

Annual Report 2024

AUSTRIA'S AGENCY

FOR EDUCATION AND INTERNATIONALISATION

Financed by


OeAD Annual Report 2024

AUSTRIA'S AGENCY FOR EDUCATION AND INTERNATIONALISATION


The OeAD, Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation, is a non-profit limited liability company (GmbH) owned by the Republic of Austria. The ownership rights are exercised by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research (BMFWF).


The OeAD's programmes and activities are financed primarily by the BMFWF, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education (BMB), the Austrian Federal Chancellery (BKA), the Austrian Federal Ministry for Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport (BMWKMS), the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), and the European Commission.

With its future-oriented programmes the OeAD advises, supports and connects people and institutions in education, science, research and culture. The OeAD is also the national agency for the implementation of Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps.

 Federal Ministry
Women, Science
and Research
Republic of Austria

 Federal Ministry
Education
Republic of Austria

 Federal Chancellery
Republic of Austria

 Federal Ministry
Housing, Arts, Culture,
Media and Sport
Republic of Austria

 Austrian
Development
Cooperation

 Funded by
the European Union

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

 **EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS**

The OeAD as a strong partner of the Republic of Austria

High-quality, internationally interconnected education, science and research are the key to a future worth living. As a non-profit limited liability company of the Republic of Austria the OeAD carries out important work in these areas on behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, other federal ministries and the European Union.

This is all the more important given that we are currently experiencing challenging developments in international cooperation while at the same time education and science continue to depend on internationality to achieve excellent results. With its decades of expertise in advising learners, students, researchers and scientists and in implementing transnational mobility programmes the OeAD contributes significantly to the internationality of Austria as a location for education, science and research.

The intercultural skills gained during stays abroad are indispensable for our open and free society. Especially in times when we are witnessing how quickly supposedly robust and flourishing education, science and research landscapes, and subsequently democracies, can be shaken if fundamental

values are taken away it is important not only to take a stand but also to secure and uphold freedom and democracy!

We are pleased that the OeAD is committed to fulfilling its social responsibility in this field within the framework of the objectives set by its clients and that it contributes to a peaceful and united Europe, a connected, diverse and inclusive education, science and research landscape and to strengthening trust in democracy, science and research.

As the federal minister responsible for the OeAD I would like to thank all OeAD employees for the valuable work they do every day. With this in mind I wish the OeAD continued success, courage and creativity in strengthening Austria's impressive plurality as a centre of education, science and research, both nationally and internationally, in the years to come.



Eva-Maria Holzleitner, BSc
Austrian Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research



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The OeAD Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation

Our activities in Austria and abroad are not an end in themselves but are aligned with both the objectives of the Austrian Federal Government and the strategy documents of the Austrian Federal Government and the European Union.



Jakob Calice, PhD
Managing director, OeAD
– Austria's Agency
for Education and
Internationalisation

Each of our programmes that we manage as an agency of the Republic of Austria contributes to inclusive, equal and high-quality education. Our funding covers a wide range of areas, from kindergarten, school education and higher education to vocational education and training and adult education. In this way we support the convergence of education and science in Europe in many different ways and thus contribute to European integration and networking. Our international cooperation and national and international exchange in education, science and research also promote the development of Austria as a centre of education, science and research and contribute to national strengthening. Networking and the contribution of expertise

are essential keys for us to enhance quality and transparency in education. We also want to expedite the defence of our democratic values. Many OeAD programmes therefore focus on this in different ways, such as in the implementation of the EU programmes Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps. The eTwinning awards and the European Innovative Teaching Award also focused on democracy education in 2024/2025. Moreover, we organised a European Erasmus+ contact seminar for teachers on 'European political education at school' in Vienna in November 2024. In cooperation with creative artists and cultural institutions pupils deal with democratic policy issues in 'take HEART!'. I would also like to point out the popularity of the

platform we support, 'Extremismusprävention macht Schule' (Preventing extremism sets an example at schools) as well as our programme 'ERINNERN:AT', which deals with the Holocaust and how it is taught to young people.

A foreword also provides an opportunity to highlight anniversaries and awards: in 2024 we celebrated 20 years of educational cooperation in pre-university education with the Republic of Moldova and 20 years of successful management of Erasmus Mundus. And DERLA – which we implemented in cooperation with the University of Graz – was awarded the Austrian State Prize. Last but not least, the Digital Skills Initiative won

gold in the eGovernment competition. I am very happy about these recognitions, which encourage us all to continue. ENIC NARIC AUSTRIA joined the OeAD in 2024 as the central office for the recognition of academic qualifications from other countries in Austria.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all OeAD staff members, all funding bodies and clients, and our cooperation partners.



FACT #01

Strategic framework
2021 to 2026:
www.oead.at/strategie



OeAD magazine
#Young Europe –
Wir sind Europa

THE OeAD 01

- The foundation of our work:**
our corporate strategy
- The OeAD stands for** internationalisation,
education, quality and transparency
- Roadmap** to the future
- Anniversaries and awards**
- OeAD and digitisation:** exploiting potential
- The OeAD in figures**

The foundation of our work: our corporate strategy

The OeAD, Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation, is a non-profit limited liability company (GmbH) owned by the Republic of Austria. The ownership rights are exercised by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research (BMFWF). The OeAD's programmes and activities are financed primarily by the BMFWF, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education (BMB), the Austrian Federal Chancellery (BKA), the Austrian Federal Ministry for Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport (BMWKMS), the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), and the European Commission. Our tasks are aligned with the Austrian Federal Government's content and strategic goals.



Federal Act on the establishment of the OeAD-Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung



OeAD employees work in Austria, Europe and internationally in priority countries. With our future-oriented programmes we advise, support and connect people and institutions in education, science, research and culture.

Our goals

- + DEVELOPING PERSONAL SKILLS FOR LIFE IN A DIGITISED AND GLOBALISED WORLD
- + STRENGTHENING AUSTRIA'S POSITION AND VISIBILITY AS AN ATTRACTIVE AND INTERNATIONALLY ORIENTED COUNTRY FOR SCIENCE AND RESEARCH IN A GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY
- + STRENGTHENING THE (INNOVATION) COMPETENCE OF EDUCATION SYSTEMS AND INSTITUTIONS

Implementation in three strategic fields of action

- + Advancing the internationalisation of science and research, formal, non-formal and informal education
- + Strengthening the interface between education, science and society
- + Enhancing quality and transparency in education

The OeAD's activities

- + **Implementing** national and international funding programmes and educational initiatives
- + **Strengthening** connections between education, science, research and society
- + **Contributing** expertise to the shaping of the education and science sector

OeAD key topics until 2026

- + Internationalisation in school education, vocational education and training, higher education and adult education
- + Innovation and transfer to the education system
- + Digitisation
- + Developing an understanding of science and democracy
- + Sustainable development and the Agenda 2030
- + Diversity and equal opportunities
- + Self-perception as European citizens
- + Promoting a modern image of Austria
- + Global cooperation
- + Holocaust Education

Special geographical priorities are e.g.

- + EU and neighbouring countries/ countries of the Western Balkans, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova
- + South Caucasus – participation in the EU's partnership with the East
- + Africa
- + Central Asia, China, South and Southeast Asia

Our activities support

- + European Higher Education Area (EHEA)
- + European Research Area (ERA)
- + National Higher Education Mobility and Internationalisation Strategy (HMIS2030)
- + Austrian Higher Education Plan 2030
- + National Strategy for Research, Technology and Innovation 2030 (RTI Strategy 2030)
- + Austrian Action Plan for the European Research Area (ERA-NAP) 2022-2025
- + Research, Technology and Innovation Pact 2024–2026
- + European Education Area 2025
- + Digital Education Action Plan 2021–2027
- + "Digital Skills Austria" Strategy
- + National Strategy against Antisemitism
- + DNAustria: Strengthening confidence in science and democracy in Austria
- + Development Cooperation Regional Strategy for the Western Balkans and relevant country strategies
- + European Youth Strategy "Engage – Connect – Empower" 2019–2027
- + UNESCO Framework for Culture and Arts Education, 2024
- + EU Work Plan for Sports

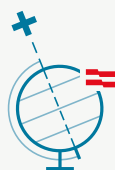
FACT #02

Supervisory Board and Strategy Advisory Board
The Supervisory Board met four times in 2024.
www.oead.at/en/the-oead/boards

FACT #03

The OeAD is obliged to apply the Austrian Federal Public Corporate Code of Governance. We prepare a Corporate Governance Report every year in the course of our annual financial statements. This report confirms compliance with the provisions of the Code.

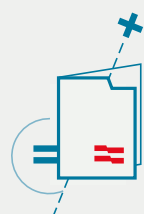
The OeAD stands for internationalisation, education, quality and transparency



Internationalisation: The key to knowledge and exchange of experience

Internationalisation and support of transnational cooperation and mobility are valuable elements in education, science and research.

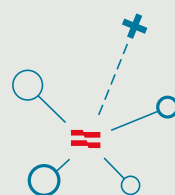
Stays abroad contribute to the development of personal skills. They strengthen the innovative capacity of institutions and entire education systems.



Education: shaping the future together

From theory to the exiting world of research and creativity: With different funding schemes (vocational) schools and kindergartens are supported in enabling children and young people to conduct their own research, engage in artistic activities and

become skilled in the use of new digital tools. Education is the capital for the future: it is therefore imperative to support the development of the education sector with customised offers and a high level of expertise.



Convincing with quality and transparency

Reliability and quality form the framework that enables innovation. An increase in quality and transparency is the basis for sustainable knowledge transfer.

The focus is on continuous development and assurance of the quality of the Austrian education programmes and the quality management tools.

Roadmap to the future

Digitisation

In 2024 the OeAD focused intensively on the topic of digital signatures. Erasmus+ contracts, agreements and arrangements and those of the Quality and Transparency department have been digitally signed and managed since mid-2024. In total more than 1,000 contracts were processed digitally within the first six months of introduction. The resulting savings of around 100,000 sheets of paper represent an important contribution to sustainability and the reduction of the OeAD's ecological footprint.

Moreover, successes have been achieved in interconnecting different software systems and establishing automated interfaces. New tools are used for quality management to systematically record and evaluate feedback. A comprehensive analysis of the existing systems in funding management serves as a basis for systematic renewal and harmonisation of the tools for applying for and processing mobility programmes and projects.

Certified quality management

The OeAD uses its quality management system as an effective tool to accompany and support strategic priorities, such as the increased digitisation of OeAD processes and services. The quality management system has been established for many years and is certified according to the international quality management standard ISO 9001:2015.

Annual audits by external auditors and internal evaluations certify and document the OeAD's high standards of customer service and service-orientated processing of tasks.

In the course of the successful recertification in 2024 the auditors also emphasised the importance of quality management for the integration of new sectors within the OeAD in terms of uniform organisational development.

Anniversaries and awards

20 years of educational cooperation with the Republic of Moldova

Together with Moldovan partner institutions the OeAD cooperation office in Chişinău develops projects to improve the quality of school-based vocational education and training and to strengthen integrative education. The educational cooperation programme aims to provide sustainable support for education reforms with Austrian expertise and to promote learning through cooperation.

Moldova has been a focus of Austrian development cooperation since 2004. The OeAD Cooperation Office in Chişinău celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2024 with a ceremony attended by the Moldovan and Austrian education ministers.

Success Stories

The **ECO NET project** (2006 to 2014) was implemented with Austrian expertise and funding from the ADA (Austrian Development Agency). Training companies that conduct virtual trade were implemented in Moldovan vocational education and training.

MOL Agri (2004 to 2013) – in cooperation with the ADA – is considered a success story. In cooperation with teachers from Austrian viticulture schools a new training profile for viticulture and winemaking was developed. The wine produced by the pupils enjoys an excellent reputation.

I-VET (since 2017) aims to strengthen inclusive vocational education and training. After testing it at nine pilot schools the Moldovan ministry is rolling out the project to all schools of vocational education and training. In 2015 the Republic of Moldova established

eleven centres of excellence in vocational and technology education. Since 2021 the OeAD has supported this network in close exchange with the EU Agency for Vocational Education and Training within the framework of the COOP-NET project. As sectoral role models the centres of excellence ensure the didactic, curricular and methodological quality of the vocational education and training system.

Since the outbreak of war in Ukraine in the spring of 2022 the OeAD Cooperation Office has also been involved in providing psychosocial support to refugee children and helping them to integrate into everyday school life in Moldova.

Austria–Moldova: an outlook

As an EU candidate country the Republic of Moldova has to implement e.g. EU recommendations in education as part of the accession negotiations. The focus here is on the introduction of dual education and training. At the request of the Moldovan Ministry of Education a new project will be developed in 2025. The OeAD will thus continue to make important contributions to labour market-relevant vocational education and training.

20 years of Erasmus Mundus: a success story

Since 2004 the European Commission has supported outstanding students from all over the world applying for joint, integrated and accredited Erasmus Mundus master's programmes involving higher education institutions from at least three different countries. Upon successful completion the students receive a multiple or joint degree. So far 53 Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's programmes in which Austrian higher education institutions were involved

have been funded. 220 non-Austrian higher education institutions were involved in these programmes. Austrian higher education institutions coordinated one third of the 53 master's programmes. The OeAD celebrated the anniversary at its Higher Education Conference 2024 at the St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences. Three alumnae from Egypt, India and Kyrgyzstan gave impressive accounts of how such a study programme enriched their lives.



20 years of Erasmus Mundus – Publications Office of the EU

Impact study of the European Commission on 20 years of Erasmus Mundus with participation of the OeAD.

Austrian State Prize for Historical Sciences for the joint project DERLA

In October 2024 the Ministry of Education awarded the Austrian State Prize for Historical Sciences for the first time. The prize in the 'Innovative History' category went to the project 'Digital Memorial Map Austria (DERLA) – Documenting and Communicating Persecution and Resistance under National Socialism'.

The interdisciplinary documentation and education project uses an interactive map to document places of remembrance and memorials for victims of National Socialism and sites of Nazi terror in Austria. It offers specific learning modules for teaching this topic at schools. The OeAD implements the DERLA

project together with the Centre for Jewish Studies and the Department for Digital Humanities (both at the University of Graz) as part of its ERINNERN:AT programme.



DERLA



Award of the State Prize for Historical Sciences

Gold at the eGovernment competition

Great success for Austria: The Digital Skills Initiative took first place in the 'Administrative Transformation' category of the prestigious eGovernment competition organised by BearingPoint and Cisco. The programme impressed the jury with its holistic and user-oriented approach of the Digital Überall (Digital everywhere) workshops. This success would not have been possible without

the close cooperation with the OeAD Digital Skills Office. As the central coordination point the OeAD has contributed significantly to connecting the various partners from the Austrian Federal Government, the Austrian federal provinces, municipalities, businesses and continuing education institutions and to successfully advancing the implementation of the programme.



Digital skills



Austria's Federal President Alexander Van der Bellen at the Centre of Excellence for Computer Science during his state visit to Moldova in November 2023

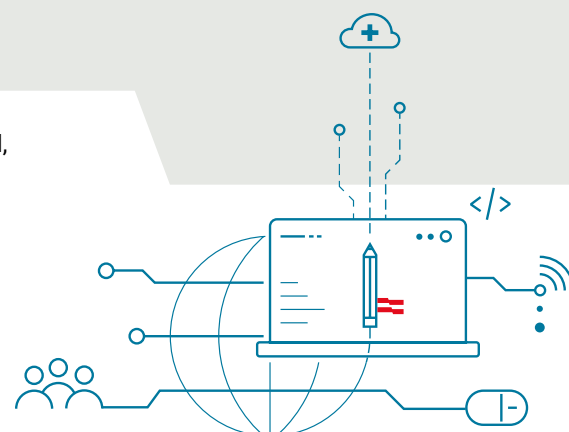
The highlights of the '20 Years of Erasmus Mundus' ceremony were captured by means of graphic recording.



OeAD and digitisation: exploiting potential

New teaching and learning platforms, online elements in stays abroad, distance learning and virtual partner meetings are now an integral part of education.

Funded by the European Commission, digital tools have been developed, tried and tested, and used. These are well received and widely used by schools and other educational institutions. These EU programmes as well as many of the educational, cultural and youth programmes funded by the Austrian Federal Government are managed by the OeAD in Austria:



International Cooperation Offices and Foreign Language Teaching

In 2024 more than 1,000 teachers of German as a foreign language (DaF) all over the world took part in the 16 online training courses offered by the OeAD programme 'Kultur und Sprache'. An important component of the support provided to German teachers all over the world is the OER platform of 'Kultur und Sprache', which provides free teaching materials in addition to the online training courses.



Kultur und Sprache

Digitisation in the Bologna Process EHEA work programme 2021–2024

The 49 countries currently participating in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) deal with flexible and appealing learning and teaching formats as well as digitisation as a skill that teachers and students need to reflect on and teach, respectively. Transnational exchange at policy level promotes innovative shorter educational units such as micro-credentials and the best possible interaction between mobility and digital teaching. The OeAD accompanied the national implementation within the framework of the Erasmus+ policy project 3-IN-AT-PLUS.



Bologna Process

Digital learning

The OeAD supports the Digital Learning Device Initiative on behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education (BMB). Every year pupils at participating schools are equipped with digital devices. The initiative thus provides the technical requirements for IT-supported teaching and gives pupils access to digital education under equal conditions.



Digital learning



Digital Skills Austria

The development and enhancement of digital skills in the people living in Austria, e.g. by means of free workshops, is part of this initiative. Quality assurance and certification of the digital skills acquired is also part of the initiative. To this end the OeAD Digital Skills office implements the national framework for digital skills. It also participates in the European Commission's "Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition". Since 2024 'Digital Überall Workshops' have been offered. The 4,500 free workshops for digital beginners are organised in cooperation with adult education providers all over Austria. They are to enable people of all ages, backgrounds and with different levels of prior knowledge to use digital technologies confidently and in a competent way.



Digital Skills Office

EPALE e-platform for adult education in Europe

EPALE is a multilingual, virtual meeting place for all those working in adult education.



EPAL platform

Erasmus+ New perspectives. New horizons.

In line with the priorities of the Digital Education Action Plan the EU programme promotes high-quality digital learning. For example, participation in Erasmus+ is possible in the form of blended learning. Digitisation and new IT structures also simplify the Erasmus+ process for the participants. The SALTO Digital Resource Centre is dedicated to the programme priority "Digital change". It carries out research and provides materials, useful tools and resources for implementing the programme priority for national agencies and project organisers that implement Erasmus+.



Erasmus+



Erasmus+ goes digital: European Student Card Initiative (ESCI)

The initiative aims to exchange data that has been entered once so that people do not have to enter it multiple times. The Erasmus Without Paper network forms the basis for secure data exchange between higher education institutions. An Erasmus+ app serves as a 'single point of entry' for Erasmus+ students. With the 'European Student Card' and a 'European Student eID' all Erasmus+ students will be able to use various services at their host higher education institutions more easily and more quickly.



Erasmus+ goes digital:

ERINNERN:AT – learning about National Socialism and the Holocaust

ERINNERN:AT is the OeAD programme for teaching and learning about National Socialism and the Holocaust. Teachers can find numerous training courses and learning materials for use in the classroom at www.erinnern.at. The DERLA Digital Memorial Map currently documents 1,633 places and symbols commemorating victims and sites of Nazi crimes.



ERINNERN:AT



DERLA

eTwinning: virtual school partnerships

eTwinning is a digital platform for schools in Europe that enables transnational cooperation and exchange of teachers and pupils.



eTwinning

Euroguidance: Educational and career counselling across Europe

The Euroguidance conference in 2024 focused on the programme priority 'Digital Change'. The potential of artificial intelligence in educational and career guidance was examined from various perspectives and the latest developments and innovative approaches were presented.



Euroguidance

Europass: documenting educational achievements in a digital way

Europass is a free online tool provided by the European Union that helps people document and plan their education and career paths. One component of the Europass documents is the Europass Mobility Certificate. It was integrated into the Erasmus+ tools at European level in 2024. The 'European Digital Credentials for Learning' developed within the Europass initiative represent a milestone in digital education documentation.



Europass

Quality label for learning apps

The quality label awarded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education (BMB) recognises digital learning applications that have undergone a standardised evaluation and certification process. It provides guidance in selecting quality-tested apps for learning.



Quality label for learning apps

Internationalisation of higher education institutions: HMIS2030 portal with practical examples

The OeAD's platform for higher education mobility and internationalisation strategy 2030 (HMIS2030) enables Austrian higher education institutions to provide easy-to-understand examples of good practice in just a few steps. This allows them to present initiatives, activities, processes and projects related to internationalisation and mobility support in a visually attractive way, whether these are innovative curricula, virtual courses or customised mobility grants.



HMIS2030 platform

Kultur:Bildung

The extensive cultural education programme with schools all over Austria brings artists from all art disciplines together with pupils in creative projects. The focus on 'More than Bytes' supports the acquisition of (digital) media skills through innovative artistic methods and participatory work processes.



