

Youth Policy in Austria

a short outline



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PREFACE

„We live in a period, in which many fields of living change rapidly. We want to design this change together with the young generation. Only by such ways we can make our society sustainable. Young people must be encouraged in their evolvement and must be supported in their scheme of life. But we must also demand them, to shape their future self dependent and self confident.

The objectives of the Austrian youth policy lie therefore primarily in providing (knowledge) tools for an independent and self dependent life to the youth, without patronizing them. Youth policy has to be versatile and open, it should not regulate, but it should set goals, moderate and back up.

Building on the previous arrangements, youth policy has to be pinned as a cross sectional matter and the requests and concerns of the youth have to be considered stronger in all political fields. Young persons are not only an aim for concrete measures of youth policy, they are citizens concerned by social, political and economical questions.

An effective democracy needs participation and cooperation as well as dedicated people and a framework that enables this commitment. The cooperation of all is the precondition for a trendsetting youth policy in Austria.”

Yours

Dr. Reinhold Mitterlehner
Federal Minister of Economy,
Family and Youth

Christine Marek
State Secretary in the Federal Ministry
of Economy, Family and Youth

Youth Policy in Austria

The children- and youth policy in Austria is a cross-, longtime- and future challenge. It interferes into all political areas in the interest of the young generation.

Children and young people are self-contained personalities with manifold skills. They have own rights and are in many aspects their own experts. To enhance their personality development and the individual encouragement – this are the ambitions of all measures of the Federal Government concerning children and young persons. The different circumstances of children and young people and their individual needs stand in the focus thereby.

All children and young people should have even chances from the start, to develop their manifold abilities and talents. It's a matter of reliable and competent backing of all children, which are born into this society. And it is a matter of the joint future, of the chances for the whole country.

The demographic change requires that all political measures have to be detected on the fact, if they cope with the interests and developments of the coming generations. This is the case, if they serve the benefit of children and young people and if they charge and enhance the coherence of the whole society.

Facts about Austria's young people (Source: Statistik Austria)

Demography 2007		
Adolescents	Women	Men
15 to 19 years	242,860	255,251
20 to 24 years	258,818	263,991
24 to 29 years	265,787	270,481
Total 15 to 29 years	767,465	789,723

According to the yearly average of 2007, Austria had a population of 8,315,379. 854,752 are not in possession of Austrian Citizenship, therefore 10,2% are of foreign origin.

1,286,156 (=15,47%) of the population are children under the age of 15. 62,3% of the population is between 15 and 60 years old and therefore potentially employable. 22% of the population have reached the retirement age of 60 and over. 18,7% are young people between the ages of 15 and 29 years.

According to the findings of the current prognosis of Statistik Austria the population of Austria will go on growing strongly in the future, in fact up to 9,52 millions in the year of 2050. The age pattern moves explicitly to the older people. Are there 22% of the population in the age of 60 or more at the moment, so it will be about 26% in a middle term (2020) and in a long-term view (ca. from 2030 on) even more than 30%.

Education (Source: Statistik Austria)

In Austria too, more and more young people seek further education. In 1971, only four out of ten 20 to 24 year olds had attained a compulsory school leaving certificate.

According to the yearly average of 2005, the educational level* of young people in Austria stood at 85.9% (EU-15: 74.6% ; EU-27: 77.4%).

In total around 438,000 young people had completed their secondary education, of which 213,000 were men and 225,000 young women.

In 2006 the proportion of school drop-outs was 9.6% (EU-15: 17%; EU-27: 15.4%).

Therefore approximately 65,700 people in Austria have no certificate of further education, 31,500 of which are young men and 34,200 young women.

* The educational level measures the amount of people from the ages of 20 to 24 years old who are in possession of at least a secondary leaving certificate, in relation to the total population of the same age group

The expansion of education and training in the last decades, by whom the number of persons with only compulsory school certificate was considerably reduced, affected women more than men and allowed a remarkable process of catching-up. If one regards the whole population in the age of over 15, this effect is only visible in a diminished way, because the older generation was not effected of this expansion of the last 40 years. The fractions of the women with graduation from apprenticeship training and graduation from a vocational school have doubled, those with Matura (without university de-

gree) have tripled and those with university graduation have increased ten-fold.

Women dominate with 68% the category of the middle vocational graduations and have reached a "draw" to men with Matura and university graduation. However, the complete absence of a continuative school graduation after the compulsory school is with 34% at women still explicitly more common as at men (21%), because the latter have finished an apprenticeship together with a vocational school far more often (46%) than women (26%).

Apprenticeship-education in Austria (Source: BMWA)

In November 2008 the amount of apprenticeship-seekers has increased by comparison to November 2007 by plus 535 (+9,7% onto 6.075). At the registered open apprenticeship-places there was a decline of minus 330 or 10,2% onto 2.893.

The gap of the apprenticeship-places lies per the end of November 2008 at 3.182 and therefore with plus 865 or 37,3% over the data of November 2007. By appointment of the BMWA ninethousand apprenticeship places for young people, who can't find an adequate possibility, were provided in 2007. Moreover those places, which are created by companies additionally, are funded within the so called "Blum-Bonus" with a fixed subvention to the costs of the training. Mainly because of this initiative, established in autumn 2005, the amount of apprentices rises considerably again for the first time since the end of the 90s. At the end of 2007 129.823 trainees were in occupation – that complies to an increase of tightly 4.000 trainees or plus 3,1% compared to the preceding year.

Employment situation (Source: Statistik Austria and BMWA)

According to the yearly average of 2007, following the definition of Eurostat, 4,028.000 people were currently employed. The employment rate for the economically active population (people between the ages of 15 and 64 years.) was 74,7% in 2007: 81,7% men and 67,8% women. The activity rate of the 15 – 64-old (= rate of the people in paid work at the overall population) was 74,7% by 2007 – that of men 81,7% and that of women 67,8%.

The rate of unemployment according to Eurostat has decreased in Austria onto 3,0% (October 2008) and therewith was on the lowest level ever displayed for Austria by Eurostat.

In 2007, 52,200 young people between the ages of 15 and 24 were unemployed, that complies to a percentage quotation of 8,7 according to the labour-force-concept.

Those young people who have only had compulsory schooling constitute the largest proportion of the unemployed in all age groups.

Youth Policy in Austria

Youth policy in Austria is described through its aims, intentions, and methods : So, on the one hand, youth policy should support young people to successfully meet the many demands that are placed on them at that stage in their lives. Above all, it should offer young people the opportunity to live in a self-determined way and to enable them to develop attainable goals that are worth striving for. Gender equality, participation, networking and quality assurance are the prerequisites which need to be taken into consideration when taking any measures.

As Austria is a federalist state the responsibilities are shared between the Federal Government and the Federal states. This also applies to the most "traditional" area of youth policy: extracurricular youth work.

Extracurricular youth work complements the tasks of the family, educational and vocational training institutions, and includes the work of youth associations and public youth work, such as sports, educational and cultural clubs. These tasks are primarily registered by the "Landesjugendreferate" (youth departments) of the various federal states.

Tasks in Youth Policy

Youth policy on the national level

In order to implement youth policy in an interdepartmental and interdisciplinary way, all Ministries have their own youth policy campaigns and initiatives.

Acting specifically for youth policy is the Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft, Familie und Jugend (BMWFJ). Essentially, its task is to coordinate, to guide and, in the field of extra-curricular activities : to provide stimulus. Its other major focus is European and international youth policy.

Coordinating youth-relevant policies

On the national level the BMWFJ acts as a coordinator, through the supervision of various working committees, which consist of representatives from all departments and the federal states, social partners ,including the statutory Bundesjugendvertretung (National Youth Council), experts and also NGO's. For example :

Inter-Ministerial Working Group, "European Youth Pact"

Its task is to "observe the implementation of all measures relating to the fulfillment of the Youth Pact, to coordinate the various initiatives in their relation to each other and to propose and strengthen sustainable youth policy measures."

