



## AUSTRIA

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### I. Situation of the Profession

#### History and Development

The Psychomotricity project as we find it today in Austria has its origin in Germany and is closely connected with Ernst J. Kiphard.

During the 1960's of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Kiphard and his co workers had established a project to promote development by movement in pedagogy and therapy in Germany, while in Austria interest in the pedagogic scene only began in the early 1990's.

People like Vera Stehno, Sepp Mundigler and Julika Ullmann committed themselves to establish Psychomotricity in Austria.

There is still no profession of Psychomotricity in Austria and up till now, there does not exist a basic education in the area of Psychomotricity. Nevertheless, more than 2000 people, mainly women, have qualified in one of the educational institutions on a large scale. They use their knowledge and their experience to work with people of all ages and contribute to the development of psychomotricity in Austria.

#### Psychomotor/Professional Organisations

Austrian Association of Motopedagogic = Aktionskreis Motopädagogik Österreich (akmö):  
[www.motopaedagogik.at](http://www.motopaedagogik.at)

The akmö was founded in 1993 with the goal to implement the idea of Psychomotricity in Austria. Today akmö makes a lot of offers to its members and interested people, for example: psychomotor intervention in groups for children, seminars for different professionals, holiday programmes for families with handicapped children.

### II. Education

As mentioned above a basic education in Psychomotricity does not exist.. Nevertheless, there are some further education and postgraduate studies:

- University of Vienna: "Universitätslehrgang Psychomotorik" (4 semesters with a Master of Arts) [www.postgraduatecenter.at/psychomotorik](http://www.postgraduatecenter.at/psychomotorik)
- Donau-Universität Krems: "Universitätslehrgang Mototherapy" (6 semesters with a Master of Science) [www.donau-uni.ac.at/psymed/mototherapy](http://www.donau-uni.ac.at/psymed/mototherapy)
- Association for Motopedagogic, Mototherapy and Psychomotricity (MMP): further education in "Mototherapy" (1054 hours in theory and practice in 3 years),  
[www.mototherapy.at](http://www.mototherapy.at);
- vaLeo-GmbH: Further Education in Motopedagogic and Further Education in Motogeragogic" (200 hours in theory and practice in one year), [www.valeo.at](http://www.valeo.at);

### III. Practice

Further education offered by the different associations in Austria are directed to people working in pedagogic, therapeutic or social professions and intending to give more importance to the movement in their work.

For more than 20 years, professionals such as kindergarten pedagogues, teachers, pedagogues for handicapped children, ergotherapists and nurses for old people have joined



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the further education courses to acquire some knowledge in the area of psychomotricity and use it for their work.

Therefore, through the activity of these different professionals, Psychomotricity is used in prevention, education, re-education, rehabilitation and in therapy in institutions such as kindergartens, schools, institutions for handicapped people, psychiatry, advisory centres and private practice.

All age groups are overseen.

Psychomotor work has no legal status in Austria, so there is no possibility of reimbursement by a social security system.

### **IV. Legislation**

There is the law that establish the MAS Motopedagogic degree:

[http://ris1.bka.gv.at/authentic/findbgb1.aspx?name=entwurf&format=html&docid=COO\\_2026\\_100\\_2\\_191193](http://ris1.bka.gv.at/authentic/findbgb1.aspx?name=entwurf&format=html&docid=COO_2026_100_2_191193)

[http://www.postgraduatecenter.at/fileadmin/user\\_upload/ref\\_weiter/Curricula/Curriculum\\_Psychomotorik\\_Mitteilungsblatt160\\_2008\\_2009\\_160.pdf](http://www.postgraduatecenter.at/fileadmin/user_upload/ref_weiter/Curricula/Curriculum_Psychomotorik_Mitteilungsblatt160_2008_2009_160.pdf)