

# National Strategy: Trust in Science and Democracy

## Austria

[Wissenschafts- und Demokratievermittlung , Bildungsdirektion Vorarlberg](#)

### DESCRIPTION

In 2022, the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research developed a **comprehensive national strategy for “Trust in Science and Democracy”**. This strategy covers all sectors of the education, including VET, and it aims to **combat scepticism towards science and democracy**, as these two factors are seen as inextricably **linked with, for example, conspiracy theories and fake news, threatening to destabilise democratic processes**.

The strategy outlines **10 points for action**:

1. Carry out an **extensive study on the roots of scepticism** towards science and democracy in Austria to identify possible future areas of intervention;
2. Establish a **central office to coordinate efforts** in cooperation with the Austrian Agency for Education and Internationalisation (OEAD);
3. Create a **database of tools and science and democracy education opportunities** that school can access (at present – 2023 – the database contains over 500 entries).
4. Expand and strengthen **cooperation between schools and scientific and democratic institutions** (universities, research institutions, Parliament, courts of law, memorial sites ...);
5. Develop a **national network of key contacts for science and democracy education** in schools through conferences and seminars;
6. Establish a **group of science and democracy ambassadors who can reach out to young people**;
7. Incorporate **science and democracy training in teacher training**;
8. Embed **science and democracy education more firmly in all curricula**;
9. Provide **incentives for researchers to become more involved in science and democracy education**;
10. Strengthen **communication and media skills in schools** in cooperation with communication experts, especially in the field of social media.