Strategic group „White Paper Youth"

Going along with the EU-activities a consulting group was established on national level at the responsible Federal Ministry for Youth, which develops the themes to be covered from Austrian sight and accompanies the process nationally.

The national consulting group consists of exponents of the department for national and international youth policy in the Ministry for Youth as well as exponents of the Federal States (Federal Departments for Youth), the ARGE Austrian Youth Infos, the ARGE "Participation" (consortium of exponents of the Federal Youth Departments and of the BMWFJ), the Federal Representation of the Youth and a participant of the European Volunteers Service.

The strategic group „White Paper" Youth is informed regularly by the expert department for international youth concerns at the Ministry for Youth about the developments and measures concerning the White Book process. The work to be done by the strategic group is the formulation and discussion of subject areas to their content and implementation measures.

Regulation of youth-relevant policies

The financial funding, quality assurance guidelines and research activities of the BMWFJ have a regulative function.

Funding

The promotion of extracurricular youth work by the BMWFJ is regulated by the Bundesjugendförderungsgesetz (Federal act on the promotion of youth). The aim of this act is to “fund extracurricular youth education and youth work in order to especially promote the development of the intellectual, psychological, physical, social, political, religious and moral competence of children and young people.”

The responsible Minister can establish yearly priorities. The projects and activities which correspond with these priorities are given precedence. In 2009, the topics are:

- Political education
- Information about Europe
- Acquirement of Social Skill
- For all priorities counts: The offers must be designed in such a way, that they are participative and arranged gender-equitable as well as involving discriminated and disadvantaged population groups.

Political Education

With the reduction of the voting age the young people are confronted with new challenges. Some youngsters feel overstrained by building a self-determined political opinion. Young people desire an “objective” and “neutral” assistance. Projects aiming on responding actively to young people and on inspiring the interest in democracy and politics, can be submitted for a sponsorship under the focus-issue “Political Education”.

Information about Europe

Even though young people are allocated more positively to the European Union than the rest of the population, there is still an “EU-scepticism” existent. Many surveys support, that Europe is still unfamiliar to the citizens despite of far-reaching impacts of European policy on their every day life. The knowledge about Europe plays a great role thereby. Offers, that inform about the European Union and its structures, but as well projects, that enhance the information competence of young people, can be submitted under the focus-issue “Information about Europe”.

Acquisition of social competence

How so ever the duties and the objectives of youth work are defined in detail, it is clear-cut that youth work is a basic part of the social system. Youth work offers therefore many possibilities for learning: In this context competences, skills and knowledge can be initiated, developed and newly acquired. The acquisition of social competence becomes particularly important: Empathy, ability to communicate, the ability to handle conflicts, to work in a team and to convince are not only important for our collective social life, but for the young people themselves – for the handling of problems, the transit of phases of life and so on – in a basic way.

Projects and offers, that

- regulate knowledge about basics and communicate mechanisms in the contact of people
- give stimulations for the personal reflection over own habits of thinking and acting, models of social perception and
- create spaces of experience, where you can exercise attitudes and explore new possibilities

can be submitted under the focus-issue "social competence".

Quality assurance

The Bundes-Jugendförderungsgesetz (Federal act on the promotion of youth) ensures that basic promotion is granted those youth organizations who, in addition to fulfilling a number of other conditions, regularly carry out quality assurance of their work. Quality assurance takes place on a self-evaluation basis. A supporting booklet issued by the BMWFJ summaries the theoretical foundations, sets forth the guidelines for self-evaluation as well as providing a number of other tools.

Research activities

The research activities of the BMWFJ serve as a foundation for the development of diverse and open youth policies. The research is undertaking with awareness of the challenges of an increasingly complex environment and is an attempt to come to terms with these.

During each election period, in addition to assigning numerous individual projects, the BMWFJ must provide the Parliament with a "Report on the situation of youth in Austria."

Report on the situation of youth in Austria.

The 5th report over the conditions of the young people in Austria deals with the subject areas "Gender Mainstreaming and gender sensitive youth work in Austria"

The 6th youth-report is designed primarily by a commission of experts. According to the wishes, expressed at the parliamentary treatment on the 5th youth report the 6th youth report shall:

- report on the conditions of the young people
- report on the efforts and attainments of the youth work and on selected domains of the youth social services and beyond a plain survey
- submit proposals and recommendations for the development of the youth policy, youth work and youth welfare.

Providing stimulus

- Through the implementations of recommendations decided upon on the European level.

Going along with the EU-activities the strategic group for the implementation of the "White Sheet"-issues mentioned above was built on national level.

The basic significant intentions of the "White Paper" concerning youth are :

- To inform young people
- To actively involve young people so that they participate in decision-making processes
- To increasingly involve young people in public life
- To gain more knowledge concerning young peoples' needs.
- To achieve a greater taking into account of young people in all areas of politics.
- To achieve a better application of the EU program "Youth in Action"

The implementation of the above implies realizing child and youth policies as an interdisciplinary undertaking, for Austrian child and youth policy is no mere narrow sub-section of some ministry, but must be viewed cross-departmentally whilst also , through synergy, requiring the growing awareness of all citizens.

The realization of cross-departmental child and youth policy is backed up through the "generation-mainstreaming" strategy and represents (in accord with the EU white paper) the intensification of :

- Youth information work
- Participation structures
- Research concerning youth issues
- Recognition of young peoples' voluntary work

Providing stimulus

- New media as an example

The media has undergone significant changes with regards to its significance in the last years. Particularly the integration of electronic entertainment media with computer media and the widespread use of telecommunication technologies, above all the internet, has made the media's influence pervade all areas of daily life. Youth policy makers must take this development into consideration, both in how they present information and in the area of prevention.

Das Österreichische Jugendportal (Austrian youth portal) www.jugendinfo.at

The online youth portal serves as "signpost" for the wide variety of institutions, websites and other services in Austria and Europe and is therefore the national equivalent of the European Commission's European youth portal. The portal was set up in the course of an Austrian-wide project in collaboration with 120 young people. During several workshops, these young people worked on the website's content, structure and technical implementation.

Bundesstelle für die Positivprädikatisierung von Computer- und Konsolenspielen (BuPP) (Federal office for the positive assessment of computer and console games) www.bupp.at

The Federal office for the positive assessment of computer and console games is a new service provided by the BMWFJ. Its primary aim is to help parents and other people who buy computer games for children and young people to decide. Good computer games receive an award. According to the BuPP, "good computer games" are those which :

- are fun
- are up-to-date with regards to design and technological features

- are not objectionable from an educational point of view, based on clearly defined criteria and the technical knowledge and practical experience of the expert evaluators.

The BMWFJ thus follows the principle of “recommending the good rather than prohibiting the bad”, because this method of orientation combines the positive evaluation approach with the practice of commission evaluation often used in the area of child protection. The public can trust these recommendations because they are based on firm specialist and structural foundations. Transparent and comprehensible criteria of recommendation also provide motivation to engage in the educational task of confronting the media and media consumption. The BuPP website (www.bupp.at) lists the award winning games with relevant background information.

Implementation of barrier free access

Youth events and projects, which are charged and supported by the Federal Ministry for Economy, Family and Youth from January 2009 on must be compulsively barrier free accessible. This not only concerns the access to events, but also the barrier free status of internet offers.

The Internet has become one of the most important ways of communication for young people. Particularly youngsters, which are constricted in their mobility can communicate worldwide and use information offers. The guideline is aimed now especially on the care of subvention-takers, that their websites are designed accordingly barrier free.

As an accompanying measure leadoff trainings for youth organisations to the issue „barrier free web“ were effected. For 2009 further information- and continuing education measures by the Youth Ministry are planned.

European and international youth policy

International activities are primarily based on the collaboration of committees of the European Union,, the Council of Europe, the south-east Europe stability Pact, the UN etc.

