



**Expert evaluation network
delivering policy analysis on the
performance of Cohesion Policy 2007-2013
Year 3 – 2013**

**Task 2: Country Report on Achievements of
Cohesion Policy**

Austria

Version: Final

Andreas Resch

Isabel Naylor

Metis

**A report to the European Commission
Directorate-General Regional Policy**

Contents

Executive summary	4
1. The socio-economic context	7
2. The regional development policy pursued, the EU contribution to this and policy achievements over the period	10
The regional development policy pursued.....	10
Policy implementation.....	12
Achievements of the programmes so far.....	20
3. Effects of intervention.....	33
4. Evaluations and good practice in evaluation.....	35
5. Further Remarks - New challenges for policy.....	41
References	43
Interviews.....	43
Annex 1 - Evaluation grid for examples of good practice in evaluation	44
Annex 2 - Tables.....	44

List of abbreviations

- AIR Annual Implementation Report
- AT-BAY Austria-Bayern
- AT-CZ Austria-Czech Republic
- AT-HU Austria-Hungary
- AT-SK Austria-Slovakia
- ATMOS Austrian Monitoring System (ERDF)
- AWS Austria Wirtschaftsservice | erp-fonds
- Bundesländer/Länder Federal provinces in Austria, corresponding to NUTS-2 level
- CBC Cross-Border-Cooperation
- C&RC Convergence and Regional Competitiveness programmes
- EAGGF European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund
- EAFRD European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
- EE Energy Efficiency
- ETC European Territorial Cooperation
- ERP European Recovery Program
- FEI Financial Engineering Instrument
- FFG Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft mbH
- IB Implementing Body
- OHT Österreichische Hotel und Tourismusbank
- KPC Kommunalkredit Public Consulting
- KWF Kärntner Wirtschaftsförderungs Fonds
- MA Managing Authority
- OP Operational Programme
- ÖROK Austrian Conference of Spatial Planning
- OSAIS Observatory on State Aid Impact
- RES Renewable Energy Sources
- SFG Steirische Wirtschaftsförderung
- TIP Technology and Innovation Partners

Executive summary

The regional development policy pursued: The nine regional Convergence and Regional Competitiveness programmes (C&RC) programmes show a homogenous strategy which is focused on developing the enterprise environment with a strong thematic concentration on the so-called Lisbon earmarked interventions since around 90% of ERDF is disbursed for RTDI, investments in firms, renewable energies and energy efficiency. The longer term changes in the allocation of funding – comparing the situation at the end of 2012 to the original allocation in 2007 – across the nine regional programmes show that ERDF support for the main priority, enterprise environment, has remained unchanged while support for the small complementing policy areas environment and energy and territorial development has slightly increased. Re-allocation of ERDF funds in some programmes in the years 2009 to 2011 concerned the mix of measures within priority axes under the Lisbon agenda. The reasons for the shift of funds were related to the changing framework conditions (e.g. decline in funding applications for large, risky investment projects) and to administrative problems in implementing specific funding schemes (e.g. research projects by the agency FFG¹).

Regarding the European Territorial Cross Border Cooperation (CBC) programmes managed by Austria there has been no change in the main priorities since last year's report and also since the start of the programming period (with the exception of the minor shift of Technical Assistance funds).

The progress made in carrying out the expenditure planned: In the period from 2007 up to the end 2012, around EUR 2,300 million have been invested by the Austrian C&RC programmes. Most of the public funding goes to structurally weak regions (predominantly rural areas with some production and tourism). Due to the focus on investments in companies, the private share in investments is very high – around EUR 1,700 million, i.e. 76% of total investments. At the end of 2012, 76% (EUR 514.2 million) had been committed and 41% of the ERDF (EUR 281.6 million) had been spent in the C&RC programmes. The aim of speeding up commitments and expenditures could not be achieved in the last year. On the contrary, the commitment rate has slowed down in comparison to 2011; the expenditure rate has remained unchanged. In the event that the commitments and expenditures develop at the same rate as between 2009 and 2012 the ERDF funds will not be fully absorbed; more than 20% of the ERDF would remain unspent at end 2015. In comparison, the implementation of other EU programmes in Austria is much more efficient in financial terms as shown by the significantly higher expenditure rates: Rural Development Programme/EAFRD² 75% and Employment Programme/ ESF 61% expenditure rate at end 2012. Obviously, there is a need to increase commitments and expenditures significantly. The annual ERDF payments to the beneficiaries have to be increased by roughly 60% (from EUR 85 million to EUR 132 million per year) and this under difficult framework conditions with regard to the economic climate and administrative bottlenecks.

In the four CBC programmes expenditure at the end of 2012 is still very low (Austria-Hungary (AT-HU): 28%, Austria-Slovakia (AT-SK): 26%, Austria-Czech Republic (AT-CZ): 34%, and

¹ Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft mbH.

² European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

Austria-Bayern (AT-BAY): 35%). A major concern is the long start-up phase of many projects and the slow pace of implementation and, as a consequence, the time lags in disbursement. In addition, deficiencies in the management and control systems and irregularities in the certified statements of expenditure (high error rates) hinder the rate of disbursement.

The output and results achieved: Enterprise development is the core of the C&RC programmes. Since the beginning of the programming period EUR 2,093 million was invested (including the large proportion of private funding) in the enterprise environment in regions in order to strengthen the innovation and growth potential of companies contributing to job creation and to further develop regional R&TD infrastructures. Most of the spending is outside the urban agglomerations in rural areas with an industrial or tourism potential. In total, around 3,200 enterprises took part in advisory services and cooperation and cluster activities, fewer in investment activities. Large enterprises have a significant share (25%).

- Through investments in around 20 regional research, technology and innovation centres important regional nodes were further developed and 64 new jobs created.
- The research capacity of regional research centres was strengthened through the support of 39 research projects.
- Through 99 research projects for SMEs about 401 new R&D jobs were created.
- 6,314 advisory instances in the framework of support services have been implemented in about 1,056 SMEs and 218 large companies.
- Through 155 RTDI related investment projects in companies, mainly SMEs, new innovative technologies were implemented and new products created. This resulted in 1,965 new jobs and 14,107 jobs were maintained.
- Through 281 investment projects with no direct RTDI content and investment projects related to the tourism sector mainly implemented by SMEs, about 2,590 new jobs were created and about 12,949 maintained. 3,526 tourist beds were added to the high quality accommodation available.
- Small private equity and venture capital funds have been created in Burgenland and Oberösterreich for the support of a small number of innovative enterprises (currently 15 SMEs).
- 3,761 participants were trained with the possibility of ERDF/ESF cross financing.

Result indicators collected in the Austrian monitoring system give an idea of the contribution of projects to specific policy goals such as the increase in innovation capacity (new R&D jobs, participation in technology transfer) and employment opportunities (number of new jobs). On the other hand regarding business investments, no quantitative evidence is available on the development of the supported companies, on the contribution of funding support to growth, improved productivity and the capacity to innovate.

In the policy area environment and energy, EUR 120.7 million were invested (incl. private funds) for the development of renewable energy sources (biomass) and energy efficiency measures and environmental infrastructure to prevent floods and avalanches

- 89 MW power capacity in 55 plants were newly created (in particular biomass) which is 20% of existing biomass capacity under the Green Electricity Act in Austria.

- The supported projects in total give the possibility of reducing greenhouse gases by 118kt, equivalent to the CO₂ emissions of about 33,000 cars.

In the policy area territorial development, EUR 45.3 million were invested to support tourism, cultural activities and planning and rehabilitation of urban areas. In Vienna, a surface area of approximately 28,500 sq. m. of public space and 1,350 m of pavements and cycle routes were regenerated and newly designed. In addition, approximately 4,500 participants took part in events.

In the four CBC programmes, by the end of 2012, EUR 143.8 million had been invested in about 400 projects, 201 of them relating to the priority “Innovation and Competitiveness” and 197 to “Sustainable Development” which shows a balanced implementation across priorities. Evidence on achievements in the current programming period from evaluations is missing.

The evaluations carried out in the present programming period: Around 50 evaluations, which can be directly or indirectly related to ERDF support in the present programming period, have been identified covering the period from 2005 to 2013. Evaluations are typically carried out by independent evaluators; however, it is a common feature that most of the evaluations are kept as internal documents and are not published. The listed evaluations are an important source of information; however, available evaluation results are very selective and not representative for the full spectrum of funding activities co-financed by the ERDF. In the four European Territorial Cooperation (ETC)/CBC programmes considered, no recent programme evaluations were conducted with the exception of the ongoing evaluation in the SK-AT programme. Overall, a systematic evaluation approach guided by an evaluation plan is missing.

The main challenges Cohesion Policy is facing in Austria are related to the burden and costs of administrative implementation to make use of the ERDF financing. Accordingly, a fundamental improvement in the administrative framework conditions of the ERDF is the basis for successfully implementing standardised and more experimental funding instruments and integrated approaches within the ERDF programmes. A superficial adaptation of the current administrative framework in the new programming period will not be sufficient.

1. The socio-economic context

Main points from the previous country report:

- The primary reference unit for regional policy and for ERDF programmes in Austria are the nine Bundesländer (NUTS 2 regions). Compared to the EU-27 average, GDP per head in the individual Bundesländer is high, except for in the Convergence (phasing-out) region of Burgenland, and regional disparities are relatively small and continue to diminish. The weakest region, Burgenland, caught up in terms of GDP per head growth (e.g. 2.3% from 2009 to 2010 compared to 1.9% in AT average).
- The global economic crisis affected Austria slightly less than the EU-27 as a whole. Austria recovered relatively rapidly after the recession in 2009 but is now suffering from the overall weakening of the EU economy. Following a period of growth (2004-2007) and a short downturn (2008-2009), the economy has achieved low but stable growth (of 2.1% in 2010 and 2.7% in 2011, updated figures). Moreover, gross fixed investment increased by 5% in 2011 and exports by 7.1%. The labour market recovered quickly from the 2008-2009 recession with employment growing strongly and the unemployment rate falling from a peak of 5.1% to 4.1% in late 2011.
- The improved economic conditions in 2010 and 2011 led to stronger investment in enterprises which has contributed to an increase in the number of applications to ERDF programmes. The conditions for implementing these improved considerably in the Bundesländer with the exception of the southern part of Austria. Currently, there are signs that the southern part of Austria (i.e. Kärnten) is having difficulty in following the same sound and stable development path as the other Austrian regions (including the Convergence region of Burgenland).
- The capacity of the government at all levels (national, federal and municipal) regarding public investment is limited because of the need for fiscal consolidation. There was a decline in overall government investment between 2010 and 2011 from 1.1% of GDP to 1.0%. Over the longer term, total public investment has fallen in relation to total public expenditure and GDP since 1995 (except in 2009-2010 when economic recovery measures were taken). The contribution of the ERDF increases the room for manoeuvre of the Länder regarding investment in specific areas such as innovation and tourism in the context of stagnation in government investment activities. This emphasises the importance of the ERDF at the regional level.

Developments since the 2012 report

Having managed to remain unaffected by the recession in the EU27 until recently, the Austrian economy succumbed to the overall decline with a drop in growth to only 0.8% in 2012.

Export demand has been stagnating since mid-2012 and in the face of an uncertain future many companies are refraining from making investments. While in the year 2011, industry invested heavily in production in response to the strong foreign demand, Austrian industry has been enduring much lower growth rates and stagnating since 2012. Gross fixed investments and exports which depend on the overall economic climate are experiencing negative growth.

The unemployment rate rose slightly in 2012 (from 4.1% in 2011 to 4.3% in 2012). Although this is among the lowest in Europe, it is high for Austria and rising since growth is too weak to counteract it.

In the tourism sector, however, reverse trends can partly be observed. Tourism in Salzburg (one of the main tourist areas in Austria), experienced an increase of 4% in overnight stays in 2011/2012 whereby growth in overnight stays in Salzburg already starts at a very high level.

In 2012, the federal government introduced a multi-annual stability and growth package which is mainly focused on the consolidation of public finances in terms of strict budgetary discipline according to EU requirements (see *Wirtschaftsbericht Österreich 2013* p 38).

The effects of (ongoing) fiscal consolidation on the capacity of funding agencies at federal and regional level to provide support for regional development policy are hard to grasp and are presented here as hypotheses. In absolute figures, the funds which the large national funding agencies FFG (research) and AWS³ (enterprises) distribute to beneficiaries have risen from 2011 to 2012 (see annual reports). However, a differentiated view shows that the federal funds, which are particularly important at regional level have been reduced (FFG bottom up programmes, AWS grants for SME). Moreover, the big funding scheme AMFG (“Arbeitsmarktförderungsgesetz”), which grants support for companies and which is very important for enterprises in structurally weak regions, is ending in 2013. The federal level is pursuing a growth policy driven by investments in research and development whereby the broadening of the innovation basis at the regional level is a specific challenge.

The situation is heterogeneous at Länder level. While in Kärnten the funds provided by the regional agency KWF⁴ have been increased from 2011 to 2012, the funds provided in the Steiermark by the agency SFG⁵ have been reduced (see annual reports 2011, 2012).

Overall, the consolidation measures introduced seem not to reducing the funds available for the co-funding of ERDF programmes since only a small part of the funding measures on federal and regional level is being cofounded by ERDF.

However, the effects of fiscal consolidation and related change in national policy design could impact on the mix of interventions supported by the ERDF programmes. It seems that classical investment support for companies by grants is being reduced in the national context. Here, the ERDF seems to filling some gaps indicated by the growth of the broad category of “other” investment projects (see the section on policy implementation). This change in the implementation mix is also influenced by the economic framework conditions as indicated above.

The economic conditions for the implementation of the ERDF programmes have worsened since the upturn in the years 2010 and 2011. The difficult – and for southern Austria particularly difficult – economic environment (see the section on regional disparities) has an influence on the behaviour of the companies and therefore on the implementation of the ERDF programmes in Austria, which are strongly business-oriented (direct support to enterprises by means of

³ Austria Wirtschaftsservice | erp-fonds (AWS).

⁴ Kärntner Wirtschaftsförderungs Fonds (KWF).

⁵ Steirische Wirtschaftsförderung (SFG).

grants is the key form of intervention in ERDF programmes). According to the Annual Implementation Report, Kärnten businesses are reluctant to invest in large, risky projects, which are the focus of the ERDF programmes, which is reflected in the decline in funding applications.

In addition to the declining economic environment – which, it should be added, is nowhere near as bad as in 2009 – internal administrative factors such as the financial control problems in the funding influence the performance of the ERDF programmes.

To sum up, changes in the overall context such as the rapid decline in funding applications for risky investment support and increased deficits in classical investment support for companies in the form of grants in the national system influence the implementation of ERDF programmes in the final stage.

Bottlenecks in the administration of ERDF programmes and, as a result, the lack of willingness on the part of funding agencies to use the ERDF programmes or their use of ERDF funds only for a limited number of projects which can be implemented on a very safe basis, add to the challenges.

Changes in regional disparities

Data analysis from the beginning of the programming period in 2007 to 2010 (more recent data is not available) confirms the findings of the 2012 country report that the southern part of Austria (i.e. Kärnten) is experiencing sluggish development. Kärnten is the Bundesland which experienced the most unfavourable performance in terms of GDP growth, employment and gross fixed investment in comparison with the other eight Bundesländer (including the convergence region of Burgenland). Moreover, Kärnten had the strongest growth in unemployment (from 3.5% in 2011 to 4.7% in 2012). Since the crisis is having a bigger impact on the southern part of Austria than on other regions, a significant widening of the regional disparities in Austria can be observed. Conversely to Kärnten, the convergence region Burgenland has shown positive development in relation to GDP, investment and employment growth in spite of its structural disadvantages (low proportion of SME, low investment in R&D).

Table 1 – Development trends at Länder level 2007-2010 (since programme start)

	GDP Annual Average Growth Rate 2007-2010	Gross fixed investment Annual Average Growth Rate 2007-2010	Employment Annual Average Growth Rate 2007-2010
Austria	1.5	0.0	0.6
Burgenland	2.4	1.1	0.3
Niederösterreich	1.6	2.6	0.4
Wien	1.9	-1.9	0.9
Kärnten	0.7	-6.1	0.0
Steiermark	0.9	4.6	0.5
Oberösterreich	1.4	0.5	0.4
Salzburg	1.2	-0.4	0.9
Tirol	1.4	-1.0	1.1
Vorarlberg	1.8	-1.5	0.9

Source: STATISTIK AUSTRIA, Regionale Gesamtrechnungen, author's own calculation.