Kultur:Bildung

Science ambassadors at schools

484 researchers visited schools all over Austria on a voluntary basis as science ambassadors in 2024. 367 school visits took place all over Austria in 2024, during which researchers talked about their fields of research and their professional careers. 121 of these visits were virtual visits.



Science ambassadors

Youthpass

The official European certificate serves to recognise and document non-formal and informal learning experiences in the programmes Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps.

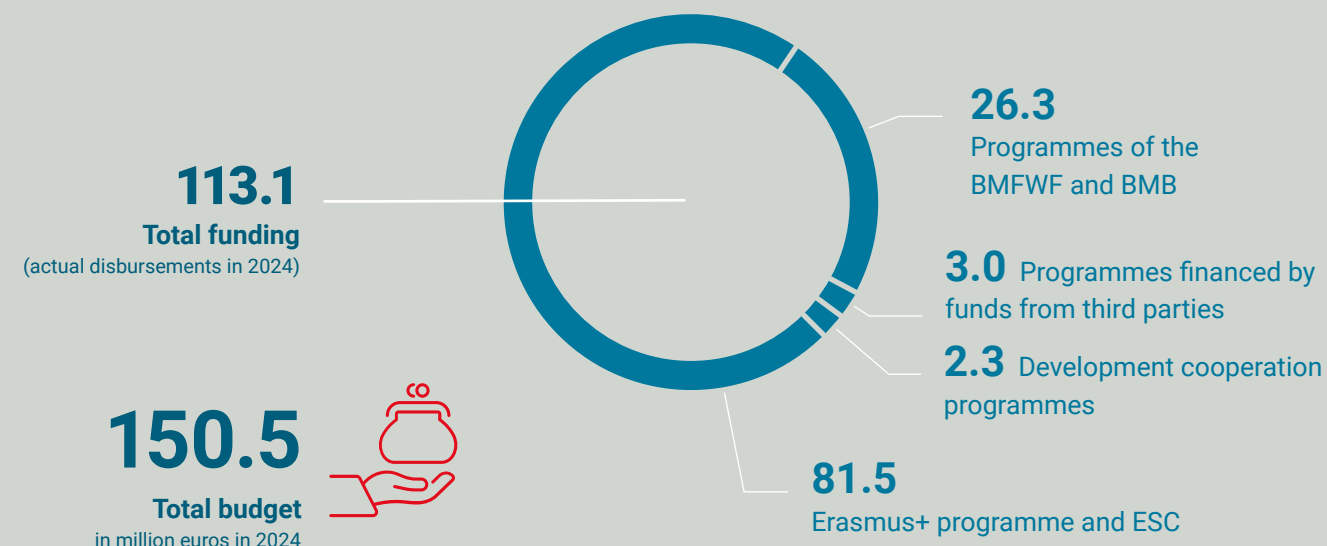


Youthpass

The OeAD in figures

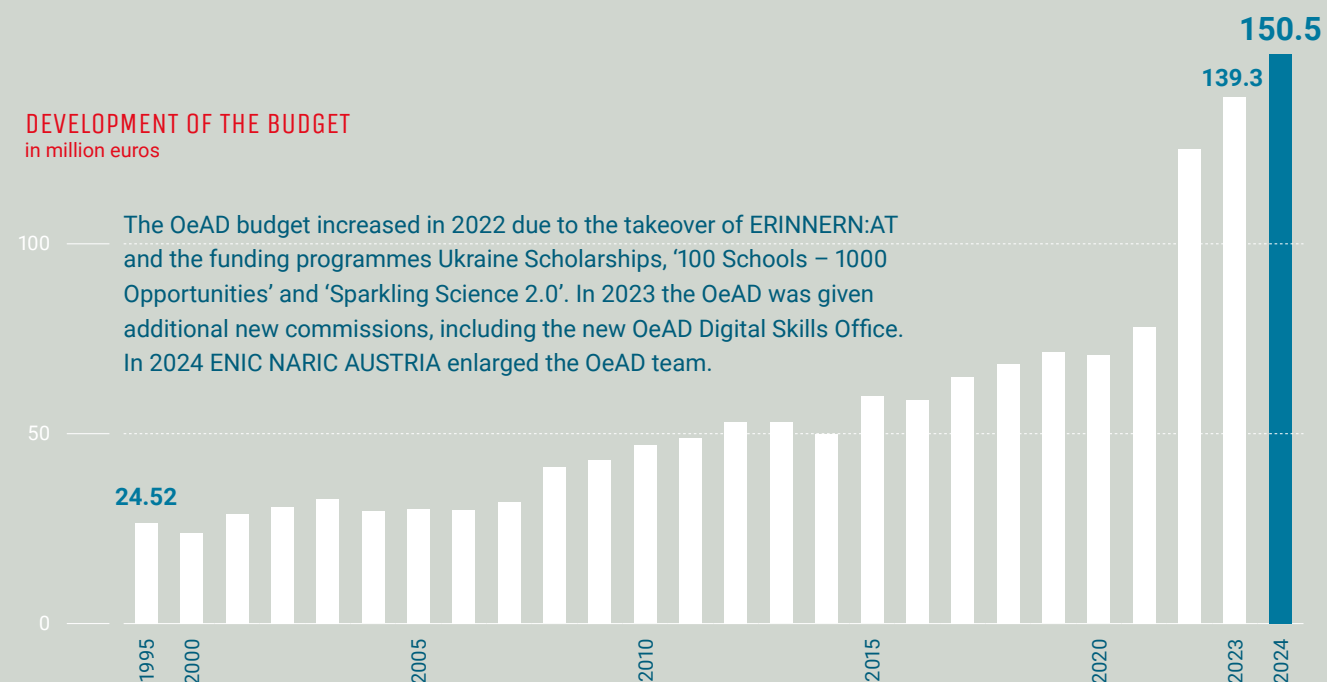
The total budget for 2024 amounted to around 150.5 million euros. 113.1 million euros of this was dedicated to funding mobility and projects.

Figures as of 30 April 2025



The OeAD is the interface to educational programmes for all: kindergartens, school education, higher education, science and research, vocational education and training, adult education, youth, culture and sports.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUDGET in million euros



OeAD Headquarters in Vienna

The subsidiary OeAD-Wohnraum-verwaltungsGmbH (OeAD student housing) is owned 100% by the OeAD.

The Foundation for Innovation in Education is a separate legal entity. The Foundation's office is assigned to the OeAD.



6 OeAD locations in 2024

Bregenz, Graz, Innsbruck, Linz, Salzburg and Vienna



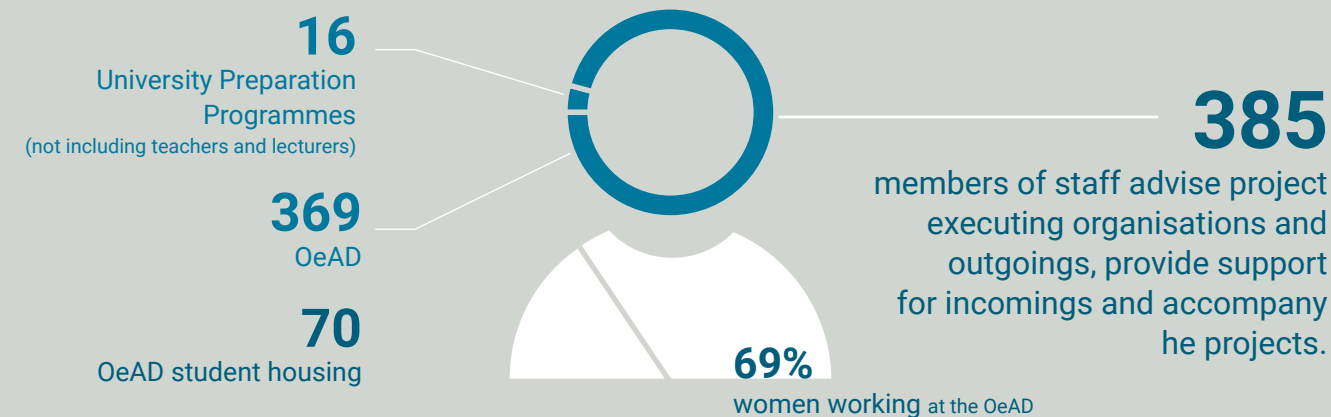
Focus: Scientific cooperation

OeAD cooperation offices in Lviv (Ukraine) and Shanghai (China)



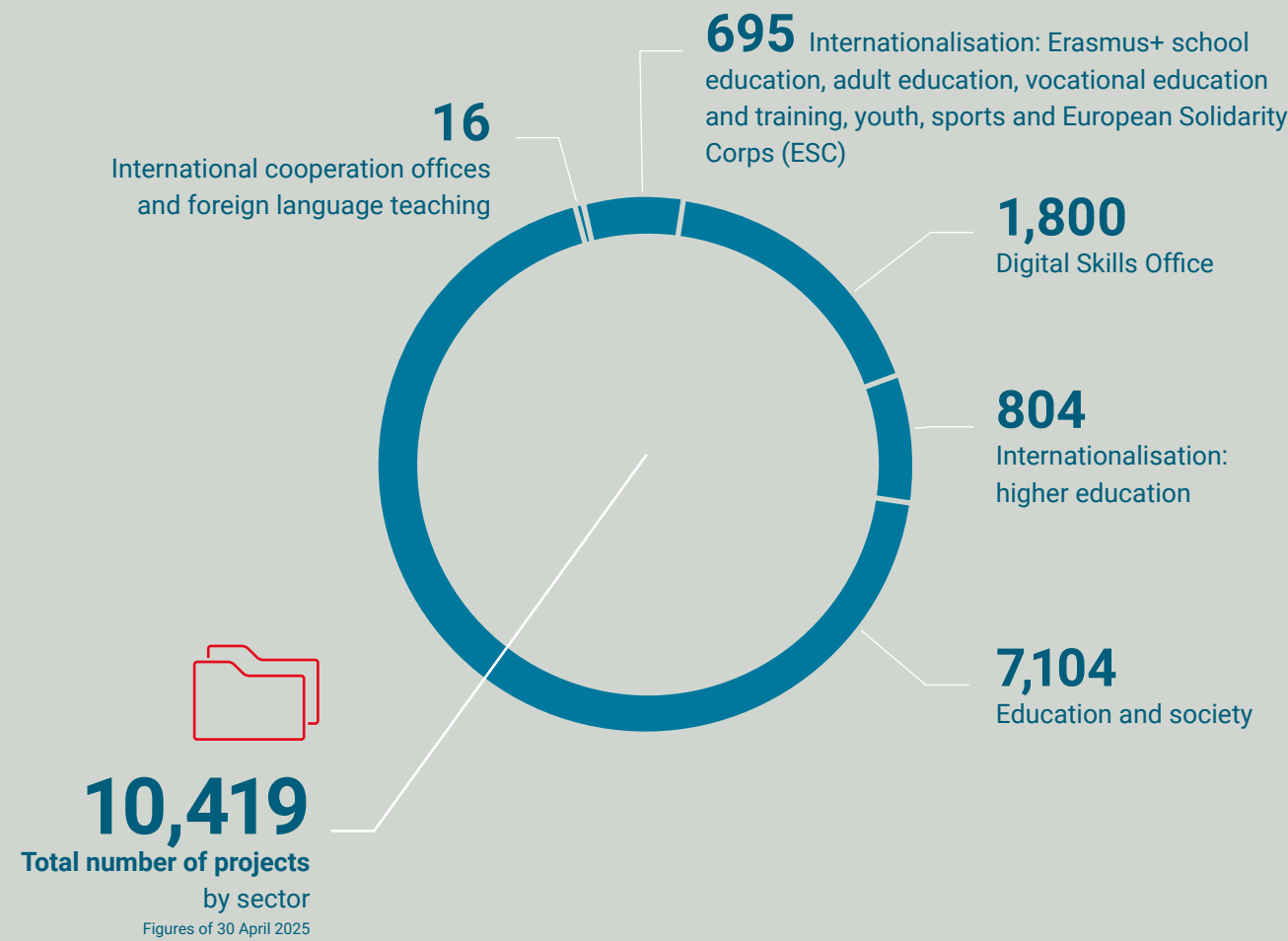
Focus: Educational cooperation


Regional cooperation offices in Tirana (responsible for Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia) and Sarajevo (responsible for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Montenegro) as well as cooperation offices in Chişinău and Odesa/Uzhhorod, headed by Austrian educational coordinators directly seconded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education (BMB)



Projects

10,419 projects were funded by the OeAD in 2024. 8,904 of them were national initiatives.



 **656** accreditations in 2024

Accreditations for Erasmus+ 2021–2027
Erasmus accreditation enables institutions long-term and simplified participation in Erasmus+ within the framework of mobility projects.

www.erasmusplus.at

 **150** quality labels in 2024

ESC quality label in 2024
Organisations wishing to receive or send young people away within the framework of volunteer projects need the ESC quality label. This label confirms that the organisation fulfils the requirements for working with committed young people and identifies itself with the ESC's principles.

www.solidaritaetskorp.at

10,419 projects in the calendar year 2024 by project type
Data as at: 30 April 2025

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES **1,515**

Erasmus+ projects* (school education, vocational education and training, adult education, higher education, youth, sports)	756
European Solidarity Corps projects*	53
Africa-UniNet	64
Aktion Austria – Czech Republic	30
Aktion Austria – Slovakia	23
Aktion Austria – Hungary	33
APPEAR projects	21
ASEA-UNINET projects	75
Eurasia-Pacific Uninet (EPU)**	33
Funding programme Taiwan-Austria	12
International School of Multimedia Journalism (ISMJ)	1
Cooperation Development Research (KOEf)	32
Cooperation Vienna University of Technology – Lvivska Politechnika Lviv	1
Sommerkollegs	13
Pre-university educational co-operation with Eastern and South-Eastern Europe	16
Scientific & Technological Cooperation	352

NATIONAL INITIATIVES **8,904**

Cultural education with schools Data as at: March 2025	3,641
Children's and Youth Universities (projects and cooperations)	51
Sparkling Science 2.0 (projects and cooperations)	58
Prevention of extremism (workshops held in 2024)	3,354
Digital Überall (Digital Everywhere) workshops (workshops held in 2024)	1,800

* number of approved projects
** projects of the 2024 call are starting in 2025



As of the OeAD Annual Report 2024 the number of persons will be used in the mobility programmes statistics. In our view the previous method of counting individual mobility activities did not accurately reflect how many people actually took part in mobility measures as one person could complete several stays in other countries during a year. Therefore people with multi-year scholarships (e.g. PhD scholarships) will only be counted once.

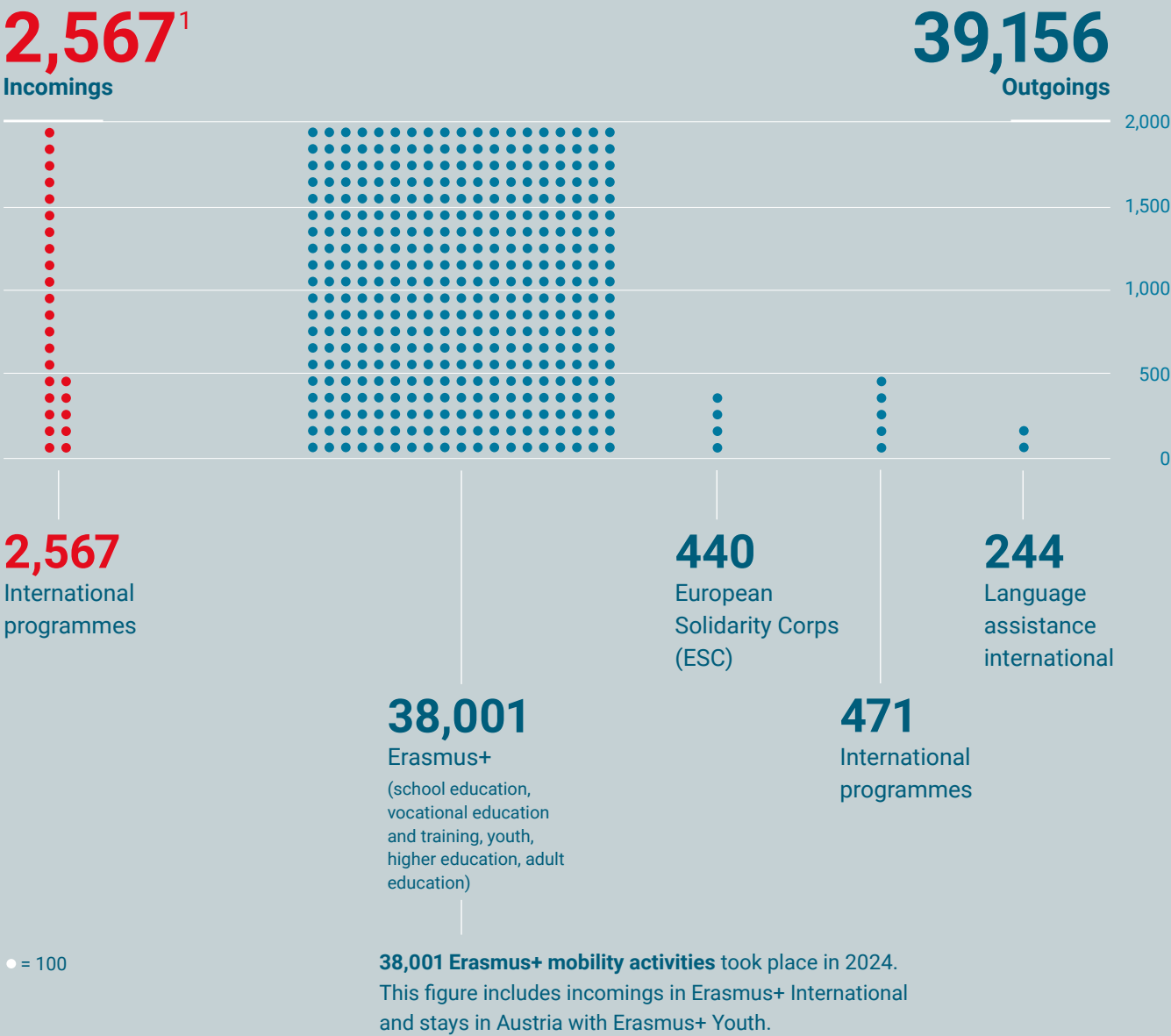
Incomings & Outgoings
Scientific & Technological Cooperation
OeAD University Preparation Programmes
CEEPUS
Ernst Mach Programme

internationalisation 02

European Higher Education Area
Support for Ukraine
Focus on China
Focus UniNet
Research for better living conditions
Focus on Afrika
Positioning Austria as an international
centre of higher education and research

Incomings & Outgoings

In 2024 2,567 incomings and outgoings were supported financially.



GOALS

- PRESENTATION AND STRENGTHENING OF AUSTRIA'S INTERNATIONAL POSITIONING AS AN ATTRACTIVE COUNTRY FOR EDUCATION, HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
- CONTRIBUTION TO FURTHER INCREASING AUSTRIA'S ATTRACTIVENESS AS A DESTINATION FOR TALENTS
- PROMOTION OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESS

Incomings & Outgoings from international programmes

The Ernst Mach programme is the OeAD's most popular incoming scholarship, followed by the Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies (CEEPUS).

Top incoming scholarships in 2024

Ernst Mach Scholarships	1,402	
CEEPUS	790	
Aktion Austria – Czech Republic	84	
Aktion Austria – Slovakia	63	
Aktion Austria – Hungary	55	
ISTA Austria: ISTernship Summer Programme	46	
APPEAR	33	
Indonesia Postgraduate Scholarship Programme	20	
OSS-III/HEC Overseas Scholarships	19	
Franz Werfel Scholarship	17	
University of Klagenfurt Technology Grants	13	

OeAD Special Scholarships (10), Scholarships Lviv (7), Richard Plaschka Scholarship (6), Cultural Agreement with Japan (Monbukagakusho) (5), Scholarships of the Scholarship Foundation of the Republic of Austria (5), HERAS+ Scholarships (<5), Master of Global Demography Scholarship (<5)

Top 5 outgoing scholarships in 2024

CEEPUS	117	
Lectureship programme	108	
Marietta Blau Scholarships ²	88	
Clinical traineeships (within the framework of ASEA-UNINET and EPU)	63	
Teaching German as a Foreign Language internships	33	

- INNOVATION AND TRANSFER TO THE EDUCATION SYSTEM
- PROMOTION OF GLOBAL COOPERATION
- SUPPORTING HIGH-QUALITY STAYS ABROAD
- SUPPORT OF EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL STRATEGIES IN EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND SCIENCE

i Attention: new counting method (see p. 24)

1 not including Erasmus+. Persons who took part in more than one programme are only counted once.

2 The Doctoral Research Fellowships were incorporated into the Marietta Blau Scholarships in 2024.


Scientific & Technological Cooperation (S&T Cooperation)

Based on state treaties and memoranda of understanding S&T Cooperation enables supporting bilateral projects for short-term research stays in other countries in all disciplines. The aim is to establish new international cooperation and sustainable partnerships.



