

OEAD ANNUAL REPORT 2023

AUSTRIA'S AGENCY

FOR EDUCATION AND INTERNATIONALISATION

Financed by:

 Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Education, Science
and Research


OeAD ANNUAL REPORT 2023

AUSTRIA'S AGENCY FOR EDUCATION AND INTERNATIONALISATION

The OeAD is a non-profit agency and works on behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF). Our activities are funded by the Republic of Austria, in particular by the BMBWF, the Austrian Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport (BMKOES), the Austrian Federal Chancellery, the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), and the European Commission. The OeAD is the national agency for the implementation of Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps.



 Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Education, Science
and Research

 Federal Chancellery
Republic of Austria

 Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Arts, Culture,
Civil Service and Sport

 Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Finance

 Austrian
Development
Cooperation

Valuable work for Austria as a centre of education and science

As Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation the OeAD makes a significant contribution to the implementation of national and European education and mobility programmes. With a total budget of around 137 million euros, of which 106 million euros actual funding disbursements, numerous valuable national and international exchange programmes were supported in 2023.

The impressive figures in this annual report show the important part that the OeAD plays in promoting education along the entire education chain, from kindergarten to adult education, as well as in enhancing Austria's profile as an attractive internationally oriented place for science and research. I would like to highlight two internationalisation measures in particular: The Ernst Mach Scholarship with 2,864 scholarships awarded to 1,705 scholarship holders who completed a study or research period in Austria and the regional mobility and cooperation programme CEEPUS with 744 scholarships for stays at Austrian partner institutions of the CEEPUS networks, which comprise several higher education institutions in various Central, Eastern and South-Eastern European countries.

Moreover, the Erasmus+ programme supported 32,961 mobility activities with more than 68 million euros in approved funding in 2023, promoting transnational education and the personal development of the participants.

Another special focus is on digitisation in education. The new OeAD Digital Skills Office and initiatives such as the "Digital überall" ("Digital everywhere") project play a central part in making digital education accessible for all and preparing people for a digital future.

The OeAD also supports my initiative to strengthen trust in science and democracy, DNAustria, in a significant way. Science ambassadors visit schools all over Austria to talk about their research and answer questions, reaching more than 7,700 pupils in 2023 with more than 300 school visits. The diverse and interactive offers of the 21 children's and youth universities provided more than 40,000 children and young people all over Austria with a low-threshold introduction to the world of science.

Of special concern to me is the critical examination of our own history by means of the OeAD's ERINNERN:AT programme and taking a clear stance against antisemitism. With school projects, teaching materials and further education courses the programme contributes to raising awareness among future generations so that they can understand and reflect on the significance of these historical events.

I would like to thank all OeAD staff for their tireless commitment, which contributes to Austria being perceived as a leading centre of education and research!



ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr.
Martin Polaschek
Federal Minister for
Education, Science and
Research



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(FIE)

The OeAD Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation

This year was particularly significant for us as we celebrated several milestones and introduced new initiatives.



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

2023 marked the start of our new “Digital Skills Office”. This strategic step strengthens our commitment to digitisation in education and is intended to provide all age groups, regardless of their educational backgrounds, with relevant digital skills. Around 800 workshops were offered free of charge in 209 Austrian municipalities thanks to 37 different education providers.

In 2023 we celebrated the 60th anniversary of our University Preparation Programmes, an initiative that has prepared international students for their degree programme studies in Austria and for supplementary examinations since 1963. These courses have since supported tens of thousands of international students and contribute significantly to the internationalisation of Austria's higher education institutions.

As the national agency for the implementation of Erasmus+ I would like to emphasise in particular that in higher education there are literally no limits to mobility. And there are also programmes going beyond the borders of Europe, e.g. Capacity Building in Higher Education, Erasmus Mundus or Jean Monnet. I am particularly pleased that we were able to send the 10,000th Erasmus+ apprentice abroad in 2023. We are getting closer and closer to reaching our goal that by 2027 2,000 apprentices per year should gain experience abroad.

I would particularly like to highlight our ERINNERN:AT programme. It promotes the understanding and explaining of historical events and helps to come to terms with the horrors of National Socialism and antisemitism through education and remembrance work.

This programme is essential to promote awareness and understanding of historical events. And this is more important than ever.

I would like to thank all our employees, whose commitment has enabled us to achieve these and other successes. Your commitment is crucial for achieving our goals and the further development of our offers.

I would also like to thank all the stakeholders for their interest in our work and their trust in the OeAD.



FACT #01
Strategic framework
2021 to 2026:
www.oead.at/strategie



OeAD magazine
#GetEducationMoving
“Bildung gestalten –
Innovation erleben”

THE OeAD 01

The foundation of our work:
our corporate strategy

The OeAD stands for internationalisation,
education, quality and transparency

New OeAD office: Digital Skills

Roadmap to the future

OeAD and digitisation: harnessing potential

The OeAD in figures

The foundation of our work: our corporate strategy

As an agency of the Republic of Austria the OeAD contributes to inclusive, equal and high-quality education on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF). Our activities are funded by the Republic of Austria, in particular by the BMBWF, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF), the Austrian Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport (BMKOE), the Austrian Federal Chancellery, the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and the European Commission. Our tasks are connected to the 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
- + **Strengthening** connections between education, science, research and society
- + **Contributing** expertise to the shaping of the education 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 refer to 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 – EU focus
- + China and Southeast Asia

Our activities support

- + European Higher Education Area (EHEA)
- + European Research Area (ERA)
- + National Higher Education Mobility and Internationalisation Strategy 2020–2030
- + 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 2023.
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.

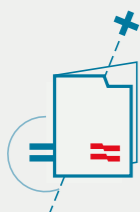
The OeAD stands for internationalisation, education, quality and transparency



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.

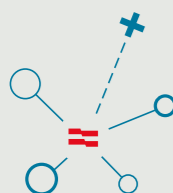
Stays abroad contribute to the development of personal skills. They strengthen the innovative capacity of institutions and entire education systems.



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 commit oneself to supporting 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 the continuous development and assurance of the quality of the Austrian education programmes and of the quality management tools.

New OeAD office Digital Skills

As part of the “Digital skills offensive for Austria” in the spring of 2023 the OeAD Digital Skills Office was established and officially opened on 12 October 2023.



New OeAD team on 12 October 2023

The initiative is supported by several ministries including the Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF), the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy (BMAW), the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF), the Austrian Federal Ministry of Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport (BMKOE) and the Austrian Federal Chancellery. The OeAD's Digital Skills Office's task is to implement the “Digital Skills Austria” strategy and the digital skills model. The OeAD's work programme includes the development of a concept for quality assurance and certification of digital skills, the expansion of the “digital skills” network with the involvement of stakeholders and initiatives and active participation in the European Commission's “Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition”.

Facts and figures 5 central areas of responsibility

1. Collaboration in the implementation of the BMF's “Digital Skills Austria” strategy of 15 June 2023
2. Implementation of a “National Reference Framework for Digital Skills”
3. (Further) development and establishment of an Austria-wide concept for quality assurance, standardisation and certification of digital skills
4. Establishment, further development and management of the digital skills network
5. Active positioning in the European Commission's “Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition”



www.digitalekompetenzen.oead.at



oead.at/en/expertise/geschaeftsstelle-digitale-kompetenzen

PILOT PROJECT

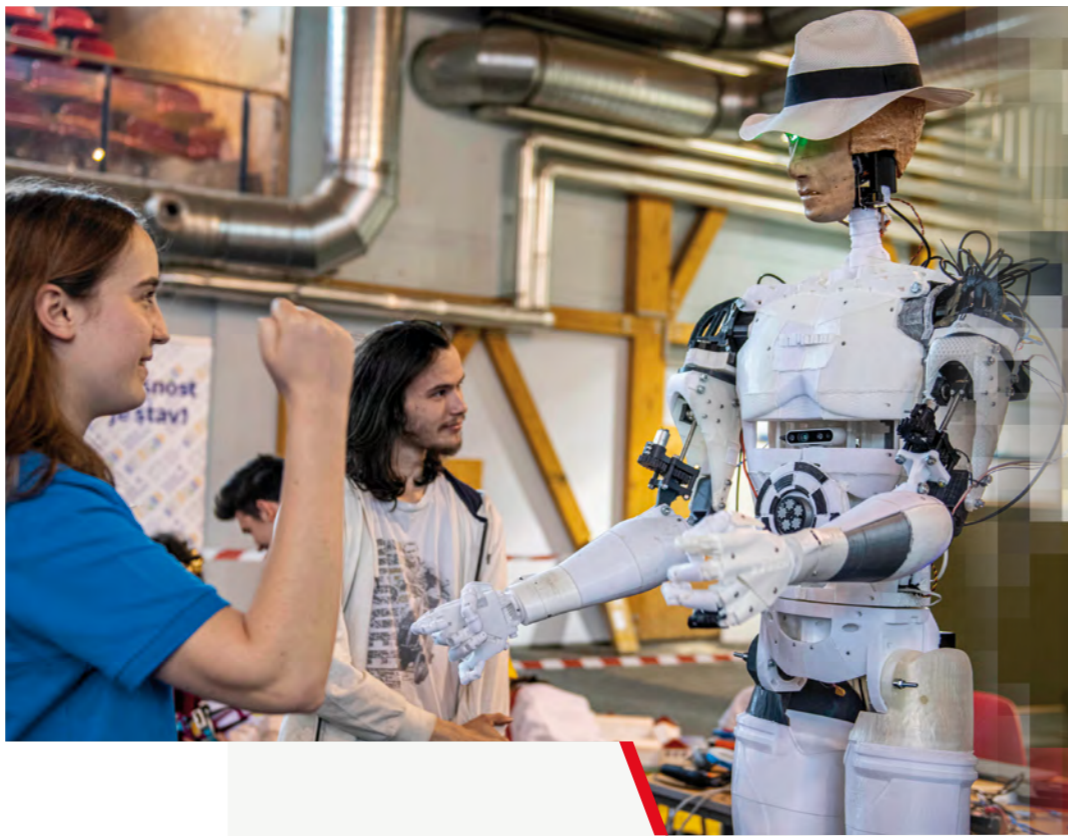
“Digital Skills for All”

- + Implementation period: October to December 2023
- + Around **800 free workshops** for digital beginners
- + Main target groups and topics: senior citizens, parents and young people, eGovernment
- + **37** different **training providers**
- + in **209** Austrian **municipalities**
- + **> 8,500 participants reached**
- + free workshop series will continue in 2024 under the title “Digital überall”.
- + **~ 4,500 workshops** are planned all over Austria.

PILOT PROJECT

European Digital Skills Certificate (EDSC) of the EU Commission

- + Implementation period: May to December 2023
- + Austria was one of five pilot countries (Finland, Spain, Romania, France, Austria)
- + The aim was national consolidation on the feasibility of a European certificate for digital skills



Roadmap to the future

Digital agenda

In the first year of the OeAD's digitisation offensive the focus was on security and data protection. After in-depth audits had been carried out technical systems and processes were improved in terms of safety and subsequently optimised. To increase the service quality a helpdesk system was implemented in different areas. Chatbots and knowledge databases support the answering of enquiries on different topics.

In 2023 the OeAD implemented further elements of its Digital Agenda. A reporting point for whistleblowers was included in the OeAD website. The HR department implemented a modern online application platform.

2023 also signalled the start of the migration of a number of services to cloud-based solutions.

Certified quality management

With its QM system the OeAD has an effective tool at its disposal 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 has been 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 care and service-orientated processing of tasks.

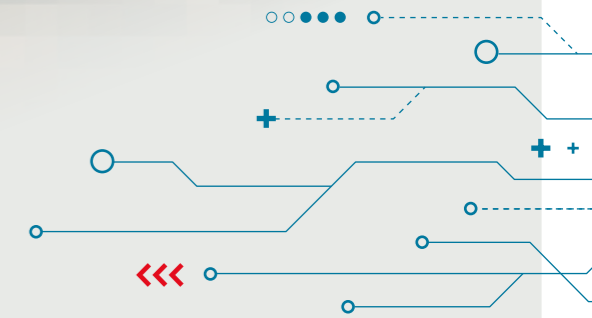
Use of AI and online services at the OeAD

At a time when technology and artificial intelligence (AI) are becoming more and more dominant educational, scientific and research organisations as well as creative businesses are finding innovative ways to benefit from these advanced tools. The variety and extent of support that AI and online services can provide cover numerous areas – from content creation to data analysis.

As Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation the OeAD recognises the immense importance of AI for the future – both for our activities and as a field of application for the education and science sector. The OeAD is therefore looking at how AI could be used in professional, repetitive and creative activities, from translations and editing, social media postings, to writing texts in easy/simple language and making explanatory videos. AI can also serve as a tireless source of ideas for concept development and brainstorming. We also experiment with the use of AI in studies, surveys and analyses. In this context the improvement of data quality and data processing at the OeAD are further important areas of application. AI helps to structure unstructured data, which improves decision-making processes and workflows, enables more precise data analysis and reveals unexpected correlations. These examples of the application of AI illustrate the potential to optimise and automate workflows across different areas.

In education AI technologies offer excellent possibilities for creating and adapting educational content, which supports teachers, pupils and students alike. They enable the generation of texts, images, audio files and videos as well as the development of interactive and personalised learning paths that are individually tailored to learners' needs. These tools not only help to increase efficiency but also support a more in-depth and committed learning process. In research AI supports complex simulations and the analysis of large amounts of data, which leads to better founded insights and predictions.

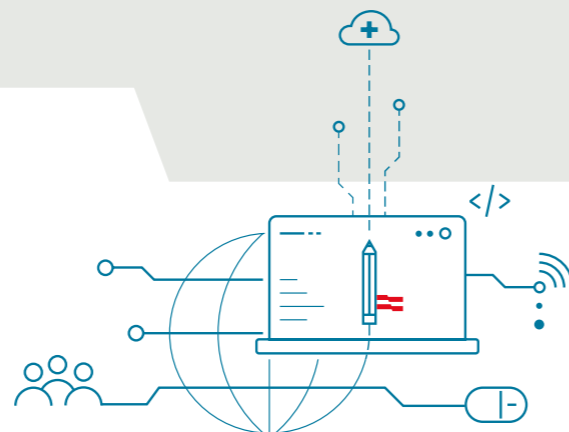
As the national agency for education and internationalisation the OeAD uses online services and artificial intelligence to facilitate and simplify teamwork and day-to-day routines. An OeAD guideline for the use of online services was created in 2023 to give OeAD employees more security when using these services.



OeAD and digitisation: harnessing potential

New teaching and learning platforms, online elements in stays abroad, distance learning and virtual partner meetings are now fixed components in education.

Funded by the European Commission, digital tools have been developed, tried and tested, and used. These are well and readily 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 online training courses the “Kultur und Sprache” programme supported approximately 1,300 German teachers worldwide in teaching German as a foreign language with a special focus on Austria. Since 2022 the newly developed OpenEducational Resources (OER) platform has offered digitally available teaching materials for German teachers free of charge. These materials are innovative both in terms of methods and content.



www.oead.at/en/outgoing/teaching-abroad

Digitisation in the Bologna Process Work programme 2021–2024

The almost 50 countries of the European Higher Education Area deal with flexible and appealing learning and teaching formats as well as digitisation as a skill to be reflected and taught to teachers and students. Transnational exchange at policy level favours innovative shorter educational units such as micro-credentials and the best possible interaction of mobility and digital teaching. The OeAD accompanies the national implementation within the framework of the Erasmus+ policy project 3-IN-AT-PLUS.



www.oead.at/bologna

Digital learning

The Austrian federal government’s “Digital Learning” initiative is part of the 8-point plan for digital education. The OeAD accompanies the annual equipping of 5th-grade pupils with digital devices. The initiative provides the technical prerequisites for IT-supported teaching and gives pupils access to digital education under equal conditions.



digitaleslernen.oead.at

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 new OeAD office implements the national framework for digital skills. It also participates in the European Commission’s “Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition”.



www.oead.at/en/expertise/geschaeftsstelle-digitale-kompetenzen

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. Since the autumn of 2022 the SALTO Digital Resource Centre has dedicated itself to the “Digital change” programme priority. It carries out research, provides materials, useful tools, and resources to implement the programme priority for those national agencies and project organisers that implement Erasmus+.



www.erasmusplus.at

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 the host higher education institutions more easily and more quickly.



