



# Education on Democracy and Educational Programs in Parliaments

Harald Dossi, Secretary General of the Austrian Parliament



# Overview

- ◆ The Role of Parliaments in Strengthening Democracy
- ◆ Educational Programs in the Austrian Parliament
- ◆ Impact and Benefits of these Programs
- ◆ Key Objectives and Future Outlook



# The Role of Parliaments in Democracy

- ◆ Parliaments should go beyond legislation and control to provide transparency about political processes and decisions.
- ◆ Informing the public is fundamental for a representative democracy.
- ◆ Knowledge of parliamentary democracy is a fundamental prerequisite.



# Democracy Education: A Cornerstone of Representation

- ◆ Promoting awareness of democratic processes and parliamentarianism is essential, especially in times of global challenges.
- ◆ Strengthening democratic institutions and political participation is vital for the future.



# Austria's Commitment to Democracy Education

- ◆ The Austrian Parliament actively promotes democratic education through various programs.
- ◆ Offering learning opportunities at the authentic place of legislation – Parliament.





# Programs for Different Target Groups

- ◆ **Democracy Workshop Program:** 150,000 participants since 2007
- ◆ **Youth and Apprentices' Parliament:**  
Role-play game simulating legislative process in Parliament
- ◆ **Interactive guided tours**





# Mobile and Digital Learning Initiatives

Programs extend beyond the parliament building itself, reaching different target groups nationwide.

- ◆ **“Parliament Comes to You”**: mobile workshops
- ◆ **“Parliament on Tour”**: traveling interactive mini-museum
- ◆ **“Democracy Webstatt”**: online portal



# Impact and Reach of Parliament Programs

- ◆ Over one million visitors have engaged with the Austrian Parliament since the reopening in 2023.
- ◆ Public interest in learning about democracy and parliament is growing.





# Benefits for Participants and Parliament

- ◆ Active engagement provides benefits for all involved.
- ◆ **Key Benefits:**
  - ◆ Participants gain first-hand experience of Parliament.
  - ◆ MPs engage with the public, promoting democratic dialogue.
  - ◆ Parliament increases public understanding of its workings.



# Goals and Future Outlook

- ◆ The aim is to foster active participation, media literacy and democratic values.
- ◆ Empowering citizens to actively engage in political processes is essential for a vibrant democracy.





# Conclusion and Call to Action

- ◆ To strengthen democracy, we must deepen knowledge and encourage active participation from the public, particularly youth.
- ◆ Each citizen has a role to play in fostering and preserving democracy.



# Thank you for your attention!