

Migrant Education in Austria Pointers for policy development

SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES FOR MIGRANT EDUCATION

- Around 16% of students in Austria speak a language other than German.
- Immigrant students read less well than native students in primary school and by age 15, only one quarter of immigrant students reach the OECD average in reading: second-generation immigrants (*i.e.* those born in Austria) perform even worse than first-generation students.
- Immigrant students are more likely to go to general (*Hauptschule*) than academic (*Gymnasium*) secondary schools at age 10. This sorting into different school types may occur before many immigrant students have sufficiently developed their skills and may exacerbate the concentration of immigrant students in some schools.
- Austria has already introduced measures to promote equity in education and support the language development of immigrant students both in German and in their mother tongue.

POLICIES TO IMPROVE MIGRANT EDUCATION OUTCOMES

- Improve quality of the educational and language support offer in early childhood education and care (ECEC) and encourage participation of immigrant children at early ages.
- Strengthen and structure language support offered in compulsory education and mainstream language support across all school subjects.
- Provide diversity training to both teachers and school leaders and in particular, in-service training for current teachers and school leaders.
- Reinforce co-operation between schools and immigrant parents and communities and provide additional learning opportunities outside regular half-day school.
- Clarify responsibilities for implementation of national strategies and ensure that different levels of education co-operate to provide consistent support.
- Make the education system more inclusive by overcoming the early sorting of students and reducing the concentration of immigrants in certain school types.
- Develop the evaluation culture to monitor student progress and the effectiveness of support policies.

FURTHER READING

These pointers for policy development are drawn from the Policy Review of Migrant Education for Austria (www.oecd.org/edu/migration/countrynotes). The policy review in Austria was carried out within the framework of the OECD Reviews of Migrant Education. The overall findings of this review are presented in *Closing the Gap for Immigrant Students: Policies, Practice and Performance*, published in April 2010. Policy reviews in 6 countries (Austria, Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden), background reports prepared by 12 countries and other documents of the review are also available on the OECD website www.oecd.org/edu/migration.