

Table 1.National Information

Austria

	EC-sector	Preschool	Primary-school
Age of children	2,5-6 years	5 or 6 years (1 class for children who are not mature for primary-school; only in bigger cities)	6-10 years
Policy responsibility at central level	Country	Ministry of education	Ministry of education
Operational responsibility at regional level (leave blank if not relevant)	Country (for pedagogical matters)	Ministry of education – country	Ministry of education – country
Operational responsibility at local level	Community (Building and equipment) –Lord major	Community (Building and equipment) Country (for pedagogical matters)	Community (Building and equipment) Country (for pedagogical matters)
% proportion of public, non profit and for-profit provision	Public, in some countries up to 100%	Public, 100% (as part of the primary-school)	Public, 100%
Levels of access – what percentage of children in the age group attend	Up to 98%	100% (as part of the primary-school)	100%
Average hours of attendance per day of children	From 6.30 .17.00 h (up to 10,5 hours)	4 hours	5 hours
Do national or regional curricula or guidelines exist	No	Yes	Yes
Do the curricula include guidelines concerning transitions or continuity	No	Yes	Yes
How would you describe the continuities that exist between early years and primary schools.	Depends on the institution: Some EC-institutions visit with their children the local primary-school. In villages also some common projects.		
What is the relationship between ECEC staff and primary school staff? Close, distant, very	distant		

distant			
Do the curricula include guidelines concerning emergent literacy	No	Yes	Yes
Job titles of lead contact staff and assistant staff involved (please provide original language title and a literal translation)	Lead contact staff: KindergartenpädagogIn “Pedagogical staff for Kindergarten” Assistant staff: KinderbetreuerIn “Helping staff”	VolksschullehrerIn, BEd (Primary-school-teacher)	VolksschullehrerIn, BEd (Primary-school-teacher)
Length and level of initial training of lead staff and assistant staff	School (from 14-19 years, lasting 5 years)	3 years at Teachers-university (Bachelor od Education)	3 years at Teachers-university (Bachelor od Education)
Days per year entitlement to in-service training of each category	---	30h in a year	30h in a year
% of lead staff with graduate training as a proportion of all staff	50%	100%	100%
What is your opinion of the suitability of staff in terms of qualifications, experience and motivation for development	Lead staff: Should be at university-level	Good	Good
Average number of children per teacher, e.g. 10:1	1:25 (1 lead staff and 1 assistant without education)	20	20
Salaries of teachers per annum in Euros	Different in each country: Average starting with 23.000 Euros		
Required working hours per week	35 hours in the insitution, 5 for preparation	23 hours in school, preparation not including.	23 hours in school, preparation not including.
Occupational status of ECEC staff	Medium	Medium	Medium

Table 2. Curriculum features across the countries

Country	Curriculum name	Age group covered	Author and responsible levels	Main content orientations	Literacy orientation	Open framework or adult-driven	Other initiative related to Curriculum	Curriculum implementation features	Assessment process
Austria	No National Curriculum for EC (2,5-6 years)	2,5-6 years	Country Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creativity ▪ Arts ▪ Play ▪ Language ▪ Movement ▪ Life skills 	No explicit literacy orientation.	Guidelines address process rather than content.	Curriculum is discussed	<p>25:1 (1 trained staff and 1 assistant – not educated)</p> <p>The proportion of graduate teachers is low (about 50%)</p>	In some ECs assessment of language