

DEVELOPING A SECURE INTEGRATION CHAIN (STYRIA INTEGRA)

All of Styria Integra's partners within the framework of its strategy were informed about the activities and became part of the preparation of the project. These included the funding authorities, the organisations concerned, the services providers and the ministries' workshops and together they developed a concept for a common interest representation in the social planning committees.

The four funding authorities developed and signed an agreement of co-operation at the highest possible decision-making level - the federal state of Styria. Through this agreement, coordinated action was established at the following levels:

- Direction and management of social action plans;
- Positioning of the individual administrations;
- Information regarding budget resources;
- Recording and analysis of data as a basis for action plans;
- Coordination of the decision making processes;
- Setting focal points for innovative projects;
- Transfer of knowledge and information.

The service providers were already well organised and they also established regional delegation principles for their committee proceedings. The ministries were also involved in the dialogue so that they were able to form an early opinion. In this way, the representatives of the four system partners were all active in preliminary political decision-making through systematic negotiation processes. Long term strategic targets that were worked out together formed the umbrella under which these challenging negotiation processes took place.

This arrangement produced benefits for everyone involved:

- *The clients* - Within the regional structures the four funding authorities co-ordinated a wide network of well known supportive offers and made the necessary transition from one offer to the next within the context of the clients' individual action plans. Members of staff in the various offices or centres resolved the needs of the clients through case management and supported them in their use of the assistance that was available;
- *The funding authorities* – Coordination between all of the participating partners produced a more effective service offer with higher acceptance and more efficient use of resources;
- *The political decision makers* - Accurate and more financially sound decisions could be made in the area of social planning, based on actual demand and action plan proposals;
- *The service providers* - A continuous planning process guaranteed optimal qualitative and quantitative adaptation of the services to the actual local/regional demands and a long term planning of offers.

The development model within the framework of Styria Integra was limited to juveniles and young adults with disabilities and to a selected planning area. The planning model was, however, set up in such a way that a transfer to other target groups and other geographical areas was possible.

Contact

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