

PROFILE

WORLD UNIVERSITY SERVICE (WUS) AUSTRIA

World University Service (WUS) Austria is a politically independent, non-governmental organization committed to the promotion of the human right to education on the basis of academic freedom and university autonomy. We believe that the right to education is not only the right to access education but also the **right to receive an education of good quality**.



Since its establishment in Graz in 1983, WUS Austria has been working on the promotion of this aim in various countries all over the world (thus, for example, in the 1980s in Africa, and Southern and Central America). Today the organization has a regional focus on the countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe and employs a **branch office in Prishtina**. While this area remains at the center of WUS Austria's work, the organization additionally focuses on other regions such as Central Asia and the Caucasus and is further interested in cooperation with other countries in the world.

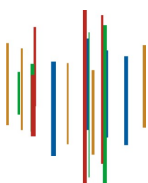
During its 30 years of existence WUS Austria has positioned itself as one of the most important operative partners for enhancing knowledge transfer and comparability in Higher Education between EU and non-EU countries. WUS Austria provides operative and technical support and consultancy for a faster, more efficient implementation of the Bologna system and global trends in the Higher Education (HE) sector.

The **VISION** of WUS Austria is to be *the* preferential partner for the development of HE, which is a key factor in the socio-economic and political advancement of every society.

WUS Austria's **MISSION** therefore aims at increasing the quality of HE in accordance with European and international standards in order to establish solid and sustainable structures **for a strong role of universities in society**. Against this background, WUS Austria has implemented change management in accordance with the Bologna principles and UNESCO standards since 2001.

Sustainable development of Higher Education goes beyond the university level. Responding to this, WUS Austria works together with the public sector, economy and society as a whole.

WUS Austria's work is based on the following principles: top-down and bottom-up approach from the policy level to the individual level, local capacity building, sustainability, and local ownership. We provide experts, used to work in complex and intercultural environments, and cooperate with many different partners such as Higher Education institutions, public bodies (e.g. ministries, accreditation agencies), NGOs and companies on a national, regional, European and international level. We further collaborate with donors at national (e.g. Austrian Development Cooperation) and international (e.g. European Union) level, as well as foundations.



COMPETENCIES

- **More than 30 years of experience in Higher Education development and reform.**
- Vast experience in the coordination, management, preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects in Higher Education.
- In-depth knowledge of global trends and developments in Higher Education.
- Comprehensive know-how in dealing with change processes at higher education institutions in transition countries.
- Proven expertise in technology transfer and in the development of R&D and innovation policies, strategies and structures.
- Experience in addressing the specific needs of persons from vulnerable groups in accessing and completing higher education (human right to education).
- Well-founded knowledge about the political, economic, social and educational situation in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.
- Long record of strategic development, capacity and institution building.
- Wide-ranging experience of working in an international and intercultural context.

...and the ability to use all this experience and expertise for the successful implementation of measures for our target group.

APPROACH

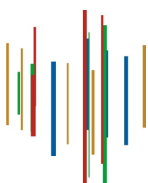


Austria supports higher education institutions in **shaping change processes** through capacity building and trainings. We help to develop solutions for higher education institutions in an international context and provide knowledge and tools to manage the challenges.

WUS Austria focuses on individual capacities as well as on the structures, processes and regulatory frameworks of the institutions and involves all relevant stakeholders. This way higher education institutions can react in a flexible, effective and efficient way and put an emphasis on their innovation capacity, knowledge management, internationalization and competitiveness.

The countries in which WUS Austria implements its projects in Higher Education are characterized by a diversity of political systems, higher education systems, educational traditions, as well as aspirations and expectations. WUS Austria therefore undertakes a **diversified** and **tailor-made approach** for each region, country and institution. We furthermore foster a **holistic approach** where all stakeholders at all levels are part of the process and where the interests of staff (academic and non-academic) and students are equally taken seriously as are the views and opinions of university management and political stakeholders.

In all our projects we also promote **equal opportunities** and the participation of persons from vulnerable groups in higher education.



OUR ORGANISATION

World University Service (WUS) Austria is a non-governmental organization, based in Graz and founded as a **non-profit association** under Austrian law in 1983. Natural persons, legal entities and organizations can become members of WUS Austria. As a non-profit organization, WUS Austria depends on funds and subsidies granted for its work in order to finance its activities and the necessary infrastructure. The bodies of the association are general assembly, board, advisory council, auditors and arbitration court.



PROJECTS

ALLED - Aligning Education with Labour Market Needs (Kosovo)	KS
AtLETyC - Athletes Learning Entrepreneurship – a new Type of Dual Career Approach	AT, BA, HU, IT, LT, SI
CULTURWB-Strengthening Capacities for Tourism Changes in WB: Building Competences for Quality Management of Heritage and Cultural Tourism	BA, ME, RS
GOVERN: Fostering Autonomy and Accountability: Development of State-of-the-art Higher Education Management System for Efficient Changes in Line with Bologna Principles	AR
HERAS - Higher Education, Research and Applied Science in Kosovo	KS
ideaLAB: Fostering students' entrepreneurship and open innovation in university-industry collaboration	BA, ME, RS
INCLUSION: Development and Implementation of Social Dimension Strategies in Armenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina through Cross-regional Peer Learning	AR, BA
MAIN: Mastering innovation in Serbia through development and implementation of interdisciplinary post-graduate curricula in innovation management	RS
MLS4Eng - Professional Development Courses for Engineering Management and Leadership Skills	MK
NTTO - Needs Assessment. Strategy and Policy Development for National Technology Transfer Office	MK
NURSLING - National Qualification Frameworks: Guidelines for Development and Recognition of Qualifications	UZ
ONEHEALTH: Public health in the Western Balkans - improvement in the field of public health and development of a "one health" educational and scientific architecture in Western Balkan countries	BA, KS
PATTERNS Lectures	AT, BA, BG, CZ, HR, HU, PL, RO, RS, RU, SI, SK, UA
PROMIG - Promoting Migration Studies in Higher Education	AF, AR, AZ, GE
SportGo - How to lead a sport club to a successful future	AT, BA, ES, HU, LT, SI

