Agriculture and Rural Development in Austria

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Agriculture – facts & figures
Average size of farms 1995 - 2016

Source: Statistik Austria (Agricultural structure survey)

Development of farms – full- and part-time

Source: Statistik Austria (Agricultural structure survey)
Organic farming in Austria

- 20.7% of farms
- 24.0% of UAA

Agriculture in Austria

- **Small structured** (average UAA 19.7 ha) agriculture – based on family farms and linked to forestry
- ~ 55% **part-time** farmers
- High proportion of **less-favoured areas** (~ 70% of UAA)
- Relatively **low production intensity**
- Production of **high-quality food** / regional food important for consumers
- **Tourism** as a strategic partner (farm holidays)
- High proportion of **organic farming**
Rural Development Policy in Austria

Agricultural budget 2017 – origin and use

1,979 m Euro (= 100 %)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Use</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EU: 61 %</td>
<td>Other national measures: 17 %</td>
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<td>Federal level: 17 %</td>
<td>Rural development (pillar II): 45 %</td>
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<td>Regions: 22 %</td>
<td>Common market organisation (pillar I): 38 %</td>
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Source: BMNT
Common Agricultural Policy 2014 - 2020

**CAP 2014-2020**

**Common Market Organization**
- Direct Payments
  - Basic payment scheme
  - Greening payment
  - Payment for young farmers
  - Voluntary coupled support
- Intervention rules
- Export refunds
- Competition rules etc.

**Rural Development 2014-20**
- 6 thematic priorities (= targets)
  - Knowledge transfer and innovation
  - Competitiveness
  - Food chain organisation
  - Ecosystems
  - Resource efficiency
  - Economic development in rural areas
- Implementation of the priorities via measures

**European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF)**

**European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)**

**Common Strategic Framework (CSF)**

**National Partnership Contract**

**Rural development EAFRD**

**Other CSF funds (ERDF, ESF, CF, EMFF)**

**Europe 2020 strategy**

**Innovation, Environment and Climate Change** as cross-cutting objectives

**Rural Development Programme(s)**

**Priorities**
- Knowledge transfer and innovation
- Enhancing competitiveness
- Promoting food chain and risk management
- Restoring, preserving, and enhancing ecosystems
- Resource efficiency and shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy
- Social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development of rural areas
**Austrian RDP 2014-2020 – Facts & Figures**

- One single Rural Development Programme
- Approval on 12th December 2014 (together with PL and DK)
- Budget (EUR): 3.9 bn EU-funds
  
  + 3.8 bn national funds (federal & provincial level)
  
  = 7.7 bn total public funds → 1.1 bn/year

- Program authorities:
  - Managing Authority: Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism
  - Paying Agency: Agrarmarkt Austria (AMA)

- 16 measures with 90 types of operations in total
- 4 programme modifications, 5th modification submitted to Commission
- Monitoring Committee: 47 members, 9 meetings
- Current implementation status: 57.9% payments

**RD 2014-2020 in Austria – main objectives**

- Preserving ecosystems and an efficient use of natural resources
  
  - nearly 80% of the agricultural area under management contracts

- Improving competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector
  
  - 20 000 farms targeted, 600 innovation projects and training for 600 000 people

- Creating conditions for the economic and social regeneration of rural areas
  
  - 75 Local Action Groups covering 75% of the rural population creating 490 new jobs
Austrian RD strategy
(financial share/measure in %)

- Agri-environmental programme „ÖPUL“
  - Grassland measures aiming at biodiversity
  - Payments for enhancing biodiversity on arable land
  - Water protection measures
  - Variety of possibilities for nature and habitat protection
- Promotion of organic farming: funding 112 Mio. EUR/year
- Focus on investments in agricultural holdings: funding more than 100 Mio EUR/year
- Vocational training and innovation: targeted measures in order to provide for innovation on holdings
Characteristic Programme measures (2/2)

- Payment for areas with natural constraints: consideration of individual difficulties and differentiation between farming systems: with/without livestock
- Investments in basic services, i.e.
  - Small touristic infrastructure
  - Village renewal
  - Renewable energies
  - Broadband infrastructure
- Local development strategies
  - 77 Leader regions selected
  - Around 3.2 Mio EUR funding per region in average

Less favoured areas in Austria

- 80% of total area
Results of Evaluation (WIFO, 2016)

- Programme contributed to maintaining marginal land in agricultural production
- Employment and value added in the economy were stimulated;
- Impact on the environment was reduced by lower green house gas emissions and lower nitrogen surpluses

Source: WIFO evaluation study https://www.bmnt.gv.at/landlaendl_entwicklung/le-07-13/evaluierung/le_studien/WIFO_Auswirkungen_Programm.html
Thank you very much for your attention!

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