S&T Cooperation

Around **350**  **bilateral projects** were carried out with 18 countries within the framework of S&T Cooperation in 2024.

 The funding volume in 2024 amounted to approximately **1.1 million euros**

This programme aims to increase the number of international co-publications in the field of research, technology and innovation (RTI) with Austrian participation. Another objective is to support young female researchers.

Bilateral projects are primarily funded. However, every two years Austria issues a multilateral call for proposals for countries in the Danube region. Austria's current partner countries in this multilateral group are Bulgaria, France, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

S&T Cooperation projects run for two years. Travel and accommodation costs as well as project-related material costs are funded for Austrian researchers. The duration of stays for researchers is up to three months. Austria currently has active bilateral agreements with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, France, India, Croatia, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, the Czech Republic, Ukraine and Hungary.

S&T COOPERATION PARTNER COUNTRIES

 **588** funding recipients of which **235** incomings and **353** outgoings

42% female researchers

OeAD University Preparation Programmes in Vienna and Graz

The University Preparation Programmes in Vienna and Graz prepare international students who have been admitted to a degree programme by an Austrian university for supplementary examinations. The OeAD runs these two programmes in cooperation with the universities in Vienna and Graz and with the support of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education (BMB).



University Preparation Programmes

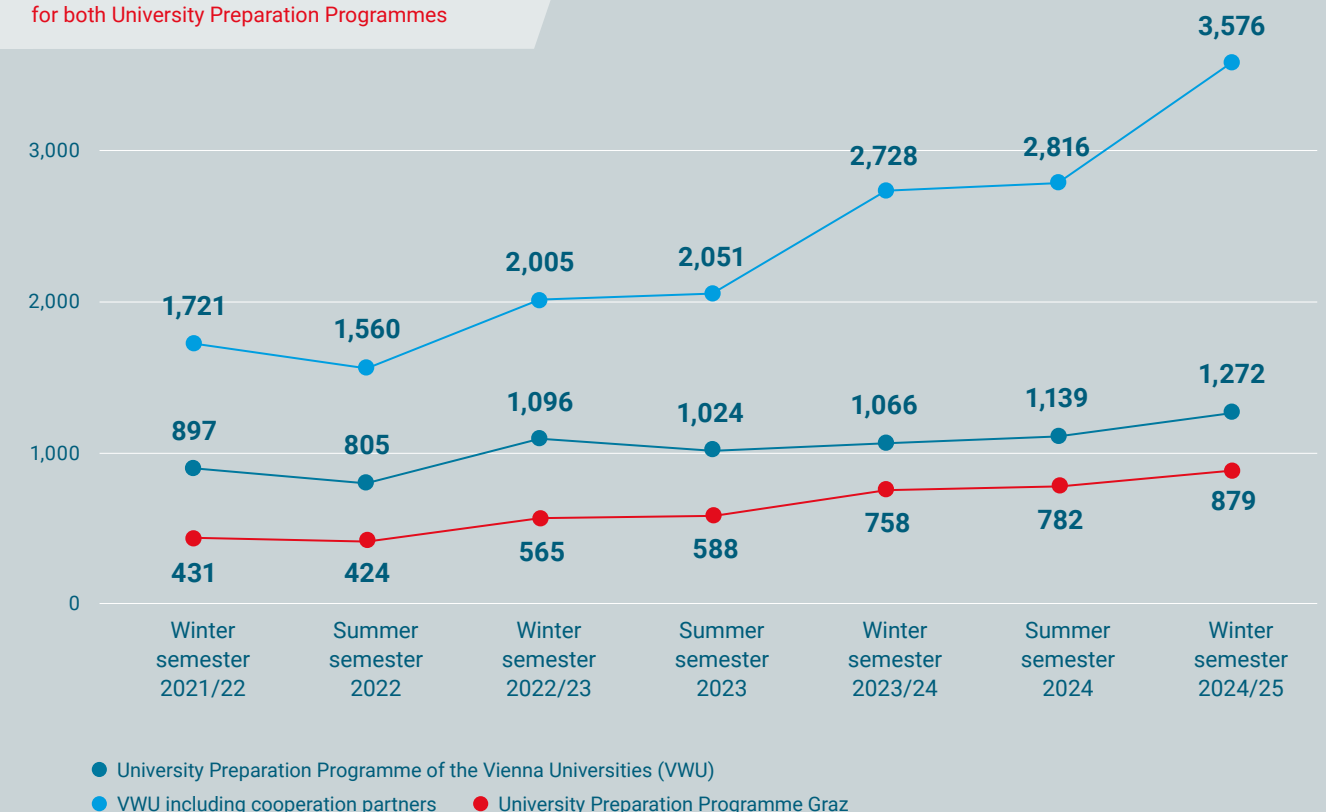
The increasing number of international students also leads to more students in the two University Preparation Programmes, pushing the programmes to their capacity limits: The number of students in both University Preparation Programmes doubled within three years: in Vienna to 3,576 and in Graz to 879 in the winter semester 2024/25.

In Vienna additional German courses have been offered for several years by the Language Centre of the University of Vienna and by dieBerater. In Graz it became necessary to outsource German courses for the first



time in the winter semester 2024/25; they were carried out by the non-profit association 'deutsch in graz' (dig).

DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENT NUMBERS for both University Preparation Programmes



CEEPUS

Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies

The multilateral exchange programme with Central and Eastern Europe supports academic mobility and transnational cooperation within the region's higher education area. Funding is provided for study visits, student internships, intensive courses, student excursions and mobility of teaching staff.

In 2024 a total of 902 incoming scholarships were awarded within the CEEPUS programme. The number of scholarship recipients was 790 persons. CEEPUS scholarship holders from higher education institutions in 16 countries came to Austria.

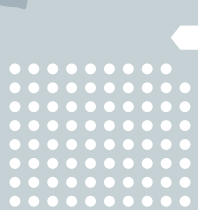
117 persons from Austria received a total of 170 outgoing scholarships. CEEPUS scholarship holders went to 13 countries.



Mobility programme CEEPUS



790 CEEPUS incomings,
by country of the scholarship
holders' origin



117 CEEPUS outgoings
The CEEPUS scholarship holders
went to 13 countries.



• = 10



Attention: new counting method (see p. 24)

Ernst Mach Programme

for students and university lecturers of all disciplines who want to complete a study or research period in Austria.

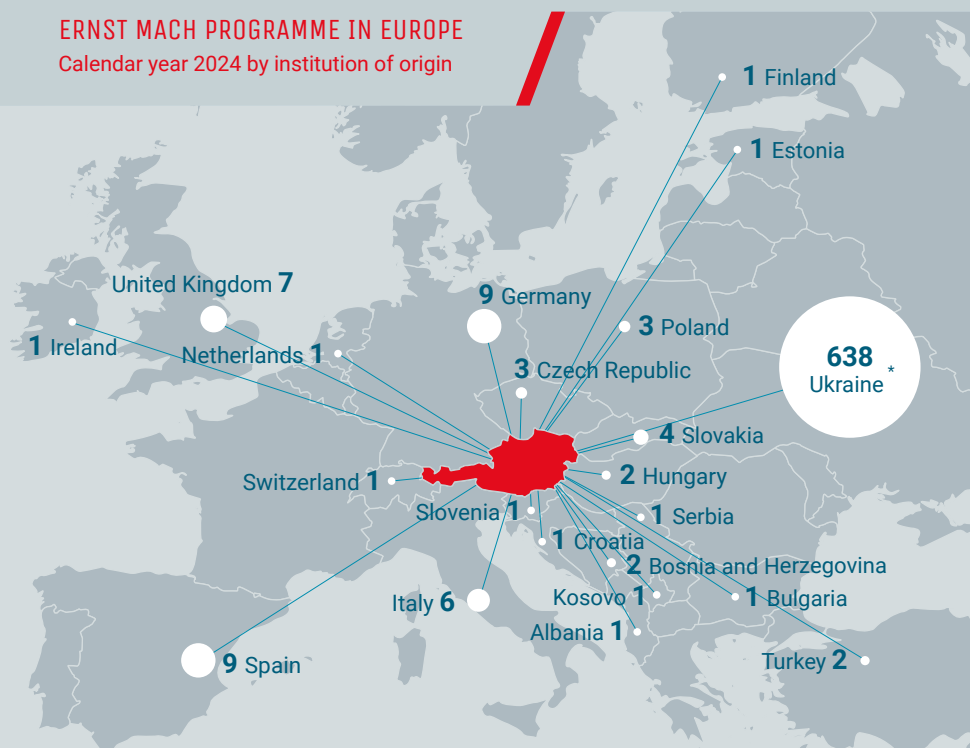
1,402 incoming scholarship holders received funding under the Ernst Mach Programmes in the calendar year 2024. The largest share continues to be the Ernst Mach Scholarship UKRAINE with 974 scholarship holders, followed by the Ernst Mach Scholarship for studying at an Austrian university of applied sciences (175) and the Ernst Mach Scholarship worldwide (143).

Moreover, individuals received funding under the Ernst Mach ASEA-UNINET Scholarship and the Follow-up Scholarship (Development Cooperation). Scholarship holders from higher education institutions in 63 different countries came to Austria.



Ernst Mach Scholarships

ERNST MACH PROGRAMME IN EUROPE Calendar year 2024 by institution of origin



* 638 Ukrainians named a Ukrainian higher education institution as their institution of origin.



1,402

incoming scholarship holders
in Ernst Mach programmes

i Attention: new counting method (see p. 24)

European Higher Education Area

In 2024 the OeAD reached 320 people from Austria and abroad with five events within the framework of the Erasmus+ project '3-IN-AT-PLUS'. The Bologna Day 2024 was dedicated to promoting teaching programmes and study programmes in foreign languages.



The Bologna Process and the European Higher Education Area

Smaller events continued the series 'Dialogue on Higher Education Teaching' and offered opportunities for peer learning on higher education staff mobility and Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs). In cooperation with the Dutch counterpart Nuffic an introductory basic toolkit on the latter was

developed and published in the spring. The '3-IN-ATPLUS' project, which has been running since 2022, was implemented in close cooperation with the Ministry of Science and completed at the end of 2024. The network of Bologna coordinators was also supported.

Advice and support for higher education institutions

Through its activities related to the European Higher Education Area the OeAD not only supports the internationalisation of higher education institutions but also provides for a comprehensive understanding of the Bologna Process. This includes issues such

as innovation in teaching, curriculum development and the social situation of students. Moreover, the OeAD addresses new topics such as micro-credentials and common academic values.

OeAD Higher Education Conference 2024

In 2024 more than 200 representatives of higher education institutions discussed the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in the context of internationalisation at the St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences. Keynotes, group sessions and practical AI showcases enabled participants to learn about various aspects of the topic and try out practical skills in dealing with AI. The topics ranged from AI in administration and legal aspects to the opportunities AI offers international students with disabilities. Other current topics rounded off the programme of the OeAD Higher Education Conference.



Higher Education Conference 2024 – a review

ENIC NARIC AUSTRIA is the central office for the recognition of foreign academic qualifications in Austria. The ENIC and NARIC networks promote harmonised recognition practices in Europe and beyond. Since July 2024 the 'ENIC NARIC AUSTRIA | Credential Evaluation' team has been established as a separate OeAD department. Its main task is to evaluate academic qualifications gained abroad for professional purposes according to international and national standards. It also confirms general university entrance qualifications in admission and settlement procedures. Close cooperation with national stakeholders and international information centres strengthens recognition practices.

Support for Ukraine



Securing support for the Ukrainian higher education sector

At the invitation of the OeAD and the Ukrainian Erasmus+ Office more than 40 rectors and executives from Austrian and Ukrainian higher education institutions as well as representatives of the relevant ministries met in Uzhhorod, Ukraine, in April 2024.

The meeting represented a clear commitment of the Austrian higher education sector to continue supporting science and higher education in Ukraine.

The Erasmus+ cooperation seminar in Vienna brought together Ukrainian and Austrian higher education institutions.



Cooperation with Ukrainian higher education institutions

Cooperation seminar Austria-Ukraine

Two months later around 90 representatives of Austrian and Ukrainian higher education institutions met at a bilateral Erasmus+ cooperation seminar in Vienna. It was the first event of its kind for Ukrainian higher education institutions in Europe since the start of the war in 2022. The cooperation seminar emphasised the importance of such events for scientific cooperation.

The two days provided space for intensive and diverse exchanges on the situation in Ukraine and on prospects for the future for higher education institutions. Participants received detailed information about cooperation possibilities within the framework of Erasmus+ and were able to deepen existing partnerships and establish new ones on site.

STATEMENTS
from participants in the cooperation seminar



It was very impressive how Ukrainian universities cope with the current situation in their country. We can learn a lot from them.

I strongly believe that such events greatly contribute to the further strengthening of the cooperation between the Austrian and the Ukrainian universities for the joint implementation of creative ideas aimed at approaching the victory of humanity over evil.



Erasmus+ School Education, ESC and Ukraine

Erasmus+ also provides valuable support in school education: the eTwinning programme enables Ukrainian schools to participate in exchange and cooperation projects. Bilateral initiatives specifically promoted links between Austrian and Ukrainian schools and strengthened teachers in their transnational

cooperation in 2024. A group of young people in Innsbruck created the 'Solidarity Library', a place for exchange and encounter for refugees from Ukraine with the help of funding from the European Solidarity Corps (ESC).

OeAD cooperation offices: crisis management measures

Since the outbreak of war in Ukraine in the spring of 2022 the OeAD cooperation office in Chişinău (Moldova) has been involved in providing psychosocial support to refugee children and helping them integrate into school life in Moldova. The OeAD Cooperation Office in Odesa (operating from Uzhhorod in 2024) supported around 2,230

teachers and school psychologists in 79 events on 'Crisis Intervention and Psychological First Aid' in 2024. Moreover, the OeAD Cooperation Office organised 56 professional development courses for more than 500 teachers on designing online lessons in STEM subjects, Ukrainian and English.

Focus on China

China's importance as a science nation has grown in the last few years. On the other hand, however, there are increasing challenges in bilateral scientific cooperation.

The OeAD Cooperation Office in Shanghai is affiliated with the Austrian Consulate General in Shanghai. It helps Austrian higher

education institutions to better assess the opportunities and challenges of cooperation with China.



Austrian alumni event in Shanghai

The OeAD Cooperation Office is involved in all areas of academic exchange and supports Austrian higher education institutions in many different areas. It advises academic admission offices in Austria and facilitates cooperation with academic examination boards in China. It represents Austrian educational institutions at higher education fairs and actively promotes Austria's position in the field of German as a foreign language.

Through information events promoting responsible internationalisation it contributes to the development of China expertise in Austria.

It also plays a central part in strengthening relations between Austria and its Chinese alumni. The OeAD promotes this intercultural dialogue with networking events held at regular intervals.

Moreover, the office coordinates delegation visits and organises study trips to China. This gives Austrian students the possibility to gain valuable experience in China, deepen their specialist knowledge and expand their intercultural skills.

Focus UniNet

ASEA-UNINET

The multilateral network was founded in 1994 with the aim of uniting cooperation between Austrian and Southeast Asian universities. Today ASEA-UNINET consists of 93 institutions in 15 European and Southeast Asian countries and facilitates a wide range of cooperations in research and teaching.

Every year the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science funds around 80 bilateral and multilateral research and teaching projects between Austrian and Southeast Asian

member universities as well as Pakistan. Around 30 incoming stays (Ernst Mach scholarships) are also funded, most of them entire doctoral programmes. In addition to scientific cooperation cultural and personal relationships are established and maintained – e.g. at the 19th plenary meeting, which took place between 27 February and 1 March 2024 at the University Sains Malaysia (USM) in Penang. This makes ASEA-UNINET a unique cooperation platform.



ASEA-UNINET



93
member universities
in 2024, of which 21
in Austria

75
approved projects
call 2023/24

around **550,000**
funding volume in 2024
in euros

Eurasia-Pacific Uninet Network (EPU)

For 24 years this academic network has been connecting universities, researchers and lecturers from Central Asia, the Caucasus, and South and East Asia. It supports research and educational cooperation, international exchange and interdisciplinary projects in collaboration with 30 Austrian partner institutions and higher education institutions worldwide. Eurasia-Pacific Uninet covers a wide range of academic disciplines, from technology and environmental sciences to economics, social sciences and art.

It lays the foundations for future-oriented research initiatives carried out in partnership with international EPU member institutions. Research initiatives are carried out in bilateral or multilateral partnerships with at least one EPU member institution from abroad. The Plenary Meeting 2024 in Vienna appointed Josef Strobl (Paris Lodron University of Salzburg) as the new network president. In the future there will also be regional coordinators.



Eurasia-Pacific Uninet

33
approved projects
in 2024

around **338,000**
funding volume in 2024
in euros

Research for better living conditions

APPEAR – Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development

Universities from eleven countries are participating in the Austrian Development Cooperation's cooperation programme. They conduct research with Austrian higher education institutions to improve living conditions in line with the Sustainable Development Goals: In Albania, Armenia, Bhutan, Burkina Faso,

Ethiopia, Georgia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mozambique, South Africa and Uganda a total of 21 academic partnerships were implemented in 2024. Thirty-three students from developing countries were involved in the project activities and received university education in Austria with the help of a scholarship.



APPEAR



APPEAR project partners at the Akunk Organic Agriculture Educational Experimental Farm in Armenia.

KoEF – Cooperation Development Research

This programme enables research into human-centred development based on sustainable economic management and the use of technology – from the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific to the Himalayas.

Universities from the 84 poorest countries in the world can participate in these cooperation projects together with Austrian partners. 32 projects were carried out in 2024.



Cooperation
Development Research

Welt im Ohr – radio programme and podcast

The programme funded by APPEAR produced nine radio programmes on project-specific and development policy topics for ORF Ö1 Campus Radio in 2024.

They were also published as podcasts. Both scientists and researchers from countries in the Global South and Austrian experts have their say in this series.



Welt im Ohr podcasts

Focus on Africa

Africa-UniNet – Austrian-African Research Network

In 2024 the higher education network continued to grow – 86 higher education institutions are now involved in the network's activities, 29 from Austria and 57 from 20 different African countries. Of the 80 projects approved since 2020 76 were still active last year. In this programme, too, the thematic focus of the projects on the Sustainable Development Goals is the common feature of all research.



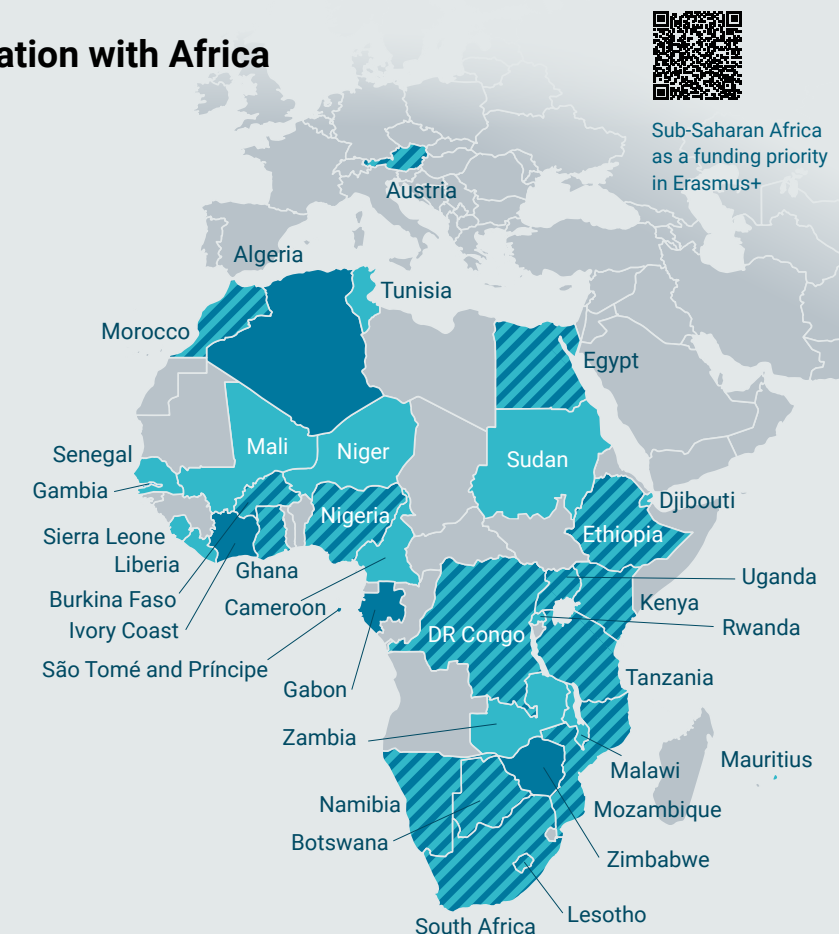
At the Africa-UniNet General Assembly representatives of the member institutions exchange ideas and experiences on a regular basis.

Erasmus+ as a driver of cooperation with Africa

In its current programme period the Erasmus+ programme places a strong focus on Africa in its higher education policy.