Youth exchange programs are in place as part of bilateral cultural agreements. Furthermore, a few select youth projects are in place with Israel,

Japan and ,since the summer of 2005, with various countries of the former Yugoslavia. For example :

Israel - Back to the Roots

The youth encounter project BACK TO THE ROOTS started off in 1994. Once a year, 15 young Israelis with an Austrian family background are invited to a journey through "Austria's history and countryside". They are accompanied on this journey by 15 young Austrians. In addition to the opportunity for intercultural learning, making friends and getting to know Austria from each others point of view, this project also enables young Israelis to trace their family roots and to build their own personal bridges to the Austria of today.

Youth policy on the Federal level

Extracurricular youth work primarily falls within the sphere of competence of the Federal States. Its main areas of responsibility are:

- Lobbying initiatives in the area of child and youth work
- Promotion and support of child and youth institutions, especially those of open youth work. The latter include youth centers, mobile youth work and regional youth information services as well as regional and communal initiatives.
- Services for children and young people and for child and youth work
- Training and further training courses for youth work staff.
- Public relations

Cooperation between the Federal Government and the Federal States

Despite their different areas of competence, the Federal Government and the Federal States attempt to coordinate their measures and activities as far as possible. These are voted on during the Landesjugendreferentenkonferenz (Provincial Youth Counsellors meeting) and which produce joint initiatives. For example:

Introductory course for youth leaders

An introductory course for youth leaders was set up in line with quality assurance measures. It targets all those involved in youth work. The course covers the following topics : personal goal finding and motivation, psychology, group dynamics, creativity and movement,

educational theory, socialization and responsibility, management, organization, law and political education. The introductory course concludes with a practical project.

ARGE Partizipation

The Federal Government and the Federal States have established a work group called "ARGE Partizipation". It is a:

- Group of experts on the subject of participation
- Provider of stimulus for new developments with a focus on regional requirements
- Committee for the exchange of experience and information

ARGE Partizipation defines its task as seeking to develop participation in Austria by closely observing and introducing new developments, initiating training and further training courses for disseminators, ensuring the availability of informational material and by promoting and being actively involved in the living environment of children and young people in a many different ways.

Further information to be found under www.jugendbeteiligung.cc

ARGE Jugendinformation (ARGE Youth information)

The work group ARGE Österreichische Jugendinfos ("Jugendinfo.cc") is an association of all youth information services in Austria. It is a country-wide network for youth information with unified quality standards. Jugendinfo.cc is the Austrian national agency for the information program EURODESK and is a member of the European umbrella organization ERYICA (European Youth Information and Counselling Agency)

"Jugendinfo.at", the BMWFJ's own information service, has been in existence since 1994. It makes available and distributes all relevant informational materials of the Federal Ministries. This youth information service also offers free of charge (and time restricted) internet access. Work stations with web-cams allow deaf young people to communicate using sign language.

Laws relating to children and young people

The most important regulations of the legal system are a system of protective provisions and rights of co- and self determination graded by age. The protection of minors is of particular significance in this regard.

Protection of minors

The protection of minors is there to keep young people from danger. In practice this includes age-specific regulations relating to the access to certain places, hitch-hiking, theatre, cinema and pub visits, the use of arcade/gambling machines and the consumption of alcohol and cigarettes.

The various Federal States are responsible for the specific age-related grading system. The territorial principle applies, according to which young people are subject to the regulations of the Federal State they are currently in.

Young people come of age upon reaching the age of 18, which means that the laws on the protection of minors then no longer apply.

Further age related regulations

On reaching the age of 6, children have the obligation to attend school for nine years.

From the age of 10, a guardianship court must hear the children in matters of custody, care and education, such as in divorce cases. From the age of 14, young people have limited legal competence and the right of sexual self-determination. They have the right to choose their religion and to be a part of the decision making process regarding vocational and school education. Young people of that age are subject to criminal responsibility.

Young people are allowed to enter full-time employment from the age of 15.

They are allowed to vote from the age of 16 on. All citizens who have reached the age of 18 by the day of the election have the right to be elected.

From the age of 18, young people are of age, which is when they gain the full capacity to act and full legal competence.

The right to be elected as Federal President is dependent on the right to vote in the National Council and on having reached the age of 35 on the election day.

Representations of young people's interests

Bundes-Jugendvertretung (BJV) (Austrian National Youth Council)

The Austrian National Youth Council is the statutory representative body for young people in Austria. It includes 42 Austrian child and youth organizations with various goals and ideological backgrounds. This diversity ensures that the interests of young people are represented on a very broad basis.

The National Youth Council, as the statutory representative body of young people in Austria, has a say in important political decision-making processes. It was inaugurated on the 1st January 2001 with the coming into force of the Bundes-Jugendvertretungsgesetz (Federal youth representation act) and has the same legal rights as other statutory bodies, such as those of employees, the self-employed, farmers and senior citizens.

Tasks and goals:

- The BJV is a lobby for young people and promotes greater involvement of young people in political decision-making processes.
- The BJV brings "young", up to date and important topics to public attention and carries out campaigns and projects to these topics.
- The BJV represents youth policy-related interests vis-à-vis the National Council, the Government and the public.
- The BJV enables the exchange of information and information flow between member organizations.
- It represents the interests of Austria's youth on the European and International level.
- It gives its views on draft laws and regulations.
- It publishes informational material for young people.
- It organizes further training courses for functionaries of its member organizations.

Additional Information

Short title

Federal Act: Second Euro Conversion Act – Federal Government
(No. GP XXI RV 742 AB 824 S. 81. BR: 6458 AB 6459 S. 681.)

Announcement organ

Federal Gazette I no. 136/2001 dated 27th November 2001

Text

Federal Act by which the Constitutional Court Act 1953, the Administrative Court Act 1985, the Data Protection Act 2000, the Political Parties Act, the Media Act, the Private Radio Act, the Television Signal Act, the Federal Statistics Act 2000, the Federal Act on the Reorganisation of the Federal Theatres, the Artists' Social Insurance Fund Act, and the Federal Contract Awarding and Allocations Act 1997 are amended (Euro Conversion Act for the sphere of activities of the Office of the Federal Chancellor); by which the Act Governing Universities of Applied Sciences, the Research Organisation Act, the Study Eligibility Act, and the Animal Experiments Act are amended; by which the Federal Youth Promotion Act, the Federal Youth Representation Act, and the Hospital Act are amended; by which the Foreign Trade Act 1995, the Commercial Statistics Act 1995, the Chemical Weapons Convention – Implementation Act 1995, the Security Control Act 1991, the Accreditation Act, the Building Products Act, the Firing, Shelling and Bombardment Act, the Steam Boiler Operating Act, the Electrical Engineering Act 1992, the ERP Fund Act, the Boiler Act, the Clean Air Act for Boiler Plants, the Measurement and Calibration Act, the Standards Act 1971, the Surveying Act, the Temporary Employment Act, the Labour Market Promotion Act, the Act Safeguarding the Training of Youths, the Occupation of Aliens Act, the Labour Inspection Act, the Employee Protection Act, the Construction Work Coordination Act, the Civil Engineers Act 1993, the Civil Engineers Chamber Act 1993, the Engineers Act 1990, the Industrial Code 1994, the Act Governing Opening Hours on Sundays and Public Holidays, the Federal Act for the Improvement of Local Supplies and Conditions of Competition, the Unfair Competition Act 1984, the EU Competition Act, the Euro Currency Indication Act, the Public Utility Housing Act, the Heating Costs Settlement Act, the Urban Renewal Act, the Housing Reconstruction Act, the Gas Economy Act, the Heavy-Current Power Lines Act 1968, the Price Transparency Act, the Vocational Training Act, the Federal Act on the Honour Decorations for Mine Rescue Parties, the Storage Place Act, and the General Austrian Miners' Code of Laws are amended.

