



# Monitoring of the *Vienna Weeks of Lifelong Guidance and Further Education 2019* – 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 2019 for the fifth 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.

The *Vienna Weeks* focus 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 include young people 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 2019, the *Vienna Weeks* offered a broad variety of events in the fields of occupational and educational guidance. 103 events were planned to take 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 an 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 527 interviews with participants during the event. Furthermore, 119 short interviews were conducted with participants approximately five months after their participation in one of the events.

*The Vienna Weeks 2019 were successful in reaching out to its target groups*

The *Vienna Weeks* were visited by 4.150 individuals between March and October 2019. 103 events attracted 2.100 male (51%) and 2.050 female (49%) visitors. 1.100 of all visitors belonged to the age group of young people below the age of 18. 1.000 visitors were between 19 and 25 years old, 1.600 between 26 and 45 years and 350 visitors between 46 and 64 years old. About 100 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 527 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 76 organisations participated in the organisation of the events of the *Vienna Weeks*. According to the survey implemented, partner organisations were also (very) satisfied (84%) and 93% are motivated to participate again.

### *Participation in Vienna Weeks triggers further activities*

To learn more about the impact of the activities in spring 2019, in September 2019 semi-standardised phone interviews were conducted with 119 visitors. The majority of interview partners reported that they have benefitted from their participation in the *Vienna Weeks*.

About 70% of participants, interviewed roughly five months after their participation in a *Vienna weeks* event, have been able to achieve at least one further step in their occupational development pathway. About three quarters of the younger participants 16 to 18 years old 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 reported applications for a new job or have taken up new education activities. Visitors between 26 to 45 years reported on activities often related to new job perspectives or further development within their profession, ranging from making use of existing lifelong guidance or other counselling services to taking up further education or making efforts to gain recognition of qualifications.