



Labour Market Integration of Recognized Refugees Pilot Project: Supra-Regional Apprenticeship Services

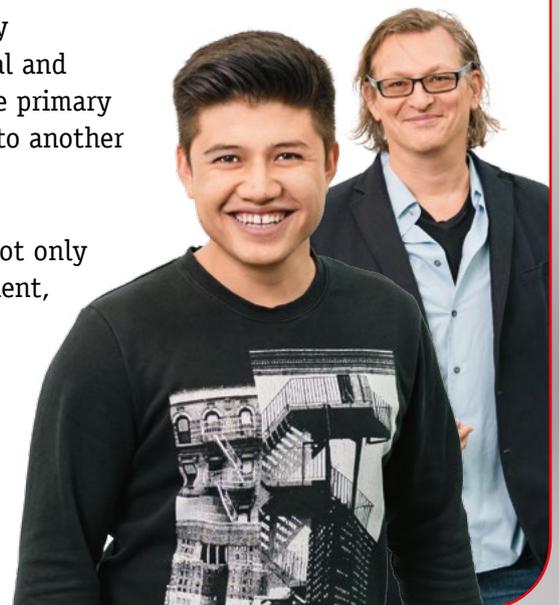
The current situation of refugees causes enormous challenges for Austria and also the rest of Europe. At the national level, the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber supports the prompt and sustainable integration of people into the labour market, who will receive asylum in Austria.

At the moment more than 6.500 young asylum seekers and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection are registered as unemployed in Austria, 2/3 are concentrated in Vienna. At the same time the number of vacant apprenticeships that cannot be filled is increasing – particularly in the federal states of Western-Austria. The apprenticeship system has a strong and valuable tradition in Austria. It allows young people better job opportunities and enterprises can cover their need for qualified workers in special fields.

Pilot Project: Supra-Regional Apprenticeship Services

In order to fight against the lack of specified workers and to provide a professional perspective for young refugees the Austrian Economic Chamber initiated a new pilot project in cooperation with the Public Employment Service and the Federal Ministries of Economy and Labor. This project shall combine the supply and demand at the apprenticeship market all over Austria.

- Young refugees have the possibility to participate in a **free assessment of competences** (in Arabic, English, French and henceforth Farsi) to identify their skills, tendencies and suitability.
- The Austrian Economic Chambers motivate enterprises all over Austria to also employ young refugees as apprentices.
- These findings then form the basis to **find suitable apprenticeships for these young people** and to prepare them in the most appropriate way for their new position. Furthermore, refugees and companies also have the possibility to get to know each other during a one week internship.
- Throughout this process, the young people are optimally accompanied by an **apprenticeship coach**, who is a local and steady person in the federal state. This coach will be the primary contact person for the individual refugee when moving to another federal state and if the refugee needs to further discuss professional as well as private questions. It is important to know that the apprenticeship coach not only supports the young people in their search for an apartment, but also organizes psychological advice, if necessary. The apprenticeship coach further prepares the companies for the apprenticeship with the young refugees.





PROCEDURE



Competence Assessment
in Arabic, German,
English, Farsi



Practical Assessment
German, Mathematics,
practical training,
intercultural
competences



Apprenticeship Coach
Individual support
of apprentices and
enterprises before
and during the
apprenticeship



Practical Training
Possibility of a practi-
cal training for one
week in the assigned
enterprise



Provision of Tutoring
Support for the
attendance of
vocational schools

Advantages:

- Vacant positions in professions that face apprenticeship shortages will be filled
- Young refugees receive a professional perspective
- Existing initiatives are adapted and bundled so that every young person, who is looking for an apprenticeship may engage these services
- A successful apprenticeship in many cases lays the foundation for the future development of an enterprise
- The project is not restricted to refugees - Austrian nationals seeking for an apprenticeship post may also have access to all supporting measures

For further information please visit our website www.fachkraeftepotenzial.at