

AUSTRIAN CONFERENCE ON SPATIAL PLANNING



ÖROK

ÖROK: GOALS AND ORGANISATION

The **Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning (ÖROK)**, founded in 1971, is an organisation established by the federal government, the Länder and municipalities to coordinate spatial development at the national level.

The **political decision-making body** is chaired by the Federal Chancellor and its members include all federal ministers and heads of the Länder, the presidents of the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns and the Austrian Association of Municipalities as well as the heads of the social and economic partners with a consulting vote.

To execute its tasks at the administrative level, ÖROK employs a **“Commission of Deputies”** as well as several **working formats** that are made up of representatives of the ÖROK members. Apart from the formal bodies, soft “governance” formats have been gaining significance for ÖROK’s work in the last years.

An **ÖROK Office** has been set up at the Federal Chancellery for the daily operations.

ÖROK: TASKS AND PRODUCTS

SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT

One of the central areas of work comprises the preparation of the **Austrian Spatial Development Concept**. The current Spatial Development Concept (“ÖREK 2011”) was published in 2011 and covers a planning period of around ten years. Guided by the key theme of “Space for All”, it is a strategic instrument for overall spatial development in Austria.



When ÖREK 2011 was adopted, the concept of **ÖREK Partnerships** was also introduced as an instrument to bring together all relevant partners to work out the content in more detail and develop approaches to solutions. The aim was to increase the focus on implementation and effectiveness.

Moreover, its tasks include creating basic planning materials for Austria’s spatial development policy (e.g. “ÖROK Forecasts”). The outcome of the work of the experts can be presented in the form of ÖROK Recommendations which also find acceptance at the political level.

The Spatial Planning Report is published every three years and contains analyses of relevant spatial developments and reports on the activities of ÖROK members with a reference to spatial development.

The ÖROK Atlas is part of the Regional Monitoring System and a supplementary element of the **systematic monitoring of spatial development**.

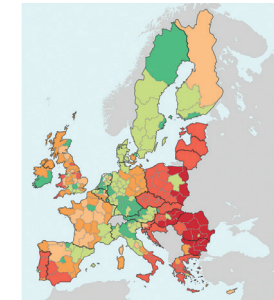
The most important media products are the ÖROK Publication Series and the ÖROK website.

www.oerok.gv.at | www.oerok-atlas.at

ÖROK AND EUROPE

Within the context of European regional and spatial development policies, ÖROK has played an important role as the co-ordinating body since Austria’s accession to the European Union.

The drafting of the **“Partnership Agreement STRAT.AT 2020”** for the European Structural and Investment Funds and ongoing support in this context during the programming period 2014 to 2020 are again integrated into ÖROK’s operations. Additionally, programming work for the Austria-wide Investment for Growth and Jobs/ERDF programme 2014–2020 was done within the common platform provided by ÖROK. The ÖROK Office has also been appointed **Managing Authority** for that programme.



ÖROK’s tasks in the preparations for the programming period include, for example, defining the regional aid map pursuant to the EU state aid rules (Art. 87 EC-Treaty) or coordination of the national distribution of funds from the EU Structural Funds.

Within the framework of European Territorial Cooperation, the ÖROK Office has been appointed **National Contact Point** also for 2014-2020 for transnational and networking programmes with Austria’s involvement.

The focus of activities is on the three programmes CENTRAL EUROPE, the ALPINE SPACE and DANUBE TRANSNATIONAL, but also INTERREG EUROPE, URBACT and ESPON are supported.

In addition, a **coordination platform** for the Austrian programming partners for the bilateral cross-border cooperation programmes has been established within ÖROK.

www.oerok.gv.at/esi-fonds-at
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