



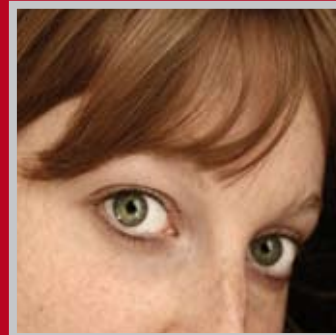
# oeAD,

**OeAD-GmbH**

OeAD (Österreichische Austauschdienst)-Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung  
Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OeAD-GmbH)



**The OeAD – An Overview**



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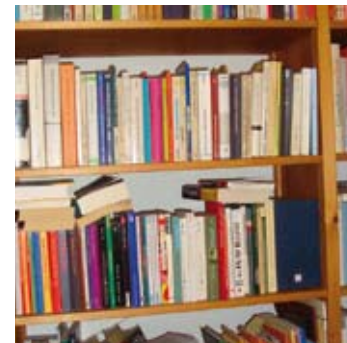
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# The OeAD – An Overview

**The OeAD is THE Austrian Agency for international mobility and cooperation in education, science and research.**

The OeAD with its whole spectrum of activities understands itself as an advisor, promoter and as an information and service agency for all activities and projects in international cooperation in education and research. We observe the developments in the field of international research, education and training and actively participates in the discussion about future concepts for cooperation in these fields. We work out recommendations and measures, for example for the conception of new programmes, and accompanies the relevant implementation measures. Another activity is the information of and awareness-raising in the general public for the importance and role of European and international cooperation.

## **... we support**

the internationalisation of Austrian pupils, apprentices, students, teachers and researchers.

## **... we offer service**

for more than 12,000 pupils, apprentices, students, teachers and researchers per year.

## **... we advise and counsel**

concerning all issues of educational mobility - independently and non profit-oriented.

## **... we support and cross-link**

education, science and research with a budget of approx. 46 million euros per year and 150 members of staff.

## **... we inform**

with our websites and our grants database [www.grants.at](http://www.grants.at) (more than 28,000 accesses per month).



mobility.  
worldwide

## **Other priority areas**

- As a full service provider we take care of the conception and the implementation of the programmes.
- We coordinate the international higher education marketing and represent the education and science location Austria worldwide.
- We are expert partners for strategic tasks in international cooperations.

Our core business is the exchange of people of all age groups and all educational levels.

We support institutional cooperations in Europe and worldwide. We accompany international activities and coordinate and support their implementation.

Other priority activities are for example development cooperation and education export.

## **A modern service company!**

We stand for an efficient and reliable administration of education and mobility programmes with ›full-service‹ support. The basis for this is: permanent dialogue with our partners, knowledge processing, knowledge management, continuous benchmarking.

# Where we come from

In its present form the OeAD-GmbH has existed since the year 2009. The fact that it has been able to fulfil its manifold tasks from the very beginning is due to the excellent work and long tradition of its predecessor organisations. Already as early as in 1961 the Austrian higher education institutions had founded the Foreign Student Service as an association primarily providing service to foreign students. The University Preparation Programmes in Leoben, Graz and Vienna, for example, were already administered by the ÖAD at that time and accommodation for students was provided.

Two milestones of the development can also be found in today's structure:

- As of 1992 the then ÖAD administered the European mobility programmes. At first Erasmus, later on Socrates and Leonardo da Vinci. In 2007 the ÖAD became the responsible organisation for the National Agency for the EU programme for ›Lifelong Learning‹. This programme for the first time takes into account all sectors of education and unites education and further education in one singular funding programme.
- In 2007 a new thematic field was developed with the establishment of ARQA-VET, the Austrian Reference Point for Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training, at the ÖAD. It understands itself as a service unit supporting, counselling and cross-linking all actors in the field of vocational education in Austria with its know-how in quality assurance and quality development.