2. The regional development policy pursued, the EU contribution to this and policy achievements over the period

The regional development policy pursued

Main points from previous country reports:

- The ERDF in Austria co-finances one Convergence (Phasing-out) Programme, 8 Competitiveness Programmes and 13 Territorial Cooperation Programmes (different strands) amounting to a total of EUR 937 million (indicative figure for the 2007-2013 period). The total programme volume of C&RC including the very high share of private funding amounts to around EUR 5,000 million (planned figure for the 2007 to 2013 period).
- The most important priority of Competitiveness programmes in Austria in the 2007-2013 period is focused on the “enterprise environment” (including grants for innovative projects, support for R&D infrastructure development and technology transfer), which accounts for 81% of total ERDF financing (EUR 552 million). Direct support to enterprises is one of the cornerstones of public support for economic development in Austria and is the key intervention in ERDF programmes. This strong focus on single company support is a specific feature of Austrian ERDF programmes. Support for the development of human resources, transport, the environment and energy and territorial development account for only 16% of the total ERDF allocation (EUR 109 million).
- Under the Competitiveness programmes, funding schemes of Länder agencies and Länder government departments are partly co-financed by the ERDF as well as around 10 funding schemes of federal agencies (AWS/ERP⁶, FFG, KPC⁷, ÖHT⁸). Each implementing body at federal and regional level decides in view of its own strategy on the projects to be co-funded within selected support schemes. Accordingly, there is a broad range of Implementing Bodies (IBs) involved in programme implementation.
- On the contrary to the Competitiveness programmes, Territorial Cooperation Programmes and in particular CBC programmes follow a broad regional development approach covering a wide range of measures. Funding goes to a broad spectrum of policy areas: Enterprise environment, Human Resources, Transport, the Environment and energy, Territorial development. To a greater extent than the Competitiveness programmes, the CBC programmes are focused on issues at small-scale local level (NUTS3). The four CBC programmes managed by Austria cover 65 EU fields of intervention codes. This makes the programmes very flexible and close to the needs of the local population.

Developments since the 2012 report

In 2012 there were no changes in the overall priorities of the Austrian Competitiveness programmes.

⁶ European Recovery Program (ERP).

⁷ Kommunalkredit Public Consulting (KPC).

⁸ Österreichische Hotel und Tourismusbank (OHT).

The regional programmes show a homogenous strategy which is focused on developing the enterprise environment with a strong thematic concentration on the so-called Lisbon earmarked interventions since around 90% of ERDF is disbursed for the fields of intervention RTDI, innovation support, investments in firms, renewable energies and energy efficiency (see Regulation No 1083/2006).

Since the start of the programming period, ERDF funds have been re-allocated in five programmes (Wien/2011, Burgenland/2009, Oberösterreich/2009, Steiermark/2009 and Tirol/2010). In addition, internal shifts (within priority axes and codes relevant to the Lisbon Strategy) have been made for instance in Niederösterreich and Vorarlberg.

These relate mainly to shifts in the mix of measures within priority axes under the Lisbon agenda (reduction of funding for R&D projects for SMEs; increase in “other” investment in companies; increase in support for technology transfer and cooperation networks). In Wien, a new e-mobility initiative was started in 2011.

The reasons for the shift of funds are related to the changing framework conditions and to administrative problems in implementing the programmes (changes in the eligibility of expenditure, problems with financial control, in particular involving personnel costs).

The longer term changes in the allocation of funding (comparing the situation at the end of 2012 to the original allocation in 2007) over the nine regional programmes show that ERDF support for the main priority **Enterprise environment** has remained unchanged overall in the nine programmes (2007: EUR 555 million; 2012: EUR 544 million) while support for the **Environment and energy** and for **Territorial development** has slightly increased (by 6-7%) because there is growing demand in these areas.

While the overall priorities of the Competitiveness programmes have hardly changed, there has been a constant development of the instruments and delivery mechanisms at regional level. Examples include the proactive knowledge and technology transfer in Salzburg or the development of a new funding concept for innovation support in Burgenland (modified funding schemes with more attractive funding rates, a newly established advisory service to speed up programme implementation).

No new specific measures have been introduced in ERDF programmes to tackle the constraints on SME finance resulting from the credit squeeze. ERDF programmes in Austria do not represent a general remedy for the credit crunch but are devised for specific target groups and ambitious projects. Those enterprise strategies which increase competitiveness and the adaptation of the companies to structural change are supported by Austrian ERDF programmes. The Austrian ERDF programmes would also be too small for a far-reaching provision of credit funds.

In general ERDF programmes help to maintain public investment levels, in particular at Länder level in specific niches. Despite the fact that ERDF programmes represent only a small part of overall regional development expenditure in Austria (only around 2% of total public investment) the significance of the ERDF is certainly higher in the field of regional innovation policy. For the regional funding agencies, the ERDF funds are of great significance and account for approximately 30 to 40% of the available funding budget. The contribution of the ERDF

programme at regional level is therefore substantial and helps to offset budget constraints and the consequences of fiscal consolidation.

Regarding the European Territorial CBC programmes which are managed by Austria there has been no change in the main priorities since last year's report and also since the start of the programme period the priorities have remained unchanged (with the exception of the minor shift of Technical Assistance funds to priority axis 3 in the Austria-Bayern programme in 2011).

Policy implementation

Main points from the previous country report:

- At the end of 2011, in the nine Austrian Convergence (Phasing-out) and Competitiveness programmes, 29% of ERDF available for the period was spent and 66% was committed. As compared with the position at the end of 2010 (17% spent and 42% committed), this represents a rise in expenditure of 12 percentage points and in commitments of 24 percentage points. The implementation of programmes accelerated considerably in 2011 and overall commitments after 5 years are now more in line with what would be expected. The rise in expenditure has, however, been significantly slower than that of commitments. That means there is a need to speed up expenditure and its certification in Austrian ERDF programmes to fully use the funds available. Kärnten, with only one priority axis, traditionally has a slower implementation rate than the other programmes.
- As regards CBC programmes, 22% of the ERDF available was spent by the end of 2011 and 76% was committed, 11 percentage points more than in May 2011. Expenditure in most programmes increased significantly from May to December 2011 but is still very low – Austria-Hungary (AT-HU): 20%, Austria-Slovakia (AT-SK): 19%, Austria-Czech Republic (AT-CZ): 22%, and Austria-Bayern (AT-BAY): 29%. The long start-up phase of many projects, the slow pace of implementation and, as a consequence, the time lag in disbursement, have become a major concern.

Developments since the 2012 report

In the period from 2007 up to the end 2012, around EUR 2,300 million have been invested by the Austrian Convergence (Phasing-out) and Competitiveness programmes (see Annex Table A). Due to the focus on investments in companies, the private share in investments is very high – around EUR 1,700 million, i.e. 76% of total investments.

Considering only the year 2012, around EUR 658 million have been invested including private funding amounting to EUR 492 million. Total public funds paid out to beneficiaries amount to EUR 166 million (of this, around EUR 85 million were provided by the ERDF).

With regard to ERDF support only, at the end of 2012, **76%** (EUR 514.2 million) had been committed and **41%** of the ERDF (EUR 281.6 million) had been spent in the framework of the Austrian Convergence (Phasing-out) and Competitiveness programmes. Compared to the end of 2011, this represents an increase in commitments of **10** percentage points and an increase in expenditure of **12** percentage points.

According to the financial plans in the Operational Programmes (OPs), a commitment rate⁹ of 85% and an expenditure rate¹⁰ of around 55% should have been reached by the end of 2012. The ERDF programmes are significantly below this rate.

In comparison, the implementation of other EU programmes in Austria is much more efficient in financial terms as shown by the significantly higher expenditure rates: Rural Development Programme/EAFRD 75% and Employment Programme/ ESF 61% expenditure rate at end 2012.

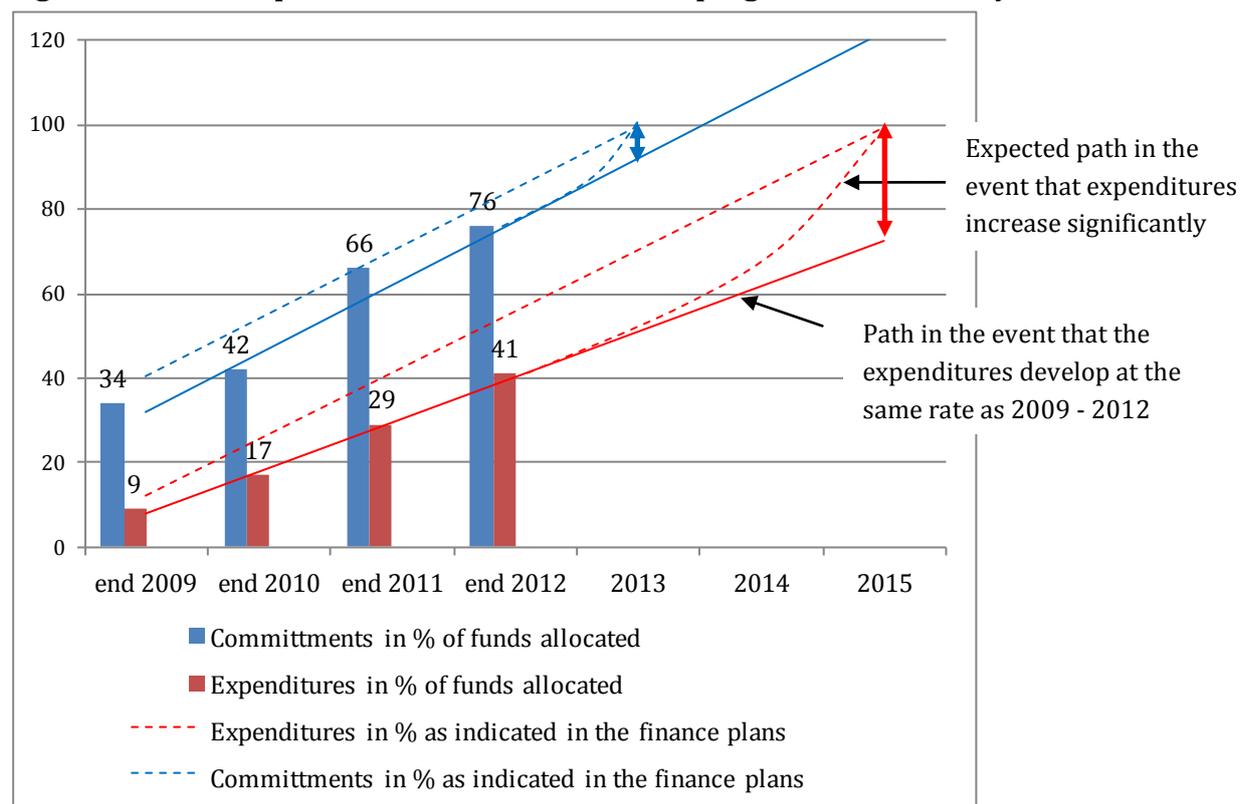
The aim of speeding up commitments and expenditures could not be achieved in the last year. On the contrary, the increase in the commitment rate has slowed down in comparison to 2011 (the commitment rate increased by 10 percentage points during 2012 while during 2011 it had increased by 24 percentage points); the rise in the expenditure rate has remained unchanged (12 percentage points).

The following figure demonstrates the future trajectory of the funding in the event that the commitments and expenditures develop at the same rate as between 2009 and 2012. In this scenario the funds will not be fully absorbed (more than 20% of ERDF would remain unspent at end 2015).

Obviously, there is a need to increase commitments and expenditures significantly. The annual ERDF payments to the beneficiaries have to be increased by roughly 60% (from EUR 85 million to EUR 132 million per year) and this under difficult framework conditions with regard to economic climate and administrative bottlenecks.

⁹ Commitment rate = approved ERDF funds in % of allocated ERDF for the period 2007-2013 (latest planning data are used and not the original allocation).

¹⁰ Expenditure rate = disbursed ERDF funds in % of allocated ERDF for the period 2007-2013 based on the latest planning data.

Figure 1 –Financial performance of Austrian C&RC programmes over the years

Source: ERDF monitoring, author's calculation

In the course of 2012, a significant increase in the ERDF funds committed was achieved in single intervention fields such as R&TD activities in research centres, research projects for SMEs (which started at a very low level) and the broad category of “other” investment projects (including investment in tourism). The complementary area with small amounts of funding, the integrated projects for urban and rural regeneration, also showed an increase in funds committed.

Taking into account the longer period since 2007, at the end of 2012 **high performers** in financial absorption were: investments in RTDI infrastructures (127% of ERDF committed, based on the allocations at the level of intervention codes); investments in companies related to production and tourism (153% ERDF committed), and investments in energy efficiency measures (278% ERDF committed). In particular, investments in companies related to production and tourism expanded strongly as a result of the programme modifications (within the Lisbon goal).

Lower rates of commitment can be noted in research projects for SMEs (52% at end 2012 despite progress made in 2012 concerning commitments and payments) and in company investment directly linked to research and innovation (62% at end 2012). In particular in the case of research projects for SMEs, there is a risk that the planned expenditure will not be drawn down by the end of 2015 due to administrative constraints – and not due to a lack of applications.

In the area of research and innovation a pattern has emerged showing that the infrastructure measures (R&TD infrastructures) have been better implemented than the measures for

companies. Companies tend to favour national funding schemes as their administration is easier. This threatens the whole C&RC strategy in Austria since direct support to enterprises in the form of grants is the key form of intervention in ERDF programmes.

In the small area of Financial Engineering Instruments (FEIs) (small scale regional venture capital funds), the expenditure rate at the end of 2012 is 100% of the planned ERDF funds in Burgenland and 70% in Oberösterreich and it seems likely that it will reach final beneficiaries by the end of 2015 since expenditures have been speeding up in 2012. In Kärnten however, the venture capital funds could not be implemented so far (see further explanations in the specific section on financial instruments under achievements).

Reasons for the delays in implementation of C&RC programmes

Overall, the rate of expenditure is lower in comparison to the same time in the 2000-2006 period. This is all the more surprising as the programme areas have been broadened, i.e. the agglomeration areas have been included and available funding has been significantly reduced. This indicates increasingly difficult underlying conditions for the implementation of ERDF programmes.

The main bottleneck to the swift implementation of ERDF programmes in Austria – besides some impacts of the crisis as described in chapter 1 (socio-economic context) – lies in most cases in administrative and financial control problems.

- System audits revealed deficiencies in the management and control systems and irregularities in the certified statements of expenditure (high error rates above 2%) which leads to a suspension of (interim) payments. Past expenditures have to be corrected and, to prevent future failings, action plans for improvement have to be established which is a time consuming procedure.
- Annual control reports are not produced on time by the Austrian ERDF audit authority because they are under-staffed.
- In the year 2012, payment claims were not met by the European Commission because there was no budget available. The following OPs had open payment claims with the Commission at the end of 2012: Tirol, Kärnten (2 payment claims outstanding), Steiermark, Salzburg, Oberösterreich, Niederösterreich and the Phasing Out OP Burgenland.

The complexity, burden and unplannable aspects of the administrative implementation of the ERDF in Austria slows down programme implementation and generates a very restrictive attitude of the implementing bodies which only use EU funding for 'safe' projects and otherwise fall back on national funding schemes.

The continuing administrative problems in the ERDF implementation system which do not allow the timely implementation of very small programmes in an economically strong country with high absorption capacity suggest that serious reforms are necessary. Overall, the ability to implement ERDF supported regional policy is at stake. It is important – besides resolving current issues – to reflect now on introducing more balanced management and control arrangements for the next programming period.

A common problem across programmes concerns research projects. Overall in Austria the lowest rate of commitment is in research projects for SMEs. The biggest problems with the

financial control occur above all in projects which are research and technology related. Justifying personnel costs and overheads which are the main expenditure in these projects represents a heavy administrative burden to beneficiaries and programme authorities under the current provisions. Therefore, the central agency FFG is very restrictive in using EU funds and research projects are mainly supported by national funding only.