[Erasmus+ Goes Digital](http://Erasmus+GoesDigital)



EPale – e-platform for adult education in Europe

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

EPale is a multilingual, virtual meeting place for all those involved in adult education.



ERINNERN:AT – learning about National Socialism and the Holocaust

www.erinnern.at

ERINNERN:AT is the OeAD programme for teaching and learning about National Socialism and the Holocaust. Teachers can find numerous teaching materials on the programme website.



Europass: free entry to the workplace Europe

www.europass.at

Europass is a free online tool of the European Union that helps people to document and plan their educational and career paths.



Quality label for learning apps

www.lernapps.oead.at

Digital mobile learning applications will receive this quality certificate from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) after undergoing a standardised evaluation and certification process.

Internationalisation of higher education institutions: HMIS portal with hands-on practical examples

The OeAD's platform for the Higher Education Mobility and Internationalisation Strategy 2030 (HMIS2030) offers Austrian higher education institutions the possibility to enter examples of good practice in just a few steps to present initiatives, activities, processes and projects related to internationalisation and mobility support in a visually attractive way, whether it is innovative curriculum concepts, virtual courses or customised mobility grants.



www.hmish2030.at

Kultur:Bildung

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



www.oead.at/kulturbildung

Children's and youth universities

Children's and youth universities all over Austria offer children and teenagers a broad range of opportunities to immerse themselves in the world of science and research through lectures, workshops and excursions. In 2023 124 online courses and 25 hybrid courses took place in addition to the almost 1,900 on-site courses. With these offerings more than 165,000 children and teenagers were reached through online or hybrid offers in addition to the more than 40,000 on-site participants.



www.youngscience.at/kinderunis

Science ambassadors at schools

441 researchers visited schools all over Austria on a voluntary basis as science ambassadors in 2023. 309 school visits took place all over Austria in 2023, in which the researchers talked about their fields of research and their professional careers. 102 of these visits were virtual visits.



www.youngscience.at

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.

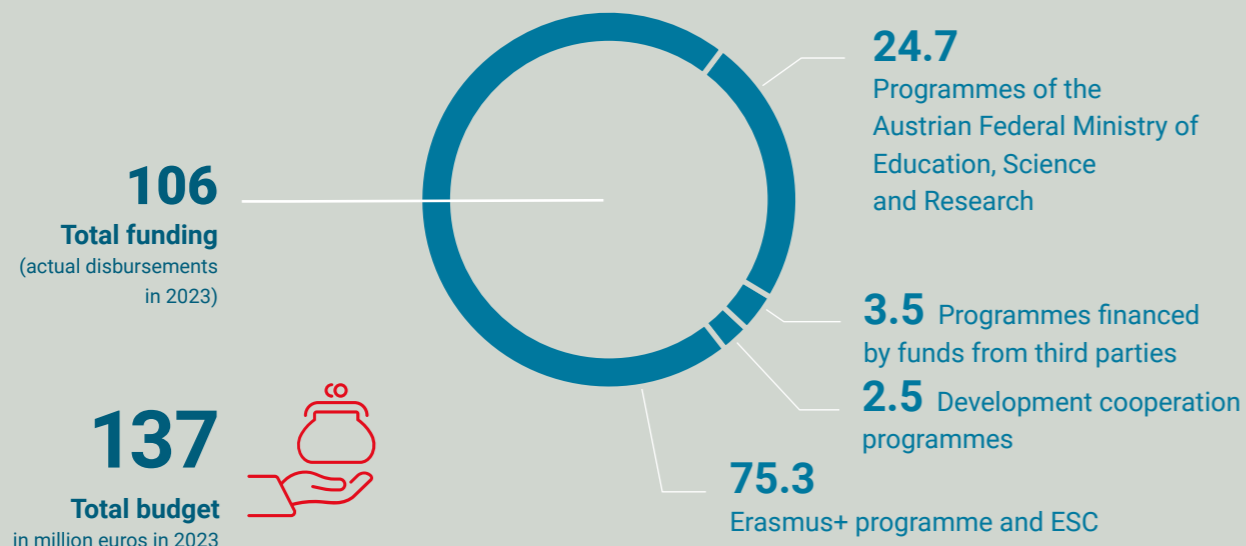


www.youthpass.eu

The OeAD in figures

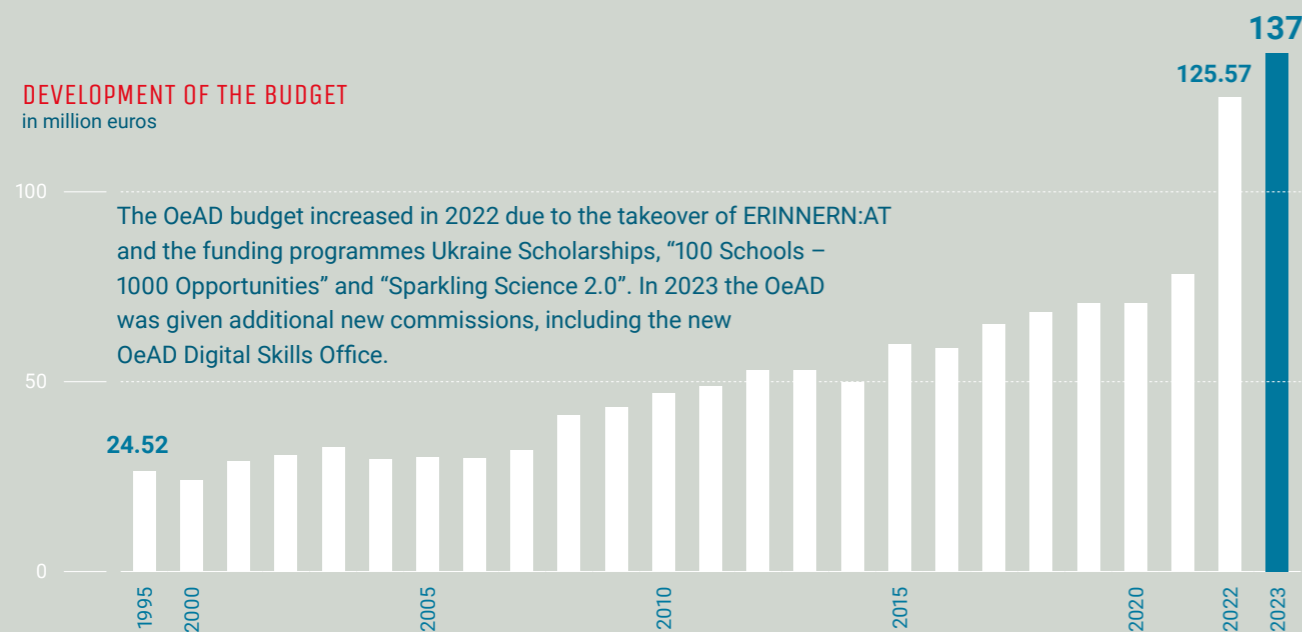
The total budget for 2023 was around 137 million euros. 106 million euros of this was earmarked for funding mobility and projects.

Figures of 15 April 2024



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

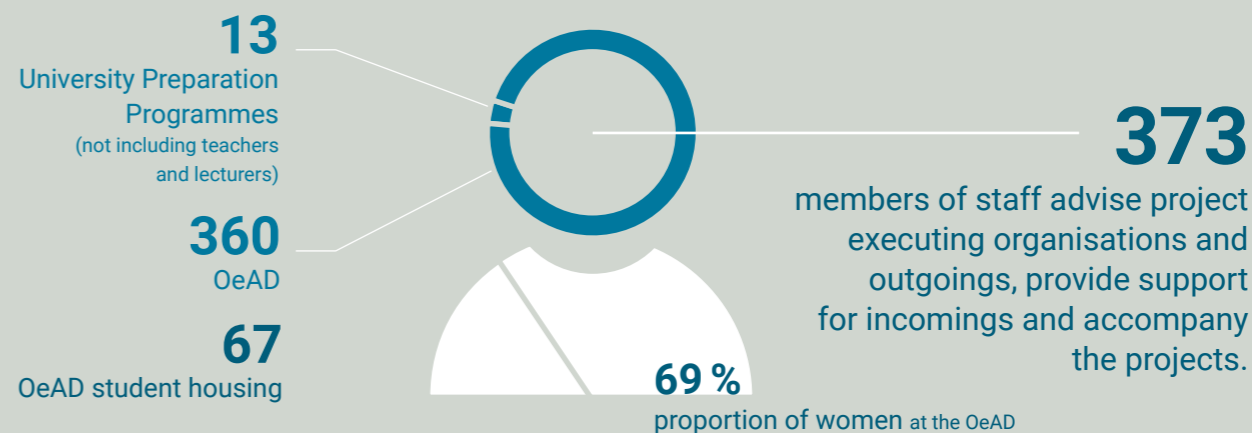
DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUDGET in million euros



The OeAD budget increased in 2022 due to the takeover of ERINNERN:AT and the funding programmes Ukraine Scholarships, "100 Schools – 1000 Opportunities" and "Sparkling Science 2.0". In 2023 the OeAD was given additional new commissions, including the new OeAD Digital Skills Office.

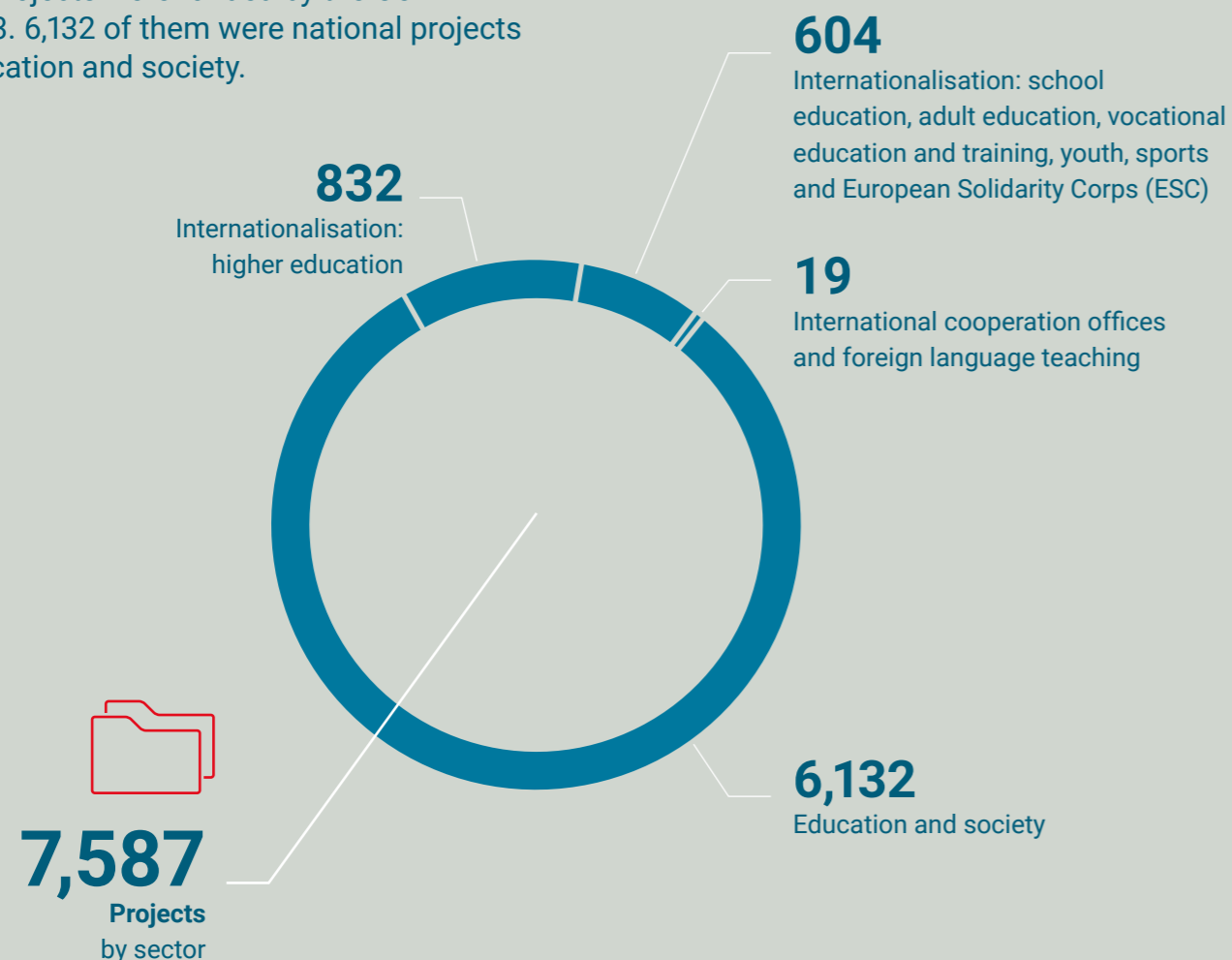


- OeAD Headquarters in Vienna**
The subsidiary OeAD-WohnraumverwaltungsGmbH (OeAD student housing) is owned 100% by the OeAD.
The Foundation for Innovation in Education is a separate legal entity. The Foundation's office is assigned to the OeAD.
- 6 OeAD locations in 2023**
Bregenz, Graz, Innsbruck, Linz, Salzburg and Vienna
- 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 Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF)
- Focus: Scientific cooperation**
OeAD cooperation offices in Lviv (Ukraine) and Shanghai (China)



Projects

7,587 projects were funded by the OeAD in 2023. 6,132 of them were national projects in education and society.



579 ACCREDITATIONS in 2023

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

147 quality labels in 2023

ESC quality label in 2023
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 conditions for working with young committed people and identifies itself with the ESC's principles.

www.solidaritaetskorps.at/das-programm/fuer-organisationen/qualitaetsiegel

7,587 projects in the calendar year 2023 by project type Data as at: 30 April 2024

Project Type	Number of Projects
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES	1,455
Erasmus+* projects (school education, vocational education and training, adult education, higher education, youth, sports)	676
European Solidarity Corps* projects	48
Africa-UniNet	60
Aktion Austria – Czech Republic	25
Aktion Austria – Slovakia	16
Aktion Austria – Hungary	27
APPEAR projects	26
ASEA-UNINET projects	142
Eurasia-Pacific Uninet (EPU)**	-
Funding programme Taiwan-Austria	20
Cooperation Development Research (KOEf)	32
Sommerkollegs	14
Pre-university educational co-operation with Eastern and South-East Europe	19
Scientific & Technological Cooperation	350
NATIONAL INITIATIVES	6,132
Cultural education with schools <small>Data as at: March 2024</small>	3,820
Children's and Youth Universities	34
Sparkling Science 2.0	34
Prevention of extremism workshops held in 2023	2,244

