

**EXPERT EVALUATION NETWORK
DELIVERING POLICY ANALYSIS ON THE
PERFORMANCE OF COHESION POLICY 2007–2013
YEAR 1 – 2011**

**TASK 2: COUNTRY REPORT ON ACHIEVEMENTS OF
COHESION POLICY**

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

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- AIR Annual Implementation Report
- CBC Cross-Border-Cooperation
- C&RCE Convergence and Regional Competitiveness and Employment programmes
- ERDF European Regional Development Fund
- EE Energy Efficiency
- EEN Expert Evaluation Network
- ESF European Social Fund
- ETC European Territorial Cooperation
- EU-code Categories of Expenditures according to Annex II of the Implementation Regulation 1828/2006
- FFG Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft mbH
- FOI Fields of Intervention of Structural Funds
- KPC Kommunalkredit Public Consulting
- OP Operational Programme
- ÖROK Austrian Conference of Spatial Planning
- RES Renewable Energy Sources
- RTDI Research, Technological Development, Innovation

Other terms:

- Bundesländer (Länder): Federal provinces in Austria, corresponding to NUTS-2 level
- Bund: Central Government
- Local governments: Municipalities in Austria

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The **economic framework conditions** in Austria have improved considerably in the year 2010 compared to 2009 contributing to an increase in the number of applications in the Convergence (phasing-out Burgenland) and Regional Competitiveness and Employment (all other Bundesländer incl. Vienna) programmes (C&RCE). The conditions for implementing of the C&RCE programmes improved considerably in all federal states. The effects of fiscal consolidation have not yet affected the implementation of the programmes.
2. **C&RCE programmes** in Austria are focused mainly on the “enterprise environment” which accounts for 81% of total ERDF financing (EUR 552 million). The ERDF increases the scope for investment particularly in a regional innovation policy, which is an important aspect for future economic development and competitiveness. This main focus remains unchanged in the nine programmes. However, there are significant changes in the mix of measures through which the priority is delivered. For instance, funding for R&D projects has been reduced by 26% while investment in tourism as well as other investment in companies was increased considerably (+25%). These programme revisions have not, however, altered the high share of Lisbon relevant activities in Austrian programmes.
3. In contrast to C&RCE programmes, the **CBC programmes** represent the only types of programme supported by the ERDF in Austria which still follow a broad regional development approach. In this manner, “Territorial development” amounts for 24% of total ERDF funds allocated while “Enterprise environment” accounts for only 18%. The original funding allocation to the programmes has not yet been changed because the broadly based programmes offer great flexibility in implementation.
4. By July 2011, in all nine Austrian **C&RCE programmes** 22.5% of ERDF (EUR 152.8 million) was spent and 56% (EUR 382.2 million) was committed. The implementation of the programmes accelerated considerably in 2010 and in the first half of 2011. Compared to the end of 2009 (9% spent and 34% committed), a rise in expenditures of +13.5 percentage points and in commitments of +22 percentage points was achieved. However, the overall level of implementation is below the original expectations but still above the EU-27 average.
5. Regarding the progress in **CBC programmes**, by May 2011 approvals for projects are already well advanced. In total, 65% of allocated ERDF contributions are committed (EUR 194 million of EUR 297 million allocated). Commitments rose by +15 percentage points compared to the end of 2009 (50%). Unlike commitments, however, expenditure in most programmes is still at a very low level (4% to 18%).
6. The **contribution of the C&RCE programmes** to regional development is generally expressed in terms of the investments realized up to now (EUR 1.2 billion), whereby structurally weak rural areas benefit the most (absorbing around 64% of investments). The support for the regional innovation capacity is validated through the participation of a significant number of

companies in technology transfer (about 2,000¹) and the creation of new R&D jobs (about 112). The support for the upgrade of regional tourism sector is indicated through new high quality beds created (about 2,700). Support for regional energy policy which is based on renewable energies and energy efficiency measures is shown by the additional capacity of renewable energy production (plus 100MW) and the reduction of greenhouse gases (134 kt). As a result, more than 2,000 new jobs were created. Compared to the result at the end of 2009, a substantial increase of 400 % can be noted (500 new jobs at the end of 2009 compared to 2,043 new jobs in mid 2011).

7. The **contribution of ETC programmes** to cross border development (4 programmes are considered) can be expressed in terms of outputs: 133 projects are currently contributing to Innovation and Competitiveness and 125 contribute to Sustainable Development. At present, however, very few result indicators are available.
8. About 13 **evaluations** (mainly of projects of the 2000–2006 period) are related to the broad range of funding measures applied in the C&RCE programmes to support the main priority Enterprise Environment; 1 recent evaluation is related to Energy policy. Another recently published evaluation addresses the achievements of 15 years INTERREG/ETC. Hardly any evaluation was carried out in the field of Territorial Development, though many good project examples are presented in AIRs.
9. In **evaluation**, Managing Authorities and Implementing Bodies (agencies) usually conduct pragmatic, operative reflections of the programmes' progress, for their own use and not meant for publication (2 recent evaluations have been identified). Classical evaluations of ERDF programmes, going beyond a purely internal assessment, are being conducted at present mainly by the ÖROK (2 reports have been published recently). Furthermore, the Länder conduct evaluations of national measures (such as the technopol programme in Niederösterreich) in the process of the new orientation of economic development strategies. The ERDF is not directly addressed but some activities were part-funded by the ERDF.
10. Despite overall positive effects of ERDF programmes in Austria, serious **threats** can be noted. With every successive programming period, the impression is that the burden and costs of administrative implementation to utilize the available ERDF funds rise (e.g. through the highly elaborated new management & control system introduced in 2007), and it is increasingly difficult to use all the ERDF funding available (despite the small volume in Austria). Accordingly, the pressure has increased to apply more standardized funding measures and avoid emerging and experimental instruments which would, however, be necessary for modern regional innovation policy. Therefore ERDF programmes increasingly lose their character as "impetus programmes" and end up as very pragmatic financial instruments which are integrated in the existing funding system using the lowest possible effort.

¹ Data base: ERDF monitoring, status July 2011, author's calculations

1. THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT

In last year's country report (2010), the main features of the socio-economic situation and the nature and scale of regional disparities in Austria were described as follows.

- The primary reference unit for regional policy in Austria consists of the nine Bundesländer which are fully operational territorial systems with their own regional development strategies, albeit closely coordinated with central government.
- Compared to the EU-27 average, GDP per head in the Bundesländer is high with the exception of Burgenland and regional disparities are relatively small and continue to decrease. The weakest region, Burgenland has continuously improved its position.
- The disparities of the Austrian spatial and economic structure are more evident at the NUTS-3 level than at the Bundesländer level (NUTS-2) with dynamic areas on the one hand and structurally weak peripheral regions on the other. Hence, special attention should be paid to territorial effects for specific types of areas.
- A further challenge for regional development in Austria is related to the importance of border regions. The rapid development of Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovenia and their growing economic integration is a particular development challenge for the Austrian border areas.
- The global economic crisis hit Austria slightly less than the EU-27 as a whole. However specific sectors and some Bundesländer suffered considerably. Job losses and increasing unemployment were noted in the Bundesländer with a strong industrial base (i.e. Oberösterreich, Steiermark) but also in the economically weaker regions such as Burgenland and Kärnten.
- Since industries producing exports are the main target of the Convergence and Regional Competitiveness programmes, the postponement and reduction of planned investment led to reduced project applications and hence a slow-down in programme expenditure. The tourism sector on the other hand was less affected and played a stabilizing role in maintaining the demand for funding in programmes.
- Budgetary consolidation poses a particular risk to investment in regional development. Public budgets are exposed to pressure because of measures introduced to offset the impact of the economic crisis, declining revenue and long term structural problems (like rapidly growing healthcare and pension expenditure).

Changes in the macro-economic context

The economic framework conditions in Austria have improved considerably in the year 2010 compared to 2009. There has been a **turnaround** regarding GDP growth (2009: -3.4%; 2010: +2.1%), Gross fixed investment (2009: -7.8%; 2010: -0.9%) and exports (2009: -15.6%; 2010: +10.3%)². The labour market recovered quickly from the 2008/2009 economic crisis with

² Source: Österreichische Nationalbank, Konjunktur aktuell, Juni 2011, p. 14

employment growing robustly and the unemployment rate falling to 4.2% in late 2010, compared with the crisis peak of 5.1%³. The outlook for 2011/2012, however, indicates a significant **slowdown** in macro economic development (e.g. due to consolidation efforts).

The improved economic framework conditions in the year 2010 led to stronger investments in enterprises which have contributed to an increase in the number of applications in the Convergence and Regional Competitiveness and Employment programmes (C&RCE). The conditions for implementing of the C&RCE programme **improved considerably in all federal states** (according to statements in the AIRs).

Employment in all federal states increased in 2010 compared to 2009 (on average +0.6%) with the exception of Vienna and the unemployment rate declined in all federal states (on average from 7.2% in 2009 to 6.9% in 2010)⁴ as well. The overall rate of recovery is good although the Bundesländer are recovering at different rates. The export-oriented states (Vorarlberg, Steiermark, Oberösterreich)⁵ have had a particularly good rate of recovery whereas Niederösterreich and Kärnten are experiencing slower recovery.

The public finances available for R&D support increased considerably in the period from 2000 to 2008 (by 8.5% per year at federal level and 4.5% per year in the Bundesländer). In the course of the economic crisis and its aftermath, public expenditure for R&D declined. However, it still shows a **positive growth rate** at federal and Länder level (2010/2011 by 5% per year and 1% per year respectively).⁶

Overall, in the intervention fields, which are mainly covered by the ERDF in Austria (enterprise environment, R&D, innovation) **a reduction but no substantial lack** of public finances at central and regional government level can be noted at the time of writing. The effects of fiscal consolidation have not yet affected C&RCE programmes. On the contrary, national agencies (FFG, and to some extent also KPC) avoid ERDF co-financing whenever possible and rely on national means.

Changes in regional disparities (based on types of area)

A persistent pattern of dynamic, prosperous regions and structurally weak ones remains generally unaltered over the years in Austria. According to the latest data, employment increased by 16% in agglomerations and only by 11% in structurally weak rural areas in the period between 1995 and 2008. However, a significant widening of the gap **cannot be observed** up until now. This can be demonstrated by trends in employment. Comparing the two periods from 1995 to 2001 and 2002 to 2008⁷ the **growth gap** between structurally weak rural areas and agglomerations **remains the same** (difference 0.4 percentage points AAGR). Structurally

³ OECD Economic Surveys Austria, July 2011, p. 4

⁴ Source: AMS Österreich, Arbeitsmarktdaten

⁵ Wifo, Die Wirtschaft in den Bundesländern; I. Quartal 2011

⁶ BMWF, BMVIT, BMWFJ (2001), Österreichischer Forschungs- und Technologiebericht 2011; p. 17f

⁷ More recent data at regional level are not available at present.

strong rural areas even had the same growth rates as agglomerations in the 2002 to 2008 period. In this period, the structurally stronger rural areas caught up with the dynamic of agglomerations.

It can therefore be concluded that the policy of stabilizing rural areas and the development of growth poles in suitable locations **has worked to date** (in future, the serious effects of demographic change may alter this pattern). To what extent the types of areas (agglomerations, rural areas, etc.) have been affected by the crisis and recession since 2008 cannot be assessed because recent regionalised data (at NUTS-3 level) are missing.

Table A –Change in employment per type of area in different periods

Types of area (aggregation of NUTS-3 regions)	Employed persons 2008	Change in employed persons in % 95/08	Growth rate 95-01 in %	Growth rate 02-08 in %
Agglomerations	2,328,100	16.0	1.2	1.3
Rural areas – structurally weak	1,212,500	11.3	0.8	0.9
Rural areas – structurally strong	711,700	14.6	1.1	1.3
Not-categorised	800			
Total Austria	4,253,100	14.4	1.1	1.2

Source: Statistik Austria (Erwerbstätige nach Wirtschaftssektoren und NUTS 3-Regionen), author's calculation.

2. THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY PURSUED, THE EU CONTRIBUTION TO THIS AND POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PERIOD

THE ERDF CONTRIBUTION TO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The main points made in the 2010 country report are:

- The ERDF in Austria co-finances one Convergence (Phasing-out) Programme (13% of total ERDF financial support), eight RCE Programmes (60%) and 13 Territorial Cooperation Programmes under different strands (27%), amounting to a total of EUR 937 million (indicative figure for the 2007–2013 period).⁸
- These programmes are implemented through measures operated by either central or regional agencies and are fully incorporated into the existing support system.
- Overall, ERDF programmes are targeted only at a small part of overall Regional Development Policy in Austria. They represent only around 2% of total public investment (in the 2000–2006 period by all levels of Government)⁹. Though, the significance of the ERDF is certainly higher in **specific niche sectors** of the **regional business support**.

⁸Allocated ERDF funds according ÖROK (2009), EU-Kohäsionspolitik in Österreich 1995–2007, table 2, p. 17: Convergence: EUR 125.03 million, Regional Competitiveness EUR 555.04 million, ETC EUR 256.66 million (Austrian part).

- The significance of the regional and local government level in public investments in development is very high in Austria and was further strengthened by the regional ERDF programmes. Moreover, in the Austrian context of fragmented competencies due to the federal system, the ERDF programmes offer a **platform for better cooperation** between national and regional actors and contribute to “cooperative federalism”.

The findings of the 2010 country report are still valid. In individual AIRs for the year 2010 presented in June 2011 the Managing Authorities (regional bodies) try to clarify the role of the ERDF in the regional context. This is in particular valid for Kärnten, where the contribution of the ERDF in quantitative terms is discussed. The ERDF increases the scope for investment particularly in a regional innovation policy, which is an important aspect for future economic development and competitiveness. The Länder, therefore, have a high level of interest in receiving ERDF funds (if they can be managed with proportional effort).

Significance of the RCE programmes in Kärnten

The annual funds invested by the RCE programme of approximately EUR 11.8 million account for approximately 16% of total business support funding in Kärnten (approximately EUR 83.4 million per year). For the regional funding agency KWF, the RCE funds are of even greater significance and account for approximately 28% of the available funding budget. The contribution of the RCE programme at regional level is therefore substantial and would allow courageous, ground-breaking projects in Kärnten. However, the funding through the RCE programme is restricted to classic large scale investment projects to increase capacity and optimise. Other activities such as innovation support and networking or research projects are mainly supported through the national funding mechanisms because the administrative requirements of the Structural Funds are too complicated in comparison to the national ones. The latter can be drawn down more efficiently (*as long as such national funding exists of course*).

Source: Summary from Annual Progress Report Kärnten 2010, p. 10–11, *author's comment*

Main priorities in Convergence and Regional Competitiveness Programmes

The main findings of the last year's country report were the following:

- The most important priority of C&RCE 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, technology transfer), which accounts for **81% of total ERDF financing** (EUR 552 million).
- Besides enterprise support, support for **supplementary aspects** such as the development of human resources, transport, the environment and energy and territorial development accounts for only **16% of the total ERDF allocation** (EUR 109 million).

Here it should be added, that the nature of support for the prior policy field enterprise environment is mainly focused on **traditional instruments** – which are feasible to be administrated under the Structural Funds – to provide investment incentives and support to infrastructure development by means of non repayable grants. This is the instrument requiring the lowest administrative effort and which can be standardized more easily. In comparison, the management of guarantees runs over quite a long period of time (6–12 years) and requires an

exact check of the enterprises (Knoll / aws 2011). Guarantees are at present managed by national funds only.

Shifts in the priorities, main reasons

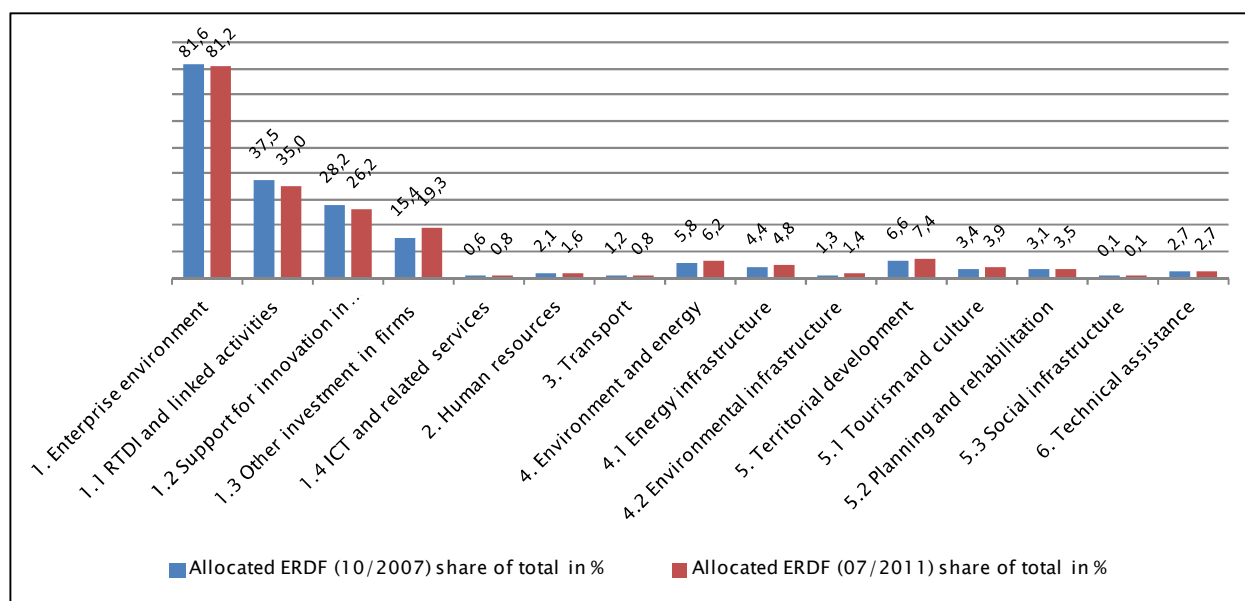
Taking into account the latest modifications of the allocation¹⁰ per field of intervention (status July 2011 compared to original allocation in 2007) the general trends – looking at the nine C&RCE programmes together – are the following:

- ERDF support for the main priority **Enterprise environment** remains unchanged in the nine C&RCE programmes (2007: EUR 555 million 2011: EUR 552 million). However, there are significant changes in the mix of measures through which the priority is delivered. The most relevant are (i) funding for R&D projects for SMEs has been reduced by 26% due to the very selective approach adopted by the central government agency FFG in order to minimise risk; (ii) investment in tourism as well as other investment in companies was increased considerably (+25%) because of the opportunities for additional funding projects stemming from the stable growth of the sector; (iii) the creation of a regional Seed Capital Fund was removed from a programme (Wien) because it was not possible to set it up while Funds in other programmes are experiencing considerable delays (Oberösterreich, Burgenland, Kärnten). By far the largest category of expenditure in the C&RCE programmes: Innovative Investments in enterprises, accounting for EUR 120 million ERDF funding and mainly managed by the central agency aws/erp-funds, has remained stable – in spite of the economic crisis.
- The minor ERDF policy field **Human resource development** (ESF not included), in particular for labour market policies, was considerably reduced by 25% (from EUR 14 million to EUR 10 million) mainly due to administrative problems with the complex cross financing. Support for qualification measures is being partly funded on a national basis without EU co-funding (see AIR 2010 Tirol p. 27).
- The very small policy field **Transport** was reduced by 32% (from EUR 8.3 million to EUR 5.7 million) because projects were taken out of some programmes due to implementation problems as such projects proved too complex to be implemented within a limited programme period.
- Support for **Environment and energy** and for **Territorial development** has been increased (by 8–12%) because there is a consistent demand in these fields (Environment and energy from EUR 39.3 million to 42.5 million and Territorial Development from EUR 44.9 million to 50.7 million).

The change in financial allocation by policy area is shown in the following figure (detailed financial figures are represented in the Annex).

¹⁰ Internal allocation based on Categories of Expenditures (EU-codes)

Figure 1 – Change in allocated ERDF per policy area 2007/2011 for C&RCE programmes, in % of total



Source: ÖROK, author's calculations; classification of policy areas according to Applica

Overall, the modifications in the allocation represent a continuous optimisation of the mix of measures without any changes in the basic priorities of the Austrian C&RCE programmes with their focus on enterprise environment. Regarding the mix of funding instruments used, a reduction in co-funding from the federal level (FFG) and a stronger co-funding from the *Länder* level can be observed, i.e. the regional funding mechanisms are being used more.

The modifications were not so much due to the economic crisis and the consequences of fiscal consolidation following the economic downturn but rather the result of administrative conditions and management decisions.

It has to be noted that the programme revisions have not altered the high share of activities relevant to the Lisbon goals in Austrian programmes ("Earmarking"). Currently, given the latest data on implementation, **90%** of commitments go to such projects, i.e. even more projects than planned can be classified as relevant to the Lisbon goals.

Main priorities in ETC cross-border programmes

In the 2010 country report it is outlined that:

- Cross-border cooperation (CBC) plays a significant role in most Austrian regions. The main recipients of EU funding are regions bordering EU-12 countries.
- The four CBC programmes (out of 7 CBC programmes), which are considered, provide EUR 297.3 million of ERDF financing for cross-border regional development. The biggest programmes in terms of funding are Austria-Czech Republic, Austria-Hungary

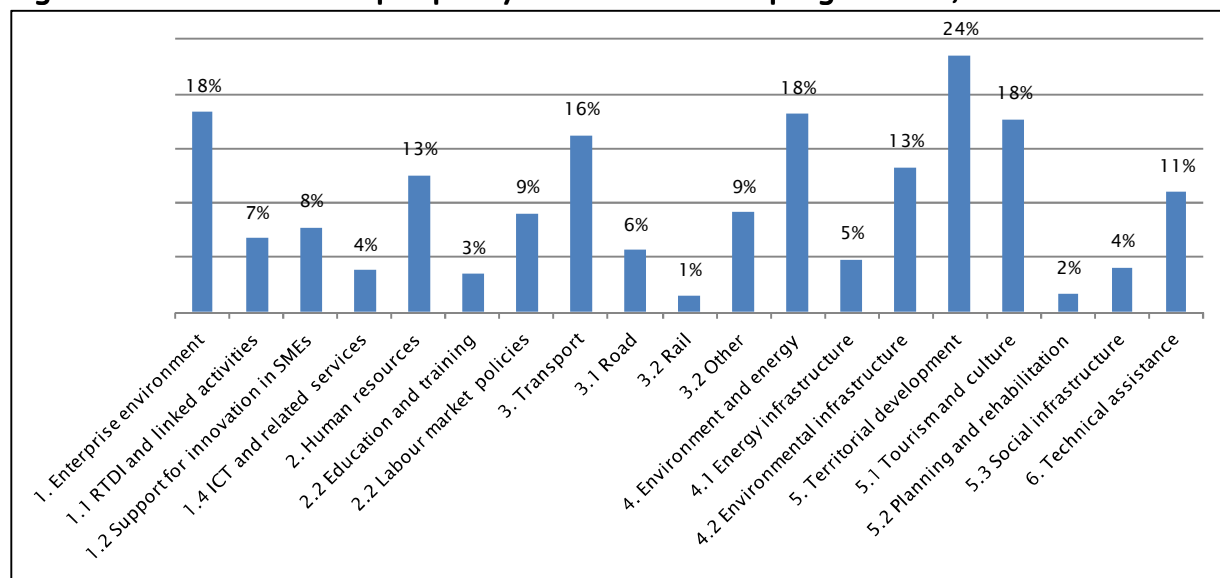
and Austria–Slovakia, accounting for 76% of the total ERDF allocated under this Objective¹¹.

- Funding goes to a wide range of policy areas: Enterprise environment (18% of the total allocation), Human resources (13%), Transport (16%) the Environment and energy (18%), Territorial development (24%) and Technical assistance (11%).

It should be emphasised that ETC programmes represent the **only** types of programme supported by the ERDF in Austria which still follow a broad regional development approach covering a wide range of measures. The C&RCE programmes are very much restricted to “enterprise environment”. However, the scope of cross border cooperation projects is very specific since CBC projects are mainly not considered relevant from the point of view of the competition rules (enterprises are mainly the target group of the C&RCE programmes).