(Second Euro Conversion Act – Federal Government)

The National Council has adopted the following:

Table of Contents

Art. Subject Matter

Excerpted

Chapter 3

Federal Ministry of Social Security and Generations

Article 16

Amendment of the Federal Youth Promotion Act

The Federal Youth Promotion Act, Federal Gazette I no. 126/2000, shall be amended as follows:

1. In Section 7, paragraph 2, the amount of "ATS 700,000" shall be replaced by "EUR 50,871, and the amount of "ATS 100,000" by "EUR 7,267.3".
2. In Section 7, paragraph 3, the amount of "ATS 200,000" shall be replaced by "EUR 14,534.6", the amount of "ATS 500,000" by "EUR 36,336.4", the amount of "ATS 1,000,000" by "EUR 72,672.8", and the amount of "ATS 2,000,000" by "EUR145,345.7".
3. In Section 7, paragraph 4, the amount of "ATS 100,000" shall be replaced by "EUR 7,267.3".
4. The first sentence of paragraph 12 shall be preceded by the paragraph designation "(1)", and the following paragraph 2 shall be added:

"(2) Section 7, paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 as amended by the Federal Act, Federal Gazette I no. 136/2001, shall enter into force from 1st January 2002."

Article 17

Amendment of the Federal Youth Representation Act

The Federal Youth Representation Act , Federal Gazette I no. 127/2000, shall be amended as follows:

1. In Section 6, paragraph 4(f), the amount of "ATS 200,000" shall be replaced by "EUR 14,534.6".
2. The first sentence of paragraph 13 shall be preceded by the paragraph designation "(1)", and the following paragraph 2 shall be added:

"(2) Section 6, paragraph 4(f) as amended by the Federal Act, Federal Gazette I no. 136/2001, shall enter into force from 1st January 2002."

Title

Guidelines for the subsidisation of extracurricular youth education and youth work

Federal Ministry of Health, Family and Youth

Department V/5

File number: BMSG-431361/0002-V/5/2004

Announced

Wiener Zeitung, January 2009

Text

Guidelines

for the subsidisation of extracurricular youth education and youth work

Pursuant to section 8 of the Federal Youth Promotion Act 2000 (B-JFG), Federal Gazette I no. 126/2000 dated 29th December 2000, the following Guidelines have been issued:

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Objective

Section 1. (1) The objective of these Guidelines is the promotion of measures of extracurricular youth education and youth work, in particular for the purpose of furthering the development of the mental, psychic, physical, social, political, religious and ethical competence of children and youths.

The particular features of "furthering extracurricular youth education and youth work" shall require a tailor-made plan and consequently also their own guidelines pursuant to section 8 of the Federal Youth Promotion Act 2000 (B-JFG). The provisions of the Ordinance of the Federal Minister of Finance regarding a General Framework of Guidelines for granting support from Federal funds (ARR 2004) only applies to the extent that the Federal Youth Promotion Act 2000 does not contain any diverging detailed provisions and that the provisions of the ARR 2004 are consistent with the particular nature of youth promotion.

Object of the Promotion

Section 2. (1) The object of the promotion includes projects pursuant to section 3 B-JFG; measures for preparing the projects, executing the projects and any infra-

structure cost connected with it, evaluation, as well as networking measures for the project area.

(2) The Federal Minister of health, family and youth may, due to the current situation, promote individual projects with a particular emphasis. The Federal Minister of health, family and youth will, when possible, announce such topics in public (through the Federal Youth Representation and via the Ministry's website, etc.) in the first quarter of the current year.

(3) Subsidy, or promotion, according to these Guidelines, denotes monetary allocations which the Federal Government, in administering the private sector of the economy, grants for a service already rendered or intended.

(4) The Federal Minister of health, family and youth shall decide on the granting of subsidies on the basis of the available funds. There is no entitlement to enforce a claim.

Types of Promotion

Section 3. (1) Promotion may be granted exclusively in the ways described in section 5 of the Federal Youth Promotion Act.

(2) Exempt from promotion, and therefore not meriting support are:

1. services rendered within the framework of the formal school education system;
2. services rendered within the framework of the services provided by the public youth welfare system;
3. services rendered to political parties according to the Political Parties Act, Federal Gazette no. 404/1975 as amended.

Applications for Support and Promotion Documentation

Section 4 (1) Only those applications for support shall be admissible which deal with offers of youth work pursuant to section 2. Such applications shall be addressed to the Federal Ministry for health, family and youth, using the forms (basic support / furtherance of youth-work projects / support of special concerns in the domain of child and youth work) provided by that Ministry. The respective form may be ordered at the Federal Ministry of health, family and youth, or can be downloaded from the Ministry's website on the Internet.

(2) The person seeking promotion must attach the following documentation to his application:

1. The statutes or articles of association of the applicant for promotion (at least for the first application),
2. approval by the police department responsible for societies and associations (at least for the first application),
3. the updated official certificate (not older than one year),
4. a taxpayer's number, if applicable,
5. the formal obligation, completely filled in and signed by the executive bodies authorised to sign, as indicated in the updated official certificate,
6. a binding statement – noted in the provided form – as to the scope of the activities eligible for promotion, which are intended to be performed in the calendar year for which the subsidy is to be granted. Moreover, it shall be credibly stated that the activities eligible for promotion involve costs which correspond at least to the amount of the subsidy applied for.
7. The declaration pursuant to Section 9.

The Federal Ministry of health, family and youth may at any time request further documents necessary for assessing the application for support.

General Preconditions

Section 5 (1) The person seeking promotion must present the project to be promoted and the structure of the association to be promoted in detail (project presentation, type of the project, time frame, place, co-organiser, etc.). The promotion applicant must submit a financial plan, evidencing the total cost, the own funds, the co-financing by the Federal provinces and/or other (public) suppliers of promotion funds, as well as the amount and the intended use of the promotion funds applied for with the Federal Ministry of health, family and youth.

(2) Upon receipt of the complete application an examination shall take place as to the eligibility and admissibility of the promotion. Following such examination the application is either rejected, or a promotion offer is sent to the person applying for promotion. The promotion offer can be accepted by the applicant within a period of time set by the Federal Ministry of health, family and youth by signing a formal obligation, which shall accompany the promotion offer. The formal obligation shall be signed by the authorised signatories. If the department fails to receive that formal obligation within the set period, the promotion offer shall be revoked.

(3) Upon acceptance of the promotion offer the amount of the proposed subsidy shall be remitted either as a lump sum or in partial amounts.

(4) The granted promotion funds shall be used according to the principles of economic efficiency, expediency and thrift, and exclusively for the purpose mentioned in the award letter, with the possibility of such principles being combined with further requirements that may even exceed the provisions of this guideline.

Salaries, expense allowances and fees may be financed within this framework, unless they exceed the salaries drawn by comparable Federal civil servants. Official expense accounts for entertainment shall be kept as low as possible.

(5) A project may be promoted only if it is significantly in the public interest and needs to be safeguarded by the Federal Government and if its implementation would be impossible, at least not to the extent required, without promotion from Federal funds. The execution of the project must appear to be financially secured in addition to the support from Federal funds, unless the peculiar feature of the project to be promoted justifies a deviation from this condition.

(6) Promotion shall be admissible only if all the claims of the preceding year(s) have been fully settled and discharge has been granted the Federal Ministry of health, family and youth.

(7) The recipients of the subsidy should demonstrate in an appropriate manner (e.g., by way of the logo of the Federal Ministry of health, family and youth) that this Federal Ministry has provided the promotion funds. When forwarding the funds to provincial organisations and other recipients, and in the case of any public relations action, reference shall likewise be made to the fact that the promotion funds were provided by the aforementioned Federal Ministry.

(8) The person applying for promotion is obligated to comply, and upon request prove in an appropriate and reasonable manner that he does comply, with the following fundamental principles of the Federal Youth Promotion Act as well as the general principles of youth work and pedagogy on a national, supranational and international level: participation, subsidiarity, plurality, equal rights of men and

women, tolerance, and social partnership between all young people based on equal rights, the voluntariness of utilizing these, expertise and quality assurance.

