

# **„Labour Market Research“ in Austria – Labour market studies and their impact on formulating labour market policies in Austria**

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René Sturm/AMS

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## Labour market studies and their impact on formulating labour market policies

- Content:
- Characteristics of the research situation in Austria
- Who are the actors?
- Public Employment Service (PES) as actor – research activities of the PES
- Distribution and use of the research results
- The PES research network



## Labour market studies and their impact on formulating labour market policies

- **Labour Market Research** (= research on labor market related issues) in Austria (and not only in Austria) - regardless of how quality and output are assessed – is to be set interdisciplinary (multidisciplinary).
- **Interdisciplinary:** various scientific disciplines are involved in the acquisition of knowledge and make statements about labor market issues: political economics, sociology, political science, social work, science, education and education sciences, statistics, population science, psychology, occupational medicine, gender studies, social and economic geography, economic history, business economics etc.
- **The variety of involved disciplines** also expresses the variety of labor market related issues (= research topics), that can be worked on using scientific methods, provided that the financing can be found in time!
- Organisations and companies from different sectors and different client or subcontractor relationships operate in the market.
- The strong link between labor market related issues and the mass media, such as everyday political practice and special interest politics affect the research procedure (actors involved in special interest politics, objectivity issues, lobbying).



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- **Which organisations/ enterprises/ people conduct research on labor market related issues in Austria?**
- **Sector 1**
- Universities, Universities of Applied Sciences, Colleges of Education - in the form of students' final theses and research papers of academic staff.
- Sector 1 produces its output mostly independent of the actual labor market research (= independent of the closely linked sectors 2 and 3). It means on the one hand independence in the choice of research topics as well as in the formulation of (scientifically justified) criticism, and on the other hand even larger deficits in the information transfer concerning sectors 2 and 3 (reception deficits).



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- **Which organisations/ enterprises/ people conduct research on labor market related issues in Austria?**
- **Sector 2 – the „contractors“**
  - The organisations in this sector emerge primarily as contractors.
  - They can be non-university research organisations and consulting institutions organised in various legal forms: non-profit or private economically orientated (profit), partly provided with state subsidies/ grants. Therefore: consultancies, market and opinion research institutes.
  - Above all the non-university research organisations and consulting institutions are market-driven and heavily dependent on the market, due to relative few financiers (mainly public sector, e.g. in the form of federal government/ ministries).



- **Which organisations/ enterprises/ people conduct research on labor market related issues in Austria?**
- **Sector 3 – the „financiers“**
- Social partners (employers' organisations, labour associations) such as: Chamber of Commerce, Chamber of Labor, Trade Unions, Federation of Austrian Industry.
- Professional interest groups, professional associations.
- **Federal government:** Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth, Ministry for Science and Research, Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture, Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Federal Chancellery, Ministry of Finance.
- The individual nine Austrian federal states (provincial state administrations or federal state governments).
- Social security schemes.
- NGOs.
- Big private enterprises / corporations.
- Funds and foundations.
- **Public Employment Service Austria.**
- The organisations in this sector emerge primarily as financiers, whereas the federal government (ministries) and PES Austria are the most important by far.
- Non-national financier: EU (via various research/ educational or social programs, which the Austrian research institutions and consultancy organisations participate in).
- A special role is played by Statistics Austria (as an independent, non-profit federal institution under public law), which, equipped with a statutory mandate, addresses - among other things - labor market issues. Statistics Austria also emerges – against reimbursement of costs - as a service provider (contractor) on the market.



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- **The objectives of the Austrian labor market policy (and important research topics) are:**
  - Achieve and maintain full employment.
  - Maintain older employees longer in employment.
  - Take active measures, that support qualifications and equal opportunities.
  - Increase transparency in the labor market.
  - Enhance human resources development.
  - Activate and motivate unemployed people and combat long-term unemployment.
- These general goals are specified and clarified through the labor market objectives of the Federal Minister. They assess the use of instruments of the active labor market policy in favor of certain defined groups of people in the labor market.
- The Public Employment Service is implementing these labor-market policy objectives. The PES also handles the disbursement of funds for unemployed people (unemployment benefits etc.). In this, the provision of employment services and material livelihood by means of providing unemployment benefits and emergency unemployment assistances form a single unit. This is the way to successfully carry out the principle: "passive activation before payment of benefits".



