



Austria

Territorial Employment Pacts

Framework and setting

Geographic scale Territorial Employment Pacts (TEPs) are established in all nine Austrian Federal Provinces (Austria's population is approx. 8,000,000). Additionally, some TEPs have been set up at local level (NUTS III).

Policy framework TEPs contribute to the realisation of the objectives laid down in the National Action Plan for Employment (NAP) and are in line with the European Employment Strategy. They are implemented under the Austrian Objective 3 Programme 2000-2006 / priority 6 / European Social Fund – ESF (acronym: O3) which aims to establish TEPs in all Provinces.

Partnerships at work

Rationale Austrian labour market and employment policy is confronted with particular challenges that cannot be met by individual institutions acting alone, such as the concentration of unemployment within certain groups or gender segregation in the labour market. The NAP integrates the aims of employment policy (especially economic and structural policy), with educational policy and regional policy. The TEPs provide the institutional framework for the delivery of the NAP, supporting joint working at the regional level to secure and create jobs.

Objectives TEPs are contracted at the regional level to better link employment policy with other policies and thereby improve the local and regional employment situation. In co-operating as partners, the specific aims of the TEPs are to increase effectiveness and efficiency in the use of resources, to improve the quality of support given to certain target groups, to secure and create jobs, to obtain funding for the region and to ensure sustainability.

Functions The partnerships develop regional strategies with respect to employment policies. They identify local and regional issues, develop ideas and strategies and implement measures according to their objectives. All partners are involved in conceiving agreeing upon and implementing a work programme.

Policy areas Labour market and employment policy (in co-ordination with other policies, such as regional development policies)

Policy tools/ Instruments The TEPs use a huge variety of different measures and instruments to address regional and local issues. Instruments include, for example, implacement foundations (Arbeitsstiftungen), qualification and training measures, social enterprises, counselling facilities, business start-ups and other innovative projects.

Timeframe In 1997, the EU-pilot programme to support Territorial Employment Pacts (1997-2000) supported the development of a number of TEPs in Austria. During the current ESF programming period (2000 and 2006), TEPs have been established in all Austrian Provinces supported by the Objective 3 programme.

Partners Provincial Governments, Regional Labour Market Services, Federal Office of Social Affairs, Economic Chamber, Chamber of Labour, Federation of Trade Unions, Federation of Industry, Association of Municipalities, Provincial Chamber of Agriculture, Provincial School Board, gender mainstreaming experts, representatives of employees, representatives of employers, representatives of regional Non-Profit-Organisations, Regional Management Associations.

Contracts The contracting partners vary in each TEP but include the Provincial Government, Labour Market Service, Federal Office of Social Affairs and the social partners. Most partners establish their contracts for a period of one to three years.

Legal status None

Sources of Financing The TEPs' measures are funded by financial contributions of the contracting partners, which amounted to approx. EUR 500,000,000 in 2004. For the regional and local co-

ordination of each TEP additional funding of approx. EUR 200,000 p.a. is applied for from the Austrian Objective 3 (co-financed by the ESF with 46% and 54% by the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Labour).

Results TEPs lead to positive results in terms of improving cooperation and partnership working, as well as in terms of improving the implementation of policy measures. The Austrian evaluation of TEPs (2003) has shown that the TEPs have increased the efficiency and effectiveness of the regional approach to active labour market policy, supporting the integration of unemployed persons into the labour market and raising employability. In addition, the partnership approach has indirectly affected the way a number of policies are carried out in the region. Mainstreaming equal opportunities in the design of policies is an additional result.

Partnerships' highlight

Programme/Project Nationwide TEP-Consolidation Process, so-called "STEPS"

Timeframe 2004 – 2005

Objectives The objectives of the TEP-Consolidation Process "STEPS" are to implement the recommendations of the evaluation of the TEPs in order to further strengthen and develop the TEPs concept, to ensure TEPs function effectively, and to secure continuity beyond the funding period 2000 – 2006.

Activities The STEPs process focuses on organisational development in order to further strengthen the structure, effectiveness and efficiency of the partnerships. In the course of the process each partnership reflects on its overall function, clarifies its obligations and its limits, defines responsibilities and restrictions, develops a structured documentation of activities to specify the added value (e.g. in terms of provision of services and outputs) and improves its self-assessment mechanisms. The process is accompanied by four workshops and a virtual Internet platform. The workshops provide a forum for the exchange of information and know-how, reflection on progress and learning from each other. The virtual Internet platform was built to support ongoing communication and to document and exchange information on the achievement of TEP milestones and the overall process.

Results In the meantime the TEPs have clarified their key functions, a new documentation system has been set up and a self-assessment tool developed (intermediate results). The expected final result is the further development and the consolidation of the TEPs. In 2006, a "process handbook" will be published consisting of the documentation of the milestones achieved via the consolidation process.

Contacts

Partnership co-ordination on national / sub-regional level

The Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Labour commissioned the establishing of a Co-ordination Unit (Kooo) for the entire country at the Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI) in 1999. The Kooo supports the various projects carried out by the Austrian Employment Pacts and its partner institutions by way of information exchange, strategic co-ordination and joint activities. Kooo at the Centre for Social Innovation, 1150 Vienna, Linke Wienzeile 246, Austria, Anette Scoppetta, Tel.: +43 / 1 / 495 04 42 - 58, Fax: +43 / 1 / 495 04 42-40, e-mail: kooo@zsi.at, <http://www.pakte.at> and <http://www.zsi.at>

Partnership co-ordinators on regional / local level

There are nine Pact co-ordinations on regional level and several on local levels (NUTS III) supported by O3:

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