

Participation Opportunities in VET schools and enterprises

Austria

DESCRIPTION

Since 1981, initiatives have been implemented to **encourage the active participation of students and apprentices.**

In particular:

- **Participation in school:** Pupils of VET schools and colleges can **participate in decisions regarding the school** through the *Schulgemeinschaftsausschuss* (“**School community committee**”), which consists of 3 teachers, 3 parents and 3 pupils, referred as the *Schulsprecher/innen* (“pupils’ representatives”). The school community committee is involved, for example, in **school events and in school autonomous curricula regulations**. There is also a “**Federal Student Council**” (*Bundesschülervertretung*), **representing pupils in negotiations with political authorities and other bodies.**
- **Participation within in-company training:** Apprentices are represented by the *Jugendvertrauensräte* (“**Youth Trust Councils**”), which are **compulsory in companies with at least 5 permanent young workers**. The Youth Trust Council **represents the economic, health-wise and cultural interests of young workers and especially of apprentices**. It also ensures the compliance with the legal guidelines of the employment treaty. Moreover, it brings in **proposals for vocational and further education within the company**. Evaluations have showed that companies with Youth Trust Councils report higher level of satisfaction among apprentices regarding their training.