With the growing number of tasks the competence and expertise of the ÖAD also grew. The multifarious corporate cultures made a new start necessary. This took place in July 2008. At that time the National Council and the Federal Council passed the Federal Act for the establishment of the OeAD-GmbH – Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research; the act came into force on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. It obliges the OeAD-GmbH to continue and optimise the current programmes and initiatives but at the same time also discloses new perspectives for future-oriented tasks and new initiatives.



# What we want to achieve

In the now extended spectrum of activities the current activities are systematically continued, expanded and optimised; new activities are integrated in a structured form. This specifically relates to the following things:

- We contribute to the development of a flexible scholarship system which can be adapted to new requirements of the national and international environment, allows an ideal use of resources and strives for a better balance between outgoings and incomings.
- We expand our role as a national propagator of quality assurance in international educational and research cooperations and assume other tasks in the field of European transparency instruments.
- We use the existing structures for a stronger national and international presence. We see the external perception of our work as an essential contribution to the strengthening of the OeAD.
- We expand our expertise in development cooperation. By combining education and research we support capacity building on an individual and institutional level.
- In the growing international education market we position ourselves as a national coordination point for activities in education export (Transnational Education).
- We offer our broad expertise increasingly also for conceptual work, continuously observing the international education and further education market, informing about developments, deducing recommendations and upon request working out suggestions for measures together with external experts.



# What we can do for you

In keeping with the slogan ›Continuing and expanding existing things and integrating new things‹ our tasks basically can be subdivided into three areas:

## 1. Continuity as a Strength

The OeAD helps interested people to make use of the potentials of European and international cooperations in the fields of science and research as well as in the development of the arts, higher education, education and vocational education and training in the best possible way. It thus contributes in an essential way to further European integration and international cooperation. We provide advice and information especially about

- Study and research possibilities worldwide (Outgoing)
- Study and research possibilities in Austria for students from abroad (Incoming)
- Periods abroad for pupils, teachers, working people
- Cooperation and project options for educational institutions, companies and other organisations in the field of education
- relevant legal issues (law relating to aliens)

Our experience is based on the administration and accompaniment of the following mobility and cooperation programmes, which has been successful for many years already:

- The European programmes of the National Agency for Lifelong Learning, which include all areas of education and further education:
  - Comenius, eTwinning for kindergartens and schools
  - Erasmus for higher education
  - Leonardo da Vinci for vocational education and training
  - Grundtvig for adult education
  - Euroguidance for information and counselling in education and job
  - Europass for transparency of skills

- The EU Third Countries programmes administered by the Centre for International Cooperation & Mobility (ICM): ERASMUS MUNDUS and TEMPUS as well as other cooperation programmes with the USA, Canada, Latin America, Asia and African countries.

- Internationally-oriented mobility and cooperation programmes of the ICM
  - the programmes financed by the Federal Ministry of Science and Research (Ernst Mach Grant, Franz Werfel Grant, Richard Plaschka Grant, Technology Grants, CEEPUS – Central European Exchange Programme For University Studies, bilateral programmes – ›Aktionen‹ – with Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, Scientific and Technological Cooperation, Postgraduate grants, ...)
  - Different programmes of public and private providers of funds from Austria and abroad (scholarships of the development cooperation, Pakistan and Thailand scholarship programme, Mondi Foundation, scholarships from third-party funds of universities, ...)



# What we can do for you

The OeAD moreover offers its expertise in the presentation and marketing of Austria as an attractive location for education. This includes

- accompanying information materials and brochures
- the representation of Austria as an attractive place for education at national and international education fairs as well as
- the updating and expansion of computer-based platforms and data-bases for the promotion and support of mobility.

This spectrum of services is complemented by

- the Housing Office, which is a company of the OeAD and which provides accommodation in flats and student halls of residence in Vienna and in selected other Austrian university locations for OeAD scholars, Erasmus students, visiting professors and guests. We thus satisfy the elementary requirements of our customers.
- the University Preparation Programmes, which are administered by the OeAD. They have been established for international students who have been admitted to study by an Austrian university but who have to sit supplementary examinations before the beginning of their studies. Courses on offer include German intensive courses and preparation courses for other subjects.