* Number of approved projects
** projects of the 2023 call start in 2024

INTERNATIONALISATION 02

Incomings & Outgoings

Incomings from international programmes

60th anniversary of the University Preparation Programmes

CEEPUS

Ernst Mach Programme

European Higher Education Area

Support for Ukraine

The OeAD's activities in China

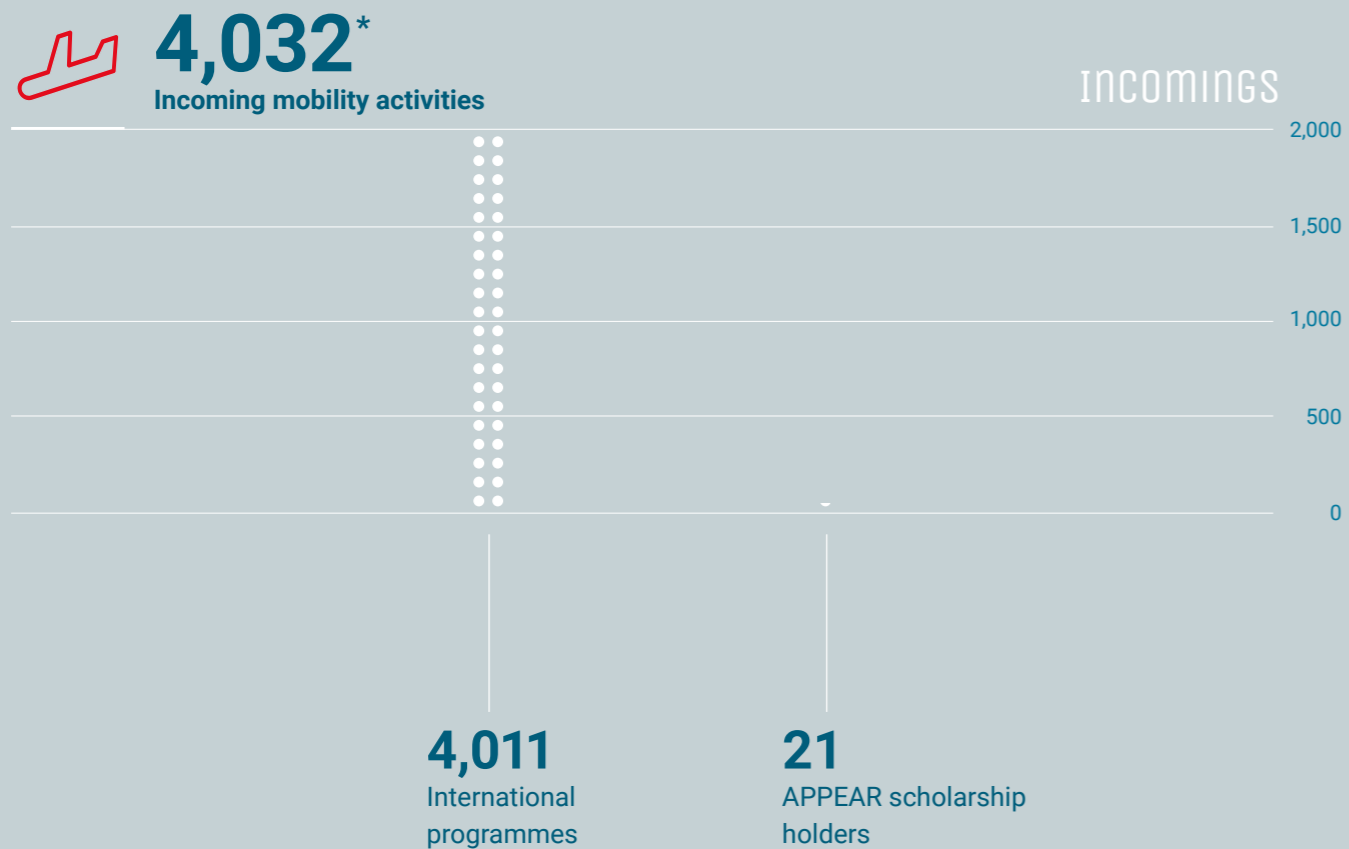
Focus UniNet

Cooperation with African countries

Positioning Austria as an
international centre of higher education and research

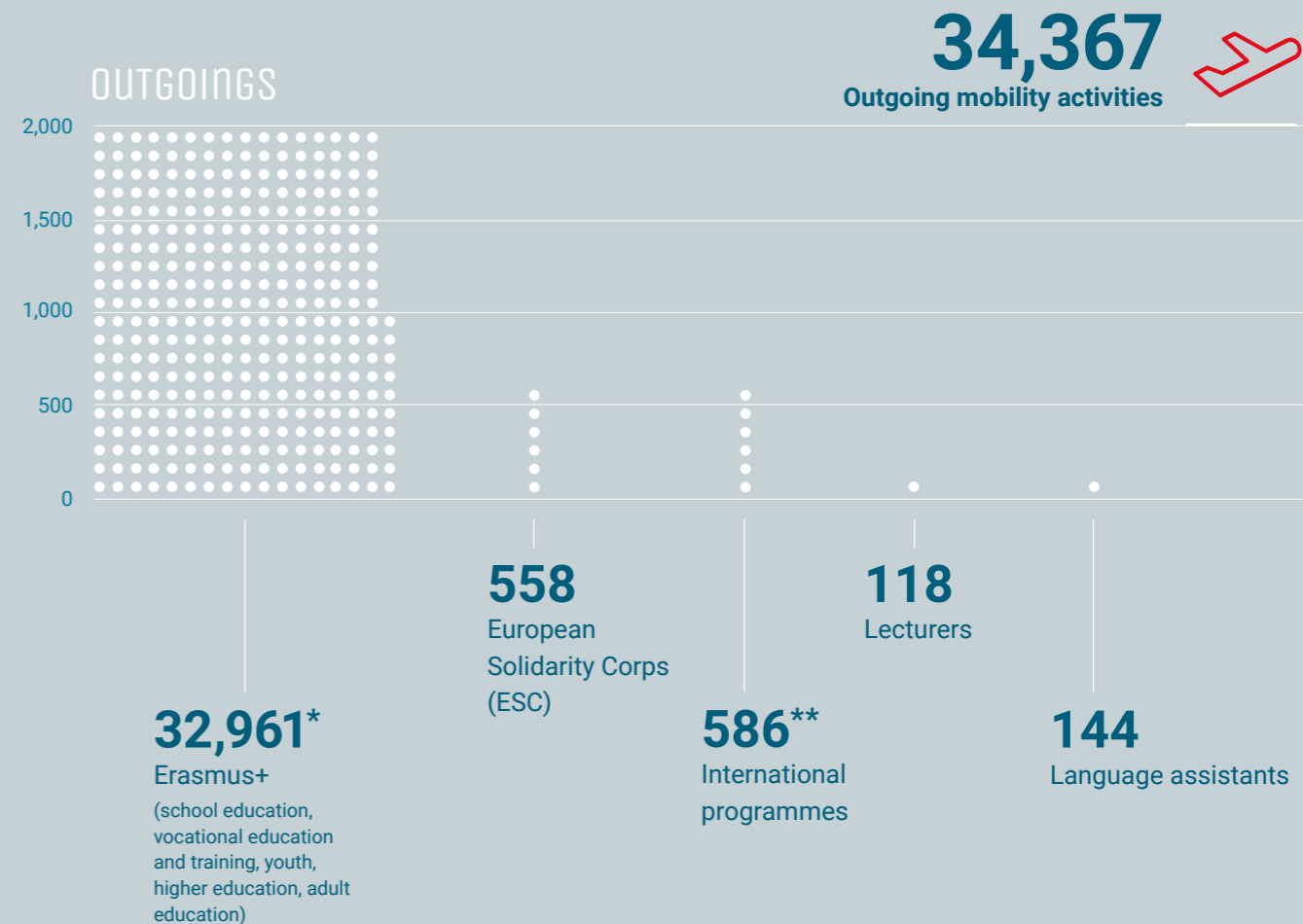
Incomings & Outgoings

In 2023 4,032* incoming mobility activities were funded. 34,367 outgoing mobility activities took place.



*32,961 Erasmus+ mobility activities took place in 2023. This figure includes incomings in Erasmus+ International and stays in Austria with Erasmus+ Youth.

Moreover, there were 686 funding recipients in projects of Scientific and Technological Cooperation (STC) in 2023: 365 incomings and 321 outgoing.



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

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

• = 100

* not including Erasmus+. The figure includes scholarship extensions.

** For administrative reasons mobilities within the framework of projects are not included in total.



The Austrian Higher Education Conference takes place every year. It is intended for persons who are in charge of internationalisation measures at higher education institutions.

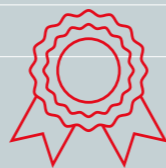
Incomings from international programmes

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

SCHOLARSHIP

Aktion Austria – Czech Republic	95
Aktion Austria – Slovakia	77
Aktion Austria – Hungary	18
APPEAR	21
CEEPUS	744
Ernst Mach Scholarships	2,864
Franz Werfel Scholarship	6
HERAS+ Scholarships	22
Indonesia Postgraduate Scholarship Programme	36
ISTA Austria: ISTernship Summer Programme	37
Cooperation Development Research/KOEF	14
Cooperation Vienna University of Technology – Lviv University of Technology	5
Cultural Agreement with Japan (Monbukagakusho)	10
Master of Global Demography Scholarship	2
OeAD Special Scholarships	9
OSS-II/HEC Overseas Scholarships	34
Richard Plaschka Scholarship	2
Scholarships of the Scholarship Foundation of the Republic of Austria	12
Scholarships Lviv	10
University of Klagenfurt Technology Grants	14

4,032* Incoming scholarships 2023



* without Erasmus+ International. The figure includes scholarship extensions, including multiple extensions in the Ernst Mach Ukraine programme.

60th anniversary of the University Preparation Programmes

The University Preparation Programmes in Graz and Vienna prepare international students who have been admitted to study at an Austrian higher education institution for supplementary examinations. The OeAD is the legal entity for the University Preparation Programmes of the universities in these two cities.



vorstudienlehrgang.at

How it all began ...

The number of international students at Austria's higher education institutions rose steadily in the 1960s. In 1962 the Austrian Rectors' Conference decided to set up University Preparation Programmes to offer those students who lacked content of the Austrian school-leaving examination or the necessary knowledge of German the best possible preparation for their degree-pro-

gramme studies in Austria. This measure was legally backed in 1962 by the then Austrian Federal Ministry of Education. The OeAD was commissioned with the economic implementation of the University Preparation Programmes. In the 60 years since then tens of thousands of international students have been prepared for supplementary examinations and a degree programme in Austria.

History of the OeAD University Preparation Programmes

On 22 October 1963 the University Preparation Programme of the Graz Universities (VGUH) started with 22 students – all of whom men. Prominent alumni include Fred Ohenhen, Fiston Mwanza Mujila, recipient of the resident writer's award of Graz in 2009, and Alonso Jimenez-Arbolda, honorary consul of the Republic of Colombia for Styria and Carinthia. The VGUH celebrated its 60th anniversary on 29 September 2023 with a ceremony attended by representatives of all universities of Graz, the Municipality of Graz, the OeAD, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) and alumni.

The University Preparation Programme of the Vienna Universities (VWU) started in the summer semester of 1962 with around 50 Syrian scholarship holders. Over the decades the VWU has developed into an international educational institution that, together with two cooperation partners, advises and supports 2,000 to 3,000 students from 60 to 70 countries per semester. On 12 October 2023 the VWU celebrated its more than sixtieth anniversary. Faculty members and members of the Quality Advisory Board, the VWU Commission and other representatives of the universities, the OeAD and the BMBWF as well as examination chairs, former colleagues and graduates attended in the celebrations.

VIENNA

Summer semester 2023

1,024 students at the VWU
+ 1,027 students at the co-operation partners
= 2,051 students

Winter semester 2023/24

1,066 Students at the VWU
+ 1,662 students at the co-operation partners
= 2,728 students

GRAZ

Summer semester 2023

588 students

Winter semester 2023/24

756 students



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 2023 744 incoming scholarships were funded by the CEEPUS programme. CEEPUS scholarship holders from 15 countries came to Austria.

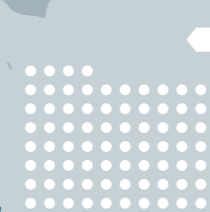
163 outgoing scholarships were funded. CEEPUS scholarship holders went to 13 countries.



Mobility programme CEEPUS



744 incoming scholarships, by country of origin of the scholarship holders



163 outgoing scholarships were awarded within CEEPUS in 2023. The CEEPUS scholarship holders went to 13 countries.

Ernst Mach Programme

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

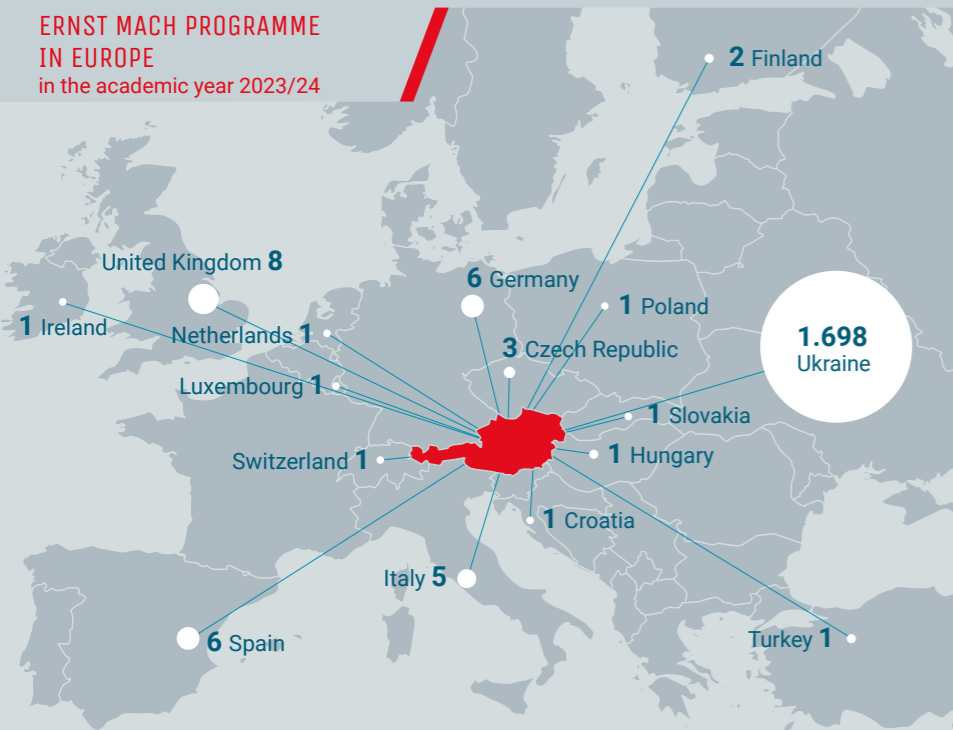
1,978 incoming scholarships were awarded in the academic year 2023/2024 within the framework of the Ernst Mach Programme. Ernst Mach scholarship holders from 47 countries came to Austria.



Ernst Mach Scholarships



ERNST MACH PROGRAMME IN EUROPE in the academic year 2023/24



1,978* Incoming scholarships to **1,261** people in the academic year 2023/2024

2,864 Incoming scholarships to **1,705** people in the calendar year 2023, including **1,265 Ukrainians**.

* The figure includes scholarship extensions. Preliminary figure; changes in the current academic year are possible

European Higher Education Area

3-IN-AT-PLUS: Promoting internationalisation, inclusion and innovation at higher education institutions



European Higher Education Area

In 2023 the OeAD reached more than 400 people from Austria and abroad at seven events on topics relating to the European Higher Education Area. The majority of the activities were funded within the framework of "3-IN-AT-PLUS". This Erasmus+ project is implemented in close cooperation with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF).

One highlight was the Bologna Day 2023, which was dedicated to the topic of "Internationalisation of studies and teaching at higher education institutions: the role and contribution of staff development". The OeAD thus addressed a hitherto underrepresented target group, the HR managers at higher education institutions.

By means of a workshop series entitled "Flexibilisation of curricula" participants were invited to actively reflect on previously presented theoretical content and to "flexibilise" an example curriculum by means of a case study. All four dates in Austria were fully booked with around 30 participants each. Finally, the workshop was offered in Zagreb in November in an adapted form for 50 people from the Croatian higher education sector. In the spirit of international peer learning the expertise of the Austrian experts involved was also made available to Croatian higher education institutions.

Peer Learning

Another international peer learning activity brought around 50 people from the European Higher Education Area to Vienna in April 2023 to discuss the current state of the implementation of the learning outcomes orientation.

The OeAD in the European Higher Education Area

In our activities regarding the European Higher Education Area the OeAD sees itself as responsible not only for the internationalisation of the higher education institutions but also for a comprehensive understanding of the Bologna Process and its reforms, tools and developments. We therefore deal with a wide range of 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 shared academic values.



The internationally renowned expert Marina Casals Sala from the Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona, during her keynote speech "Internationalisation: what's in it for me?" at the Bologna Day 2023 on "Internationalisation of studies and teaching at higher education institutions: the role and contribution of staff development".

Support for Ukraine



Summer Meetup Ukraine in Vienna

Ernst Mach Scholarship Ukraine

In the calendar year 2023 1,265 Ukrainian students and researchers were awarded scholarships. The programme was extended by one year at the end of 2023 and the recipients were thus able to make significant progress in their respective disciplines.

Some of the Ukrainian researchers' projects have developed into larger interinstitutional cooperation projects, e.g. a cooperation project between the University of Graz and Ukrainian universities on "Promoting Academic Freedom in Ukraine (Free-Ac)".



