

**Regional Bureau of the Federal Office for Social Affairs,
Province of Styria**

Youth Coaching Programs in Styria – actual challenges and successful support

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Madrid, 10. September 2015



Austria : 8.6 million inhabitants
Styria : 1.2 million inhabitants



The Austrian way to bring young people with „special needs“ from school to work:

**Programs of the Austrian government
especially for **young people**
to have better chances on the labour market.**



Youth Coaching



Job Coaching

Production School



Vocational Training Assistance

Work Assistance

Youth Coaching – Main Target Group

- Students completing their 9th year of compulsory school and older students
- Young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities up to the age of 24 years
- **Young people „outside the system“ (NEET) up to the age of 19 (not in education, employment or training)**
In Austria: ca. 75.000 people / Styria ca. 7000



The Activities and Goals of Youth Coaching



- To provide individual support until the young person is integrated into the educational system or into the labour market
- To provide support in case of problems, especially those problems that might hinder girls and boys to focus on training and education
- To re-integrate young people who dropped out of the (vocational) educational system and/or elaborate realistic prospects for work life
- To identify gaps and needs for follow-up programs after youth coaching

NEETS

Questions – Difficulties – Problems – Challenges:

- Where are these young people?
- How can we reach these young people?
- What are the needs of these young people?
- What inputs are necessary to get these young people employed or back to school?



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Pilot Projects in Styria to reach NEETS

- Youth Coaching in youth centers



- Youth Coaching in a project where young people work for as many hours as they want, and get a bit of money which is paid every day

- Youth Coaching in prison



Youth Coaching in Youth Centers

- Coach is present one day every week for about 2 hours (always on **the same day, same time** – young people know this!!)
- Young people are talking with the coaches about their problems and trust to the coach is built up.
- Discussions become more intense and some young men and women bring their friends with the same problems to the youth center.

Trust takes time!

- We started in **2013** with about **15** girls and boys, today we have reached **50 young people** – some of them started an apprenticeship, went back to school, started to work, ...

Youth Coaching in the Working Project

- Young people who urgently need money (e.g. for food, for drugs,) come to work in this project. They are for example sewing bags, working in a little cafe, etc.

and they get their money on each day.



- Coaches continuously visit the project and contact the girls and boys.
- The most important thing is to work together!

Youth Coaching in Prison

- **Started in 2013**
- **The coach visits the youth prison once a month.**
- **About 3 months before leaving the prison the young men can perform vocational planning with the coach and arrange appointments e.g. with the job center, work assistance or other projects.....**
- **Since start (2 years ago) 8 participants**



Experiences with NEETs Projects

- **Working together with all stakeholders is very important and necessary**
- **Patience: It takes time to build up trust**
- **Projects with chance to work only few hours per day und get money on each day**
- **Unfortunately, often follow-up opportunities and offers are missing**

Numbers & Facts from Youth Coaching in Styria in 2014



- **54 persons are active as youth coaches (43 full time) in Styria**
- **5506 young people were working with Youth Coaching in 2014–
2225 girls (40%) and 3281 (60%) boys**
- **Most of the supported young people are between 14 and 17 years old**
- **17% of participants have been NEETs (ca 900)**
- **44 persons dropped out of the program – drop out rate approx. 1.5 % (82)**



Thank you for your attention!
Gracias por su atencion!
Adios