

The role of Social Partners within democratic culture for apprentices

Austria

<https://www.oegb.at/betriebsraete/arbeitnehmerinnenvertretung/jugendvertrauensrat>

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DESCRIPTION

Legal initiatives like **Jugendvertrauensräte (Youth Trust Councils)** are designed to encourage active participation among apprentices. While these councils are a legal initiative, a great impact comes from the involvement of social partners, particularly trade unions, which play a crucial role in promoting and teaching a culture of democracy.

In particular, the democratic understanding of apprentices is strongly promoted with the goal of empowering them to **fight for their own rights and to stand up for the interests and rights of their peer-group**. This initiative supports them in building an understanding of principles and processes like **co-determination and participation as well as formation of opinion, elections, compromises, and solution-finding**.

Additionally, at the **Chamber of Labour** (“*Arbeiterkammern*”), **workshops** are offered for schools on **democratic themes and topics**. These workshops are also offered to apprentices from part-time vocational schools.

Among the workshops offered:

- **workshops on trade unions and social partners**; these workshops help the apprentices see the connection between the topics and their own work life;
- **workshops concerning politics and democracy**; these workshops focus on the way students can participate in and contribute to political and socially developments.