At programme level, there is specifically low level of commitment and/ or disbursement of funds in Kärnten, Tirol and Niederösterreich. Kärnten and Niederösterreich have so far only committed 69% of the funds available and spent 40%, which is well below the Austrian average (which is already at a low level).

In Kärnten, the implementation by the two federal agencies FFG and AWS/ERP-funds involved in the programme is well behind expectations (due to a combination of administrative reasons and a lack of promising projects). The regional agency KWF has been trying to generate additional funding projects in order to compensate for the failed ERDF activities of the two agencies.

In the case of the small Tirol programme (EUR 35 million ERDF in total), the commitments exceed 80% but the expenditure rate is very low at 37%. Expenditure rates are particularly low in the Tirol programme in the areas of research projects (FFG) and technology transfer projects. However, investments in renewable energy production and energy efficiency measures are doing well. In Tirol, the technology transfer scheme (K-regio) was introduced into the programme at a later stage (as an alternative to FFG projects) and the payments are only just starting. This part of the programme is expected to catch up quickly.

In Niederösterreich, the commitment rate improved significantly in the course of 2013 (from 69% at end 2012 to currently at 81%) but is still not sufficient. A larger programme modification is not realistic as there are few measures with additional absorption potential within the programme and the introduction of new measures at the end of the programming period does not make much sense. The Managing Authority (MA) is hoping for the introduction of a flexibility clause at European level in order to be able to continue the programme for as long as possible (especially the ongoing measures which will continue in the 2014-2020 period).

Spatial pattern of investments through C&RC programmes

Looking at the types of region which are benefiting from public funds in the framework of ERDF programmes, about 60% of public funding goes to structurally weak regions (e.g. predominantly rural areas with some production and tourism). Here, direct support for enterprises dominates (see STRAT.AT report 2012, p 29f).

Urban agglomerations receive below 30% of public funding (here, research infrastructure and technology transfer projects are of high significance). About 10% are spent in industrial regions and 6% in very touristic regions.

The high participation of structurally weak rural areas shows that the mix of measures allows a broad innovation approach (funding support is not only focused on high-technology) and that there is a strong regional policy approach in Austria. Many of the rural areas in Austria are traditional manufacturing regions and have sufficient potential for funding projects. Moreover, the tourism sector in particular is of importance in rural areas.

Progress of C&RC programmes in relation to targets set

To assess the progress of physical indicators against targets, the so-called “core indicators” which can be aggregated across all programmes have been used (core indicators are reported in the Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs) based on actual expenditure).

The most significant changes in 2012 are:

In enterprise support:

- In line with increasing expenditures in direct company support (investments in production and tourism), the amount of “investment induced” and resulting numbers of “jobs created” increased significantly in the year 2012 and most of the final targets have been reached.
- The number of cooperation projects between enterprises and research institutions increased and exceeds expectations.
- The number of company research projects and resulting research jobs increased but final targets are still far from having been achieved (the targets were already revised downwards).
- The number of supported "start-ups" has hardly increased and is substantially below the target value. Business start ups have remained significantly below expectations in the C&RC programmes since the start up support option in the ERDF programmes was rarely used to avoid small projects. Start-ups were supported through national funding schemes.

In environment and energy:

- There was a strong increase in renewable energy projects in 2012 but they are still below target.
- Accordingly, the reduction in greenhouse emissions is still below expectations.

In territorial development:

- There was a strong increase in tourism projects and urban development projects and the targets (which were set cautiously) have been reached.

It should be noted that even though the number of projects is a core indicator, it is not particularly meaningful and should be removed in a future system for performance control.

Table 2 – Performance of core indicators in C&RC programmes

Code	Core Indicator	Final Target	2011	2012	in % of final target	Change 2011/2012 in %
Enterprise support, RTDI, ICT						
1	Jobs created	6,876	3,143	5,365	78	71
4	No. of RTD projects*	798	164	241	30	47
5	No. of cooperation project enterprises-research institutions	206	391	539	262	38
6	Research jobs created	862	141	414	48	194
8	No. of start-ups supported	342	47	59	17	26
10	Investment induced (EUR million)	3,750	1,655	2,320	62	40
12	No. of additional population covered by broadband access	0	0	0		
Environment and energy						
23	No. of renewable energy projects*	25	5	9	36	80
24	Additional capacity of renewable energy production	105	87	99	94	14
30	Reduction greenhouse emissions (CO ₂ and equivalents, kt)	296	102	113	38	11
31	No. of risk prevention projects*	32	9	31	97	244
32	No. of people benefiting from flood protection measures	0	0	0		
33	No. of people benefiting from forest fire protection and other protection measures	80,000	18,289	30,534	38	67
Territorial development						
34	No. of tourism projects*	9	9	14	156	56
39	No. of projects ensuring sustainability and improving the attractiveness of towns and cities	41	32	46	112	44

Source: DG Regio data, own calculation.

Progress in implementing CBC programmes (AT-HU, AT-SK, AT-CZ, AT-BAY)

At the end of 2012, taking the four CBC programmes together, **87%** (EUR 263.8 million) was committed (based on approved and contracted projects) and **31%** of the available ERDF (EUR 93.6 million) was spent.

In comparison to the figures at the end of 2011, commitments rose by 11 percentage points (from 76% to 87%) and the expenditure rate by 9 percentage points (from 22% to 31%).

Unlike commitments which are progressing well and are between 80% and 90% of the total allocation, expenditure in most programmes at the end of 2012 is still very low (AT-HU: 28%, AT-SK: 26%, AT-CZ: 34%, and AT-BAY: 35%).

Areas where implementation is relatively successful and good expenditure rates can be noted are: RTDI support (47%), human resources development (45%), road transport infrastructure (30%) and tourism and culture (34%).

On the contrary, expenditure is relatively low in the areas of support for innovation in SMEs (13%), ICT (14%), rail transport infrastructure (7%) and planning and rehabilitation (3%). Also environment and energy support is below expectations (28%).

A major concern is the long start-up phase of many projects and the slow pace of implementation and, as a consequence, the time lags in disbursement. This is in many cases caused by the lack of a pre-financing capacity on the part of the project promoters. As a preliminary solution to overcome the very severe problems, the Land Burgenland put up EUR 2.5 million in national resources making some further payments possible (see AIR HU-AT 2012, p 16, 23). There is a tendency for only larger government bodies and institutions which have the financial capacity and the know how to fulfil the high administrative requirements of the CBC programmes to be able to participate in them. The number of institutions which are able to take over the function of a lead partner is clearly limited.

In addition, deficiencies in the management and control systems and irregularities in the certified statements of expenditure (high error rates) hinder the rate of disbursement. A significant problem in the course of 2012 appeared to be the duration of the first level controls which might lead to the breach of fulfilment of N+2/N+3 obligations. Therefore, the MA addressed an appeal to the first level control bodies asking them to provide the necessary human resources for the validation of expenditures.

In the 2012 AIR for CZ-AT (p 14 f), it is stated that the Audit Authority was not able to hand in the Annual Control Report 2012 on time. The deadline of 31st December 2012 was missed by far. Despite several reminders from both the EC and the MA to comply with its duty, no official explanation for this unacceptable delay was given. Thus, on April 14th the EC forwarded its pre-suspension letter to the programme which stops ERDF payments. Overall, these ongoing shortcomings of the Audit Authority have had a negative impact on programme implementation.

At the present point in time, a full absorption of the funds available by the end of 2015 seems unlikely in most of the CBC programmes.

A further bottleneck is caused by deficits in project development support. According to the findings of the Ongoing Evaluation of the SK-AT programme 2007-2013, there is a great imbalance between the two countries in the capacity and approach to project development. In particular, the imbalance at the level of regional bodies is seen as a crucial bottleneck. For instance, Austrian institutions are more pro-active in the preparation and development of relevant CBC programmes. Accordingly, there is a need to invest in capacity building on the Slovak side in particular with an emphasis on the provision of support for the thematic development of projects in addition to administrative support in order to achieve a better alignment with regional and local priorities. Furthermore, attention should be paid to the "incubation facilities" for project ideas and the setting up of efficient, sustainable and balanced partnerships.

Actions in the SK-AT programme to speed up implementation

1. Continuing application of the Monitoring Committee decision that the partnership agreements between project partners (Lead partner principle) have to be concluded four months after the letter of approval has been received.
2. The MA from case to case announces serious consequences to projects whose performance is lagging behind: prolongation of such projects is in all cases subject to conditions and budgets might be cut if no viable solution within a reasonable time frame can be agreed.
3. Increase of human resources for the First Level Control in SK - Bratislava (3 persons), AT - Niederösterreich (2 persons), Burgenland (2 persons)

Source: AIR SK-AT 2012, p 22 f, June 2013.

Regarding the achievement of output related targets (which are mainly set in terms of number of projects), a different picture emerges.

While in the SK-AT and CZ-AT programmes the achievements remain low, in the HU-AT and Bayern-AT programmes the achievements are near – or often exceeding – the targets.

In the AIR SK-AT (26% expenditure rate), it is noted that most of targets at programme level which are based mainly on the number of projects will not be met, mainly due to the project size being significantly underestimated in the programming phase.

In the AT-BAY programme – at a 35% expenditure rate – the targets set by the output indicators for overall programme objectives (see AIR 2012, p 40) could be met or even exceeded at the end of 2012 (which suggests that the targets were very cautiously set).

Overall, the indicator “number of projects” is not very informative since it can change with the project size and does not give much information on tangible achievements. It should therefore be discarded.

Achievements of the programmes so far

Main points from the previous country report:

- The demonstration of the main outcomes so far in each of the broad policy areas relies heavily on the Austrian Monitoring System (ATMOS). Here it is possible to compile “standardised” result indicators which can be aggregated across C&RC programmes in order to gain an overall view of achievements (this is less the case for CBC-programmes). Result indicators give an idea of the contribution of projects to specific policy goals such as the increase in innovation capacity (new R&D jobs, participation in technology transfer) and employment opportunities (number of new jobs). On the other hand, policy goals such as regional specialisation or increases in competitiveness are not targeted through result indicators. Accordingly, result indicators do not reflect the full spectrum of policy goals in ERDF programmes.
- The key intervention area in Austrian ERDF programmes, direct support to enterprises, performed well (with the exception of research projects for SMEs) on the basis of physical outputs and results collected systematically through the ATMOS. There was a significant increase in the number of projects approved in the most important policy area “Support for Enterprise environment” in the course of 2011. Good

results are also evident in the complementary policy area of “The environment and energy” with however relatively little funding. Core physical indicators such as the creation of new jobs show a significant increase during the year, the number of new jobs created rising from about 2,000 to 3,143 (the final target is 6,876 for all programmes) at the end of 2011. By the end of 2011, EUR 1,471 million had been invested in the enterprise environment in Austrian regions in order to improve links between research and business, to strengthen the innovation potential of companies and to develop areas of regional competitiveness in the sense of smart specialisation.

Developments since the 2012 report

The main result indicators by broad policy area are outlined in the table below (Table 2). The indicators mainly relate to the “Enterprise environment” policy area which has by far the largest financial weight (funding allocated) in regional programmes. As far as possible, actual values (based on completed projects) have been analysed (and not monitoring data on planned values at the approval stage of projects). In addition, the main outcomes are briefly described.

Table 3 - Summary of actual achievements per policy field in C&RC programmes

Policy area	Main achievements at end 2012 since the beginning of the programming period
Enterprise support and RTDI including ICT	<p>Since 2007 EUR 2,093 million was invested (incl. the high share of private funds) in the enterprise environment in regions in order to improve links between research and businesses, to strengthen the innovation and growth potential of companies and to develop regional competitiveness in terms of smart specialisation.</p> <p>Most of the spending is done outside the urban agglomerations in rural areas with an industrial or tourism potential.</p> <p>Given the small budget volume of the C&RC programmes, these expenditures only account for a small part of the total investments (to put it into perspective: about EUR 7,000 to 8,000 million are invested yearly in R&D in Austria by the public sector, business sector and others; gross fixed investments in Austria amount to EUR 50,000 to 60,000 million per year).</p> <p>Through investments in around 20 regional research, technology and innovation centres important regional nodes were further developed and 64 new jobs created.</p> <p>The research capacity of regional research centres was strengthened through the support of 39 research projects (through these, three new R&D jobs were created and others safeguarded).</p> <p>1,857 companies participated in technology transfer supported by regional cluster initiatives.</p> <p>Through 99 research projects for SMEs about 401 new R&D jobs were created.</p> <p>6,314 advisory instances in the framework of support services have been implemented in about 1,056 SMEs and 218 large companies.</p> <p>Through 155 RTDI related investment projects in companies, mainly SMEs, new innovative technologies were implemented and new products created. This resulted in 1,965 new jobs and 14,107 jobs were maintained.¹¹</p> <p>Through 281 investment projects with no direct RTDI content and investment projects related to the tourism sector mainly implemented by SMEs, about 2,590 new jobs were created and about 12,949 maintained. 3,526 tourist beds were added to the high quality accommodation available.</p> <p>87 investment projects in Eco-Innovation, mainly by SMEs, created 187 new jobs.</p> <p>A limited number of relatively small private equity and venture capital funds have been created for the support of a small number of innovative enterprises (15).</p>
Human Resources /ERDF	<p>EUR 11.1 million of support (total project costs)</p> <p>3,761 participants in training (with ESF cross financing, only in Steiermark)</p>
Transport	<p>EUR 1.3 million of investments (total project costs); 1 supported harbour (Danube)</p>
Environment and energy	<p>EUR 120.7 million investments (incl. private funds) for the development of Renewable Energy Sources (biomass) and Energy Efficiency measures and environmental infrastructure to prevent floods and avalanches.</p> <p>89 MW newly created power capacity in 55 plants (in particular biomass) which is a significant proportion of the 203 existing (bigger) biomass plants with 436 MW.</p> <p>118 kt (110 kt) reduction of greenhouse gases (this is equivalent to CO₂ emissions of about 33,000 cars).</p> <p>30,562 beneficiaries of risk-protection (households, companies; only investments taken into account, not soft-measures).</p>
Territorial	<p>EUR 45.3 million for support of investment in tourism, cultural activities and</p>

¹¹ The indicator “jobs maintained” mirrors the number of total existing jobs in the businesses supported after completion of the project. Problems with attributing job effects to the interventions supported are currently not solved.

development	<p>planning and rehabilitation of urban areas.</p> <p>In a specific area in Vienna a surface area of approximately 28,500 sq. m. of public space and 1,350 m of pavements and cycle routes were regenerated and newly designed. In addition, approximately 4,500 participants took part in events.</p>
-------------	--

Source: Metis on the basis of ERDF monitoring and AIR and evaluation findings.

Achievements per policy- and intervention area under C&RC programmes

Achievements for the nine regional programmes are summarised below for the main policy area “Enterprise environment” and for the supplementary areas “Environment and Energy” and “Territorial development”. The policy areas “Transport” and “Human resources”, in which there is only a very small amount of ERDF funding, are not covered. Each policy area is presented as a whole initially and then in detail by main area of intervention. The aim is to summarise all available evidence on the outcomes achieved by ERDF co-financing up to the end of 2012.

The picture of achievements is based primarily on the combined use of two main sources, the ATMOS monitoring system (on the basis of actual expenditure) and research studies and evaluation reports (including the most recent ones). In addition a few concrete examples of significant projects are presented.

Support for Enterprise environment (including assistance to SMEs, large companies, RTDI-infrastructure and ITC)

The “Enterprise environment” has by far the largest weight in regional programmes, accounting for 80% of total ERDF at the end of 2012. A broad range of activities is supported, including RTDI activities in research centres, R&TD infrastructure, advisory projects and RTDI investment projects in companies, investment grants for enterprises in industry and tourism, technology transfer and cooperation networks, research projects for SMEs, investment in eco-innovation, inter-communal business location cooperation and soft-projects in ICT services. The broad mix of support activities should however not hide the fact that, in financial terms, the programmes are mainly focused on support for business investment.

By the end of 2012 more than EUR 2,000 million had been invested in support for the Enterprise environment. This high level of investment has been achieved in particular through the strong focus on grants for enterprises and includes a high level of private funds (more than 80%). This type of support is, however, associated with a high level of deadweight effects (Convelop, June 2013, case study Burgenland, p 68).