- Sub-Saharan Africa had the largest regional budget in international mobility and Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education in 2024.
- As in previous years the EU supported a Jean Monnet Africa Network with Austrian participation.
- Higher education institutions in sub-Saharan Africa are now also degree-awarding universities in Erasmus Mundus.

Within the framework of Erasmus+ Austrian higher education institutions cooperated with higher education institutions in a total of 29 African countries in 2024, with the strongest focus on already existing scientific cooperation in southern and eastern Africa. In 2025 the OeAD will hold an Erasmus+ cooperation seminar in Morocco together with the agencies from Hungary and the Czech Republic in line with this priority.



Positioning Austria as an international centre of higher education and research

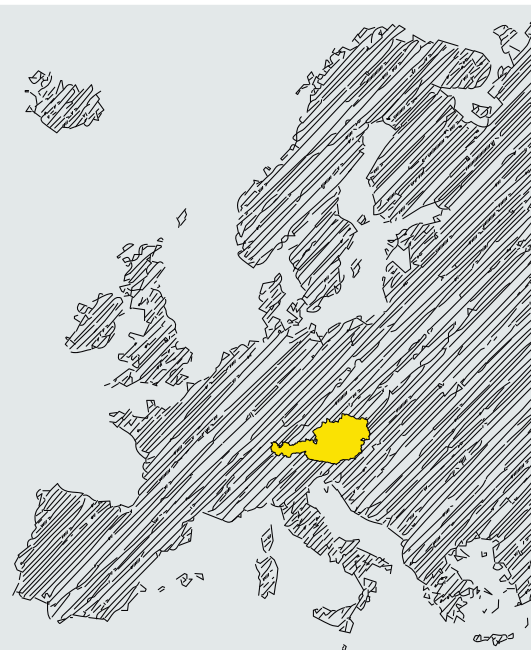
The OeAD contributes to increasing the international attractiveness and visibility of Austrian higher education institutions through numerous measures and activities.



Study in Austria

The measures are intended to facilitate access to education and research for students, researchers and lecturers from all over the world and promote an inclusive educational landscape. A strong international positioning

is crucial to counteract the demographically induced shortage of skilled labour, increase the competitiveness of Austrian higher education institutions and attract international talent.



"Study in Austria" booth with Austrian and international representatives of higher education institutions at the EAIE 2024 in Toulouse

STATEMENT from a researcher

I wanted to express my sincere gratitude for your invaluable assistance. I genuinely appreciate the time and effort you dedicated to providing guidance. It was very helpful and again thank you for your reply.

The OeAD's activities at a glance

Communication and marketing

Under the brand name 'Highlight your future. Study in Austria' the OeAD represents all Austrian higher education sectors worldwide: public universities, universities of applied sciences, private universities and university colleges of teacher education.

Supporting scholarship holders

The OeAD Regional Offices provided support and assistance to 2,546 scholarship holders from around 80 countries.

Advice and support for higher education institutions

The OeAD promotes study, scholarship and cooperation programmes offered by all 77 Austrian higher education institutions worldwide and provides comprehensive information and advice on studying and research in Austria. We work closely with Austrian higher education institutions, OeAD lecturers and Austrian representative authorities abroad. The OeAD also provides various online and print publications and uses an electronic ticket system for counselling.

Participation in and organisation of events

Together with 116 representatives of Austrian higher education institutions the OeAD was represented with an information booth at three international specialist fairs and higher education fairs as well as at public fairs (some of them virtual ones) in cooperation with 'Study in Europe' or the Austrian Chamber of Commerce. The OeAD organised a cooperation seminar in Vienna with around 90 high-ranking participants from Austrian and Ukrainian higher education institutions. Webinars on study and scholarship opportunities in Austria were also offered, some of them in cooperation with Austrian higher education institutions.

Welcome and integration services

The OeAD wants to offer international students, researchers and lecturers the best possible (starting) conditions in Austria. Within the framework of the EU project 'ERA Talent' the OeAD, as Euraxess Austria, organised several networking events for students and researchers. These meetings promote socio-cultural and academic integration. One focus was on the inclusion of refugee researchers: a special workshop on the labour market situation in Austria was offered for them.

Offers of the OeAD

- + Overview of study programmes at Austrian higher education institutions:
www.studienwahl.at/en
www.studienwahl.at/programmes-in-english
- + Austrian database for scholarships and research funding:
www.grants.at/en
- + Online OeAD map of projects and alumni:
map.oead.at
- + Information about entry and residence:
<https://oead.at/en/to-austria/entry-and-residence>
- + Services and jobs for researchers:
www.euraxess.at | LinkedIn
- + OeAD student housing:
www.oeadstudenthousing.at/en

STATEMENT Participant of the Euraxess Austria networking event (pub quiz):

Our group „Browienista“, acronym for BOKU Vienna, Uni Wien and ISTA won the Euraxess Austria pub quiz. An incredible mix of representatives from different countries made me a proud team captain!



Registration for the Euraxess Austria networking event

Projects, mobility, financial flows
Total figures
DiscoverEU and Youthpass
Erasmus+ Higher Education International

Erasmus+ and ESC 03

Let's talk Erasmus+ and ESC
Erasmus+ special programmes
Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps (ESC):
Experiencing and shaping Europe
More possibilities, more chances
Thematic events

Erasmus+ and ESC in Austria

Projects, mobility, financial flows
(total in 2024)



756
approved projects
in Erasmus+



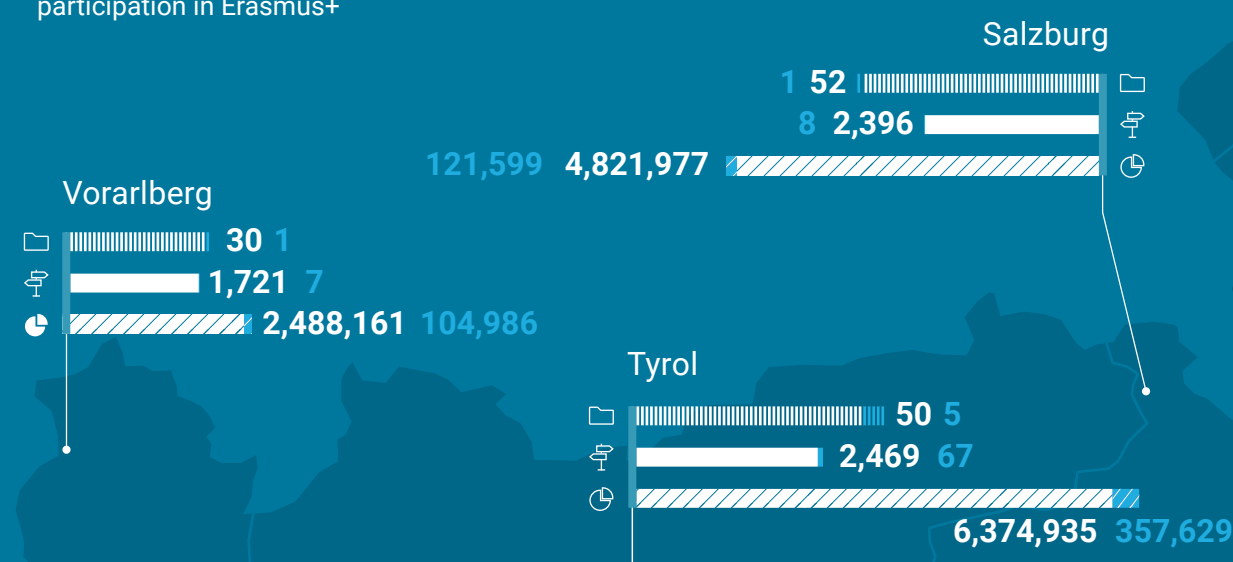
38,001
approved mobility activities
in Erasmus+



77,206,147
approved funds
in Erasmus+ (in euros)



656 accreditations in erasmus+
Accredited institutions benefit from simplified
participation in Erasmus+



53
approved projects
in the ESC



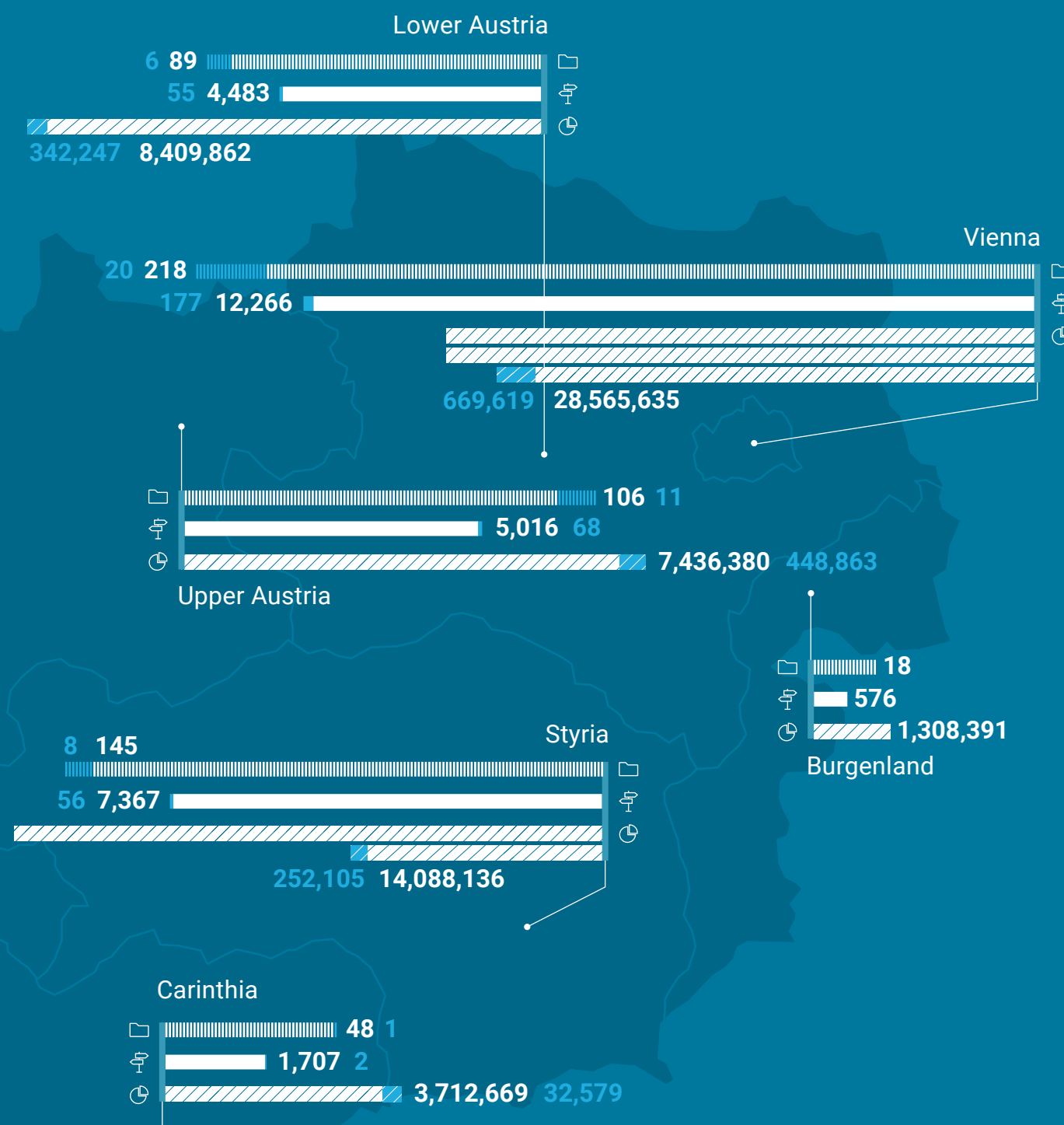
440
approved mobility activities
in the ESC



2,329,627
approved funds
in the ESC (in euros)



150 quality labels awarded
Organisations wishing to take part in volunteer activities within
the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) must first obtain accreditation.
They then will receive a quality label.



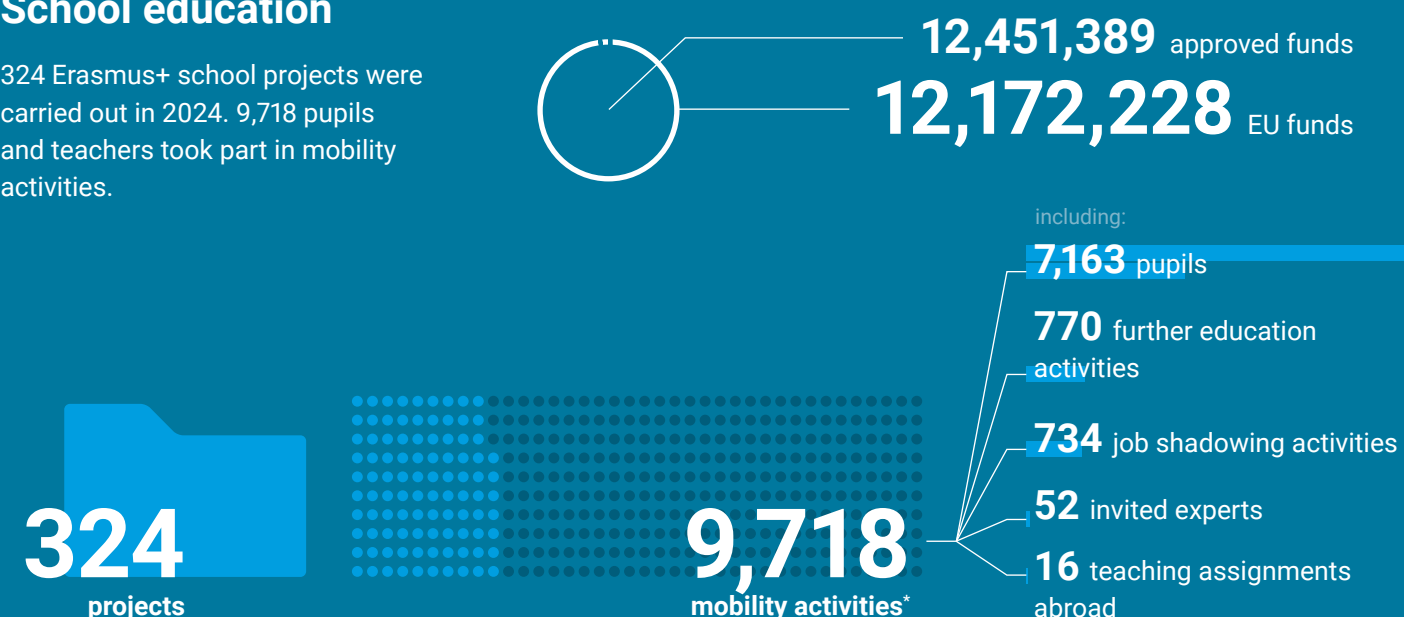
Erasmus+ is the EU programme for the promotion of general and vocational education and training, youth and sports in Europe. The European Solidarity Corps (ESC) offers young people aged 18 to 30 the possibility to get involved in volunteer projects in their own countries or abroad. The OeAD is the national agency for the implementation of the two EU programmes in Austria.

Total figures

school education, vocational education and training, adult education, and higher education

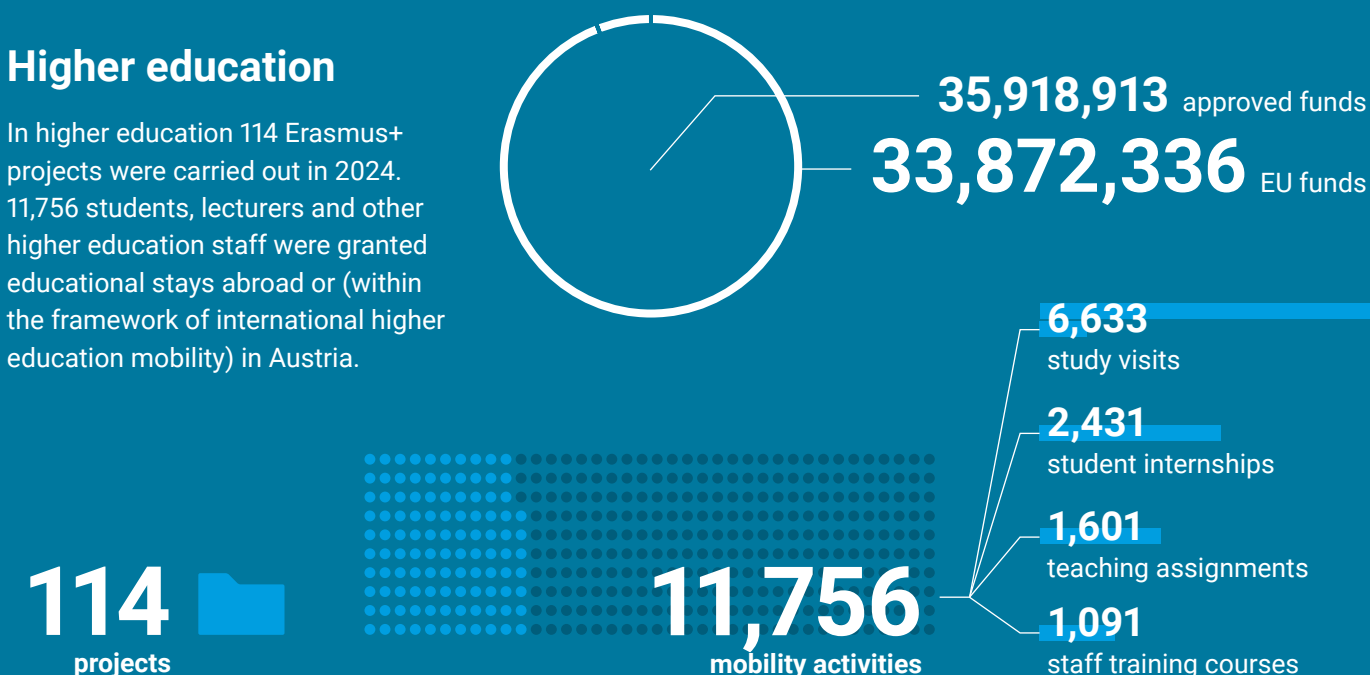
School education

324 Erasmus+ school projects were carried out in 2024. 9,718 pupils and teachers took part in mobility activities.



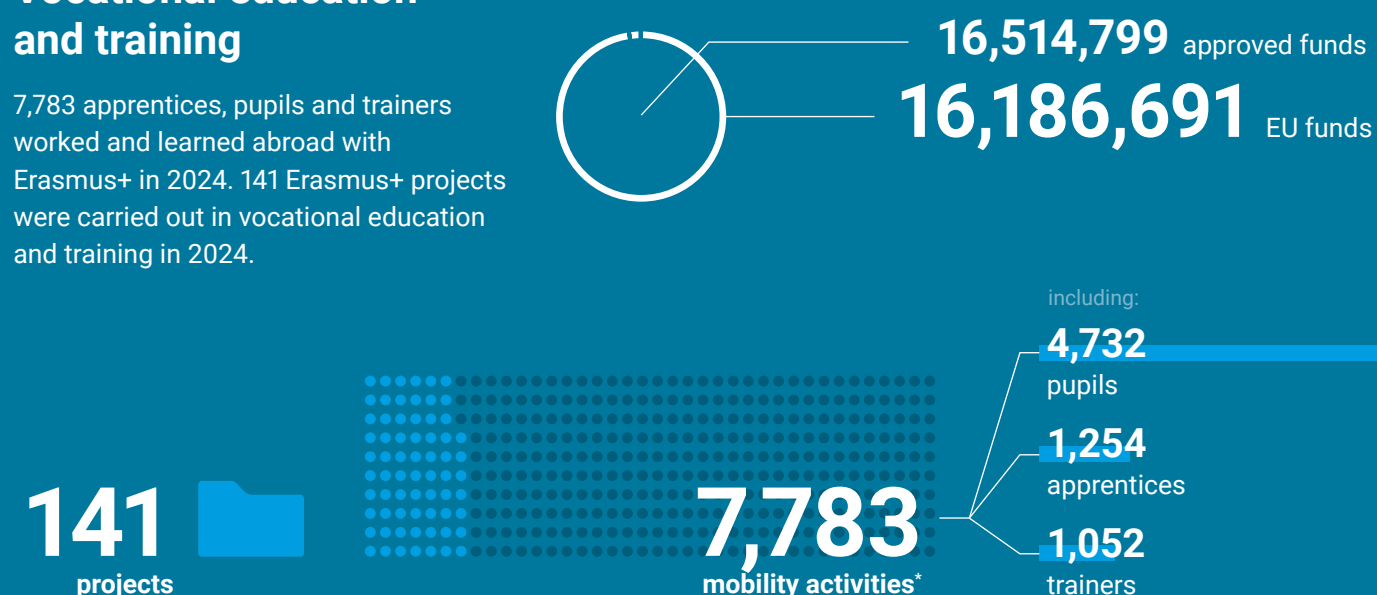
Higher education

In higher education 114 Erasmus+ projects were carried out in 2024. 11,756 students, lecturers and other higher education staff were granted educational stays abroad or (within the framework of international higher education mobility) in Austria.