The original funding allocation to the programmes – as outlined in the following figure – has not yet been changed.

Figure 2 –Allocated ERDF per policy area of four CBC programmes, in % of total



Source: ERDF monitoring, author's calculations; classification of policy areas according to Applica

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Convergence and Regional Competitiveness Programmes

The main findings of the 2010 country report are:

- Regarding policy implementation, in the nine Austrian Convergence and RCE programmes, 9% of ERDF was spent at the end of 2009 (15% by October 2010) and 34%

¹¹ CBC programmes with Managing Authorities located in Austria are considered. This applies for the Austria–Czech Republic, Slovakia–Austria, Germany/Bayern–Austria, and Austria–Hungary programme. The other three CBC programmes with Italy, Slovenia and ABH are covered by the Country Reports where the Managing Authority is located.

was committed at the end of 2009 (43% at October 2010). At the end of 2009 about 900 projects were implemented under the Convergence and Regional Competitiveness objective (including numerous training projects).

- The 2009 Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs) emphasized the fact that the implementation of programmes has been slower than expected due to administrative reasons and the effects of the global crisis, which affected some areas of intervention (in particular, R&D projects by SMEs).

At present, in the nine Austrian Convergence and RCE programmes, **22.5%** of ERDF (EUR 152.8 million) was spent by July 2011 and **56%** (EUR 382.2 million) was committed.

Compared to the end of 2009 (9% spent and 34% committed), a rise in expenditures of **+13.5** percentage points and in commitments of **+22** percentage points was achieved.

The implementation of the programmes accelerated considerably in 2010 and in the first half of 2011 whereby the overall level of implementation after 4.5 years (approximately 60% of the programme period) is **below the original expectations**.

The main reasons for this were the delays at the start of the programme. These were caused on the one hand by the fact that in 2007–2008, two programmes were running in parallel and, on the other, the management and control system took at least one year to get up and running. In addition, the economic crisis in the year 2009 brought about a reduction in investments in enterprises and in the demand for funding (fewer requests for funding). Part of the lack of progress in implementation can also be ascribed to the (part) withdrawal of the central agency FFG out of the Structural Funds.

In the year 2010, the number of requests for funding began to rise again.

Regarding the supply of national funds which are necessary for programme implementation, no major problems were reported to date.

With respect to fields of intervention supported under C&RCE programmes, the detailed figures reveal the following picture of financial performance (see figure 3):

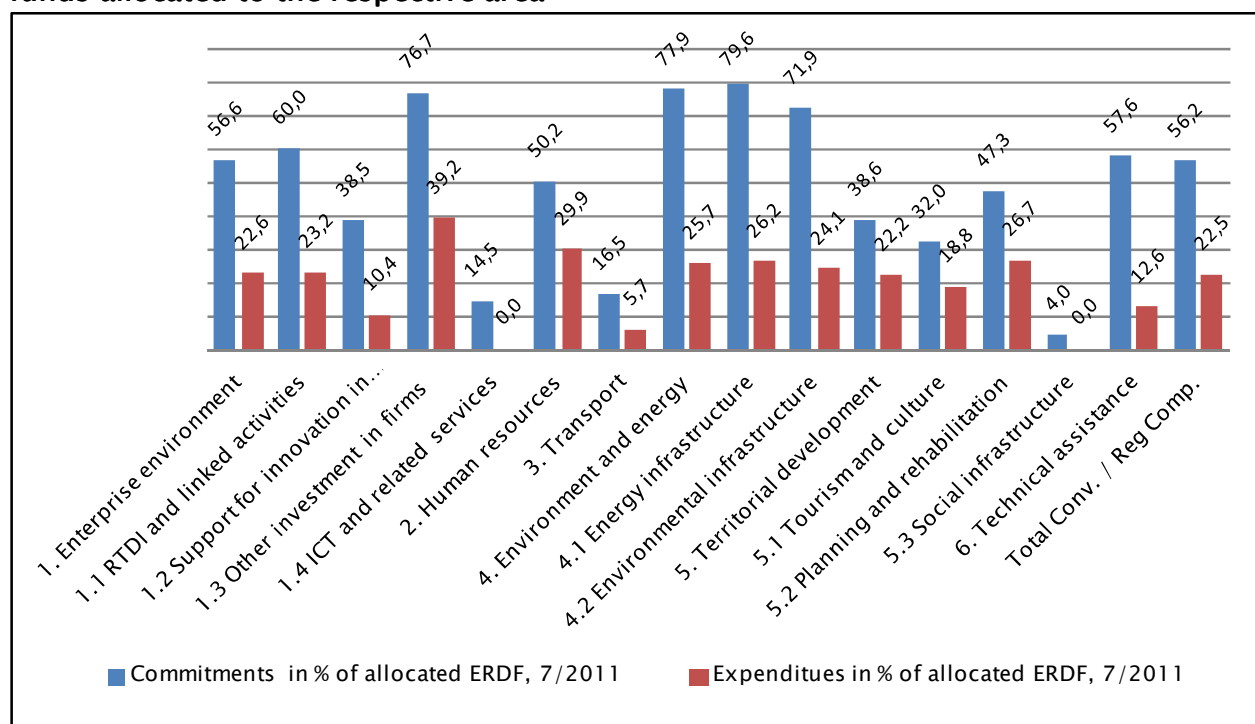
High performers in financial absorption are:

- RTDI and linked activities (60% ERDF finances committed): Länder Governments provide considerably more public money to safeguard and expand existing initiatives and infrastructure.
- Investments in companies related to tourism (77% ERDF finances committed): In tourism, investments have remained at a consistently high level.
- Environment and energy (78% ERDF finances committed).

Low performers in financial absorption are:

- Support for R&D and Eco-Innovation (38.5% ERDF finances committed) due to a “play safe approach” adopted by the central government agencies FFG and KPC so as to minimise risk.
- Transport (16.5% ERDF finances committed) due to long project preparation phase.
- Territorial development (38.6% ERDF finances committed): Many projects were only fully started in 2009 and therefore the intervention is delayed.

Figure 3 –Commitments and expenditures per policy area for C&RCE Objective, in % of funds allocated to the respective area



Source: ERDF monitoring, author's calculations; classification of policy areas according to Applica

The AIRs for 2010 emphasize the fact that overall implementation has been **below expectations** to date due to administrative reasons and the impact of the global crisis on the Austrian economy – except for certain interventions such as RTDI activities in research centres, RTDI infrastructure, technology transfer and investment in tourism.

The programmes which face the greatest challenge to absorb all the funds are Kärnten, Tirol and Burgenland which show at present a commitment rate below the average.

Spatial pattern of investments through C&RCE programmes

At present, the project costs generated through participation in the ERDF amount to EUR 3 billion in total (cost of the committed projects). The investments are spread across the following types of area¹²

- Agglomerations: 17% of project costs (EUR 500 million)
- Rural areas – mainly structurally weak: 64% of projects costs (EUR 1.9 billion)
- Rural areas – mainly structurally strong: 17% of projects costs (EUR 499 million)
- “Not-categorised” areas: 3% of projects costs (EUR 75 million)

The abolishment of the Eligible Areas 2000–2006 (*Fördergebietskulisse*) in the current programme period did not discriminate structurally weak rural areas against agglomerations. The high participation of structurally weak rural areas shows that the mix of measures allows a broad innovation approach 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. A “high tech bias” which would only benefit knowledge intensive urban agglomerations is not recognisable in the implementation of the C&RCE programmes. To encourage regional innovation in Austria more traditional policy instruments are applied in C&RCE programmes. At the same time, accompanying support measures such as innovation managers and innovation advisors are provided in order to facilitate access to established funding mechanisms.

ETC – Cross border programmes

The main findings of the 2010 country report are:

- In the CBC programmes, which have been examined, hardly any payments had been made up until the end of 2009 except for Technical Assistance. This means projects were still in an early phase of implementation.
- By contrast, the projects approved up to end-2009 now amounted on average to 50% of the ERDF finance allocated. In terms of commitments, progress in most policy areas was relatively good, though in Transport and Enterprise/ Innovation support it was on average slightly delayed.

At present, in the four CBC programmes, project approvals are already well advanced. In total, **65%** of allocated ERDF finances are committed (EUR 194 million of EUR 297 million allocated, status May 2011).

In comparison to the figures for the end of 2009 (50%), commitments rose by **+15 percentage points**.

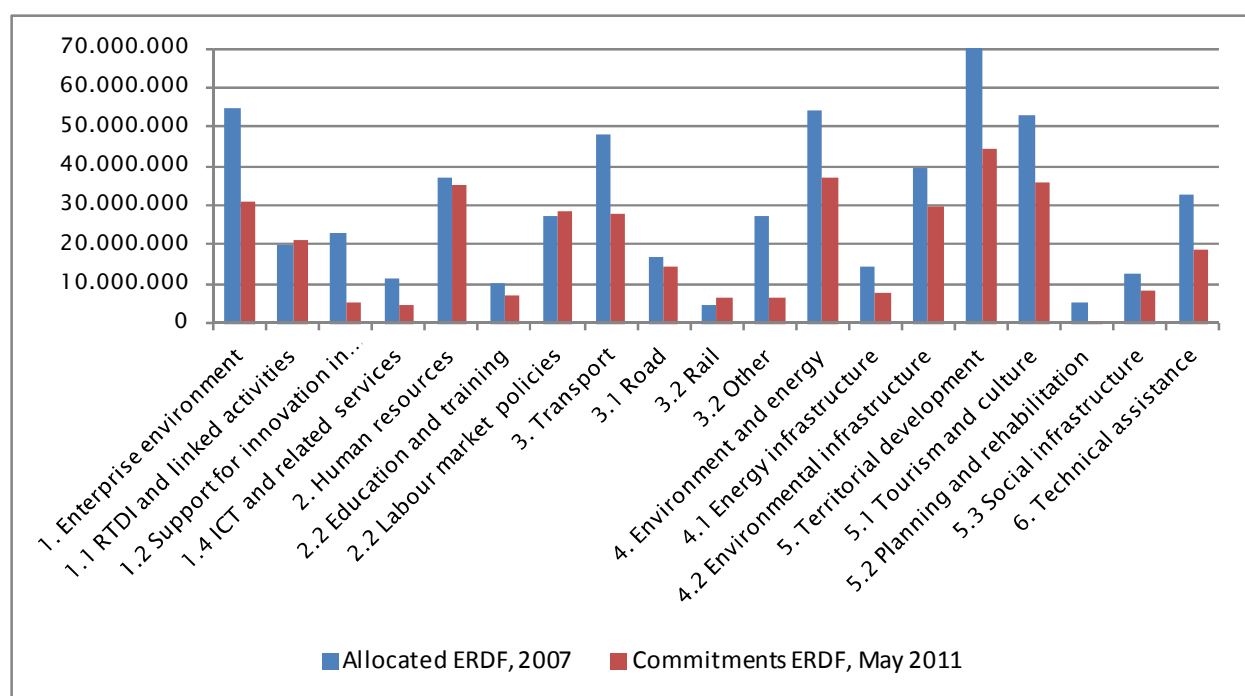
¹² Calculation on basis of NUTS3 regions

Commitments are relatively high in most policy areas. The only intervention areas which are delayed are Support for innovation in SMEs (22% commitments) and Planning and rehabilitation (5%). Company and innovation-related themes appear to be difficult to implement in the framework of the CBC programmes.

Unlike commitments, however, expenditures in most programmes are still at a very low level (AT-HU: 4%, AT-SK: 8%, AT-CZ: 11%, and AT-BAY: 18%).

While the progress made in terms of commitments seems satisfactory, current experience indicates that successful implementation (real payments) might be one of the main challenges because of the complexity of administrative, legislative and financial procedures inherent in cross-border projects and the differences in culture¹³.