In total, around 3,200 enterprises take part in supported projects; in terms of numbers, most of the enterprises participate in advisory services and cooperation and cluster activities, fewer in investment activities. Large enterprises have a significant share (25%).

In the following, the different intervention areas under Enterprise support are reviewed.

- **RTDI activities in regional research centres** are currently being implemented in four programmes (originally scheduled for six programmes but those in Burgenland were cancelled and in Vorarlberg not yet implemented, the reason being the changed division of tasks with regard to the funding system). The funds allocated are already committed to a large extent (89%). About 79 projects have been approved (EUR 110.3 million committed to projects) and 39 research projects implemented in regional competence

centres. EUR 48.9 million was actually invested (the average funding rate is 68%¹²). Three new R&D jobs were created and a number of R&D jobs were maintained. A significant increase in implementation occurred in 2012. This intervention supported above all research activities in extra-university research centres which were later implemented in industrial projects (for instance in Oberösterreich in the field of wood).

- For the further development of **R&TD infrastructure** over 100% of ERDF funding is already committed and no more new projects can be supported. About 50 investment projects have been approved (EUR 127 million committed to projects) and 27 projects implemented. EUR 80 million was actually invested (the average funding rate is 61%). Regarding payments, a slight increase in implementation is evident in 2012. Through the (further) development of research, technology and innovation centres 64 new jobs were created and 217 jobs were maintained. Over a number of programming periods, the ERDF has significantly contributed to the creation and further development of the regional network of RTDI centres in Austria. Many of the centres are flagship ones from the perspective of regional innovation policy (e.g. in Leoben in the Steiermark the Impulse Centre for Raw Materials – *Impulszentrum für Rohstoffe*). In Niederösterreich the capacity could be expanded in the technopoles in Tulln (agro-biotechnology and environmental biotechnology), Wieselburg (bio energy, agricultural and food technology), Wiener Neustadt (modern industrial technologies) and Krems (medical biotechnology). In Wien, the development of the technology centre Aspern IQ in the Seestadt Aspern was supported. A technology centre for small and medium sized enterprises with a focus on green technologies and a net surface of around 6,500 square metres in size was finished in 2012.
- Under **Technology transfer and cooperation networks**, ERDF programmes provide support to regional clusters, networks and technology transfer activities which are one of the most widely used measures at regional level to enhance competitiveness and restructure the economy. Around 60% of available funding has been committed, 338 soft projects approved (EUR 77 million committed to projects) and 179 projects implemented with 1,900 companies and 90 institutions participating in technology transfer. EUR 26 million was invested (the funding rate is 81%). However, in 2011 and in 2012, little progress in implementation overall was observed and the expenditure rate at the end of the 2012 was still low (21%). This is due to the delay in implementation in Burgenland (here the innovation part of the programme is under review and is currently being reinforced), Kärnten and Tirol (both programmes have high commitments but low expenditure rates) and Steiermark (administrative problems, a new funding scheme for clusters has to be established), Vorarlberg (due to administrative problems with the audit authority projects had to be cancelled; funds will be shifted to AWS/ERP and ÖHT). However, implementation in Niederösterreich, Oberösterreich and Wien is well on track.

In Styria, the cleantech cluster ECO WORLD STYRIA (RegioStar award 2012) is supported by the ERDF. The cluster organisation provides support for sustainable

¹² Total public funds / total project costs based on expenditures.

growth to its clients in the areas of biomass, solar energy, waste as a resource, and water. The region of Styria is now home to more than 170 cleantech companies, of which 15 are world leaders in their technological field. These companies have an average (real) growth rate of 19 % per year – nearly double the worldwide cleantech market growth of 10 % per year.¹³

The IT Cluster in Wien supported by the ERDF has the aim of networking companies, research and education institutions and public institutions. For example, in 2012, 26 workshops, working groups or other events on ICT themes (Elevate your Sales, Cloud Computing, Smart Web Vienna“, neue Horizonte) were organised in which a total of 989 people took part.

In Tirol, the know-how and technology transfer between universities and enterprises is being promoted through the ERDF supported funding schema “K-regio”. Multi-annual research and development projects for consortia between enterprises (SME and Large Enterprises) and research institutions are supported.

- With respect to **Research projects for enterprises**, 282 soft projects (personnel costs not investments) have been approved (EUR 210 million committed to projects) and 99 research projects implemented by SMEs and large enterprises. EUR 53.2 million (EUR 29.7 million at end 2011) was invested (the funding rate is on average 28%). Implementation was speeded up significantly in 2012 but is still very low (11% expenditure rate in comparison to 4% at end 2011). The original allocation was already reduced by 18% due to serious implementation problems of administrative nature. For instance in Tirol more than half the original budget was shifted away in order to avoid the loss of the EU funding.

Most of the research is focused on product innovation and some on process innovation. Most of the beneficiaries apply regularly for support, about a third are newcomers. Up to the end of 2012 about 1,300 researchers were actually involved in research projects and 401 (117 at end 2011) new R&D jobs had been created.

For R&D projects (national and ERDF supported projects) an Austria-wide Annual Impact Monitoring of the FFG basic programme (and complementary ones) is in place covering national and ERDF co-financed projects which were finalised in 2008 (Kmu Forschung Austria, 2013). There is a time lag of about four years between the completion of projects and their evaluation. Accordingly, the current evaluation addresses projects carried out in the 2007-2013 periods, though ERDF projects are not analysed separately. The survey of 312 projects shows the effectiveness of the FFG funding but also problems in commercialising the outcome of research. A third of the enterprises stated that the project provided the impetus for the creation of a new area of activity for their company. For 88% of the projects this represented the further development of existing R&D activities. For 10% it meant the introduction of the first R&D activity in the company. 89% of the projects could achieve their technical goals. For about 57% of the projects results had already been commercialised. This discrepancy

¹³ According to web site of Eco World Styria:

<http://www.eco.at/cms/1312/7992/Steiermark+ist+Europas+gr%FCner+Wachstums-Star/>

between achieving the technical goal and the lower rate of commercialisation means that the technical success of a research project is no guarantee for its economic success. In many cases, access to the market is insufficient. A total of 198 patents were registered. The projects funded through the FFG led to 1,500 jobs (heads) being maintained or created.

A recent evaluation (Joanneum Research, November 2012) gives a very positive assessment of the cooperation between the regional government of Oberösterreich and the federal agency FFG for the implementation of the research projects in the framework of the FFG basic programme. It recommends a continuation with very few changes (the report does not go into the ERDF funded projects specifically).

- As regards **advanced support services for companies or groups of companies**, about 6,600 soft projects (mostly advisory projects) had been approved (EUR 91 million committed to projects) and 6,300 implemented by the end of 2012. EUR 64.4 million (EUR 44.9 million at end 2011) was invested (the funding rate is on average 55%). As a consequence, the implementation accelerated significantly in 2012. Advisory services cover company organisation, environmental management, use of technologies and innovation, and enterprise creation. Support services were introduced in about 1,056 SMEs and 218 large companies.

In Niederösterreich, in 2012, the support service TIP (Technology and Innovation Partners) was evaluated (Economica, January 2013). The TIP Programme provides enterprises of all sizes access to advice on innovation. The advice is provided through a network of experts in different fields. Most of the advice is given to enterprises of less than 50 employees. Large companies (more than 250 employees) account for around 6% of advisory sessions. According to the evaluation, the main aim of the TIP Programme, i.e. to support enterprises in the improvement of their innovation processes, has been achieved. A comparison of companies in Niederösterreich showed that companies that had received TIP advice had achieved 10% growth in turnover whereas in those not supported turnover had grown by 1% two years after participation. The sample consisted of 138 non-TIP and 69 TIP enterprises (however, matching is weak therefore the result of the comparison is questionable).

In the framework of the support services, innovation assistants were also put at the disposal of the companies. For instance, in Salzburg, an innovation assistant who had studied "building and designing with wood" at the University of Salzburg helped a wood manufacturing enterprise with 30 employees located in a rural region (Lungau) to develop a new cladding system which has already been introduced onto the market.

In the Steiermark, access to know-how and knowledge management for innovation have been supported with the possibility of ERDF/ESF cross financing. Mainly projects for the adaptation of the knowledge base of the companies and the qualification of their employees were supported.

The two 'Mingo Services' (focus on migrant enterprises) and 'INiTS' (focus on young entrepreneurs with university degrees) in Wien were described in the 2012 report.

- **Investment projects in Eco-Innovation**, i.e. investment in environmentally-friendly products and production processes, are planned for all Austrian ERDF programmes as part of the direct company support schemes (e.g. by the federal agency AWS/ERP-funds in the framework of the SME programme or the ERP regional programme, which offer an Eco-bonus for green products or support for SME by KPC under the “national environmental support” (“Umweltförderung Inland”). To date, funding has been committed to 127 investment projects (EUR 124.5 million committed to projects) and 87 projects were implemented. Progress in 2012 was moderate and the expenditure rate is still low at 22% of allocated funds. By the end of 2012, EUR 71 million (EUR 62.2 million at end 2011) was invested (the funding rate is on average 20%).

Investment projects, which are mainly implemented by SMEs as well as by a number of large enterprises, are aimed at preventing pollution of the environment (96 projects), implementing new environmentally friendly technologies (16) and creating new eco-products (12). Significant effects in terms of jobs and economic returns have been noted. About 187 new “green” jobs have been created. There is no data available on overall environmental effects e.g. CO₂ reduction.

The information provided in the AIRs relates to single projects. For instance, an enterprise with 230 employees in Oberösterreich developed an eco wood burning stove with reduced and particulate matter emissions as well as a higher efficiency factor supported by the ERDF. Through the use of the newest technologies, the emissions could be reduced by 50% to 70% and efficiency could be improved by 4%. The company expects a rise in turnover of 20% through the new product and a similarly large rise in market share in Austria and abroad. The qualification of the employees also rose as a result of the increase in innovation and know-how developed in the course of the project.

- **Innovation related investment projects in companies** are the second most important interventions in financial terms. They are included in 8 out of 9 regional ERDF programmes in Austria. Funding projects are implemented by a number of funding schemes of regional agencies (SFG¹⁴, KWF, WiBAK¹⁵) or federal agencies (such as AWS/ERP funds regional programme, SME programme). The projects concern the implementation of new innovative technologies and the creation of new products. A number of the projects are carried out in cooperation with universities. About 220 investment projects (27 by newly founded companies) have been approved (EUR 1,100 million committed to projects) and 155 projects in enterprises implemented. EUR 657.8 million (EUR 478.7 million at the end of 2011) was invested (including a high share of private funds; the funding rate is on average only 14%).

Despite progress made in 2012, the expenditure rate is still low at 37% of allocated funds. In the Burgenland and in Kärnten, according to the funding agency AWS, no projects have been submitted to date which would have been eligible for funding. The low project potential could be linked to the economic crisis. Currently there is no

¹⁴ Steirische Wirtschaftsförderung (SFG).

¹⁵ Regional funding agency in Burgenland (WiBAG).

information available on how likely it is that the planned expenditure will be carried out by end 2015.

In total, 70% of support went to SMEs and 30% to large companies (mostly with between 250 to 500 employees). About 1,965 new jobs were created and 14,100 jobs maintained. Most of the new jobs created are linked to RTDI Investment projects (new technologies, new products). In the context of continuous decline in employment in industry, the reported creation of new jobs is a real success story.

The Steiermark AIR emphasises that above all in the field of innovative investments, numerous projects were implemented which strengthened the competitiveness of the Styrian enterprises and thus made them more competitive internationally. This is important in the context of the strong export orientation of the Styrian economy.

A more recent internal evaluation by the AWS (Knoll, 2013) showed that AWS supported projects have an above average innovation orientation. Even if the emphasis of AWS funding is on investment projects (and not on research projects), there is a high selectivity in favour of innovative companies with innovative plans.

The level of innovation can be seen in a few project examples: An enterprise in Vorarlberg that produces profiled sheets ("Formblechtechnik") and employs around 140 people introduced high tech machinery in the process of an expansion. EUR 24 million were invested of which EUR 2.2 million were public funds. This investment is an important impetus for the future development of the company (more meaningful information on the development of supported companies is not presented in the AIR). A wood processing enterprise in the rural area of Niederösterreich that employs 160 people (including seven trainees) built a new production line and invested in machinery. The investment in machinery allowed a 20% rise in production. At the same time, less waste was generated and the quality of the products could be improved. The investments in this project contributed towards the modernisation and improved competitiveness of the company.

- **The broad category of "other" investment projects (including in the tourism sector)** is at present – due to the latest changes in allocation (+18%) – the most important area of enterprise support. In the original allocation in 2007, only 15% of the funds were foreseen for this category. However, with the change in the economic conditions, the allocation has been significantly increased and currently 20% of total funds are allocated to this area (this share will increase further). The area covers enterprise investment which has no direct RTDI link in production and related services as well as projects related to tourism (about 30%). The focus is not so much on new innovative technologies to increase competitiveness but on stimulation of growth, expanding production by means of new machinery and new constructions (which is the funding focus) and creation of jobs in the short term. Accordingly the category of "other" investment projects has the highest direct effect on job generation of all the interventions in the Austrian RC programmes (together with innovation related investment projects).

About 407 investment projects (47 by newly founded companies) have been approved (EUR 1,800 million committed to projects) and 281 projects implemented. EUR 1,100 million (EUR 716.7 million at end 2011) was actually invested (the average funding rate is 17%). Good progress was achieved in 2012. Over 100% of available funds have been committed and the expenditure rate at the end of 2012 reached 77% of allocated funds. 80% of investment was carried out by SMEs (a minor part of them newly founded) and 20% by large companies. Around 2,590 new jobs have been created and some 12,900 maintained. Around 35 projects are intended to improve tourist infrastructure. They have led to increased high quality accommodation for tourists (in the form of 3,500 new beds, adding some 0.5% to the existing capacity in Austria).

More detailed information in the form of project examples is only available for the proportion of supported tourism projects. In a rural part of Niederösterreich, the adventure garden of a gardening firm was expanded. For example, on a surface of 22,000 square metres, models of private garden designs can be seen in the form of themed gardens. There are also special designs for children. The offer draws more than 70,000 visitors a year and is an important asset in the region as a place of interest. Through the project, approximately 45 jobs were secured in the long term. In a rural part of Oberösterreich, the flagship project "Böhmerwaldarena" has been developed since 2000 with the help of ERDF funds (objective 2, RC, ETC). The project combines forestry, teaching and tourism. The centre of the Böhmerwaldarena is the newly built wood competence centre. In order to improve the tourism infrastructure, a hotel and chalet village for 200 guests was built directly linked to the wood competence centre which also created 40-50 jobs all year round. In Salzburg, the 'Hohe Tauern Health' initiative (RegioStar Finalist) was launched in the Oberpinzgau region of Austria in 2008 to further develop the peripheral, mountainous area as an innovative tourist destination, exploiting the recognised health benefits of the local Krimml Waterfalls. The hotels have invested in the required renovation and adaptation measures to classify them as 'certified allergy sufferer' hotels ("*Allergiker Hotels*"). They are able to offer anti-allergic university-certified rooms that ensure a good night's sleep and provide access to medical services as part of their 'premium product'. The link between the medical community and tourism ensures that services catering to tourists will develop based on certified scientific knowledge and evidence. Such developments can be seen through the number of tourist stays in the summer season in Krimml which has increased enormously – from 60,000 in 2008 to 70,000 in 2009 and 78,000 in 2010, i.e. an increase of 30% within two years. The idea has also spread to the local wood and construction industry where the idea to develop 'allergy-proof' wood products (from furniture to houses) has been taken up.

Overall, the broad category of "other" investment projects emerged as the most important intervention field in Austrian C&RC programmes. Considering the financial weight, a more detailed evaluation of achievements is needed.

In general with regard to business investments, no quantitative evidence is available on the development of the supported companies, on the contribution of funding support to growth, improved productivity and the capacity to innovate. Accordingly, there is a need

to improve the systematic monitoring of the economic performance of supported companies (see Convelop, 2013, case study Burgenland, p 46).