(9) In awarding services of the promotion applicant, the general principles of the Federal Contract Awarding Act as amended, and the Austrian standard ÖNORM A 2050 as amended, shall be applied and such application proven to the Federal Ministry upon its request.

(10) The provisions of the equal treatment law ,BGBl. I Nr.66/2004, and the Federal disability equivalence law, BGBl. I Nr. 82/2005, as well as the interdiction of discrimination pursuant to § 7a of the Federal disability equivalence law (BeinstG), BGBl. I Nr. 22/1970 are to be taken into account. Events and projects that are promoted and supported by the Federal Ministry of health, family and youth, need to be free of obstacles for disabled people.

The word obstacles does not only apply to structural obstacles (such as stairs or narrow doorways) but also to communicational, technical and/or other barriers which make access to public services for disabled people more difficult.

If and when the creation of a barrier free environment constitutes an unreasonable encumbrance for the promoter suggestions must be made with regards to which steps can be taken to at least improve the situation for the concerned persons in the sense of the closest approach to equal treatment.

In the case of barrier free web offers, this is judged according to the current state of technical development. Here, the valid guidelines of the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) are to be drawn upon.

Assurance of obtaining the subsidy

Section 6. Promotion is assured in the form of written notification sent to each individual applicant for promotion. Such assurance shall in particular include:

1. the object of the subsidy;
2. the extent of the subsidy and the payout mode;
3. the settlement period and type of settlement;
4. reporting and verification obligations;
5. provisions on the discontinuance and the claim for partial or total return of the subsidy;

6. jurisdiction, as well as
7. a ban on assignments, payments, pledges and other dispositions
intervivos.

Execution, Settlement and Control

Section 7. (1) The proof of the use of the granted subsidy in line with its purpose is to be given in the form attached to the written promotion promise. This form as well as the documentation to be attached to it shall be filed with the Federal Ministry of health, family and youth, prior to the deadline provided for in the promotion promise.

The following points shall be observed and absolutely complied with:

Only originals (no COPIES) should be presented. Duplicates of invoices/bills, carbon copies of invoices/bills or photocopies cannot be accepted for settlement.

The original invoices/bills must evidence the promotion recipient as the recipient of the invoices/bills, containing the address and a corporate signature and indicating the subject matter of the service performed. The subject matter shall have to conform to the designated use of the support mentioned in the approval notice.

The original invoices/bills are to be accompanied by the payment confirmations (postal payment slips or cheque slips, money transfer confirmations, original account statements), likewise originals.

When the payments were not made in cash, the invoice/bill shall have to bear the company's account-balancing statement.

Should payments be made via tele-banking, the original statement of account confirmed by the bank shall likewise be presented.

Payments of invoices/bills via a virtual bank, or the billing of bank charges, cannot be accepted.

Details regarding the deduction of input tax must be filled in.

Where payments are made to individuals, receipt of the amount must always be acknowledged by the ultimate recipient. Acknowledgements of receipt by one person on behalf of several recipients shall not be permitted.

Should more invoices/bills be presented, an accurate and complete overview or statement of the vouchers/receipts/slips must be attached.

In principle, only invoices/bills to the extent of the promotion amount shall be presented. If, however, only one invoice/bill can be presented, the

amount of which exceeds that of the granted support, the Federal Ministry of health, family and youth will effect a partial invalidation in the amount of the promotion granted.

All the vouchers/receipts/slips shall be returned to the issuers following a factual and numerical examination and invalidation by the account-keeping department of the Federal Ministry of health, family and youth.

(2) The recipient of the subsidy shall announce to the Federal Minister of health, family and youth, the commencement and the termination of the undertaking (project). Any alteration of the agreed term shall be admissible only in justified exceptional cases upon a written application by the recipient of the subsidy.

(3) The recipient of the subsidy is obliged to inform the Federal Ministry of health, family and youth without delay of any and all essential modifications of the planned project occurring contemporaneously with its execution and to obtain the Ministry's corresponding approval. The recipient of the subsidy is obliged to report to the Federal Ministry of health, family and youth, without delay any occurrences that delay or make impossible the execution of the project and achievement of the promotion purpose.

(4) In the case of projects requiring an execution period of more than one year, the recipient of the subsidy shall be required to submit to the Federal Ministry of health, family and youth, an interim report on the progress of the work together with a description of the financial expenses so far incurred and on the further execution.

(5) Within the settlement period stipulated in the promissory letter the recipient of the subsidy is obliged to present a statement of account on the projects, issued by himself and signed by his executives, to the Federal Ministry of health, family and youth, together with any documentation necessary for an evaluation and in the form of a reconstructable presentation. A project report, written on the specific form provided (report on the granted support) shall be submitted additionally.

(6) The recipient of the subsidy is obliged:

1. to provide information (including evidence) in respect of the supported project to the executive bodies of the Federal Minister of health, family and youth and to the persons authorised by him, and to the executive

bodies of the Federal Audit Office at any time, as well as, in the case of co-financing through the EU, to allow the inspection in particular of the books and supporting evidence as well as any other documentation enabling the examination of the execution (as well as annual accounts upon request), and must agree to information being given by mandated banks, and permit access to land and buildings during normal office and operating hours.

2. to preserve safely and in an orderly manner all the necessary books, vouchers, records, annual accounts and/or balance sheets until the expiration of ten years from the end of the year in which the support had been paid out (in case of partial payments: the payout date of the last promotion tranche).
3. to inform the promoting office immediately of all occurrences which delay the execution of the promoted project, make it impossible to realise, or which would require modifications when compared with the promotion application or the agreed requirements or conditions.
4. to disclose the amount of the funds which the applicant has requested, or plans to request, to be granted for the same project, although with a different declared purpose, from another Federal Government entity or another legal entity including the local and regional authorities, or which have already been granted or promised, as well as funds which the recipient of the subsidy has received within the previous five years prior to filing his promotion application for projects or services of the same kind.

Discontinuation and Claim for Return of the Subsidy

Section 8. (1) Subject to more extensive legal claims being asserted, the recipient of the subsidy must return it without delay upon demand of the promoting institution, with the claim to promotion funds promised but not yet paid out also lapsing, if and when

1. executive bodies of the Federal Minister of health, family and youth as well as persons mandated by him had not been, or been incompletely, informed of essential facts and circumstances;
2. stipulated obligations, requirements and conditions, in particular those earmarked to secure the achievement of the promotion goal, had not been complied with by the recipient of the subsidy;
3. envisaged reports had not been presented, evidence had not been furnished, or required information had not been given, after the recipient of

the subsidy had been unsuccessfully reminded in writing, a reasonable extension of time had been granted, and the consequences of non-compliance had been duly indicated ;

4. failure to report without delay any occurrences which have delayed the execution of the promoted project, made it impossible to realise, or which would require its modification;
5. bankruptcy or composition proceedings had been instituted against the recipient of the subsidy prior to the proper completion of the promoted project, or within a period of three years after its completion, or the petition for bankruptcy had been dismissed on cause that the assets would be exhausted by cost;
6. the recipient of the subsidy impedes or prevents envisaged checking or control measures, or the entitlement to collect the subsidy can no longer be verified within the period stipulated for the preservation of the documentation;
7. the promotion funds had wholly or in part been used contrary to the intended purpose;
8. the promoted action cannot be, or had not been, executed or not executed in time;
9. the correctness of the final account after the completion of the promoted action can no longer be verified because the documentation has been lost through the recipient's fault;
10. the ban on assignment, transfer and pledge was not been adhered to.
11. the federal disability equivalence law and the interdiction of discrimination (§7 beinstG) were not adhered to.
12. The provisions of the equal treatment law were not adhered to.

