

Political Education within Higher Vocational Colleges

Austria

www.bmb.gv.at

DESCRIPTION

Political education has been introduced in 2nd to 5th years of Higher Vocational Colleges. The aim is to **equip students with competences needed to understand democracy, develop discourse ability, and take responsibility in a modern and complex world.**

Democracy in the curriculum is seen as a form of life and culture, while responsible acting and independent thinking are the foundation for an active society. Modern teaching methods are necessary for fostering democratic social participation: **game-based learning, entrepreneurial learning or debating clubs.**

The objectives for these competences are determined through a process involving teachers and university experts. The curricula are divided in six learning areas, each associated with specific competencies.

The **focus is on the relation to the present and future, relation to the world of life, process orientation, problem-solving, multi-perspectivity, scientific orientation and discussion culture.**

Additionally, within “training companies”, **teamwork, leadership functions and responsible handling of (political) power and force** are key topics and they are intensively studied.

The aim of the initiative is to ensure students can **describe the essential elements of democracy, compare different political systems, and critically evaluate political ideologies.** They can **recognise totalitarian systems and argue against them.** They can **develop strategies for active participation in society and act responsible.** They can **engage in profound discussions and analyse different world orders.**