

Report to the Federal Parliament: validation of study years for inclusion in the calculation of civil service pensions



The Court of Audit carried out an audit of the validation of study years for inclusion in the calculation of civil service pensions.

The legislator decided that study periods would no longer automatically be taken into account for the civil service pension. Previously, civil servants holding the degree required for their recruitment or subsequent promotion received a free bonus. Under the new scheme, the bonus is no longer awarded and study periods can only be taken into account if civil servants pay for them.

The Court examined whether the Federal Pension Office (FPO) provided civil servants with sufficient and correct information on the new regulation. It also paid attention to the accuracy of the estimated impact of such regularisations as well as to the efficiency and objectivity of the application procedure.

So far, the number of civil servants who decided to pay to make their study years count has been much lower than expected. The Court noted that the FPO rarely managed to process applications within a reasonable period of time and that the legislation, especially the application procedure, could be improved. However, the audit showed that the provided estimates were almost always correct. In recent years, the FPO rightly invested in electronic communication with citizens, but the functionalities of "MyPension" are still too limited.