(2) In case of a claim to return the subsidy, interest shall be paid on the promotion funds at the rate of three percent above the current base rate of the Austrian National Bank from the date of their payout, and the funds shall be returned.

(3) Any more extensive claims raised under civil law shall not be affected thereby.

(4) The discontinuation or recall of the promotion funds may be dispensed with pursuant to sections 61 and 62 of the Federal Budget Act, provided that the achievement of the promotion objective does not thereby appear to be jeopardised.

(5) If within the framework of the promoted project, facilities or equipment are exclusively or predominantly purchased with non-repayable Federal Government promotion funds, the recipient of the subsidy shall, whenever the allocation purpose ceases to exist or changes materially, reimburse to the Federal Government a sum of money in the amount corresponding to the market value at the time when the allocation purpose ceased to exist or materially changed, or, upon the Federal Government's demand, place at its disposal the corresponding facilities or equipment for further use, or transfer the title to them to the Federal Government. If the purchase had not been made exclusively with the Federal Government's promotion funds, the percentage share of the market value corresponding to the support shall be reimbursed to the Federal Government.

Data Protection

Section 9. (1) The recipient of the support shall acknowledge, and expressly agree, that the person-related data collected in connection with the preparation and implementation of the subsidy, the use of which is an essential precondition for the discharge of a task legally assigned to the provider of the support or is otherwise admissible pursuant to sections 7 through 11 of the Data Protection Act 2000, Federal Gazette I no. 165/1999 in its' current form, shall be used by the provider of the subsidy, and by the subsidy handling institution entrusted by him as the performer of the services for the purpose of the conclusion and implementation of the subsidisation contract, for the discharge of the tasks legally assigned to the provider and for controlling purposes, and shall in particular be transmitted to executive bodies and representatives of the Audit Office (in particular pursuant to section 3 paragraph 2, section 4 paragraph 1, and section 13 paragraph 3 of the Audit Office Act 1948, Federal Gazette no. 144 in its' current form), of the Federal Ministry of Finance (in particular pursuant to section 43 through 47 and 54 of the Federal Budget Act and sections 8 and 9 of the "General Framework Directives for the Granting of Support from Federal Funds" in its' current form), and of the EU according to the provisions of the EU law.

(2) The recipient of the subsidy shall have the right at any time to revoke this declaration of consent by notifying the Federal Ministry of health, family and youth in writing. Such revocation, which shall be forwarded by the Federal Ministry of health, family and youth to the Office of the Federal Chancellor, shall entail the retroactive cancellation of the promotion assurance and the recall of already granted support funds.

(3) Data transmissions, if any, shall be stopped with immediate effect upon receipt of the revocation by the Office of the Federal Chancellor, regardless of any existing legal transmission obligations.

Jurisdiction

Section 10. The competent court in Vienna having jurisdiction on the subject matter shall be designated to act in case of any legal disputes arising from the granting of a subsidy. The Republic of Austria shall reserve the right to bring a suit against the recipient of the subsidy also with his court of general jurisdiction.

Economic Advantages

Section 11. The recipient of the support is obliged to report to the provider of the subsidy without delay any direct economic advantages that have arisen for him from the project during or within five years following the execution of the promoted project, and shall have to repay the support granted to him according to the profit gained from the promoted project within five years following its execution or according to the possibilities arising from its' utilization.

CHAPTER 2

BASIC PROMOTION

Object of the Basic Promotion

Section 12. Basic promotion within the meaning of section 3, paragraph 1 of the Federal Youth Promotion Act (B-JFG) and these guidelines mean the promotion of any direct or indirect performance of youth work (section 2, paragraph 3, B-JFG) according to the allocation codes pursuant to section 7, paragraph 2 through 4 B-JFG. It is in particular aimed at enabling the youth organisations named in the B-JFG as promotion applicants to finance the personal and material resources required for the execution of youth work (e.g., staff, club premises, office infrastructure, youth contacts).

Applicants for Promotion

Section 13. (1) Promotion applicants may be organisations which meet the requirements listed in section 6, paragraphs 1 through 4, and section 7, paragraphs 1 through 4, F-FJG.

(2) The evidence of the number of members pursuant to section 6, paragraph 1(1) B-JFG shall be provided according to the following criteria:

1. Young people participating regularly and actively in the performance and offers of the promotion applicant shall be considered members of an organisation pursuant to Section 6, paragraph 1(1) B-JFG.
2. The mere regular receipt of mail cannot be rated as membership; but what can be rated as such is the monthly visit to the youth centre or similar meetings, or an idealistic, active endorsement of the corresponding youth organisation.
3. The total number of members shall be satisfactorily substantiated by the promotion applicant to the Federal Ministry of Social Security, Generations and Consumer Protection, entered in the form, itemized and confirmed. The itemization shall be made according to federal provinces as well as according to "participants", "honorary" and "full-time" staff members.
4. For the purpose of providing satisfactory proof, a subdivision into regular visitors of events or group hours, staff members at events, in groups, on supra-ordinate organisation levels, or similar measures, is appropriate.
5. Any available and, for that matter, usable records, documentation and instruments that are suitable for making the information credible (such as lists of participants, mailing slips for the despatch of the membership journal, catering service bills for events, etc.) shall be made available during on-site inspections.

(3) The promotion applicant shall, upon accepting the subsidy, agree that identified representatives of the Federal Ministry of health, family and youth may carry out counts at all the public events and activities of the persons actually present, without giving prior notice.

(4) The evidence of a continual quality assurance pursuant to section 6, paragraph 1(6) B-JFG is to be provided according to the following criteria:

The concept report concerning continual quality assurance (set down in the provided form) is to be filled out in completion and forwarded to the Federal ministry of health, family and youth together with the application for the basic subsidy.

Along with the application for a subsidy, the applicant must submit a definition of his core function as well as a plan for implementing continual quality assurance within the area of that core function.

The subject matter of such quality assurance shall be the activities of the Federal organisation, either within the entire range of the defined core function, or in selected, alternating focal areas within the core function.

The quality assurance plan as well as the selection of the subject matter is to be demonstrated to the Federal ministry of health, family and youth taking into account the principles of research , practice and the amount of the subsidy applied for or to be expected.

Evidence of any quality assurance measures already taken in the past years shall be provided in an appropriate manner, especially the subject matters, the methods and the actual execution having to be set forth and not the confidential contents.

(5) According to section 2 and section 8 Paragraph 3 of the Federal Disability Equivalence law idgF. the State is under the obligation, when granting subsidies to natural or legal persons, to observe this law. The applicant therefore, upon acceptance of the subsidy, thereby states consent to ensure his main web-site is free of barriers. The barrier-free nature of the web-site is, upon application for a subsidy, to be affirmed and **proven by expert opinion**, and the steps taken to ensure the barrier-free website must be clearly listed.

If the website was set up before 1st January 2009, and is not barrier free, then a detailed, written explanation as well as a time and implementation plan must be presented as to how and when the barrier free website can be achieved.

(6) With acceptance of the subsidy, the applicant also agrees to secure the barrier-free nature of the federal office of the youth organization.

The barrier-free nature of the federal office is, upon application for the basic subsidy, to be **proven by expert opinion** and the measures applied must be clearly listed. If the premises of the federal office were procured before the 1st of January 2009, and are not barrier-free, then a detailed, written explanation, as well as a time and implementation plan must be presented indicating how and when the access and use of the federal office can be brought into line with the Federal Disability Equivalence law.

(7) Excluded from basic subsidy shall be organisations pursuant to section 4, paragraphs 3 and 4 B-JFG.

Application for Promotion and Promotion Documentation

Section 14. (1) The provisions of section 4 shall apply

(2) The complete application for promotion shall be filed with the Federal Ministry of health, family and youth by 1st April at the latest of the application year.

Award of the Subsidy

Section 15. The provisions of Section 6 shall apply.