- An aim in a number of programmes was to develop **New financial instruments** (in Oberösterreich, Wien, Burgenland and Kärnten, especially), but it turned out to be extremely difficult to put into practice. For instance, in the RC programme Kärnten it was intended to set up together with the BABEG-Kärntner Betriebsansiedlungs- und Beteiligungsgesellschaft m.b.H. a risk capital fund for early stage financing with private investors and with an external management with EUR 6.7 million ERDF co-funding. The main problem was getting national co-funding which, in the end, was not possible. In addition, the complex implementation structures were responsible for the fund not being established. Only in Burgenland and Oberösterreich could relatively small private equity and venture capital funds for the support of a small number of enterprises be created (15 SMEs in total at end 2012). In Burgenland an equity and loan instrument is available from an independent legal entity. The amount of EUR 7.5 million ERDF has been paid into the fund (expenditure rate 100%). EUR 5.6 million out of the 7.5 million has been paid out to final recipients; a further million is already approved but there is no contract yet between the final recipients and the fund. In total, 13 instances of finance have been provided to SMEs.

Evaluations of equity and venture capital funds were undertaken independently of the ERDF programmes. The impact of venture capital financing on innovation behaviour and firm growth was assessed by Peneder (2010). The paper tests the impact by applying a sophisticated counterfactual analysis (two-stage propensity score matching) on Austrian micro-data (166 venture capital financed companies in Austria have been compared to a control group of about 33,000 companies using a database of the leading Austrian credit rating agency). The empirical findings confirmed that venture capital backed firms are constrained in their ability to obtain financing through traditional channels. The data show that on average venture capital financed firms are more innovative and grow faster in terms of employment and sales revenues than other firms in the control group (see the 2012 EEN report on FEIs).

Environment and energy

The Environment and energy is a supplementary policy area accounting for 6% of total ERDF financing (EUR 40.8 million allocated funds). Support for energy infrastructure is included in seven out of the nine programmes although support for environmental infrastructure (in terms of risk prevention) is included in only three programmes. The allocation of funding was increased over the programming period by 4% due to the growing demand and there was a high level of commitments at the end of 2012 (101%). In the course of 2012, the rate of implementation was increased significantly and shows a 53% expenditure rate of allocated funds at the end of 2012. Funding rates are between 30%-50%.

Energy infrastructure includes support for Renewable Energy Sources (RES) in particular biomass and energy efficiency measures (EE) in enterprises. Interestingly, the focus of ERDF co-financing has shifted from RES to EE in commercial buildings. By the end of 2012, 114 investment projects in RES and EE had been supported at a total investment cost of EUR 110 million (EUR 204 million has been committed to 198 projects). As a result, 104 MW of additional

capacity for renewable energy production has been created in 47 plants (of this 41 biomass plants). The average size of a plant is 2.2 MW. Investments in RES and EE projects are being implemented by SMEs and large enterprises (36%).

The 41 biomass plants supported since the start of the programming period with total project costs of EUR 42.9 million add 86 MW to the existing capacity. This represents a significant proportion of the total number of 203 existing biomass plants in Austria with 436 MW power capacities (under the Green Electricity Act according to Ökostrombericht 2012, p 114). Around 20% of existing biomass capacity under the Green Electricity Act in Austria was supported by C&RC programmes.

The RES and EE projects in total give the possibility of reducing greenhouse gases by 118kt, equivalent to the CO₂ emissions of about 33,000 cars.

An example for a supported project is the biomass plant in Dornbirn, Vorarlberg which provides heating to public buildings and private houses. The biggest of the total of 39 users is the hospital. As material, mainly wood chippings, bark and by-products from saw mills are used. This project helps to save 2,200 tons of CO₂ a year. The biomass heating plant cost altogether around EUR 3.1 million and was supported with EUR 0.9 million from the EU, federal state and the Land.

The economic effects of RES support, however, have not been evaluated by the recent cross programme evaluation of KPC measures (ÖAR, RIMAS, 2011). Moreover there are no evaluations of how supported biomass plants can cope with massively increased raw material costs that have already led to the bankruptcy of some biomass plants (e.g. the showcase plant in Güssing, Burgenland which is only the tip of the iceberg of plants in trouble).

Under the policy field, 33 **Environmental infrastructure** projects, mostly involving investment, were implemented with total investment costs of EUR 10.9 million to prevent floods and avalanches in the Länder Niederösterreich, Tirol and Vorarlberg (EUR 34.5 million committed to projects). Since this intervention is focused on public goods, the funding rate exceeds 90%. There was a moderate increase in implementation in 2012. As a result, 80,000 people are expected to benefit from investments and soft-measures. No evaluations of this policy area have been carried out to prove this figure.

Territorial development

Territorial development accounts for 7% of the total ERDF allocation (EUR 47.6 million). The aim is to help to attain a diversified and balanced mix of economic activities and settlements in all regions. Integrated development policies are being pursued by using spatial planning as well as direct support for regional development. Territorial development includes the creation and preservation of nature reserves, tourist and cultural facilities and services, integrated projects for urban regeneration and broadband networks. It is included in seven of the nine programmes.

The low rate of financial implementation, indicated in last year's report, increased significantly during 2011 and 2012. At the end of 2012, 68% of the funds had been committed and 33% actually utilized. By the end of 2012, support went to 173 investment and soft projects (such as

studies) on tourism, cultural activities and planning and rehabilitation with total investment costs of EUR 45.3 million (funding rates are between 35%-100%).

For this area, hardly any suitable and meaningful result indicators were included in the ATMOS monitoring system. A recent evaluation in Vienna (Metis 2012), quoted in the AIR 2011, demonstrates the positive effects of urban regeneration projects (see last year's report).

Project examples show the diversity of approaches implemented under this policy field. In Wien, for instance, the "Helene-Deutsch-Park" was renovated. The renovation of the 3,450 sq. m. park meant the overall aesthetic and ecological improvement of the area. The park is in the middle of the densely inhabited 9th district and is important for the regeneration, meeting and integration of different people in the area. In Tirol, in the field of activity "Endogenous regional development", the theme of broadband access via glass fibre as an appropriate instrument to improve the accessibility of regions and as a success factor in the future oriented location development plays an important role (e.g. "Fibre to the home" initiative developed by the regional management body in Landeck). In the Steiermark, the town and urban hinterland theme was addressed. Projects in the fields of spatial planning and transport and mobility between the southern districts of Graz and the surrounding area were developed.

Achievements under the CBC Objective

Main points from the previous country report:

- In the four CBC programmes under consideration, resources had been committed to 312 projects by the end of 2011. 163 of these related to the priority "Innovation and Competitiveness" and 149 to the priority "Sustainable Development". Significant progress in implementation is evident in both priorities over a broad range of activities. Achievements of CBC programmes are particularly difficult to demonstrate and to measure.

Developments since the 2012 report

Cooperation programmes aim at strengthening cooperation structures in defined areas. They are primarily designed to further cooperation with an inherent focus on institutional settings. Given their overall budget size, the programmes cannot target large-scale economic impact. On the contrary, CBC programmes are mainly tackling issues at local level (NUTS3), which are close to the needs of the local population.

By the end of 2012 in the four CBC programmes, funds had been committed to about 400 projects (without Technical Assistance), 201 of them relating to the priority "Innovation and Competitiveness" and 197 to "Sustainable Development" which shows a balanced implementation across priorities.

The reported outputs and results in the CBC programmes are mostly linked to "number of projects" or "number of activities" which is not very informative and therefore not discussed in this EEN report (a detailed list of outputs/achievements of the four CBC programmes under consideration is provided in the annex).

On basis of the AIRs it is hardly possible to demonstrate physical/tangible achievements in a meaningful way (e.g. linked to fields of intervention). Some result indicators cannot be used to

indicate achievements as they were not linked to the programme implementation; e.g. number of visitors of tourism destinations p.a. (millions) can only be used as a context indicator. Moreover, evidence on achievements in the current programming period from evaluations is missing.

Accordingly, the presentation of achievements is mainly based on investments in specific policy themes and project examples.

Regarding the support for the **enterprise environment**, about EUR 21.3 million have been invested (total project costs) in the four CBC programmes. For example in the Austrian-Slovak programme area, a project provides tools and training to SMEs to get better access to international acquisition platforms. Another project strengthened the cooperation of universities and established an international postgraduate course in automotive industry in the region.

With respect to human **resource development**, EUR 28.8 million were invested. For example, in the Hungary-Austria programme, an 18-person project team is working with employees in 11 locations in Burgenland and West Hungary providing information and guidance to local people. In 2012, the team of advisors carried out 13,974 consultations (45,000 since the beginning of the project in 2008) in face-to-face meetings, by phone or by e-mail. Most questions covered the fields of labour law, social law and taxation.

With respect to **transport infrastructure development and improved mobility**, EUR 20 million was invested. Some investment projects have been implemented, e.g. the newly built cross-border bridge for pedestrians and cyclists across the river March/Morava. The bridge is an important element of a cross-border bicycle track network.

Regarding **environment and energy**, EUR 25.3 million was invested at the end of 2012. For instance a total area of 2,900 sq. km. is covered by joint management initiatives (AT-SK). Through this, the AT-SK programme contributes to the re-connection of the Alps-Carpathians Corridor as a major migration route for wild animals.

To improve **territorial development** EUR 33.4 million was invested. For instance, in the Bratislava cross border region a joint platform between the provinces of Lower Austria and the Burgenland, the Slovak capital city of Bratislava and the Bratislava Self-Governing Region was established to improve spatial planning and cope with the strong growth dynamics of Bratislava.

3. Effects of intervention

Main points from the previous country report:

- **The ERDF has contributed substantially to the development of regional innovation policy.** Through the support to companies and cross-company and infrastructure measures with regard to innovation (investment support, technology centres, clusters, coaching, cooperation between research centres and businesses), the ERDF contributed to the development of competencies and the creation of 'technopoles'. Eurostat statistics indicate that regional R&D expenditure (in relation to GDP) has risen continuously in Austrian regions over the period 2002 to 2009 (with the exception of Kärnten).

- **The ERDF is contributing to developing green energies and technologies:** The ERDF (jointly with the rural development programme) is successfully supporting the implementation of a policy centred on biomass. It is also supporting energy efficiency in enterprises as well as a broad spectrum of measures relating to the development of green technologies as an area of technology of major interest.
- **The ERDF has contributed to a policy of stabilising rural areas and the development of growth centres in suitable locations:** About 70% of ERDF funds are spent in both structurally weak and strong rural areas (rather than in agglomerations). As a wider effect of interventions (taking account also of the interventions under the rural development programme which is of utmost importance in Austria) the growth gap between structurally weak rural areas and agglomerations has not widened, while structurally strong rural areas had the same growth rate as agglomerations in the 2002-2008 period.

Developments since the 2012 report

Since then, a new evaluation on long-term achievements in the small Cohesion region Burgenland (a predominantly rural area with 284,000 inhabitants) was published¹⁶.

The evaluation deals with the question of how ERDF programmes contributed to the overall development of the structurally weak region. The findings can be summarised as follows:

The EU programmes (ERDF, ESF, EAGGF¹⁷) have provided a substantial financial contribution. The total investment managed through all EU-programmes over 15 years was around EUR 2,900 million which corresponds to approximately 13% of the *annual* total investment volume in Burgenland. The total public funds associated with the ERDF programmes over all three programming periods amount to EUR 670 million (national and ERDF) and lead to an investment of around EUR 1,900 million (including the matching private investments) which equals approximately 9% of the *annual* total investment volume in industry and commerce.

With respect to the macro-economic indicators, Burgenland has shown good economic performance. It was able to keep pace with the national trends and could catch-up (in terms of GDP per capita) with the EU15 countries. However, the programme achievements did not lead to an intra-regional cohesion process in Burgenland since the north-south disparity still exists.

The preparation and implementation of the EU Cohesion policy programmes had an 'enabling effect' in Burgenland, i.e. the mobilisation of additional national and regional resources, and the design of a cross-sectoral strategy and planning processes. This has made a major contribution to a better coordinated regional development policy.

The achievements in new modern infrastructure such as technology parks, ICT or tourism infrastructure form the basis and pre-condition for the long-term development of the region. The infrastructure represents an important element in increasing the attractiveness of the location, although there is a tendency towards oversizing (e.g. the Heiligenkreuz business park).

¹⁶ Convelop, June 2013, part of the EU evaluation of the main achievements of Cohesion policy programmes and projects over the longer term in 15 selected regions

¹⁷ European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF).

The industrial base has been modernised. The investment projects in enterprises contributed to the creation of jobs. A new growth sector has been developed with tourism which benefits from the proximity to the metropolitan areas, especially Wien. The growth of tourism in Burgenland (indicated by the growing number of overnight stays since 1995) is very positive and much more dynamic in comparison to the Austrian average.

A critical point is the transition to a greater focus on innovation. The 'Innovation Offensive Burgenland' was started years too late. Likewise, networking and building awareness should have been started much earlier. The strategy for strengthening R&D in the Burgenland was for too long either an implicit strategy of infrastructure development or devoted to the attraction of new companies with R&D capacities. This has led to implementation problems in the current programming period as described in the report.

Overall, the ERDF programmes were crucial to regional development efforts in the Burgenland and made a substantial contribution to overall regional development. This view is broadly confirmed by the stakeholders who were interviewed (programme managers, authorities, experts, beneficiaries).

4. Evaluations and good practice in evaluation

- The coordinating body ÖROK¹⁸ established a framework to support a content-based discussion in addition to administrative and funding-related issues which involve all relevant regional policy actors. This framework is known as Strategic Monitoring in Austria (STRAT.ATplus 2007-2013). From 2007 to 2011¹⁹, a number of events with a broad participation of stakeholders (often including the Commission) have been organised to promote the exchange of experience concerning Structural Funds implementation and related issues²⁰. Moreover, in some cases, the ÖROK acts as the Contracting Authority for ad-hoc cross-programme evaluations for all Austrian Programmes co-financed by the ERDF (e.g. achievements of 15 years INTERREG/ETC in Austria; cross-programme evaluation of domestic environmental support).
- Besides the framework activities of ÖROK, there is no comprehensive strategy for evaluating the effects of ERDF co-financed interventions. With regard to evaluations, MAs and Implementing Bodies (agencies) follow their own agenda at the regional or federal level.
- In the AIRs, the evaluation activities described mainly refer to the higher level ÖROK activities and – with some exceptions (e.g. Wien, Vorarlberg) – only the ÖROK evaluation reports are mentioned.
- However, evaluation of interventions which are (partly) co-funded by ERDF programmes in Austria at the operational level is much broader than indicated in the AIRs. Many evaluations are carried out by the implementing bodies at federal or regional level for internal use and MAs partly convert them into the AIRs. On the ground,

¹⁸ Austrian Conference of Spatial Planning (ÖROK)

¹⁹ At end of 2011, the last event in the framework of STRAT.ATplus was conducted and a new series of STRAT.AT 2020 events in view of the new programming period 2014-2020 has started.

²⁰ See list of events at <http://www.oerok.gv.at/eu-regionalpolitik/eu-strukturfonds-in-oesterreich-2007-2013/nationale-strategie/stratat-plus.html>

there is significant evaluation evidence which can be used to qualify and shed light on achievements (however, evaluations cover mainly funding schemes as a whole and it is difficult to relate the findings to the parts which are co-funded by ERDF).

Developments since the 2012 report

Evaluation activities as presented in the AIRs 2012

In the year 2012, the second strategic report for Austria, STRAT.AT report 2012 (linked to the NSRF), was prepared and the STRAT.AT 2020 process introduced. The latter is to set up Austria's partnership agreement for all ESI funds in the new programming period. These activities are conducted by the coordinating body ÖROK.

In the 2012 AIRs for the convergence and regional competitiveness programmes, mainly ÖROK framework activities related to the STRAT.AT report 2012 and STRAT.AT 2020 process are outlined whereas recent evaluation activities at programme level are described in a few cases (Tirol, Vorarlberg).

- In the AIR of the RC programme Tirol, the focus of evaluation activities is on regional policy analysis for the preparation of the new generation of programmes for which former evaluations were utilized (a report was finalized in September 2013 but is only for internal use and not accessible).
- In the AIR of the RC programme Vorarlberg, it is mentioned that the methodology and findings of the mid-term evaluation which was carried out in 2011 were summarized in a brief report in English language for broader dissemination and promotion (Kairos, June 2012, ProjektDialog). The methodology (a qualitative assessment of projects by an internal group of administrators facilitated by an external consultant) is – from the point of the MA – very suitable and efficient for evaluating a small regional programme and should be applied also in the new programming period.

