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Education for all

Education is a universal human right and a fundamental development goal. It helps to reduce poverty and has a beneficial effect on public health. It promotes self-determination and enables people to take active part in societal, political and social change.

Thanks to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, which include universal primary education by 2015 and the global initiative, Education for All, much has already been achieved: Since the turn of the millennium, for example, the number of children not attending school has been roughly halved. Nevertheless, in 2012 almost 60 million children were still not enrolled at school and 200 million young people had no primary school-leaving certificate, let alone an occupational qualification or degree.

The international community is currently setting new goals. After 2015, these will be the guidelines for development policy. In addition to the primary tier, there is growing recognition of the importance of all levels and forms of education for sustainable development. With its focus on vocational education and training, science and research, Austria provides a major impetus here.

Knowledge takes us further

For sustainable development, we need educated people. This calls for modern and high-quality educational facilities. In higher education, Austrian Development Cooperation attaches importance to strengthening educational institutions and developing subject-matter competency. Thanks to its long-standing experience and expertise, it is held in high regard as a partner.

Studying to modern standards

Kosovo is bringing its higher education system up to international standards. Austria is assisting Kosovan universities and the competent ministry to do this. Modernised teaching programmes geared to labour market needs and improved quality assurance will ensure that students at Kosovan institutions of higher education receive a high standard of education. Research promotion is also under reform. About 85,000 students will benefit from this.



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Fit for the labour market

Vocational education and training has a long tradition in Austrian Development Cooperation, because skilled personnel need the best training to meet the demands of a globalised economy. Austria promotes high-standard, practice-based and government-approved training courses and the development of requisite occupational profiles.

Whether training is provided in a vocational school or under the dual scheme (combination of theory and practice, school and enterprise) depends on the general conditions in the partner country. Whatever form the training takes, enterprises should always be involved.

Apprenticeship training in Mexico

Production firms need trained skilled personnel, but these are in short supply in developing and emerging countries. In a business partnership with Austrian Development Cooperation, an Austrian packaging manufacturer is now training up to 130 apprentices a year for its subsidiary and other enterprises in Mexico. Close cooperation with local education experts assures the quality, practical relevance and government approval of training.



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Learning easier in locally used languages

Not even half of all children in Burkina Faso complete primary school. Often, the formal French-speaking school system constitutes a barrier. Vocational training in locally used languages affords new opportunities for young people. With Austrian support, Burkinian youth can now do this at agricultural schools. In 2013, the first 142 graduates successfully completed their training in agriculture, livestock breeding or horticulture.

Building water knowledge


Effective water supply and sanitation needs more than just the requisite infrastructure. Equally important are skilled personnel to operate and service the facilities. In the Republic of Moldova, there were, however, no suitable vocational education and training. To remedy this, at vocational schools Austria supported its partner country in developing occupational profiles for water engineering and modern curricula for practice-based training geared to labour-market needs.

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Researching and learning together

Through cooperation we can enrich current and create new knowledge. Under the Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development (APPEAR) since 2010, Austrian Development Cooperation has promoted partnerships between Austrian universities and applied science universities and scientific institutions in developing countries. The cooperation partnerships help raise the quality of teaching and research at the participant institutions, make management and administration more effective and advance scientific dialogue.

The APPEAR programme is aimed at all Austrian universities and applied science universities that are planning innovative projects together with higher education and scientific institutions in its target countries.

www.appear.at



Protecting the environment and water resources

The Institute for Water Education (UNESCO-IHE) in the Netherlands, Egerton University in Kenya and the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna have bundled their knowledge in an international joint Master programme. This supports the development of research capacities for water resource management in East Africa. With considerable success: The programme, Limnology and Wetland Management, and the installation of the requisite modern research and laboratory equipment have done much to raise scientific standards at Egerton University. Among other things, teaching staff and students in the programme have taken part in implementing the Kenyan National Development Plan with flagship projects, such as cleaning the heavily polluted Njoro River.



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Knowledge drives development

 Austrian
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