

AUSTRIA

RANK IN EU-27

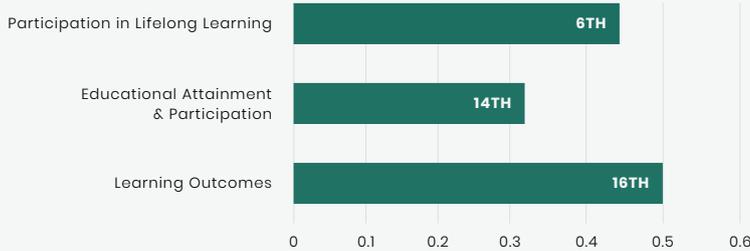
10TH

OVERALL SCORE

0.626

LEARNING PARTICIPATION AND OUTCOMES

RANK
9TH



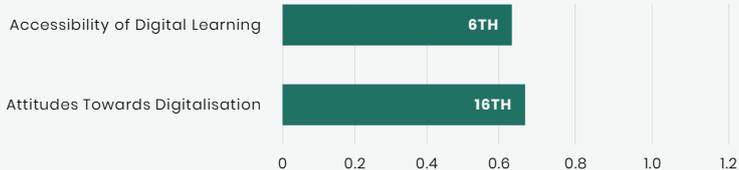
INSTITUTIONS AND POLICIES FOR DIGITAL LEARNING

RANK
14TH



AVAILABILITY OF DIGITAL LEARNING

RANK
6TH



MAIN OBSERVATIONS

- Austria scores above the EU-27 average for digital learning readiness.
- Part of the reason is that Austria's federal government has taken a proactive stance on digitalisation generally, and made specific efforts to ensure Austrians from childhood to adulthood can access digital learning and skills development.
- Still, Austria's scores and implementation of digital learning suggest mixed success and substantial room for improvement. In 'Institutions & Policies' it places 1st, while it scores as low as 22nd in other measures.

TAKEAWAYS:

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS COUNTRY?

- Austrian stakeholders coordinate on a variety of promising pilot projects and initiatives, reflecting widespread awareness of digital learning. From this we see a number of promising and innovative pilot projects concluded or ongoing throughout the country.
- Even so, attitudes towards digitalisation seem rather ambivalent or even negative among both educators and the general public. A sizable portion of schools lack even the basic infrastructure required for digital learning, such as high-speed internet access.
- Overlapping competencies between various federal ministries, state governments, and other actors make it more difficult to coordinate programme funding and implementation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- We recommend focusing on empowering educators to teach digital skills with training modules, and ensuring that the necessary hardware and software is available.
- Austrians score rather poorly on learning outcomes, so schools should focus on building proficiencies essential to new technologies, such as maths, science, and problem-solving.
- Austria should ensure that its 'Masterplan for digitalisation in education' is implemented and monitored, as it contains a number of practical and sensible recommendations.

KEY REFERENCES

The Federal Minister of Education, Science and Research (2018), "Masterplan für die Digitalisierung im Bildungswesen" [Masterplan for digitalisation in education], Vienna.

The Federal Minister of Education, Science and Research, "Digitale Kompetenzen Informatische Bildung. Warum digi.check?" [Digital Competencies Informatics Education. Why digi.check?].

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