

The situation of refugees in Austria

Check of competences

WAPES Conference, Integration of refugees into the labour market

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Check of competences in the federal provinces

- The check of competences are offered by every local PES office in the federal provinces.
- There is not a standardised format, but every local office carries out the check of competences considering the circumstances in the respective federal province.
- Until mid-October 2017 in total 14.101 recognised refugees and persons eligible for subsidiary protection have been attending a check of competence in Austria.
- 2 Examples: Check of competences carried out by the PES Vienna and the PES Styria

Check of Competences PES Vienna

Check of Competences – PES Vienna formal requirements

- Recognised refugees and persons eligible for subsidiary protection
- German level at least A1 or mother tongue Arabic/ Farsi-Dari
- to be alphabetised in the Latin alphabet
- older than 18 years

Check of Competences – PES Vienna content

- **Check of Competences are offered**
 - for men at the age between 18 und 25 years,
 - for men older than 25 years
 - for women older than 18 (+ 2 weeks)
- **Duration**
 - 5 - 7 weeks
 - The participants have 10 hours of workshop and 1 hour one-on-one biographical interview per week.

Check of Competences – PES Vienna methods and tools

- **Biographical interviews (one-on-one setting)**
 - offered in Arabic, Farsi/Dari
 - to survey their formal and practical qualifications and skills
 - to find out if there is need of guidance and support in the process of validation and formal recognition
- **Workshops (groups of 12 persons)**
 - information about the Austrian labour market, living and working in Austria, the Austrian culture, the social insurance system, education system and health system, civic courses etc.
- **Practical testing**
 - for people with practical competences but no written evidence
 - check of theoretical and practical competences and skills in certain professions is carried out by private companies or training institutes and reporting.

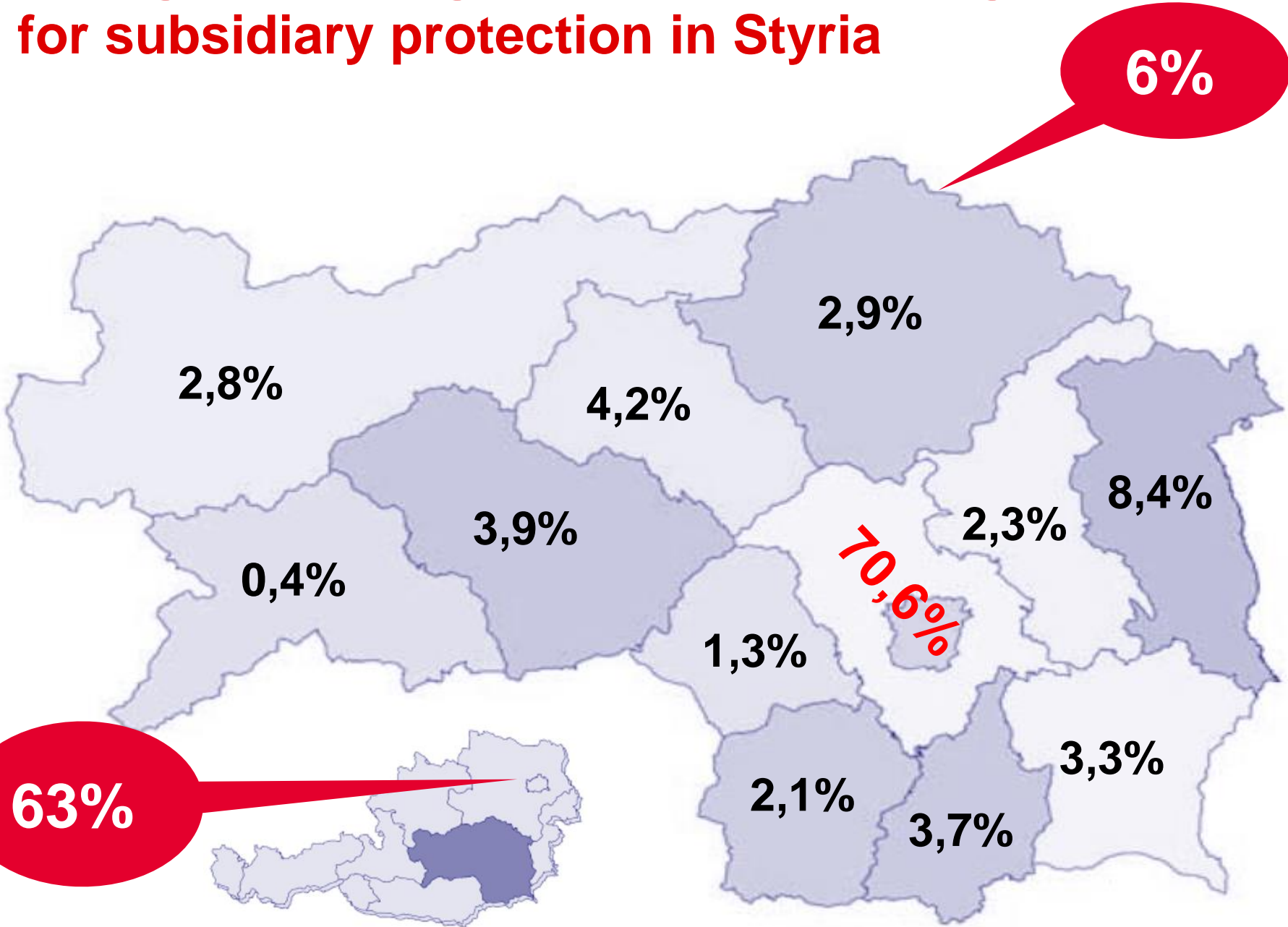
Check of Competences – PES Vienna

Reporting of the results

- **Report of the results** contains:
 - detailed documentation of the skills and competences surveyed with the help of the check of competences
 - a note if a practical testing has been made, if yes, detailed reporting on the practical qualifications
 - career aspiration
 - medium-term resp. long-term planning of perspectives

Check of Competences PES Styria

Recognised refugees and persons eligible for subsidiary protection in Styria



Methods and tools at the PES Styria

- **Check of Competences are offered to all** recognized refugees and persons eligible for subsidiary protection (**valid from 2013**)
- individual appointments at the regional PES offices are provided by native-speakers
- Duration: **up to half a year**
- same content as in Vienna

Check of Competences

What do we know about the participants of 2016 ?

Check of Competences – results for Austria – 2016

- **participants:** 5.982 persons (4.498 men, 1.484 women)
(%-percentage: men: 75%; women 25%)
- **country of origin:** 23% Afghanistan, 46% Syria, 6% Iran, 6% Iraq and 19% other countries
- **level of education:** 62% of the participants from Syria, 85% of those from Iran and 57% of Iraq have a higher school certificate or an university degree
- Only 20% of the participants coming from Afghanistan have an educational level above lower secondary school
- **Formal education of women is higher than of men:** a high proportion of women (29%) has an university degree (men: 19%). BUT: many of these formally well educated women, hardly have job experiences