All current services are characterised by high reliability, customer-orientation and proximity to customers, good advice and counselling quality as well as competent accompaniment of the programme administration. An advantage in this respect is the presence of the regional OeAD offices in all seven Austrian university locations.



# How we carry out our tasks

## 2. The Portal to a Growing Number of Programmes

By assuming new tasks the OeAD systematically expands its current fields of activity. In this way the claim for accompanying the agendas related to international cooperation in education and research on a holistic basis can be fulfilled in an even better way.

The assumption of

- the agendas of the Commission for Development Studies (KEF) from the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) leads to an expansion of the area of development cooperation.
- the branch offices of the two university networks ASEA Uninet and Eurasia-Pacific Uninet increases the expertise in the field of project support and enhances coordination in allocating scholarship funds.
- the administration of the Sparkling Science programme – the programme supports research projects at the interface schools – research institutions – increases the expertise in the field of school education and helps to introduce young people to science and internationality at an early stage.
- various agendas of the *Österreich Kooperation (ÖK)* facilitates
  - with the lectureship programme to expand the presence on an international level and to offer a network of contact persons.

- with the scholarship programme for internships for ›German as a Foreign Language‹ on one hand to extend the scope of funding options and on the other hand to support the activities in the field of mobility and internationalisation.
- with the scientific documentation point to archive materials and documents in a systematic way and to highlight interesting historical developments. The edited materials are to be made available to enable well-founded decisions for the future.



# How we carry out our tasks

With the establishment

- of the Austrian Reference Point for Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training, ARQA-VET, at the OeAD a new field of activity was introduced. We thus meet the current claims for quality in education and training and transparency of qualifications. The permanent improvement of the quality in all areas of vocational education, the function as a network hub on the European level and the support and cross-linking of the national stakeholders, in particular the Quality Initiative Vocational Education and Training (QIBB), are the central tasks of the Reference Point.
- and location of the Austrian Bologna Service Point at the OeAD an opportunity has been created to support the continuative rooting of the Bologna goals in the Austrian higher education landscape.

## 3. Cooperation and Networking

The OeAD is open for the dialogue with its most important clients and contact partners: ministries, education and research institutions, social partners, the European Commission as well as relevant national and international agencies in the field of education and research.



# Why our job is important

Internationalisation has become a central social, political and economic factor. The Bologna Declaration of the ministers in charge of education in Europe and the dynamics of the subsequent Bologna Process show that politics have acted on the right trend at the right time. Education and research are regarded as an important motor for the economic development of Europe and thus have become a central topic in the political life.

There are a number of good reasons for the support of mobility of learners, teachers and researchers:

- The central issue is the foreseeable demographic development. It leads to an increased international competition for the ›brightest minds‹. To be able to keep up with this challenge the education and research institutions have to orient themselves towards international standards and implement their own educational programmes on the international market.
- The European Union and the European higher education area demand and support mobility on many levels: In their Leuven Communiqué the ministers in charge of higher education demanded in April 2009 that by 2020 at least 20% of the graduates in the European higher education area should study abroad or pursue part of their education abroad. The EU also wants to make people mobile in the field of education and training and further education. At present only 0.3% of the 16- to 29-year-olds benefit from mobility measures. Here the member countries are required to start new programmes.
- In the course of an increased cross-linking between educational institutions in the EU and in third countries more and more joint study programmes (Joint Degree programmes) are developed, in which part of the study programme has to be spent at a partner institution.