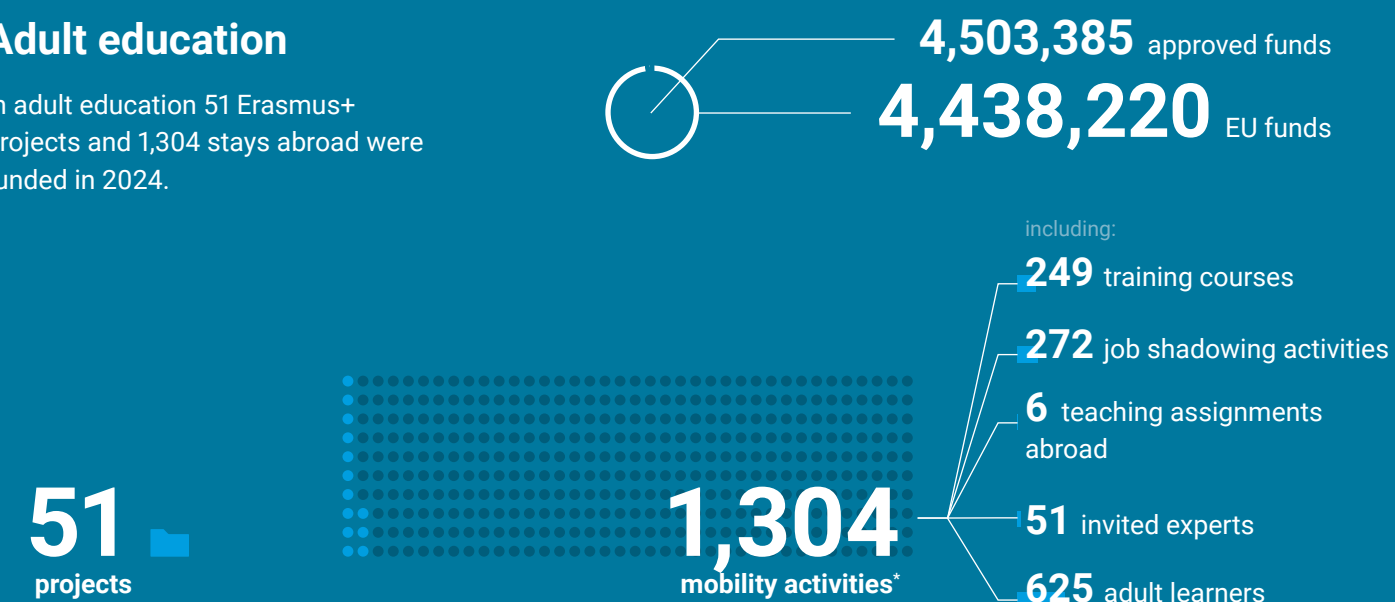
Vocational education and training

7,783 apprentices, pupils and trainers worked and learned abroad with Erasmus+ in 2024. 141 Erasmus+ projects were carried out in vocational education and training in 2024.



Adult education

In adult education 51 Erasmus+ projects and 1,304 stays abroad were funded in 2024.



*including preparatory visits and accompanying persons

*including preparatory visits and accompanying persons

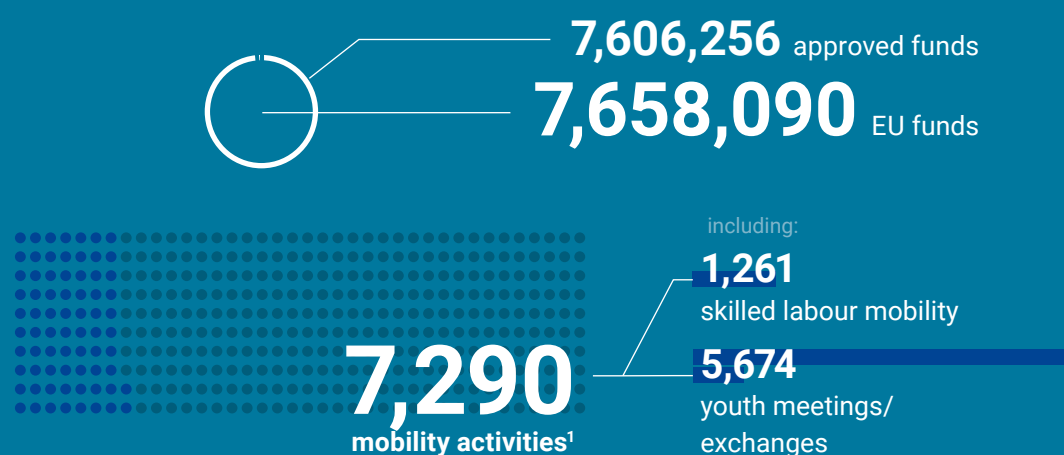
Total figures

Youth, Sport and European Solidarity Corps (ESC)

Youth

In the youth programme 109 Erasmus+ projects and 7,290 stays abroad were funded in 2024.

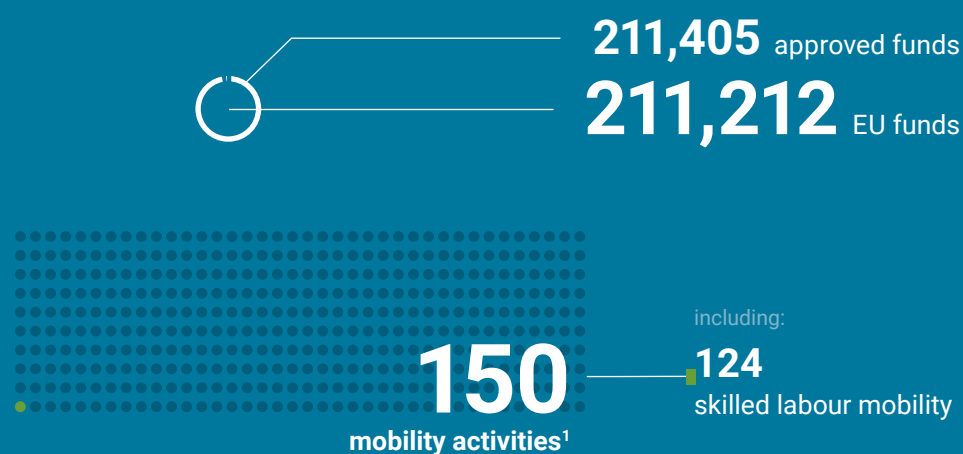
109
projects



Sports

Erasmus+ funded 17 projects in the sports sector. 150 people took part in mobility activities.

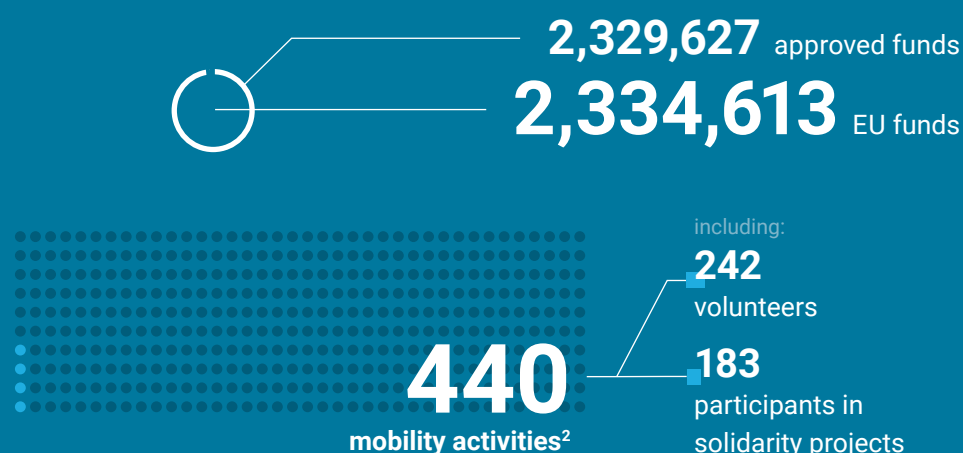
17
projects



ESC

53 ESC projects were carried out in 2024. 440 people went abroad.

53
projects



¹ including preparatory visits and accompanying persons

² including preparatory visits

DiscoverEU and Youthpass

DiscoverEU – Discover Europe

DiscoverEU offers young Europeans aged 18 the possibility to travel around Europe by train for up to one month as individuals or in groups. This allows young people in Europe to connect with their European identity.

The trips are intended to strengthen their awareness of the fundamental values of the European Union. Since 2018 the European Commission has given away 355,000 travel passes.



DiscoverEU

322,437
young people from all over Europe applied for a travel pass.



of which **7,152** applicants from Austria

71,273 received a travel pass, among them **1,427** Austrians, who will travel all over Europe with DiscoverEU.

The 71,273 young people selected in April and October 2024 will travel between June 2024 and May 2026.

Youthpass – informal and non-formal learning in youth projects

Youthpass is a European tool and certificate intended to recognise, document and reflect non-formal and informal learning experiences in the programmes Erasmus+ Youth and ESC.

It supports young people in shaping their learning experiences and putting them into words.



Youthpass

1,877,061
certificates issued in Europe so far



216,166
certificates issued in Europe in 2024

of which **2,215** Youthpasses for Austrians (2024)

Erasmus+ Higher Education International

The global positioning of Austrian higher education institutions is one of the five central goals of the Austrian Higher Education Mobility and Internationalisation Strategy (HMIS2030). The international dimension of Erasmus+ makes a significant contribution to this.

In the last few years global and regional crises have influenced the international activities of Erasmus+. In close cooperation with the European Commission and higher education institutions the OeAD has often succeeded in finding flexible solutions and maintaining the high demand for international programme offers.

Erasmus+ International: utilisation of funds

In 2024 approximately € 5.7 million was available for international higher education mobility in Austria (EU funding and additional national funds from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research (BMFWF)), with demand amounting to just under € 18 million. Austria is one of the few countries in Europe where demand exceeds the available funds in all regions.

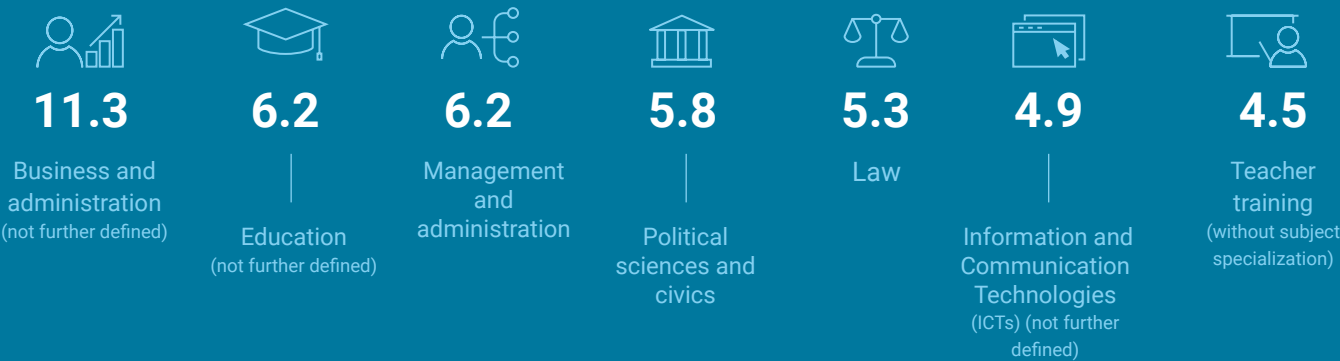
AVAILABLE FUNDS AND FUNDS APPLIED FOR per region in euros

Region	Funds applied for	Available funds
Western Balkans	1,277,741.00	932,051.00
Eastern Neighbours	3,086,972.00	1,139,269.00
Southern Mediterranean	1,414,565.00	729,898.00
Russian Federation	81,538.00	54,293.00
Asia	3,605,063.00	624,034.00
Central Asia	611,092.00	167,254.00
Middle East	167,614.00	66,542.00
Pacific	526,376.00	94,434.00
Sub-Saharan Africa	3,025,865.00	1,212,985.00
Latin America	1,776,295.00	263,675.00
Caribbean	272,965.00	58,215.00
USA and Canada	2,084,782.00	366,418.00

In 2024 **31** new international **mobility projects** were approved in Austria. Austrian higher education institutions had more than **200 ongoing co-operations** with higher education institutions around the world. The ratio between staff and student mobility is very balanced.

Top 7 fields of study

There is a wide range of fields of study in international stays. The top 7 fields of study in projects with Austrian higher education institutions in 2024 are: (in percent)



Top 10 countries

Erasmus+ International higher education mobility with partner countries in 2024

Outgoing mobility			Incoming mobility		
1	Ukraine	142	1	Israel	61
2	Israel	85	2	Bosnia and Herzegovina	54
3	Bosnia and Herzegovina	73	3	United States of America	35
4	Georgia	61	4	Kosovo	32
5	Kosovo	60	5	South Africa	27
6	South Africa	47	6	Albania	25
7	United States of America	32	7	Georgia	16
8	Albania	29	8	Armenia	13
9	Ethiopia	27	9	Uganda	11
10	Uganda	25	10	Ethiopia	10

FACTS

Besides international mobility there are other 'actions' in Erasmus+ higher education that are globally oriented and go beyond Europe: Capacity Building in Higher Education, Erasmus Mundus, and Jean Monnet.



Diversity in Teacher Education

+ Capacity building in higher education is tailored to the needs of the target countries. In 2024 cooperation projects between Austrian higher education institutions and partners in the following third countries were approved: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kosovo, Malaysia, Moldova, Nepal, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

+ In 75 percent of all Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters approved in 2024 Austrian higher education institutions award double or joint degrees together with higher education institutions from third countries, including Brazil, China, India, Switzerland and South Africa. Since 2004 the European Commission has supported outstanding students from all over the world with Erasmus Mundus Master's programmes. The OeAD celebrated 20 years of Erasmus Mundus at our Higher Education Conference 2024 (see page 15, 'Anniversaries and Awards').

Let's talk Erasmus+ and ESC

Every year the OeAD honours Erasmus+ and ESC programme ambassadors who have made a significant contribution to the success of these programmes through their commitment.



erasmus+

Erasmus+ not only connects us with other cultures but also with nature. We learn how to take responsibility for our planet and bring about real change through green skills. Together we create a network that unites education, inclusion and environmental protection – a step towards a more sustainable and fairer future for all.

Jürgen Maierhofer, Erasmus+ ambassador for Vocational Education and Training | Styrian Economic Society (Steirische Volkswirtschaftliche Gesellschaft, STVG)



erasmus+

Erasmus+ enables forward-looking projects to be put into practice. Erasmus+ brings young people of Europe together.

Heiko Kromp, Erasmus+ ambassador for School Education | Polytechnische Schule Schwaz



erasmus+

Erasmus+ brings Europe to life and makes it tangible!

Rosemarie Pichler, Erasmus+ ambassador for Adult education | Educational and career guidance Lower Austria (Bildungs- und Berufsberatung Niederösterreich)

erasmus+

Although internationalisation in higher education involves additional work this is more than offset by the work with the students and their enthusiasm. It is worthwhile discovering the things we have in common despite all our cultural differences, which create a sense of belonging and a feeling of European identity on a small scale.

Stefan Litzenberger, Erasmus+ ambassador for Higher Education | FH Technikum Wien



erasmus+

Erasmus+ is an important tool in our society for creating values such as tolerance, solidarity and awareness of shared responsibility in all areas of life to enable us to live together successfully and peacefully in a democratic Europe.

Christof Buchegger, Erasmus+ Youth | Verein support4youth.eu



erasmus+

Erasmus+ Sport opens doors to international cooperation that would not have been possible for us as a club without the financial support of the programme. This funding enables us to strengthen young coaches and offer them new perspectives by actively promoting sporting and intercultural exchange.

Michaela Fellner, Erasmus+ ambassador for Sport | AHTC Hockey Club Vienna

ESC

'(Y)our community, (y)our commitment': The ESC projects bring together a community that has been created through personal commitment and which therefore also fosters identity and solidarity. This allows you to make contacts yourself and encourage exchange within your immediate environment and at European level.



Andrea Schneeberger, ambassador for the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) | Begegnungsraum Osttirol



erasmus+

Erasmus+ is very important because we can only benefit from Europe's diversity if we live together in peace. It is valuable for even the youngest children to feel that they can make a difference when they participate.

Diana Groß, Erasmus+ Special ambassador for 'Democratic participation' | Gymnasium Hartberg

AIMS OF erasmus+

- + STRENGTHENING EUROPE
- + USING EDUCATION AS A DRIVING FORCE FOR THE FUTURE
- + PROVIDING IMPULSES FOR THE AUSTRIAN EDUCATION POLICY
- + SUPPORTING EU INSTRUMENTS TO PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY AND RECOGNITION OF SKILLS, ABILITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS
- + PROMOTING MOBILITY

Erasmus+ special programmes

in 2024

EITA

European Innovative Teaching Award



Highlighting innovative practices of teachers and kindergarten staff: The European Commission recognises outstanding teaching practices in Erasmus+ projects.



The prize is awarded annually in **four categories**:

- + pre-school education
- + primary schools, compulsory secondary schools, grammar schools
- + schools of vocational education and training
- + adult education (as of 2025)

EPALE

E-platform for adult education in Europe

<https://epale.ec.europa.eu/en>

157,260

EPALE users all over Europe (as at 31 December 2024)

1,868

users from Austria (as at 31 December 2024)

383

contributions from Austria on the EPALE platform in 2024

Erasmus+ VET Team Austria

Information and advice on European vocational education and training tools and principles

10

online presentations and workshops in a new format: 'Erasmus+ Vocational Education and Training Brunch' on topics such as NQF, group mobility, apprentice mobility, apprentice internships in the USA, EU instruments in projects, higher vocational education and training, the EU Pact for Skills, democracy and civic competence, global megatrends in vocational education and training

1

international online symposium entitled 'Erasmus+ CoVE – Centres of Vocational Excellence: A European success format for sustainable vocational education and training, regional development, innovation, smart specialisation and cluster strategies'

1

project as a contribution to the implementation of the National Implementation Plan (NIP) – in coordination with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education: 'Survey and analysis of qualifications at NQF level 5 in third countries' to identify possible cooperation opportunities for colleges for higher vocational education in third countries (project phase 1)

eTwinning

Virtual school partnerships in Europe

www.etwinning.at

134

eTwinning projects in which Austrian schools, university colleges of teacher education and kindergartens participated

527

newly registered Austrian teachers, headmasters and headmistresses, other educational staff and teacher training students as well as kindergarten teachers

552

Austrian teachers participated in national and international eTwinning professional development courses in 2024

Euroguidance

Europe-wide networking of educational and career counsellors

www.euroguidance.at

24

languages
The chart of the Austrian education system is available in 24 languages.

6,837

learning options in Austria are available in the Europass portal

78,334

visits of www.bildungssystem.at in 2024

European Language Label

Award for innovative and high-quality language projects in Erasmus+

www.oead.at/spracheninitiativen

since **1998**

The **European language label** has been awarded every two years since 1998. It promotes understanding and appreciation of linguistic diversity in Europe.

10

Erasmus+ projects were awarded prizes in 5 categories in 2024.

500 euros

The winning schools received 500 euros each.

Europass

Workplace Europe

www.europass.at/en

286,450

visitors of the European Europass Portal www.europass.at from Austria in 2024

1,553

people were provided information at events, presentations or education fairs.

57,183

views on YouTube www.youtube.com/EuropassAustria in 2024

Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps (ESC): Experiencing and shaping Europe

An education, youth and sport programme for everyone

More than 16 million participants have benefited from this education and mobility programme since Erasmus+ was launched in 1987. Demand is growing steadily. In 2024 alone more than 38,000 people in Austria

took part in Erasmus+ mobility programmes and the number is expected to rise further: Erasmus+ funding in Austria will be increased by around 14 per cent in 2025.

Erasmus+ skills and European cohesion

The EU programme supports the development and acquisition of skills and abilities that people and the labour market in Europe need: technical and professional skills are developed and improved during stays abroad, and social skills, initiative and civic engagement are promoted. At the same time engagement with European values, international solidarity and understanding beyond national borders strengthen the common understanding of Europe. Young people and adults take advantage of the opportunity to learn from each other and with each other

through mutual exchange and dialogue, to get to know other perspectives and to broaden their own horizons. Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps thus provide orientation in a world that is currently affected by uncertainty and conflict.

One focus of the OeAD's work is to open up the programmes to all people and institutions in line with the National Plan for Inclusion and Diversity.

Vocational education and training & Union of Skills

The OeAD's initiative 'Apprenticeships without Borders' makes it easier for apprentices to take part in Erasmus+. In 2024 the number of participating apprentices doubled to 1,254.

Erasmus+ has a positive effect on individuals and, through participating institutions such as kindergartens, schools, universities, youth centres and sports facilities, also has

an impact on the surrounding community. Exchanges and experiences in a new cultural context create individual and collective added value. This strengthens both European cohesion and Europe as a business location. Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps thus make a significant contribution to the 'Union of Skills'.



