Austrian Rural Development Programme

The current RDP (2014–20) and lessons learnt for the next period (2020+) in Austria

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Directorate-General II - Agriculture and Rural Development
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Farming structure in Austria

- family-farm-based agriculture
- Ø 18.7 ha UAA
- ~110,000 IACS-farms, ~60% part-time farmers
- “2nd pillar country” (2/3 of CAP payments)
- high proportion of less favoured areas (3/4 of UAA)
- high diversity of production sectors
- high proportion of organic farming (1/4 of UAA)
- 80% of agricultural holdings participate in AECM
- CAP payments have high share on farm income
- export is important for Austrian agriculture
Financing of the Austrian RDP

RDP 2014–20: EUR 1.1 bn/y

area-related measures
- agri-environment
- organic farming
- less favoured areas

project-related measures
- productive investments
- non productive investments
- education & training

area and animal related measures: 63 %
# AECM: approaches to maintain and improve

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>topic</th>
<th>broad approaches</th>
<th>focused approaches</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>... biodiversity</td>
<td>organic farming, landscape elements, biodiversity areas, renouncement of silage, training</td>
<td>nature conservation, maintain alpine pastures, cultivation of mowed mountain grassland, rare agricultural plants, endangered livestock breeds</td>
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<tr>
<td>... water quality</td>
<td>organic farming, intermediate crops, renouncement of N-fertilizers and plant protection, training</td>
<td>management of arable areas particularly threatened by leaching, reduction of fertilizers and plant-protection, training</td>
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<tr>
<td>... soil quality</td>
<td>organic farming, maintenance of grassland, intermediate crops, crop diversification, training</td>
<td>erosion protection of permanent crops, direct seeding and seeding on mulch</td>
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additional impact on climate protection, animal welfare & air quality
Agri-Environmental Programme ÖPUL 2015–20: measures (1)

• Grazing of livestock
• Maintenance of endangered livestock breeds
nature conservation

renouncement of chemical-synthetic nitrogen fertilizers
Agri-Environmental Programme ÖPUL 2015–20: measures (3)

- Organic farming
- Renouncement of fungicides and growth regulators in cereals
- Preventative groundwater protection

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Less favoured areas (LFA) in Austria

- Mountain areas: 1,294,000 ha
- Areas facing significant natural constraints: 212,100 ha
- Areas affected by specific constraints: 151,400 ha
Individual LFA payments in Austria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Handicap-value-points (HVP)</th>
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<td><strong>A</strong></td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td><strong>Sub-total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Sub-total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Individual handicap-value of farm and fields expressed by handicap-value-points
Targets, challenges & lessons learnt from current RDP

targets
• to maintain a multifunctional & sustainable agriculture
• to keep broad land coverage & specific measures for regions with environmental challenges
• practice-oriented implementation (simplification)

challenges
• lower participation rates in highly productive areas
• decline of biodiversity despite extensive efforts
• to maintain low-intensity farming

lessons learnt
• education trainings, awareness rising & specific project measures in combination with area-payments have long-term impacts
Educational rural development projects

• good collaborative relationship between nature conservationists & agricultural interests

• education & training duties

• awareness raising

• specific biodiversity projects:
  - pilot project: results-based nature conservation plan
  - “We care...”-project
  - “Messy land...”-project (“Ordentlich schlampert”)
  - “Diversity on my farm...”-project
Process of CAP Strategic Plan

- **participation format:**
  - conferences
  - expert groups
  - website & newsletter
- **May 2019:** kick-off event, multi-stakeholder process
- **May–October 2019:** SWOT analysis & needs assessment
- **from October 2019:** work on interventions in 14 expert groups
- **June 2020:** draft interventions
- **2020/2021:** submission of CAP-SP
Any questions?

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