

Territorial Employment Pact Lower Austria

Provincial Government, Public Employment Service,
Federal Office of Social Affairs, Economic Chamber, Chamber of Labour,
Austrian Federation of Trade Unions, Federation of Austrian Industry,
Gender Mainstreaming Expert, Associations of Municipal Representatives of the
Austrian Social Democratic Party and the Austrian People's Party

**Main and
Contractual
Partners**

2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006

Description of the Partnership In 1999, the pact was signed between the Public Employment Service, the Federal Office of Social Affairs and the Provincial Government, and a declaration of support was signed by the social partners. The partnership was confirmed for a further two years by all of the partners in 2005. The TEP platform assumes responsibility for general decision-making on strategy, support and in defining the framework conditions. The TEP steering group is responsible for individual decisions regarding proposals in conformance with the pact.

Contractual Period January 2005 – December 2006

Objectives The main objectives of the pact in the way of labour market policy are to create 4,000 additional jobs and to reduce the unemployment rate from 7% to 6.5% by the end of 2006. Additional objectives include aligning measures with regional needs, equal opportunities for women and men in the job market and combating unemployment of youth.

Areas of Action and Target Groups The pact implements non-profit employment projects, socio-economic enterprises, institutions for counselling and care, qualification measures, labour foundations as well as childcare projects and initiates measures that combine objectives pertaining to structural policy with those of labour market policy. The target groups are in particular women, older persons, youth, long-term unemployed, persons with special needs (disabled) and those with low qualifications.

Activities and Results in 2004 In 2004, measures were carried out that are designed to combat unemployment among youth, to achieve targeted qualification of the unemployed, to expand the capacity of placement foundations for the target groups of older persons and healthcare workers and to ensure gender-sensitive vocational orientation as well as gender mainstreaming within companies. In addition, the TEP contract was reworked and extended and was anchored in Lower Austria's provincial development concept. A further result of efforts was application for a „regional framework programme“ under INTERREG IIIC which has subsequently been approved.

Contents in 2005 The package of measures in 2005 includes, among other things, the permanent consolidation of the structure that has been built up and developed, continued expansion of the „Job konkret“ placement foundation model and implementation of the „IED – Innovative Employment Development“ INTERREG IIIC project.

Financing The contents mentioned above are implemented in the form of measures, having a total budget of EUR 126,760,000, which are coordinated and stipulated within the framework of the employment pact.

„Added Value“ of the Pact „The pact serves to enhance social and labour market policy; in the final analysis, all pact partners regard the pact very positively, judging it a benefit for Lower Austria. Labour market policy has for many of the actors become more lucid and easier to anticipate“ (Study commissioned by TEP Lower Austria [2003]: Territorial Employment Pacts. Chances for success and institutional framework conditions as compared across Europe).

Further Development of the Pact In addition to anchoring the pact in Lower Austria's provincial development concept, the follow-up contract has been signed by all of the partners, thus reinforcing their commitment to the contract. The pact has furthermore established its position as an authority in professional matters, as successful application for an interregional framework programme (INTERREG IIIC) and plans for its implementation demonstrate.

Objective 3 Support Pact coordination, for which funding from the Objective 3 programme (European Social Fund – ESF Priority 6) has been applied for, is responsible for ongoing coordination, studies, evaluations, public relations efforts and the implementation of gender mainstreaming measures.

Pact Coordination

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