



**Expert evaluation network
delivering policy analysis on the
performance of Cohesion policy 2007-2013
Year 2 – 2012**

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

Austria

Version: Final

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

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List of abbreviations

- AIR Annual Implementation Report
- AT-BAY Austria-Bayern
- AT-CZ Austria-Czech Republic
- AT-HU Austria-Hungary
- AT-SK Austria-Slovakia
- ATMOS Austrian Monitoring System (ERDF)
- AWS Austria Wirtschaftsservice | erp-fonds
- Bundesländer (Länder) Federal provinces in Austria, corresponding to NUTS-2 level
- Bund Central Government
- CBC Cross-Border-Cooperation
- C&RCE Convergence and Regional Competitiveness and Employment programmes
- EIF European Investment Fund
- EE Energy Efficiency
- ETC European Territorial Cooperation
- ETD European Territorial Development
- 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
- Local governments Municipalities in Austria
- OP Operational Programme
- ÖROK Austrian Conference of Spatial Planning
- PE Private Equity
- RES Renewable Energy Sources
- VC Venture Capital

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Chances in the regional development policy pursued

Convergence and Regional Competitiveness and Employment programmes (C&RCE) programmes in Austria are focused mainly on the “enterprise environment” policy area which accounts for 80% of total ERDF financing (EUR 544 million). The ERDF increases the scope for investment particularly for regional innovation policy, which is an important aspect for future economic development and competitiveness. This focus is common across the nine programmes. Since the 2011 report programme was prepared modifications have been made to the Tirol and Wien programmes. These modifications, however, only concern shifts in the mix of measures within the priority axes related to the ‘Lisbon’ agenda. The conditions for implementing the Convergence and Competitiveness programmes improved considerably in the Länder with the exception of the southern part of Austria. No specific new measures to tackle the problem of youth unemployment and to tackle the problem of SMEs unable to obtain finance have been introduced into Austrian ERDF programmes except for Burgenland and Upper Austria where risk capital funds have been set up, and national policy initiatives have been taken as well as some co-financed by the ESF.

As regards Cross-Border-Cooperation (CBC) programmes there has been no change in the policy focus since the preparation of last year’s report.

2. The progress made in carrying out the expenditure planned

At the end of 2011, in the nine Austrian Convergence (Phasing-out) and Competitiveness programmes, 29% of ERDF available for the period was spent and 66% was committed. As compared with the position at the end of 2010 (17% spent and 42% committed), this represents a rise in expenditure of 12 percentage points and in commitments of 24 percentage points. The implementation of programmes accelerated considerably in 2011 and commitments overall after 5 years is now more in line with what would be expected. The rise in expenditure has, however, been significantly slower than that of commitments. That means there is a need to speed up expenditure and its certification in Austrian ERDF programmes to fully use the funds available. Kärnten with only one priority axis traditionally has a slower implementation rate as the other programmes.

As regards CBC programmes, 22% of the ERDF available was spent at the end of 2011 and 76% was committed, 11 percentage points more than in May 2011. Expenditure on most programmes increased significantly from May to December 2011 but are still very low – Austria-Hungary (AT-HU): 20%, Austria-Slovakia (AT-SK): 19%, Austria-Czech Republic (AT-CZ): 22%, and Austria-Bayern (AT-BAY): 29%. The long start-up phase of many projects as well as the slow pace of implementation, and as a consequence the time lags in disbursement, has become a major concern.

3. The output and results achieved

There was a significant increase in the number of projects approved in the most important policy area “Support for Enterprise environment” in the course of 2011. Good results are also evident in the complementary policy area of “The environment and energy” with however relatively small funding. Core physical indicators such as the creation of new jobs show a

significant increase during the year, the number of new jobs created rising from about 2,000 (as indicated in last year's report) to 3,143 (the final target is 6,876 for all programmes) at the end of 2011. By the end of 2011, EUR 1,500 million had been invested in the enterprise environment in Austrian regions in order to improve links between research and business, to strengthen the innovation potential of companies and to develop areas of regional competitiveness in the sense of smart specialisation.

