

Perspective on Youth Work Developments

AUSTRIA FACT SHEET

The 3rd European Youth Work Convention (EYWC) plays a key role in launching the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda (EYWA) as a strategic framework for further developing and strengthening youth work practice and policies in Europe. The goal of this fact sheet is to provide basic information about the perspective on youth work developments in a specific country. All information has been gathered from national contact points, reports or country sheets and profiles available online. The purpose of this fact sheet is to stimulate discussion before, at and after the 3rd EYWC among the members of the national delegations. This information is a suggestion only and a starting point for further development by the delegation when planning actions for implementation of the EYWA.

FACTS

Youth work as a recognised occupation: YES

Legislative framework for youth work: YES

Main youth work actors: (ministries, youth NGOs, municipalities etc.)

- Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, State office for Youth
- youth organisations.

Highlights with regard to youth work development:

The aufZAQ certificate is a means of proving personal qualification, on the other hand, it helps to ensure quality standards in education and training for full-time and voluntary youth leaders and youth workers

STRENGTHS & SUCCESSES	CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Networks and umbrella organisations of youth work (NGOs, open youth work, youth information) are regularly included in youth policy development (Austria Youth Strategy) as a clear message of recognition.• existence of the aufZAQ certificate as means of proving personal qualification, and ensuring quality standards in education and training for full-time and voluntary youth leaders and youth workers• evidence-based approach in formulating youth work policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Austria has a federal structure - leading to different approaches in funding as well as in discussion on the role of the Federal Ministry;• Official professional profile of youth worker is missing;• In some municipalities there is a insufficient funding for local youth work;• In municipalities where traditional youth (led) NGOs (mainly on voluntary basis) and professional youth work (youth centres, mobile youth work etc) exist, the recognition of these two approaches can be quite different. This might make cooperation between these two difficult.

SUPPORT NEEDED

- Research support in terms of analysis and studies on youth work
- Information on the importance of youth work for policy makers in German.

GREATEST NEED FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH WORK IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS

- Ensuring and expanding the provision of youth work;
- Strengthening the common ground of youth work (through co-operation between different institutions and stakeholders, between different levels and with other sectors);
- Enhancing the promotion and recognition of youth work.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES

Youth wiki youth work chapter: <https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/en/content/youthwiki/10-youth-work-austria-0>

EKCYP country sheet on youth work: https://pjp-eu.coe.int/documents/42128013/47261821/Youth_Work_Austria.pdf/fed6fc6f-156b-436c-bbd8-47533e834bff