Figure 4 – Allocated and committed ERDF funds per policy area as a total of four ETC cross border programmes



Source: ERDF monitoring, author's calculations; classification of policy areas according to Applica

¹³ STRAT.AT Report 2009, p.29

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROGRAMMES SO FAR

C&RCE programmes

The main programme outcomes indicated in the 2010 country report are:

- For most of the interventions which are co-funded by the ERDF, evidence on outputs and results is available through the ATMOS monitoring system. The evidence relates to “core results” such as job creation.
- About 500 new gross jobs were created in the policy area Enterprise environment and about 200 new gross jobs were created in the policy fields Environment and energy, and Territorial development. The creation of more than 4,000 new jobs and the maintenance of approximately 30,000 existing ones is hoped to be achieved through the approved projects.
- In most innovation-related areas of intervention, evaluation results demonstrate that positive effects have been achieved. The main initiatives covered by these evaluations helped to tackle problems and achieved the objectives set to a large extent. However, the evaluation results are very selective and do not apply to all funding activities co-funded by the ERDF. Moreover the evaluations concerned relate mainly to the 2000–2006 period.

The current identification of the main outcomes of the nine programmes is based on several sources:

- The main source to collect outcomes in terms of physical outputs and results is the monitoring system which was analysed in depth;
- Another important source is evaluations. The information on outputs and results is supplemented by recent findings of evaluation reports;
- AIRs are of limited value with respect to achievements. AIRs contain a lot of operative information but very little information on achievements in relation to the programme objectives (besides the regular overview of physical indicators per priority axis which is usually not commented on). If they do have information on achievements this is usually very general (e.g. investments in tourism are important) and therefore not really useful. The achievements in the AIRs are usually presented in the form of good practice projects.

Achievements for the nine programmes are summarised below for the main policy area “Enterprise environment” and for the supplementary areas “Environment and Energy” and “Territorial development”. “Transport” and “Human resources”, in which there is only a very small amount of ERDF funding, are not covered.

Due to the relatively low expenditure rate (22.5% of ERDF by mid 2011) data on actual outputs and results are available at present only on a very limited scale. Hence, to get a more

meaningful picture, monitoring data on planned values at the approval stage of projects and actual values (based on completed projects) have been analysed.

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

The “Enterprise environment” has by far the largest weight in the C&RCE programmes, accounting for 81% of total ERDF allocations.

The overall aim of the programmes with respect to enterprise environment is to strengthen the regional knowledge base and the innovation performance of businesses, especially SMEs, and research centres. The move towards a knowledge-based economy is supported by a broad approach encompassing most sectors, e.g. manufacturing and related services, transport and logistics, tourism and leisure industries.

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, investments in eco-innovation, inter-communal business location cooperation and soft-projects in ICT services.

Up to mid-2011, over the nine OPs, 4,983 ‘soft’ projects (including numerous training projects in Styria and Lower Austria which artificially increase figures) and 618 investment projects (10% by newly founded companies) had been approved in this policy area absorbing EUR 312 million from the ERDF. This resulted in:

- EUR 1.2 billion investments in the enterprise environment (project costs) were realized in Austrian regions. Based on costs of the committed projects a total investment sum of EUR 2.7 billion is planned.
- A significant number of companies representing about 38,600 jobs and 5,500 R&D jobs in total are involved in research and innovation projects supported under C&RCE programmes;
- 1,904 companies are participating in technology transfer;
- 2,700 new high quality beds in the tourism sector could be created (and in addition 1,576 are planned);
- 2,043 new jobs and 112 new R&D jobs were created in supported enterprises. In addition, 4,543 new jobs and 561 new R&D jobs are planned to be created in supported enterprises¹⁴.

Detailed figures are presented in the Annex Tables (status July 2011). Compared to the physical output und result figures at the end of 2009, a substantial increase can be noted (e.g. 500 new jobs vs. 2,043).

¹⁴ The figures presented in the AIRs at end of 2010 are (in total for 9 programmes): In Priority 1 (Innovation) 1,549 new jobs and 124 new R&D jobs created.

In the following, the different intervention areas under Enterprise support are presented in detail.

- **RTDI activities in research centres** are currently being implemented in four programmes (originally scheduled for six programmes but those in Burgenland and Vorarlberg were not implemented). The funds allocated are already committed to a large extent. About 47 soft projects have been approved. EUR 20 million was actually invested (EUR 92 million planned through committed projects). 4 new R&D jobs were created (154 new R&D jobs are planned). The last available evaluations, which state positive effects, are from 2004 (Oberösterreich) and 2007 (Niederösterreich) which are related to the 2000–2006 period; no recent evaluation was undertaken.
- Support for **R&TD infrastructure** is performing very well in terms of absorption. In spite of the funds being increased by 21%, 90% of the ERDF funding is already committed. About 40 investment projects have been approved. EUR 44 million was actually invested (EUR 107 million planned¹⁵). 23 new jobs were created (626 new jobs are planned). Evaluations are available for the years 2008 and 2011 (Niederösterreich) and 2010 (Steiermark). The recent evaluation of the Technopoles in Niederösterreich by Economica/Helmenstein (2011) states that (i) Technopoles strengthen regional value added chains and networks; (ii) support structural change in the Lower Austrian economy; and (iii) support the creation of a knowledge intensive economy. The technopol programme is partly supported by ERDF.
- Under **technology transfer and cooperation networks**, ERDF programmes provide support to regional clusters, one of the most widely used measures in regional innovation policy to enhance competitiveness and restructure the economy. The activities are performing well in financial terms and the available funds have been supplemented (+21%). About 260 soft projects have been approved with 1,900 companies participating in technology transfer. EUR 19 million was actually invested (EUR 67 million planned). An evaluation of cluster development in Austria (not specifically focused on ERDF supported clusters) stating positive effects on the national economy and on regional innovation performance is available from 2009 (Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth). A critical point of the evaluation is the lack of a true Austrian cluster strategy which should be established.
- With respect to **Research projects for SMEs**, about 150 soft-projects are approved, which is a lower number than originally expected. EUR 12 million was actually invested (EUR 118 million planned). About 100 new R&D jobs were created (368 new R&D jobs are planned). For R&D projects (national and ERDF supported projects) an Austrian wide Annual Impact Monitoring of the FFG basic programme is available covering national and ERDF co-financed projects which were finalized in the year 2006 (KMU FORSCHUNG

¹⁵ Planned values at the approval stage of projects not to be confused with target values which were defined at the ex ante stage of programming.

AUSTRIA, 2011). There is a time lag of about 4 years between the completion of the projects and their evaluation. Accordingly, the current evaluation addresses projects of the 2000–2006 period. The survey of approximately 300 projects shows the high effectiveness of the FFG funding. According to the study, the direct economic effects of these projects amount to EUR 3.3 billion. The majority is reached through exports and licences. The projects funded through the FFG also have significant employment effects: 5,280 jobs could be maintained and a further 1,318 created. Regarding additionality (deadweight) 76% of the projects would not have carried out (22%), would have carried out with a delay (20%) or would have carried out on a much smaller scale (35%).

Financial control problems with research projects

The system controls and control samples have shown that the biggest problems with the financial control occur above all in projects which are research and technology related. The personnel costs and overheads which are the main expenditure in these projects represent a heavy administrative burden under the current regulations. If a radical simplification is not possible here, it would be worth considering a significant reduction in EU co-funding for FTI projects. This would mean that FTI projects would no longer be funded through the ERDF but only through national funding mechanisms. The already agreed simplification measures (in the framework of the "Recovery Packages") are a first important step but are not considered enough.

Source: Summary from AIR Niederösterreich 2010, p. 27; AIR Tirol 2010, p. 30

- As regards **advanced support services for companies** or groups of companies, about 4,500 soft-projects (mostly advisory projects) have been approved. EUR 8.5 million was actually invested (EUR 10.8 million planned). Internal evaluations in Steiermark (ÖAR, Convelop 2010) and in Niederösterreich (internal evaluation of Innovation Assistant in 2008) showed that advisory services in the region and the Innovation Assistant Support Scheme are clearly beneficial for smaller companies to develop their innovation capacity. For instance, about half the beneficiaries (companies) surveyed had no fully developed innovation strategy at the beginning of the project and used the support as an impetus to seriously consider the issue in the company. Moreover, three quarters of the beneficiaries surveyed developed new products or services in the framework of the project (slides 15, 20 of the PPP, Evaluation Innovation Assistant NÖ, 2008).
- **Investment projects in Eco-Innovation**, that means investments for environmentally-friendly products and production processes are planned for all Austrian ERDF programmes. To date, funding has been committed for 125 investment projects (and 1 soft project). EUR 52.3 million was actually invested (EUR 104.1 million planned). Significant effects in terms of jobs and economic returns are expected. About 84 new jobs were created (142 new jobs are planned). However, no meaningful evaluation for this field has been carried out.
- **RTDI Investment projects in companies** are the second most important interventions in financial terms. They are part of eight out of nine regional ERDF programmes in Austria. About 180 investment projects (20 by newly founded companies) have been approved.

EUR 422.6 million was actually invested (EUR 939.2 million planned). Most of the new jobs created are linked to the RTDI Investment projects. About 868 new jobs were created (1,776 new jobs are planned). An internal evaluation was carried out by the ERP Regional Programme and the SME growth programmes for the period 2000–2006 indicating significant effects on the investment performance of companies. More recent evaluations have not been undertaken.

- **The broad category of “other” investment projects (including the tourism sector)** is – due to the latest changes in allocation – at present the most important part of the enterprise support. About 269 investment-projects (36 by newly founded companies) have been approved. EUR 564.7 million was actually invested (EUR 1,110.1 million planned). Most of the investment projects are related to the tourism sector. Besides single company support, about 20 projects are focused on major developments of tourist infrastructure. In total, 2,700 new high quality beds have been created to date (an additional 1,576 new beds are planned). A significant job effect is also expected. About 1,065 new jobs were created (1,989 new jobs are planned). Evaluations of major projects in Burgenland and Niederösterreich are available for the 2000–2000 period (Kreutzer et al, 2007; ÖIR/RCi, 2007). More recent evaluations have not been carried out. The significance of tourism investments for the regional economy is emphasised in the 2010 AIRs for Salzburg (p. 25), Tirol (p. 32) and Kärnten (p. 9). These investments can represent an important impetus in the region, particularly in times of economic crisis. This statement can be supported by the evidence on actual investments and jobs created (see figures above).
- The development of **new financial instruments** was aimed at in a number of programmes (Oberösterreich, Wien, Burgenland, Kärnten), but turned out to be extremely difficult in practise. Only in Burgenland could a relatively small fund for the support of a small number of enterprises be created.

Strengthening of the equity capital structure of SME through a venture capital fund

In 2010, after some delays, the programme for the Burgenland was focused on the finalisation of the implementation of the venture capital fund in the Burgenland. After the approval of the venture capital fund by the provincial government at the end of 2009 according to the block exemption regulation under competitiveness rules, it was finally established in 2010 as a limited company. At the beginning of May 2010 the management of the fund was put out to tender at national and EU level. At the beginning of August 2010 the fund (*for a very limited number of companies to be supported*) became operational. The Managing Authority expects to have a positive development until the end of the Phasing Out Period in 2013.

Source: Summary of AIR 2010 Burgenland p. 21, *author's comment*

The Environment and energy

The Environment and energy is a supplementary policy area accounting for 6% of total ERDF financing (EUR 42.5 million). Support for the intervention area “energy infrastructure” is part of most of the programmes (7 out of 9 programmes), though support for the second intervention

area “environmental infrastructure” (in terms of risk prevention) is included in only three programmes.

It has to be noted, that besides the “tangible” support for renewable energy under specific measures, Austrian ERDF programmes offer a broad spectrum of measures which are also related to the development of renewables as a technology field of major interest. That means RES support is linked to the regional innovation and competitiveness policy pursued by the Austrian ERDF programmes and is not limited to some specific measures only.

In terms of allocation, the policy area environment and energy was supplemented (+8%) due to the stable demand and shows an above average level of commitments (78%).

The first intervention area **Energy infrastructure** (under this policy field) includes support for renewable energy sources (in particular biomass) and energy efficiency measures in enterprises. Interestingly, the focus of the ERDF funding has changed from renewable energy sources (RES) to energy efficiency (EE) in commercial buildings as there are more commitments for EE than for RES.

By mid 2011 it was possible to support 143 investment projects related to RES and EE with a total investment cost of EUR 174.7 million. Through this, 100 MW of additional capacity of renewable energy production were established. Through RES and EE projects a reduction of greenhouse gases by 134kt could be achieved. This is equivalent to CO₂ emissions of about 38,000 cars (a car of the VW-Golf class produces about 3.5 tons a year). Economic effects are not being monitored.

