

# ACT

[www.act.at](http://www.act.at)

**ACT – AUSTRIAN CENTER FOR TRAINING FIRMS**



**Success.Services.Support**





### COMPETENCE MODEL PRACTICE FIRM (TRAINING FIRM)

**The practice firm is a model of a real enterprise and a substantial part of the Austrian educational system:** the model practice firm depicts the processes in a real enterprise in various degrees of complexity and makes them transparent for the learning process. The aim of the work in the practice firm (mostly half a working day per week) is cross-curricular, activity- and problem-oriented transfer of knowledge concerning internal operations and cooperation between companies. Especially activities initiated by their business partners facilitate the learning process of the students and highly motivate them.

Vocational training is often - not only by students, but also adults, who think back to their time in school – connected with terms like ‚boring‘, ‚dry‘ and so on. By conveying the ‚entrepreneurial spirit‘, the practice firm shows that this need not be the case: it is all in one – a successful training model, a place of learning and a teaching method. The work in the practice firm inspires entrepreneurial thinking and supports the foundation of new companies.

Well-trained, innovative and creative entrepreneurs and employees will be able to perform more successfully in a free market economy, which is characterized by sudden changes in society and technological developments.

**Decision-making and responsibility are a combination of professional competence, methodological competence, social competence and self competence.**

### PARTNER COMPANIES

Real companies acting as partners for practice firms can immensely enrich every day life in school by offering company visits, experience and know-how or current company data. Partner companies, on the other hand, get an insight into school life. The main aim must be a long-lasting cooperation between the partners, which will result in many interesting mutual activities.

### ACT – AUSTRIAN CENTER FOR PRACTICE FIRMS

The Austrian Center for practice firms was founded in 1993 and is a project of the VET general directorate for Upper Secondary Education in the Austrian Ministry for Education, Culture and the Arts. ACT is the pedagogical and organizational center point of the Austrian practice firm market and connects about 900 Austrian practice firms with 4500 practice firms all over the world. Furthermore, ACT is the link between the Austrian practice firm market and educational institutions, politics, economy, social partners and the international practice firm market.

**ACT is a member of the world-wide practice firm network  
EUROPEN-PEN International.**

In relation to its size, Austria is extremely powerful in the world of the practice firms. It was the first European state to introduce the compulsory subject practice firm in business schools in 1993. In other VET school types practice firm is a voluntary subject or optional compulsory; practice firms are also offered in adult education and at universities.

## ACT COOPERATION

In the commercial sector, ACT cooperates with companies, which are prepared to support practice firms with ideas and financially, and thus help the cooperation between the world of education and the world of work to be in step with actual practice and reality. Nationally, as well as internationally, ACT contributes its services to innovations which help to further develop the idea of the practice firm – ACT is a leading participant in many bilateral and EU-funded projects dealing with the foundation and further development of national practice firm networks and the development of curricula.

## ACT PRACTICE FIRM SERVICE

Simulation of services and institutions of the real business world creates a realistic atmosphere for the work in the practice firm. Access to the services and institutions offered by ACT, like the company register, bank, tax office, court of justice or social insurance is only possible electronically. Use of the ACT services in the **Practice Firm Service** is free for practice firms registered with ACT.

### An overview of the services and institutions offered to the Austrian practice firms:



## ACT TRAINER SERVICE

This special service for practice firm trainers – to be accessed with a login code – offers information about the concept TF 2020 and further education and training, publications as downloads and contact details of the working groups for trainers in practice firms in Austria.

## ACT TRAINING SERVICE

To support competence- and activity-oriented education and training, ACT offers many services as training modules. By using these modules, students can get an insight into the world of business and prepare for the work in the practice firm.

## ACT TEAM



## ACT QUALITY

ACT – the Austrian Center for practice firms – is ISO 9001 certified and supports the idea of the „Qualitätsmarke ÜFA“ (a quality certificate for practice firms) and takes active part in the development of the quality criteria.



Practice firms that are registered with the ACT company register can apply for participation in the certification „Qualitätsmarke ÜFA“ ONR 42000 and thus prove the high quality of their work.