Apprenticeships without borders



At the Euroguidance conference in 2024

ESC: Solidarity in Europe

Solidarity projects and voluntary work in charitable projects in Europe are the focus of the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) programme, which has been developed specifically for young people and their needs. Experience abroad supports young people, youth organisations and national and European youth policy alike. Around 440 mobility activities were carried out in 2024 within the

framework of ESC projects. Volunteering is particularly popular among young people. With its SALTO Centre the OeAD supports the whole of Europe in its efforts to ensure quality and promote the opportunities that the Solidarity Corps offers. With its 'New Waves of Volunteering' it currently researches and supports new initiatives to establish volunteering even more widely in Europe.



Solidarity Corps

Climate change, digitisation, inclusion and participation

With four horizontal programme priorities Erasmus+ and the ESC provide important impetus for further development regarding key social issues:

- Environment and combating climate change
- Digital transformation
- Inclusion and diversity
- Democratic participation

The participants' interest is enormous. All available EU funds were disbursed in 2024.

The OeAD acts as a driving force for these thematic priorities and makes concrete offers, such as special funding for green travel and inclusion activities.

The OeAD offers networking and knowledge transfer opportunities for people from all over Europe at many events and training courses. In the election year 2024 the programme priority 'Democratic participation' was naturally at the forefront.

More possibilities, more chances

Erasmus+ Sport: Great interest and rising application numbers in Austria

Since 2023 people involved in grassroots sports have been able to travel abroad with the Erasmus+ programme. Since then many people working in sports (sports personnel) have visited other countries with Erasmus+. The OeAD provides interested people with comprehensive information and services in the form of consultations and seminars. The numbers of applications have almost doubled.

Austria takes full advantage of Erasmus+ Sport. Erasmus+ is also popular in the sports sector, which could be seen at the Austrian Sports Day on 21 September 2024 at the Heldenplatz in Vienna. The high demand for funding is accompanied by an interest in doing sports and becoming active, which was demonstrated e.g. at the OeAD team's interactive stations.



The then Minister for Sport Werner Kogler at the OeAD Erasmus+ Sport information booth with Gerhard Moßhammer (OeAD Head of Sector for Erasmus+ Youth & Sport and ESC, centre) and Daniel Molterer (OeAD) on the Sports Day 2024.

Erasmus+ and excellence initiatives in the European Education Area

Excellence initiatives are an important pillar of the European Education Area. Austria is actively involved in these initiatives. In 2024 the European Commission selected fifteen new Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVE) for funding. Austrian institutions are involved in three of these centres.

The European Universities initiative currently consists of 65 European university alliances; Austria is involved in 18 of them. For example, the Montanuniversität Leoben heads a

European University Alliance on Responsible Consumption and Production. The St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences has launched an alliance on 'European University as Driver for European Smart and Sustainable Regions 2.0'.

In total, more than 570 higher education institutions of all kinds from all over Europe participate in this initiative. They strengthen research and innovation in the EU and ensure further internationalisation.



Centres of vocational
excellence



European University
Alliances



Ernst Gesslbauer, Director of the EU programmes Erasmus+ and ESC at the OeAD (right) wishes Fabian Kabas good luck.

Fabian Kabas, a student at Graz University of Technology, proved to be particularly athletic in the summer of 2024: he cycled to Lisbon for his Erasmus+ study year. His route took him through Austria, Italy, France and Spain to Portugal. He covered around 3,500 km and negotiated 28,000 metres of altitude difference. With his green journey he also supported the programme priority 'Environment and climate action' in an impressive way.

DiscoverEU: Green mobility

Green mobility is promoted in particular by the DiscoverEU initiative. It offers young people aged 18 the chance to explore Europe by train. This experience strengthens the formation of a European identity and awareness of the fundamental values of the European Union.

In 2024 young people living in Austria won 1,427 DiscoverEU tickets. To make this offer accessible to all young people DiscoverEU Inclusion offers the possibility of applying for additional financial support.



DiscoverEU

A driving force and source of inspiration on the European stage

As a national agency the OeAD is involved in strategic partnerships and training cooperation at both national and European level. Besides exchange, networking and knowledge transfer scientific support and research on the impact of EU programmes are also on the agenda. In addition to the European research network 'RAY' for evaluating EU youth programmes the OeAD is also part of a European partnership on the impact, monitoring and evaluation of the Erasmus+ programme. A dedicated handbook was developed jointly in 2024. It presents tools and methods that

support funding recipients in measuring and assessing the impact of their projects. Moreover, the OeAD is a member of the RIA-AE network (Research-based Impact Analysis of Erasmus+ Adult Education Programmes). In 2024 RIA-AE conducted the first national monitoring study analysing the impact of Erasmus+ in adult education in Austria. The data from this analysis contributed to the development of a European study that shows the programme's impact at the transnational level and provides impetus for its further development at the European level.

Thematic events as an interface between theory and practice



The winners of the Erasmus+ and ESC Awards 2024 are cheering with the OeAD's managing director Jakob Calice (left).

Shaping democracy

In April 2024 the Erasmus+ and ESC symposium was dedicated to 'Experiencing and shaping democracy'. 150 participants from all programme sectors used the opportunity to exchange ideas, for networking and for knowledge transfer. Best practice projects were presented and ideas for new Erasmus+ and ESC projects were generated. Seventeen-year-old Erasmus+ participant Laurenz Lässer argued how important it is for all European citizens to cast their vote in elections.

'Democratic participation' was also the focus of the European Youth Week 2024: under the motto 'Give your vision a voice' the spotlight was on the concerns and issues of young people. Organisations and associations from all over Austria took part in the action week. More than 2,000 activities were carried out by and for young people all over Europe. Finally, the EPALE and Erasmus+ conference in May 2024 looked at ways of active participation through adult education and examined the role of adult education in promoting participation in society.

EU programmes in the spotlight: #ErasmusDays, competitions and awards

The #ErasmusDays took place from 14 to 19 October 2024. More than 100 institutions from all over Austria took part in the Europe-wide action week to raise awareness of the diversity and opportunities offered by the EU programme in a broad audience. They put Erasmus+ in the spotlight with workshops, lectures and exhibitions.

One highlight was the OeAD's 'My Story' competition: participants from all over Austria shared their personal Erasmus+ experiences in blog posts. The best entries were awarded prizes during the #ErasmusDays. They impressively show how enriching international experiences are.



My Story entries 2024

Participation and linguistic diversity

Together with the Ministry of Education the OeAD awarded prizes to the most innovative Erasmus+ and language projects. Language learning and linguistic diversity are one of the objectives of Erasmus+. Participation in Erasmus+ promotes understanding and appreciation of linguistic diversity in Europe and enhances both proficiency in one's mother tongue and foreign language skills.

Democracy education was also the focus of the European Innovative Teaching Award. Three schools received the European Innovative Teaching Award (EITA) 2024 and ten projects and educational institutions, respectively, received the European Language Label 2024.

Erasmus+ and ESC Award 2024: Impressive impact

The diversity of projects generated by EU programmes and their impact were highlighted at the Erasmus+ and ESC Awards ceremony in Vienna on 4 December. Ten organisations received awards for their innovative use of EU programmes to make a significant contribution to education, innovation and understanding in Europe. The award winners come from school education, vocational education and training, higher education, adult education, youth and sport. Through their work in international cooperation they are all committed to the positive development of Europe. For example, a group of young people in Innsbruck has created a place for exchange

and encounter for refugees from Ukraine with their ESC project 'Solidarity Library'. The University of Graz has developed 'DiaLog', a new didactic approach to promoting written argumentation skills in pupils. The materials developed in the project are distributed worldwide, e.g. through the Goethe Institute. They are among the materials that are most popular with teachers of German as a foreign language worldwide. Portraits of all winners of the 2024 award and other inspiring stories regarding the implementation of the EU programmes are available on the Erasmus+ blog at www.erasmusplus.at.



Award 2024

MULTILINGUALISM 04

“Kultur und Sprache” (Culture and Language)
Teaching abroad: Lectureships and Junior Lectureships
Language assistance programme

Multilingualism as a key skill in a globalised world

- + TEACHING GERMAN AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE ABROAD
- + CONVEYING A MODERN IMAGE OF AUSTRIA
- + PROMOTING THE ACQUISITION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE SKILLS AT AUSTRIAN SCHOOLS

Promoting German as a foreign language: “Kultur und Sprache” programme

In 2024 31 professional development courses were organised by the OeAD programme ‘Kultur und Sprache’ (Culture and Language). 1,383 German teachers all over the world took part in them. The topics of these professional development courses ranged from pluricentrism and the living environments of young people in Austria to grammar, remembrance culture and the role of AI in foreign language teaching.

Around 100 contributions are available on the Open Educational Resource (OER) platform as free suggestions for teaching. These provide an important multiplier effect in the professional development courses of the ‘Culture and Language’ programme. They also provide modern perspectives on Austria and put the goals of culture-reflective learning and the DACH principle (recognition of the diversity of the German language in Germany, Austria and Switzerland) into practice.



Kultur und Sprache

‘Teaching Abroad’ programme: Lectureships and Junior Lectureships

In 2024 108 people worked as Austrian lecturers abroad at 94 host universities in 29 countries. This enabled them to gain teaching experience in German as a foreign language (DaF) and Austrian literature and regional studies. An agreement with the partner institutions usually forms the framework for this cooperation. Moreover, depending on their location, the lecturers cooperate with the Austrian embassies or cultural forums and Austrian libraries.

In 2024 33 Austrian DaF interns taught at 29 host institutions in 26 countries within the framework of the junior lectureship programme. The aim of the junior lectureship is to enable participants to gain initial teaching experience at higher education institutions in non-German speaking countries.



Lectureships



Junior Lectureships

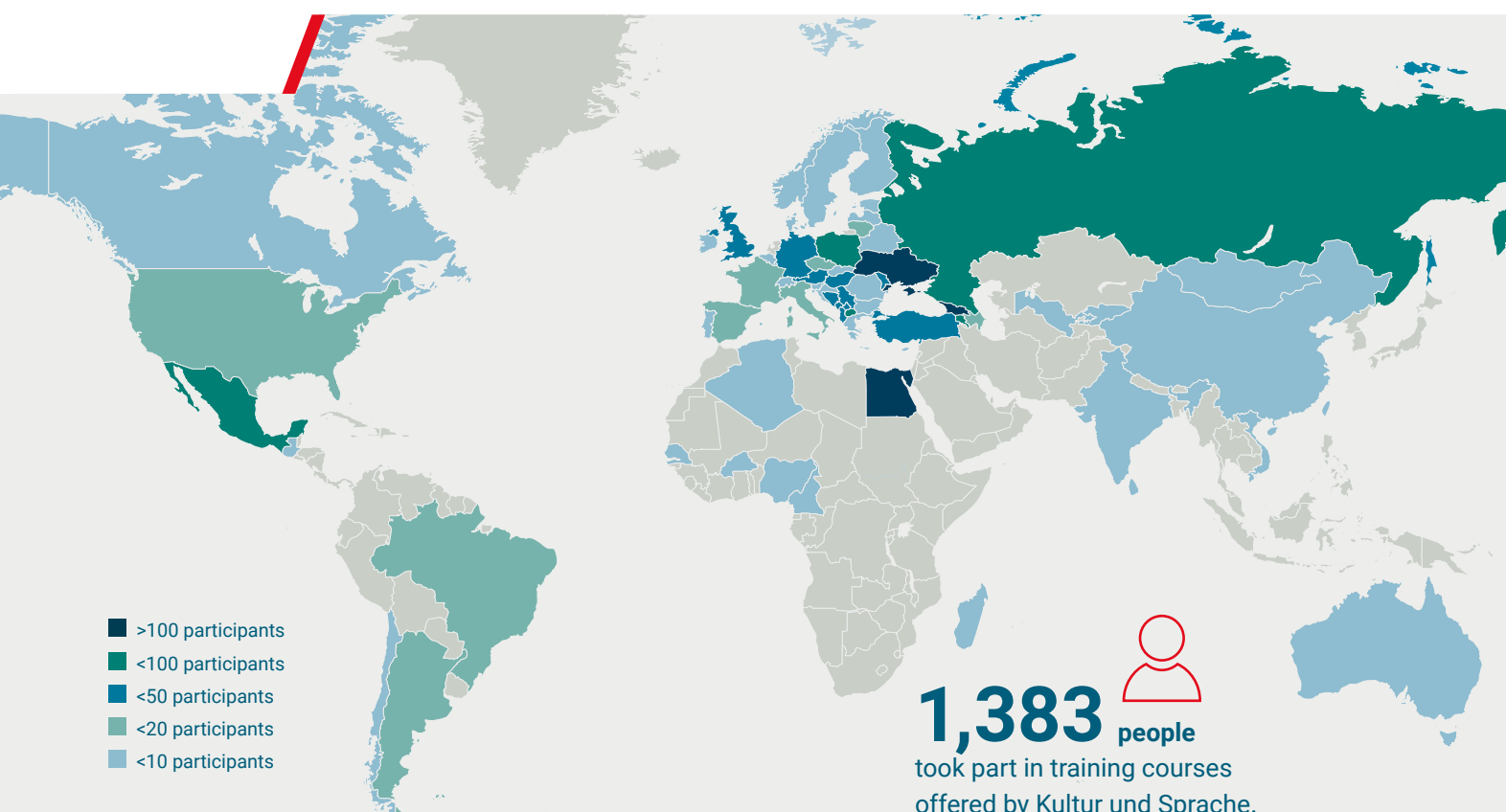
Language assistance programme: international and in Austria

In 2024 679 foreign language assistants from 12 different countries taught pupils at around 520 Austrian federal schools the respective foreign language and the culture of their country of origin. At the same time 244 language assistants from Austria gained

insights into a different school system at around 200 schools in other European countries. They gained valuable teaching experience in teaching German as a foreign language and enriched German lessons with authentic Austrian content.



Language assistance



Lecturers' book club



As a lecturer abroad in Paris I experience every day how language builds bridges – between students, lecturers, literature and cultures. The lectureship not only allows me to get to know the university, the city and the country intensively but also to connect with colleagues all over France and to work with local cultural institutions. This is a varied and enriching task!

Helene Schreilechner, lecturer at the Université Paris III – Sorbonne Nouvelle



AIMS OF THE LANGUAGE PROGRAMMES

- + ACQUIRING PERSONAL SKILLS FOR LIVING IN A GLOBALISED WORLD
- + TO STRENGTHEN GERMAN AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE PARTNERSHIPS WITH INSTITUTIONS OF PRE- AND IN-SERVICE TRAINING OF GERMAN LANGUAGE TEACHERS ARE INTENSIFIED.
- + PROFESSIONALISATION OF PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS FOR THEIR FUTURE WORK IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN AUSTRIA

oeAD COOPERATION OFFICES 05

Educational cooperation with Eastern and
Southeastern Europe in pre-university education

Scientific cooperation
in university education

OeAD Cooperation Offices abroad

The OeAD has a network of international cooperation offices in priority regions of the Austrian educational and scientific cooperation. These offices are located in the EU's neighbouring countries to the east (Ukraine, Republic of Moldova), the Western Balkan countries and in China.



Branch offices with a focus on educational cooperation

These projects are implemented through the OeAD cooperation offices in Chişinău, Odesa/Uzhhorod, Sarajevo (responsible for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia) and Tirana (responsible for Albania, Kosovo, North Macedonia). The offices are headed by Austrian educational coordinators who are directly seconded by the Ministry of Education.



Educational Cooperation

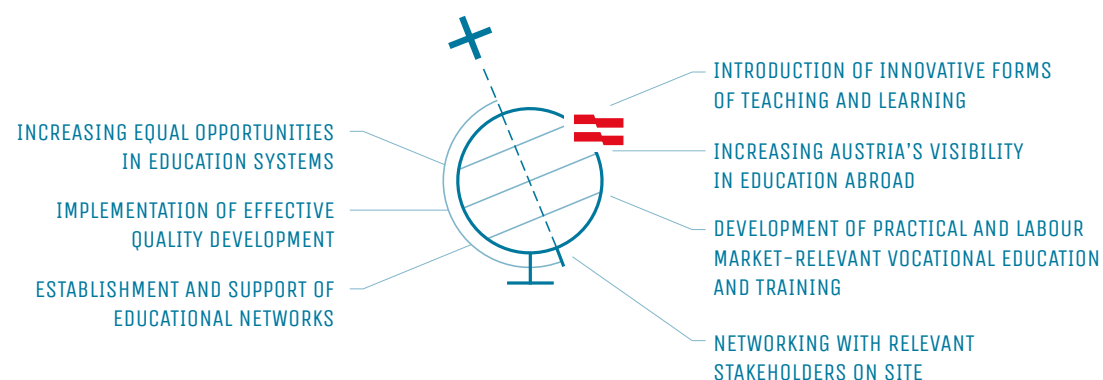
Programme for educational cooperation with Eastern and Southeastern Europe in pre-university education

International exchange, looking beyond one's own horizons and developing new perspectives on one's own work in exchange with others provide important impetus for implementing educational reform processes in one's own country.

Within the framework of 16 projects sustainable education reforms in our eight partner countries were supported in around 380 events. The innovative competence of more than 1,700 educational institutions such as schools, agencies for (vocational) education, local education authorities, institutions

for continuous professional development of teachers, etc. was strengthened with Austrian expertise (e.g. university colleges of teacher education) in various areas of education reform.

The OeAD promotes innovative forms of learning from one another within and between education systems for systematic change management. National education systems differ from one another. In an increasingly globalised world, however, they face similar challenges.



Vocational education and training conference to promote school-based and dual vocational education and training in Serbia, May 2024

Programme for scientific cooperation in university education

The two OeAD cooperation offices in L'viv and Shanghai focus on supporting mobility, networking and cooperation in higher education. In cooperation with the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs the L'viv office also implements foreign culture projects. The aim is to promote strategic networking in the respective partner countries to support strategic partnerships

with Austria and Austrian institutions. To this end Austrian stakeholders in higher education in particular are made aware of the possibilities for cooperation with different higher education institutions in Ukraine and China. In the spirit of responsible internationalisation information is also provided to strengthen China competence.



Science cooperation offices

» Our neighbouring countries in South-Eastern Europe are long-standing and important partners for Austrian companies. Through our joint vocational training projects with the OeAD we create opportunities and prospects for young people and businesses. In doing so we make a significant contribution to the further development of the vocational training system, to ensuring that there will be a sufficient number of skilled workers in the respective countries and to success. After all, highly qualified specialists with practical vocational training are indispensable for the economy.



Melina Schneider, Head of the Department for Educational Policy, Austrian Chamber of Commerce

EDUCATION and SOCIETY

06

Cultural education with schools in Austria

Public Science: Strengthening trust in science and democracy together

ERINNERN:AT – Teaching and learning about
National Socialism and the Holocaust

Prevention of extremism sets an example at schools

Mobility allowance for **visits to concentration camp memorials**

Digital learning device initiative

Cultural education with schools in Austria

The OeAD works on behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education at the intersection between schools, art and culture. Its offers are aimed at teachers and schools as well as artists, cultural educators and cultural institutions with a view to jointly implementing participatory school projects in the field of cultural education. The OeAD provides advice, organisational support and financial assistance to inspire pupils throughout Austria to take an interest in art and culture.



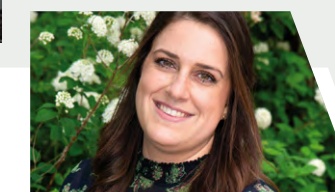
Cultural education

Democracy means: 'Listen to me!' And this is exactly what my poetry slam workshops at schools achieve. A playful approach to language that inspires imagination and creativity and opens ears, hearts and minds.



Adina Wilcke, artist and teacher

Theresa Schögl BEd., MEd.,
Headmistress of the Leopold
Hasner School, Bad Ischl



Our school project 'Dancing for Everyone' not only sparked a love for dancing but also helped people to recognise their own needs and strengthened their democratic values. Awareness of how close you and others let other people get has contributed to a more respectful school climate in the long term.

CULTURAL EDUCATION

- + active dealing with contemporary forms of art and culture
- + broad participation in art and culture
- + enhancing equal opportunities
- + constructive dealing with diversity and difference
- + acquisition of (digital) media skills
- + support for joint and individual learning and teaching processes
- + learning culture at schools



take HEART!

More than 3,600 art and cultural projects with schools

The Kultur:Bildung initiative is the most comprehensive programme for cultural education with schools in Austria. Artists from all disciplines work together with pupils on projects in the classroom. The funding programme 'culture connected' supports cultural institutions and schools in joint cooperation projects and the 'K3 projects' provide

impetus for cultural education specifically for apprentices, part-time vocational schools and companies. Other offers include the creative competition 'projekteuropa' and the project series 'RaumGestalten' for building culture and architecture education.

take HEART! Democracy, sustainability and cultural education

The OeAD launched its new thematic focus 'take HEART!' in the school year 2023/24. In cooperation with creative artists and cultural institutions pupils deal with democratic,

social and ecological issues. The OeAD thus shows the potential of cultural education to strengthen democracy.