A recent cross-programme evaluation (ÖAR, RIMAS, March 2011) of domestic environmental support (*Umweltförderung im Inland*, operated by the KPC central government agency) stated that the public funding of renewable energy sources has contributed on the one hand to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and on the other to the generation of positive business and economic effects at regional level (e.g. increase of productivity through reduction of heating costs, improved “green” image, increase in gross value added).

However, ERDF funding of particularly innovative projects in energy- and eco-technologies is rare. This is due to the low demand of companies concerning demonstration-/ pilot projects, but also because of the higher risk of project failure. Hence, the contribution of the environmental ERDF measures to the objective of increased innovation rates in energy and eco-technologies is rather low. In this context, the ERDF programmes are estimated to have only limited capacity as an instrument for boosting risky eco-innovations. There are other funding schemes besides the Structural Fund programmes which are better suited for the flexible implementation of such projects (ibid, p. 10).

In the second (minor) intervention area **Environmental infrastructure** (under this policy field), 5 soft and 26 investment projects were approved with total investment costs of EUR 14.5 million to prevent floods and avalanches. As a result, an estimated 18,300 households and companies are expected to benefit. This intervention area is not covered by evaluations.

Territorial development

Territorial development is another supplementary policy area accounting for 12.4% of the total ERDF allocation to Austrian Operational ERDF programmes (EUR 50.6 million).

The aim is to attain a well diversified and balanced mix of economic activities and settlements in all regions. Integrated development policies are pursued by using spatial planning as well as direct support for regional development. Territorial development includes the development of nature reserves, tourist and cultural facilities and services, integrated projects for urban regeneration and broadband networks and is part of 7 out of the 9 programmes.

On account of stable demand, the policy area has been supplemented (+12%) in the programmes Oberösterreich and Wien.

In mid 2011, only 39% of the allocated funds have been committed, which shows weak financial implementation. For example, innovative flagship projects in the cultural field only started in the year 2010 and are not yet included in the monitoring. The Managing Authority assumes that the planned projects will also be implemented (AIR Oberösterreich 2010, p. 27).

In mid 2011, it was possible to support 86 investment projects and 140 soft projects (such as studies) related to tourism and culture and planning and rehabilitation with total investment costs of EUR 54 million.

For this area, hardly any result indicators have been collected which are suitable and meaningful.

Moreover, there are hardly any evaluations in this area, though many project examples are presented in the AIRs to demonstrate the positive effects of urban regeneration projects (see, for example, the AIR 2010 for Vienna).

Overview on applied result indicators

The main result indicators by broad policy area are outlined in the table below (Table B). The indicators mainly target the policy area “Enterprise environment” which has by far the largest weight in the C&RCE programmes.

Table B – Summary of result indicators per policy field in C&RCE programmes

Policy area	Main result indicators (output indicators are not presented)	Outcomes 07/2011
Enterprise support and RTDI EUR 312 million ERDF committed by July 2011	Supported investment volume (total project costs in EUR) No of participating companies on technology transfer No of located companies No of new R&D jobs to be created (full time equivalent) R&D jobs in the company (full time equivalent) before project start R&D jobs in the company (full time equivalent) at project end No of new jobs to be created (full time equivalent) No of jobs in the company (full time equivalent) before project start No of jobs in the company (full time equivalent) at project end No of newly created high-quality beds	2.7 bn 1,904 15 561 5,528 na 4,543 38,600 na 2,700
Human Resources (ERDF only) EUR 5 million ERDF committed by July 2011	No of trained person	na
Transport and telecommunications EUR 0.9 million ERDF committed by July 2011	Supported investment volume (total project costs in EUR) No of person with new access to broadband services	3.1 mn na
Environment and energy EUR 33 million ERDF committed by July 2011	Supported investment volume (total project costs in EUR) Newly created power capacity (MW) Reduction of greenhouse gases (kt) No of beneficiaries of risk-protection (households, companies)	189 mn 100 134 18,312
Territorial development EUR 19 million ERDF committed by July 2011	Supported investment volume (total project costs in EUR) No specific result indicator was defined	54 mn

Source: Metis on the basis of ERDF monitoring and AIRs; na= at present not available

With respect to a result based management of ERDF programmes it was possible to gather “standardized” result indicators in the Austrian monitoring programme which could be aggregated across programmes in order to gain an overall view of the achievements (this is true in particular for C&RCE programmes, not for ETC-programmes). This is a first successful step. However, the values in themselves are not very meaningful (e.g. 561 new R&D jobs) and can only form the basis for further impact studies. Through result indicators the contribution of projects to specific policy goals such as increase in innovation capacity (new R&D jobs, participation in technology transfer) and Employment opportunities (number of new jobs) is reflected well. 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.

Achievements under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective – cross border co-operation

In the four CBC programmes under consideration, about 258 projects were committed by the end of 2010, whereby 133 projects are related to the priority “Innovation and Competitiveness” and 125 projects are under the priority “Sustainable Development”. Hence the implementation progress is balanced in terms of number of projects.

At present, the achievements up until the end of 2010 can only be represented in terms of output indicators. Since only very few projects have been completed, very few result indicators are available.

In terms of outputs significant achievements can be noted in both priorities in a broad range of fields of action.

As a total of the four CBC programmes under the Priority “Innovation and Competitiveness”, approximately 50–60 co-operation projects are contributing to the development of the **tourism, leisure and culture sector**; approximately 40 projects support the **cluster and network development**, and about 40 projects are targeting **human resource development**.

Under the Priority “Sustainable Development” approximately 60 projects contribute to the joint improvement of the environment; approximately 30 projects are improving the **accessibility**; and around 30 projects are related to **risk prevention**.

Moreover, the programmes have an implicit focus on **governance aspects**. For instance, in the framework of the AT-Bayern/DE programme, approximately 250 project partners are working together ‘across the border’ in the 88 projects that have been approved so far. A culture of cross-border cooperation based on mutual trust and understanding has developed through the partnerships (AIR 2010, AT-Bay, p. 13).

Regarding progress made in 2010 in the CBC programme AT-SK, it is noted that the year 2010 can be considered as the first regular year that standard work flows in programme management started (AIR, p. 4). The newly contracted projects in 2010 have strengthened the programme’s profile in the fields of tourism, culture as well as SME support, RDT and finally nature protection and risk prevention.

Overall, it seems that in 2010 in all four CBC programmes financial and physical progress stepped up since contracting routines have been accelerated (though for many projects contracting and the establishment of the partnership agreements still takes considerable time).

Regarding achievements, the challenge remains to demonstrate results – going beyond inputs and outputs – which are measured by meaningful indicators.

Table C – Achievements per CBC programme based on selected indicators

	Priority 1: Innovation, Competitiveness		Priority 2: Sustainable Development	
OP	Indicator , Value achieved		Indicator, Value achieved	
AT–Bay	No of projects to support clusters and networks	30	No of projects for joint improvement of the environment	17
	No of projects which focus on innovation and new markets	23	No of cooperation projects between public bodies	41
	No of projects to network SMEs and research bodies	24	No of projects to improve the accessibility	12
	No of projects related to education and qualification	18	No of projects related to renewables	10
	No of projects related to tourism	24	No of projects related to risk prevention	20
AT–HU	No of projects related to leisure, tourism	6	No of projects related to risk prevention	4
	No of projects related to research and technology	3	No of projects related to biosphere management	2
	No of projects related to human resource management	4	No of projects related to renewables and energy efficiency	3
	Number of permanent networks established	11	Number of permanent networks established	8
AT–SK	No of organisations participating in RDTI	36	No of transport studies	5
	No of services for SMEs introduced	24	No of transport investment projects	0
	No of visitors of tourism destinations p.a.	37,000	No of municipalities involved in cooperation for better regional governance	22
	No of organisations benefiting from education & training	236	Total nature areas covered by common management initiatives (sq.km.)	1,024
	No of person benefiting from improved health & social services	1,500	No of activities improving the joint protection and management of the environment	36
AT–CZ	No of projects related to clusters, networks	7	No of projects improving the accessibility	16
	No of projects with innovative, technology oriented approach	3	No of projects related to joint protection of nature/environment	5
	No of projects related to tourism	19	No of projects related to risk prevention	7
	No of projects related to education & qualification	14	No of projects developing collaboration in public services	1
	No of projects related to health and social integration	7	No of people to people action	3

Source: AIRs 2010, only selected indicators are presented in the table

3. EFFECTS OF INTERVENTION

The main findings of the 2010 country report on effects of ERDF on strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion were:

- Evaluation evidence showed that Cohesion Policy has had a positive effect overall in Austria. Since accession in 1995, encouraging results in terms of regional convergence across the country have been achieved.

- Although the overall impact is clearly positive, it should be noted that the effort needed to comply with the administrative requirements of Cohesion Policy is considerable. This calls for a new balance between strategically directed planning and the necessary control mechanisms of Structural Fund programmes.

Since then no new evaluations on the overall effects (e.g. the impact of interventions on the regional innovation systems) have been carried out related to C&RCE programmes.

However, in the regional innovation strategies which have recently been developed at federal state level (e.g. Innovationsstrategie Kärnten 2020) it is stated that the regional R&D expenditure rate has increased substantially over the last 10 years. Moreover, a structural change towards technology intensive sectors can be observed.

ERDF support for the enterprise environment through regional programmes contributed to this positive development (however, it is difficult to estimate to what extent).

A **cross programme evaluation** contracted by the ÖROK and carried out in 2010/2011 discusses the achievements and effects and the lessons learned of 15 years INTERREG/ETC in Austria (all strands)¹⁶.

With respect to outcomes, the study noted that since 1995 a total of 2,813 projects with Austrian participation have been funded, most of them in cross-border programmes and in particular in programmes with the 'New Member States' (EU 12). As a consequence, EU funds (predominantly ERDF) totalling EUR 393 million were directly dispersed in Austria via INTERREG/ETC programmes. Economic development (especially tourism) has been the dominant thematic funding area from the very beginning, but its relative importance is declining and in the meantime environmental topics are funded to an almost equal extent.

Spending in the framework of ETC projects predominantly concerns the priority 'Attractive Regions, Location Quality' (natural resources, renewables, risk prevention, accessibility), followed by the priority 'Regional Knowledge Base and Innovation' (tourism, clusters, technology transfer).

Concerning their value-added, the immaterial effects in terms of exchange of knowledge and experience, stabilizing the collaboration of institutions can be considered the essence of INTERREG/ETC. The profile and the unique features of this funding scheme have become clearer, which also made demarcation to other EU programmes easier.

However, this value-added is severely restricted through the increase of (formal) requirements, which also has negative effects on the attractiveness and outreach of ETC programmes.

¹⁶ Hummelbrunner et al (June 2011): 15 Jahre INTERREG / ETZ in Österreich: Rückschau und Ausblick

4. EVALUATIONS AND GOOD PRACTICE IN EVALUATION

The main points in the last year's country report were:

- The ÖROK¹⁷ established a **framework** to support content-based discussion in addition to administrative and funding-related issues which involve all relevant regional policy actors. This framework is known as the Strategic Monitoring in Austria (STRAT.ATplus). However, there is no comprehensive strategy for evaluating the effects of ERDF co-financed interventions.
- In the 2007–2013 period evaluation activities in Austria were massively reduced. There are framework activities by OEROK but only a limited number of evaluations of funding interventions or programmes. The main evaluations in the current period consist of internal/unpublished reports which vary markedly in scope and methodology and are not accessible to a wide audience. Evaluation findings must, therefore, be drawn mainly from the earlier 2000–2006 period. This is partly justified by the fact that many interventions have been continued.
- The relatively small number of funding activities by central government agencies, which are applied in most of the regional programmes and co-funded by ERDF, have increasingly been evaluated in a systematic way (e.g. the internal evaluations of aws-erp-funds interventions which started in 2007).
- On the contrary, the numerous small scale funding interventions by various different regional agencies, governments and communes have been subject to hardly any evaluation. Accordingly, a strategy is lacking to indicate how numerous small scale interventions by different actors could be appropriately evaluated without a disproportionate effort.

Regarding activities in the Strategic Monitoring process, since 2007, **19 events** with a broad participation of stakeholders (often including the Commission) have been organised to promote the exchange of experience of the implementation of the Structural Funds and related issues.¹⁸ In 2011, two events took place.

