

TITLE

An all-encompassing service package leading to employment in the open labour market

Austria: autArk Soziale Dienstleistungs-GmbH – ChancenForum

PROJECT SUMMARY

autArk is an association offering support for people with and without disabilities, financed by the regional government of Carinthia, an Austrian province. In 2004, autArk launched its ChancenForum programme, which deals with the integration of people with disabilities into the province's open labour market.

FACTS & FIGURES

- Until the end of 2013: 53
- Jobs created in 2014: 22
- Jobs created in 2015: 23
- Jobs created in 2016 (to date): 22

PROBLEMS TARGETED

Before the start of ChancenForum, people with disabilities in Carinthia mostly worked in sheltered workshops, without proper compensation and without social security coverage. Low self-esteem and very limited career possibilities were among the consequences.

SOLUTION & METHODOLOGY

From its beginnings in 2004 until 2016, ChancenForum has supported 120 people with disabilities during their integration into the open labour market by providing them with job coaching, mentoring, and contacts with approximately 100 companies. The jobs offer a regular labour contract as well as the same medical and retirement benefits as their non-disabled peers. Positions are in cleaning and maintenance, packing and organizing, as well as supporting facility management and aiding food production. ChancenForum also offers vocational training to prepare young people for their future professional life and provides education in soft skills. Mentors who assist in the post-employment integration process provide the new employees with security and support when needed. One of the success factors of the model is the combination of continuous mentoring and a permanent support system while performing on the job. This has resulted in a very low drop-out rate and in the stable growth of participating companies over the years.

OUTLOOK & TRANSFERABILITY

The cost for assistance and mentoring in 2016 was slightly more than EUR 2,44 million.

ChancenForum provides information for other interested organizations and offers excursions and workshops to explain the model.

QUOTE

“I was very happy when I could join ChancenForum! I was excited as well, since I did not know what to expect.”

— Gerald K., 29 years, with ChancenForum since 2009

CONTACT

Ms. Alexandra SCHMIDT-BEARZI

+43 650 255 12 56

a.schmidt-bearzi@autark.co.at

www.autark.co.at/behindertenhilfe/chancenforum/

REFERENCES

<http://oe1.orf.at/programm/410040>

http://www.autark.co.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Presse/2015/