Kunst ist Klasse! (Art at school is great!)

On behalf of the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education the OeAD issued two calls for proposals in 2024 for the new funding programme 'Kunst ist Klasse!' for art and cultural institutions. Support is provided for 63 projects with and for schools that

familiarise young people with different sectors of art and culture, arouse their interest and curiosity and contribute to strengthening their (cultural) skills. The projects are supported with up to 30,000 euros each.



Kunst ist Klasse!

PROGRAMMES OF CULTURAL EDUCATION 2024

	PROJECTS	SCHOOLS	PUPILS
Culture Connected 2023/24	163	154	5,529
Kultur:Bildung 2024 incl. Tyrolean Cultural Service and Double Check	3,191	1,622	144,107
K3 PROJECTS 2024	84	53	1.,435
projekteuropa 2023/24	190	142	7,355
Raum Gestalten (Spatial design) 2023/24	13	14	460
TOTAL as at January 2025	3,641	1,985	158,886

KULTUR:BILDUNG 2024

BY ART FORM in percent | without Tyrolean Cultural Service (Tiroler Kulturservicestelle | TKS) & Double Check, as at January 2025

Architecture	1.64
Fine Arts	17.36
Design	1.43
Film/Video	3.25
Photography	1.67
Literature	18.38
Media art	0.89
Music	21.83
Radio	0.44
Cross-disciplinary	4.68
Dance	8.27
Theatre	20.16

OBJECTIVES OF CULTURAL EDUCATION WITH SCHOOLS

- + ENCOURAGING AS MANY PUPILS AS POSSIBLE TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN ART AND CULTURE
- + INCREASING AWARENESS, DISCOURSE, NETWORKING AND QUALITY OF CULTURAL EDUCATION AT SCHOOLS
- + ENHANCING THE POTENTIAL, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT AND ACQUISITION OF INDIVIDUAL SKILLS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



Public Science: Working together to strengthen trust in science

GOALS OF PUBLIC SCIENCE

- + Strengthening trust in science
- + Participation of children, young people and adults in research processes
- + Promotion of dialogue between research institutions, schools and society

From the effects of climate change to research into pathogens and the development of innovative technologies – researchers are facing many challenges that the future will bring. As the Eurobarometer surveys of 2021¹ and 2025² show Austrians' trust in science is unfortunately low. This makes it all the more important for citizens to be able to engage

in dialogue with researchers and learn about and understand scientific methods. The OeAD's initiatives and programmes in the field of science education address this interface and offer numerous opportunities, especially for children and teenagers, to immerse themselves in the world of science.

DNAustria – Science and democracy education

With the DNAustria initiative the Austrian Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research (BMFWF) unites numerous measures aimed at increasing trust in science and democracy. The OeAD's Public Science department plays an active part in implementing these measures. For example, in 2024 the OeAD took over the editorial management of the information platform Entdecke.DNAustria. On this platform schools and interested parties can find suitable offers for science and democracy education in Austria. The science ambassadors have become another

important pillar. By the end of 2024 more than 480 researchers had already agreed to visit schools on a voluntary basis online or in person. The focus of the visits can either be specified by the class or teachers can book one of more than 190 thematic workshops. In 2024 367 school visits took place all over Austria. Academic secondary schools are particularly keen to make use of this measure: in 2024 almost one in five academic secondary schools all over Austria invited a science ambassador!



Young Science



The HLW/HLK Freistadt in Upper Austria was awarded the first prize for its participation in the project 'wettermelden.at'.

Citizen Science Award

In 2024 the Austrian Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research (BMFWF) and the OeAD invited school classes, individuals, families and for the first time also youth groups to take part in eight research projects between April and July. More than 2,900 citizen scientists observed insects, studied green roofs, transcribed old dialect words and much more. The most committed participants received prizes at the 3rd Young Science Congress on 24 October at the KPH Vienna/Lower Austria.



Science ambassador
Lydia Maria Lienhart, MAIS
(University of Graz/Department
for Environmental Systems
Sciences)

My visit to the Akademisches Gymnasium Graz was very inspiring for me. I was really impressed by the critical questions the young people asked about healthy and climate-friendly eating and I am looking forward to my next school visit.



Young people conducting research | Sparkling Science project 'WILDLIFE CRIME'

Children's and Youth Universities

On behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research (BMFWF) the OeAD funded 23 children's and youth universities with a budget of more than 1.4 million euros within the framework of the call for proposals 2024. 14 of these had an extension module called 'Holiday care with a scientific focus'. This enables children and young people to immerse themselves in the world of science through lectures, workshops and excursions. Around 52,000 children and young people benefited from this comprehensive

support programme. The offers are intended to reach children and young people regardless of their socio-economic background. In 2024 children's and youth universities took place in six federal provinces. In addition to the larger university cities children's and youth universities were also offered in rural areas, e.g. in Almtal (Upper Austria), Dölsach (Tyrol) and Klostertal (Vorarlberg). The majority of the events took place in person, supplemented by online and hybrid offers.



Sparkling Science 2.0

Sparkling Science 2.0

This research programme, which is unique in Europe, brings together science, schools and civil society and is very popular. Pupils of all grades and committed citizens are actively involved in the research process.

In the autumn of 2024 the 27 newly funded projects of the second call for proposals started. The topics are diverse, ranging from contemporary history and migration research, ecology and microbiology to climate change education and sustainability research.

Horizon Europe:

"RIECS – Towards A Pan-European Research Infrastructure For Excellent Citizen Science"

The OeAD has been a partner in the 'RIECS-Concept' project since the beginning of 2025. Together with representatives from science, education and civil society a research infrastructure for excellent citizen science is developed. The project will be

funded for three years under the Horizon Europe programme. The thirteen partner organisations are based in eight countries. The OeAD contributes its many years of expertise in education and funding instruments for citizen science.

THE 2ND CALL FOR PROPOSALS AT A GLANCE:

- + 27 projects
- + 9.5 million euros
- + 41 participating research institutions, 94 participating schools, 27 partners from business and society
- + 37,500 participating pupils and more than 7,200 additional citizen scientists are expected

¹ European Commission (2021), Special Eurobarometer 516: European citizens' knowledge and attitudes towards science and technology, <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2237?s=09>, last accessed on 12 February 2025

² European Commission (2025), Special Eurobarometer 557: European citizens' knowledge and attitudes towards science and technology, <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3227?trans=pt>, last accessed on 12 February 2025

ERINNERN:AT – Teaching and learning about National Socialism and the Holocaust

With ERINNERN:AT the OeAD has a special programme for teaching and learning about National Socialism, Holocaust and the prevention of antisemitism. In this programme teaching materials, learning websites and learning apps on these topics are developed and regional, nationwide and international professional development courses for teachers are offered. The OeAD implements the ERINNERN:AT programme on behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education.



The central seminar that ERINNERN:AT organised in 2024 in Burgenland as part of its annual focus brought together more than 100 teachers from all over Austria. They attended lectures and took part in excursions and workshops on the genocide of the Roma and Sinti and specific teaching and learning offers.

Focus of the year 2024: The genocide of the Roma and Sinti

Around half a million Roma and Romani as well as Sinti and Sintize were murdered by the Nazis and their allies. It took a long time for this ethnic group to be recognised as victims of National Socialism. In 2024 ERINNERN:AT dedicated a year-long focus to the genocide of the European Roma and Sinti and to education on this topic at schools. Throughout the year ERINNERN:AT organised and developed events and educational programmes on the year's focus topic. For example, the newly launched learning website www.romasintigenocide.eu was presented. It

offers comprehensive information about the genocide of the European Sinti, Sintize, Roma and Romani and provides worksheets in 12 languages on various historical topics that can be used directly in classroom teaching. ERINNERN:AT also developed a digital learning module named IWitness Activity on the theme of the year. It is dedicated to the history, discrimination and stigmatisation of Roma and Sinti after 1945. The IWitness Activity introduces the topic through interviews with survivors and witnesses of National Socialism and the Holocaust.



Learning website

In 2024 there were more than
1 million visits
to all ERINNERN:AT learning websites

The teaching and learning resources developed by the OeAD are available to teachers at www.erinnern.at.

The IWalks developed for Austria, i.e. app-based tours for Vienna and the concentration camp memorial site Mauthausen, were downloaded more than **1,200** times in 2024.

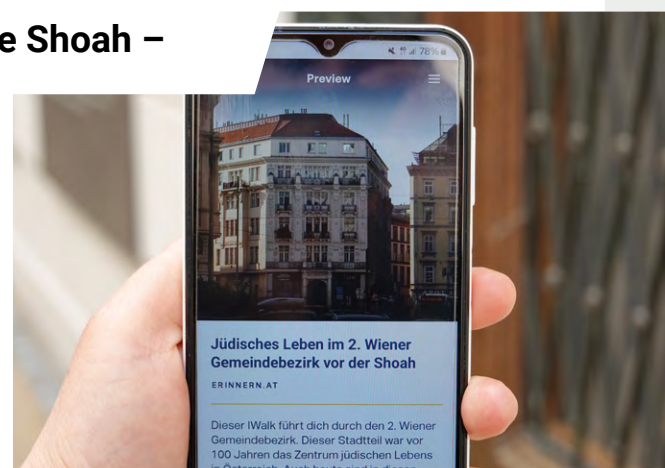
12,116 people
from educational practice took
part in **264 ERINNERN:AT events**
all over Austria.

5,600 pupils spoke with survivors
of Nazi persecution in 118 eyewitness
discussions accompanied by
ERINNERN:AT.



Jewish life in Vienna before the Shoah – a new digital tour

In continued cooperation with the USC Shoah Foundation a new IWalk, an app-based tour of Jewish life in Vienna before the Shoah, was created in 2024. With the help of the IWalk app pupils can explore Vienna's second district in the classroom or on site. In this way they will learn about the diversity of Jewish life that shaped the district before 1938.



Digital Memorial Map DERLA

In 2024 Burgenland became the latest federal province to join the Digital memorial map Austria (DERLA).

At www.erinnerungslandschaft.at the digital map now documents a total of 1,633 places

and symbols commemorating victims and sites of Nazi crimes and supports engagement with local remembrance culture. In 2025 Vienna and Salzburg will also become part of the digital offer.



DERLA

Prevention of extremism sets an example at schools

Since April 2022 pupils of all educational levels and types of schools have attended workshops commissioned by the Ministry of Education to raise their awareness of the dangers of ideologies of inequality and strengthen their resilience to radicalisation. Since the autumn of 2024 workshops can also be booked for training and qualification measures of the employment office (financed by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs).

FACTS

- + 235 different offers
- + scope of the workshops: 3–4 teaching units
- + offers have been reviewed by experts from the Austrian Institute for International Affairs and the University for Continuing Education Krems
- + Free of charge

Workshops for pupils


The workshops offered on an online platform have been reviewed by a jury and adapted to different age groups. 235 different workshops, from workshops for children aged 6 and above to formats for teenagers and young adults up to the age of 25 are offered. The offers are free of charge. The workshops cover a broad and highly relevant range of topics, e.g. conflict resolution, democratic

debate culture, participation, radicalisation processes, media literacy and conspiracy theories, discrimination, values and civil courage. The majority of the workshops are booked by teachers of academic secondary schools (AHS) and compulsory secondary schools (middle schools). However, many primary schools and vocational colleges also responded very well to the initiative.

OVERVIEW 2024

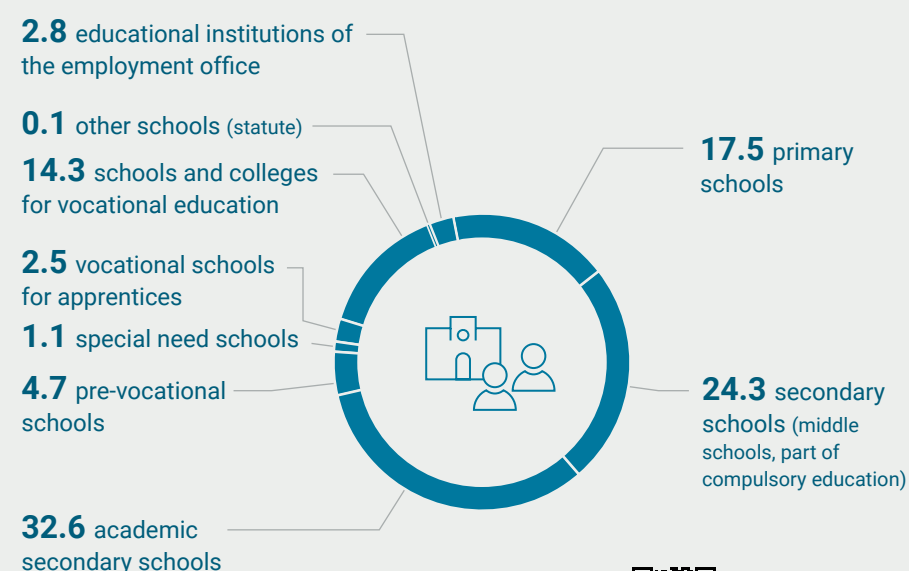
3,354 
workshops held

73,821 
total number of participants:
children, teenagers, young adults

 **Funding budget:**
1,832,000 euros
(Ministry of Education)

81,600 euros
(Ministry of Social Affairs)

PARTICIPANTS BY TYPE OF EDUCATION in 2024 in percent



Prevention of extremism

Mobility allowance for visits to concentration camp memorials

Mauthausen, Gusen and the satellite camp memorial sites Ebensee and Melk

To strengthen the culture of remembrance at schools the Ministry of Education has set up a mobility grant for visits to the concentration camp memorial sites Mauthausen and Gusen and their satellite camp memorial sites in Ebensee and Melk. The curriculum for the subject 'History and Political Education' requires that current and historical antisemitism and the history of National Socialism and the Holocaust must be addressed at school. Visits to concentration camp memorial sites are also encouraged as a way of addressing these issues.

Depending on the distance the grant amounts to 250 or 500 euros per class. It is available for guided visits by school classes in 8th grade. Applications have to be submitted via the OeAD website www.oead.at/gedenkstaetten

Schools from Salzburg receive 100 percent funding

Since the school year 2023/24 school classes in Salzburg have been able to visit the concentration camp memorial sites Mauthausen and Gusen and the satellite camp memorial sites Ebensee and Melk free of charge. In 2024 140 classes from schools from Salzburg took part in the initiative. This enabled around 3,000 young people to be reached with an active culture of remembrance.

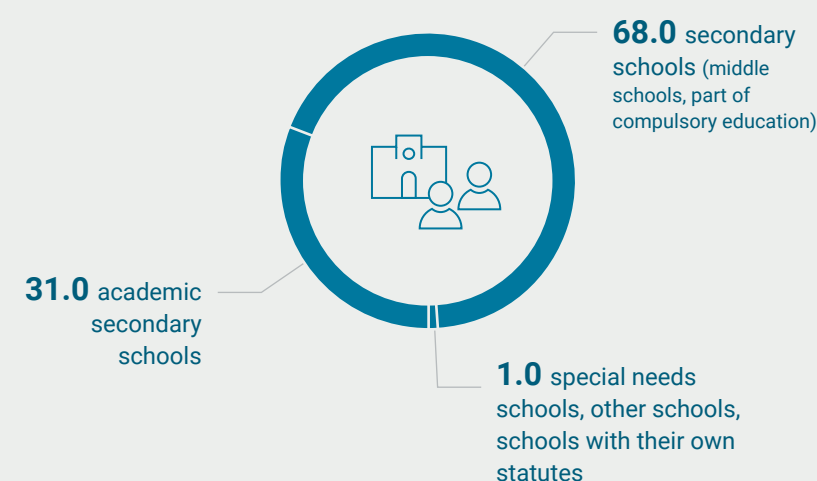


Memorial site visits





Press conference on the 'one-stop shop' for schools from Salzburg at the OeAD with (from left to right) Elisabeth Laimer (teacher at MS Nonntal), Provincial Councillor Daniela Gutschi and the OeAD's managing director Jakob Calice.

PARTICIPANTS BY TYPE OF EDUCATION in 2024 in percent




OVERVIEW 2024

595 
processed applications

25,881 
participating pupils

1,261 
school classes

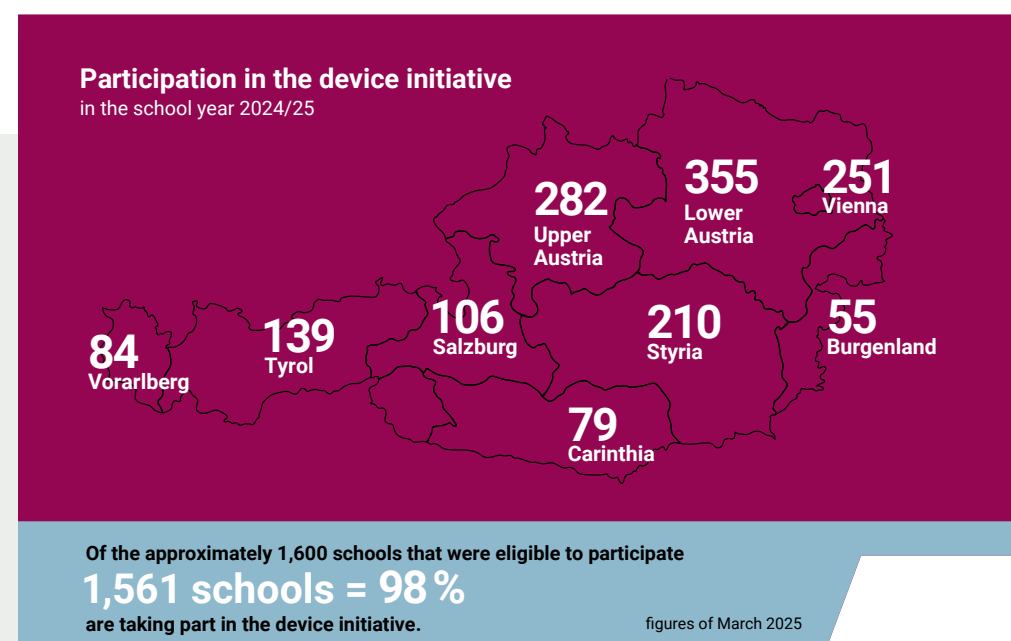
429,225.80 
funding budget in euros

Digital Learning Device Initiative: Digital education has reached almost all schools in Austria

The Ministry of Education has commissioned the OeAD, as Austria's education agency, to manage the Digital Learning Device Initiative. The initiative entered its fourth year in the school year 2024/25.

In this school year 1,561 schools took part, which corresponds to around 98 percent of the eligible schools. Around 90,000 devices are issued each year.

In the last few years (including 2024) a total of around 460,000 tablets and laptops have been handed over to the pupils.

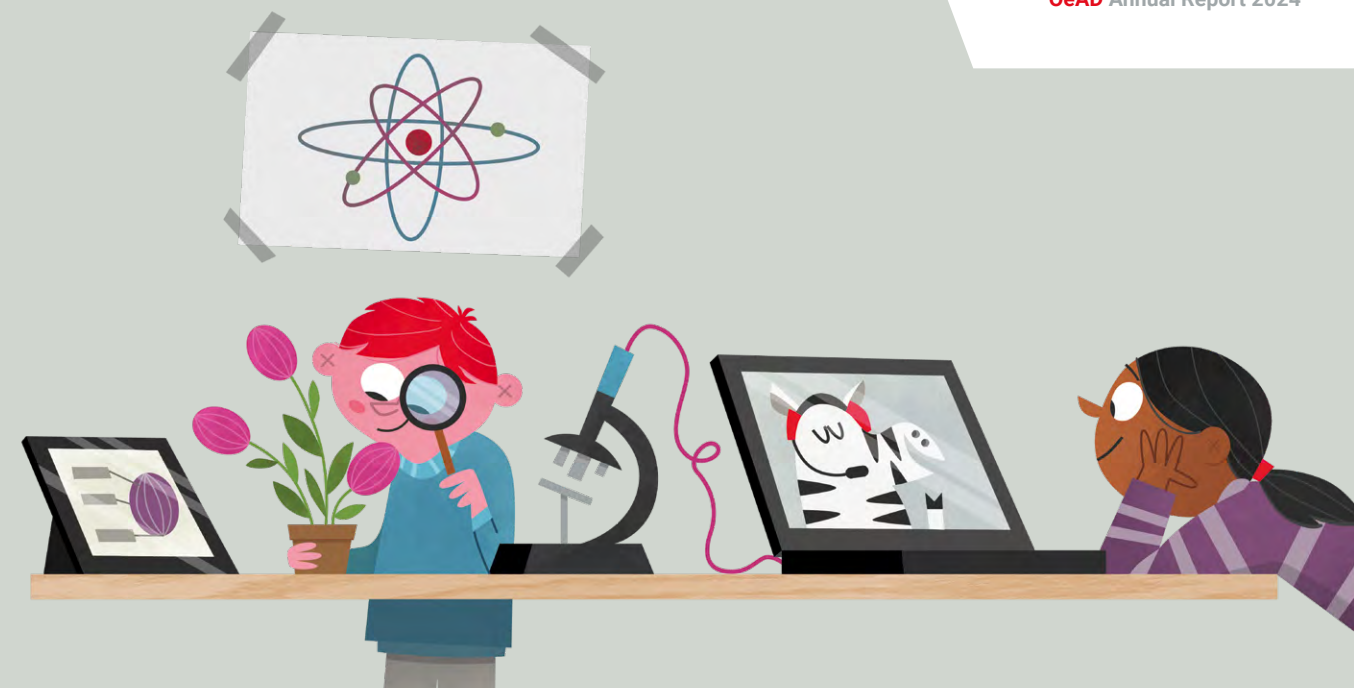


In 2024 around
10,500
written enquiries and
5,800
telephone enquiries
were answered.

