



Innovative policies for inclusive labour markets

**Silvia Hofbauer
Chamber of Labour
Austria**

The Chamber of Labour (AK)

Represents the interests of more than three million workers and employees in Austria in close cooperation with the trade unions (ÖGB).





Major areas of work

- **Expertise in economics, social policy, justice, education and consumer protection among others**
- **Advisory service and legal protection for members**
- **Training of works councils and union officials**
- **Research into work-related matters**



Current challenges in Austria

- **People furthest from the labour market**
- **People with health problems**
- **Young people between school and labour market**



Means tested basic income scheme

- **Key policy to avoid poverty**
- **Combination of financial protection and practical support services in order to help people find their way back to the employment market**
- **Agreement between the Federal government and the provinces, regional laws in all 9 provinces**



Goals of the reform

- **Harmonisation of the 9 systems of social welfare**
- **Unlimited access to medical service**
- **Greater legal certainty**
- **Better access to the labour market**



The results

- Harmonisation, greater legal certainty
- E-card for everyone
- ? Reduction of the non take-up rate ?
- ? Basic Income: € 773 ?
- Improvement of the position towards the labourmarket



The results /2

- **2011: nearly 200.000 persons got social welfare**
- **60% of these people live in Vienna**
- **40% women, 33% men, 27% children**
- **2011: 440 mio Euros**



Labour market projects

- **Step2Job in Vienna, some more in other provinces**
 - Case Management
 - Debt counseling
 - Secondary Labour market
- **Improvement in Labourmarketintegration**



Where are the innovative aspects?

- **Process innovation: PES and urban administration work together**
- **Special jobs in socio – oeconomic enterprises**
- **Case management**