

## **fit2work**

### **Aim**

The key objective of fit2work is to maintain and improve workers' employability and ability to work over the long term as well as to prevent their premature retirement due to illness. The introduction of low-threshold advice offerings focusing on secondary prevention measures is intended to ensure early intervention to

- reduce invalidity or prevent health-induced unemployment early on,
- help workers return to work following lengthy sick leaves, and
- maintain their ability to work through preventive measures.

### **Target group**

The services offered by fit2work are available to

- economically active workers,
- unemployed workers, and
- employers and representatives of employees.

### **Instrument**

As of 2013 fit2work runs a nationwide network of counselling centres in all Länder and offers free advice, information and assistance on occupational health. In 2016, a total of 14,769 persons and 106 companies relied on this scheme.

### **Financial resources**

Based on the actual use of these services, funding is provided by the BMSGK from its labour market policy budget (60.6%), by the social insurance institutions (34.2%) and the Social Affairs Ministry Service at a ratio of (5.2%), all ratios being from 2016.

### **Responsible organisation**

Austria-wide coordination of these services is ensured by the staff unit of the Social Affairs Ministry Service and regional coordination by the Länder offices (funding units) of the Social

Affairs Ministry Service. Actual counselling is provided by contracted entities in the relevant Länder based on uniform standards and with due regard to regional requirements.

In order to control implementation and guide measures, a special steering group has been established at the BMASGK composed of one member of each of the following entities: BMASGK (chair), BMF, BMDW, social pension insurance, work accident insurance (AUVA), health insurance institution, Federation of Austrian Social Insurance Institutions (advisory function) and PES. In addition, and to ensure involvement and representation of relevant stakeholders, an advisory board has been established composed of representatives of the social partners, Labour Inspectorates and the Austrian umbrella organisation for rehabilitation (ÖAR). They are to be informed and heard on the above issues.

### **Legal basis**

Federal Act on Providing Information, Advisory and Support Services in the Areas of Health and Work (Arbeit-und-Gesundheit-Gesetz – AGG).

### **Unemployment as eligibility condition**

No.

*Source: BMASGK, Basic Information Report: Labour Market Policy – Institutions, Legal Framework and Procedures, Measures - Reporting Year 2016/2017 (p. 201f)*  
<https://broschuerenservice.sozialministerium.at/Home/Download?publicationId=237>