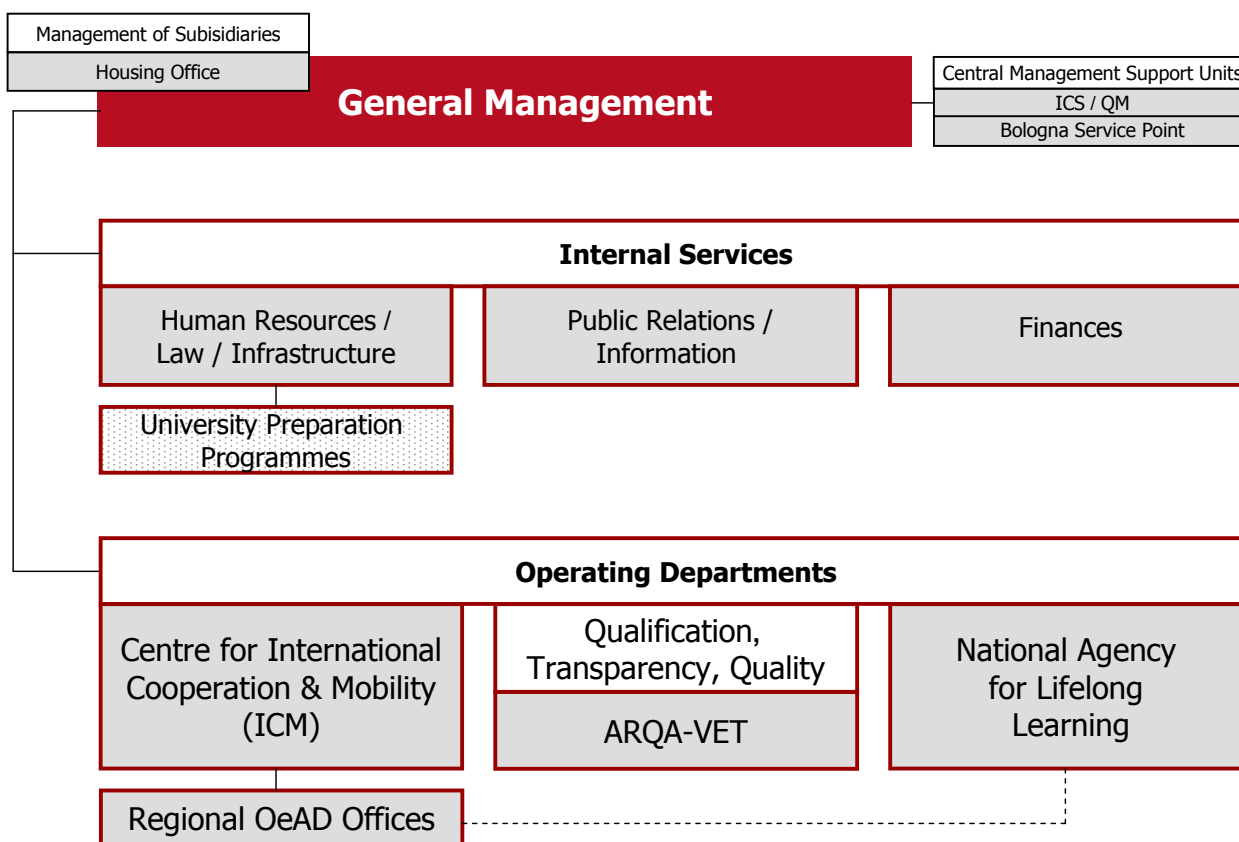
- Austria strives towards an active role in the field of development co-operation. In the past mainly scholarships for individual students from development countries were awarded. Now the trend goes towards enhanced networking and carrying out of joint projects on a partnership basis. In the future a strengthening of institutional capacity development programmes and ›brain circulation‹ are to be in the foreground.

The OeAD as a central full service provider supports these goals with its services.



# How we are organised

The main principles of the new OeAD are: Slim, service-oriented structures with a clear allocation of tasks and responsibility. All departments understand themselves as parts of a unit which exploits all present service and synergy potentials – jointly and under the umbrella of the GmbH.



