

Unternehmerführerschein Entrepreneur's Skills Certificate

of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKO)

An Innovative Approach to Promoting Entrepreneurship in Austria

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Entrepreneur's Skills Certificate

- The EU Commission has called upon Member States to integrate entrepreneurship in all school's curricula and provide schools with proper support to allow them to put in place effective and high quality education schemes.
- Status quo in Austria: So far, entrepreneurship education is anchored comprehensively only in the curricula of colleges of business administration and of business schools.
- There is need for action in other schools, especially in schools where the largest deficit has been observed: the compulsory schools and general secondary academic schools
- By creating the Entrepreneurship's Skills Certificate (ESC), WKO meets the demands of the EU Commission. ESC allows to provide considerable more school children with a high quality entrepreneurial education and a positive attitude towards the economy and encourages a fundamental entrepreneurial attitude among young people.

The Entrepreneur's Skills Certificate is...

- ... an additional qualification
Upon completion of the ESC the entrepreneurial examination, which is one module of the final examination of regulated crafts and trades, is waived. But also in the unregulated trades you have a much better chance of succeeding if you have a good entrepreneurial training.
- .. is a didactic innovation
It allows the outstanding humanities based education to be supplemented by a sound knowledge of business and commerce. Unlike similar schemes, these courses also provide an explanation of the links between business and macroeconomics.
- ... is based on voluntary participation
and thus promotes commitment and motivation among learners and teachers
- ... leads to the awarding of a certificate
and is therefore an additional asset for young job seekers

... is adjusted in modules and transferable

Entrepreneur's Skills Certificate

Modules

Content

Education at

A

Examination

Fundamental Economic Know -How

Lower secondary school

B

Examination

Key Aspects of Economics

Upper level secondary school

C

Examination

Key Aspects of Business Administration

Upper level secondary school

UP

Examination

Supplementary Knowledge of Business Administration at level of the Entrepreneur Exam

Upper level secondary school or adult learning establishment

The benefits to you....

... as an entrepreneur

Training at the level of
the Entrepreneur's
Examinations

A uniform standard

Better qualified staff

Better competitiveness

... as a student

A better start as
entrepreneur

Verifiable academic
success

A better start at
universities

Easier career choices

A substitute for the
Entrepreneur's
Examination

... as a school

More kudos

Easily integrated within
the curriculum

Increased cooperation
between schools and
businesses

Additional skills

Qualified further
education

No charges for
teacher's materials

Some experiences

- more than 70 school in Austria participate
- since 2004 more than 3800 examinations,
2000 modules tested each year - increasing tendency
- easy integration in curricula
- teacher welcome teacher materials provided
- students accept the certificate

Coming up next....

- The Entrepreneur's Skills Certificate will be introduced to the EU - License
- First Expansion - Germany, Switzerland
- Second Expansion - Rest of EU
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