In the four ETC/CBC programmes considered, no recent programme evaluations were conducted with the exception of the ongoing evaluation of the AT-SK programme (a process and management type of evaluation which discusses delivery mechanisms and reconstructs the intervention logic) in the period from 2010 to 2012 which was completed at the end of 2012. INTERACT proposes to develop a new evaluation culture in ETC programmes and to carry out meaningful evaluation during the programme period.²¹

Overview of recent evaluation activities on the ground

Besides the few evaluation activities outlined in the 2012 AIRs, the present report tries to obtain an overview of the evaluation activities outside the AIRs and to access the studies which are mostly for internal use and not accessible to a wider audience (we thank Markus Gruber, Convelop, for his support).

The identified recent evaluation activities have a very different scope and range from the assessment of single funding schemes related to RTDI and enterprise support (e.g. Economica

²¹ INTERACT (Updated version, January 2012), Practical Handbook for Ongoing Evaluation of Territorial Cooperation Programmes-

01/2013) to the identification of synergies between the European funds at an overall level (ZSI, 12/2011) or target the long term development of a convergence region (Convelop 06/2013).

Evaluations are initiated by the implementing bodies at regional or federal level, programme owners at the ministry level, MAs and by the Commission and respond to their specific needs in further developing their policy. The focus is on technical procedures (e.g. the instrumental mix to deliver a funding scheme) as well as on the effects of funding schemes or programmes.

To address formative and summative evaluation aspects, a wide range of methods is used consisting of quantitative and qualitative approaches (desk research, analysis of monitoring and statistical data, regionalized input-output model, shift-share analysis, interviews with beneficiaries, surveys, focus groups, intervention logic analysis) including an attempt for counterfactual assessment (Economica, January 2013, however in a basic format from the methodological point of view).

A specific impetus was given by the ETC IVC project Observatory on State Aid Impact (OSAIS) to develop and test a common methodology for regional SME funding schemes. Niederösterreich contributed substantially to the network and used the opportunity to benchmark its regional funding instruments for SME support.

Recent evaluations in the Steiermark which look at regional research and innovation funding instruments are not finalised yet. A new evaluation in Tirol was finalised in September 2013 but is not accessible.

Evaluations are typically carried out by independent evaluators; however, it is a common feature that most of the evaluations are kept as internal documents and are not published and in some cases are also not accessible (e.g. the recent evaluation in Tirol).

Regarding transparency of evaluation findings in the Austrian Rural Development Policy another approach was taken. Up to the end of 2012 around 56 external research studies linked to the rural development programme implementation have been contracted. The completed studies can be downloaded in full text from the MA's website.²²

²² www.lebensministerium.at/land/laendl_entwicklung/evaluierung/le_studien.html

Table 5 - Relevant evaluations identified by the expert which have not been addressed so far

Title and date of completion	Policy area and scope (*)	Main objectives and focus (*)	Methods used (*)	Full reference or link to publication
ZSI, ÖAR (December 2011): SYN.AT- Koordination, Kooperation und Synergienutzung zwischen ESF, EFRE und ELER in Österreich, Bundesministerium für Arbeit, Soziales und Konsumentenschutz (BMASK)	Identification of thematic synergies between the EU funds ERDF, ESF and EAFRD in the 2007-2013 period (10)	Thematic synergies between EU funds and the contribution of regional bodies to realize the synergies (2)	Qualitative: desk research, case studies, interviews (4)	http://www.esf.at/esf/wp-content/uploads/SYN.AT-Bericht.pdf
Kairos (June 2012): ProjektDialog as an Impact Analysis and Monitoring Tool (based on the Mid term evaluation of the RC programme Vorarlberg 2011)	Presentation of the qualitative methodology to assess the impact of selected key projects supported by the RC programme Vorarlberg (9)	Estimating the contribution of selected key projects to impact objectives (2)	Qualitative assessment by an internal group of administrators (4)	Not published (DG Regio has received a copy)
Joanneum Research (November 2012): Strategische Beurteilung der Förderkooperation FFG-Land Oberösterreich, im Auftrag Amt der OÖ Landesregierung, Abteilung Wirtschaft, Research Report Series 184/2012	Effectiveness of a RTDI funding model which is based on a mix of grants and loans (1)	Contribution of a specific funding model to broaden the number of enterprises implementing RTDI (3)	Analysis of monitoring and statistical data, shift-share analysis, interviews with beneficiaries (3+4)	http://www.ffg.at/sites/default/files/downloads/pag_e/foerderungskooperation_land_ooe_ffg_strat_beurteilung_jr_polices.pdf
Metis, Consulting Associates (December 2012): External support for the Evaluation of the Programme for Cross-Border Cooperation Slovakia – Austria 2007 – 2013, Commissioned by SK-AT Joint Technical Secretariat Schlesingerplatz 2-4, 1080 Vienna	Multi-area ongoing evaluation of CBC programme in the period 2010 to 2012 (9)	Evaluation of technical assistance and communication, assessment of 12 flagship projects, development of a suitable approach to capture the impact of CBC projects (2)	Intervention logic analysis, workflow mapping, interviews, survey on beneficiaries (174 replied) (4)	Internal, not published
Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH/Knoll, N. (2013): AWS Wirkungsmonitoring 2013	Enterprise support (2)	Evaluation of different funding instrument for investment support in 2011 (3)	Analysis of monitoring data, survey (sample of 404 beneficiaries) (3+4)	Internal, not published
Economica (January 2013): Ökonomische Wirkungslinien der niederösterreichischen Technologie- und InnovationsPartner (TIP), Studie im Auftrag der Wirtschaftskammer Niederösterreich, not published	Enterprise support, advisory services (2)	Assessment of a support schema in terms of the regional economic impact and at the level of the beneficiaries (3)	Analysis of monitoring data, survey (sample of 200 enterprises including non treated); Regionalized input-output model (1+3)	Seems to be published by the evaluator Economica but link for download is not valid
KMU Forschung Austria (February 2013): FFG Wirkungsmonitoring 2012 (der im Jahr 2008 abgeschlossenen Projekte)	RTDI support related to “FFG Basisprogramme s and other programmes” (1)	Short evaluation of all research projects funded by FFG in 2008 regarding effectiveness of funding (3)	Survey on approx. 300 funding projects (4)	www.ffg.at/sites/default/files/downloads/page/ffg_wirkungsmonitoring_2012_final.pdf

Title and date of completion	Policy area and scope (*)	Main objectives and focus (*)	Methods used (*)	Full reference or link to publication
NÖ Landesregierung/ WST3, Economica, Ideum (May 2013): Effekte und Auswirkungseffizienz von Förderprogrammen für KMU des Landes Niederösterreich. A case study in the framework of the ETC project OSAIS – Observatory on State Aid Impact. www.osais.eu	RTDI and Enterprise support(2)	Assessment of 5 regional funding schemes in the period 2005-2009 regarding impact and efficiency, international benchmarking (3)	Analysis of monitoring data and survey on beneficiaries based on a common methodology developed by the ETC project (3+4)	Not yet published
Convelop (June 2013): Case Study Burgenland (Austria), part of Evaluation of the main achievements of cohesion policy programmes and projects over the longer term in 15 selected regions (from 1989-1993 programming period to the present); on behalf of DG Regio	Long term development of a convergence region (9)	Assessment of achievements in different sectors against objectives and needs (3)	Desk research, analysis of monitoring data, statistical analysis, face to face interviews (20), online survey (55 responses), focus groups, case studies (3+4)	Not yet published
Tirol (2013 finalized): Evaluierung der Wirtschaftsförderungsmaßnahmen	Enterprise support (2)			Not published and not accessible
Steiermark (2013, not yet finalized): Evaluierung der Innovations- und F&E-Förderung in der Steiermark	RTDI support (1)			Not yet finalized
bmwfj / Prof. A. Stomper et al (2013): Evaluierung der Richtlinien für die Tourismusförderung des Bundes 2011-2013	Enterprise support, tourism (2)	Assessment of impacts of national tourism funding instruments on competitiveness of enterprises, employment, change in beds and overnight stays (3)	Regression analysis, partly construction of control groups (but weak construction since no propensity score matching approach taken) (1)	Not published by the client but by the expert http://amor.cms.hu-berlin.de/~stompera/consulting/tourev al.pdf

Note: (*) Legend:

Policy area and scope: 1. RTDI; 2. Enterprise support and ICT; 3. Human Resources (ERDF only); 4. Transport; 5. Environment; 6. Energy; 7. Territorial development (urban areas, tourism, rural development, cultural heritage, health, public security, local development); 8. Capacity and institution building; 9. Multi-area (e.g. evaluations of programmes, mid-term evaluations); 10. Transversal aspects (e.g. gender or equal opportunities, sustainable development, employment)

Main objective and focus: 1. assess the arrangements and procedures for managing or administering programmes; 2. support monitoring, or check the progress made in implementing programmes, such as many mid-term evaluations; 3. assess the outcome or effects of programmes in terms of the results achieved and their contribution to attaining socio-economic policy objectives

Method used: 1. Counterfactual; 2. Cost-benefit analysis; 3. Other quantitative; 4. Qualitative

Coverage of policy fields by evaluations

Around 50 evaluations which can be directly or indirectly related to ERDF support in the present programming period have been listed in Annex table E covering the period from 2005 to 2013. Some of the evaluations are related to the 2000-2006 programming period but address

fields of intervention which are ongoing in the current programming period. A considerable part of the evaluations is not published and for internal use.

Overall, the listed evaluations are an important source of information; however, available evaluation results are very selective and not representative for the full spectrum of funding activities co-financed by the ERDF (as indicated in the table below).

Moreover evaluations cover mainly funding schemes as a whole and it is difficult to relate the findings to the parts which are co-funded by the ERDF (this may be to some extent unavoidable in an integrated funding system as is established in Austria). Overall, a systematic evaluation approach guided by an evaluation plan is missing.

Table 6 – Coverage of policy areas

Policy area	Coverage by ERDF related evaluations
1. RTDI (priority area)	Good coverage of the thematic fields: research projects for enterprises (FFG) Weak coverage: RTDI activities in regional research centres, R&TD infrastructure
2. Enterprise support and ICT (priority area)	Good coverage of the thematic fields: cluster, support services, tourism investments, financial instruments Weak coverage: Eco-innovation, investment projects in companies
3. Human Resources	Weak coverage
4. Transport	Weak coverage
5. Environment	Weak coverage: environmental infrastructure for risk prevention, nature reserves
6. Energy	Good coverage of the thematic fields: Energy infrastructure (however economic aspects are missing), energy efficiency
7. Territorial development (urban areas, tourism, rural development, cultural heritage, health, public security, local development);	Good coverage of the thematic fields: integrated urban development (Wien) Weak coverage: regional planning, regional management, cultural heritage
8. Capacity and institution building	
9. Multi-area (e.g. evaluations of programmes, mid-term evaluations);	Good coverage: long term development of regions
10. Transversal aspects (e.g. gender or equal opportunities, sustainable development, employment)	Weak coverage

Source: Author's assessment.

At the regional level, funding activities (which are partly co-funded by the ERDF) are being increasingly evaluated in a systematic way in most of the Länder (Niederösterreich, Steiermark, Burgenland, Vorarlberg, Wien and Vorarlberg). A systematic evaluation approach is currently not visible in Salzburg, Tirol and Oberösterreich.

The federal agencies FFG, AWS/ERP and KPC evaluate their funding instruments (which are in some cases co-funded by ERDF) in a systematic way while ÖHT (the bank for tourism investments) and its owner-ministry BMWFJ have started to evaluate the funding schemes available at the federal level for tourism development.

A weak point relates to the methodological robustness of evaluations. There is a bias resulting from the focus on a small sample of good practice projects. For example, in the INTERREG/ETC study (June 2011), in addition to a general monitoring review, 24 good practice projects out of 2,813 projects in total were analysed in depth. In the UFI study (March 2011), 10 good practice projects out of 105 in total were contacted through telephone interviews. Accordingly, the

sample of projects for an in-depth analysis should be more representative in order to increase the findings' validity.

From the point of view of the present report, the annual assessment exercise conducted by FFG (recent report from 2013) demonstrates good practice in terms of a specific continuous assessment approach ("Wirkungsmonitoring").

Use of evaluations

In most cases, evaluations confirmed the fundamental orientation of the funding instruments and contributed to a continuous improvement of the efficiency, effectiveness and visibility of the instruments (e.g. through the modification of funding instruments, introduction of new services to speed up implementation).

Only in very specific cases, evaluations recommend not to continue funding schemes in the current format or scope. An example was the evaluation of the FFG "Headquarter-Strategy" (Technopolis Group, March 2011)²³; however, this funding scheme was only of marginal relevance for ERDF co-funding (and was therefore not listed).

Plans for carrying out evaluations over the remainder of the programming period

Two evaluations in the Steiermark by bmwf (see Table 5) are underway and should be finalized by the end of 2013.

At the moment, Austrian bodies have no plans to carry out an ex post evaluation for C&RC and ETC-CBC programmes.

How to improve the evaluation activity in Austria?

In order to ensure that sufficient and appropriate ERDF related evaluation activities are undertaken, it should be considered to:

- Fit evaluation into programme/funding schema implementation right from the programme start. Evaluation needs to be understood as an integral part of programme or funding schema implementation.
- Develop staff capacity and ensure capacity building of implementing bodies in relation to monitoring and evaluation, establish capable evaluation units / evaluation officers.
- Foster transparency on evaluation by making evaluations public in full text.

5. Further Remarks - New challenges for policy

Main points from the previous country report:

- Despite overall positive effects of ERDF programmes in Austria, their successful implementation is facing serious challenges. With every successive programming period, the impression is hardening that the burden and costs of administrative implementation to make use of the ERDF financing available are growing and it is increasingly difficult to absorb all the funding available (despite the small volume and

²³http://www.bmvit.gv.at/innovation/strukturprogramme/downloadsstruktur/headquarter_evaluierung.pdf

widened programme areas in Austria). Accordingly, the pressure has increased to support more standardised measures and to avoid new and experimental instruments which are an essential part of a modern regional innovation policy. ERDF programmes are therefore increasingly losing their characteristic of being “impetus programmes” and end up being very pragmatic financial instruments which are integrated into the existing funding system expending the least possible effort.

The conclusions remain valid.

The C&RC programmes are strongly focused on direct investment support for individual enterprises (SME and large enterprises). This strong concentration on one type of intervention originated in the need in the first programming period 1995-1999 to use existing instruments which were able to absorb the allocated funds with a minimal administrative effort.

In the meantime, it has emerged that even standardised funding instruments are increasingly difficult to implement in the administrative context of the ERDF programmes and that the administrative effort has significantly increased.

A fundamental improvement in the administrative framework conditions of the ERDF is the basis for successfully implementing standardised and more experimental funding instruments and integrated approaches within the ERDF programmes. A superficial adaptation of the current administrative framework in the new programming period will not be sufficient.

References

In addition to the list of evaluation included in Annex Table E, other references include:

aws/ austria wirtschaftsservice (2011, 2012) , Leistungsberichte, www.awsg.at/

Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft, Familie und Jugend (Juni 2013), Wirtschaftsbericht Österreich 2013, 1010 Wien

Energie-Control Austria (December 2012), Ökostrombericht 2012, www.e-control.at

KWF/Kärntner Wirtschaftsförderungs Fonds (2011, 2012), Jahresberichte, www.kwf.at/

ÖROK (March 2013), STRAT.AT Report 2012, Second Strategic Report for Austria on the implementation of EU Cohesion Policy 2007-2013

SFG/Steirische Wirtschaftsförderung (2011, 2012), Jahresberichte, www.sfg.at/cms/110/

List of AIRs 2012:

- OP Phasing Out Burgenland – EFRE
- RWB Kärnten
- RWB Niederösterreich
- RWB Oberösterreich
- RWB Salzburg
- RWB Steiermark
- RWB Tirol
- RWB Vorarlberg
- RWB Wien

Interviews

Bundeskanzleramt Abteilung IV/4: Ilse Göll

ÖROK: Andreas Maier

Managing Authority of RC programme Niederösterreich: Dominik Dittrich

Central Monitoring Unit: Elfriede Kober

Austria Wirtschaftsservice | erp-fonds: Norbert Knoll

Managing Authority of RC programme Tirol: Martin Traxl

Managing Authority of Phasing Out Burgenland: Patricia Feucht

Managing Authority of RC programme Kärnten: Karl Hren

Managing Authority of RC programme Vorarlberg: Doris Schnitzer

Funding body Vorarlberg /Abteilung Allgemeine Wirtschaftsangelegenheiten: Angelika Bechter-Edelhofer

Head of JTS AT-CZ: Angelika Kronberger

Annex 1 - Evaluation grid for examples of good practice in evaluation

The annual assessment exercise conducted by FFG (recent report from 2013) was already described in the 2011 report.

