

## Civic Education Lessons for apprentices at Austrian Federal Railways

### Austria

#### DESCRIPTION

At Austrian Federal Railways, around **2.000 apprentices attend civic education lessons** (*“Staatsbürgerkunde Unterricht”*) at their worksite during working hours, at least **twice a year**. The classes are organised by members of the works council with the support of the management and training instructors, and in cooperation with youth representatives, the trade union, and the Austrian Chamber of Labour.

The aim of this initiative is to **promote democratic competences and general education**, as well as to **introduce apprentices to the system of their interest representation** (works council, trade unions, the Chamber of Labour).

Among the topics covered: **apprentices’ rights and duties, mobbing and discrimination, diversity, right-wing extremism, fake news, and media literacy**. Practical issues concerning **financial education, consumer protection, and preparing for one’s first apartment** are also discussed. Certain topics are scheduled for each year of apprenticeship, but in coordination with local trainers and supervisors, the focus can be adapted. These civic education lessons have been an undisputed common practice on a partnership basis at Austrian Federal Railways for decades.