In the CBC programmes, resources had been committed to 312 projects by the end of 2011 (258 in May 2011), 163 of these (133 in May 2011) related to the priority "Innovation and Competitiveness" and 149 (125 in May 2011) to the priority "Sustainable Development". Significant progress in implementation is evident in both priorities over a broad range of activities. Achievements of CBC programmes are particularly difficult to demonstrate and to measure concretely.

4. The evaluations carried out in the present programming period

Evaluation of ERDF programmes in Austria at the operational level is much broader than indicated in the Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs). Many evaluations are carried out by the implementing bodies at federal or regional level and Managing Authorities partly translate them into the AIRs. The present report sums up all relevant evaluations. It shows up that there is a significant body of evaluation evidence which is used in the present report to qualify and shed light on achievements.

No impact evaluations have been carried out yet on CBC programmes in the current programming period, which also has to do with the low level of implementation.

5. The main challenges Cohesion policy is facing in the Member State

Despite overall positive effects of ERDF programmes in Austria, their successful implementation is facing serious challenges. With every successive programming period, the impression is that the burden and costs of administrative implementation to make use of the ERDF financing available are growing and it is increasingly difficult to absorb all funding available (despite the small volume and widened programme areas in Austria). Accordingly, the pressure has increased to apply more standardised funding measures and to avoid new and experimental instruments which are an essential part of a modern regional innovation policy. ERDF programmes are therefore increasingly losing their characteristic of being "impetus programmes" and end up being very pragmatic financial instruments which are integrated into the existing funding system expending the least possible effort.

1. THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT

Main points from previous country report:

- The primary reference unit for regional policy in Austria consists of the nine Bundesländer (NUTS 2 regions) which are fully operational territorial units with their own regional development strategies, albeit closely coordinated with central government.
- Compared to the EU-27 average, GDP per head in the individual Bundesländer is much higher except for the Convergence (phasing-out) region of Burgenland and regional disparities are relatively small and continue to diminish. GDP per head in the weakest region, Burgenland, has continuously increased in relative terms.
- The global economic crisis hit Austria slightly less than the EU-27 as a whole. The economic framework conditions in Austria improved considerably in 2010 compared to 2009 contributing to an increase in the number of applications for ERDF support. Fiscal consolidation has not yet affected the implementation of the programmes.

Austria recovered relatively rapidly after the recession in 2009 but is now being affected by the overall weakening of the EU economy. Following a period of upswing (2004-2007) and a short downturn (2008-2009), the economy has achieved of low but stable growth (of 2.3% in 2010 and 3.0% in 2011). Moreover, gross fixed investment increased in 2011 by 5% and exports by 7.1%. The labour market recovered quickly from the 2008-2009 recession with employment growing strongly and the unemployment rate falling from a peak of 5.1% to 4.1% in late 2011.

The improved economic conditions in 2010 and 2011 led to stronger investment in enterprises which has contributed to an increase in the number of applications to ERDF programmes. The conditions for implementing these improved considerably in the Bundesländer with the exception of the southern part of Austria.

Currently, there are signs that the southern part of Austria (i.e. Kärnten) is having difficulties in following the same sound and stable development path as the other Austrian regions (including the Convergence region of Burgenland). Production and employment grew more slowly than the Austrian average, the unemployment rate is significantly higher than the average and Kärnten is also the only region with a shrinking population.

Both the economy and the investment activities of companies gained momentum after the downturn in 2008-2009 (with the exception of the slow recovery in Kärnten) but the effects of the public debt crisis are nevertheless tangible. Because of the need for fiscal consolidation at all levels (national, federal and municipal), there is little room for manoeuvre as regards public investment. ERDF funding can, however, help stabilise investment levels in specific area (e.g. regional innovation policy).

There was a decline in general government investment between 2010 and 2011 from 1.1% of GDP to 1.0% (see Excel Table 2). Over the longer term, total public investment has fallen relative to total public expenditure and GDP since 1995 (except in 2009-2010 when economic recovery measures were taken). In general the room for manoeuvre for public investment is diminishing. The contribution of the ERDF increases the room for manoeuvre of the Länder for investment in

specific areas such as innovation and tourism in the context of stagnation in government investment activities. This emphasises the importance of ERDF at the regional level.

