Factsheet: Austria

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

According to the Ministry for Economy, Family and Youth, there are various definitions of youth in use: Austria's youth strategy targets 14-24 year olds, while the youth promotion act defines youth as those under 30 years old.

CANDIDACY AGE

Lower House 18
Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

Upper House 18
Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union
Entirely indirectly elected

MARRIAGEABLE AGE

Opposite Sex WITH PARENTAL CONSENT

Male 18 16 ++
Female 18 16 ++
Persons under 18 years need court approval before they may marry.
Civil unions/partnerships legal. Source: UNSD, ILGA

SAME SEX

Male 18 16 ++
Female 18 16 ++

VOTING AGE

16
Compulsory voting. Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

MAJORITY AGE

18
Source: Austrian Civil Code (2001)

CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

14
Minimum Age
Source: Civil Code of Austria (2001)

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

0.77
13 out of 170 countries.
Year: 2013
Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

LITERACY RATES

Both sexes (15-24) %
No data. Source: UNESCO

NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School
No data. Source: UNESCO

PREVALENCE OF HIV

No data. Source: World Bank

TOBACCO USE

Consumed any smokeless or smoking tobacco product at least once 30 days prior to the survey.
No data. Source: WHO

POLICY & LEGISLATION

Austria's Youth Strategy (2013) aims to 'strengthen and develop youth policy' throughout the country:

The goal of this strategy is to bring together policies and measures for young people, to make them systematic and to optimise their effectiveness. It also aims to discover new fields of action and cooperation, to make new calls for action and to support these with concrete measures that can be readily implemented.

The Strategy defines eight fields of action, namely education and training, employment and entrepreneurship, voluntary work, health and well-being, youth in the world, creativity and culture, social inclusion, and participation. These eight fields of

BUDGET & SPENDING

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or
action are complemented by strategic framework objectives.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Owing to Austria’s federal structure, the Austrian federal government shares the responsibility for youth policy with the nine provinces. At provincial level, the states maintain youth departments (Landesjugendreferate) in their respective governments. At federal level, the Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth is currently responsible for youth policy. Within the Ministry, a unit exists for youth policy, and a new Youth Competence Centre was established in 2013 to coordinate the development and implementation of the new Youth Strategy.

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

The Austrian National Youth Council (BJV) is the federal umbrella association of youth organisation in Austria. Its aim is to represent the political, social, economic and cultural interests of young people and voice their concerns and demands towards policy and decision-makers at all levels, the media and the public.

Originally established in 1953, it underwent a major reform in 2001 through the Federal Youth Representation Act (2001), making it the legal representative of young people in Austria with rights similar to trade unions. It is a full member of the European Youth Forum.

BUDGET & SPENDING

According to the federal budget of Austria, in 2013 the government spent EUR 9.2 million specifically on youth policy measures. Comparisons to previous years are impossible due to a fundamental change in how the federal budget is designed. Moreover, it is unknown how much the nine provinces spent on youth policy through their provincial governments. According to the World Bank, Austria spent 11.22% of its government expenditure and 5.89% of its GDP on education provision in 2010.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP

% of GDP | % of govt expenditure
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Source: World Bank
Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

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