

Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



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Information sheet

YOUTH AND THE WORLD

Austria



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1. Implementation of a new field of action: “Youth and the World”

How is the field of action “Youth and the World” of the current EU youth strategy transposed in your country?

“Youth and the world” became not only a topic in Austria with the EU youth strategy but some if not all themes of this action field were important even before the time span from 2005 to 2014 was declared to the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. Especially the attitude towards environmental issues and sustainability was and is topic for many youth organizations like the Austrian Alpine Society.

Youth exchange and cooperation of youth work organisations with third countries do exist for a long time already, especially exchange with Israel and Palestine, with former Yugoslavian countries and Albania, and with countries from the former USSR have a long tradition in Austria.

Therefore the action “Youth and the world” of the current EU youth strategy provides further support for these activities.

In the EU-programme Youth in Action this topic is reflected in the action line 3.1.

In Austrian youth (work) policy is this topic – as mentioned above – traditionally of high importance.

2. Awareness raising on Global issues

2.1. Promotion of Global Education

Is there any national/regional policy document which lays the legal basis for the promotion of Global Education?

Yes

The Strategy for global education in the Austrian education system is the frame work for the promotion of global education in schools, universities and in non-formal education – especially in extra-curricular youth work.

The strategy was developed in an inter-disciplinary group with participants from the Federal Ministry of Education, the Arts and Culture, the Austrian Development Agency (connected to the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs), from NGOs (e.g. *BAOBAB – Globales Lernen*, *FORUM Umweltbildung*, *Südwind*) as well as from the field of schools and research.

Furthermore, the Austrian Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development gives the framework on the development and promotion of education on sustainability in the formal education system in Austria.

How is Global Education promoted?

The strategy on global education targets for a strengthening of the structure of global education primarily in the formal education system, especially in the fields of teachers education and training, curricula, and the development of materials for global education in Kindergarten as well as in primary and secondary schools.

What are the most tackled aspects of Global Education?

To understand the complex development processes and to enable (young) people to see the own responsibility as well as the opportunities for participation and shaping of a global society.

Sustainability and Environmental issues are the main aspects concerning this aim, but also the influence connectivity of economic processes on society is theme of GE.

Following the strategy it is not useful to concentrate on certain topics only but to focus given topics from various aspects and reflect the interests of different groups.

Starting point of any didactical approach should be the personal environment and experiences of the pupils. An interdisciplinary approach is guiding for Global Education issues.

What are the main stakeholders in the field of Global Education?

FORUM Umweltbildung - The Forum for Environmental Education, Strozzigasse 10, 1080 Vienna, funded by the Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry Environment and Water management and by the Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture, is active in implementing educational programmes in schools on sustainability and on school quality.

BAOBAB – Globales Lernen, Sensengasse 3, 1090 Vienna, a resource centre for global education
Agentur Südwind – Laudongasse 40, 1080 Vienna; development policy NGO

Umweltbundesamt – Environment Agency Austria, Spittelauer Lände 5, 1090 Vienna, a public institution for environmental consulting, teachers training

Federal Ministry of Education, the Arts and Culture

Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water management

Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs

Is there any report/survey available on Global education and young people in your country?

If yes what is its focus of research and what are the main outcomes?

There are no regular reports and surveys on Global Education but the web page www.globaleslernen.at offers a wide range of papers and documents published on the issue of sustainability and global education.

2.2. Young people and sustainable development

What are the most relevant initiatives/projects at regional/national level encouraging green patterns of consumption and production with young people?

Examples

Sustainable development is a main topic in formal education at least since the UN Decade for sustainable development 2005 – 2014 was introduced. Sustainable development is fostered as a part of Global Education but provides space for special projects like the network of schools focusing on an increase of school quality – *ÖKOlog Schulen*.

In the nine Austrian provinces local Agenda 21 projects are promoting environmental issues, global education and sustainability for all inhabitants of municipalities and regions, nevertheless some projects focus on youth

Zukunftsforum Windhaag is a platform which organises a yearly symposium on topics of development where environmental issues are often of high importance.

Various youth NGOs are active concerning environment and sustainability like the “*Umweltbaustelle*” of the Austrian Alpine Society (<http://oeav.at/portal/jugend-familie/umwelt-natur/index.php>), “*Umweltworkcamps*” organised by the youth department of the Nature friends Austria (www.naturfreundejugend.at/).

