

QIBB MISSION STATEMENT: The Mission Statement of the General Directorate for Vocational Education and Training (GD VET)

Vision and Mission

In terms of our understanding of a modern, innovative educational management we – the General Directorate for Vocational Education and Training – see our central task in the implementation and further development of the statutory mission of education and training.

- We want to ensure that the students of vocational colleges and schools receive an education that is geared towards quality, secures their employability, provides them with life skills, and is oriented towards gender mainstreaming objectives.
- In this way we also want to secure the high innovation capacity of Austrian educational institutions and the competitiveness of Austria as a business location.
- We see ourselves as an organisation which continuously, systematically and collaboratively develops in view of the target of enhancing the efficiency of the organisations within our vocational education and training system and the creativity of all stakeholders in school-based VET. This objective also involves the timely and energetic implementation of reforms of school organisation and curricula in connection with demoscopic, labour market, technical and content related developments.

We aim at an education system

- which enables learners to participate in a complex knowledge and information society on the basis of their education and training level, personal development and creativity in an individual, equal, cultural, social and professionally responsible manner, in which process they are supported by teachers with their pedagogical, professional and creative competence;
- which provides high-quality education and continuing education that is competitive in Europe and worldwide, thus opening up to our graduates qualified professional and private possibilities of development; and
- which makes Austria attractive as a business location for the people living here as well as for domestic and foreign investors and businesses.

Fields of Action

Teaching and Learning

- We are convinced that, in a modern living and working environment, the connection of a broad general and high-quality technical education forms the basis for professional success and active participation in social life. We pay particular attention to the continuous development of specialist technical and general competencies that ensure the employability of graduates and enable them to participate successfully in the lifelong learning process by self-study or attending programmes at institutes of further education.
- Our key objective is to guide our students towards directly utilisable professional qualifications through innovative educational choices in the field of initial vocational education and training (IVET) – learning within the 'medium of the pro-

profession'. We are aware of the challenges posed by fast adjustments of the framework conditions of VET to business reality. Furthermore we consider part-time CVET as an important contribution towards expanding and improving the competencies of professionals and thus towards assuring the competitiveness of the Austrian economy.

- One of our main objectives is to design our education and training provisions for young people of both sexes in an attractive manner to offer a positive and in many ways inspiring teaching and learning environment at our schools. We believe that the students' and teachers' willingness to perform, achieve, competence and innovativeness represent key characteristics of a good school. We feel responsible for students and teachers, we want to encourage special talents, and offer targeted support to enable weak learners to overcome any learning disabilities.
- In our view, crucial parameters for a successful school career include the following: clearly formulated educational objectives at the level of curricula, schools and years; high-quality and varied teaching; transparent and comprehensible performance appraisals; and a living school partnership on the basis of shared responsibilities.
- The skills, abilities, practical and teaching experience, commitment and social competence of staff in the field of VET as well as a good working atmosphere form the main pillars on which a successful implementation of our educational mission is based. We thus want to contribute towards the development and continuous further improvement of qualified staff by sustainable personnel development schemes.
- It is at full-time VET schools and colleges and in the dual training system in particular that practice-oriented contact, which often precedes practical application, with new technologies, electronic learning environments and materials, as well as 'virtual' learning and designing tools is important. The mastery of this electronic working and learning environment communicates an anticipating culture of learning and seems essential also for access to higher learning.

Quality

- Quality requires a continuous reflection process and the introduction of a functioning control circle at all levels. Therefore we are active in the development and implementation of quality features at the level of the GD VET and its units, and support quality development in cooperation with subordinated departments and individual schools.
- Essential elements of our work include customer orientation, expertise and professional competence, decision-making processes using planning and decision-making tools, the willingness for continuous learning, and creativity in planning and implementation processes, as well as gender-oriented thinking and acting.
- We want to structure, simplify, standardise, document and evaluate workflows and processes related to administration and specialist pedagogical work. Our work is based on precise pedagogical and specialist objectives that are communicated clearly to all stakeholders and the implementation of which we safeguard the necessary framework conditions in cooperation with competent organisational units.
- We are convinced of the necessity to check whether the objectives have been reached by using adequate instruments of internal and external evaluation

- We see ourselves as a partner of the business community. We work together with and for the business community in an unbureaucratic, target- and solution-oriented way and bear social responsibility. We meet new challenges and develop our objectives in interaction with the changing economy and society on the basis of previous successes achieved in our work.
- It is our aim to work in close contact with the social partners and the business world. We co-operate closely and constructively with organisations from the world of work, educational institutions, scientists, as well as other ministries. In close collaboration with them we develop and implement future-oriented curricula for varied, high-quality and needs-oriented VET and CVET offers.
- Our planning and our activities are entrepreneurial as far as this is possible in our pedagogical environment (specialist pedagogical services). As a modern and practice-oriented service provider we present the services provided by the GD VET to our target groups in the form of a corporate design.
- We increase the quality of our work by implementing the quality standards of our GD. We act as a carrier of know-how and function as a forum for new ideas and trends. The research contracts required for this purpose are commissioned in view of complying with specifications for cost-benefit-conscious work and competitiveness regarding price, service and quality.

Internationality

- We promote European and worldwide co-operation in view of specialist and pedagogical exchanges. Our objective is to establish a productive connection of theory and practice in our VET and administrative institutions both within and outside of national and European programmes.
- We are convinced of the necessity to promote experiences with other cultural and economic areas. Therefore we promote mobility and the exchange of personnel and students / trainees and
- We promote language teaching and learning in all IVET areas, including content and language integrated learning (CLIL) and the use of foreign languages in leaving exams.
- We safeguard related language learning in in-service and further training programmes for teachers and the top management in administrative and educational institutions.
- We co-ordinate activities in the field of VET at a national and European level because we aim to promote Austria nationally and internationally as an attractive location for education, training and business.