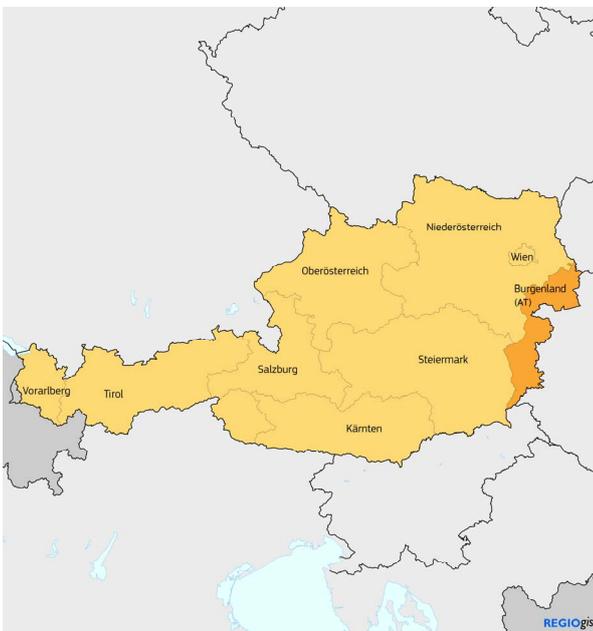


# Cohesion Policy and Austria

⌘ In 2014-2020, Austria will manage **two operational programmes** under EU Cohesion Policy. Of these, one will receive funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and one from the European Social Fund (ESF).



Structural Funds (ERDF and ESF) eligibility 2014-2020

- Less developed regions  
(GDP/head < 75 % of EU-27 average)
- Transition regions  
(GDP/head between  $\geq$  75 % and < 90 % of EU-27 average)
- More developed regions  
(GDP/head  $\geq$  90 % of EU-27 average)

## How much cohesion funding will be invested in Austria?

For 2014-2020, Austria has been allocated around **€ 1.235 billion** (current prices) in total Cohesion Policy funding:

- **€ 906 million** for more developed regions (all regions except Burgenland)
- **€ 72.3 million** for transition regions (Burgenland)
- **€ 257.3 million** for European Territorial Cooperation

Of this, ESF in Austria will represent a minimum of **€ 426 million**. The actual share will be set in light of the specific challenges the country needs to address in the areas covered by the ESF.

## What are the main investment priorities for Austria?

The investment priorities for 2014-2020 will be set out in a Partnership Agreement to be approved by the Austrian authorities and the European Commission.

The main challenges for Austria are related to innovation, the labour market, social inclusion and education, and the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions together with other measures of environmental protection under the following priorities:

- supporting innovation, smart specialisation and the business environment for SMEs;
- exploiting the labour market potential of older people, women, migrants and people at risk of social exclusion, and improving education outcomes;
- promoting energy efficiency and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> intensity;
- equality between men and women including in reconciliation of work and private life;
- active and healthy ageing;
- active inclusion with a view to improving employability;
- reducing early school leaving promoting equal access to good quality early-childhood, primary and secondary education;
- enhancing equal access to lifelong learning, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce;
- social innovations in labour market, education and social policies in order to address social challenges within the regions.

## What results have been achieved so far?

The total allocation from Cohesion Policy funding for the 2007-2013 period was € 1.5 billion.

Since the beginning of the 2007-2013 period, amongst other achievements, the ERDF has helped Austria to:

- create 5 365 new jobs;
- fund 241 research projects;
- support 539 projects bringing together enterprises with research institutions;
- provide protection from forest fires and other risks for 30 534 people.

With the help of the ESF:

- around 320 000 people were supported to increase their adaptability and to preserve their jobs;
- around 100 000 persons benefitted from measures aimed at preventing unemployment;
- around 120 000 persons furthest from the labour market, among them 54 000 unemployed persons, were integrated;
- nearly 160 000 persons benefitted from lifelong learning activities, which provided 73 000 young persons (36 000 pupils) with a better start in life and 24 000 older persons with improved chances to stay in employment.

## Cohesion Policy success stories

### ERDF projects

#### ● **Supporting technological innovation for start-ups and young businesses**

An initiative co-funded by the ERDF has provided Vienna with a new centre of excellence for sustainable scientific and technological innovation. [The Aspern IQ Technology Centre](#) was built on the east side of Vienna to accommodate small and medium-sized businesses in the field of sustainable technology. The technology centre provides start-ups and young businesses with 6 600 m<sup>2</sup> of affordable office space, research infrastructure as well as premises for training and conferences.

*Total cost: € 15 million (ERDF contribution: € 2.6 million)*

#### ● **'The smallest company in the world'**

The company [Weissenseer Holz-System-Bau](#) in Carinthia builds passive houses. An ERDF investment has contributed to innovations in production techniques and materials, helping to make the houses more affordable for everyone and reducing the time required to 20 working days.

*Total cost: € 3.8 million (ERDF contribution: € 378 000)*

- **Helping to turn Lower Austria into a 'land of technology'**

Three cities with high-tech facilities in the Lower Austria region are working closely together under the highly successful [Technopol Programme](#). The programme has enabled a structural shift away from rural activities to high-tech and innovation. It has already created gross added value estimated at €191 million and several thousand jobs. Part of this success stems from recent Technopol projects involving on-site universities and small businesses.

*Total cost: € 6.2 million (ERDF contribution: € 2.7 million)*

- **Using a city's purchasing power to promote local innovation**

The City of Vienna is using the power of its public procurement budget to help support local innovation and entrepreneurs by encouraging them to offer their services to the city and enable Vienna to act as a lead market for innovation. The [WienWin](#) project in the Austrian capital Vienna aims to strengthen the location of Vienna as a centre for innovation by using the city's purchasing power of approximately € 5 billion per year to support innovative businesses in the region.

*Total cost: € 1.3 million (ERDF contribution: € 671 000)*

## ESF projects

- **Projekt 'Kompetenzwerkstatt'**

This ESF-supported initiative aims to improve labour market opportunities for people with a migration background and first generation immigrants. The '[Competence Workshop](#)' offers counselling, training, coaching and other forms of support that are tailored to individual needs.

*Total cost: € 278 000 (ESF contribution: € 128 000)*

## Find out more about EU cohesion policy projects in Austria

For more project examples, as well as links to the complete list of beneficiaries of EU cohesion policy funding, see the following websites:

- [European Commission Regional Policy website](#)
- [European Social Fund website](#)