

Arbeitswelt & Schule | The World of Work & School programme

Austria

www.arbeitsweltundschule.at

[Politische Bildung | Arbeiterkammer Wien](#)

DESCRIPTION

Within the "World of Work & School" programme, the **Chamber of Labor offers workshops for school learners and apprentices to learn how to make their voices heard and to discover the real world of politics.**

The activity, which is both VET school-based or enterprise-based, is often carried out in a dedicated workshop centre. It began over 40 years ago and has gradually expanded to reach around **20,000 students in Vienna every year.** The programme ranges from 2-hour school workshops to 5-hour simulation games and application training, with the goal of **promoting political maturity, teaching to stand up for one's interests, strengthening self-efficacy as well as career orientation and self-confidence,** while also **teaching democratic political skills.**

A strong democracy needs in fact people who confidently demand their rights and can make their interests heard politically. Young people should be able to **recognise connections and critically question existing systems.** They should understand that the current economic and social system is not natural or inevitable but can be changed and should therefore be encouraged to actively shape our economy and society.

Among the offered workshops:

- **Together we are strong (2h)**

It focuses on the development of the **trade union movement and social partnerships.** In a role play, students work in a ship factory and learn how to organise themselves for common goals. They develop an understanding of why workers have joined forces and founded unions and how this is connected to the changes in their working and living conditions.

- **Democracy & Participation (3h)**

The workshop aims to find answers to questions such as "How do democracy and politics affect my life?" "What forms of participation are there?" "What contribution can I make to social development?" "Is democracy in danger?". In addition to exploring the **negotiation process between different and clashing interests in politics,** young people also reflect on **tendencies that threaten democracy** and consider **strategies to counteract them.**