

Austria:Overview

In Austria the education system is managed as follows:

Competence for legislation in education and its implementation is divided between the **Federation** (*Bund*) and the **States** (*Länder*).

At States level, the competent legislative bodies are the States Parliaments (diets). Responsibility for implementation rests with the the administrative bodies (*Ämter der Landesregierung*) of the 9 Austrian States.

In specific matters enumerated in the Constitution, the Federation and the States have a shared legislative competence. The Federation enacts framework legislation, while detailed implementing legislation is laid down by the States.

However, the Federation has overwhelming responsibility for the **system of education**, which covers virtually all areas of school organisation, the organisation of school instruction, Private Schools as well as the service, remuneration and retirement law governing teachers. These matters are all governed by federal legislation.

The States are mainly responsible for the provision of teaching staff at Public Compulsory Schools. Moreover, they support the municipalities in the construction and maintenance of these Schools via dedicated school construction funds, which they administer. Nursing school (*Kindergarten*) education is a responsibility of the States.

Schools enjoy some autonomy in budgetary management and, up to a point, are free to adapt the curriculum to local needs.

- --->[Some more details about distribution of responsibilities in educational system between Federation and States see here \(chapter 1 overview\)](#) and
- --->[even more details here \(chapter 2.6\)](#)
- --->[Some more background about involved legal bodies see here \(chapter 1.2\)](#)

The [Federal Ministry of Education, the Arts and Culture](#) is the supreme oversight body for **primary and secondary education** as well as for the **University Colleges of Teacher Education** (*Pädagogische Hochschulen, PHs*).

Main chapters in the sector:

- --->[Early Childhood Education and Care \(chapter 4\)](#)
- --->[Primary Education \(chapter 5\)](#)
- --->[Secondary an Post-Secondary Non-Tertiary Education \(chapter 6\)](#)

The [Federal Ministry of Science and Research](#) is the supreme oversight body for **Universities** and **Universities of Applied Sciences** (*Fachhochschulen, FHs*).

The [University Act - as amended](#) (*Universitätengesetz 2002*) transformed Universities from federal institutions into public-law entities which are no longer under federal administration.

Federal funding is provided through three year global budgets that are based on performance agreements. Being endowed with full legal capacity, the Universities are free to tap other sources of funding. Territorial entities and private legal entities may run Universities of Applied Sciences (*Fachhochschulen*). At present, Universities of Applied Sciences study programmes are predominantly funded by the Federation in accordance with authorised study places.

Main chapter in the sector:

- --->[Higher Education \(chapter 7\)](#)

Further information may also be found on the website of the [Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture](#) and of the [Federal Ministry of Science and Research](#).

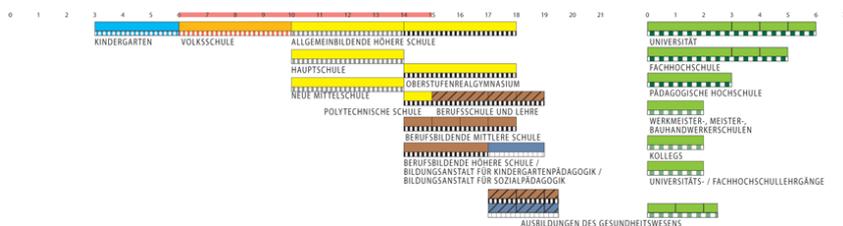
Cross sector materials You may find at:

- --->[Organisation and Governance \(chapter 2\)](#)
- --->[Funding in Education \(chapter 3\)](#)
- --->[Adult Education and Training \(chapter 8\)](#)
- --->[Teachers and Education Staff \(chapter 9\)](#)
- --->[Management and Other Education Staff \(chapter 10\)](#)
- --->[Quality Assurance \(chapter 11\)](#)
- --->[Educational Support and Guidance \(chapter 12\)](#)
- --->[Mobility and Internationalisation \(chapter 13\)](#)
- --->[Ongoing Reforms and Policy Developments \(chapter 14\)](#)

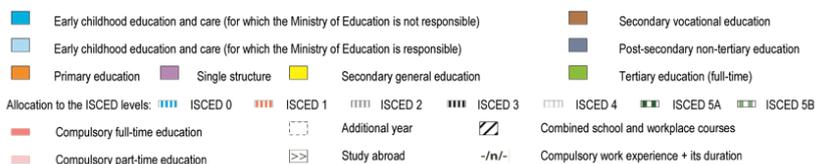
The [Federal Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth](#) is the supreme oversight body for company based **apprenticeship training**.

For a description of the different levels of the Austrian education system please see the schematic diagram:

Structure of the national education system 2012/13



Note: Hauptschule is to be phased-out in the 2014/15 school year



source: Eurydice

Common European Reference Tools Provided by the Eurydice Network

- [National Student Fee and Support Systems](#)
- [Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education](#)
- [Organisation of School Time in Europe](#) (Primary and general secondary education)
- [Recommended Annual Taught Time](#) in Full-Time Compulsory Education in Europe (Presented by grades/stages for full time compulsory education as well as by subject and country.)
- [Teachers and School Heads Salaries and Allowances in Europe](#) (Salaries and allowances of teachers and school heads at pre-primary, primary, lower secondary and upper secondary education levels.)