

# young adults



## POLICY MAPPING AND REVIEW 'Back to the Future'

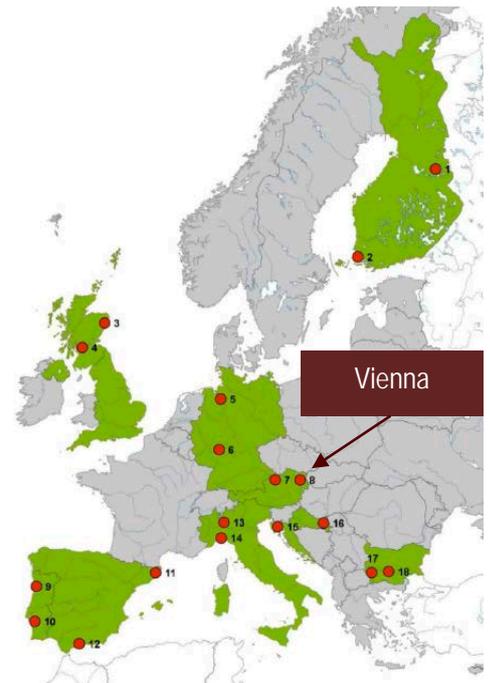
A-V-1

The project YOUNG\_ADULLLT (YA) focuses on lifelong learning (LLL) policies for young adults that address young people, in particular those in situations of near social exclusion. YA enquires into the specific embeddedness of these policies in different regions across the European Union. The point of departure is the assumption that it is by looking into the specific regional and local contexts that policies are best understood and assessed. The project aims both at providing a systematic overview over the highly heterogeneous policies across the participating countries *and* at yielding new knowledge about the specific local/regional forms of embedding LLL policies in the regional economy, the labour market, the education/training systems and the individual life projects of young adults.

On the basis of these conceptual considerations, the project partners selected two regions per country, which were identified as 'contrasting cases' with regard to socioeconomic indicators and/or labour markets and/or infrastructure. The adjacent map shows the selected 18 regions in the nine participating countries of the research project, in which the project partners mapped LLL policies in the education, labour and youth & social policy sectors.

The LLL policy *Back to the Future* aims at reducing the number of young needs-oriented basic subsidy recipients in Vienna by means of transitional employment, coaching, and training

While this **policy brief** provides descriptive key data on the policy, the research project YA critically examines the embeddedness and functioning of the policy in its local/regional context and analyses its impact and implications on the life courses of young adults.



## 'Back to the Future' – What is it about?

START  WORKING

### The challenge on site

Between 2010 and 2015 the number of basic subsidy recipients has risen. Among other factors, one of the reasons for this trend is the massive decline in apprenticeships. Young people face a difficult situation on the labour market. The foci of *Back to the Future* is the sustainable and active integration of young adults into the first labour market and the improvement of their employability by means of intensified coaching, training, and transitional employment.

### Who is the addressee of this policy?

The target group of the project are young Viennese adults aged between 18 and 24 years who are dependent on needs-oriented subsidies and registered at the Employment Service, but have not yet managed to find a job despite participating in trainings and active job search. The underlying assumption of *Back to the Future* is that the target group has individual obstacles regarding labour market integration, which have to be reduced by engaging participants in specific projects.

## What is the policy aiming at?

START  WORKING

- The overall aim of *Back to the Future* is to increase the employability of the project's participants and, as a consequence, to reduce the number of young basic subsidies recipients in Vienna. Therefore, 200 transitional positions in socio-economic employment projects are funded via the initiative.
- The project is conceptualized for young adults who have little work experience, special needs, and experienced obstacles in finding long-term employment. One of the project's aims is to encourage the employment and improvement of already existing skills, to support the acquisition of exploitable skills and to prepare the participants for higher qualified tasks.
- The underlying success criteria of *Back to the Future* is the (re-)integration into the first labour market or in further education and training, respectively.

## How does it work?

START  WORKING

- The Public Employment Service allocates young adults to the initiative. Young adults who are assigned to *Back to the Future* can participate for a maximum duration of two years. The first eight weeks serve as a preparation phase in order to find out more about young adult's individual needs, skills, working experience, and obstacles in finding long-term employment.
- After completing the preparation phase participants take up transitional employment and take over individually suited tasks that vary regarding the difficulty and the working field. Coaching and engagement in additional basic skills are supposed to contribute to the stable working environment and prevent dropouts.
- If, as a result of the preparation phase, the young adult is not deemed suitable for further participation in the initiative, his participation ends up with a written report, which includes recommendations for further steps and which is forwarded to her or his contact person at the PES.
- Young adults benefit from regular social security standards and receive payment according to the sector-specific collective agreements. Young adults are employed via part-time contracts. This allows them to engage in further training and job-seeking activities. The limited duration of their contract should function as an incentive to search for employment on the regular labour market.
- The policy initiative *Back to the Future* is an intersection and a combination of social youth policy and labour market policy. Therefore, a broad network of actors participate in the project.
- The ESF via WAFF, the Viennese PES and the Vienna Municipal Department for Social Affairs fund *Back to the Future*.