Many projects are initiated regarding mobility of young people an overview can be found at mobility club Austria and at climate active: <http://www.klimaaktiv.at/mobilitaet/mobilitaetsmanagem/jugend> and <http://www.vcoe.at/de/netzwerk/vcoe-mobilitaetspreis/projektdatenbank>.

Is there any report/survey investigating the awareness of environmental issues among young people in your country? If so what are the main outcomes?

There is no report focusing specially on that topic. In the Austrian Value Surveys, in other youth researches and in some market research environmental issues (e.g. sustainability, waste separation, mobility) are analysed.

Main results are hard to sum up; most important seems that environmental issues are not one of the main problems perceived by young people, but on the other hand the knowledge on the topic is quite good and the behaviour is mostly not reflected.

Is there any report/survey investigating the civic engagement related to environment issues among young people in your country? What are the main outcomes?

No special reports/surveys on that topic

2.3. Young people and human rights

Is there any report/survey investigating the civic engagement related to global human rights issues among young people in your country? What are the main outcomes?

No specific reports

3. Cooperation with third countries in the field of youth

3.1. Agreements and areas of cooperation

Are there any bilateral or supranational agreements with countries / regions outside Europe in the field of youth?

Not directly for the field of youth, but in agreements on bilateral cultural (and educational) cooperation youth part of it.

List of countries: China, Egypt, Guatemala, Indonesia, Mexico, Russian Federation and Tunisia

Cooperation in the field of youth policy and /or youth research

Directly in the field of youth policy no institutionalised bilateral cooperation exist but various cooperation or partnerships between Austrian regions/cities and non-European regions/cities do exist like between Vienna and Jerusalem this also enables study visits and job shadowing regarding youth policy and youth work. One is planned for June 2013.

Youth researchers are cooperating on personal level with different researchers in other continents, like with researchers in the Americas, in Australia or in Asia.

Support to the development of youth work on other continents

The same holds for youth work exchange. One of the last exchanges was a study visits organised from the city of Vienna in Vancouver and Toronto (and youth workers from Vancouver paid a return visit to Vienna).

3.2. Support measures for young people

What are the opportunities offered to young people to explore and enhance global understanding by going abroad such as volunteering and youth exchange programmes)?

The opportunities for young people to go abroad and experience different cultures during a youth exchange or by doing voluntary work are manifold. Here are only some examples other projects are collected in the database on global experiences of the youth information web site.

<http://www.infoup.at/page.php?uid=105>.

The National Agency for the EU-programme Youth in Action offers support in the Action line 3.1 for exchange and training for projects outside of the EU. In this project line 29 youth exchanges, 41 trainings and 7 EFD with a complete sum of more than 1.2 Mio Euro were granted.

Beside the Youth in Action programme other programme schemes exist for young people for going abroad, especially studying abroad is organised by the OeAD the Austrian agency for international mobility and cooperation in education, science and research.

["Volunteering.at"](http://Volunteering.at) informs on opportunities for worldwide youth exchange programmes and voluntary engagement outside of Europe. The association "grenzenlos" is one of the organisations that is involved in these exchange and volunteering programmes. They are offering volunteering opportunities in Asia, Africa, Oceania and the Americas together with the International Cultural Youth Exchange Federation – ICYE, the Green Lion, and the Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organizations.

The "Austrian Service Abroad" offers opportunities to work during the Zivildienst (civil service) abroad.

Promotion of youth entrepreneurship and employment opportunities with regions/countries outside of Europe

The Austrian Chamber of Commerce offers various opportunities for internships and other experiences abroad including regions outside of Europe. Also the Austrian Farmers Youth offers internships and exchange programmes outside of Europe.

4. Participation of young people and youth organisations in policy making on global issues

Have young people and youth organisations been given political and financial support to be individually or collectively involved in the policy regarding dialogue and cooperation on regional and global issues? How?

Youth participation in policy making has become a main priority in Austria therefore it is no surprise that young people are also involved in policy making concerning global issues and sustainable development. For example In the local Agenda 21 Projects young people are invited to participate. Furthermore, the Austrian Youth Council issued a position paper on sustainability.

Is there any report/survey investigating young people's participation in campaigns regarding global climate change/global warming, development aid or human rights? What are the main outcomes?

No specific reports

Is there any report/survey investigating young people's participation in non-governmental organisations active in the domains of global climate change/global warming, development aid or human rights? What are the main outcomes?

No specific reports