# How we are organised

## Management

The management's job is to coordinate the internal conceptual tasks and to guarantee that the concepts and work programmes concerted with the committees and approved by the owner are put into practice, taking into account the current developments. A system for the balancing of the costs and activities serves to monitor the tasks of the management.

Beside the board of directors the management is also supported by a strategy advisory board for the development of the company and by a committee in the shape of a platform covering a wide range of stakeholders.

Additionally, two central management support units are assigned to the management:

- The central management support unit Quality Management (QM) and Internal Control System (ICS) supports the management and subsequently all organisational units, using contemporary management instruments as well as providing advice on a partnership basis. The depiction of the internal processes and their analysis and optimisation on a regular basis guarantee the entrepreneurial transparency and efficiency.
- The Bologna Service Point has an important linking function both internally and externally: Internally it supports the management and all institutions involved in questions of the further implementation of the Bologna goals in the Austrian higher education system. Externally the Bologna Service Point acts as a national contact and service point for questions about the Bologna Process for all Austrian higher education institutions.

The OeAD Housing Office is a separate GmbH (limited liability company) in the ownership of the OeAD. It is a non-profit organisation; its objective is to facilitate the accommodation of scholarship holders and Erasmus students as well as guest students and visiting professors. In collaboration with the organisations managing the halls of residence or by means of the OeAD's own guesthouses of the universities and universities of applied sciences the accommodation options are permanently expanded.

## Internal Services

### Finance Department

The Finance department records all financial movements and provides the data that is required for the fulfilment of the information and steering activities of the OeAD as well as for the monitoring of the cost-effectiveness. Thus the finance department is a service institution for internal and external recipients. It is also in charge of the documentation of the activities carried out (performance record) in the form of controlling reports.

### Human Resources, Law, Infrastructure

The scope of activities of this department spans from staff administration and development via internal and external legal advice (we particularly want to stress our expertise in the law relating to aliens) to accompaniment of all measures related to infrastructure (e.g. IT, procurement). Moreover the Human Resources, Law, Infrastructure department is also in charge of the University Preparation Programmes in Vienna, Graz and Leoben.

### Public Relations and Information

The Public Relations department is involved in all activities related to public relations. It organises media relations and also manages events and other activities that attract public attention. Thus the department is also in charge of the international presentation of Austria as an attractive location for education and research.

# How we are organised

## Centre for International Cooperation & Mobility (ICM)

The Centre for International Cooperation & Mobility (ICM) was newly established at the OeAD and understands itself as a specialised department which is in charge of all international and European cooperation and mobility programmes outside the Lifelong Learning programmes as well as other projects in this framework. Another task of this office is the systematic expansion of new areas of development cooperation and the support of education export measures. Moreover the scope of activities includes the strengthening of the national presence (through the regional OeAD offices in Graz, Innsbruck, Klagenfurt, Leoben, Linz, Salzburg and Vienna) and of the international presence (by means of the lectureship programme) of the OeAD.

## National Agency for Lifelong Learning

The National Agency for Lifelong Learning is the Austrian agency for European cooperations in the field of general and vocational education.

Since 1995 it has been the contact point for the implementation and support of projects and periods abroad in the framework of the European educational programme for lifelong learning.

The National Agency is also the agency for Euroguidance Austria, the contact point of the European network for educational and vocational information and counselling and for Europass Austria. A new function is that of a coordinating institution of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

## Qualification – Transparency – Quality

This specialised department deals with questions of national and transnational recognition of knowledge and skills acquired as well as with quality in general and vocational education and training.

The starting point for this issue was the establishment of the Reference Point ARQA-VET. The acronym stands for Austrian Reference Point for Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training. On the European level ARQA-VET is a hub in the EQAVET network and actively contributes to the development and implementation of the European reference framework for quality assurance in vocational education and training. For the national stakeholders ARQA-VET is the first point of contact and service institution for this topic.