Execution, Simplified Settlement and Control

Section 16 . (1) The settlement report – according to the form issued – on the basic subsidy received shall be filed with the Federal Ministry of health, family and youth of by 1st April at the latest, of the subsequent year. Any change of the agreed term shall be admissible only in substantiated exceptional cases on the grounds of a written petition on the part of the recipient of the subsidy and a written approval by the aforementioned Ministry.

(2) The recipient of the subsidy shall be obliged, within the indicated settlement period, to present to the Federal Minister of health, family and youth, a statement for the settlement of the project, issued by him and signed by his executive bodies, together with any documentation required for its evaluation, and in a comprehensible presentation. The settlement shall contain the income and expenditures connected with the granted basic subsidy.

(3) The settlement report shall be broken down into groups of subject matters. A subtotal shall be evidenced for each of these. The report shall clearly show the use of the subsidy granted from Federal funds.

(4) The original supporting documents shall be marked with the stamp of the Federal Ministry of health, family and youth – provided by the aforementioned Ministry – indicating “Supported from funds of the Youth Promotion Act – basic subsidy , year when the subsidy was granted “. Only paid invoices and certified bills of fees, also evidencing the purpose of payment, shall be deemed to be supporting documents. The original supporting documents need not be attached to the settlement reports, unless explicitly requested by the Federal Ministry of health, family and youth.

The exact places where the individual supporting documents were found in the bookkeeping system of the respective Federal/Provincial/district organisations are to be documented - in a form specifically printed for this purpose.

(5) The provisions of section 7, paragraphs 3, 4, and 6 shall apply.

CHAPTER 3

PROMOTION OF YOUTH WORK PROJECTS

Promotion Applicants

Section 17. (1) Applicants for promotion can be organisations, initiatives and individuals as well as youth organisations of ethnic groups within the meaning of the Ethnic Groups Act, Federal Gazette 396/1976, which meet the requirements of section 4, paragraphs 1 and 2 B-JFG.

(2) The applicant for the promotion must guarantee that he possesses the professional and organisational qualifications required for executing the project.

(3) Excluded from the promotion of projects are party-political youth organisations, which receive support pursuant to section 7, paragraph 2, B-JFG.

Application for Promotion and Promotion Documentation

Section 18. (1) The provisions of section 4 apply.

(2) The complete application for promotion shall be filed with the Federal Ministry of health, family and youth by 15th October at the latest, of the application year.

(3) Individuals filing a promotion application with the Federal Ministry of health, family and youth shall be exempt from the provisions of section 4, paragraphs 2(1) through (3).

Award of the Subsidy

Section 19. (1) The provisions of section 6 of these Guidelines and section 7, paragraph 6 B-JFG shall apply.

(2) The Federal Youth Representation may make recommendations pursuant to section 6(4)(f) of the Federal Youth Representation Act (B-JVG). For this purpose the Federal Ministry of health, family and youth informs the Federal Youth Representation in writing of the contemplated subsidy awards pursuant to section 6(4)(f) of the B-JVG. The Representation shall announce a comment within 14 days from receipt of notification and submit it in writing within four weeks from receipt of notification.

Execution, Settlement and Control

Section 20. The income and expenditures of the recipient of the subsidy, connected with the promoted project, shall be accounted for in the settlement. As for the rest, the provisions of section 7 shall apply.

CHAPTER 4

THE SUBSIDY OF SPECIAL CONCERNS OF CHILD AND YOUTH WORK

Subsidy Applicants

Section 21. (1) Applicants for a subsidy can be association-type youth organisations, non-association-type youth groups, youth initiatives, individuals, and institutions of open youth work, as well as youth organisations of ethnic groups in accord with the meaning of the Ethnic Groups Act, Federal Gazette 396/1976, which meet the requirements set forth in section 6, paragraph 6 B-JFG.

(2) The applicant for promotion must guarantee that he possesses the professional and organisational qualifications required to implement the project.

Request for Subsidy and Subsidization Documentation

Section 22. (1) The provisions of section 4 apply.

(2) The complete application for promotion shall be filed with the Federal Ministry of Social Security, Generations and Consumer Protection by 15th October at the latest, of the application year.

(3) Individuals filing a subsidy application with the Federal Ministry of health, family and youth shall be exempt from the provisions of Section 4, paragraphs 2(1) through (3).

Award of the Subsidy

Section 23. The provisions of section 6 apply.

Execution, Settlement and Control

Section 24. The income and expenditures of the recipient of the subsidy, connected with the promoted project, shall be accounted for in the settlement. As for the rest, the provisions of Section 7 apply.

CHAPTER 5

SUBSIDIZATION OF SPECIAL CONCERNS OF CHILD AND YOUTH WORK - MEMBERSHIP FEES

Subsidy promoters

Section 25. Only those organizations who also receive the basic subsidy in the subsidizing year can apply, and who fulfill the specifications according to section 6 paragraphs 1-4, and section 7, paragraphs 1-4 B-JFG

Requests for subsidy and documentation

Section 26. (1) The provisions of section 6 apply.

(2) The completed request for a subsidy (filled out in the correct form) is to reach the Federal Ministry of health, family and youth, by 30th April at the latest of the subsidising year.

(3) The subsidy of the membership fee of the branch office of the Federal Youth Representation is **€ 9.000,- per member organization**, which is also eligible for the basic subsidy in the subsidization year can **only be used for this purpose**.

(4) The notification of the branch office of the Federal Youth Representation is to be presented with the subsidy application.

Award of the subsidy

Section 27. The provisions of section 6 apply.

Execution, settlement and control

Section 28. The paid membership fee is to be settled. Otherwise the provisions of section 7 apply.

CHAPTER 6 CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

Personal nomenclature

Section 29. Where person-related designations are used in these Guidelines, the gender used, shall apply to either sex.

Entry into Force and Transitional Provisions

Section 30. These Promotion Guidelines shall enter into force as of 1st January 2005.

Termination of Rules and Regulations

Section 31. The guidelines for the subsidization of extracurricular Youth Education and Youth Work, File number: BMSG-43 1361/2-V/5/2004, cease to be valid from the date on which these guidelines take effect.

Short title

Federal Act: Federal Youth Representation Act
(No. GP XXI IA 270/A AB 351 S. 46. BR: 6253 and 6254 AB 6264 S. 670.)

Announcement organ

Federal Gazette I no. 127/2000 dated 29th December 2000

Text

Federal Act regulating the representation of youth concerns
(Federal Youth Representation Act)

The National Council has adopted the following:

Chapter 1

General Provisions

Objective

Section 1. The measures provided for in this Act are to ensure the representation of young peoples' concerns before the political decision-makers on a Federal level.

Definitions

Section 2. (1) For the purpose of this Federal Act, the term youth denotes all young people up to the completion of their 30th year .

(2) Youth organisations within the meaning of this Federal Act includes voluntary associations having legal personality, whose members are predominantly youths within the meaning of paragraph 1, which are significant for Austria as a whole, and whose main goal is the representation of youths and the furtherance of their interests

Chapter 2

Federal Youth Representation

Institution of a Federal Youth Representation

Section 3. (1) A Federal Youth Representation shall be instituted on a Federal level for the purpose of representing the young people's concerns before the political decision-makers on the Federal level. The members of the Federal Youth Representation shall not be older than 30 and shall be delegated by the organisations entitled to nominate them pursuant to Sections 4 and 5.

(2) In matters that could affect the interests of Austrian youth, the Federal Youth Representation shall be equal in status with the legal representations of employees, of businessmen, of farmers, and of the Austrian Senior Citizens' Council.

(3) For the purpose of establishing the Federal Youth Representation, the Federal Minister of Social Security and Generations shall in an appropriate manner call the attention of the authorised organisations to their right of nomination pursuant to Sections 4 and 5.

(4) The executive bodies of the Federal Youth Representation are the Plenary Assembly and the Executive Committee.

