

Version: November 2023





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## ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE FOR OUR MEMBERS

The Workers' and Employees' Professional Association (AK) is a strong partner on the side of working people. The Upper Austria Workers' and Employees' Professional Association (AK Oberösterreich) supports its more than 695,000 members with many of life's challenges, including: Work-related problems, questions about pensions or care allowance classification, company bankruptcy, and difficulties with tenancy or sale contracts, construction firms or insurance. Our experts will advise you not only on questions about these matters but also ones about your personal education and training. There are also monetary benefits e.g. our training bonus the AK care bonus and our mobility bonus for apprentices.

Over 2022, more than 320,000 AK members sought and received advice and assistance from us. Last year alone we manage to secure around 105 million EUR for our members.

However, our members benefit not only from our many services but also from the influence that the AK constantly wields as a strong political voice for the interests of working people.

In this brochure you will find a clear and compact overview of all of our services. Our experts will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Andrea Heimberger, MSc AK Director Andreas Stangl AK President



### **AK ADVICE**

Our experts provide advice and support to our members free of charge in all issues relating to employment and social law, and also consumer law, drawing on their wide-ranging expertise and experience.

The Upper Austria Workers' and Employees' Professional Association offers advice and assistance in these areas:

- ► Employment and law i.e. remuneration, dismissal, discrimination, holiday, insolvency
- ► Employment and health i.e. workplace accidents, psychological stress, vocational rehabilitation
- ► Work and family i.e. maternity leave, fathers' month, part-time work for parents, care allowance classification, equalisation
- ► Education and training, qualifications for adults, funding, training leave, vocational reorientation
- ➤ Consumer protection i.e. problems with online shopping, travel, fitness studios, mobile phones, internet
- ► Taxes and income i.e. employee assessment, family allowance
- ► Living and building i.e. tenancy law, construction defects or price increases



### **AK LEGAL PROTECTION**

We want you to be treated fairly. And we will fight on your behalf to achieve this. Including in court, if necessary.

As an employee you have rights. We will defend these rights both politically and in every individual case. We will advise you on all issues with regard to employment and social law: from redundancy, dismissal and insufficient pay to maternity rights, parental parttime work, pensions and care allowance. If necessary, we will even represent you in the Employment and Social Court. In so doing, we secure many millions of Euros for our members every year. In 2022 this figure stood at over 105 million EUR.



### **AK CONSUMER PROTECTION**

We protect your rights as a consumer. We provide information and advise and sue companies, including major firms.

Every year many thousands of members turn to us for help with problems with purchase contracts, defective goods, insurance, travel, banks and energy suppliers. Our experience and legal expertise mean that they are in the very best hands with us. We also test products and services and see whether those behind them keep their promises. If they do not, we will warn our members and approach the companies responsible. A single letter often suffices in such cases. But if necessary, we will also submit test cases and enforce consumers' rights in this way. This is naturally free of charge for our members.

# EDUCATION AND TRAINING GUIDANCE

We will help you to make progress in the workplace and in phases of reorientation, by providing guidance and financial support for education and training.

We offer a free and comprehensive guidance network, strengths workshops with individual coaching sessions, the AK's potential analysis service and a wide range of helpful internet services – these range from a vocational interest test, through vocational databases, to our grant calculator.

AK members are entitled to a ten per cent reduction (up to a maximum of 90 EUR) on all BFI, community college and FAB Organos' courses. There is even a discount of up to 25% on select training courses, such as catching-up on completion of apprenticeships. The AK training bonus is an additional sum of up to 150 EUR for certain courses, including ones at the Institute for Economic Promotion of the Austrian Economic Chambers (WIFI). Our training experts will be happy to advise you.

### **AK CULTURE**

Do you love concerts, cabaret, theatre and museums? The AK service card entitles you to discounts for many events in the AK and with our cooperation partners.

The working day is often stressful. So a first-class concert, an entertaining cabaret evening or an interesting museum visit is often just the thing you need to unwind. The AK offers discounts for many cultural events throughout Upper Austria such as the AK's Linz's popular "Tuesday the Bluesday", the AK's own theatre and cabaret programmes and the AK Classics at the Brucknerhaus Linz concert hall. AK members receive discounted tickets from many of our cooperation partners, including: GUGG Kulturhaus Braunau, Kulturpark Traun, Local-Bühne Freistadt culture centre, CLAM LIVE summer concerts and many more. There are also discounted tickets for museums. For more information visit operarbeiterkammer.at/kultur



#### **SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS**

The enormous increase in the cost of living in recent years has put a huge financial strain on the AK's members. In addition to the cost of accommodation, the most notable increased costs have been those in the areas of transport and childcare. The AK Upper Austria offers its members financial support in the form of our care and transport bonus.

- ▶ AK care bonus: Members who require chargeable childcare receive a one-off payment of 150 EUR.
- ➤ AK transport bonus for apprentices: For young AK members doing an apprenticeship, there is a one-off payment of 100 EUR on offer. To qualify, apprentices must have either a Public Transport Authority of Upper Austria youth network ticket or a KlimaTicket.

For comprehensive information on the AK care bonus and an application form visit the AK homepage: ooe.arbeiterkammer.at. Information on the AK transport bonus can be found at fragdieak.at.

### **WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!**

#### Your Upper Austria Workers' and Employees' Professional Association: service, advice and assistance

at the AK headquarters in Linz and in 14 district offices throughout Upper Austria

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Media owner: Kammer für Arbeiter und Angestellte für Oberösterreich, regarding disclosure (under § 25 of the Media Law) see https://ooe.arbeiterkammer.at/impressum.html Producer: new typeshop, Kopernikusstraße 22, 4020 Linz

