

## Austria - Photovoltaic Academy

<b>Title of inspiring practice</b>	Photovoltaic Academy (" <i>Photovoltaik Praktiker Ausbildung</i> ")
<b>Geographical area</b>	Region of Lower Austria, at regional level.
<b>Period of implementation</b>	<p>The project started in September 2022.</p> <p>There is no end-year intended and the project will run as long as the project partners agree. The academy is already running, but some revisions and changes might be necessary in future.</p>
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>The Photovoltaic Academy is a good example of how to combat the shortage of skilled workers in the field of green skills in the short term. It is based on a public-private partnership contract and is an integrative project involving social partners as well as companies. The training aims at all phases of vocational training and can be completed as part of IVET (technical schools and colleges, apprenticeship training) as well as in CVET training.</p>
<b>Scope of the practice</b>	IVET, CVET, Apprenticeship training
<b>Educational level</b>	EQF 4 - 5
<b>Introduction and context</b>	<p>The key stakeholders involved in the initiative are the Education Directorate of Lower Austria and HTC Hollabrunn as government bodies; the Chamber of Commerce and Guild for Electrical engineering as social partners; the interested and concerned enterprises as representatives of the civil society; VET Providers: WIFI NÖ as VET providers.</p> <p>The high demand for skilled workers in the field of photovoltaics is among the main drivers of this initiative. The HTC in Hollabrunn has been a partner of industry in photovoltaics for several years and therefore has highly professional teachers and suitable teaching equipment. The school thus has ideal prerequisites for more intensive cooperation with industry. This measure has the specific goal of using the existing resources and knowledge through this project. The joint action of stakeholders in the field of vocational training is key to achieve the greatest possible effectiveness.</p> <p>The initiative also aims at contributing to the achievement of the climate goals by 2030 through the promotion of photovoltaics in Lower Austria. The target groups are students from technical schools, apprentices and skilled workers.</p> <p>The funding for this project comes from a public-private partnership.</p>
<b>Key activities and outcomes</b>	<p>The HTC in Hollabrunn has been a partner of industry in photovoltaics for several years and therefore has highly professional teachers and suitable teaching equipment. The school thus has ideal prerequisites for more intensive cooperation with the photovoltaic industry.</p> <p>The special training in the field of photovoltaics consist of several modules of about 24-48 teaching units depending on the module.</p> <p>The objective of the "Module Theory" is of teaching the basics, required components, correct selection of components, safety behaviour, design of the substructure, and of correcting stringing of the modules.</p> <p>The goal of the "Module Practical day" is to teach the most common on-roof and flat-roof installations, as well as troubleshooting.</p> <p>The purpose of the "Add-on module - storage systems" is teaching the theory and practice of the functioning of storage systems (battery), their application and installation.</p> <p>Training takes place on the latest products from the manufacturers (among them are Fronius, BYD, Huawei and SMA...).</p>

	<p>As some modules have been carried out, participants as well as industry partners and the school were very satisfied with the results. An in-depth evaluation is not planned.</p> <p>The major obstacle encountered by this initiative was financing but that was solved.</p> <p>The Austrian economy, pushed by national and local companies, has a high demand of skilled workers in the field of photovoltaics. The initiative successfully contributes to addressing the high demand of skilled workers in the field of photovoltaics. This demand is pushed by national and local companies operating in the Austria economy.</p>
<b>Contacts and sources</b>	<p>Technical College in Hollabrunn</p> <p>Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research</p>
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