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

THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY PURSUED

Main points from previous country report:

- The ERDF in Austria co-finances one Convergence (Phasing-out) Programme (13% of total ERDF support), 8 Competitiveness 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).¹
- The ERDF increases the scope for investment particularly for a *region-based* innovation and development policy, which is an important aspect for future economic development and competitiveness. For example, for the regional funding agency KWF in Kärnten, the ERDF accounts for approximately 28% of available funding. The contribution of the ERDF at regional level is therefore substantial. As a consequence, the Länder have a high level of interest in receiving ERDF support (if it can be managed with proportionate effort).
- The most important priority of ERDF programmes in Austria in the 2007-2013 period is focused on the “enterprise environment” (including grants for innovative projects, support for R&D infrastructure development and technology transfer), which accounts for 81% of total ERDF financing (EUR 552 million). Direct support to enterprises is one of the cornerstones of public support for economic development in Austria and is the key intervention in ERDF programmes. This strong focus on single company support is a specific feature of Austrian ERDF programmes.
- Support for the development of human resources, transport, the environment and energy and territorial development account for only 16% of the total ERDF allocation (EUR 109 million).
- The nature of support for the enterprise environment is mainly focused on traditional instruments – which can feasibly 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 most easily capable of being standardised.

Shifts in priorities and/or the allocation of EU funding – in the short and longer term

Since the 2011 country report, modifications have been made to the Tirol and Wien programmes. These relate only to shifts in the mix of measures within priority axes under the Lisbon agenda (reduction of funding for R&D projects for SMEs; increase in other innovative

¹ Allocated ERDF funds according to ÖROK (2009, table 2, p. 17), for the 2007-2013 programming period: Convergence: EUR 125 million, Competitiveness EUR 555 million, ETC EUR 256.7 million (only Austrian part)

investment in companies; increase of support for technology transfer and cooperation networks).

The longer term changes in the allocation of funding (comparing the situation in July 2012 to the original allocation in 2007) over the 9 regional programmes taken together are:

- ERDF support for the main priority **Enterprise environment** has remained unchanged overall in the nine programmes (2007: EUR 555 million; 2012: EUR 544 million).
- The minor ERDF policy field **Human resource development** (only ERDF related), which is primarily implemented in Steiermark (by ESF cross financing) and Vorarlberg has remained unchanged.
- The very small policy field **Transport** was reduced significantly because projects were taken out of some programmes due to implementation problems. Such projects proved too complex to be implemented within a limited programming period.
- Support for the **Environment and energy** and for **Territorial development** has been slightly increased (by 4-6%) because there is consistent demand in these areas.

No new specific measures to tackle the problem of youth unemployment and to tackle the problem of SMEs being unable to obtain finance because of the credit crunch have been introduced in Austrian ERDF programmes (in the Austrian ESF employment programme, however, there has been a shift of funds from priority axis 1, Adaptability of workers and enterprises, to axis 2, Combating unemployment, with the aim of tackling youth unemployment).

In order to tackle the scarcity of venture capital, several venture capital initiatives were launched in 2011 with government support to provide incentives for private investors to put money in. The Austrian Government has announced that as part of an 'offensive for young entrepreneurs' (*Jungunternehmer-Offensive*), two new funds (totalling around EUR 65 million when fully operational) will be created: one for young entrepreneurs and a Business Angel Fund, which will both be managed by the AWS (Austria WirtschaftsService | erp-fonds). The European Investment Fund (EIF) contributes resources to both funds.

With ERDF support in Burgenland and Oberösterreich – based on the current programmes – relatively small private equity and venture capital funds for the support of a small number of enterprises could be created.

Main priorities in ETC cross-border programmes

Main points from previous country report:

- 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 managed by Austria (out of 7 CBC programmes) provide EUR 303.7 million of ERDF financing for cross-border regional development. The biggest programmes in terms of funding are AT-CZ, AT-HU and AT-SK, accounting for 76% of the total ERDF allocated under this Objective.
- 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%).