Ukraine Special Programme

Information and counselling about studying in Austria

In 2023 1,200 written enquiries about scholarships, the law relating to aliens and studying in Austria were answered and 700 telephone consultations were held in German and Ukrainian. Around 60 prospective students from Ukraine took advantage of online and face-to-face counselling in Ukrainian. Furthermore, pupils from Ukrainian schools in Vienna and their parents showed great

interest in studying in Austria at two information events. The OeAD also took part in the Austrian Integration Fund (ÖIF)'s information event "100th Meeting Point Ukraine" in June 2023. Moreover, the OeAD organised 17 online consultations on the Ernst Mach Scholarship Ukraine, which were very well attended. The website studyinaustria.at/ukraine was accessed 7,800 times in 2023.

Erasmus+ and Ukraine

The European Commission's flexible approach regarding support for the Ukrainian higher education sector in Erasmus+ was also heavily utilised in 2023 – particularly in the mobility programmes in higher education.

It is particularly pleasing that a project of the University College of Teacher Education Vienna to support Ukrainian students and lecturers was recognised by the European Commission as an example of best practice.

OeAD Cooperation Office Crisis management measures in Ukraine

In 2023 the OeAD Cooperation Office in Odesa (operating from Uzhhorod in 2023) supported around 2,250 teachers and school psychologists in 113 events on "crisis intervention and psychological first aid".

Moreover, the OeAD cooperation office organised 63 training events for more than 600 teachers on how to design online lessons in STEM subjects, Ukrainian and English.

For us international students it is important that there is such an organisation that helps us while we are abroad. I would particularly like to emphasise the support for us Ukrainians and say a big thank you to everyone who is involved in this. Your services are very valuable and important to us!
Illia Tikus, Ernst Mach Ukraine scholarship holder, studies Computer Science and Digital Communications at the FH Campus Wien

The OeAD's activities in China

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

With our co-operation office in Shanghai the OeAD offers Austrian education institutions that are interested in co-operating with Chinese institutions expertise and support.



Presentation at the City University (CityU) in Hong Kong



Company tour in Hong Kong

OeAD Cooperation Office Shanghai

The OeAD Cooperation Office in Shanghai has been in place for many years and is linked to the Consulate General. Over time the OeAD has been able to intensify its networking with European representations. By further expanding its expertise in China the Cooperation Office supports Austrian higher education institutions in putting the opportunities and challenges of cooperation with China on a well-informed and reciprocal basis.

The OeAD Cooperation Office is active at almost all levels of academic exchange: it advises Austrian academic admission offices and facilitates Austria's cooperation with the academic evaluation centres in China. It supports the development of China expertise in Austria by organising information events.

Through our local office the OeAD represents Austrian educational institutions at higher education fairs in China.

The OeAD Cooperation Office in Shanghai organises conferences on topics such as Jewish asylum in Shanghai and workshops at regular intervals, e.g. to strengthen Austria's position in German as a foreign language in China.

An important goal of the OeAD Cooperation Office in China is to strengthen the connection between Austria and its Chinese alumni through networking events. It facilitates delegation visits and organises study trips to China: Austrian students can finally gain experience in China again after a long break and thus also acquire specialist knowledge and intercultural skills.

Focus UniNet

The OeAD carries out different coordinating and administrative activities in these three regional higher education networks: ASEA-UNINET, Eurasia-Pacific Uninet Network and Africa-UniNet. The Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) provides funding for project cooperation.

ASEA-UNINET

ASEA-UNINET was founded in 1994 by Austria, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam. It aims to unite cooperation between Austrian and Southeast Asian universities in a multilateral network. Today ASEA-UNINET consists of 90 institutions in 15 European and Southeast Asian countries and facilitates a wide range of cooperations in research and teaching.

Every year the BMBWF funds around 80 bilateral and multilateral research and teaching projects between Austrian and Southeast Asian member universities (including Pakistan). Moreover, there are around 30 incoming stays (Ernst Mach

Scholarships), some of which are entire doctoral programmes.

The network organises joint workshops, conferences, summer and winter schools. It participates in networking events, often in close cooperation with embassies and representatives from politics and business. One of the network's strengths is its interdisciplinary orientation. Scientific, cultural and human relationships are created and cultivated due to the wide range of cooperation opportunities. This makes ASEA-UNINET a unique cooperation platform.



www.asea-uninet.org



90
member universities in 2023,
of which 21 in Austria

75
approved projects
Call 2023/24

around **550,000**
funding volume in 2023
in euros

Eurasia-Pacific Uninet Network (EPU)

The EPU network has around 160 member institutions from 15 Asian countries.

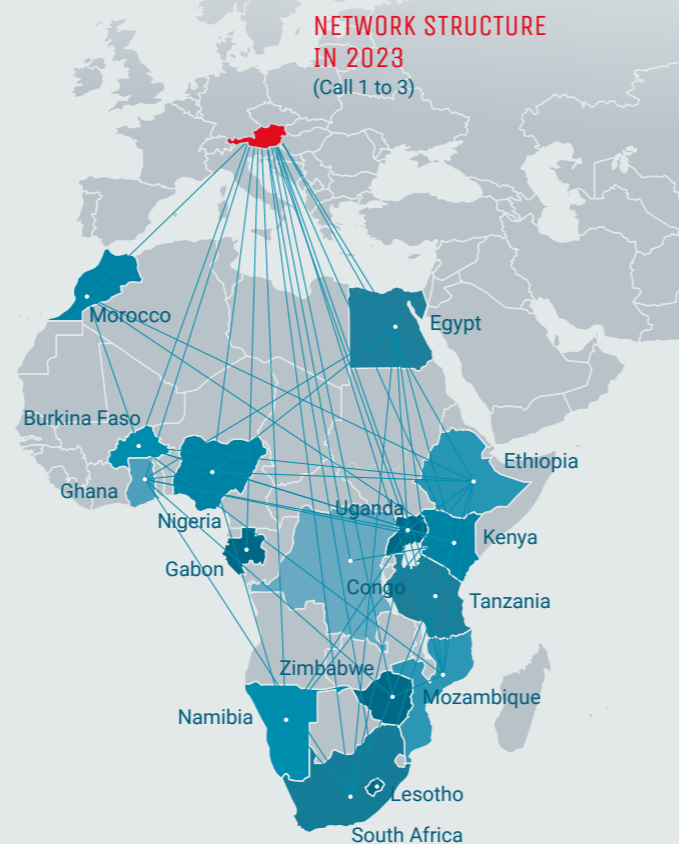
Its aim is to connect higher education and research institutions in the partner countries.



www.eurasiapacific.info

Cooperation with African countries

In 2023 scientific cooperation with African higher education institutions and research institutions was further intensified.



Austrian-African Research Network (Africa-UniNet)

The highlight of the Austrian-African scientific cooperation was the third General Assembly of Africa-UniNet between 13 and 15 September 2023 at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna. 140 participants from 18 countries and 70 institutions presented the first few results of 22 ongoing research projects at the event. The more than 60 current cooperations deal with around 100 scientific topics.



www.africa-uninet.at

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

APPEAR – the Austrian Development Cooperation’s higher education cooperation programme – intensified cooperation with 22 higher education institutions and research institutions in six African countries: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Republic of South Africa and Uganda.

Multi-year academic partnerships enable intensive institutional scientific cooperation and the involvement of students in project work. In 2023 21 students from Africa were supported at Austrian universities within the framework of APPEAR scholarships.



www.appear.at

“Welt im Ohr” (“World in your Ear”) – radio programme and podcast

“Welt im Ohr” deals with development policy issues. The radio and podcast format “Welt im Ohr”, produced by ORF Ö1 Campus, broadcast seven programmes with Africa-specific content in 2023.



“Welt im Ohr” podcasts



Three days of project presentations, intellectual and cultural exchange – Africa-UniNet General Assembly in Vienna

Cooperation Development Research – KoEF

The “Cooperation Development Research” (KoEF) programme promotes cooperation between Austrian and African science and research. Projects between 14 Austrian and

33 African scientific institutions complement the initiatives and activities, all of which contribute to the gradual implementation of the SDGs – the Sustainable Development Goals.



Cooperation Development Research

Erasmus+ and Africa

Erasmus+ also focuses on Africa in its current programme period.

In international higher education mobility the regional budget for Sub-Saharan Africa has been increased from seven per cent to up to 23 per cent of the available international funds in the programme period 2021–2027. Sub-Saharan Africa had the largest budget in Erasmus+ international higher education mobility and Erasmus+ capacity building in higher education in 2023.

The OeAD currently funds Austrian cooperation with higher education institutions in 26 African countries via Erasmus+. In 2023 there was a strong focus on countries from (South)

East Africa in the mobility activities carried out. South Africa was at the top of the list. In 2023 a Jean Monnet network of an Austrian higher education institution was approved in which higher education institutions from 10 African countries take part. This is a direct result of an Erasmus+ cooperation seminar in Kenya in 2022.

In times of multiple crises transdisciplinary and transnational science is more important than ever. The scientific results are essential for shaping a sustainable future. Austrian-African scientific cooperation contributes to an intensified cultural dialogue that overcomes borders and brings continents closer together.



Erasmus+

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" exhibition booth with Austrian and international representatives of higher education institutions at the EAIE 2023 in Rotterdam



studyinaustria.at

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.

STATEMENTS

From evaluations of higher education fairs and events:

Very helpful, broad and detailed information.

I like this kind of events where we are asked the right questions, and we come up with an answer suitable for us.

The OeAD's activities at a glance

Communication and marketing

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

Supporting scholarship holders

The OeAD Regional Offices provided support and assistance to 2,724 scholarship holders from more than 70 countries.

Counselling and support for higher education institutions

The OeAD works closely with Austrian higher education institutions, OeAD lecturers and Austrian representative authorities abroad. We promote the study, scholarship and cooperation programmes offered by more than 70 Austrian higher education institutions and provide comprehensive information and advice on studying and researching in Austria. The OeAD also provides various online and print publications.

Participation in and organisation of events

Together with more than 100 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 (partly virtual) in cooperation with "Study in Europe", Austrian embassies and the Austrian Chamber of Commerce. The OeAD organised two Austria receptions and international cooperation events in Washington and Vienna. Furthermore, information events were organised for Austrian lecturers and representative authorities abroad and six webinars on study and scholarship opportunities in Austria, partly 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. We support higher education institutions in setting up and expanding welcome and integration services. In 2023 particular attention was paid to the inclusion of refugee and displaced academics at Austrian higher education institutions and in the labour market.

Within the framework of the EU project "ERA Talent" the OeAD organised a networking event on "Working in Austria" for international students and researchers to promote socio-cultural and academic integration.

Offers of the OeAD

- + Information about studying in Austria: www.studyinaustria.at
- + Overview of the study programmes offered at Austrian higher education institutions: www.studienwahl.at/en
- + Austrian database for scholarships and research funding: www.grants.at
- + Map of OeAD projects and alumni: map.oead.at
- + Information about entry and residence: www.oead.at/einreise
- + Services and jobs for researchers: www.euraxess.at | LinkedIn
- + OeAD student housing: www.oeadstudenthousing.at

STATEMENTS

From evaluations of higher education fairs and events:

Support from the OeAD is always very important and very well organised. The networking events for the Austrian participants (reception) are also very important at the EAIE.



erasmus+ and esc 03

Erasmus+ and ESC in Austria

Total figures

DiscoverEU and Youthpass

Erasmus+ International

Erasmus+ New perspectives. New horizons.

Let's talk Erasmus+, ESC and EuroPeers

Erasmus+ special programmes

Erasmus+ and ESC in Austria

Projects, mobility, financial flows
(total 2023)



676
approved projects in Erasmus+



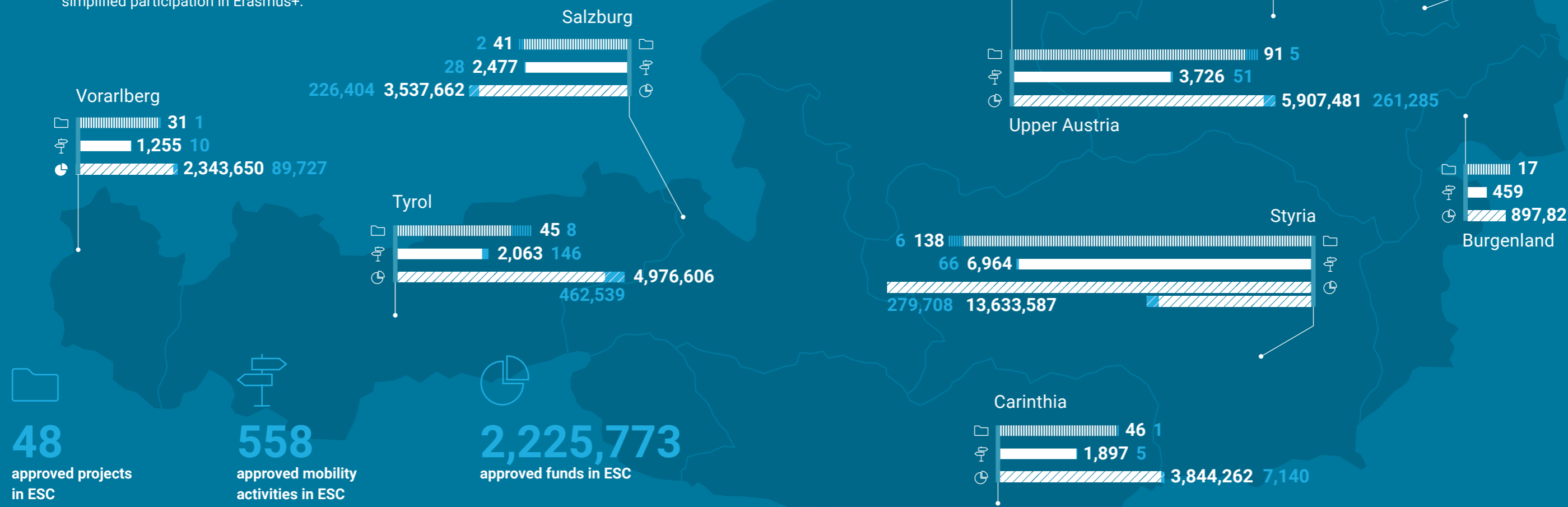
32,961
approved mobility activities in Erasmus+



68,183,515
approved funds in Erasmus+



579 accreditations for Erasmus+
Accredited institutions benefit from simplified participation in Erasmus+.



48
approved projects in ESC



558
approved mobility activities in ESC



2,225,773
approved funds in ESC



147 ESC quality labels awarded
Organisations wishing to take part in volunteer activities within the European Solidarity Corps must be accredited. After successful accreditation they will receive a quality label.

