



The Austrian school system and the variety of offers, particularly in the VET sector, enable our students to complete cutting-edge, quality-oriented training that is recognised across Europe. For many countries the Austrian VET system sets the standard, in part thanks to the low youth unemployment rate because of this system.

Around 80 percent of Austrian students participate in an initial vocational education and training programme. This proves the attractiveness of VET schools and colleges as well as apprenticeship training in Austria. In this way, young people lay the foundation for a successful start to working life and also have good career opportunities internationally.

The tradition of VET schools and colleges in Austria dates back to the 19th century. Since then, the school-based VET sector has undergone continual expansion and further development with much success.

This brochure presents the individual school types within the VET school system and addresses innovative, forward-looking educational topics as well as continuing professional development and lifelong learning in the adult education sector.

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Gabriele Heinisch-Hosek  
Federal Minister of Education and Women's Affairs



The VET school sector in Austria has, historically speaking, a magic date: on 11 January 1758, *k. und k. Real- und Zeichnungsakademie* was founded in Habsburggasse, in Vienna's first district, with eleven pupils. The school, which was involved in textile production, shows the long tradition of this school system, which spread rapidly in the second half of the 19th century based on a concept of Baron Dumreicher and the practical experience of Wilhelm Exner, and now, more than a century later, is in full bloom with its diversity and high level of acceptance.

Important in this respect is the “systemic diversity” of vocational education and training in Austria, which ranges from dual training in schools and companies onto schools for intermediate vocational education and colleges for higher vocational education. This means that 14-year-olds can choose between a wide range of education and training pathways which, on the one hand, help them develop their personal skills and aptitudes and, on the other hand, also find alternatives in training when the first educational priority proves to be not an option.

In this regard, initial vocational education and training in Austria accounts for 80 percent of pupils, which is unique in Europe and in the OECD countries. The entire education and training system is considered exemplary in Europe. Nevertheless, hard work is still required every day to maintain the high level and, despite the drop in the number of 14-year-olds, to keep offering such an extensive choice of VET options.

This brochure presents the wide range of VET courses available in Austria as well as the individual school types within the entire system, important educational initiatives are addressed and the development of VET as a concept of lifelong learning is discussed. Many thanks to the staff in the General Directorate for Vocational Education and Training, Adult Education and School Sports for their hard work in this regard.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christian Dorninger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

SektChef Dr. Christian Dorninger  
Head of the General Directorate  
for Vocational Education and Training, Adult Education and School Sports  
at the Federal Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs