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## Monitoring of the Vienna Weeks of Lifelong Guidance and Further Education 2018 – Summary

The Vienna Weeks of Occupational Guidance and Further Education (Wiener Wochen für Beruf und Weiterbildung) – in the following addressed as Vienna Weeks – took place in 2018 for the fourth time. They build a corner piece of the action field ‘information and motivation’ of Vienna’s qualification strategy (‘Qualifikationsplan Wien 2030’) and build a successful framework for regional outreach activities.

2018, the Vienna Weeks focussed on adults without a degree at higher secondary level, who are interested in further education and training and migrants whose qualifications cannot be used in the Austrian labour market yet. Further target groups included were youngsters and young adults (13 to 25 years of age) with special attention on Early School Leavers and young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs).

Within a five weeks’ time span in spring and fall 2018, the Vienna Weeks offered a broad variety of events in the fields of occupational and educational guidance. 91 events took place within the living areas of the target groups and lasted between two hours and a full day. Activities included outdoor activities (e.g. in shopping centres) as well as various types of in-door consultation and information sessions as well as workshops and open days in educational facilities. Activities have been provided by a large network of organisations working in the fields of education, employment policy, youth work, migration, social work and rehabilitation. All events were free of charge and did not require any registration.

All events were monitored by and accompanying research project. The analysis built upon various sources, in particular data provided by the various organisations cooperating under the Vienna Weeks umbrella, feedback sheets provided by the same organisations and 481 interviews with participants during the event. Furthermore, 152 short interviews were conducted with participants approximately 4 months after their participation in one of the events.

The Vienna Weeks 2018 were successful in reaching out to its target groups

The Vienna Weeks were visited by 5.050 individuals between March and October 2018. 91 events took place with 2.550 male (51%) and 2.500 female (49%) visitors. 1.750 of all visitors belonged to the age group of youngsters and young adults below the age of 18. 1.150 visitors were between 19 and 25 years old, 1.700 between 26 and 45 years and 300 visitors between 46 and 64 years old. About 150 visitors belonged to the group of multipliers (accompanying visitors, teachers). Cooperation with regional organisations and large events supported the reach-out to low qualified target groups. Events with a focus on specific sectors (e.g. health, police) were visited by employed target groups.

### *Visitors' and partner organisations' satisfaction is high*

During the events 481 short interviews with participants were conducted and showed high satisfaction of all target groups. Visitors of the Vienna Weeks showed interest in a diverse range of topics. Younger participants were interested in vocational guidance and access routes to various occupational fields. They were motivated by activating approaches, meeting with testimonials and workshops. Older visitors asked for counselling on specific further education opportunities, access to second chance education, support with job search and recognition of foreign qualifications as well as German language classes. They made positive experiences through well informed, friendly and individual counselling. All in all, visitors provided a very positive rating of their chosen events.

Altogether 79 organisations participated in the of the Vienna Weeks. According to the survey implemented, partner organisations were also (very)satisfied (80%) and 90% are motivated to participate again.

### Participation in Vienna Weeks triggers further activities

To learn more about the impact of the activities in spring 2018, in September 2018 semi-standardised phone interviews were conducted with 152 visitors. The majority of interview partners reported that they have benefitted from their participation in the Vienna Weeks 2017.

About 60% of participants, interviewed roughly four months after their participation in on Vienna week's event, have been able to achieve at least one further step in their occupational development pathway. About half of the younger participants all of 16 to 18 years old participants started further activities, as new educational programmes, including further school education and vocational education. Within the group of young adults between 19 and 25 years, participants participants reported applications for a new job or have taken up one of the existing lifelong guidance or other counselling services.

Visitors between 26 to 45 years and those among the target group of 46 or older, reported on further education activities often related to new job perspectives or further development within their profession.