

## Austria - Climate Protection Training Centre

<b>Title of inspiring practice</b>	Climate Protection Training Centre (" <i>Klimaschutzausbildungszentrum</i> ")
<b>Geographical area</b>	Region of Lower Austria, at regional level.
<b>Period of implementation</b>	The project started in September 2022.
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>The Climate Protection Competence Centre is a joint measure of the Public Employment Service Austria (AMS) and the BFI (The Vocational Training Institute (Berufsförderungsinstitut, BFI, employees' side) is the CVET institution of the Chambers of Labour and of the Austrian Trade Union Federation) that aims at covering for the need of the regional economy for skilled workers in the field of green jobs. All areas of vocational training are covered, from I-VET to upskilling and reskilling measures.</p> <p>This initiative is an example useful to others because it is an almost ideal pre-requisite to retrain job seekers who may no longer have the skills required by the labour market for a segment where there is a high demand for skilled workers.</p>
<b>Scope of the practice</b>	Initial Vocational Education and Training, Continued Vocational Education and Training, apprenticeship
<b>Educational level</b>	EQF 4
<b>Introduction and context</b>	<p>The main stakeholders involved in the initiative are the BFI Lower Austria (VET provider) and the AMS – Public Employment Service Austria (national agency).</p> <p>The driver of the initiative was the covering for the need of the regional economy for skilled workers in the field of green jobs.</p> <p>The practice targets students at vocational schools and colleges, apprentices, job seekers, companies that want to train their workforce, individual training of employees.</p>
<b>Key activities and outcomes</b>	<p>BFI Lower Austria is building an innovative training project for alternative energies and energy-efficient use of energy at the BBZ Waldviertel on behalf of AMS.</p> <p>Through cooperation with renowned manufacturers, energy suppliers, trade associations, schools and universities, a competence centre for all questions on climate protection is being created here.</p> <p>This makes the "Climate Protection Training Centre" at the Sigmundsherberg site the first of its kind in Austria.</p> <p>The focus will be on education and training in the areas of innovative training projects for alternative energies and its efficient use, overall energy efficiency and "green jobs".</p> <p>As part of the initiative, an individual training plan is expected to be drawn up for each participant, taking into account existing qualifications and professional experience. 50% of the places are expected to be reserved to women and an overnight accommodation will be offered to participants.</p> <p>In addition to training job seekers from Lower Austria, the Public Employment Service is expected to cooperate with other provincial partners from the fields of environment, waste management and water use, to offer companies training places to their employees. One of these partners is for instance EVN (Electrical Energy Supplier), which will support the new centre with know-how.</p> <p>An information point is also expected to be installed on the site, which will be accessible to companies, schools and private individuals. This will make the centre an "information hub on issues of climate protection, sustainability and the energy industry for the general public", reports AMS expert Martina Kaschütz.</p>

	<p>In the near future, the provider and the partners of the programme find a way to evaluate the outcomes of the programme to have clear feedback on whether the initiative achieved its key objectives.</p> <p>The key factor contributing to the success of the initiative will be the offer of the programme, which will match the demand of the labour market.</p>
<b>Contacts and sources</b>	Berufsförderungsinstitut Niederösterreich <a href="https://www.bfinoe.at/">https://www.bfinoe.at/</a>
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