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- **The actor AMS - Research activities of the PES**
- The PES Austria, together with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection is the most important institutional platform for the regular implementation of research activities in the labor market, occupational and qualification research in Austria. The legal mandate (Labour Market Service Act 1994 ) requires from the federal organisation and the nine provincial organisations of the PES, that a special attention should be given to labor market monitoring and statistics, to fundamental studies and development projects and to an empirical research based on current topics in the areas of labor market, employment, qualifications and professional life.
- The obtained results represent one of the foundations for the implementation of the Austrian labor market policy and for the direction research area is going to follow. Furthermore, they should maintain and promote the perception and awareness of social problems related to economic activity and employment, vocational training and labor-market related further education.
- In this context, the implementation of the lifelong-learning paradigm required by the EU assumes a special significance for the PES, as the results of the labor market, vocational and qualification research are integrated even more closely in the development of information media. In terms of their distribution to the public, new innovative ways must be sought and found. At a glance, the following thematic priorities emerge in the course of the research activities of the Public Employment Service Austria.
- Operating Procedure: Preparation of an annual research program involving the PES-provincial organisations, social partners and the Ministry. Formal resolution is taken by the administrative council (PES tripartite committee) and the board of PES Directors.





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- **Dissemination and exploitation of research results**
- Annual short-and medium-term labor market forecasts, as well as various studies on primary statistics-oriented representation of the activities on the labor market (using the PES data ware house).
- Empirically oriented basic research on the labor market and labor market relevant aspects of the (further) education landscape.
- Skills needs research.
- Studies on the development, implementation and evaluation of labor market policy programs, instruments and measures.
- Development and implementation of planning indicators and indices for the refinement and efficiency monitoring and enhancement of the PES (labor market policy monitoring and controlling).
- Investigations concerning the situation of certain individuals or groups of problems in the labor market (such as long-term unemployed, youth, people rejoining the labour market, disabled, elderly, persons with a migrant background).
- Occupational and qualifications research as basic work and foundation ment to support the development, deployment and regular updating of career-related documents (print, CD-ROM, Internet) in the spirit of customer-oriented information services of the PES for the purpose of a realistic and demand-oriented career choice, education and training decisions.
- Special projects for development, implementation and continuous adaptation of Internet databases setting the focus on vocational information, further education, job profile / job finding.
- Research and documentation of international projects and labor market policies (best-practice models).
- Participation in topic-related EU programmes.



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- **At a glance, here are the following central distribution objectives, with regard to the research activities of the Public Employment Service Austria:**
- Targeted, ie customer-oriented dissemination of the results of F&E activities in the spirit of the PES-core process "information about career and working environment" (vocational information materials, Internet-based information services).
- Publications in the scientific journal series "AMS info" of the Public Employment Service Austria (national and international distribution in German-speaking region).
- Publications in scientific book series "AMS report" of the Public Employment Service Austria (national and international distribution in German-speaking region).
- Implementation of the results in the Internet-based research network of the Public Employment Service Austria.
- Active distribution of information to the relevant media.
- Active distribution of information to different expert circles at home and abroad (university and non-university-based research).
- Active distribution of information to external training institutions and education organisations.
- Supply of relevant PES internal organisation bodies with the results achieved and their integration into basic education. Relevant training activities of the PES Austria for its employees.
- Regular conduct of thematic conferences on labor market, occupational and research skills, such as within the PES research network, and regular meetings with relevant actors from the German-speaking countries (Networking meeting).
- General promotion of the relevant professional discourse in the relevant policies by means of the Public Employment Service Austria.
- Inclusion in EU thematic materials



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- **[www.ams-forschungsnetzwerk.at](http://www.ams-forschungsnetzwerk.at)**
- The PES Austria, Dept. of Labor Market Research and Vocational Information, together with PES research network, provide comprehensive information and a service platform that present the results and activities in the labor market, vocational and skills research with the goal to make this info more usable. Research (e.g. full-text e-Library), expertise (e.g. PES qualification barometer) and practice (e.g. methods and information manuals, professional brochures in the series "Job opportunities Studies") form therefore the three fundamental pillars.



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- The PES research network - [www.ams-forschungsnetzwerk.at](http://www.ams-forschungsnetzwerk.at) - the Department of Labor Market Research and Vocational Information of PES Austria is a high inter-and trans-disciplinary Internet platform, which - based on the results of the labor market, vocational and skills research – offer a variety of information and support services.
- In the institutional (vocational) education, media and private economic sector, the spectrum of users include educational institutions (university, such as non-university sector, polytechnic sector, adult education, schools), enterprises, social partners, government ministries, provincial governments, municipalities, and economic research institutes up to NGOs, media and journalists and, last but not least, PES staff as part of internal knowledge management.
- The research-based support for lifelong learning in a variety of training and further education sectors as well as its practical utilization in the labor market are also highlighted.
- There are about 12 000 hits per month from the above-mentioned three sectors.



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- **Thank you for your attention!**

