

Regional Employment and Qualification Pact for Upper Austria

Provincial Government, Public Employment Service,
Economic Chamber, Chamber of Labour, Austrian Federation of Trade Unions,
Federation of Austrian Industry, Provincial School Board, Gender Mainstreaming Expert

**Main and
Contractual
Partners**

2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006

Description of the Partnership Since 1999, a new funding programme of the Pact has been defined each year, while decisions are taken on an ongoing basis. The bodies responsible for the TEP are the „Active Labour Market Policy Forum“ and the pact coordination. The implementation of the funding programme is supported in five regions in a targeted manner by activities of regional managers for employment (RMEs), which are stipulated by contract.

Contractual Period January 2005 – December 2005

Objectives Aligned with the National Action Plan for Employment, the pact pursues the objectives of improving chances for placing jobseekers, developing a spirit of entrepreneurship, promoting the adaptability to structural change and promoting equal opportunities.

Areas of Action and Target Groups The pact implements the following: measures for youth seeking job-training positions and for youth with learning or other disabilities or social problems; non-profit employment projects; socio-economic enterprises; business start-up counselling; qualification and counselling projects; continued education account of the Province of Upper Austria; (implication) foundations; and childcare service offerings. Target groups include in particular: youth, the long-term unemployed, persons with disabilities, unemployed women and women re-entering the job market, entrepreneurs as well as businesses and their employees.

Activities and Results in 2004 In 2004, measures were carried out to the end of improving winter employment, qualifying women for jobs, starting up businesses as well as expanding both implication foundations and training and counselling services for youth. These latter services were able to be increased by 45% as compared with the previous year. Furthermore, an „Additional Pact for Young Adults“ was completed.

Contents in 2005 The offerings for youth will be supplemented in 2005 by apprenticeship training in workshops across companies. One of the new initiatives is a socio-economic enterprise for older people who are able to continue to remain employed with the enterprise until they reach retirement age. Within the framework of (abbreviated) training courses for skilled workers in professions faced with a heavy demand, 225 people will receive skills training leading to a completed apprenticeship. Capacities of labour foundations will continue to be expanded.

Financing In total, with over EUR 100,000,000 in funding in 2005, the pact will provide offerings to more than 55,000 people.

„Added Value“ of the Pact Thanks to ongoing coordination through the „Active Labour Market Policy Forum“, the pact is able to swiftly respond to developments in the job market. For example, a proposal originally made by the Chamber of Labour and the Economic Chamber in autumn 2004 to qualify unskilled workers or those with skills acquired only on the job, bringing these individuals up to the level of fully skilled workers, has already been implemented within actual training projects since the beginning of the year.

Further Development of the Pact By intervening in numerous ways, the pact is making a substantial contribution toward maintaining a favourable labour market situation in Upper Austria. At present, with continually shrinking budgets, greater efforts will be necessary in order to maintain the level of support enjoyed up to now. With the aid of the five RMEs, available funding will need to be used in an even more targeted and careful manner than up to now, if the desired effects in the way of labour market policy are to be achieved.

Objective 3 Support The support funding applied for from the Objective 3 programme (European Social Fund – ESF Priority 6) will be used for continuing to employ the RMEs, whose tasks range from counselling to project planning and who assist the pact in particular in carrying out EQUAL projects.

Pact Coordination

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