# *What we need to achieve our goals*

The OeAD has ambitious aims. It endeavours to meet the growing demands of its customers in a changing environment. To achieve our goals we need a supportive environment. The company counts in particular on the following factors:

- Sufficient funds, to which the OeAD will contribute all it can.
- The dialogue with all stakeholders (customers and partners) for discussion and coordination of internationalisation strategies and measures as well as for the compilation of specific requirements for implementation programmes.
- Scholarship funds for specific support measures outside the usual programmes in the form of an OeAD-specific financial support fund.
- A clearly defined spectrum of tasks with clear system boundaries and partnership-based collaboration with similar institutions.
- Motivated, well-trained and content members of staff who are offered an adequate working environment, modern working conditions and attractive staff development measures.

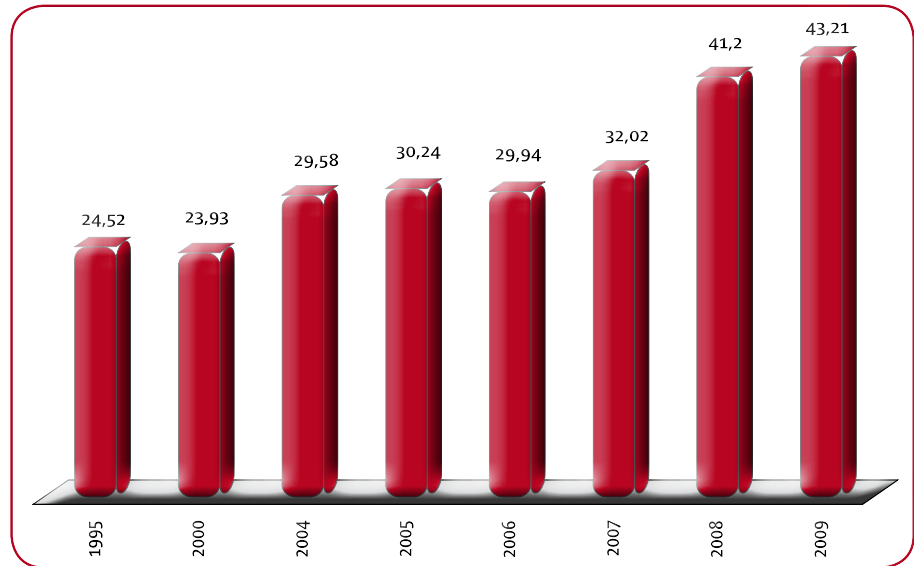




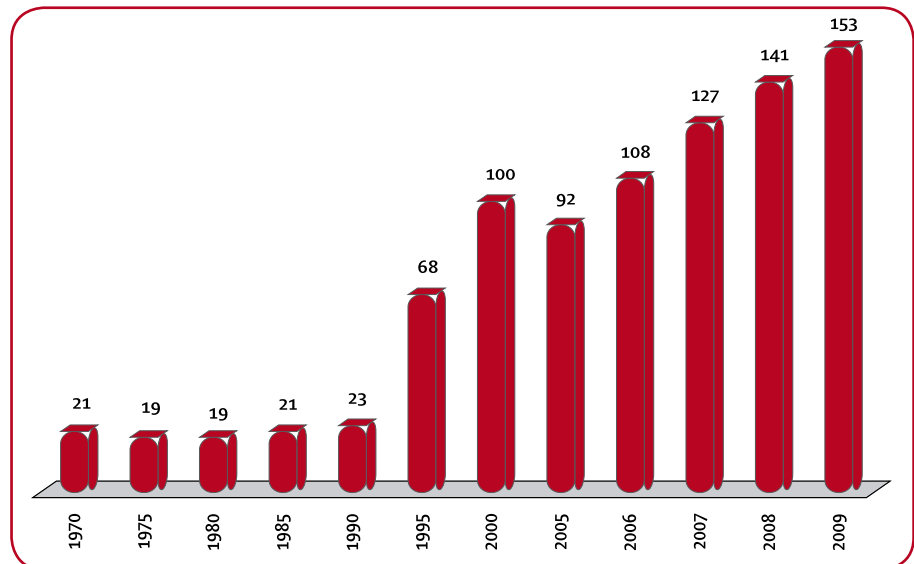
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education  
science  
research  
international