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### IMPRESSUM

- For more information on the LLL policy *Back to the Future*, please consult: <http://www.startworking.at/>
- For further information and reading on the LLL policies mapped and analysed in the Young\_Adullt project, please consult the YA project website under: [www.young-adullt.eu](http://www.young-adullt.eu)
- This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 693167 (YOUNG\_ADULLLT)
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- COORDINATOR: Prof. Dr. Marcelo Parreira do Amaral · [parreira@uni-muenster.de](mailto:parreira@uni-muenster.de) · University of Münster (WWU) · Münster, Germany

# young adults



## POLICY MAPPING AND REVIEW 'JUST Integration'

A-V-2

The project **YOUNG\_ADULLLT (YA)** focuses on lifelong learning (LLL) policies for young adults that address young people, in particular those in situations of near social exclusion. YA enquires into the specific embeddedness of these policies in different regions across the European Union. The point of departure is the assumption that it is by looking into the specific regional and local contexts that policies are best understood and assessed. The project aims both at providing a systematic overview over the highly heterogeneous policies across the participating countries *and* at yielding new knowledge about the specific local/regional forms of embedding LLL policies in the regional economy, the labour market, the education/training systems and the individual life projects of young adults.

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The LLL policy **JUST Integration** seeks to assist young people in finding apprenticeship positions and employment and to help companies filling in vacant positions.

While this **policy brief** provides descriptive key data on the policy, the research project YA critically examines the embeddedness and functioning of the policy in its local/regional context and analyses its impact and implications on the life courses of young adults.



## 'JUST Integration' – What is it about?

### The challenge on site

One major challenge is the lack of apprenticeships and job positions for young people with disadvantages. Simultaneously, companies have problems to fill certain vacant job positions. *JUST Integration* targets the mentioned mismatch by easing the transition and providing individual support.

### Who is the addressee of this policy?

The general target group of *JUST Integration* are young adults between 18 and 30 years old from Vienna, who face difficulties entering the labour market due to overlapping disadvantages. A particular target group of this policy are young refugees who have been granted asylum. In general, young adults are eligible for the program if they 1) have tried finding an apprenticeship or regular employment, but have not been successful yet, 2) have not completed an apprenticeship where they acquired skills needed on the labour market or 3) have not obtained a comparable school-leaving qualification.



## What is the policy aiming at?



- Firstly, *JUST Integration* helps young adults to increase their professional qualifications by means of shortened apprenticeships based on previous working experiences, thereby fostering their reintegration into the labour market. Secondly, the policy assists private companies in filling job vacancies that they are not able to fill otherwise.
- Young adults benefit from the support and coaching they get during the apprenticeship. Moreover, the Employment Service and the training company financially cover their basic needs.
- The underlying success criterion is the sustainable integration of the target group into the dual apprenticeship system and, subsequently, into the labour market.

## How does it work?



- If companies have vacancies they are not able to fill they contact *JUST Integration*, which further commissions its regional cooperation partners to evaluate the staff requirement in the company and set up minimum demands for participants. The Employment Service conducts an evaluation of relevant prior knowledge and necessary language skills of suitable candidates. If chosen, an individual training plan and agreement are set up.
- The training starts after the Employment Service has approved the training plan. The intended period for participation of young adults is half the duration of a regular apprenticeship. A six month prolongation is possible for those young adults who seek asylum, who are granted subsidiary protection, or who are treated as justified exceptional cases.
- After completing the apprenticeship participants are supposed to take up regular employment in the training company.
- The acquisition of further qualifications by the participants is also an option. Additional training is funded by the Employment Service and organized by cooperating partners.
- The Austrian Confederation of Trade Unions and the Austrian Chamber of Economy set up the association AUFLEB, which is responsible for the management of the Youth Foundation and the sub-programme *JUST Integration*. Regional cooperation partners (e.g. 'Die Berater' an in-placement foundation in Vienna) implement the policy.