In Evaluation, Managing Authorities and Implementing Bodies (agencies) follow their own agenda at the regional level. They usually conduct pragmatic, operative reflections of the Programmes' progress, for their own use and not meant for publication. Thus evaluations are primarily focused on financial performance and management issues and less on tangible outcomes and quantified effects.

Current examples of such evaluations at the *Länder* level are:

¹⁷ The Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning is an organisation set up 1971 by the Bund, the Länder and the Gemeinden to co-ordinate spatial planning at the national level. With respect to implementation of European funds ÖROK plays an important role as the co-ordinating body.

¹⁸ See list of events at <http://www.oerok.gv.at/eu-regionalpolitik/eu-strukturfonds-in-oesterreich-2007-2013/nationale-strategie/stratat-plus.html>

- Convelop (February 2011), “Interne Reflexion des RWB Programmes Niederösterreich“, not published.
- Managing Authority RWB Vorarlberg (2011 ongoing), “Projekt Check–interne Wirkungsanalyse von ausgewählten Projekten”; not published. A mid-term evaluation (dated March 2011) has been drawn up on the basis of the project check. It should be noted that the project check follows a “soft evaluation approach” and does not apply rigorous methods.

Internal evaluation “project check” in Vorarlberg

“Project Check” is built around a catalogue of impact objectives (*in total 32, e.g. creation of jobs*). Intended and unintended impacts of a project are measured (*by an internal group of administrators, the so called “Bewertungsgruppe”*). Key projects are evaluated in biannual workshops and their impacts are aggregated at the Programme level (*using a visual tool*). In 2008 and 2009 four workshops were held, in 2010 only one; the achieved results were documented in three interim reports. Since 2010 the software tool ‘ProjektDialog’, developed by the Polytechnic Vorarlberg and the Consultant Kairo, has been in use significantly improving the implementation of impact monitoring in a technical and qualitative sense.

Source: summary from AIR 2010 Vorarlberg, p. 10; *author’s comments*

At present, the Länder are directing their attention at the elaboration of **strategies for economic development “on the ground”**. These regional strategies are in line with the EU programming cycle and cover national as well as ERDF co-financed measures. They constitute inter alia the basis for the ERDF Operational Programmes in the next programming period 2014–2020.

Examples are:

- Wirtschaftsstrategie Steiermark 2020 “Wachstum durch Innovation”;
- Innovationsstrategie Kärnten 2020;
- Wirtschaftsleitbild Salzburg 2020;
- Zukunftsallianz Wirtschaft Oberösterreich 2020;
- Wirtschaftsstrategie Niederösterreich 2015.

In the process of the new orientation of the economic development strategies in Niederösterreich the existing measures such as the technopole programme and the cluster programme were evaluated (Economica/Helmenstein et al, October 2010). These measures were part-funded by the ERDF.

“Traditional” evaluations of ERDF programmes, going beyond a purely internal assessment, are being conducted at present at national level solely by the ÖROK and – in a very specific format – by the central agency FFG

Recent examples for evaluations at *national* level are:

- ÖAR, RIMAS (2011), Programmübergreifende Evaluierung der EFRE-kofinanzierten Umweltmaßnahmen der Kommunalkredit Public Consulting; commissioned by Österreichische Raumordnungskonferenz (ÖROK)

- Hummelbrunner, R. et al (Juni 2011), 15 Jahre INTERREG / ETZ in Österreich: Rückschau und Ausblick; commissioned by Österreichische Raumordnungskonferenz (ÖROK)
- KMU FORSCHUNG AUSTRIA (2011), FFG – Wirkungsmonitoring 2010, which is in fact an annual assessment of results (the projects are evaluated with a time lag of four years).

The ÖROK assumes the role of the Contracting Authority for ad-hoc cross-programme evaluations for all Austrian Programmes (i.e. Convergence, RCE and ETC). Additionally the FFG, a distinct research support agency, conducts regularly in the last 30 years assessments of the research programmes they manage (Basisprogramme). All recent reports by ÖROK and FFG are downloadable.

Table D – Recent evaluations

Title and date of completion	Policy area and scope	Main objectives	Full reference or link to publication
Convelop (February 2011), Interne Reflexion des RWB Programmes Niederösterreich (25 pages)	RCE programme Niederösterreich	Analysis of performance of main measures; Contribution to main objectives; Framework conditions for programme implementation; Outlook 2014–2020	Not published
Verwaltungsbehörde RWB Vorarlberg (2011 ongoing), Projekt Check	RCE programme Vorarlberg	Internal reflexion of selected projects	Not published
Kairos (March 2011), Zwischenevaluierung des OP RWB Vorarlberg (45 pages including annex)	RCE programme Vorarlberg	Analysis of progress of programme implementation in terms of financial performance and achievement of targets; contribution of selected projects to impact objectives	Not published (DG Regio has received a copy)
Economica/Helmenstein et al (October 2010), The direct and indirect impact of Technopoles in Lower Austria (49 pages)	R&TD infrastructure in Niederösterreich	Analysis of direct effects such as GVA and indirect effects on regional structural transformation of the Technopol programme (High-tech economic centres)	Not published
ÖAR, RIMAS (2011), Programmübergreifende Evaluierung der EFRE-kofinanzierten Umweltmaßnahmen der Kommunalkredit Public Consulting (81 pages)	Evaluation of UFI environmental funding instrument which is part of most RCE programmes	Part 1: Implementation of environmental measures co-financed by ERDF Part 2: System analysis of national environmental support schemas	Published by Österreichische Raumordnungskonferenz (ÖROK) www.oerok.gv.at/
Hummelbrunner, R. et al (June 2011), 15 Jahre INTERREG / ETZ in Österreich: Rückschau und Ausblick (144 pages)	INTERREG 1995–2006, ETC 2007–2013	Identification of results of 15 years INTERREG/ETC programmes; outlook to 2014–2020	Published by Österreichische Raumordnungskonferenz (ÖROK) www.oerok.gv.at/
KMU FORSCHUNG AUSTRIA (2011), FFG – Wirkungsmonitoring 2010 (35 pages)	Short evaluation of <u>all</u> research projects funded by FFG in 2006	Effectiveness of funding	http://www.ffg.at/content/evaluierung-der-foerderung

Source: Metis

The main findings of the above mentioned evaluations (as far as they indicate tangible outcomes) are integrated in the report's section on achievements.

Policy areas not covered by evaluations

An important policy area which is not covered by actual evaluations is Territorial Development (an evaluation of urban measures in Vienna is planned for the end of 2011).

This field (including the development of nature reserves, tourist and cultural facilities and services, integrated projects for urban regeneration) is hardly covered by evaluations. This could be seen as a discrepancy, since the field is widely characterised by the production of "public goods", with a relatively large share of public funding compared to total investment and minimal deadweight effects. Hence it represents an ideal case for evaluation.

Good practice examples

Cross programme evaluations by the ÖROK represent a **useful approach** to evaluating the numerous rather small Austrian programmes in an efficient manner. This approach could be further developed. A weak point with respect to methodological robustness is, however, the 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 representatively chosen in order to foster the validity of the findings.

From the authors' point of view, the annual assessment exercise conducted by FFG (recent report from 2011) demonstrates good practice in terms of a specific continuous assessment approach.

Table E – Evaluation grid for examples of good practice in evaluation

BASIC INFORMATION		
Country: Austria		
Policy area: Research, Technology, Innovation		
Title of evaluation and full reference : FFG – Wirkungsmonitoring		
Intervention period covered (2000–2006; 2007–2013; specific years): on an annual basis, the projects are evaluated with a time lag of four years		
Timing of the evaluation (when it was carried out): annual		
Budget (if known): not known		
Evaluator: External evaluator KMU Forschung Austria (Austrian Institute for SME Research)		
Method: standardized survey of all projects (except studies) in a specific year which were funded by FFG		
Main objectives and main findings (very short description – 3–4 lines): The assessment on effectiveness of funding covers the following issues: (i) Positioning of the funding projects within the portfolio of the enterprise (ii) economic effects (iii) employment effects (iv) effects on innovation capacity (v) additionality (deadweight).		
Appraisal (Why you consider the evaluation an example of good practice: – 2–3 lines) The central agency FFG (Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft) pursues NOT a classical evaluation but an assessment of results on an annual basis by means of a standardized questionnaire. The assessment covers (since the 2010 report) not only the “Basisprogramme” but all funding projects directed to enterprises. A complete sampling is done on all projects funded in a specific year. Data can be compared between years. The FFG is supposedly the only funding agency in Austria which carries out that kind of yearly result assessment (unique approach). The assessment provides findings but not conclusions and recommendations since it is not meant as a classical evaluation. Accordingly, also the socio-economic or policy context is not discussed. The short report (about 30 pages) is accessible to the public via website http://www.ffg.at/content/evaluierung-der-foerderung		
CHECK LIST	YES	NO
UTILITY		
Report Clarity and Balance		
Are the objectives, methods and findings of the evaluation clearly described?	x	
Are the conclusions and recommendations clearly supported by the analysis? <u>No conc & recs</u>		x
Are the strengths and weaknesses of the intervention being evaluated fairly assessed and reported?	x	
Is the outcome of the intervention clearly reported?	x	
RELIABILITY OF FINDINGS		
Evaluation design		
Is the approach adopted by the evaluation and method used clearly set out?	x	
Is the approach and methods suitable given the objectives of the valuation and the intervention being assessed?	x	
Are the details of the operation of the intervention clearly described?		x
Are the mechanisms through which the intervention is intended to achieve its objectives clearly identified?		x
Context		
Is the socio-economic and policy context clearly set out?		x
Are the effects of the economic and/or policy context on the outcome of the intervention clearly described?		x
Information Sources		
Are the quantitative and/or qualitative data used suitable for the purpose for which they are used?	x	
Is the reliability of the data fairly assessed and described?	x	
Analysis		
Are appropriate procedures/techniques used to analyse the data and/or qualitative information?	x	
Are suitable procedures used to check the validity of findings? <u>Not known</u>		
Is the validity of the findings reached clearly demonstrated?		x
Do the policy recommendations follow clearly from the findings of the analysis? <u>No recs</u>		x

Source: Metis

5. CONCLUDING REMARKS – FUTURE CHALLENGES

The 2010 country report concludes that:

- The Austrian ERDF-programmes are oriented towards the EU objectives of competitiveness and growth and deliver successfully one of the largest shares of funding to Lisbon-relevant policy areas in the EU-27 (through funding directed largely to companies).
- In the Austrian context, the ERDF programmes have significant added value as financing instruments (in particular in the regional context to support the enterprise environment) and as a platform for the better cooperation of national and regional actors. However, they have hardly any function as a strategy instrument steering policy since this function is already covered by strategies on the ground. Hence Operational Programmes could dispense with their “formal” strategy part and be reduced to core agreements between the different actors (similar to a Programme Complement).
- Despite overall effects of ERDF programmes being positive in Austria, there is evidence of a negative attitude towards EU funding and risk-averse behaviour as a result of the complicated procedures for implementing programmes which is reinforced by the considerable administrative burden imposed by the complicated Austrian system.
- A challenge lies in the design and delivery of development policy by regional government which is a very demanding task in terms of achieving critical mass and coherence as far as the measures are concerned. In this respect the structure of governance needs to be developed further.

The conclusions remain valid. Again it has to be highlighted that the composition and performance of the Austrian ERDF programmes is mainly influenced by **administrative factors** (e.g. the part withdrawal of national agencies from ERDF co-financing, risk-averse behaviour as a result of the complicated procedures). A stronger awareness of the consequences of the administrative framework should be developed in the programme design and the evaluations. For example, it can be assumed that the administrative implementation costs rise in every programming period. Without a radical simplification of the administrative framework, there is a risk that the programmes will not contain the most appropriate measures but a few relatively easily implemented and administered measures. For future programme design, the following two basic options seem to be possible:

- There is no reduction in administrative risks and burden. This means that the spectrum of measures is again limited to traditional instruments which can be implemented in a play safe approach. In this option, ERDF programmes are purely pragmatic funding instruments among others.
- There is a significant reduction in the administrative risks and burden. Under these framework conditions emerging and experimental instruments which are necessary for

the development of a modern innovation policy can be integrated in the programmes.