The evaluation of innovation support in the Steiermark which has an ambitious methodological design (counterfactual approach) has not been finalized now and the report is not available.

Annex 2 - Tables

See Excel Tables 1 -4:

Excel Table 1 – Regional disparities and trends

Excel Table 2 – Macro-economic developments

Excel Table 3 - Financial allocation by main policy area

Excel Table 3cbc - Financial allocation by main policy area – cross border cooperation

Excel Table 4 - Commitments by main policy area (by end-2012)

Excel Table 4cbc - Commitments by main policy area (by end-2012) – cross border cooperation

Annex Table A – Allocated and committed ERDF resources and expenditure by main policy area, all regional OPs, EUR million

Policy Areas	FOI-Codes	Planned ERDF, 10/07	in %	Planned ERDF (07/12)	in %	Change in % 10/07 - 07/12	Commitments 31.12.2012				Expenditures 31.12.2012			
							No. of projects	Total project costs	ERDF	ERDF in % of planned 07/2012	Total project costs	ERDF	ERDF in % of planned 07/2012	No. of projects
1. Enterprise environment		555.2	82	544.4	80	-2	8,196	3,621.6	416.9	77	2,092.9	233.3	43	7,205
1.1 RTDI and linked activities	1, 2, 5, 7, 74	254.9	37	229.1	34	-10	6,994	1,401.2	171.6	75	850.6	100.0	44	6,531
1.2 Support for innovation in SMEs	3, 4, 6, 9, 14, 15	191.5	28	185.0	27	-3	795	461.5	92.7	50	188.4	37.2	20	393
1.3 Other investment in firms (in AT: including single company support in tourism)	8	104.6	15	125.1	18	20	407	1,758.9	152.5	122	1,053.8	96.1	77	281
1.4 ICT and related services	10, 11	4.2	1	5.2	1	22	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0
2. Human resources		14.1	2	22.9	3	62	155	19.4	8.9	39	11.1	5.0	22	108
2.2 Education and training	62, 63, 64, 72, 73		0	9.5	1		0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0
2.2 Labour market policies	65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 80	14.1	2	13.4	2	-5	155	19.4	8.9	66	11.1	5.0	37	108
3. Transport		8.4	1	6.0	1	-29	3	3.1	0.9	16	1.3	0.5	8	3
3.1 Road			0		0									
3.2 Rail	16	3.0	0	0.0	0	-100	0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0		0
3.2 Other	26, 28, 30	5.4	1	6.0	1	11	3	3.1	0.9	16	1.3	0.5	8	3
4. Environment and energy		39.3	6	40.8	6	4	247	238.9	41.4	101	120.7	21.7	53	147
4.1 Energy infrastructure	33 - 43	30.2	4	31.2	5	3	198	204.5	30.4	97	109.8	16.6	53	114
4.2 Environmental infrastructure	44-54	9.1	1	9.6	1	6	49	34.5	11.0	115	10.9	5.1	53	33
5. Territorial development		45.0	7	47.6	7	6	343	93.2	32.5	68	45.3	15.7	33	173
5.1 Tourism and culture	55-60	23.3	3	25.1	4	8	74	32.1	13.0	52	20.6	7.4	29	57
5.2 Planning and rehabilitation	61	20.8	3	21.6	3	4	268	60.9	19.5	90	24.4	8.3	39	115
5.3 Social infrastructure	10, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79	0.9	0	0.9	0	0	1	0.2	0.0	4	0.2	0.0	4	1
5.4 Other	82, 83, 84		0		0									
6. Technical assistance	81, 85, 86	18.1	3	18.5	3	2	384	23.1	13.6	74	10.1	5.5	30	357
Total C&RC Objective		680.1	100	680.1	100	0	9,328	3,999.4	514.2	76	2,281.4	281.6	41	7,993

Source: ATMOS, author's own calculation.

Annex Table B – Allocated and committed ERDF resources and expenditure by EU-code all regional OPs, EUR million

Categories of Expenditure		Allocated ERDF, 10/2007	in %	Allocated ERDF, 07/2012	in %	Change in % 10/07 - 07/12	Commitments 31.12.2012				Expenditures 31.12.2012			
							No. of projects	total project costs	ERDF	in % of planned	total project costs	ERDF	in % of planned	No of projects
01	FTE-Tätigkeiten in Forschungszentren	46.9	6.9	40.3	5.9	-14.1	79	110.3	36.0	89	48.9	16.6	41	39
02	FTE-Infrastrukturen	26.3	3.9	26.5	3.9	0.8	50	126.5	33.7	127	79.5	20.9	79	23
03	Technologietransfer und Verbesserung der Kooperationsnetze	38.4	5.7	48.9	7.2	27.2	338	77.4	29.6	60	26.0	10.4	21	179
04	FTE-Förderung, insbesondere in KMU	84.8	12.5	69.0	10.1	-18.6	282	210.3	36.0	52	53.2	7.3	11	99
05	ESF cross-financing	9.5	1.4	0.0			0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0		0
05	Fortgeschrittene Unterstützungsdienste	49.0	7.2	42.0	6.2	-14.3	6,643	90.7	26.8	64	64.4	17.7	42	6,314
06	Unterstützung von KMU zur Förderung umweltfreundlicher Produkte	31.2	4.6	31.8	4.7	1.9	127	124.5	11.7	37	71.2	6.9	22	87
07	Unternehmensinvestitionen mit direktem Bezug zu F u. I	123.2	18.1	120.4	17.7	-2.3	222	1,073.8	75.1	62	657.8	44.7	37	155
08	Sonstige Unternehmensinvestitionen	104.6	15.4	125.1	18.4	19.5	407	1,758.9	152.5	122	1,053.8	96.1	77	281
09	Andere Maßnahmen zur Förderung von Forschung, Innovation	22.7	3.3	21.9	3.2	-3.3	24	32.9	12.0	55	31.8	11.6	53	21
10	Telefoninfrastrukturen	0.5	0.1	0.5			1	0.2	0.0		0.2	0.0		1
11	Informations- und Kommunikationstechnologien	4.2	0.6	5.2	0.8	22.4	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0
14	Dienste und Anwendungen für KMU	7.7	1.1	6.7	1.0	-12.3	24	16.4	3.5	51	6.1	0.9	14	7
15	Andere Maßnahmen zur Verbesserung des Zugangs von KMU zur IKT	6.7	1.0	6.7			0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0		0
16	Schienerverkehr	3.0	0.4	0.0			0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0		0
26	Kombinierter Verkehr	1.1	0.2	1.4			0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0		0
28	Intelligente Beförderungssysteme	1.5	0.2	1.5			2	0.7	0.3		0.7	0.3		2
30	Häfen	2.8	0.4	3.1			1	2.5	0.6		0.7	0.2		1
39	Erneuerbare Energien: Wind	0.1	0.0	0.1			0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0		0
40	Erneuerbare Energien: Sonne	6.6	1.0	6.0	0.9	-9.1	6	1.7	0.3	5	1.8	0.3	4	5
41	Erneuerbare Energien: Biomasse	17.2	2.5	18.4	2.7	6.7	77	80.3	12.3	67	42.9	6.8	37	41
42	Erneuerbare Energien: Wasserkraft, Erdwärme u. a.	0.3	0.0	0.6			1	0.5	0.1		0.5	0.1		1
43	Energieeffizienz, Kraft-Wärme-Kopplung, Energiemanagement	6.0	0.9	6.2	0.9	3.4	114	122.0	17.7	287	64.6	9.3	151	67
53	Risikoverhütung	9.1	1.3	9.6			49	34.5	11.0		10.9	5.1		33
55	Förderung des natürlichen Erbes	0.2	0.0	0.2			2	0.2	0.1		0.1	0.0		1
56	Schutz und Aufwertung des natürlichen Erbes	2.0	0.3	2.0			12	5.3	1.6		1.6	0.5		7
57	Verbesserung der touristischen Dienstleistungen	9.0	1.3	10.9	1.6	20.3	29	16.1	4.3	40	13.3	2.7	25	23
59	Entwicklung kultureller Infrastruktur	6.5	1.0	6.5	1.0	0.0	19	3.1	2.3	36	2.4	1.7	27	17
60	Versesserung der kulturellen Dienstleistungen	5.6	0.8	5.6	0.8	0.0	12	7.2	4.6	83	3.2	2.4	42	9
61	Integrierte Projekte zur Wiederbelebung städtischer u.ländl. Gebiete	20.8	3.1	21.6			268	60.9	19.5	90	24.4	8.3	39	115
62	Entwicklung von Systemen und Strategien für lebenslanges Lernen	0.0	0.0	9.5			0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0		0
68	Unterstützung von Selbständigkeit und Unternehmensgründungen	0.2	0.0	0.2			0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0		0
69	Verbesserung des Zugangs von Frauen zur Beschäftigung	1.2	0.2	1.2			0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0		0
70	Spezifische Maßnahmen zur Förderung der Teilnahme von Migranten	0.5	0.1	0.5			0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0		0
71	Konzepte für die Eingliederung von benachteiligten Personen	1.1	0.2	1.1			0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0		0
75	Bildungsinfrastruktur	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0
80	Förderung des Aufbaus von Partnerschaften, Bündnissen und Initiativen	11.1	1.6	10.4			155	19.4	8.9		11.1	5.0		108
Total C&RC programmes		680.1	100.0	680.07	100.0	0.0	9,328	3,999.4	514.2	76	2,281.4	281.6	41	7,993

Annex Table C - Results by policy area, all regional OPs

Code	Bezeichnung EU-Code	tats. Zahl d. weibl. Teilnehmer	tats. Zahl d. männl. Teilnehmer	tatsächl. neu geschaff. männl. F&E-Apl. VZÄ	tatsächl. neu geschaff. weibl. F&E-Apl. VZÄ	tats. an Durchf. FTE-Proj. bet. m. Forsch. VZÄ	tats. an Durchf. FTE-Proj. bet. w. Forsch. VZÄ	tats. an Durchf. T/K-Proj. bet. m. Mitarbeiter. VZÄ	tats. an Durchf. T/K-Proj. bet. w. Mitarbeiter. VZÄ	tatsächl. neu geschaff. männl. Apl. VZÄ	tatsächl. neu geschaff. weibl. Apl. VZÄ	gesch. männl. Apl. tats. nach Proj. Ende VZÄ	gesch. weibl. Apl. tats. nach Proj. Ende VZÄ	tats. Zahl neu geschaffener Qualitätsbetten	tats. Zahl beteiligter UN - TechTransfer/Koop	tats. Zahl bereich. Institut.-TechTransfer/Koop	gepl. Zahl d. geförd. UN via altern. Finanzinst.	tats. zusätzl. geschaffene Kapazität (in MW)	tats. Ausmaß Verringerung Treibhausgase (kt) in Proj. Ende	tats. gesicherte männl. F&E-Apl. VZÄ	tats. gesicherte weibl. F&E-Apl. VZÄ	tatsächl. Zahl UN zusätzl. Zugang zu Breitband.	geplant. Zahl mit höh. IKT-Dienst erreicht Pers	tatsächl. Zahl mit höh. IKT-Dienst erreicht Pers	geplant. Zahl mit höh. IKT-Dienst erreichte UN	tatsächl. Zahl mit höh. IKT-Dienst erreichte UN	tatsächl. Zahl d. v. d. Schutzmaßn. Begünstigten		
01-2	Softmaßn. - FTE-Tätigkeiten i			3		1														1,868	289								
02-1	Invest. - FTE-Infrastrukturen									25	39	151	66						16										
02-2	Softmaßn. - FTE-Infrastrukturen,			1	1	1	1													6	11								
03-2	Softmaßn. - Technologietransfer									306	66				1,857	94													
04-2	Softmaßn. - FTE-Förderung, KMU			356	45	1,161	126													4,142	470								
05-2	Softmaßn. - Fortgeschritt. Unterstützung												352																
05-3	Softmaßn. - ESF cross-financing	941	2,820																										
06-1	Invest. - Umweltfreundl. Produkte/									122	65	1,148	264																
07-1	Invest. - UN-Investitionen Forschung									1,550	415	11,001	3,106																
08-1	Invest. - Sonst. UN-Investitionen									1,637	953	9,226	3,723	3,526															
09-3	Venture Fonds -																15												
10-1	Invest. - Telefoninfrastrukturen									1		18																	
11-1	Invest. - IKT																												
14-2	Softmaßn. - Dienste u. Anwendg.			12	8	206	26													227	33								
30-1	Invest. - Häfen																												
40-1	Invest. - RES Sonne																		1										
41-1	Invest. - RES Biomasse																	82	64										
42-1	Invest. - RES Wasser																												
43-1	Invest. - Energieeffizienz, Kraft-W.																	23	53										
53-1	Invest. - Risikoverhütung									5	5	19	7															30,562	
53-2	Softmaßn. - Risikoverhütung																											50,500	
56-1	Invest. - natürliches Erbe																												
57-1	Invest. - touristischen Dienstleistung									1	2	46	7																
59-1	Invest. - kultureller Infrastruktur											2	3																
61-1	Invest. - Integrierte Proj.																												
Total		941	2,820	372	55	1,369	153	306	66	3,693	1,478	21,612	7,175	3,526	1,857	94	15	104	118	16	6,243	803	0	0	0				
																										0	0	81,062	
Total			3,761		427		1,522		372		5,171		28,787									7,046							

Source: ATMOS, author's own calculation; AIR 2012 for OP Wien

Annex Table D - Allocated and committed ERDF resources and expenditure funds by main policy area, CBC Objective; EUR million

Policy Areas	FOI-Codes	Allocated ERDF, 2007	No of approved projects	Total project costs approved	Commitments ERDF	in % of allocated ERDF	Payments total project costs	Payments ERDF	in % of allocated ERDF
1. Enterprise environment		50.1	72	53.3	39.8	79	21.3	13.7	27
1.1 RTDI and linked activities	1, 2, 5, 7, 74	21.2	36	31.6	24.6	116	14.8	9.9	47
1.2 Support for innovation in SMEs	3, 4, 6, 9, 14, 15	19.5	23	13.6	9.9	51	4.0	2.5	13
1.3 Other investment in firms	8								
1.4 ICT and related services	11, 12, 13	9.4	13	8.2	5.3	56	2.5	1.3	14
2. Human resources		41.6	62	56.8	41.4	100	28.8	18.5	45
2.2 Education and training	62, 63, 64, 72, 73	10.6	19	11.3	8.7	82	6.4	4.3	40
2.2 Labour market policies	65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 80	31.0	43	45.5	32.7	105	22.3	14.3	46
3. Transport		48.9	45	57.8	41.9	86	19.9	14.7	30
3.1 Road	20, 21, 22, 23	16.9	19	17.0	14.2	84	11.2	9.1	54
3.2 Rail	16, 17, 18, 19	9.2	6	18.4	9.9	108	0.9	0.7	7
3.2 Other	24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32	22.8	20	22.4	17.8	78	7.8	4.9	22
4. Environment and energy		56.1	64	66.3	50.4	90	25.3	15.9	28
4.1 Energy infrastructure	33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43	13.9	14	12.0	9.7	69	5.9	4.3	31
4.2 Environmental infrastructure	44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54	42.2	50	54.3	40.8	97	19.3	11.6	27
5. Territorial development		69.7	122	91.6	65.0	93	33.4	21.4	31
5.1 Tourism and culture	55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60	52.1	91	71.8	50.6	97	27.7	17.7	34
5.2 Planning and rehabilitation	61	4.0	3	1.4	1.1	27	0.2	0.1	3
5.3 Social infrastructure	10, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79	13.5	28	18.4	13.3	98	5.5	3.5	26
6. Technical assistance	81, 85, 86	37.4	68	39.4	25.3	68	15.2	9.4	25
Total ETC (AT-CZ, AT-HU, AT-SK, AT-BAY)		303.7	433	365.2	263.8	87	143.8	93.6	31