- These programmes are the only ones supported by the ERDF in Austria which still follow a broad regional development approach covering a wide range of measures. The main programmes are very much focused on the “enterprise environment” policy area.

There has been no change in the main priorities of CBC programmes since the preparation of last year’s report.

It has to be noted, that the CBC programmes are intended to be complementary to the ERDF mainstream programmes. Cooperation programmes are aimed at strengthening cooperation structures in defined areas linked to EU priorities. The programmes are designed to further cooperation and not the development of the region as such. This specific purpose is emphasised by the fact that the funds available represent only a very small part of the total public funding for territorial development.

To a greater extent than the mainstream ERDF programmes, the CBC programmes are focused on issues at small local level (NUTS3). The four programmes concerned cover 65 EU-field of intervention codes. This makes the programmes very flexible and close to the needs of the local population. Strengthening the strategic approach of CBC programmes, as is being currently discussed in drafting the new regulations (four out of the 11 CSF objectives have to be selected by CBC programmes), will pose a particular challenge in designing the new programmes.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION²

Convergence and Regional Competitiveness Programmes

Main points from previous country report:

- The implementation of the programmes accelerated considerably in 2010 and in the first half of 2011. By July 2011, in the 9 programmes 22.5% of the ERDF available (EUR 152.8 million) had been spent and 56% (EUR 382.2 million) committed.
- Compared to the end of 2009 (9% spent and 34% committed), there was a rise in expenditure relative to the budget available of +13.5 percentage points and in commitments of +22 percentage points. The overall level of implementation was below original expectations but still above the EU-27 average.

At the end of 2011, **29%** of the ERDF (EUR 196.5 million) had been spent and **66%** (EUR 446.6 million) committed. Compared to the end of 2010, this represents an increase in expenditure of **12** percentage points and an increase in commitments of **24** percentage points.

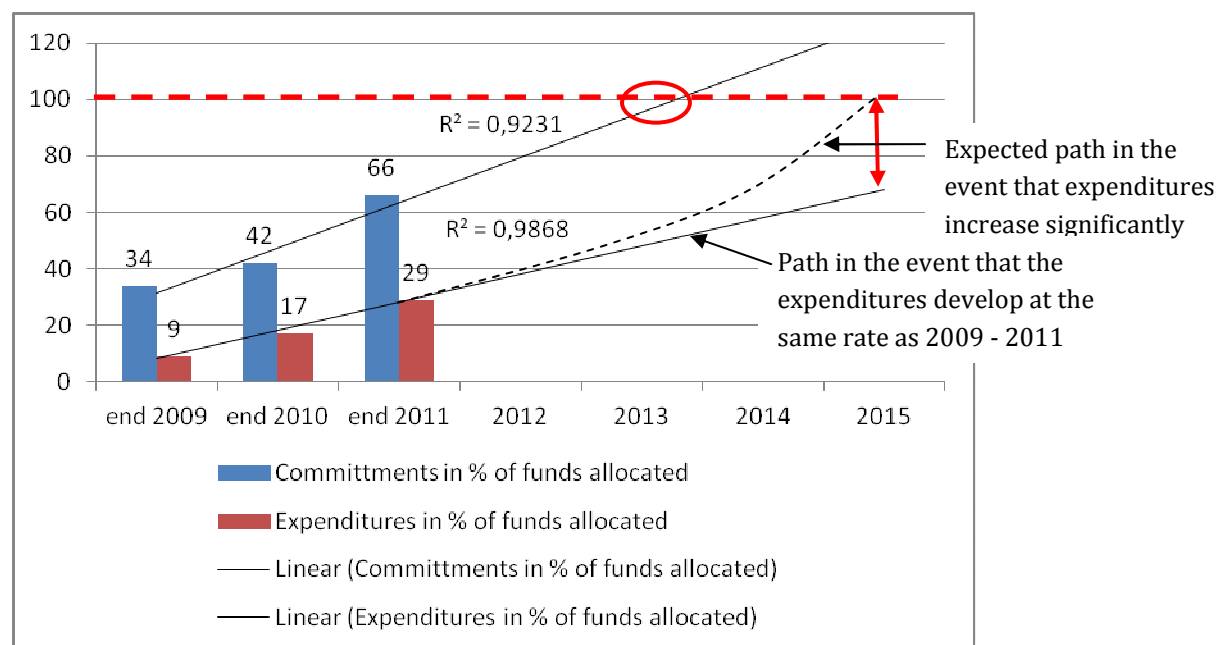
The implementation of the programmes accelerated considerably in 2010 and in 2011 and the overall level of commitments after 5 years (approximately 70% of the programming period) is now more in line with expectations.

