

2018 Country Report for Austria

Key points for EASPD members

I. Employment and Labour Market Policy

- Austria has robust policies to facilitate labour market access and to ensure fair working conditions and is on track to meet the employment targets.
- The unemployment rate decreased from 6.0 % in 2016 to 5.5 % in 2017 and is expected to remain low. Austria has reached a high employment rate of 75.3 % in Q3 of 2017, thus meeting the Europe 2020 target.
- Some progress in improving the labour market participation of women was made.
- Wage increases were moderate, improving Austria's competitive position.

II. Education Policy

- Austria made progress on its education reform but performance in basic skills remains below EU average.
- Limited progress has been made in improving the educational achievements of disadvantaged young people.
- Learning outcomes of disadvantaged students have not improved.
- Austria has already reached its targets on tertiary education attainment and limiting early school leaving.

III. Social Policy

- With regard to ensuring financial sustainability, some progress was made on healthcare but no progress was made on the pension system.
- Policies to reduce social exclusion risks are generally effective but more efforts can be undertaken to reduce social exclusion.
- Austria has well developed institutional social dialogue mechanisms.
- The projections for medium- and long-term pension and healthcare expenditures point to a challenge for fiscal sustainability.
- For the healthcare sector, the main driver of the high expenditure is an over-sized hospital sector, which is the result of a fragmented financial and organisational structure.



IV. Anything else?

- The sound economic outlook provides a supportive environment to further strengthen public finances, social outcomes, and innovation.
- Despite the 2016 tax reform, the burden on labour remains high and is set to increase as tax brackets are not indexed to inflation.
- The high proportion of women in part-time work and the high gender pay gap remain issues of concern.
- A high share of part-time employment of women coincides with a fairly large pay gap.

Additional Information

- European Commission: 2018 Country Report for [Austria](#)
- EASPD [Activities on the European Semester](#)

For more information, please contact

Thomas Bignal

EASPD Policy Officer

T. +32 2 233 77 23

thomas.bignal@easpd.eu

www.easpd.eu



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