

# Intergenerational Transmission of Educational Attainment in Austria<sup>1</sup>

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## Abstract

Up to now there exist several studies documenting the educational expansion in the 20<sup>th</sup> century in Austria but only few studies measuring the degree of persistence of educational attainment over generations. Furthermore, for Austria there are no internationally comparable persistence-measures of educational attainment available. The Austrian Household Survey on Housing Wealth includes information on socioeconomic characteristics of respondents and their parents. The results demonstrate strong persistence in educational attainment in Austria. Using unit- as well as multivariate econometric techniques and a Markovian approach we show that educational persistence decreased over time. Our study delivers key-measures for intergenerational persistence of educational attainment. In particular we deliver results comparable to those of Hertz et al. (2008) in their multi-country analysis. This allows us to rank Austria in terms of intergenerational educational attainment persistence among a number of European countries and the US. In general our results question the existence of meritocratic values and equal opportunity for educational advancement in the Austrian society.

**Keywords: intergenerational transfers, educational attainment, educational transmission, Austria**

**JEL classification: J62, I38**

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