This would strengthen the character of the ERDF programmes as “impetus programmes”.

With respect to a **results based management of ERDF programmes** (which should be strengthened in the future), Austria can demonstrate first successful experiences with the collection of result indicators in the monitoring of ERDF programmes (in particular for C&RCE). In order for these indicators to gain in meaningfulness, they should – in the framework of further impact studies – be seen in relation to the needs and strategies of specific regional sectors (e.g. research, production, tourism, renewable energies in specific areas). Only in this manner can the effects of complex development initiatives be assessed in a meaningful manner.

REFERENCES

1. Relevant evaluations by theme and focus (mentioned in the chapter on achievements)

Policy field: Enterprise environment

- **RTDI-activities in research centres**

Oberösterreich: ÖIR, RCi (2004): Impact analysis of Objective-2 lead project „profactor“ (institute for technology transfer) in Steyr.

Niederösterreich: ÖIR, RCi (2007): Assessment of regional effects of "model-projects" funded under the Objective 2 programme Niederösterreich 2000-2006 (including one technology centre).

- **Support for R&TD infrastructure**

Niederösterreich: KMU FORSCHUNG AUSTRIA (2008): Mid-term evaluation of Technopol-Programme in Niederösterreich.

Steiermark: Convelop & ÖAR (2010): Impact Monitoring (Wirkungsmonitoring), addresses partly R&TD infrastructure development; non-published.

Niederösterreich: Economica/Helmenstein et al (2010): The direct and indirect impact of Technopols in Lower Austria (report is available in DE and EN); not published.

- **Technology transfer and cooperation networks**

Austria: Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth (2009): Clusters in Austria – Survey and Prospects; study by 4C foresee Management Consulting GmbH Wien (Prof. Clement et al).

Wien: KMU FORSCHUNG AUSTRIA (2007): Evaluation of Objective 2 project VITE (network Vienna IT Enterprises).

- **Research projects for SMEs**

Austria: Annual Impact Monitoring by FFG, latest report from 2011.

- **Advanced support services for companies**

Steiermark: Convelop & ÖAR (2010): Impact Monitoring (Wirkungsmonitoring), addresses partly support services; non-published.

Niederösterreich: WST3 (2008): Evaluation of Innovation Assistant (survey on 35 funding projects), 08/2008.

Burgenland: Pöchhacker Innovation Consulting (2010): Evaluation of Research and Innovation in Priority 1 of the phasing out programme Burgenland ERDF, non-published, addresses partly soft measures for SMEs.

- **Investment projects in Eco-Innovation**

No evaluation for this field has been carried out.

- **RTDI Investment projects in companies**

Austria: Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH/Knoll, N. (September 2007): Pilot evaluation of ERP Regional Programme and of SME Growth Programmes (Unternehmensdynamik und ERP-KMU-Programm).

- **Investment projects in the tourism sector**

Burgenland: KREUTZER; FISCHER & PARTNER (2007): Evaluation of economic effects of Spa Sonnentherme Lutzmannsburg (tourist lead project).

Niederösterreich: ÖIR, RCi (2007): Assessment of regional effects of "model-projects" funded under the Objective 2 programme Niederösterreich 2000–2006 (including 3 case studies on tourist lead projects).

- **The development of new financial instruments**

Not covered by evaluations yet (RCF in Burgenland operational since August 2010).

Policy field: The Environment and energy

- **Energy infrastructure**

Austria: ÖAR, RIMAS (2011): Programmübergreifende Evaluierung der EFRE-kofinanzierten Umweltmaßnahmen der Kommunalkredit Public Consulting.

- **Environmental infrastructure**

Not covered by evaluations yet.

Policy field: Territorial development

No evaluation for this field has been carried out in the 2007–2013 period.

Niederösterreich: ÖIR, RCi (2007): Assessment of regional effects of "model-projects" funded under the Objective 2 programme Niederösterreich 2000–2006 (including an urban renewable project: Innerörtliches Einkaufszentrum Loosdorf)

CBC programmes

Hummelbrunner, R. et al (June 2011), 15 Jahre INTERREG / ETZ in Österreich: Rückschau und Ausblick.

2. Other references

Bröthaler, J., Resch, A. (2009): Distribution of Competences in relation to Regional Development Policies in the Member States of the European Union, Country report Austria commissioned by Ismeri/Applica on behalf of DG Regional Policy

ÖROK (2011), Revidiertes Ergebnisprotokoll der Sitzung des 5. Begleitausschusses am 31. Mai 2011 in Neukirchen am Großvenediger, not published

Knoll, N. / aws (2011), internal paper on Roadmap-KMU / Instrumentenkoffer; PPP, April/Mai 2011, non published

List of AIRs 2010:

- RWB Niederösterreich
- RWB Salzburg
- RWB Steiermark
- RWB Oberösterreich
- RWB Burgenland
- RWB Vorarlberg
- RWB Wien
- RWB Tirol
- RWB Kärnten
- CBC Austria–Slovakia
- CBC Austria Czech Republic
- CBC Austria–Hungary
- CBC Deutschland/Bayern–Österreich¹⁹

INTERVIEWS

ÖROK, Andreas Maier (several meetings, written feedback)

Presentation of Task 2 /2011 by Andreas Resch at 42. AG VB-meeting, 3 May 2011 (clarification of access to monitoring data and request for information)

Several meetings and telephone contacts with ERDF monitoring representative, April – July 2011

Telephone contacts with Managing Authorities of C&RCE programmes

Written feedbacks by Managing Authorities (Kärnten, Niederösterreich) and Bundeskanzleramt Abteilung IV/4.

¹⁹ Only the four CBC programmes with Managing Authorities in Austria are considered.

TABLES

See Excel file for Tables 1–4:

Table 1 – Regional disparities and trends

Table 2 – Macro-economic developments

Table 3 – Financial allocation by main policy area

Table 3 CBC – Financial allocation by main policy area

Table 4 – Commitments by main policy area (by end-2010)

Table 4 CBC – Commitments by main policy area (by end-2010)

Annex Table A – Allocated, committed, expended ERDF funds by main policy area, C & RCE Objective (total of 9 Programmes)

Policy Areas	FOI- Codes (relevant for AT)	Allocated ERDF (10/2007)	share in %	Allocated ERDF (07/2011)	share in %	Change in % 2007 - 2011	Commitments 14.07.2011				Expenditures 14.07.2011		
		(EUR million)		(EUR million)			No of projects	Total project costs (EUR million)	ERDF (EUR million)	ERDF in % of planned 07/2011	Total project costs (EUR million)	ERDF (EUR million)	ERDF in % of planned 07/2011
1. Enterprise environment		555.2	81.6	552.2	81.2	-0.5	6,081	2,666.1	312.6	56.6	1,194.5	124.9	22.6
1.1 RTDI and linked activities	1, 2, 5, 7	254.9	37.5	237.8	35.0	-6.7	5,237	1,217.5	142.8	60.0	526.0	55.1	23.2
1.2 Support for innovation in SMEs	3, 4, 6, 9, 14, 15	191.5	28.2	178.2	26.2	-6.9	574	334.5	68.6	38.5	103.7	18.5	10.4
1.3 Other investment in firms	8	104.6	15.4	131.0	19.3	25.2	269	1,110.1	100.5	76.7	564.8	51.4	39.2
1.4 ICT and related services	11	4.2	0.6	5.2	0.8	22.4	1	4.0	0.0	14.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
2. Human resources		14.1	2.1	10.6	1.6	-25.2	99	11.6	5.3	50.2	6.7	3.2	29.9
2.1 Education and training	62 (under 05)	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2.2 Labour market policies	68, 69, 70, 71, 80	14.1	2.1	10.6	1.6	-25.2	99	11.6	5.3	50.2	6.7	3.2	29.9
3. Transport		8.4	1.2	5.7	0.8	-31.7	3	3.1	0.9	16.5	0.7	0.3	5.7
3.1 Road		0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
3.2 Rail	16	3.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
3.3 Other	26, 28, 30	5.4	0.8	5.7	0.8	6.5	3	3.1	0.9	16.5	0.7	0.3	5.7
4. Environment and energy		39.3	5.8	42.5	6.2	8.2	174	189.2	33.1	77.9	59.5	10.9	25.7
4.1 Energy infrastructure	40, 41, 42, 43	30.2	4.4	32.8	4.8	8.6	143	174.7	26.1	79.6	53.8	8.6	26.2
4.2 Environmental infrastructure	53	9.1	1.3	9.7	1.4	6.7	31	14.5	7.0	71.9	5.7	2.3	24.1
5. Territorial development		45.0	6.6	50.6	7.4	12.4	226	54.2	19.5	38.6	27.2	11.2	22.2
5.1 Tourism and culture	55-60	23.3	3.4	26.2	3.9	12.5	54	22.2	8.4	32.0	12.6	4.9	18.8
5.2 Planning and rehabilitation	61	20.8	3.1	23.6	3.5	13.3	171	31.8	11.1	47.3	14.7	6.3	26.7
5.3 Social infrastructure	10, 75	0.9	0.1	0.8	0.1	-11.1	1	0.2	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
5.4 Other		0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
6. Technical assistance	81, 85, 86	18.1	2.7	18.5	2.7	2.3	231	18.3	10.7	57.6	4.2	2.3	12.6
Total Conv. & Reg Comp.		680.1	100	680.1	100.0	0.0	6,814	2,942.5	382.2	56.2	1,292.8	152.9	22.5

Source: ERDF-Monitoring (July 2011), author's calculations; Correspondence of FOI-Codes to policy areas according to applica

Annex Table B – Allocated, committed, expended ERDF funds by EU-code, C & RCE Objective (total of 9 Programmes)

