Islam lessons in Austria

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- Austria is a unique model in Europe , by recognizing Islam as an official religion since 1912.
- Islam lessons have been provided in Austria since 1982/83 educational year.



 As for the positive effects of Islam lessons on integration in this country, Austria is being considered as a model.

• The lessons are held in German.



According to information of the Islamic religious community in Austria more than 47,000 pupils who were examined by about 350 teachers in about 2,700 locations took part in 2007 in the Islamic religious lessons.



Religious education law

§ 1. (1) For all students who belong to a legally approved church or religious society, the religious lessons of their confession are a compulsory subject of public and enacted by public law.

- - On this purpose, Islamic Religious
 Pedagogical Academy (IRPA) trains
 professionals since 1998.
 - Also, Islamic Religious Educational Institute for advanced teacher training established recently.



Academy of religious education of islam (IRPA) that takes 3 years bachelor degree



The masters in "Islamic education" of Vienna university aims to train teachers Islam for secondary schools in Austria. It also covers topics and current issues relating to the religious and ethical education in research and teaching.

Pictures of the education of Islamic teacher (IRPA)







Der Gläubige ist dem Gläubigen wie ein Minners: Ein Teil davon half den anderen fest. MOSCH HAMZA HEDIJA RAMAZAN HACER GULMELEK HASAN KUBRA FATIH SAID VILDAN FESTA







Purposes of Islam lessons in public schools

Uniform and verified contents

Islam is increasingly coming into focus in general. Beyond this, a respectable and sufficient cotented religious education for the youth of Muslim society in Austria is more important than the religious education alone.

Emphasis of 'Moderate- Islam'

The aim of the lessons is to provide a respectable religious education on contents of Islam combined with critical thinking within moderation, to gain the students a selfconsciousness of social responsibility for public welfare and an ethical aspect based on mutual respect and understanding.

Supporting of self-identity

Islam lessons bring children and youngsters from different backgrounds and countries together. Thus, a vital reflexion about self - identity is supported as Muslims. This idea critically takes place in Islamic justification critisizing chauvinist nationalism. • Realisation of the harmony of an Islamic lifestyle with the sentiment of belonging to Austria and Europe

In these lessons the question of integration of Islam to Europe can be discussed in dialogues with students and their identity as Muslims and common grounds shared in Austria could be worked out.

Connection with variety

While the richness of Islam considered by pupils through different cultural backgrounds and Islamic Schools of Jurisprudence, these facts are also delivered for a positive assessment of varied accesses which can offer varied solution opportunities as well.

•Support of the constructive Internal-Muslim dialog

Muslims in Europe are up against a huge number of challenges. The school as a place of education creates conditions for the Muslims to earn their own identity in Austria and to be able to continue their life approaching critically and independently to actual questions.

• The idea of equal opportunities for male and female

The critical conflicts with traditions are apparently founded with Islam but on the other side, these conflicts are important for the treatment of women's position and may help to revise former contradictory role models in Islam. Competence in dealing with diversity in religious groups as a key to a general acception of variety

Our modern society is pluralistic and "diversity" is an old term which gives us the opportunity to utilise variety comprehensibly. Discussing this variety in its own context could be transferring experiences among entire society.

•Knowledge as premise of a comprehensive dialog

Fortunately, the meaning of dialog gains greater importance. For a wide dialog in which most parts of the population participate, extensive knowledge and expertise is required from both parties for the quality of discourse. If the 'bridge – builder' function of the young Muslims is to be stated, an education about their own religious background is necessary.

Integration via participation

The motto of the Islamic Religious Community (Islamic Glaubensgemeinschaft) in its 25th anniversary can be particularly put down on the Islam lessons. Training of young Muslims to be valuable members in the society and to encourage them to participate in a peaceful and respectful living together is the main purpose.



Pictures of the Islam Lessons









Many thanks for your attention!