Source: ATMOS, author's own calculation

Annex Table E - List of ERDF related evaluations included in previous country reports (direct or indirect links to ERDF supported interventions)

Institution/Author, Title and date of completion	Year	Policy area and scope	Main objective and focus	Method used	Full reference or link to publication
ÖIR, RCi (2005): Evaluierung des Schlüsselprojektes profactor in Steyr (im Rahmen der Aktualisierung der Halbzeitbewertung des Ziel-2-Programms Oberösterreich 2000 – 2006), im Auftrag der OÖ Landesregierung	2005	1	2	4	
ÖIR, RCi (2007): Wirkungsanalyse Modellprojekte aus dem Ziel-2-Programm Niederösterreich 2000–2006 (Teil FTI Infrastruktur); im Auftrag der NÖ Landesregierung	2007	1	3	4	
KMU Forschung Austria (2007): Evaluierung des EU-Ziel 2 Projektes VITE (Vienna IT Enterprises); im Auftrag Wiener Wirtschaftsförderungsfonds	2007	2	2	4	
Austrian Wirtschaftsservice Gmbh/Knoll, N. (2007): Endbericht zum Pilotprojekt interner Evaluierungen von Förderungsprogrammen, September 2007	2007	2	2	4	
Kreutzer, Fischer & Partner (2007): Evaluierung des volkswirtschaftlichen Nutzens von EU-Förderungen am Beispiel der Sonnentherme in Lutzmannsburg; im Auftrag Regionalmanagement Burgenland, Burgenländische Landesregierung	2007	2	3	3+4	
ÖIR, RCi (2007): Wirkungsanalyse Modellprojekte aus dem Ziel-2-Programm Niederösterreich 2000–2006 (Teil touristische Leitprojekte); im Auftrag der NÖ Landesregierung	2007	2	3	4	
ÖIR, RCi (2007): Wirkungsanalyse Modellprojekte aus dem Ziel-2-Programm Niederösterreich 2000–2006 (Teil Innerörtliches Einkaufszentrum); im Auftrag der NÖ Landesregierung	2007	7	3	4	
KMU Forschung Austria (2008): Interimsevaluierung des Technopolprogramms des Landes Niederösterreich; Auftrag der niederösterreichischen Landesregierung (Abteilung WST3)	2008	1	2	4	
Amt der NÖ Landesregierung/WST3 (2008): Interne Evaluierung 8/2008 Förderlinie Innovationsassistent/-innen	2008	2	2	4	
INNO (2008): Zwischenevaluierung AplusB Gründerprogramm, Karlsruhe April 2008 (including INITS, Wien), im Auftrag bmvit	2008	2	2	4	http://www.bmvit.gv.at/innovation/strukturprogramme/downloadsstruktur/aplusbevaluierung.pdf
Convelop/IFIP (2008): Bewertung der Bedeutung von geförderten Unternehmen im Ziel-2-Programm Niederösterreich; im Auftrag NÖ Landesregierung	2008	2	3	3	
WIFO/Peneder, M. Schwarz, G. (2008), Venture Capital: Ergebnisse der Wirkungsanalyse für Österreich, in WIFO Monatsberichte 6/2008	2008	2	3	1	

Institution/Author, Title and date of completion	Year	Policy area and scope	Main objective and focus	Method used	Full reference or link to publication
WIFO / Mayrhofer, Peter et.al. (2008): Quantitative Effekte der EU-Regionalförderung in Österreich. Teil der ÖROK Publikation: EU-Kohäsionspolitik in Österreich 1995-2007 - Eine Bilanz, Materialienband, Wien 2009	2008	10	3	3	http://www.oerok.gv.at/eu-regionalpolitik/eu-strukturfonds-in-oesterreich-2007-2013/projekte/13-jahre-eu-kohaesionspolitik-in-oesterreich.html
CSIL/Joanneum Research/Technopolis Group (2009): Case study Styria, Work Package 4 "Structural Change and Globalisation", Prepared for the European Commission	2009	9	3	3+4	http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/evaluation/pdf/expost2006/wp4_cs_styria.pdf
4C foresee – Management Consulting GmbH Wien AUSTRIA/Clement, W. et al (2009): Cluster in Österreich-Bestandsaufnahme und Perspektiven; im Auftrag bmwfj	2009	2	2	4	http://www.clusterplattform.at/fileadmin/user_upload/studien/Endversion_Cluster_in_OEsterreich_-_Bestandsaufnahme_und_Perspektiven_080809.pdf
Ruland, G., Technisches Büro für Landschafts- und Freiraumplanung (2009): Pilotprojekt FußgängerInnenverkehr Vorher-Nachher-Untersuchung Elterleinplatz, im Auftrag der Magistratsabteilung 18	2009	7	3	4	
Economica/Helmenstein et al (2010): Umwegrentabilität von Technopolen in Niederösterreich; im Auftrag der ecoplus	2010	1	3	3	
IWI / Industriewissenschaftliches Institut (2010): Evaluierung des EU-Projektes Vienna IT Enterprises (VITE), verfasst von Herwig W. Schneider et al im Auftrag der Wirtschaftsagentur Wien	2010	2	2	4	
Pöckhacker Innovation Consulting (2010): Evaluierung des Themenbereichs „Forschung und Innovation“ in der Prioritätenachse 1 des Phasing Out-Programms Burgenland EFRE; im Auftrag der Regionalmanagement Burgenland GmbH	2010	2	2	4	
WIFO/Peneder, M. (2010), The impact of venture capital on innovation behaviour and firm growth, WIFO Working paper, No 363, April 2010	2010	2	3	1	http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=964954
WIFO (2010): Eine quantitative Evaluierung der regional-ökonomischen Auswirkungen der touristischen Leitprojekte im Burgenland, im Auftrag des Regionalmanagements Burgenland	2010	2	3	3	Findings published (not full report) http://www.bgld.gv.at/aktuell/2252
Convelop (2010): Wirkungsmonitoring „Regionale Wettbewerbsfähigkeit Steiermark 2007-2013“, im Auftrag Amt der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung	2010	9	2	4	
Henkel, Mitschele-Thiel, Stampfer (2011): Evaluierung der Lakeside Labs GmbH-Bericht des Evaluierungsteams, im Auftrag des KWF	2011	1	2	4	
Convelop (2011): Pilotevaluierung 4D für NÖ Süd - Wiener Neustadt, im Auftrag des Bundeskanzleramtes IV/4	2011	9	3	4	http://www.bka.gv.at/DocView.axd?CobId=46631
L&R Sozialforschung (2011): Evaluierung des Mingo Gründungscoachings verfasst von Andreas Riesenfelder und Susanne Schelepa im Auftrag der Wirtschaftsagentur Wien	2011	2	2	4	

Institution/Author, Title and date of completion	Year	Policy area and scope	Main objective and focus	Method used	Full reference or link to publication
Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH/Knoll, N. (2011): Endbericht zur internen Evaluierung von Förderungen nach dem Arbeitsmarktförderungsgesetz (AMFG), April 2011	2011	2	2	4	
IHS/Institute for advanced studies/Miess., M. et al (2011): Evaluierung der regionalen Beschäftigungs- u. Wachstumsoffensive 2005/2006 / Teil Zuschüsse gemäß Arbeitsmarktförderungsgesetz im Rahmen der unternehmenbezogenen Arbeitsmarktförderung, im Auftrag BMWFJ	2011	2	3	3	not adopted and not accessible
ÖAR, RIMAS (2011): Programmübergreifende Evaluierung der EFRE-kofinanzierten Umweltmaßnahmen der Kommunalkredit Public Consulting; im Auftrag der ÖROK	2011	5	2	4	Published by ÖROK
BMLFUW/Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft (September 2011): Evaluierung der Umweltförderung des Bundes 2008 – 2010, korrigierte Auflage	2011	5	2	4	Published by BMLFUW
Hummelbrunner, R. et al (Juni 2011): 15 Jahre INTERREG / ETZ in Österreich: Rückschau und Ausblick, im Auftrag der ÖROK	2011	9	2	4	http://www.oerok.gv.at/eu-regionalpolitik/eu-strukturfonds-in-oesterreich-2007-2013/projekte/15-jahre-interregetz-in-oesterreich.html
Convelop (2011): Interne Reflexion des RWB Programmes Niederösterreich; im Auftrag NÖ Landesregierung, Februar 2011	2011	9	2	4	
Kairos (2011): Zwischenevaluierung des Operationellen Programmes Regionale Wettbewerbsfähigkeit Vorarlberg; im Auftrag der Vorarlberger Landesregierung	2011	9	2	4	
Abt. 14-Wirtschaft und Innovation (2011): Zwischenbewertung regionale Wettbewerbsfähigkeit Steiermark 2007-2013, interne Evaluierung	2011	9	2	4	
ZSI, ÖAR (Dezember 2011): SYN.AT-Koordination, Kooperation und Synergienutzung zwischen ESF, EFRE und ELER in Österreich, Bundesministerium für Arbeit, Soziales und Konsumentenschutz (BMASK)	2011	10	2	4	http://www.esf.at/esf/wp-content/uploads/SYN.AT-Bericht.pdf
KMU Forschung Austria (Jährlich): FFG Wirkungsmonitoring (der rund 4 Jahre vorher abgeschlossenen Projekte), im Auftrag FFG	2012	1	3	4	http://www.ffg.at/content/evaluierung-der-foerderung
IHS/Institute for advanced studies/ Bliem, M. et al (2012): Regionalwirtschaftliche Effekte von industriellen Großbetrieben ("Leitbetriebe"), im Auftrag des KWF-Kärnter Wirtschaftsförderungsfonds	2012	2	3	3	
Metis (2012): Zwischenevaluierung des Programms RWB Wien 2007-2013, im Auftrag MA 27	2012	9	2	4	
Kairos (June 2012): ProjektDialog as an Impact Analysis and Monitoring Tool (based on the Mid term evaluation of the RC programme Vorarlberg 2011)	2012	9	2	4	Not published (DG Regio has received a copy)

Institution/Author, Title and date of completion	Year	Policy area and scope	Main objective and focus	Method used	Full reference or link to publication
Joanneum Research (November 2012): Strategische Beurteilung der Förderkooperation FFG-Land Oberösterreich, im Auftrag Amt der OÖ Landesregierung, Abteilung Wirtschaft, Resarch Report Series 184/2012	2012	1	3	3+4	http://www.ffg.at/sites/default/files/downloads/page/foerderungskooperation_land_ooe_ffg_strat_beurteilung_ir_policies.pdf
Metis, Consulting Associates (December 2012): External support for the Evaluation of the Programme for Cross-Border Cooperation Slovakia – Austria 2007 – 2013, Commissioned by SK-AT Joint Technical Secretariat Schlesingerplatz 2-4, 1080 Vienna	2012	9	2	4	Internal, not published
Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH/Knoll, N. (2013): AWS Wirkungsmonitoring 2013	2013	2	3	3+4	Internal, not published
Economica (Jänner 2013): Ökonomische Wirkungslinien der niederösterreichischen Technologie- und InnovationsPartner (TIP), Studie im Auftrag der Wirtschaftskammer Niederösterreich, not published	2013	2	3	1+3	
KMU Forschung Austria (Februar 2013): FFG Wirkungsmonitoring 2012 (der im Jahr 2008 abgeschlossenen Projekte)	2013	1	3	4	http://www.ffg.at/sites/default/files/downloads/page/ffg_wirkungsmonitoring_2012_final.pdf
NÖ Landesregierung/ WST3, Economica, Ideum (Mai 2013): Effekte und Auswirkungseffizienz von Förderprogrammen für KMU des Landes Niederösterreich. A case study in the framework of the ETC project OS AIS – Observatory on State Aid Impact. www.osais.eu	2013	1+2	3	3+4	Not yet published
Convelop (June 2013): Case Study Burgenland (Austria), part of Evaluation of the main achievements of cohesion policy programmes and projects over the longer term in 15 selected regions (from 1989-1993 programming period to the present); on behalf of DG Regio	2013	9	3	3+4	Not yet published
Tirol (2013 finalized): Evaluierung der Wirtschaftsförderungsmaßnahmen	2013	2			Not published and not accessible
Steiermark (2013, not yet finalized): Evaluierung der Innovations- und F&E-Förderung in der Steiermark	2013	1			Not yet finalized
bmwfj / Prof. A. Stomper et al (2013): Evaluierung der Richtlinien für die Tourismusförderung des Bundes 2011-2013	2013	2	3	1	http://amor.cms.huberlin.de/~stompera/consulting/toureeval.pdf

Source: Metis, Convelop, Note: (*) Legend:

Policy area and scope: 1. RTDI; 2. Enterprise support and ICT; 3. Human Resources (ERDF only); 4. Transport; 5. Environment; 6. Energy; 7. Territorial development (urban areas, tourism, rural development, cultural heritage, health, public security, local development); 8. Capacity and institution building; 9. Multi-area (e.g. evaluations of programmes, mid-term evaluations); 10. Transversal aspects (e.g. gender or equal opportunities, sustainable development, employment)

Main objective and focus: 1. assess the arrangements and procedures for managing or administering programmes; 2. support monitoring, or check the progress made in implementing programmes, such as many mid-term evaluations; 3. assess the outcome or effects of programmes in terms of the results achieved and their contribution to attaining socio-economic policy objectives

Method used: 1. Counterfactual; 2. Cost-benefit analysis; 3. Other quantitative; 4. Qualitative.

Annex Table F - Achievements per CBC programme based on selected indicators

	Priority 1: Innovation, Competitiveness		Priority 2: Sustainable Development	
OP	Indicator, Value achieved end of 2012 (2011)		Indicator, Value achieved end of 2012 (2011)	
AT-Bay	No. of projects to support clusters and networks	53 (36)	No. of projects for joint improvement of the environment	31 (21)
	No. of projects which focus on innovation and new markets	46 (30)	No. of cooperation projects between public bodies	62 (46)
	No. of projects to network SMEs and research bodies	41 (26)	No. of projects to improve accessibility	20 (14)
	No. of projects related to education and qualification	28 (21)	No. of projects related to renewables	18 (11)
	No. of projects related to tourism	41 (29)	No. of projects related to risk prevention	23 (20)
AT-HU	No. of projects related to leisure, tourism	8 (8)	No. of projects related to risk prevention	4 (4)
	No. of projects related to research and technology	6 (5)	No. of projects related to biosphere management	2 (2)
	No. of projects related to human resource management	5 (4)	No. of projects related to renewables and EE	6 (6)
	No. of permanent networks established	15 (14)	No. of permanent networks established	11(9)
AT-SK	No. of organisations participating in RDTI	92 (65)	No. of transport studies	8 (8)
	No. of services for SMEs introduced	45 (30)	No. of transport investment projects	1 (1)
	No. of visitors of tourism destinations p.a.	1,358,500 (345,500)	No. of municipalities involved in cooperation for better regional governance	129 (69)
	No. of organisations benefiting from education & training	261 (261)	Total nature areas covered by common management initiatives (sq.m.)	2,884 (2,884)
	No. of person benefiting from improved health & social services	1,500 (1,500)	No. of activities improving the joint protection and management of the environment	45 (45)
AT-CZ	No. of projects related to clusters, networks	11 (9)	No. of projects improving the accessibility	25 (21)
	No. of projects with innovative, technology oriented approach	5 (5)	No. of projects related to joint protection of nature/environment	9 (8)
	No. of projects related to tourism	32 (28)	No. of projects related to risk prevention	10 (9)
	No. of projects related to education & qualification	21 (18)	No. of projects developing collaboration in public services	1 (1)
	No. of projects related to health and social integration	12 (8)	No. of people to people actions	3 (3)

Source: AIRs 2012, only selected indicators are presented in the table.