



Position Paper for Austria

Position of the Commission Services on
the development of the Partnership Agreement
and Programmes in Austria
for the period 2014-2020

STRAT.AT 2020 Forum in Linz
19.11.2012



Introduction

- Strong alignment with the **Europe 2020 strategy**, thematic concentration and performance incentives
- **Common Strategic Framework (CSF)** funds to jointly foster competitiveness and cooperation at all levels
- Need for strong prioritisation and result orientation



Partnership Agreement

Commission Services Position Paper

- Framework for dialogue between Commission services and Austria
- Key challenges and funding priorities linked to Europe 2020 objectives and Country Specific Recommendations for Austria
- Optimize the use of CSF funds and concentrate future spending on priority areas

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Europe 2020 headline targets

Europe 2020 headline targets	Current situation in Austria	National 2020 target in the NRP
3% of on the EU's GDP to be invested in research and development	2.8%	3.76%
20% greenhouse gas emissions reduction compared to 1990 levels	-5.2% (2020 projected emissions compared to 2005) -9% (2010 emissions compared to 2005)	-16% (national binding target for non-ETS sectors compared to 2005)
20% of energy from renewables	30%	34%
20% increase in energy efficiency – reduction of energy consumption in MToe*		7.16MToe
75% of the population aged 20-64 should be employed	75.2%	77-78%
Reducing early school leaving to less than 10%	8.3%	9.5%
At least 40% of 30-34 years old completing tertiary or equivalent education	23.5% (est. 33.5 % incl. ISCED 4a)	38 %
Reducing the number of people in or at risk of poverty or exclusion by at least 20 million (as compared to EU SILC data of 2008)	159,000	235,000

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Main challenges

1. Potential to increase research, development and innovation systems, as well as to reduce weaknesses of the business environment
2. Underutilised employment potential and need to improve educational attainments
3. Sub-optimal use of resources and non-achieved CO₂ emission targets

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Challenge: research/innovation systems, weaknesses in business environment

- **Research and development activities are unevenly distributed among Austrian regions**
 - high in Styria and Vienna
 - low in Burgenland
- **Weaknesses in the transfer of innovation from research institutes to business**
- **Relatively low research and development investments by SMEs**
- **High production costs**
 - small-structured agriculture
 - mountain farming

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Funding priority n° 1

Supporting innovation, smart specialisation and the business environment for SMEs

- Promote private business investment for innovation and in research and development activities
- Promote entrepreneurship and commercialisation of innovation in technology and knowledge-intensive sectors
- Enhance business innovation and competitiveness in agriculture, forestry and aquaculture, and diversifying economic activities in rural territories and supporting small infrastructures in sparsely populated areas

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Challenge: labour market, inclusion and education

- **Untapped labour market potential of older workers**
 - employment rate still below EU-27 average
- **High gender segmentation and gender pay gap**
- **Certain groups are at higher risk of poverty**
 - migrants
 - low-skilled
 - single persons with children
- **Low education outcomes and tertiary attainments**
 - high drop-out rates

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Funding priority n° 2

Fully tap the labour market potential of older people, women, migrants and people at risk of social exclusion, and improving education outcomes

- Enhance labour market participation of older workers, women and young people not in employment, education or training
- Promote social inclusion of vulnerable groups
- Increase educational attainments of disadvantaged young people and raising tertiary education rates, especially in science, mathematics and technology

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Challenge: use of resources and non-achievement of CO₂ emission targets

- **Austria committed to reduce GHG by 16 % (2005 – 2020)**
 - According to latest projections reduction of 5.2 %
- **Sensitive areas**
 - Mountain areas
 - High nature value areas
 - groundwater areas at risk
- **Climate change**
 - Increased production risks
 - Increasing natural disasters
- **Resource efficiency**
 - Recycling
 - Waste treatment

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Funding priority n° 3

Promoting resource efficiency and reducing CO₂ intensity

- Support energy efficiency
- Promote low-carbon strategies for urban and rural areas, in transport and industry, and the shift towards a climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry
- Promote resource efficiency, enhancing risk prevention, risk management and environmental protection

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Success factors (ex-ante conditionalities)

- *Research & innovation strategies for smart specialisation*
- *Active ageing policies with a comprehensive strategy*
- *Strategies for increasing tertiary education attainment, quality and efficiency*
- *Administrative capacity for data collection for fisheries management and the implementation of a Union control, inspection and enforcement system*
- *National strategic plan for aquaculture*

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European Territorial Cooperation

- European Territorial Cooperation and cross border co-operation programmes
- EU Strategy for the Danube Region
 - Greater coherence and transfer of good practices (transport issues in transnational contexts)
 - Coordination of the "inland navigation" priority
 - Protecting the environment
 - Strong participation in all Priority Areas

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Negotiation process for Partnership Agreement (PA)