Categories of Expenditure		EU code	Allocated ERDF, 10/2007	in %	Allocated ERDF, 07/2011	in %	Change in % 10/2007-07/2011	Commitments 14.07.2011				Expenditures 14.07.2011		
								No of projects	total project costs	ERDF	ERDF in % of planned 07/2011	total project costs	ERDF	ERDF in % of planned 07/2011
01	FTE-Tätigkeiten in Forschungszentren	01	46.918.095,00	6,9	35.684.112,00	5,25	-23,94	47	92.541.789	30.786.369	86	20.432.055	7.894.786	22
02	FTE-Infrastrukturen (einschließlich Betriebsanlagen,	02	26.290.602,00	3,9	31.791.648,00	4,67	20,92	46	106.903.786	28.725.921	90	43.971.350	12.110.857	38
03	Technologietransfer und Verbesserung der Kooperationsnetze	03	38.444.043,20	5,7	46.535.233,20	6,84	21,05	262	67.203.923	27.350.748	59	18.962.818	6.087.723	13
04	FTE-Förderung, insbesondere in KMU (einschließlich des Zugangs	04	84.801.783,40	12,5	62.710.017,00	9,22	-26,05	150	118.159.756	17.599.470	28	11.590.580	1.822.711	3
05	ESF cross-financing	05	9.450.000,00	1,4	8.100.000,00	1,19	-14,29	1.446	49.592.805	11.743.430	145	30.379.366	7.133.417	88
05	Fortgeschrittene Unterstützungsdienste für Unternehmen oder	05	48.982.061,80	7,2	42.192.002,38	6,20	-13,86	3.518	29.235.005	10.882.397	26	8.595.147	3.006.233	7
06	Unterstützung von KMU zur Förderung umweltfreundlicher Produkte	06	31.209.693,00	4,6	33.554.680,00	4,93	7,51	126	104.132.270	9.411.741	28	52.326.696	4.429.444	13
07	Unternehmensinvestitionen mit direktem Bezug zu Forschung und	07	123.249.384,00	18,1	120.024.917,19	17,65	-2,62	180	939.191.206	60.632.234	51	422.645.307	24.964.867	21
08	Sonstige Unternehmensinvestitionen	08	104.644.477,00	15,4	131.000.169,65	19,26	25,19	269	1.110.107.162	100.539.863	77	564.798.777	51.378.250	39
09	Andere Maßnahmen zur Förderung von Forschung, Innovation und	09	22.663.773,00	3,3	22.627.297,00	3,33	-0,16	21	33.948.555	12.273.949	54	18.956.049	5.717.585	25
10	Telefoninfrastrukturen	10	501.000,00	0,1	401.000,00	0,06	-19,96	1	215.000	32.250	8	0	0	
11	Informations- und Kommunikationstechnologien (Zugang, Sicherheit,	11	4.233.448,60	0,6	5.183.448,60	0,76	22,44	1	4.020.469	750.000	14	0	0	0
14	Dienste und Anwendungen für KMU (elektronischer	14	7.676.631,00	1,1	6.437.805,82	0,95	-16,14	15	11.082.238	1.916.253	30	1.857.838	396.453	6
15	Andere Maßnahmen zur Verbesserung des Zugangs von KMU zur	15	6.659.005,00	1,0	6.378.666,16	0,9	-4,2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Schienenverkehr	16	3.000.000,00	0,4	0,00			0	0	0				
26	Kombinierter Verkehr	26	1.100.000,00	0,2	1.250.000,00	0,2	13,6	0	0	0	0	0	0	
28	Intelligente Beförderungssysteme	28	1.458.808,00	0,2	1.458.808,00			2	651.101	325.551	22	651.101	325.551	0
30	Häfen	30	2.800.000,00	0,4	3.000.000,00	0,4	7,1	1	2.459.050	614.763	20	0	0	0
39	Erneuerbare Energien: Wind	39	65.000,00	0,0	65.000,00	0,0	0,0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
40	Erneuerbare Energien: Sonne	40	6.638.629,00	1,0	6.037.555,00	0,9	-9,1	5	1.602.923	261.180	4	1.272.406	191.732	3
41	Erneuerbare Energien: Biomasse	41	17.208.779,00	2,5	19.966.689,00	2,9	16,0	50	59.868.329	9.367.406	47	31.028.970	4.941.487	25
42	Erneuerbare Energien: Wasserkraft, Erdwärme u. a.	42	325.000,00	0,0	568.164,00	0,1		1	478.820	119.705		478.820	119.705	21
43	Energieeffizienz, Kraft-Wärme-Kopplung, Energiemanagement	43	5.956.013,00	0,9	6.156.013,00	0,9	3,4	87	112.747.721	16.368.755	266	21.051.194	3.338.705	54
53	Risikoverhütung	53	9.074.950,00	1,3	9.682.950,00	1,4	6,7	31	14.475.745	6.958.784	72	5.665.442	2.330.511	24
55	Förderung des natürlichen Erbes	55	175.000,00	0,0	175.000,00	0,0	0,0	2	198.213	99.106	57	79.853	39.926	23
56	Schutz und Aufwertung des natürlichen Erbes	56	2.000.000,00	0,3	2.000.000,00	0,3	0,0	5	1.024.383	287.975	14	347.426	98.555	5
57	Verbesserung der touristischen Dienstleistungen	57	9.021.229,00	1,3	11.941.229,00	1,8	32,4	27	15.286.604	3.773.227	32	7.804.200	1.752.195	15
59	Entwicklung kultureller Infrastruktur	59	6.503.500,00	1,0	6.503.500,00	1,0	0,0	11	1.994.457	1.477.093	23	1.365.731	925.470	14
60	Versesserung der kulturellen Dienstleistungen	60	5.603.500,00	0,8	5.603.500,00	0,8	0,0	9	3.656.036	2.742.027	49	2.964.030	2.104.866	38
61	Integrierte Projekte zur Wiederbelebung städtischer und ländlicher	61	20.790.928,00	3,1	23.550.810,00	3,5	13,3	171	31.836.887	11.130.858	47	14.667.029	6.297.734	27
68	Unterstützung von Selbständigkeit und Unternehmensgründungen	68	150.000,00	0,0	0,00			0	0	0		0	0	
69	Maßnahmen zur Verbesserung des Zugangs von Frauen zur	69	1.247.053,00	0,2	0,00			0	0	0		0	0	
70	Spezifische Maßnahmen zur Förderung der Teilnahme von	70	547.053,00	0,1	0,00			0	0	0		0	0	
71	Konzepte für die Eingliederung oder Wiedereingliederung von	71	1.094.105,00	0,2	0,00			0	0	0		0	0	
75	Bildungsinfrastruktur	75	398.400,00	0,1	398.400,00			0	0	0		0	0	
80	Förderung des Aufbaus von Partnerschaften, Bündnissen und	80	11.081.973,00	1,6	10.567.266,00	1,6	-4,6	99	11.628.490	5.308.587	50	6.710.246	3.157.654	30
81	Mechanismen zur Verbesserung der Konzeption von Politiken und	81	5.167.251,00	0,8	5.585.287,00	0,8	8,1	17	3.450.508	1.725.254	31	1.303.534	649.031	12
85	Vorbereitung, Durchführung, Begleitung und Kontrolle	85	6.655.760,88	1,0	6.655.760,88	1,0	0,0	152	9.394.737	5.288.649	79	1.719.689	944.379	14
86	Evaluierung und Studien; Information und Kommunikation	86	6.279.092,12	0,9	6.279.092,12	0,9	0,0	62	5.456.797	3.656.693	58	1.215.178	737.280	12
	Total C&RCEprogrammes		680.066.021	100,0	680.066.021	100,0	0,0	6.814	2.942.544.765	382.150.236	56	1.292.840.833	152.897.108	22

Source: ERDF-Monitoring (July 2011), author's calculations

Annex Table C – Outputs by policy area, C & RCE Objective (total of 9 Programmes)

Convergn. & RegComp.			Outputs						
Policy Areas	FOI-Codes (relevant for AT)	total project costs based on commitments, 07.2011	No of soft- projects	...of this: No of co- operation projects (with other companies, universities..)	No of advisory services (Beratungen)	No of investment- projects	...of this: No of touristic infrastructure projects	...of this: No of co- operation projects (w ith other companies, universities..)	...of this: No of investment projects by new ly founded companies/start- ups
1. Enterprise environment		2.666.118.964	4.983	350	0	618	20	28	60
1.1 RTDI and linked activities	1, 2, 5, 7	1.217.464.591	4.536	99	0	221	0	23	20
1.2 Support for innovation in SMEs	3, 4, 6, 9, 14	334.526.742	443	250	0	127	0	5	4
1.3 Other investment in firms (in AT: including single company support in tourism)	8	1.110.107.162	0	0	0	269	20	0	36
1.4 ICT and related services	11	4.020.469	4	1	0	1	0	0	0
2. Human resources		11.628.490	89	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.1 Education and training	62 (to be added to 5)								
2.2 Labour market policies	80	11.628.490	89	0	0	0	0	0	0
3. Transport		3.110.151	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
3.1 Road									
3.2 Rail									
3.3 Other	28, 30	3.110.151	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
4. Environment and energy		189.173.538	5	0	0	169	0	0	6
4.1 Energy infrastructure	40, 41, 42, 43	174.697.793	0	0	0	143	0	0	6
4.2 Environmental infrastructure	53	14.475.745	5	0	0	26	0	0	0
5. Territorial development		54.211.580	140	0	0	86	0	0	0
5.1 Tourism and culture	55, 56, 57, 59, 60	22.159.693	32	0	0	22	0	0	0
5.2 Planning and rehabilitation	61	31.836.887	108	0	0	63	0	0	0
5.3 Social infrastructure	10	215.000	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
5.4 Other									
6. Technical assistance	only outputs for code 81 analysed (not 85, 86)	18.302.042	17	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		2.942.544.765	5.236	350	0	874	20	28	66

Source: ERDF-Monitoring July 2011, author's calculations

Annex Table D –Results by policy area, C & RCE Objective (total of 9 Programmes)

Converge & RegComp			Results													
Policy Areas	FOI-Codes (rel. for AT)	total project costs based on commitments, 07.2011	Number of participating companies on technology transfer	No of located companies	no of trained person	no of new R&D jobs to be created (full time equivalent) planned	no of new R&D jobs to be created (full time equivalent) actual	R&D jobs in the company (full time equivalent) before project start	no of new jobs to be created (full time equivalent) planned	no of new jobs to be created (full time equivalent) actual	no of jobs in the company (full time equivalent) before project start	no of new ly created high- quality beds planned	no of new ly created high- quality beds actual	new ly created pow er capacity (MW)	reduction of greenhouse gases (kt)	No of beneficiaries of risk- protection (housholds, companies)
1. Enterprise environment		2.666.118.964	1.904	15	0	561	112	5.528	4.543	2.040	38.600	1.576	2.700	0	0	0
1.1 RTDI and linked activities	1, 2, 5, 7	1.217.464.591	0	15	0	155	4	1.044	2.403	891	20.800	0	0	0	0	0
1.2 Support for innovation in SMEs	3, 4, 6, 9, 14	334.526.742	1.904	0	0	396	108	4.184	142	84	2.767	0	0	0	0	0
1.3 Other investment in firms	8	1.110.107.162	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.989	1.066	15.033	1.576	2.700	0	0	0
1.4 ICT and related services	11	4.020.469	0	0	0	11	1	301	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2. Human resources		11.628.490	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.1 Education and training	62 (under 5)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.2 Labour market policies	80	11.628.490	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3. Transport		3.110.151	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.1 Road	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.2 Rail	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.3 Other	28, 30	3.110.151	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. Environment and energy		189.173.538	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	134	18.312
4.1 Energy infrastructure	40, 41, 42, 43	174.697.793	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	134	0
4.2 Environmental infrastructure	53	14.475.745	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18.312
5. Territorial development		54.211.580	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	3	63	0	0	0	0	0
5.1 Tourism and culture	55, 56, 57, 59,	22.159.693	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	47	0	0	0	0	0
5.2 Planning and rehabilitation	61	31.836.887	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	16	0	0	0	0	0
5.3 Social infrastructure	10	215.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.4 Other	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Technical assistance	81 (not 85, 86)	18.302.042	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		2.942.544.765	1.904	15	0	561	112	5.528	4.549	2.043	38.663	1.576	2.700	100	134	18.312

Source: ERDF-Monitoring July 2011, author's calculations

Annex Table E – Allocated and committed ERDF funds by policy area, total of 4 ETC cross-border programmes

Policy Areas	FOI-Codes	Allocated ERDF, 2007 (EUR million)	in % of total	Commitments ERDF, May 2011 (EUR million)	EFRE in % of allocated
1. Enterprise environment		54.7	0.2	30.7	0.6
1.1 RTDI and linked activities	1, 2, 5, 7, 74	20.1	0.1	21.0	1.1
1.2 Support for innovation in SMEs	3, 4, 6, 9, 14, 15	23.2	0.1	5.1	0.2
1.3 Other investment in firms	8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1.4 ICT and related services	11, 12, 13	11.4	0.0	4.6	0.4
2. Human resources		37.4	0.1	35.5	1.0
2.1 Education and training	62, 63, 64, 72, 73	10.4	0.0	7.2	0.7
2.2 Labour market policies	65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 80	27.0	0.1	28.2	1.1
3. Transport		48.2	0.2	27.7	0.6
3.1 Road	20, 21, 22, 23	16.8	0.1	14.7	0.9
3.2 Rail	16, 17, 18, 19	4.3	0.0	6.7	1.6
3.3 Other	24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32	27.2	0.1	6.3	0.2
4. Environment and energy		54.1	0.2	36.9	0.7
4.1 Energy infrastructure	33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43	14.5	0.1	7.5	0.5
4.2 Environmental infrastructure	44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54	39.6	0.1	29.4	0.7
5. Territorial development		70.0	0.2	44.4	0.6
5.1 Tourism and culture	55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60	52.7	0.2	35.6	0.7
5.2 Planning and rehabilitation	61	5.0	0.0	0.3	0.1
5.3 Social infrastructure	10, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79	12.3	0.0	8.6	0.7
5.4 Other		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
6. Technical assistance	81, 85, 86	32.8	0.1	18.8	0.6
Total ETC (AT-CZ, AT-HU, AT-SK, AT-BAY)		297.3	1.0	194.0	0.7

Source: ERDF-Monitoring May 2011, author's calculations

The following CBC programmes with MAs in Austria are covered: Austria–Czech Republic, Slovakia–Austria, Deutschland/Bayern–Österreich, Austria–Hungary. The ERDF funds refer to the whole programme area (and not just to the Austrian part).