Composition of the Plenary Assembly of the Federal Youth Representation

Section 4. The Plenary Assembly shall be composed of:

1. two representatives each of any association-type youth organisation pursuant to Article 6, paragraphs 1 through 3, of the Federal Youth Promotion Act.
2. two representatives of the Austrian University Students' Representation,
3. two representatives of the Federal Pupils' Representation,
4. two representatives each from the Provincial Youth Advisory Boards,
5. two representatives from the institutions of open youth work
6. one representative each of an association-type youth organisation which, in addition to the required number of members, fulfils the preconditions set out in Section 6, paragraph 1, of the Federal Youth Promotion Act, and
7. one representative each of the legally recognised ethnic groups and minorities in Austria.

Composition of the Executive Committee of the Federal Youth Representation

Section 5. The Executive Committee conducts the business of the Federal Youth Representation and consist of:

1. one representative each of the two association-type youth organisations having the most members, which are connected to a legally recognised church and religious community, the representatives being nominated from the circle of these youth organisations,

2. two representatives of the association-type youth organisations pursuant to Section 6, paragraphs 1 and 3, of the Federal Youth Promotion Act, which are not attributed to a legally recognised church and religious community or political-party youth organisation or to the Austrian trade union youth, the representatives being nominated from the circle of these youth organisations,

3. one representative each of any political-party youth organisations promoted under the provisions of Section 7, paragraph 2, of the Federal Youth Promotion Act,

4. one representative of the Austrian University Students' Representation,

5. one representative of the Federal Pupils' Representation,

6. one representative of the Austrian Youth Trade Union.

7. If a managing director is appointed by the Executive Committee of the Federal Youth Representation, he shall be a member of the Executive Committee in an advisory capacity.

Sphere of Activity of the Federal Youth Representation

Section 6. The sphere of representation of the youths' concerns and interests relative to the political and social decision-makers on the Federal level according to this Federal Act shall include amongst others.:

1. representing youths' interests before the Federal Government and its members,

2. consulting the Federal Government and its members in all youth-relevant matters,

3. delivering opinions on all the draft laws and ordinances which appear relevant to the Federal Youth Representation,

4. handling such questions as to how planned Federal Government projects on youth-relevant areas affect youths' living conditions, such as the formulation of

- a) proposals on issues concerning the standing of youths in society,
- b) proposals for measures of significance for youths,
- c) proposals for social, educational, economic and cultural government-policy measures,
- d) proposals on issues concerning how the generations' way of living and working together impacts young people.
- e) recommendations for the issuance of guidelines pursuant to Section 8 of the Federal Youth Promotion Act, and

- f) recommendations for the support of youth-specific projects according to Section 7, paragraphs 5 and 6, of the Federal Youth Promotion Act, where the sum applied for exceeds ATS 200,000.

Chairmanship Within the Federal Youth Representation

Section 7. (1) The chairmanship of the Federal Youth Representation shall be determined by drawing lots within the group of persons delegated to the Executive Committee. The first ticket drawn shall designate the first deputy chairman, the second the chairman, and the third the second deputy chairman. All the subsequently drawn lots shall designate the order in which the chairmanship within the Austrian Federal Youth Representation alternates. Each chairmanship shall be for a term of six months. The tripartite chairmanship shall be composed of the person delegated at the time by that organisation which last held the chairmanship, currently holds it, and will hold it next.

(2) The Federal Minister of Social Security and Generations and the public shall be duly informed of the outcome of the lot casting and the order of the chairmanship resulting from it.

Plenary Assembly of the Federal Youth Representation

Section 8. (1) The Plenary Assembly of the Federal Youth Representation shall meet upon convocation by the chairman as and when required, in any case at least once a year or within eight months, if requested by at least one-third of its members.

(2) The Plenary Assembly of the Federal Youth Representation shall be responsible for consultation on fundamental matters of the Federal Youth Representation and decision-making in respect of resolutions and comments to be submitted to the Executive Committee.

(3) The conduct of the Federal Youth Representation's business shall be incumbent on the chairman of the Executive Committee, or one of his deputies as and when required.

The Executive Committee of the Federal Youth Representation

Section 9. (1) The Executive Committee of the Federal Youth Representation shall meet upon convocation by the chairman as and when required, at least four

times a year, or within 14 days, if requested by at least one-third of the Executive Committee's members.

(2) The Executive Committee of the Federal Youth Representation shall be responsible for

1. managing the Federal Youth Representation's business,
2. representing the Federal Youth Representation in public, in particular before the Federal Government, the regional and local authorities, the public, and on an international level, as well as
3. discharging the duties pursuant to Section 6 for the Federal Youth Representation,
4. adopting standing business practice for the Plenary Assembly of the Federal Youth Representation, which shall provide for:
 - a) a quorum, following the proper invitation of all members, requiring the presence of at least 50% of its' members,
 - b) the decisions/resolutions of the Plenary Meeting being adopted by a majority vote,
 - c) detailed rules governing the delegation, removal and nomination of members and substitute members for, or from, the bodies of the Plenary Assembly, as well as
5. adopting standing business practice for the Executive Committee of the Federal Youth Representation, which shall provide for:
 - a, a quorum, following the proper invitation of all members, requiring the presence of at least 50 percent of the members,
 - b, the decisions/resolutions of the Executive Committee being adopted by a two-thirds majority of the members present,
 - c, the possibility of calling in guests, experts and informants to attend meetings of the Executive Committee and the Plenary Assembly,
 - d, the more detailed allocation of duties within the Executive Committee,
 - e, more detailed provisions in connection with the nominations following the constitution and subsequent nominations of the Executive Committee members, whose delegating organisations cannot be identified directly on the basis of this Act,
 - f, more detailed provisions for delegating, removing and nominating members and substitute members from the delegating organisations to the Executive Committee of the Federal Youth

Representation, with the delegations and removals being the member organisations' responsibility.

(3) Business rules adopted in accordance with paragraph 2(4) and (5) in their up-to-date form, shall without delay be submitted by the chairman to the Federal Minister of Social Security and Generations.

Executive Unit of the Federal Youth Representation

Section 10. (1) If youth organisations join forces to form a society, and if such a society is charged by the Executive Commission of the Federal Youth Representation by a two-thirds majority of votes to set up an executive unit and to conduct its office duties, the Federal Minister of Social Security and Generations is authorised to conclude a contract with that society, according to which the society shall be compensated the reasonable costs and expenses of conducting the office duties to perform the Federal Youth Representation's tasks.

(2) The contract referred to in paragraph 1 shall in particular specify:

1. the compensation of the costs and expenses of the Federal Youth Representation's office operations, and the reimbursement of the travel and subsistence expenses of the Executive Committee members, with the Travel Expenses Regulation 1955, Federal Gazette no. 133/1955, being applied *mutatis mutandis*,
2. the termination of the agreement in case the preconditions mentioned in paragraph 1 cease to exist for the society.

(3) For as long as a society is in charge of the duties set out in paragraph 1, it shall be entitled to use the designation "Executive Unit of the Federal Youth Representation".

(4) The Federal Minister of Social Security and Generations has to make public the existence of the society, where the preconditions pursuant to paragraph 1 exist, in the Official Gazette of the Wiener Zeitung.

(5) In so far as no contract has been concluded with a society pursuant to paragraph 1 and 2, the Federal Youth Representation shall be supported in the conduct of its office business by the Federal Ministry of Social Security and Generations.

Chapter 3

Concluding Provisions

Reference to Other Legal Provisions

Section 11. Where reference to other Federal acts is made in this Federal Act, such reference relates to the latest up-to-date versions .

Person-related Designations

Section 12. Where person-related designations are used in this Federal Act, the gender used shall mean either sex.

Entry into Force

Section 13. This Federal Act shall enter into force as of 1st January 2001.

Execution

Section 14. The Federal Minister of Social Security and Generations shall be entrusted with the execution of this Federal Act.

Klestil

Schüssel



**FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ECONOMY,
FAMILY AND YOUTH**

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