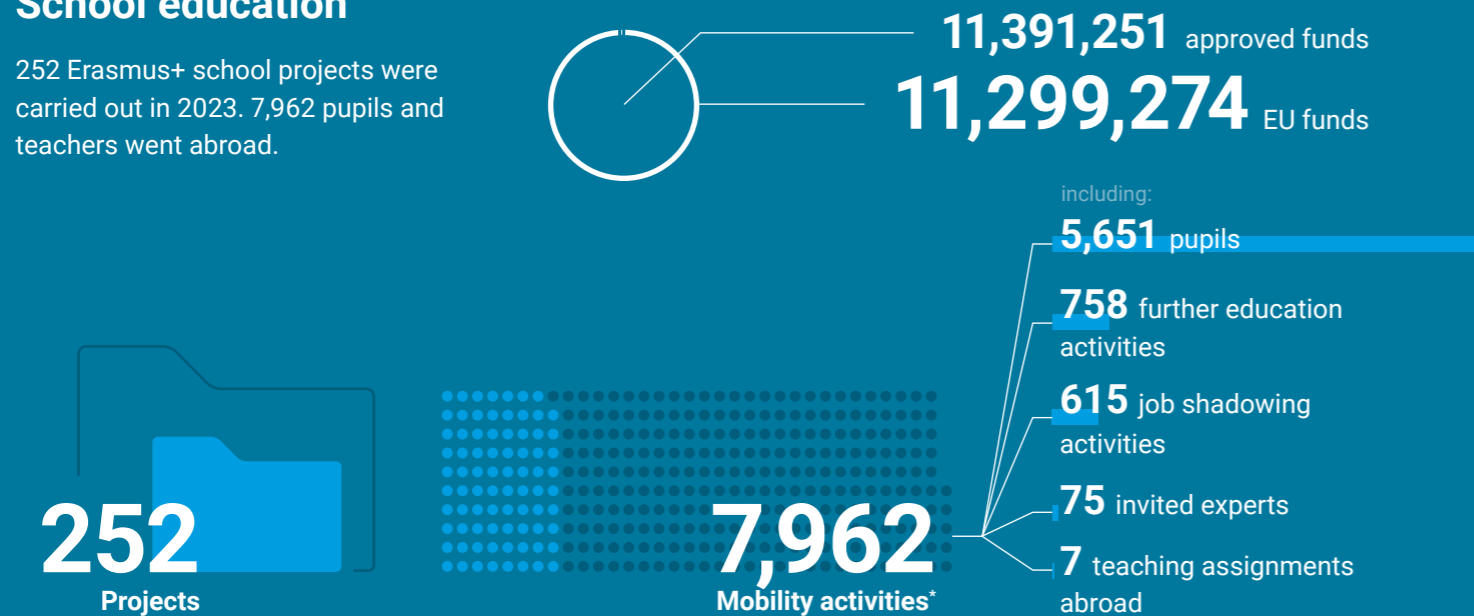
Erasmus+ is the EU programme for the promotion of general and vocational education and training, youth and sports in Europe. The European Solidarity Corps (ESC) offers young people aged 18 to 30 the possibility to get involved in volunteer projects in their own country or abroad. The OeAD is the national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

Total figures

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

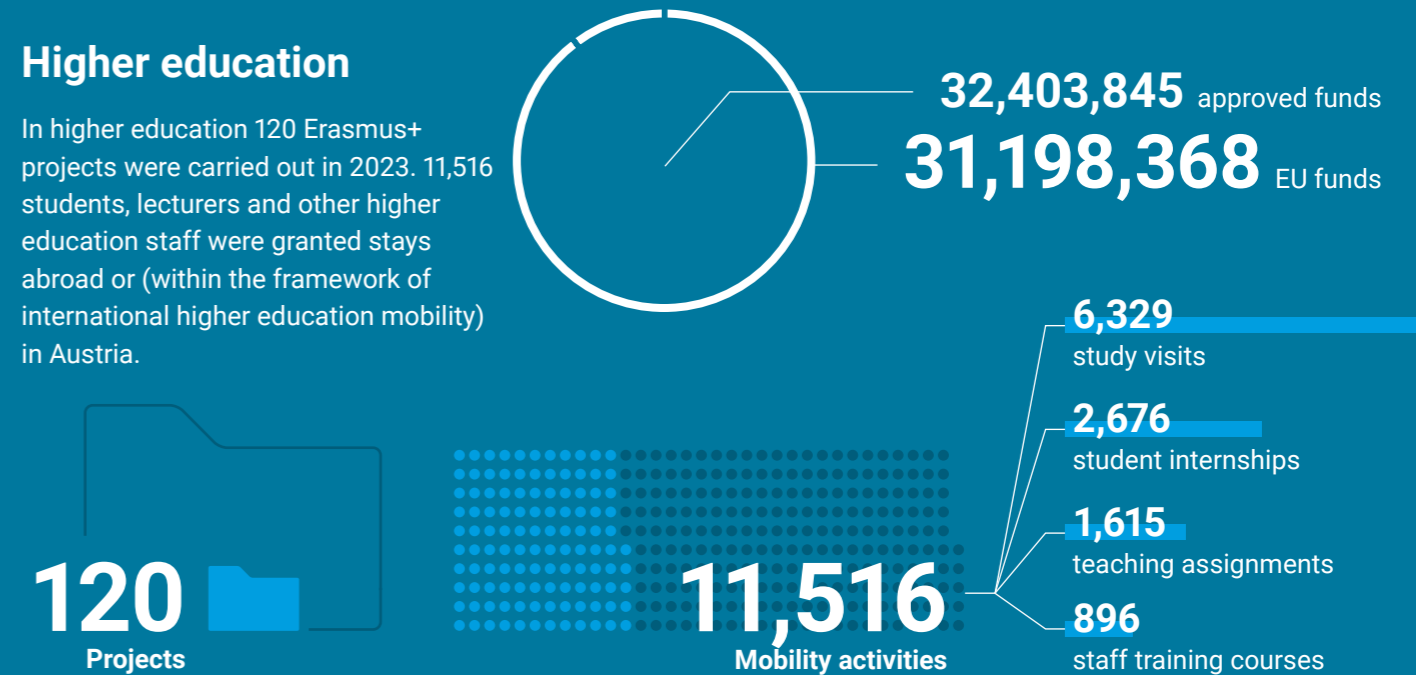
School education

252 Erasmus+ school projects were carried out in 2023. 7,962 pupils and teachers went abroad.



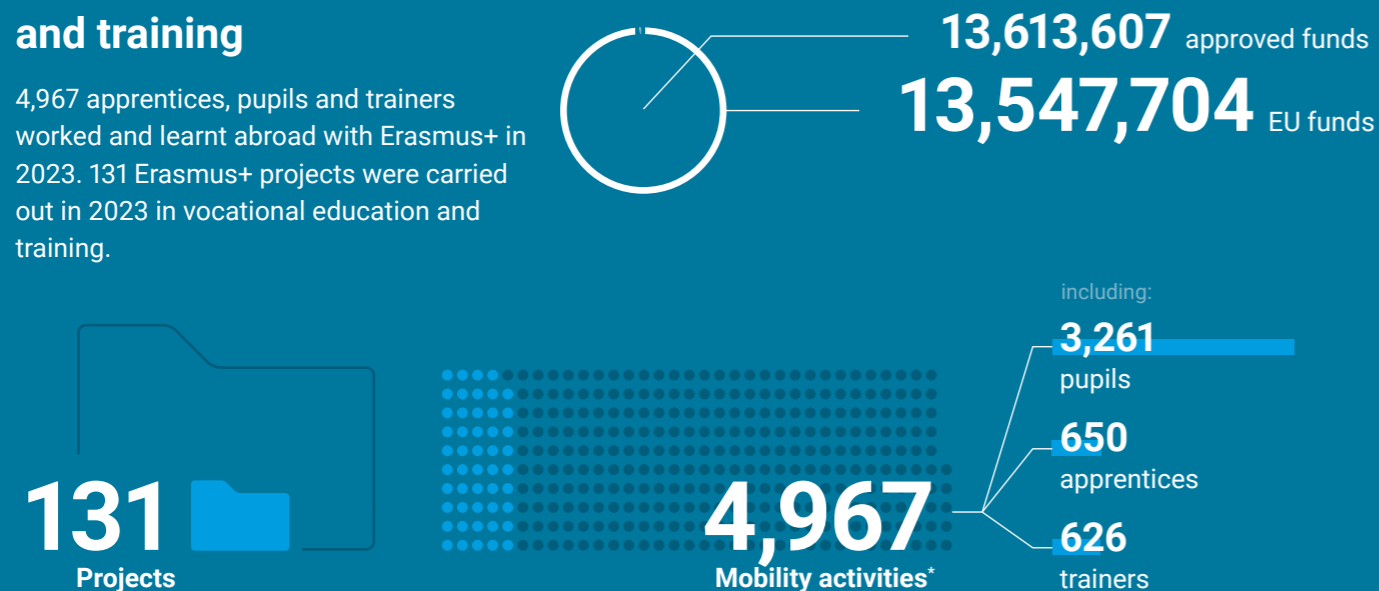
Higher education

In higher education 120 Erasmus+ projects were carried out in 2023. 11,516 students, lecturers and other higher education staff were granted stays abroad or (within the framework of international higher education mobility) in Austria.



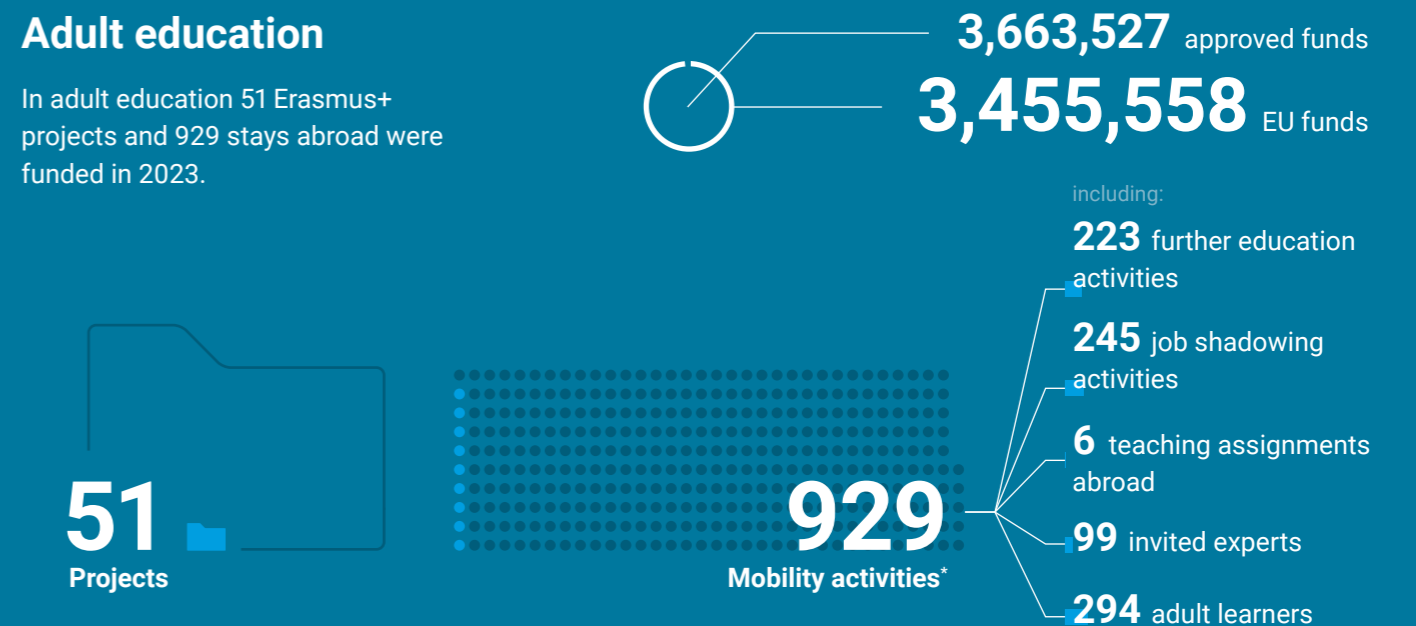
Vocational education and training

4,967 apprentices, pupils and trainers worked and learnt abroad with Erasmus+ in 2023. 131 Erasmus+ projects were carried out in 2023 in vocational education and training.



Adult education

In adult education 51 Erasmus+ projects and 929 stays abroad were funded in 2023.



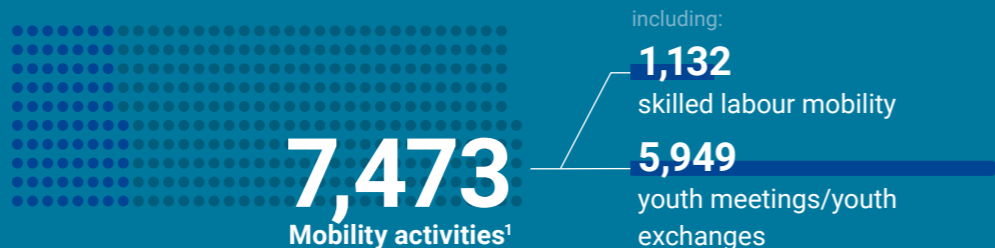
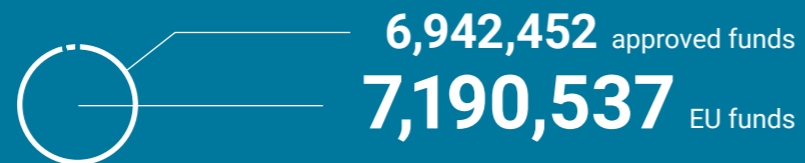
* including preparatory visits and accompanying persons

Total figures

Youth, Sport and the European Solidarity Corps (ESC)

Youth

In the youth sector 111 Erasmus+ projects and 7,473 stays abroad were funded in 2023.



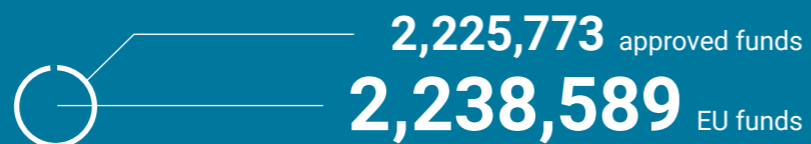
Sport

Erasmus+ funded 11 projects in the sports sector. 114 people went abroad.



ESC

8 ESC projects were carried out in 2023. 558 people went abroad.



¹ including preparatory visits and accompanying persons

² including preparatory visits

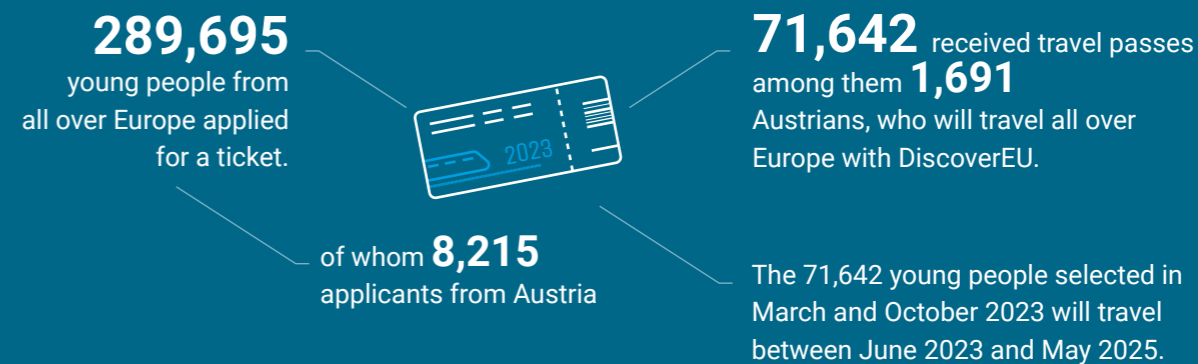
DiscoverEU and Youthpass

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 is a way for Europe's young people to connect with the European identity

and become more aware of the European Union's core values through travel. Since 2018 the European Commission has issued 284,000 travel passes.

https://youth.europa.eu/discovereu_en



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.

www.youthpass.eu



Erasmus+ International

In May 2023 the Austrian Embassy in Washington D.C. provided the setting for an Erasmus+ cooperation seminar to promote mobility in higher education between the USA and Austria.

The event offered Austrian higher education institutions an exclusive platform on the opening day of the NAFSA education fair to initiate projects and partnerships with US universities. Around 50 people took part in this international exchange.

The seminar proves that Erasmus+ in higher education is no longer limited to Europe. In the programme period 2021–2027 around 2.2 billion euros from the EU's external cooperation instruments will therefore be available for international cooperation in higher education.

After the coronavirus years there is now once again a strong demand for international

mobility. The focus is not only on destinations that might come to mind immediately. For example, in the application round 2023 of the international higher education mobility programme

- partnerships of two Austrian higher education institutions with higher education institutions from Sudan were approved,
- one project of an Austrian higher education institution with a higher education institution in Iraq was approved
- and partnerships of two Austrian higher education institutions with higher education institutions in Bhutan were approved.

Top 7 fields of study

in projects with Austrian higher education institutions in 2023:
(in per cent)



This shows that Erasmus+ International is diverse, highly global and exists in almost all study programmes and countries.

Budget and project development

in international higher education mobility 2023

HE International KA107/KA171	Budget		approved projects	approved mobilities
	available funds	earmarked funds (approved or settled budget)		
2015*	2,359,917.00	1,826,343.41	36	564
2016*	2,754,278.00	2,362,937.01	30	667
2017*	2,901,165.00	3,211,762.79	32	999
2018*	3,291,175.00	3,208,351.84	29	1,003
2019*	3,591,619.00	3,640,867.55	37	1,015
2020**	4,215,779.00	5,849,268.00	33	1,666
2021***	-	-	-	-
2022**	4,371,025.00	5,356,405.00	31	1,332
2023**	5,043,619.00	5,540,714.00	36	1,432

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

Facts about international higher education

In **Capacity Building** in Higher Education the European Commission approved cooperation between Austrian higher education institutions and partners in the following countries in 2023: Albania, Armenia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kosovo, Malaysia, Mali, Moldova, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Ukraine

A **Jean Monnet network** involving an Austrian higher education institution led to cooperation with the following countries in 2023: Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia and Uganda

Top 5 KA171 Call 2023 outgoing mobilities

1	Israel	71
2	Albania	33
3	USA	28
4	Kosovo	26
5	Georgia	24

incoming mobilities

1	Ukraine	110
2	Israel	91
3	Georgia	60
4	Albania	57
5	Kosovo	46

* settled figures
 ** approved figures (as of 2020)
 *** KA171 not yet available in the 2021 call. International higher education mobility was organised within the framework of ongoing projects in KA107 and KA131.