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IMPRESSUM



- For more information on the LLL policy *JUST Integration*, please consult:  
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# young adult



## POLICY MAPPING AND REVIEW

### 'Youth Education Center' - Jugendbildungszentrum

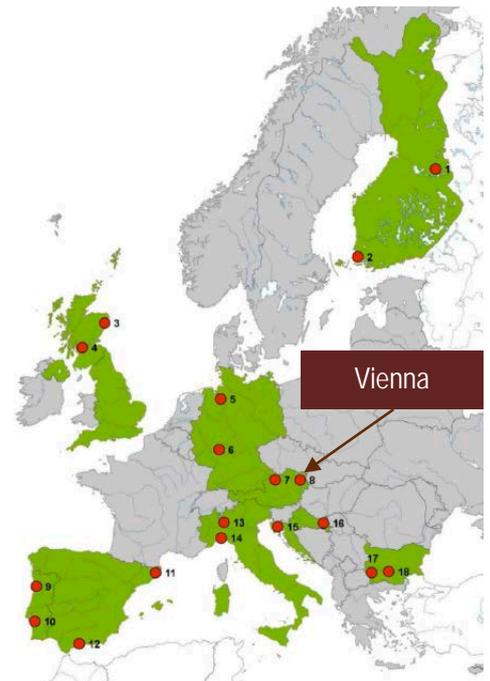
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The LLL policy *Jugendbildungszentrum* or *JUBIZ* aims at increasing the level of basic skills education and the number of young people attaining a compulsory school-leaving certificate.

While this **policy brief** provides descriptive key data on the policy, the research project YA critically examines the embeddedness and functioning of the policy in its local/regional context and analyses its impact and implications on the life courses of young adults.



## 'Youth Education Center' – What is it about?

### The challenge on site

In 2011 and 2012, the percentage of adolescents without a compulsory school-leaving certificate was 3.9 % in Austria. In Vienna – compared to the other federal states – was the highest rate with 5.6 % (Upper Austria: 3.5 %). This means that every year around 3.000 youngsters leave the education system without attaining a certificate. Since a lack in formal educational attainments is strongly connected with a lack of skills and, consequently, with lower chances on the labour market, *JUBIZ* tries to help and actively decrease the risk of unemployment and social exclusion for young adults.

### Who is the addressee of this policy?

The targeted group of *JUBIZ* consist of young adults from Vienna between 15 and 25 years old who lack basic skills and did not graduate from lower secondary school. Therefore, they have not received a compulsory school-leaving certificate and cannot continue their education.

## What is the policy aiming at?

- The main objective of **JUBIZ** is to increase the level of basic skills and the number of young people attaining a compulsory school-leaving certificate.
- In general, **JUBIZ** aims at supporting, counselling, and coaching adolescents and young adults in the integration or re-integration into the Austrian education or training system, so that they can learn to read, write in German, and receive a basic education. Learning the German language is essential in the preparation for the compulsory school-leaving certificate, planning of their further education, training or professional career, and an acquisition of key qualifications.
- The underlying success criteria is the successful completion of basic education and language courses, as well as the attainment of compulsory school leaving certificate for as many young adults as possible.

## How does it work?

- Young adults interested in participating in the courses offered begin with a counselling interview and are assigned to a suitable course subsequently.
- **JUBIZ** adopts an integrated approach to support learning and transitions in the field of basic education and the obtainment of compulsory school leaving certificates. The two main branches of the **JUBIZ** are counselling and training. Participation in the courses is framed by various professional coaching offers, general guidance, and support by social workers.
- Within the field of training **JUBIZ** offers various courses that prepare – on different levels – for the attainment of a compulsory school-leaving certificate. According to their needs, young people may participate in sequential training courses, specifically combined: basic language course, general basic education (German, Math, ICT...), bridging courses, and targeted preparatory courses for obtaining a school-leaving certificate.
- The novelty about the initiative in the Austrian context is that its realization allows for a consistent implementation of quality guidelines in the field of basic training skills and non-formal lower secondary education throughout Austria. Besides this, all courses are free of charge.
- **JUBIZ** was funded by the Austrian Initiative for Adult Education that was founded as a cooperation between all Austrian federal states and the Federal Ministry of Education in 2012. The policy *Jugendbildungszentrum* is an educational policy. Ran by only one institution, it shows a high level of “concreteness” and specificity.

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### SOURCES

- For more information on the LLL policy *Jugendbildungszentrum*, please consult: <http://www.vhs.at/16-vhs-ottakring/jubiz/infos.html>
- For further information and reading on the LLL policies mapped and analysed in the Young\_Adult project, please consult the YA project website under: [www.young-adult.eu](http://www.young-adult.eu)
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