

Financing adult learning database

Name of the instrument - Local language	WAFF Bildungskonto
Name of the instrument - English translation	WAFF Training Account
Scheme ID	7
Country	 Austria
Reporting year	2020
Type of instrument	Grant for individuals
Sub-type of instrument	Cost-related support
Type of entry	Example for a group of instruments

Short description	Employees with a monthly net income below EUR 1 800 may receive public contributions to their costs for education and training. The eligible education and training activities have to be relevant for the current occupation of the learner and have to be provided by an approved training provider. The co-funding share is up to 50% of the costs for education and training up to a maximum of EUR 2 000 (for one training). The Vienna Bundesländer agency WAFF manages the measure. The funding is covered from the Budget of Vienna Bundesländer. The grant can be re-used after a break of a particular period. There is no preferential treatment.
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Level of operation	Regional
Name of a part of the country	Not applicable
Name of the region (for regional instruments)	Vienna
Name of the sector (for sectoral instruments)	Not applicable
Relevance	Key instrument
Legal basis	Decision Local Government (Vienna (country budget, country law)); Decision by board of management and trustees of the waff (Vienna Employment Promotion Fund)

Objective(s) and target(s)	To improve the qualifications of Vienna's population; promoting individual opportunities in the labour market.
Year of implementation	1998
Operation/management	The Vienna Bundesländer has an agency WAFF - Vienna Employment Promotion Fund - with its own legal status which is responsible - among many other activities - for providing co-funding for adult learning. The schemes of the WAFF are being changed continuously.
Eligible group(s)	Inactive, unemployed, public employees, "new self-employed"; adults in training leave; adults with a monthly net income below 1 800.
Group(s) with preferential treatment	No preferential treatment
Education and training eligible	Education and training relevant for applicant's profession, delivered by approved training provider (holding a particular quality certification of Vienna or a comparable certification of another Austrian Bundesländer).
Source of financing and collection mechanism	Budget of Vienna Bundesländer matching: individual
Financing formula and allocation mechanisms	Co-funding: Up to 50% of the costs for education and training up to a maximum of 2000. NOT eligible are: costs for travel, accommodation and meals, registration and registration fees, books, scripts, governmental fees, hobby and leisure courses, coaching, supervision, self-experience courses and the like; formal graduation: school final exam, apprenticeship exam, etc.; studies at universities and technical colleges, and similar educational institutions under public law, for which there are already school grants, scholarships or similar support provided by the public sector. Parts of studies and individual semester course fees. Allocation: Application is made by the individual at least 3 months after the end of the training. If the grant is awarded, it is transmitted to the individual's bank account.
Eligible costs	Fees only
Volumes of funding	Not available
Beneficiaries/take up	Not available
Organisation responsible for monitoring/evaluation	A regular monitoring is implemented; comparable pre-runner schemes had been evaluated (https://www.waff.at/html/de/index.aspx?page_url=Berichte&mid=392#Evalui...)
Most relevant webpage - in English	https://www.waff.at/en/grants/training-account/
Most relevant webpage - local language	https://www.waff.at/foerderungen/bildungskonto/
Recent changes	No recent amendment

	Recent changes in response to COVID-19
	No changes
Sources	waff (2019) - Geschäftsbericht 2019 (https://www.waff.at/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/waff_gb_2019__a4_quer__d...)
	https://www.waff.at/foerderungen/bildungskonto/das-bildungskonto-fuer-u...
	Hefler, Günter, Markowitsch, Jörg, & Fleischer, Viktor (2013). Diffusion und Handlungslogiken nachfrageorientierter Kofinanzierung individueller beruflicher Weiterbildung in Österreich. In B. Käßlinger, R. Klein & E. Haberzeth (Eds.), Weiterbildungsgutscheine - Wirkungen eines Finanzierungsmodells in vier europäischen Ländern (pp. 345-376). Bielefeld: WBV.