Erasmus+ New perspectives. New horizons.

Erasmus+ has enriched education and knowledge in Europe for more than 35 years. Erasmus+ has now had a formative influence on more than one generation of Europeans.



Opening ceremony of the ErasmusDays at GRG Maroltingergasse

Martin Netzer, General Secretary of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (2nd row, left), Andreas Schneider, Head of Department for European and International Family and Youth Policy at the Federal Chancellery (2nd row, right), Claus Farnberger, responsible for international sports affairs at the Austrian Federal Ministry of Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport (2nd from right) and the OeAD's Managing Director Jakob Calice (far right) congratulated the ESC ambassadors.

Apprenticeships without borders: more than 10,000 apprentices have been abroad

In 2023 the number of Erasmus+ apprentices exceeded the 10,000 mark. Maria Wenger (application developer and trainee at the Dual Academy at Siemens) was the 10,000th apprentice to spend time abroad with Erasmus+.

For Erasmus+ apprentices a stay abroad is an exciting step in their professional life: they return home with international work experience, improved language skills and greater flexibility. With acquired soft skills such as intercultural skills and the ability to work in a team they are in high demand. The appren-

tices can bring the expertise and knowledge they have acquired abroad back to their training companies in Austria. The annual number of apprentices going abroad from Austria with Erasmus+ is planned to double by 2027. As the national agency for Erasmus+ the OeAD therefore launched the Instagram campaign "Apprenticeships without borders" in cooperation with the Austrian Chamber of Commerce in December 2022. The campaign was intended to encourage apprentices to take the first step towards broadening their horizons and embarking on the Erasmus+ adventure.



Lehre ohne Grenzen



Jakob Calice (Managing Director of the OeAD), Mariana Kühnel (Deputy Secretary General of the Austrian Chamber of Commerce), Martin Polaschek (Federal Minister of Education, Science and Research), and Wolfgang Hesoun (CEO of Siemens AG Austria) (pictured from left to right) are seeing apprentice Maria Wenger (second from the right) off to Prague.

Living the European idea

ErasmusDays2023: Curtain up for Europe and Erasmus+

The Erasmus programme is celebrated all over Europe every year: 150 events took place throughout Austria from 9 to 14 October 2023. Schools, kindergartens, higher education institutions, youth and sports institutions across all federal provinces showed during those days what Erasmus+ has to offer – with exhibitions, podcasts, posters, presentations, flash mobs and online activities. The OeAD promoted the #ErasmusDays in Austria.

Erasmus+ and ESC awards for outstanding commitment and for being role models

On 12 December 2023 26 education stakeholders were presented with awards in Vienna by the OeAD for their European spirit and their contribution to the success of the EU programmes. The award went to 18 organisations that are making a special impact on a personal, institutional and systemic level with this EU funding. The 18 award-winning organisations work in school education, vocational

education and training, higher education, adult education, youth and the European Solidarity Corps. Eight Erasmus+ ambassadors also received awards.

The award-winning ambassadors contribute to the success of the European programmes with their personal commitment and dedication. They are role models of practised internationality.

Erasmus+ and ESC 2021–2027

In the current programme generation 2021 to 2027 of Erasmus+ and ESC Europe is investing 28.4 billion euros in Europe-wide and international exchanges. From 2021 to 2027 Austria is expected to receive 683 million euros from European Union funds for Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps. 331,000 people from Austria from all areas of education, youth and sport are expected to gain experience abroad during the current programme period.



#ErasmusDays

Let's talk Erasmus+, ESC and Europeers



erasmus+

My long-standing enthusiasm for and commitment to the Erasmus+ Youth Programme has not only fostered my personal development but also contributed to supporting the development of young people and strengthening intercultural cooperation. These experiences have enriched me both personally and professionally and are a valuable resource for my future.

Gregor Ruttner-Vicht, Erasmus+ ambassador Youth | BeyondStage



erasmus+

The accounts of participants who completed Erasmus+ mobility programmes abroad have

a great influence on the content of library training. Especially with a view to future developments in the public library sector these accounts of the libraries visited are of great relevance.

Markus Feigl, Erasmus+ ambassador Adult education | Austrian Library Association



erasmus+

My Erasmus+ activities enabled me to get to know many people from different countries who are also actively involved in the topic of sustainability and incorporate it into their teaching or work in a variety of ways. This aspect has contributed to the fact that the Erasmus+ programmes have always been the starting point for new projects that have been implemented at institutions.

Patrizia Fiala, Erasmus+ special ambassador for sustainability and environmental protection | Primary school Gloggnitz and University College of Teacher Education Burgenland



erasmus+

My Erasmus+ experience has made me more sensitive and open-minded in my dealings with international students and colleagues and more responsive to cultural differences when dealing with enquiries and problems. Last but not least my language skills and communication skills have improved, which of course benefits all customers.

Wolfgang Horvath, Erasmus+ ambassador Higher education | FH Joanneum



erasmus+

Many teachers saw Erasmus+ as an opportunity to combine attractive lessons with European topics. In this context bilingual subjects were also introduced in all years. Over the past ten years my work as Erasmus+ school coordinator has benefited the entire school community and, above all, the teachers of the BG/BRG Judenburg.

Bernd Fiechtl, Erasmus+ ambassador School education | BG/BRG Judenburg

ESC | EUROPEERS

I was never comfortable with mass tourism but through my ESC work I became aware what alternatives to travelling exist and how wonderful and enriching it can be to immerse yourself in other people's living environments and how important it is to be open-minded and understanding.

Nicole Mayr, European Solidarity Corps ambassador and EuroPeer



erasmus+

By designing my own Erasmus+ project I was able to enhance and improve my digital skills. Through self-taught learning, trial & error and help from experts I was able to acquire the necessary expertise. Looking back I am proud of what I have achieved. My motto is: Be your own living example.

Sonja Karbon, Erasmus+ Vocational training ambassador | KARBON Consulting GmbH



erasmus+

Thanks to Erasmus+ Sport I was able to intensify my existing contacts, make countless new ones and, above all, gain an international perspective on our topic of sports inclusion – even though I have only been in an exchange with Germany so far.

Thomas Jäger, Erasmus+ ambassador Sports | MOI – Move on to Inclusion

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 2023

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 Lunch" on topics such as partner search, promoting young talent in the STEM sector, NQF, qualification development, vocational education and training for adults, mobility of apprentices, UK internships, shortage of skilled labour

1



international online symposium "Soft skills in vocational education and training are more in demand than ever": What transversal skills does the labour market demand? How can they be identified, how can they be taught?

1



practice report with recommendations for the internationalisation of schools of vocational education and training as a contribution to the implementation of the National Implementation Plan (NIP) – created on behalf of the BMBWF

EPALE

E-platform for adult education in Europe

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

139,881



EPALE users all over Europe

1,654

user from Austria (as at 31 December 2023)



300



contributions from Austria on the EPALE platform 2023

eTwinning

Virtual school partnerships in Europe

www.etwinning.at

158



eTwinning projects in which Austrian schools and kindergartens participated

700



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

397



Austrian teachers in national and international eTwinning professional development courses in 2023

Euroguidance

Europe-wide networking of educational and career counsellors

www.euroguidance.at

22



The chart of the Austrian education system is available in **22 languages**. The charts in Ukrainian, English and Arabic were ordered most often in 2023.

> 7,000



learning options in Austria are available in the Europass portal

87,580



visits of www.bildungssystem.at in 2023

European Language Label

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

www.oead.at/spracheninitiativen

since **1998**



The European language label has been awarded since 1998

4



educational institutions were awarded a language label in 2023.

500 euros



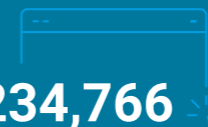
The winning schools received **500 euros** each.

Europass

free access to the workplace Europe

www.europass.at/en

234,766



visitors from Austria to the European Europass Portal www.europass.at in 2023

1,450



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

56,475



views on YouTube www.youtube.com/EuropassAustria in 2023

CULTURE AND LANGUAGE 04

Multilingualism as a key skill in a globalised world

Lectureship abroad programme

Language assistance programme

Promoting German as a foreign language –
“Kultur und Sprache” 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

Lectureship abroad programme



Lectureship abroad programme

In 2023 118 people gained teaching experience as Austrian lecturers at 91 host universities in 30 countries, teaching German as a foreign language and Austrian literature and regional studies.



Is there a better grade than 1? I admit this was the best time of my life so far. I will probably never forget this knowledge, this experience, these encounters. You can't learn what I learnt in France if you never spend so much time in the country of the target language.

The participant is a teacher training student of German and French. She was a language assistant in Strasbourg in 2022/23.



OBJECTIVES 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.



Language assistance programme

Enhancing language teaching at schools through lessons with native speakers: 144 language assistants gained experience in teaching German as a foreign language at around 220 schools in nine countries

in 2023. They also took advantage of the opportunity to get to know a different education system and to enhance their intercultural skills.



393 Incomings from ten countries supported foreign language teaching as foreign language assistants at approximately 550 Austrian schools in 2023.

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

In 2023 the “Kultur und Sprache” (Culture and Language) programme supported around 1,300 German language teachers worldwide in developing pluricentric “German as a Foreign Language” lessons in 42 professional development courses.

has offered digitally available materials free of charge that are innovative both in terms of methods and content. The approximately 90 teaching sequences for German teachers that can be implemented in a low-threshold manner open up up-to-date perspectives on Austria and put the goals of culturally reflective learning and the principle of taking into account the varieties within the German language into practice.

Open Educational Resources Platform for teaching materials for teaching German as a foreign language worldwide: Since 2022 an Open Educational Resources (OER) platform



“Kultur und Sprache”

OeAD COOPERATION OFFICES 05

OeAD Cooperation Offices abroad

Focus on educational cooperation
with Eastern and South Eastern Europe
in pre-university education

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



www.oead.at/educoop

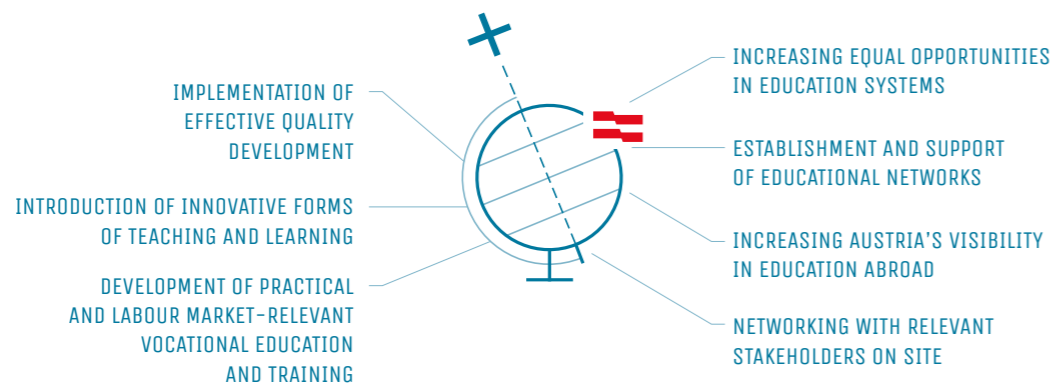
Focus on Educational Cooperation with Eastern and South-Eastern Europe in pre-university education

International exchange, thinking outside the box and developing new perspectives on one's own work in exchange with others provide important impetus for the implementation of education reform processes in one's own country.

Within the framework of 19 projects to support sustainable education reforms in our nine partner countries the innovation competence of more than 2,000 educational institutions, such as schools, agencies for (vocational) education and training, local

education administration authorities, institutions for continuous professional development of teachers, etc., was strengthened in various areas of education reform in 2023 in around 460 events.

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.



"Western Balkan Alliance for Work-Based Learning – Public-Private Partnership for High Quality VET" 2022 in Vienna. The conference was organised by the OeAD together with the Austrian Parliament, ERI SEE and in cooperation with the Austrian Chamber of Commerce and the Western Balkans 6 Chambers Investment Forum.

Focus on 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 Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (BMEIA) 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 China and L'viv.



<https://oead.at/en/to-austria/science-cooperation-offices>



OeAD magazine #EducationalCooperation "Netzwerk in Ost- und Südosteuropa"



In the past few years I was happy to work on several projects with the OeAD in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe in the areas of leadership, cooperation and quality development. Participation in these projects brings invaluable added value for the University College of Teacher Education Styria as it enables an exchange on a par with partner institutions in other countries and thus contributes to strengthening professional skills. The experience gained in the international projects also contributes to the further development of quality at our own institution.



Olivia de Fontana
University College of Teacher Education Styria, Head of the Centre for Leadership in Educational Organisations (FIBO), Deputy Head of the Institute for Educational Governance

EDUCATION AND SOCIETY

06

Cultural education with schools in Austria

Public Science: Strengthening trust in science and democracy

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

Prevention of extremism sets an example at schools

Support of visits to **concentration camp memorials**

“Digital learning” device initiative

Cultural education with schools in Austria

The OeAD works at the intersection between schools, art and culture. In cooperation with artists and cultural organisations the OeAD develops participatory school projects and provides advice, organisational support and financial support.



Cultural education in foreign language education makes it possible to activate and shape a learning process in a creative and self-determined way. The individual development of our pupils can thus be specifically supported and enriches the lessons enormously through the alternative approach to learning.



Miriam Bessaga teaches Italian at the BRG in der Au, Innsbruck



Cultural Education



Kultur:Bildung

Kultur:Bildung – the most comprehensive initiative for cultural education

With the “Kultur:Bildung” (“Culture:Education”) initiative the OeAD offers the most comprehensive cultural education programme with schools all over Austria.

Artists of all art disciplines provide impulses for pupils and work with them in a participatory way in projects within the framework of school lessons.

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 literacy
- + support for joint and individual learning and teaching processes
- + learning culture at schools

More than Bytes – Cultural Education and Digital media (2021–2023)

Cultural education projects enrich lessons when it comes to acquiring (digital) media skills. Collaboration with artists supports the pupils’ creative skills and promotes their critical reflection on media. Artists from all disciplines developed around 70 workshops for schools within the framework of the thematic focus “More than Bytes”.

These are linked to the compulsory subject of basic digital education and its areas of competence. The comprehensive evaluation and all offers are available at www.oead.at/morethanbytes

take HEART! Democracy, sustainability and cultural education

In the school year 2023/24 the OeAD launched the new thematic focus “take HEART!” The focus is on action-oriented school projects in cooperation with artists,

in which pupils deal with social change, democracy policy issues and sustainable development.



www.oead.at/takeheart

PROGRAMMES OF CULTURAL EDUCATION 2023

	PROJECTS	SCHOOLS	PUPILS
Culture Connected 2022/23	200	205	7,986
Kultur:Bildung 2023 incl. Tyrolean Cultural Service (Tiroler Kulturservicestelle) and Double Check	3,325	1,676	148,213
K3 PROJECTS 2023	72	21	1,150
projekteuropa 2022/23	209	160	7,313
Raum Gestalten 2022/23	14	15	430
TOTAL as at: March 2024	3,820	2,077	165,092

KULTUR:BILDUNG 2023 BY ART FORM

in per cent | without Tyrolean Cultural Service (Tiroler Kulturservicestelle) & Double Check as at: March 2024

Architecture	1.98
Fine Arts	16.55
Design	1.37
Film/Video	3.51
Photography	2.11
Literature	16.93
Media art	0.86
Music	21.09
Radio	0.89
Interdisciplinary	7.25
Dance	8.95
Theatre	18.50

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: Strengthening trust in science and democracy

Experience in recent years has shown that a better understanding of science and democratic processes is needed. The OeAD contributes to this with our Public Science programme and various initiatives. Pupils act as important multipliers as they share

knowledge and experiences with their social environment. The OeAD's Young Science and Citizen Science initiatives are therefore ideally suited to enhancing trust in science and an awareness of democracy in all residents of the country in a sustainable way.

