Standard documentation
Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Evaluation of the fit2work programme

This documentation is valid for the reference period:
Evaluation of the fit2work programme since 2021

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Executive Summary

Since 2014, Statistics Austria has been evaluating the fit2work-programme on behalf of the Sozial-ministeriumsservice and the Federal Ministry of Labor and Economy (BMAW).The legal basis for this evaluation is the Labour and Health Act. Fit2work offers two different counseling services: one is for people who, due to health problems, are in danger of losing their job or have difficulties finding employment. The other is for businesses that want to support the employability and health of their employees.

The evaluation design for the programme has beend developed based on discussions in the advisory council and the supervisory council, as well as additional working groups. The impact evaluation of both counselling services is based on a quasi-experimental design, using a comparison group. Specific indicators of the people and businesses that attend fit2work are compared to those of people and businesses that have not participated in the programme and are as similar as possible ('statistical twins').

The success of the fit2work programme for people is operationalized as 'employed and not on sick leave'. Therefore, employment rates are calculated for the group of participants of the fit2work programme, as well es their statistical twins. Employment rates are calculated for specific dates, from one year before the start of the programme up until four years after the completion. People from the comparison group receive fictional dates for the start and the completion of the programme, these dates are derived from their statistical twins.

Three indicators are used to evaluate the effect of the fit2work programme for companies: The change in average sick days of employees, the change in average sick days for only those ICD-Codes that are relevant for the fit2work-programme (which excludes, for instance, seasonal flu), and the change in average departures into unemployment. These indicators are calculated for a one-year-period before the start of the programme and a two-year-period after the completion. Companies from the comparison group receive fictional start- and end-dates from their statistical twins.

To conduct the evaluation of fit2work, data from different administrative, as well as in-house sources are linked anonymously by a domain-specific personal identifier (bpk_AS) according to §§ 15 and 26 of the Federal Statistics Act 2000. On one hand data are used that are regularly delivered to Statistics Austria, mainly from the central social security administration and the public employment service. In addition, there are two data deliveries which Statistics Austria recieves according to the Labor and Health Act and exclusively for the purpose of evaluating fit2work: First, the Sozialministeriumsservice sends a monthly delivery of data on the participation of people and companies. Second, once a year the Austrian health insurance fund (ÖGK) delivers data on the sick leaves of fit2work participants, respectivelty, their employees. In addtion the ÖGK delievers data on the sick leaves of the statistical twins of participants, respectively their employees.

In addition to evaluating both counseling services of the fit2work-programme, Statistics Austria also analyses the overlap between both services, as well as the overlap between participants of fit2work and people who receive benefits for part-time occupational rehabilitation (Wiedereingliederungsteilzeit). For these inquiries, the same data sources that are listed above are used.

Evaluation reports are published biannually, they include detailed descriptions of the evaluation design, data sources and methods, as well as results for the evaluated years.

Evaluation of the fit2work programme – Main Key Points	
Subject matter	Evaluation of the fit2work-programme, based on a quasi-experimental matching design.
	Counseling service for people: Creation of distinct labor market states, with consideration of sick leave. The target variable is employment without sick leave at several key dates.
	Counseling service for companies: The target variables are the change in average sick days and the change in average departures into unemployment for a one-year period before the start of the programme and a two-year period after the completion of the programme.
Population	People that have received an invitation letter for fit2work and subsequently participated in the programme, as well as their statistical twins. Number of evaluated people 2022: approx. 70.000.
	Companies that have participated in the programmes and their employees, as well the employees of their statistical twins. Number of evaluated companies 2022: 1225.
Type of statistics	Secondary statistics based on administrative data as well statistical registers.
Data sources/Survey techniques	Administrative data sources:
	Central Social Security Administration, Public Employment Service, Austrian health insurance fund, monitoring data base fit2work (Sozialministeriumsservice).
	In-house data sources:
	Educational attainment Register, Statistical Business Register.
Reference period or due day	Currently the third implementation of the fit2work-programme (Start 2020).
Periodicity	Annually.
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	
Main legal acts	Federal Statistics Act 2000
	Labour and Health Act
Most detailed regional breakdown	No regional breakdown.
Availability of results	The evaluation report is published biannually.