

Holdings of the Austrian Archives for Adult Education placed under protection

As the competent public authority, the Austrian State Archives issued an official decree on 11 October 2018:

“The archival materials kept in the Austrian Archives for Adult Education are viewed as a valuable cultural asset worthy of protection from both a national as well as a supraregional perspective, the loss of which would represent a reduction in the quality as well as sufficient variety, diversity and dissemination of Austrian cultural heritage according to the law on the protection of historical monuments”.

The issuance of the decree was preceded by a visitation and preliminary investigation which resulted in an official expert assessment that determined that the preservation of the archival holdings is in the public interest.

This is accompanied by the evaluation of the more than 130 years of work in education carried out by the adult education centres. In addition, it has been determined:

“The traditions of the training and continuing education courses offered in the past by institutions at the national and supraregional levels – the umbrella organisations and regional associations – reflect the change in the area of adult education as an important and indispensable pillar of the Austrian national education system.”

The unlimited validity of this decree is also recorded, and that the detailed list of the holdings and collections of the Austrian Archives for Adult Education is an integral part of the decree. This means that the entire holdings of the Austrian Archives for Adult Education are officially and legally placed under the protection of the Republic for an unlimited period of time.

The Austrian Archives for Adult Education values this protection as official recognition of more than 30 years of development and expansion work and sees it as an encouragement for even more intensive historical research into the history of popular education and adult education.