Science Ambassadors

The science ambassadors initiative experienced a particular upswing in 2023. Every year around 450 researchers visit schools all over Austria on a voluntary basis. School classes can either decide individually what the visit should focus on or the schools

can book one of more than 160 themed workshops. The topics range from life in the ice age, cancel culture, a climate simulator to "AI and I". By means of more than 300 school visits in 2023 around 7,700 pupils were able to enter into dialogue with researchers.



www.youngscience.at/botschafter_innen

FIGURES REGARDING SCIENCE AMBASSADORS



Citizen Science Award

In 2023 the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) and the OeAD invited people to take part in research for the eighth time. From 1 April to 31 July 2023 school classes, interested adults – and for the first time also families – were able to take part in eight citizen science projects. The more than 3,400 citizen

scientists involved could measure particulate matter pollution on ways to school, analyse social media profiles of health influencers or research science communication for pupils, among other things. What was particularly pleasing was the fact that citizen scientists from all nine federal provinces won cash and non-cash prizes in 2023.



www.youngscience.at/csa

Children's and Youth Universities

On behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) the OeAD funded 21 children's and youth universities in 2023 with a budget of more than 1.25 million euros. 13 of these also had an extension module called "Holiday care

with a scientific focus". The diverse and interactive offers enabled more than 40,000 children and teenagers from all over Austria a low-threshold introduction to the world of science.



www.youngscience.at/kinder-jugendunis

Sparkling Science 2.0

The research programme "Sparkling Science 2.0" is unique in Europe. Since 2022 18 research institutions have worked side by side with 122 schools on current research questions in 34 research projects. The questions cover many different topics and range from biodiversity in Austria and recycling of electronic waste to care for the seriously ill or very old people and much more.

The 2nd call for applications took place in 2023: From 1 June to 25 September 2023 research institutions were invited to submit their citizen science projects. A thematic focus was on the EU missions of the EU research programme "Horizon Europe" (Cancer, Climate, Cities, Soil, Waters). They deal with some of the greatest challenges of our time.

Start of the new projects: autumn of 2024



www.sparklingscience.at/en



The researcher and science ambassador Kerstin Böck (WWF Austria) during her visit to the primary school "Tankstelle – die Schule" (Vienna).

I think it's important that pupils learn about science and scientific methods. Citizen science is ideal for this: young people learn how to collect data and what to look out for. And they realise what contribution they can make to society.



Karin Greimler-Stocker from BG/BRG Perchtoldsdorf regularly conducts research with her pupils for the Citizen Science Award.

GOALS 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



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. Regional, nationwide and international training courses for teachers are offered. The OeAD implements ERINNERN:AT on behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF).



An excursion to the new memorial in Vienna's Resselpark for homosexuals persecuted and murdered in Austria during the Nazi era took place in 2023 within the framework of the ERINNERN:AT central seminar.

Focus of the year 2023: Persecution of homosexuals during the Nazi era

In 2023 ERINNERN:AT dedicated itself for the first time to the persecution and murder of homosexuals during the Nazi era in Austria and to teaching this topic at school. ERINNERN:AT thus responded both to a gap in Austrian remembrance culture and education and to important events in Austria and Germany that are relevant for remembrance policy. Throughout the year the OeAD organised events and training courses for teachers on this topic and provided educational offers for classroom teaching.

ERINNERN:AT developed new learning materials with Austrian and international cooperation partners to deal with the topic of the Nazi persecution of homosexuals in class. The result is a digital learning module, which is called IWitness Activity: pupils watch videotaped interviews with survivors and witnesses of National Socialism and the holocaust provided by the USC Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archive. The OeAD and the USC Shoah Foundation signed a new memorandum of understanding in 2023. Thus the important cooperation with the USC Shoah Foundation will be continued and new educational projects will be carried out.

At www.erinnern.at the teaching and learning offers developed by the OeAD are available for teachers.

www.erinnern.at recorded **778,383** visits in 2023.



12,560 people from educational practice were reached at **243** educational events throughout Austria.

thereof **1,410** persons via online offers

Digital memorial map DERLA

DERLA documents memorials, places of remembrance and signs of remembrance in all Austrian federal provinces. It also provides educational programmes. Carinthia/Koroška was added to the interactive map, which up to then included Vorarlberg, Tyrol and Styria, in 2023. Other federal provinces will follow in 2024 and 2025.



DERLA

Study trip for teachers to Auschwitz-Birkenau

In cooperation with the University College of Teacher Education Vienna and the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism the OeAD organised a study trip for teachers to the Auschwitz-Birkenau memorial for the first time in 2023. Over four days the participants familiarised

themselves with the memorial and the Austrian national exhibition there. They dealt with the challenges of a school visit as well as concepts and learning materials for preparation and follow-up. Due to the positive response and high demand the study trip will be offered again in 2024.

Prevention of extremism sets an example at schools

Since April 2022 pupils of all educational levels and types of schools have attended workshops to raise their awareness of the dangers of ideologies of inequality and strengthen their resilience to radicalisation.

FACTS

- + more than 120 different offers
- + scope of the school workshops: 3–4 teaching units
- + offers have been reviewed by experts
- + free of charge for schools

Workshops for pupils

The school workshops offered on the online platform have been reviewed by a jury and adapted for different educational levels in an age-appropriate way. There are more than 120 different workshops for pupils from primary schools to the final year of academic secondary schools and vocational colleges. The offers are free of charge for schools.

The workshop formats cover a broad and highly relevant range of topics, e.g. conflict resolution, democratic debate culture, participation, radicalisation processes, media skills and conspiracy theories, discrimination, values, and civil courage.

Since the start of the initiative the workshops have been in high demand at schools. In the school year 2022/23 they have often focused on democracy and coexistence, discrimination and prejudice as well as conflict resolution and violence prevention. In 2023 more than 49,000 pupils took part in more than 2,200 workshops on these important topics.

Most of the workshops are booked by teachers of years 5 to 9. There was also particular interest in workshops by secondary schools (middle schools) in 2023. Primary schools,

academic secondary schools upper level and classes of vocational colleges also responded well to the initiative.

The initiative was funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research in 2023 and supported by experts from the [Department of Applied Sociology of Law and Criminology \(IRKS\)](#) of the University of Innsbruck and the [Extremism Counselling Centre](#) (managed by: Nationwide Network for Open Youth Work).



oead.at/extremismuspraevention

Support of visits to concentration camp memorials

Mauthausen, Gusen and satellite camp memorials Ebensee and Melk

Current social developments show that populism, anti-democratic tendencies, fake news and conspiracy narratives as well as open and hidden antisemitism are on the rise. The curricula for the subject "History and political education" provide for a compulsory discussion of current and historical antisemitism and the history of National Socialism and the Holocaust. Visits to concentration camp memorials are also encouraged as a way of dealing with these topics.

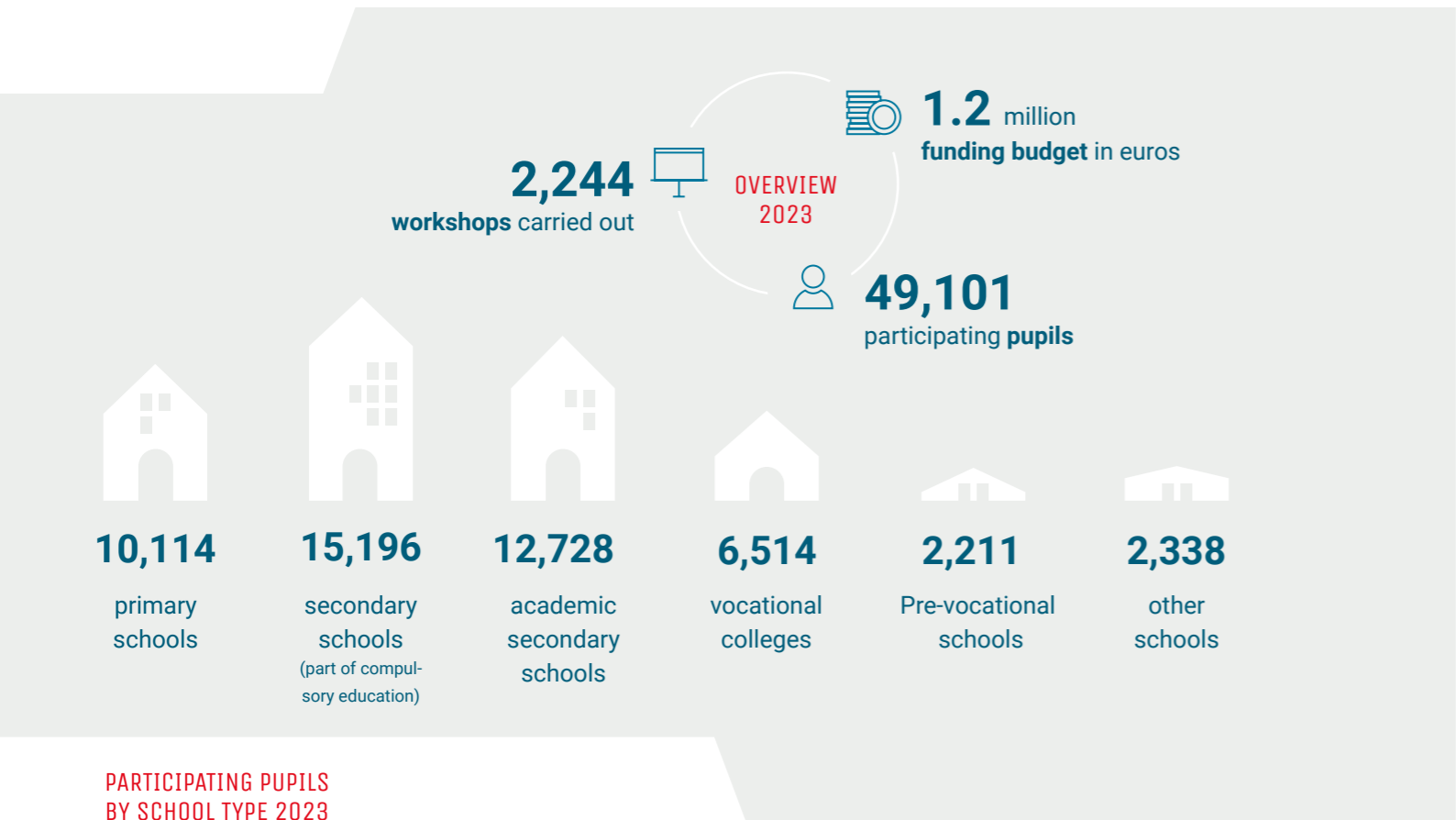
In September 2023 the first nationwide funding programme for guided visits to the aforementioned memorials for school classes in year 8 started. The subsidy amounts to 250 or 500 euros per school class, depending on the distance of the school from the memorial. Applications have to be submitted to the OeAD:

www.oead.at/gedenkstaetten

Some schools already took advantage of this initiative of the BMBWF in the autumn of 2023 and funds have been earmarked for it until 2026.



application for funding



PARTICIPATING PUPILS BY SCHOOL TYPE 2023

“Digital learning” device initiative: 370,000 digital devices are already used at Austria’s schools

In 2023 the device initiative made it possible for the third time to equip the 5th grades of eligible schools with laptops or tablets. Due to the additional equipment of the 6th grades in the school year 2021/22 four year groups at schools already use digital devices in class.

DIGITAL LEARNING
in 2023

>370,000
digital devices so far

95% of the schools
at secondary level 1 are
taking part

14,505 written
and **5,303** telephone
enquiries were answered
(2023)

270 teachers and
parents/legal guardians
were trained in webinars

The Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research covers around 75 per cent of the equipment costs. More than 370,000 digital devices have been delivered to all participating schools in the last three years to be used in digital teaching. 95 per cent of all schools at secondary level 1 – compulsory secondary (middle) schools, lower academic secondary schools and special needs schools – are taking part in the device initiative in the current school year 2023/24.

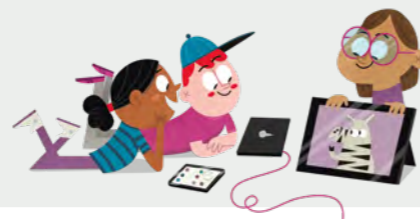
The OeAD has been supporting the implementation of the initiative since its start in 2021. Our main tasks are the management of

the device inventory, communication measures for schools, parents/legal guardians and stakeholders and the provision of a contact point for all questions. In this role the OeAD answered 14,505 written enquiries and 5,303 telephone enquiries in 2023.

To further promote the use of such devices in the classroom the OeAD offered numerous webinars. More than 270 teachers and parents/legal guardians took part in these. Together with Saferinternet a series of webinars was held on the basics for greater safety when using digital devices.



Barbara Buchegger,
Saferinternet.at



The digital learning initiative is an important element on the way to good digital skills. Children and young people benefit from it because they learn how to use digital devices well and acquire the necessary skills. However, parents and teachers also become digitally fitter as the children need competent guidance. It simply works best together: Equipment & skills – adults & children.



The secondary school Eggenburg impressed the jury with its “He[a]rphone” project.

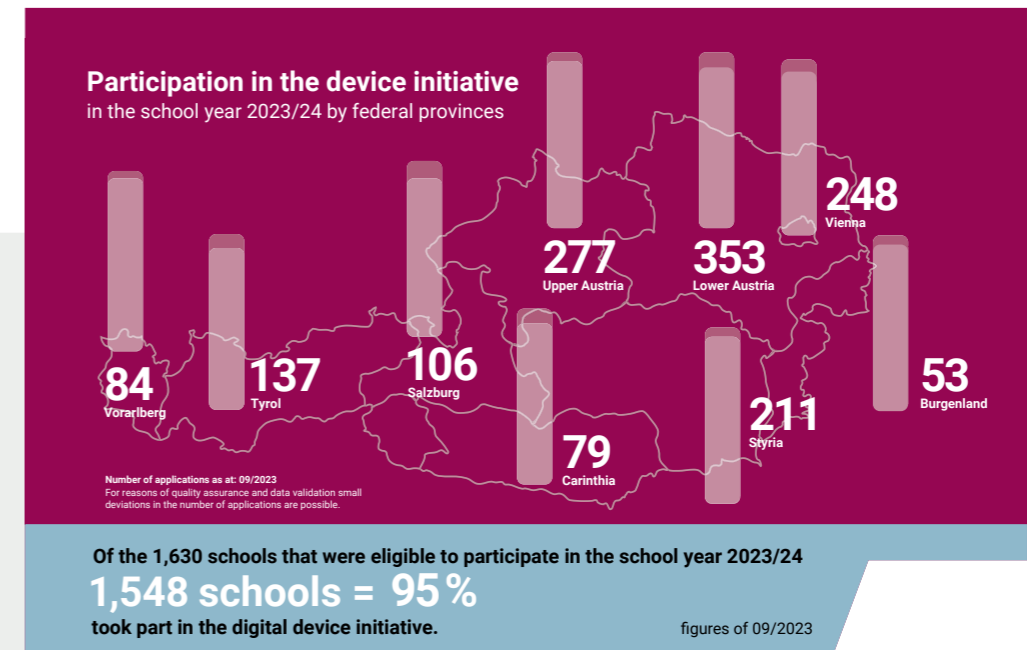
Education prize “Klasse! Lernen. Wir sind digital.”

The education prize “Klasse! Lernen. Wir sind digital.” once again brought innovative school projects and initiatives before the curtain in 2023. The prize of the OeAD, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research and Ars Electronica was developed as a component of the digital device initiative to promote the creative use of electronic

devices at schools in Austria. School classes and teams of pupils from the 4th grade of primary school and lower secondary school together with their teachers were eligible to take part. A total of ten projects received prizes. The main prize of 10,000 euros went to the Music Secondary School Eggenburg in Lower Austria’s “He[a]rphone” project.



Klasse! Lernen.
The best projects 2023



QUALITY and transparency

07

- RQE – Quality sets an example at schools**
- Quality label for learning apps**
- OeAD International Testing Services**
- The NQF and Europe**
- Validation of transversal skills (TRANSVAL-EU)**
- Initiative for Adult Education (IAE)**
- Ö-Cert – Quality framework for adult education**

Quality and Transparency in education

RQE – Quality sets an example at schools

Quality development, quality management, quality control loop – these are just some of the Qs that have become familiar terms for more than 5,600 schools in Austria with the new quality management system for schools (QMS). The OeAD Reference Point for Quality Assurance in General and Vocational Education and Training (RQE) has developed QMS together with the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF). The OeAD editorially manages the website www.qms.at and is involved in the evaluation and school development platform IQES Austria.

