

Civic Education as compulsory subject at part-time Vocational Schools

Austria

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DESCRIPTION

In Austria, **civic education** (*Politische Bildung*) exists as a **separate compulsory subject only in part-time vocational schools**. It was introduced in 1976, with the current curriculum implemented since 2016. Civic education comprises 80 lessons delivered throughout apprenticeship (2 – 4 years). In other school types, including full-time vocational schools, civic education is either integrated into subjects like history or is only established as a principle of teaching.

The curriculum includes **three areas of competences**:

- **Working and Learning**
- **Living in Society**
- **Participating in Society**

The didactic principles of the curriculum emphasise the identification with democracy, human rights and constitutionality.

Raising awareness of politics and promoting the skills to be able to take part in democratic society are essential goals. Civic education, as a compulsory subject for all apprentices, offer significant opportunities for implementing Competences for Democratic Culture. However, there is a gap between the formal establishment of civic education and its actual importance in the apprenticeship training. **Further development** of civic education at vocational schools is required to **address current challenges in democratic societies**.