austria, Public Employment Service, Federal Social Welfare Office, Economic Chamber, Chamber of Labour, Austrian Trade Union Federation, Federation of Austrian Industries, School Board for Upper Austria, Gender Mainstreaming Officers

Contractual period January 2009 – December 2009

Description of the partnership Annual Pact programmes for employment and qualification (PEQ) have been drawn up since 1999; decisions are taken on an ongoing basis. The executive bodies of the TEP are the „Active Labour Market Policy Forum” and the Pact Coordination Unit. The implementation of the Pact programme receives well-aimed support in five regions through contractually defined activities of Regional Managers for Work (RMW). The tasks of the RMWs comprise counselling, project development as well as support to the Pact in implementing its programme.

Core function of the Pact The PEQ is a joint support programme; policies are coordinated on an ongoing basis in the “Active Labour Market Policy Forum”, allowing fast responses to labour market policy developments. For the year 2009 an additional ad-hoc agreement for the promotion of young adults has been entered into between the Provincial Government of Upper Austria and the Upper Austrian Public Employment Service to promote young adults as this group is currently facing a tight labour market situation.

Objectives In 2009 the Employment Pact launches various initiatives, e.g. to prevent dismissals, promote qualification, improve the employability of long-term unemployed persons and to integrate people with impairments. It supports migrants in developing occupational potentials and the integration of those furthest away from the labour market.

Range of measures and target groups Training programmes for young people, employment projects, qualification and counselling projects, the “Bildungskonto” (“Account for Training/Education”) of the Provincial Government of Upper Austria, labour foundations, projects for those furthest away from the labour market and a package of programmes for migrants are among the measures of the Pact 2009. The main target groups are young people, long-term unemployed persons, people with disabilities, unemployed women and job returners.

Activities and results 2008 The preparatory work for the current Pact period focused on the priority theme “migration”. As an innovative measure the coaching project “Coping with Work” was realised in the framework of the qualification counselling programme for companies co-financed by the ESF, which concentrates on maintaining the staff’s capacity for work as well as on company health promotion schemes.

Priorities for action 2009 The support and qualification programme for migrants initiated in 2008 and the ESF Priority 3b projects for those furthest away from the labour market (for more details see back) are continued. Financial support for covering the training expenses of persons taking educational leave was added to the portfolio. A new course for training nursery assistants is offered as the demand for qualified personnel will increase after introduction of free nursery attendance. The demand for home helpers entitled to provide independent care services will also grow; therefore the respective training programmes of the Public Employment Service form part of the range of qualification measures of the PEQ 2009.

Financing and funding In 2009 the Pact offers measures worth more than EUR 163,500,000 to about 75,600 persons. Additional funds from the budget for ESF Priority 3b / Operational Programme “Employment” for Austria 2007-2013 and co-financing of the Pact are made available for measures improving the integration of those furthest away from the labour market. The RMWs are funded under ESF Priority 5, Operational Programme “Employment” for Austria 2007-2013.

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