Together with the university colleges of teacher education and the university colleges of teacher education's teachers' network

the aim is to make the principle of "quality is important for all of us" a matter of course at schools: headmasters and headmistresses, teachers' teams and each and every teacher together contribute to the quality of their schools. QMS is intended to be an aid, a toolbox and also a provider of structures.

As the National Reference Point for Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training and thus a node in the EU network EQAVET the OeAD as RQE had a peer review on the introduction of QMS carried out at system level for the first time. The peers came from Germany, Finland, Italy, Norway and the Czech Republic. OeAD employees also participated as peers in Germany, Finland, Slovenia, Spain and the Czech Republic.

Quality label for learning apps

The Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research and the OeAD awarded the quality label for learning apps for the second time in a ceremony on 1 June 2023. 29 new learning apps were awarded the quality label. To this end 109 teachers carried out 114 evaluations.

In addition, 2,628 pieces of feedback from pupils provided a comprehensive and differentiated picture. Twelve learning apps were recertified for the first time in 2023.

66 learning apps currently have a quality label. They are all presented and described in detail at www.guetesiegel-lernapps.at.



www.qms.at/english



guetesiegel-lernapps.at



Beaming faces at the quality label award ceremony on 1 June 2023

OeAD International Testing Services

OeAD International Testing Services is a certified test centre of the OeAD for internationally recognised university tests and profession-related examinations. The OeAD test centre meets international security standards and uses state-of-the-art biometric procedures that guarantee the reliability of the test results.

Since academic institutions and admission programmes evolve in an increasingly digital world the University of Oxford decided to switch from paper to online exams. The aim was to facilitate access to the exams and to make them available to a wider range of applicants. As a partner with proven expertise in exam management the OeAD test centre qualified thanks to its many years of experience with both internet-based exams and offline exam software. The University of Oxford's online entrance exams were held at the OeAD for the first time in October 2023.

What is new in the examination programme

The spectrum of English examinations has been extended and now includes all major sectors of education where proof of English language proficiency is required. It covers all levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

Language certificates are primarily required for admission at universities, for school years abroad, for work visas (in Austria for the Red-White-Red Card), for research stays (English as lingua franca of scientific research), for internships abroad (e.g. "Work and Holiday" programmes) and exchange semesters in higher education.

The OeAD test centre offers the possibility to obtain the "Dig-CERT – Certificate for general digital knowledge for everyday life and work". In a one-hour online knowledge test consisting of multiple choice questions you have to solve tasks related to life and work. Dig-CERT serves as proof of digital skills. The Dig-CERT exam was designed to assess digital skills through comprehensive psychometric analyses of its validity and reliability. Austria is thus taking a pioneering role in the EU by being able to effectively assess and present digital skills within the framework of the European and Austrian Digital Competence Model. These skills assessments therefore have EU-wide interoperability. The examinations at the OeAD take place by personal appointment. An ID Austria is required for exam registration.



2,196
tests were carried out in 2023



OeAD International Testing Services

The NQF and Europe

More and more qualifications are categorised in the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). The direct transfer of data from the NQF register to the European Europass portal makes Austrian qualifications and their learning outcomes more visible throughout Europe. The NQF level on qualification certificates ensures that citizens become more aware of the NQF.

Every year more than 100,000 certificates and diplomas issued in Austria include the NQF level completed. Since December 2023 the NQF has also been included in more than 2,000 Europass certificate supplements. In 2023 doctors were added at NQF level VIII. This means that all key qualifications in the healthcare sector are represented in the NQF.



www.qualifikationsregister.at/en



Validation of transversal skills (TRANSVAL-EU)

On behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research the OeAD as the National Coordination Point for the NQF managed the European project TRANSVAL-EU. The European project ran under Key Action 3 – Support for Policy Development and Cooperation. It brought together 16 partners from seven EU member countries and eleven associated partners with many years of expertise in the validation context. It was successfully completed in 2023. Innovative approaches to the validation of transversal skills in non-formal and informal learning were developed in this project and piloted in five countries (Austria, Belgium, Italy, Lithuania, Poland).

Transversal skills are learnt and proven skills that are generally considered necessary or valuable for effective action in virtually any type of work and in learning and life.

2023 was characterised in particular by the finalisation of the pilots in the respective national contexts. The focus was on the effectiveness of the initiatives set for practitioners and candidates. They are to acquire expertise in the conscious use of transversal skills. TRANSVAL-EU relied on the great diversity of expertise of the partners involved. Their great commitment made it possible to set country-specific priorities. Transnational synergy effects were generated through cooperation.



www.transvalproject.eu



TRANSVAL-EU: Closing event in Stockholm

Initiative for Adult Education (IAE)

IAE stands for the Austrian federal and provincial governments' initiative to support 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 complete their compulsory schooling or attend basic education courses at educational providers accredited for this purpose. Since 2012 around 8,000 courses with almost 50,000 participants have taken place at more than 50 education providers all over Austria. As of 2024 IAE has a new name: "Level Up – Adult Education".

 ~ **8,000** courses since 2012

 with ~ **50,000** participants from >50 educational institutions all over Austria since 2012



www.initiative-erwachsenenbildung.at

Ö-Cert – Quality framework for adult education

Ö-Cert is an Austrian quality award for adult education providers, which is awarded by the federal government and the provincial governments. The legal basis is an agreement pursuant to Article 15a of the Federal Constitutional Act (BGBL 269/2012).

standards for education providers throughout Austria and to ensure a high-quality provider structure.

The introduction of Ö-Cert in 2012 has made it possible to establish uniform quality

In 2023 100 new educational institutions registered and 1,395 adult education providers (including branch offices) have been certified with Ö-Cert since the end of 2023.

 **100** educational institutions newly registered in 2023

 so far: **1,395** providers (including branches) in adult education have Ö-Cert



oe-cert.at

GOOD CONNECTIONS

08

OeAD student housing
Foundation for Innovation in Education (FIE)

OeAD student housing

International and non-profit

The OeAD-WohnraumverwaltungsGmbH – OeAD student housing for short – was founded on 1 October 1998 as an independent 100% subsidiary of the OeAD. The non-profit student accommodation provider is a point of contact for universities, universities of applied sciences, university colleges of teacher education, private universities and other organisations.

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 the form of passive houses. By accommodating students in passive houses it contributes to raising awareness of the issue of sustainability.

10,459
persons

4,589 persons
in passive houses

Capacity utilisation in 2023
10,459 people lived in the guest houses in Austria in 2023, of which 4,589 people in passive houses.



Accommodation in ...
including 8 passive houses
(6 in Vienna, 1 in Graz, 1 in Leoben).

67

employees all over Austria (as at 31 March 2023)
5 women in management positions
Proportion of women: 76 per cent
The employees speak a total of 18 languages and come from 13 nations.



Cristina de Paz
lived in Neubaugasse in Graz

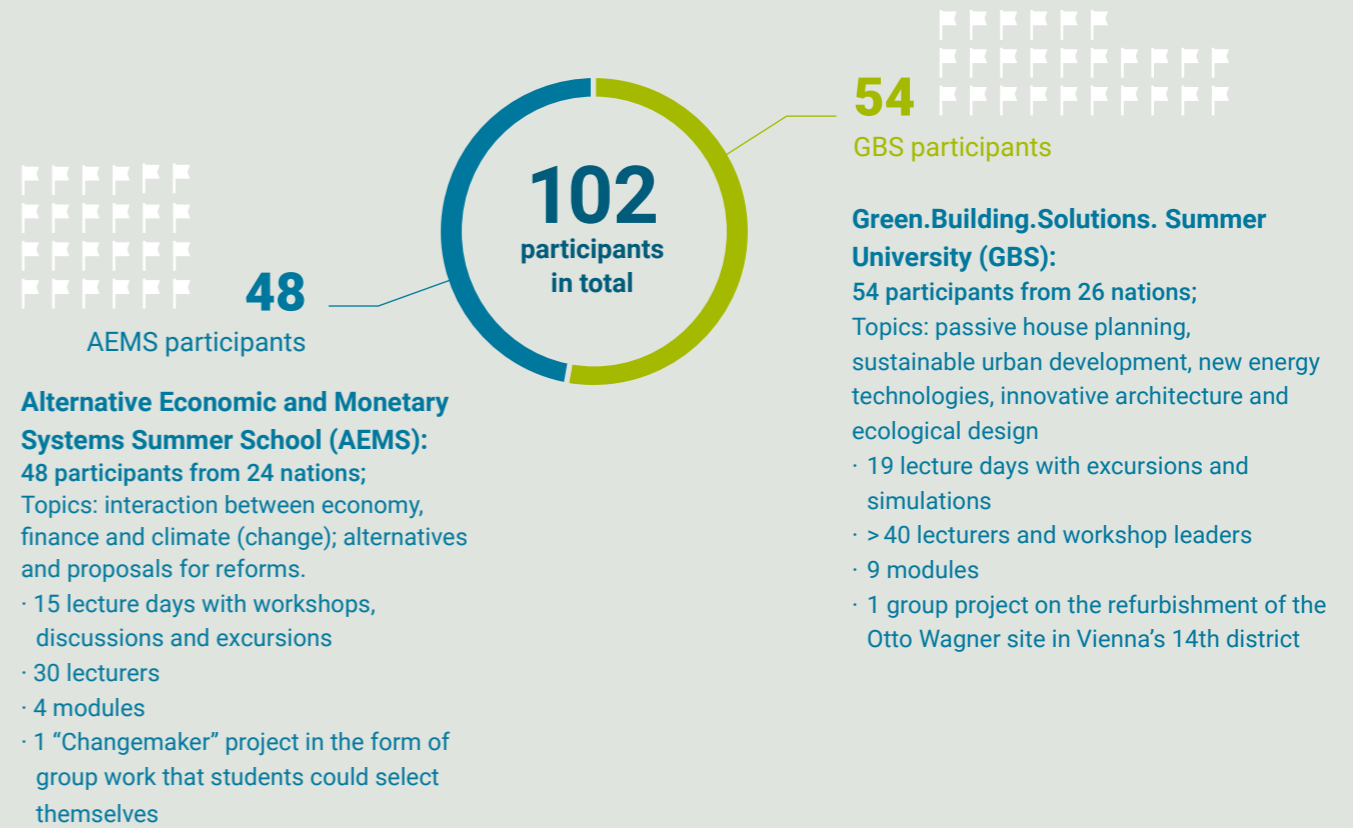
As an Erasmus student there are some challenges that you have to face while being away from home. The OeAD student housing team has helped me a lot through the whole process; you can even feel like you're at home! If you have any problems they will happily take care of them in a very short time!! The international community that OeAD student housing has is a game changer for this experience, you will make a lot of friends!! I couldn't be happier in this beautiful city of Graz!



International summer universities AEMS and GBS 2023

102 people from 40 nations took part in the interdisciplinary summer universities "Alternative Economic and Monetary Systems (AEMS)" and "Green.Building.Solutions. (GBS)".

The two three-week summer programmes now have an established network of more than 100 international partner universities and institutions and 937 alumni from more than 100 nations.



Virtual tours

360° views provide a good insight into the OeAD guest houses in Vienna, Graz and Leoben.



www.oeadstudenthousing.at/en



Rhona Sinamtwa,
Tanzania, participant
AEMS 2023

This is a summer programme that everyone needs and requires to better understand not only the monetary and economic systems but how we can use the current systems that exist in society to make the planet a better place.

Foundation for Innovation in Education (FIE)

The FIE is anchored at the OeAD by law. As a state foundation it works to promote innovation competence in the Austrian education system in accordance with the purpose of the foundation.



innovationsstiftung-bildung.at



Innovation dialogue 2023

Under the motto "Time travel: Innovation in education" the FIE showed how innovative Austria's education designers are: Novel approaches to concrete challenges in education, such as digital transformation and attractive school room design, were presented.

Almost 90 organisations took the opportunity to present their solutions at the education innovation fair. Representatives from all sectors of the Austrian education innovation community exchanged ideas and networked at the education round table "treffpunkt. BILDUNG".



Review: Innovationsdialog 2023



100 Schulen, 1000 Chancen



Educational innovation needs educational research

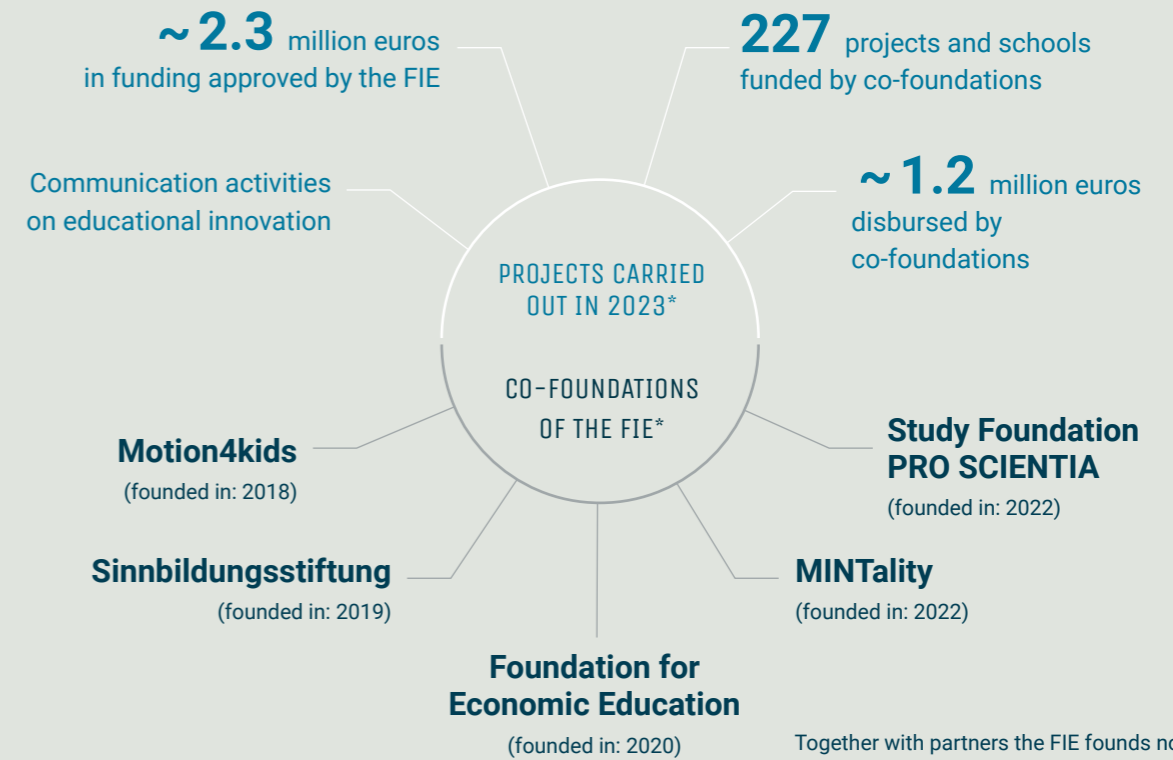
We would like to congratulate all award winners. The award-winning schools are characterised by the fact that all school partners at a location work together to further develop their educational institutions on a daily basis for the benefit of the children and young people and develop innovative approaches and put them into practice. It was particularly impressive to see how committed and participatory the schools are and how harmoniously the school partners interact at each location.



Martin Polaschek and Jakob Calice at the presentation of the State Prize for Innovative Schools



The choir of the Primary School Retznei (Styria) at the award ceremony of the State Prize for Innovative Schools, pictured with the headmistress Irene Weindorfer, the choirmaster Stefan Wolf, the OeAD's managing director Jakob Calice and the federal minister Martin Polaschek



Together with partners the FIE founds non-profit co-foundations. These enable (private) investments in education to establish innovative approaches in the long term.

* Data as at: 18 March 2024

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes the need for transparency and accountability in financial reporting.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods and techniques used to collect and analyze data. It highlights the importance of using reliable sources and ensuring the accuracy of the information gathered.

3. The third part of the document focuses on the analysis and interpretation of the collected data. It discusses the various statistical and analytical tools used to identify trends and patterns in the data.

4. The final part of the document provides a summary of the findings and conclusions drawn from the analysis. It emphasizes the importance of communicating the results clearly and effectively to the relevant stakeholders.








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