



Ensuring a society for all ages:
 Promoting quality of life and active ageing
 UNECE 2012 Ministerial Conference, Vienna, Austria

Project Title: fit2work



The Project description (maximum 3500 characters)

In 2011, the Austrian Government started the programme „fit2work“ with its overarching objective to prevent invalidity and early exit from labor market and hereby aims at retaining the employability of employees. To reach this goal „fit2work“ is designed as a nationwide information and counselling service for work and health with a low-threshold for the target group - older people, people with the threat to lose their jobs due to illness, disability or similar and also businesses.

„fit2work“ as a center of excellence uses the existing range of offers of different partners (see figure) and seeks to provide **a one-stop orientation, advisory and support service**. Employers and employees benefit from the improved connection and accessibility of the variety of products on this topic.

„fit2work“ prevents invalidity and early retirement, thus also the consequences resulting from invalidity, as unemployment due to illness, psycho-social issues, indebtedness etc, are avoided.

In a nutshell the following principles stand for „fit2work“ :

- voluntariness: it is everyone's own decision to take part
- early intervention: to offer support prior to invalidity
- individuality: support with a low-threshold for a huge target group
- sustainability: positive long-term effects not only for employers and employees, but for society as well

Why is it considered a good practice

As the programme „fit2work“ is an initiative on a broad level, 4 Ministries, the PES (AMS), labour inspection, federal office for social affairs, the social partners and the federal insurance companies are working together. It is designed to reach as many people as possible in good time .

Timeline/duration of the project

Start in Sept. 2011 – comprehensive network in 2013

Lessons learnt

A programme designed for a wide target group with an low-threshold access and its principles of individuality and confidentiality as well as a good network and cooperation of the key-players on this topic are the key success factors of „fit2work“ .

Relevance for the UNECE If transferred in a similar form in the UNECE region, it might gain an extraordinarily impact on the future development of the health-systems and health and working standards of its member states.

Location of the project Austria

Contact information, website www.fit2work.at, office@fit2work.at