My Roots
Our Austria

Young - A Mosaic of Diversity

Educational project for schools and youth organisations

This creative project for schools, educational institutions, youth centres and youth work connects personal heritage, everyday culture in Austria and creating together. Children and young people discover their roots, listen to one another and create a mosaic. Parents and grandparents can voluntarily contribute their experiences and skills.

Austria is explored as a shared living environment with its regional traditions and democratic values. People with and without a migration background shape the programme together. Personal cultural roots and a sense of belonging to Austria are given equal space. For youth centres, educational institutions and youth work, we agree activities and timeframes together.

Two formats for different groups

Format	Target group	Scope
School project	Lower secondary classes; voluntary contributions from parents and grandparents	Two workshops of two teaching units each, a cultural day of around three hours, and follow-up
Family workshop	Children aged 6-13 together with an accompanying adult	Independent cultural workshop of around two hours; no preparatory school workshops required

What participants learn

- Expressing personal roots, interests and affiliations in words or pictures.
- Exploring everyday Austrian culture and regional traditions through practical examples.
- Listening attentively, asking respectful questions and discovering common ground.
- Expressing a personal idea for living well together and creating something as a group.

Visible outcomes include personal roots cards, a collaboratively designed map of Austria and a shared artwork. Schools also receive agreements that can be taken up in everyday classroom life.

School project: content and programme

Activities combine conversation with pictures, objects and creative work. Personal contributions are chosen voluntarily; accessible German and practical activities make it easier to take part.

Exploring Austria

Using a map of Austria, we collect favourite places, regional customs, dialects, music and memories. Parents and grandparents can present relevant contributions. Children ask questions and discover the diversity of their shared living environment.

Making personal roots visible

Children create roots cards featuring people, places, words or traditions that matter to them. A hobby or everyday habit can also provide a starting point. Through discussion, they look for common ground and explore different perspectives.

Creating a shared mosaic

Each child shapes an element from air-drying modelling clay. Once dry, the individual pieces are safely attached to a backing surface to form a shared artwork. This creates a visible outcome to which everyone has contributed.

Putting shared values into practice

Freedom, democracy and equal rights are connected to examples from school life. On cards, children answer: ‘What do I appreciate about Austria?’ and ‘How would I like to contribute to living together?’ The class develops three to five practical agreements from these responses.

From the first workshop to the cultural day

Stage	Duration	Focus
Workshop 1	2 teaching units	Personal roots cards and questions for voluntary family conversations
Workshop 2	2 teaching units	Collecting cultural contributions, preparing presentations and allocating tasks
Cultural day	Around 3 hours	Four activity stations, creating together, presentation and closing
Follow-up	By arrangement	Completing the mosaic, discussing outcomes and evaluating feedback

The cultural day allows 20 minutes for arrival and introduction, four 30-minute activity stations, 20 minutes for breaks and transitions, and 20 minutes for presentation and closing.

The school project runs over approximately six weeks; dates are agreed with the school. Four responsible adults are planned for four parallel stations. Their tasks are agreed in advance. If fewer adults are available, we adapt the programme.

Family workshop and collaboration

An independent cultural workshop for families

In the two-hour family workshop, children aged 6-13 create together with an accompanying adult. They explore a map of Austria, share selected stories or pictures, and make a shared artwork using paper and colours. The artwork can be presented immediately at the end.

The programme includes 15 minutes for arrival, 25 minutes for the map of Austria, 30 minutes for personal roots cards, 30 minutes for the shared artwork, and 20 minutes for discussion and closing. The workshop can be attended independently of the school project and is facilitated in an age-appropriate way.

Participation and educational framework

All families are welcome. Association membership is not required. No one has to represent a nationality, religion or culture. Personal stories are shared voluntarily; children decide for themselves which content they wish to show.

We use clear instructions and visual materials. Support needs, accessibility, adult supervision and child protection are clarified before each session. Photographs and personal contributions are published only with the necessary consent.

Local organisation

ATZP handles content preparation, facilitation and coordination of materials. With the host organisation, we agree rooms, contact people, adult support and organisational tasks. Creative work requires tables, paper, pens and a presentation surface; the school project also requires modelling clay and a backing surface.

Group size and staffing depend on age, space and the selected format. For open family events, the location, dates, available places, registration details and any participation fee are published in the relevant event announcement.

Outcomes and feedback

At the end, children name something new they have learned about Austria, something they share with others, and a personal contribution to living together. The resulting artworks and brief feedback help us evaluate the programme. In the school project, ATZP records outcomes and next steps in a short report.

Enquiry and individual agreement

Tell us your preferred format, ages and group size, a possible timeframe and the available space. In a short planning conversation, we agree content and scope. Schools and partner organisations then receive an individual proposal.

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