# Facts & Figures

## Budget development in million euros

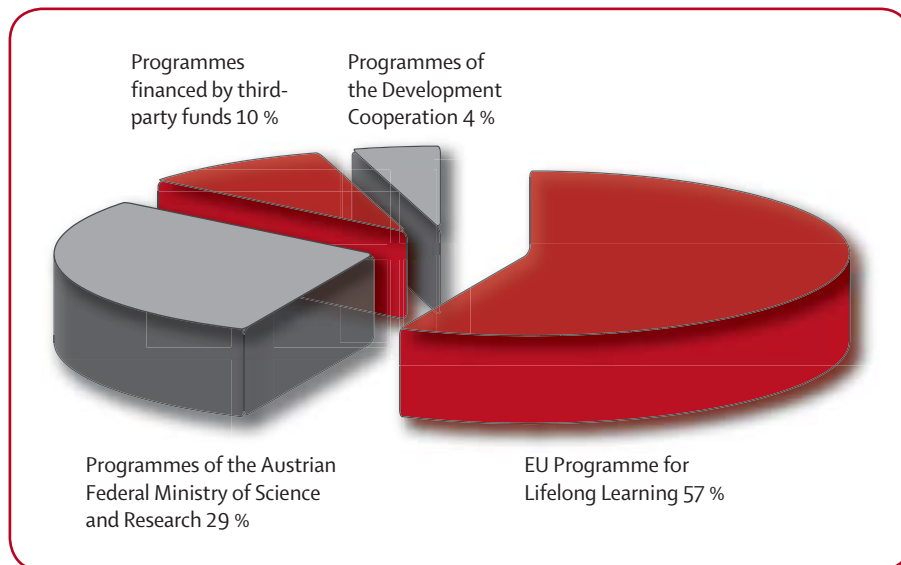


## Staff OeAD total



# Facts & Figures

**Funds 2009 by programmes /  
financing authorities**  
(total: 32.07 million euros)



# Facts & Figures

## OeAD Mobilities of Individuals 2008/09 (Incoming and Outgoing)

	INCOMING	OUTGOING
<b>European level</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
Erasmus studies & placements	4.728*	5.080
Comenius assistance	29	15
Leonardo da Vinci internships abroad		1.737
Aktion Austria – Hungary	84	12
Aktion Austria – Slovakia	27	4
Aktion Austria – Czech Republic	62	23
CEEPUS II	425	143
<b>Total European level</b>	<b>5.355</b>	<b>7.014</b>
<b>International level</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
ASEA Uninet	12	
Bertha von Suttner Grants/Kosovo	33	
One World Scholarship programme	12	
Ernst Mach Grant	166	
Franz Werfel Grant	20	
Cooperation programme with Japan**	8	19
Cultural Agreement with Egypt	17	2
North-South Dialogue Scholarships	161	
Postgraduate Grants of the Federal Ministry of Science and Research (BMWF)		58
Richard Plaschka Grant	6	
Scholarships of the Austrian Rectors' Conference – Graz (one-month visits)	84	
Scholarships of the Scholarship Foundation of the Republic of Austria	42	
Technology Grants East/Central/South Asia	148	19
Technology Grants South-East Asia	60	
Scholarships from third-party funds (special OeAD scholarships & other)***	31	
MONDI Austria Student Scholarship	33	
Pakistan Scholarships	285	
WTZ – Scientific and Technological Cooperation	446	376
<b>Total International level</b>	<b>1.564</b>	<b>474</b>

\* Figures of the European Commission for general and vocational education

\*\* JSPS Grants & Monbukagakusho

\*\*\* Scholarship Programme of The Royal Thai Embassy

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