Since the start of the initiative in 2021 the OeAD has been responsible for various tasks, e.g. communication (including maintenance of the website digitaleslernen.oead.at) and support. The OeAD acts as the first point of contact for questions about the initiative. It supports schools, parents / legal guardians and other stakeholders with various issues

relating to the device initiative. Moreover, the OeAD is responsible for the organisational handling of delivery and collection of the devices.

The OeAD offers webinars for parents / legal guardians and teachers on various topics related to the device initiative. In 2024 the



focus was on removing laptops and tablets from the schools' device management (MDM) system as the first age cohort to be equipped with devices left school at the end of the school year 2023/24. The devices remain the property of the pupils.

Furthermore, the application of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education (BMB) device initiative was expanded and various improvements were implemented. Webinars were also held on this topic, which are available as video recordings at digitaleslernen.oead.at.



Digital Learning

The MLA – Media Literacy Award

The Media Literacy Award (MLA) of the Ministry of Education, Ars Electronica and the OeAD was completely redesigned in 2024. The competition for media education aims to

encourage trying out innovative and creative teaching methods and tools. The education award **Klasse! Lernen** is included in the MLA as a special prize for digital learning.



Media Literacy Award

Schools are increasingly concerned with the opportunities and risks of artificial intelligence (AI). The devices provided by the device initiative help them to address these issues.



With the systematic use of AI tools on the iPad we want to harness the advantages of AI for learning and teaching. Learners can discover AI through analogue and digital games and web-based animations. Interactive exercises with SmartResponse systems in German and English enable tailor-made, independent learning and reduce the workload for teachers when it comes to corrections.



Sabine Mader, teacher at Mittelschule 11 and at the Private University College of Teacher Education of the Diocese of Linz

QUALITY and transparency

07

- RQE – Quality sets an example at schools
- Quality label for learning apps
- OeAD International Testing Services
- The NQF and Europe
- Level Up – Adult Education (IAE)
- Ö-Cert – Quality framework for adult education
- OeAD Digital Skills Office

Quality and Transparency in education

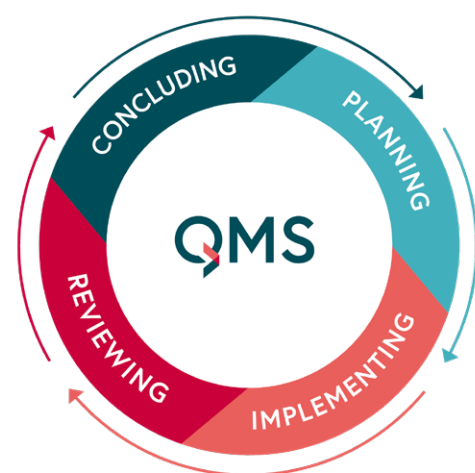
RQE – Quality sets an example at schools

QMS, the quality management system for schools, is in its third year in the school year 2024/25. 5,700 schools and more than 120,000 teachers use QMS for their continuous school and teaching development. RQE, the OeAD Reference Point for Quality Assurance in General and Vocational Education and Training, is responsible for maintaining and updating the website www.qms.at (5,500 visitors per week) in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and is also part of the editorial team of the evaluation platform IQES Austria www.iqesonline.at (1,800 visitors per week).

RQE developed QMS in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. The OeAD is involved in the evaluation and school development platform IQES Austria. Now that the development work for QMS has been completed and the tools have been finalised one of the main tasks is to support schools in their quality work under the motto 'Quality concerns everyone'. In practical terms, this is achieved through the introduction of a Q manual and the establishment of a process management system, an electronic QMS mail service, explanatory and training videos, and regular work with a network of teachers at university colleges of teacher education.

The next level – the educational services at the education authorities with the school quality managers – is also constantly developing its own quality work. RQE was able to contribute its expertise to the development of the quality framework for teaching and is currently involved in designing a QM system

for school supervision authorities. This puts Austria in a pioneering role in the EU – there is no comparable system in Europe (yet).



EU peer reviews in EQAVET

As the national reference point for quality assurance in vocational education and training and thus a hub in the EU network EQAVET the OeAD has been actively participating in peer reviews in and with other EU countries for several years. In the current round RQE is sending peers to Germany, Finland, Italy, Latvia, the Czech Republic and Hungary. The Austrian peer review will take place in early 2026.



All **107** learning apps that currently possess the quality label are listed at guetesiegel-lernapps.at with lots of additional information.

Quality label for learning apps

On 7 May 2024 the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education and the OeAD awarded the quality labels for learning apps for the third time, and for the first time at the Congress Centre Salzburg within the framework of the EdTech Austria Summit. 43 new learning apps received the quality label. To this end 133 teachers from all over Austria carried out 170 evaluations.

Moreover, 4,300 responses from pupils provided a comprehensive and differentiated picture. Furthermore, 23 learning apps were recertified in the certification round 2023/24. The learning app certificate is valid for two years. Recertification is possible as often as desired.

Information about the certification process: lernapps.oead.at



Quality label for learning apps

OeAD International Testing Services

OeAD International Testing Services is a certified test centre of the OeAD. Tests include internationally recognised certification and admission tests for higher education and for leading organisations in numerous industries. All tests are conducted online. The OeAD test centre is committed to international security standards and uses state-of-the-art biometric procedures to ensure the reliability of the test results.

The OeAD employees ensure that all participants are given a fair chance and that the examinations are conducted in a professional and transparent way. This helps to guarantee the market value and international recognition of the certificates.



In 2024

2,431 people took part in tests.

Mystery shoppers and unannounced online and on-site audits are used to check that the global standards are met and that all regulations are implemented correctly. This ensures that the tests are of consistently high quality and are conducted in a fair way.



The testing center and the personnel were wonderful!

The testing center is excellent and well run. We will use it again and recommend it to others.



OeAD International Testing Services



QMS

The NQF and Europe

The OeAD is the NQF Coordination Point (NCP). It is thus the central administrative, coordination and information point for the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) in Austria. 135 qualifications from formal and non-formal education have been assigned to the NQF so far. In conjunction with the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) the NQF plays a key role in positioning the national education landscape in the European context, thereby supporting the objectives of the European Education Area.

Austria is a pioneer in Europe in the assignment of non-formal continuing education and training to the NQF. A study coordinated by Finland, in which Austria also participated, examined the methods used to present non-formal education in different national qualifications frameworks. The approaches of different countries were analysed and recommendations for national implementation in Finland were developed.

The qualifications registered in the NQF in 2024 reflect the diverse range of qualifications that are available in the Austrian education system. The 'Practical Basic Qualification in Plant Production and

Landscape Gardening' offered by Chance B Holding at NQF level III makes an important contribution to the integration of people with low formal qualifications into the labour market. The assignment of the aptitude test for the regulated profession of master builder to the NQF level VII adds another qualification that is important for the Austrian education and training landscape to the NQF.

The increase in the number of qualifications published in the NQF register and the number of certificates indicating the NQF level contribute significantly to raising awareness of the NQF. Online databases such as the Austrian employment office's training compass also list the NQF level of the training courses and link directly to the NQF register. All qualifications registered in the NQF in Austria and their learning outcomes can be accessed directly on the European Europass portal.



Qualifications register



Level Up – Adult Education

Level Up – Adult Education (formerly Initiative for Adult Education/IAE) stands for the Austrian federal and provincial governments' initiative to promote the acquisition of basic educational qualifications, which has been in place since 2012 and is based on an agreement pursuant to Art. 15a of the Federal Constitutional Act. Young people and adults living in Austria can acquire basic skills and educational qualifications free of charge.

Regardless of their origin, their first language and any school-leaving qualifications they may have, interested persons can catch up on compulsory education or attend basic education courses at educational providers accredited for this purpose. Since 2012 more than 9,000 courses with almost 55,000 participants have taken place at more than 60 education providers all over Austria.



~ 9,000
courses since 2012



with **~ 55,000**
participants from **>60 educational institutions** all over Austria since 2012



Level Up

Ö-Cert – Quality framework for adult education

Ö-Cert is an Austrian quality award for adult education providers, which is awarded by the Austrian Federal Government and the Austrian provincial governments. The legal basis is an agreement pursuant to Article 15a of the Federal Constitutional Act (BGBL 269/2012). The introduction of Ö-Cert in 2012 has made it possible to establish uniform quality stand-

ards for education providers throughout Austria and to ensure a high-quality provider structure. Demand for Ö-Cert continued to be high in 2024, with 127 educational institutions registering for the first time. At the end of 2024 1,415 adult education providers (including branch institutions) had been certified with Ö-Cert.



127
newly registered educational institutions in 2024



currently: **1,415** adult education providers (including branch institutions) have been certified with Ö-Cert



Ö-Cert

OeAD

Digital Skills Office

Publication of the National Reference Framework for Digital Skills



Digital Skills Office

As part of the Digital Skills Initiative the OeAD's Digital Skills Office developed the National Reference Framework for Digital Skills (NRDS). It was published on 27 September 2024. The NRDS is a groundbreaking tool that provides clear, nationwide guidance for systematically defining, promoting and

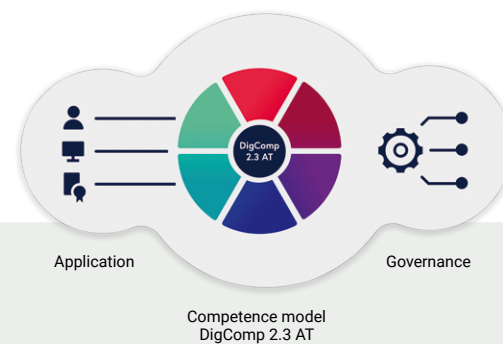
developing digital skills. This comprehensive framework is aimed at educational institutions, companies and citizens alike. It offers practical examples of how to apply digital skills to meet the requirements of an increasingly digitised world.



Orientation for the digital present and future

The NRDS is based on an internationally comparable, EU-wide model and consists of three central elements:

1. At the heart of the reference framework is the Austrian model DigComp 2.3 AT. It splits digital skills up into six competence areas and eight competence levels to enable a differentiated assessment and systematic promotion of skills. The model provides a basis for systematically defining, teaching and assessing digital skills, whether it is in education programmes, continuing vocational education or individual learning processes.
2. The reference framework covers different practical applications in educational and work contexts. This facilitates, for example, integration into curricula and the development of tailor-made continuing vocational training programmes. Companies, educational institutions and funding agencies thus get a practice-oriented compass for developing sustainable digital competence development strategies.
3. The publication of the NRDS includes a clear national governance structure. It defines the strategic objectives, the distribution of tasks among the participants and central, nationwide definitions of terms. This creates the basis for coordinated implementation and further development.



Invitation to use and further development

With these three elements the National Reference Framework for Digital Skills makes an important contribution to the development of

digital skills and thus to digital participation in Austria. It supports learners, teachers and decision-makers in competently meeting the requirements of digitisation and promotes active participation with a view to the digital present and future.



NRDS brochure



NRDS handbook

Digital Überall workshops

The Digital Skills Initiative aims to strengthen basic digital skills in Austria. The OeAD Digital Skills Office has been successfully implementing the Digital Überall (Digital Everywhere) workshops since 2024. A total of 4,500 free workshops for digital beginners are offered in cooperation with adult education providers all over Austria. The practice-oriented workshops are intended to enable people of all ages, backgrounds and different levels of prior knowledge to use digital technologies confidently and competently. In this way they make a significant contribution to promoting digital participation for all citizens.

The focus has been on the following topics: digital education for senior citizens, digital administrative procedures, internet safety, living with increasing digitisation, and artificial intelligence.



Workshops



In total, almost **16,000** people took part in around **1,800** workshops all over Austria in 2024.

Gold in the eGovernment competition

Great success for Austria: the Digital Skills Initiative took first place in the 'Administrative Transformation' category of the prestigious eGovernment competition organised by BearingPoint and Cisco. For more information about this see the chapter 'The OeAD'.



GOOD CONNECTIONS

08

OeAD student housing
Foundation for Innovation in Education (FIE)

OeAD student housing

International and non-profit

The OeAD's subsidiary provides accommodation for international and domestic students at seven locations in Austria. It is recognised worldwide as a pioneer in the construction of student halls of residence in passive

house design. By accommodating students in passive houses the OeAD-WohnraumverwaltungsGmbH – OeAD student housing for short – contributes to raising awareness of sustainability.

Occupancy rate in 2024

10,158 people

Top 5 countries in 2024

China Spain
Russian Federation
Ukraine USA

4,486 people in passive houses

70 employees all over Austria
(as of 31 March 2025)
5 women in management positions
Proportion of women: 76 per cent
The employees speak a total of 18 languages and come from 13 countries.

Good Economy Award in the Social Environment category

In October 2024 the 360°//GOOD ECONOMY AWARD was presented at the 360°//GOOD ECONOMY FORUM in St. Virgil, Salzburg. The 360° AWARD honours companies that have made a significant positive impact in terms of sustainability through their actions over many years. Unlike other sustainability awards people cannot apply for the 360° AWARD; instead, the winners are selected by a jury and invited to receive the award.

Besides its core business OeAD student housing has founded two international summer universities: 'Green.Building.Solutions.' (GBS) for sustainable construction and 'Alternative Economic and Monetary Systems' (AEMS) for ethical monetary economics. These educational initiatives were decisive for the award in the 'Social Environment' category: the meaningful expertise is carried into society by the numerous international students.



Rocio Ruiz-Constantino, Vienna

I knew OeAD student housing would be a great place to stay during my exchange in Vienna but I never expected that so many of my most cherished memories would be made within its walls. Whether with dorm mates or friends from university, I always felt right at home. The well-thought-out amenities and comfortable living spaces made it easy to study, celebrate and fully enjoy the experience.



OeAD Guest House Innsbruck

OeAD student housing has been working for 10 years to establish its own OeAD guest house in Innsbruck. The aim of the student residence GreenINN is to offer sophisticated architecture with a friendly, welcoming atmosphere for students. The passive house is scheduled to open in September 2025. The building will have 173 beds, including premium room categories.

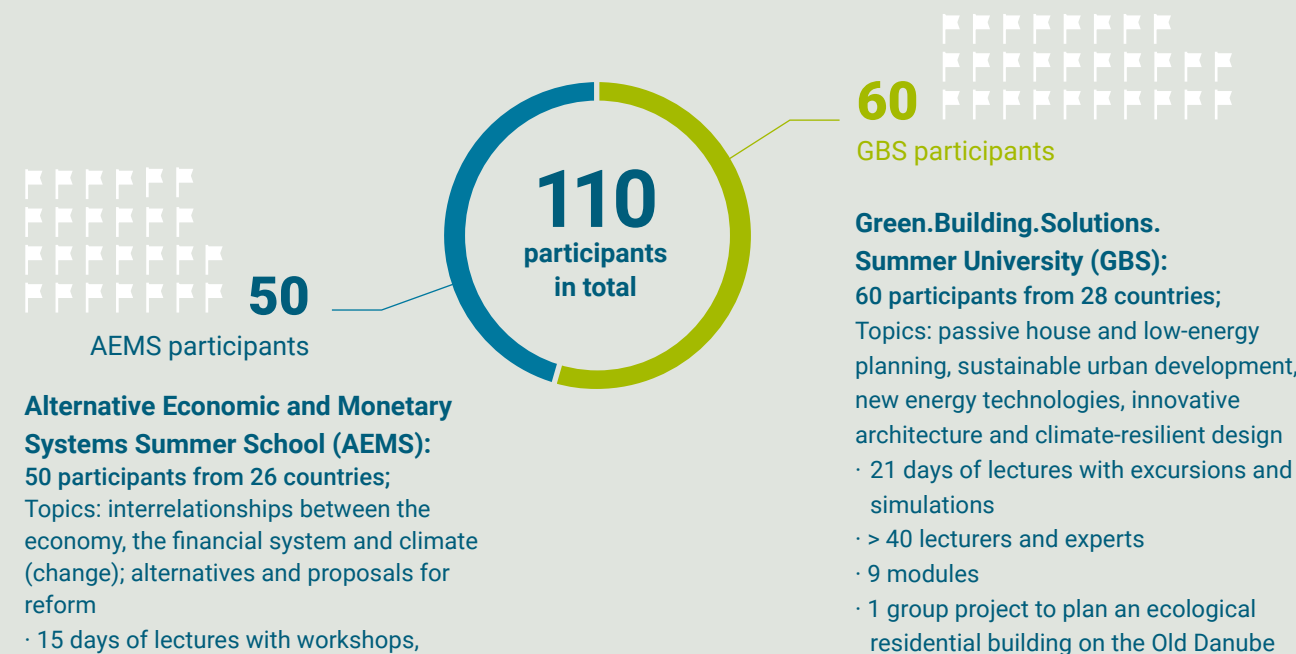
Visualisation
Karmelitergasse

www.oeadstudenthousing.at

Our summer universities

The summer universities 'Alternative Economic and Monetary Systems (AEMS)' and 'Green.Building.Solutions. (GBS)' welcomed their 1,000th participant this year. In 2024 110 people from 42 countries came to Vienna.

The two three-week summer programmes have an established network of more than 110 international partner universities and institutions and more than 1,000 alumni from more than 100 countries.



I've learned a lot, especially from my peers who have very different perspectives. It was interesting to see how the group came up with different solutions. The way we all individually process designs is very diverse – and it's been really encouraging to see that there are multiple solutions to every problem. This program really focuses on community and it's something that everybody should experience.

Alexander Haugen, GBS participant, Canada, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology



I joined this course to enhance my understanding of the environment and climate change and AEMS has given me the knowledge to explore this field further. Everyone shared their own experiences and knowledge. This has inspired me to embrace change and step out of my comfort zone.

Achref Ininou, Tunesien, Tunis Business School



Foundation for Innovation in Education (FIE)

The Foundation for Innovation in Education is anchored at the OeAD by law and makes Austria's education system fit for the future by increasing its capacity for innovation.



Foundation for Innovation

It promotes a deep understanding of change processes. It ensures that educational institutions have access to proven innovations and can implement them efficiently in their practice. In close cooperation with committed stakeholders from both the public and private sectors the FIE supports practical approaches, tests educational innovations

and scales them. Through this proactive promotion of innovation in education the FIE helps to ensure that children and young people are well prepared for a dynamic and constantly evolving world. With the FIE's help good ideas become innovations with an impact!

FIE Foundation Prize for Educational Innovation



100,000

euros in prize money (total)



FIE Foundation Prize for Educational Innovation

The FIE Foundation Prize for Educational Innovation was awarded for the first time in 2024. It honours innovative educational institutions in elementary, general and vocational education. It is intended to serve as a platform for raising awareness of ground-

breaking and novel concepts and increasing their impact beyond individual schools.

IDEAS programme



IDEAS programme

The IDEAS programme complements the approach of the FIE Foundation Prize for Educational Innovation. It enables headmasters/headmistresses and teachers to learn from award-winning schools. School visits and the exchange of best practices create a culture of learning from each other. This provides impetus for the entire education system beyond individual institutions.

Both initiatives embody the FIE's vision: not only to promote educational innovation but also to anchor it in a sustainable manner.



More than **100** headmasters/headmistresses and teachers across Austria took advantage of the programme in 2024.



Innovation was not only discussed at the Innovation Dialogue 2024. Dance performance by Florian Decker and robot Pepper (H.A.U.S. project, Vienna University of Technology)

Innovation Dialogue 2024

The Innovation Dialogue 2024 offered exciting insights into the digital future of education. Inspiring keynotes, creative Pecha Kucha presentations and an impressive robot performance provided new ideas. In panel discussions and talks experts and future-oriented schools exchanged best practice

ideas for digital transformation. An inspiring afternoon full of exchange, new ideas and valuable insights!

150 participants



Innovation Dialogue 2024

Embracing Technology

New technologies open up new opportunities in education. In its three-year focus the Foundation for Innovation in Education investigates how digital tools can promote individual learning and support teachers. By means of funded practical tests at schools insights are gained that are made available as inspiration and guidance for

action – for the innovative and conscious integration of new technologies in teaching.



20 schools are testing new technologies in classroom teaching.



Embracing Technology









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