



## EPP - IO4

### National recommendations – Austria

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The results of the different case studies and analyses held in the framework of this project show similarities between Austria, Belgium and Italy, countries where the WISE<sup>i</sup> are more institutionalized, which, varying substantially in the models of integration through work, have greater historical tradition and stronger corporate organization. The models vary considerably between countries with some specificities of the Austrian model:

- Top down encouragement in the 1980's
- Bottom up response; high degree of organisation, representation and recognition (as a specific subsector of activity)
- 'Strong' Welfare State and active Employment Policies – services for disadvantage groups in partnership with organisations of social economy
- State tends to finance mainly wages of people in the integration process and coaches
- Both coaching and marketing functions are well implemented with proactivity towards articulation with regular labor market employers

Austria is characterized by a framework where the WISE subsector is well established and the targets stakeholders for life-long learning activities are more the structure, development and acknowledge HR qualification and certification needs in the WISE subsector.

Considering the state of play of the work integration social enterprises (WISEs) in Austria, where this type of enterprises is supported by the public sector and a strong national framework, there is a need to:

1. **Adapt the training offer within WISEs: a combination of training and work to support the social and professional integration of disadvantaged groups is more relevant to answer to the people's needs;**
2. **Raise awareness of private companies about the competencies developed within WISEs** in order to facilitate the transition of disadvantaged people from WISEs to the traditional market;
3. **Certify the informal competencies acquired within WISEs according to the national quality framework** to facilitate the transition of workers from WISEs to traditional enterprises.

The results of the EPP project, especially, the state of the art of the WISEs sector in each country is a relevant tool to support these recommendations in Austria.



European Network of Social Integration Enterprises

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*<sup>i</sup> Work Integration Social Enterprises (WISEs) are enterprises of which identifying principles are:*

- *The social and professional integration of individuals who due to their exclusion and their relegation to a marginal role in society have fallen victim to increasing social and professional handicaps.*
- *Enterprises at the core of the economic system, frequently one of the major factors in the phenomenon of exclusion.*
- *Enterprises with a strong pedagogical dimension. The Work Integration Social Enterprises initiate training and educational programs designed on the basis of existing potential of the target group and develop this individual potential (at professional level and in its participation in society) within the enterprise*