Work-based learning in Austria

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Franz Gramlinger
Austrian Reference Point for Quality Assurance in VET
ARQA-VET
Outline on 20 minutes

• The IVET system in Austria
• Work-based – school-based – and combined
• Quality assurance
• Why it works
• What to avoid
Das österreichische Bildungssystem
The Austrian Education System

part-time, dual system

full-time

Legende des Bildungssystems | Key Education System

1. Lehreinleitungsprüfung (LAP) | Apprenticeship examination
2. Prüfung | Diploma examination
3. Abschlussprüfung | Leaving examination
4. Reifeprüfung | Matriculation examination
5. Prüfung/Prüfung und Abschlussprüfung (involving apprenticeship combined with matriculation examination)
6. Berufsausbildung | Vocational training

Berufliche Berufsausbildung | Initial vocational qualification
Allgemeiner Bildungsausbildung | General higher education entrance qualification
Höhere Berufsausbildung | Higher-level vocational qualification
Berufliche Bildung | Vocational education

ISCED = International Standard Classification of Education

* Berufsorientierungs-Jahr | Pre-vocational year
** Bis 2015/16 entwickeln sich alle Hauptschulen zu Neuen Mittelschulen | As of 2015/16, all general secondary schools have been developed into new secondary schools

Stand: Mai 2014
4 out of 5 youngsters are in VET

Distribution of students in year 10 of schooling

- 38% Apprenticeship
- 80% in IVET
- 26% VET Schools
- 16% VET Colleges
- 20% Academic secondary 2
**Apprenticeship: Vocational Schools – Berufsschulen**

- Combination of company-based training and part-time schooling
  → 3,5 – 4 days/week practical company-based training, 1 – 1,5 days/week obligatory attendance of part-time school
- at school: 1/3 general education + 2/3 occupation-related theory
- access requirement(s): completion of compulsory schooling
- duration: 2 to 4 years
- (financial) support for training companies
- ‘simulated company training‘ as an alternative route in case of a lack of apprenticeship placements (→ supra-company apprenticeship training)
- „Lehre mit Matura“ = Berufsrifefprüfung (no fees, combined with apprenticeship training)
VET Schools– BMS Berufsbildende Mittlere Schulen

- Students aged 14 to 18
- 1 to 4 years of full-time schooling and school-based training
- Complete VET for certain occupations
- Thorough general education
- Like BHS offered in various subject areas
- Does not grant access to HE (university)
VET Colleges – BHS Berufsbildende Höhere Schulen

- 5-years full-time, school-based, highly specialised training
- thorough general education
- granting unlimited access to Higher Education
- granting full vocational qualifications and access to regulated professions
- Labour market relevance/job perspectives
  (1950: 10,000 students; 2009/10: 135,533 students)
Strengths of I-VET in Austria

Apprenticeship – Dual System
- combination of company-based training and part-time schooling (Berufsschule)
- has a long tradition in AT
- apprentices get a remuneration, companies train and educate “their” future staff
- permeability to HE increased

VET Schools (BMHS Berufsbildende Mittlere Schulen)
- 1 to 4 years of full-time schooling and school-based training
- complete VET for certain occupations, ~ similar to Apprenticeship
- keeps the young people “in the system”

VET Colleges (BHS Berufsbildende Höhere Schulen)
- 5-years full-time, school-based, highly specialised training with thorough general education
- granting access to Higher Education
- labour market relevance/ job perspectives

+ Training guarantee up to the age of 18 in a supra-company apprenticeship training
Communalities of all VET schools

- Strong relation of theory and practice
- Work based learning (from 80% in the company to an internship)
- General education is important
- Entrepreneurship (50% of entrepreneurs come from the Dual System)
- Large variety and diversity of offers (197 professions in Dual System, 500 curricula in VET schools and colleges!)
Quality Assurance

QIBB

QML

QUALITÄT IN DER LEHRE
SICHERN UND STÄRKEN
Why it works …

- Differentiated VET is attractive for 80% of students in sec. 2 → something for everybody!
- Well-structured apprenticeships integrating school- and work-based learning
- Smooth transitions from education to first employment
- Broad scope of VET: from safety net to high level technical training
- It is a “grown” system – tradition and development
- Wide range of progression routes at various levels – no dead ends and good linkage between VET and tertiary education
- Social partner involvement at all levels (VET policy design, delivery) and a strong and convinced support by the employers/companies
What to avoid

- “only“ learning by working -> has to be more: training and education
- short-term activities to boost employability
- follow only the actual needs of the companies
- fragmentation of training occupations
- imbalances between the social partners
- to appear better „on the costs“ of the other parts of the system (it works because there are different parts and possibilities)
Thank you for your attention!
Time for your questions!?

Dr. Franz Gramlinger
ARQA_VET Austrian Reference Point for Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training
Ebendorferstraße 7
A-1010 Vienna

fg@oead.at

Dr. Christian Dorninger
Mag. Jürgen Horschinegg
Federal Ministry for Education and Women
DG II: VET, Adult Educaiton and School Sports
Minoritenplatz 5
A-1014 Vienna

juergen.horschinegg@bmbf.gv.at