

National Case Study



Mirjam Rinderer



- *eFit Austria* is a government initiative launched in 2000 (2001-2003), it directly refers to the *eEurope 2000 Action Plan* of the EU. (*eAustria in eEurope*)
- *eFit Austria* has created a number of projects for schools, colleges, universities and adult education centres

Objectives of the policy

- Raising the quality of education
- Improving the innovation of teaching
- Reshaping the organisation and management of educational processes
- **Enabling lifelong learning**
- Enhancing ICT competencies of all learners, as well as teachers and trainers and administrative staff

Objectives of the policy (2)

- Raising the efficiency of school-administration and adult education institutions
- Enlarging **access to education** for all (including information, guidance and counselling)
- Developing a network of education + training institutions

Aims

- Education is available at any place, any time and for everyone
- Multimedia technologies support the classic basic skills of reading, writing and numeracy

Aims

- Education, science and culture create jobs and secure sustainable economic growth
- Austria is amongst the leading countries on the way towards a knowledge society

eFit Austria -

8 fields of activities

- 1) ***eEducation:*** New media for teaching and learning
- 2) IT-vocational qualifications
- 3) ***eLearning Portal:*** Infoportal and e-content providing
- 4) ***eScience:*** IT at universities
- 5) ***eTraining:*** IT in adult education
- 6) ***eCulture:*** IT and culture
- 7) ***eAdministration:*** IT-administration
- 8) IT-infrastructure

Resources for this policy?

Federal ministry of Education, Science and Culture (BM:BWK) launched in 2000

- the former „Computer Billion“ (in fact reduced to half a billion Austrian shillings, around 36 M Euros) provided especially for the IT infrastructure
- Other funds as well as financial means of the ESF are used

eTraining- IT in adult education

- is embedded in the *eFit*-program
- to improve access to and participation in learning for adults
- which secures a new access to teaching, learning, research and culture for all people in Austria

Adult Education Outcomes

- More than 12000 adult learners have taken part in short basic courses and
- about 4000 in long-term courses
- nearly 2000 adults students were attending evening classes in academic secondary schools as well as in technical and vocational schools and colleges, which use e-learning methods

3 Innovative programmes that use ICT for adult learners

1. **eLearning portal** in Austria: www.bildung.at improves the access to information and guidance on education via the education portal
2. **eLearning for second chance education** (*eLearning im 2. Bildungsweg*). Various adult education centers offer second chance education via eLearning modules (www.meidling.vhs.at/elopa)
3. **e-train** (Das fliegende Klassenzimmer) offers basic IT-qualifications for disadvantaged people in rural areas (www.frauenstiftung.at)

Evaluation

Weaknesses:

- Not all components had been implemented at the same speed
- More effort in content development, partnership building
- More effort in Adult Education needed

Evaluation

Strengths:

- Multisector policy across education, training, culture and research (one ministry)
- Investements in infrastructure
- Teacher training
- Partnerships amongst schools and school development projects

Future Developments

- *eFit Austria (2004-2006)*
- eLearning Clusters of schools and learners
- A stronger focus on pedagogical innovation
- Strengthened cooperation with local educational authorities



Thank you!

www.eFit.at