² The indicators used in this section come from the AIR for 2011, which relate to the situation up to the end of 2011. A more up-to-date view of the aggregate position (though not of the situation in the different policy areas) is presented in the Synthesis Report for 2012 of the Expert evaluation network delivering policy analysis on the performance of Cohesion policy 2007-2013 which is based on data for payments from the ERDF and Cohesion Fund up to the end of 2012, i.e. after the present report was completed.

In the course of 2011, a significant increase in the number of projects approved was achieved in the most important policy area “Support for Enterprise environment”. This is mainly due to an increase in research projects for SMEs (which started from a very low level and are still below expectations), advanced support services for companies, innovation related investment projects in companies and the broad category of “other” investment projects (including investment in tourism). The complementary policy area, the “Environment and energy”, also showed an increase with relatively small funding.

The rise in expenditures, however, was significantly less than that of the commitments. The rate of expenditure is lower overall than in the 2000-2006 period. This is all the more surprising as the programme areas have been broadened, i.e. the agglomeration areas have been included, and available funding has been significantly reduced. This indicates increasingly difficult underlying conditions for the implementation of ERDF programmes (i.e. the economic recession in 2008-2009, administrative bottlenecks; and increasingly one-sided programmes with reduced resilience against changes in the programme environment).

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



Source: ERDF monitoring, author's calculation

If expenditure is extrapolated to 2015, assuming that the pace of implementation is the same as in 2010-2011, around 20-30% of funding would remain unspent at the end of the period. This means there is a need to speed up expenditure to fully utilise the funds available. This is a difficult task for the programme authorities which are likely to be busy preparing for next programming period in 2012 and 2013.

At programme level, there is a significant mismatch between the length of time programmes have been running and the extent of commitment of funds in Kärnten which has so far only committed 44% of those available and spent 24%, which is well below the Austrian average. In Kärnten, the core focus is on support to innovation and research in companies which is ambitious, but demand is well below expectations. This is linked to the fact that Kärnten has benefited less from the economic upswing than other *Länder* and companies there are reluctant

to invest. The absorption of the funds represents the main concern for the Managing Authority (MA). In addition, account also needs to be taken of the fact that the Kärnten programme is the only one in Austria with a single priority focusing on innovation and is therefore very restricted in scope. Other programmes have territorial development as a second priority. This concentration makes the utilisation of funds even more difficult in an already unfavourable economic climate. In order to counter this, the MA has shifted funds between the Lisbon “earmarked” codes (from 04 to 07/08 without losing the focus on innovation), i.e. less is being invested in research and more in innovation and at the same time a strategic project is being prepared that should be implemented in 2013.

Overall in Austria the lowest rate of commitment is in research projects for SMEs. While commitments of funding for cross-company research projects (i.e. RTDI activities in regional research centres) and support for RTD are relatively high (see Annex Table A) the enterprise strand has been affected by the (part) withdrawal of the central agency FFG³ from the Structural Funds. The major administrative challenge in the implementation of the ERDF, and in particular in financial control, mean that research projects in SMEs are mainly supported by national funding. As considerable funds were allocated to the company strand – in total EUR 69 million of which only 39% were committed and 4% actually paid out by the end of 2011 and no significant improvement can be expected in the near future – there is an urgent need to shift funds within the innovation priority (in some programmes, such as Tirol, funds for research have already been reduced).

The main bottleneck to the swift implementation of ERDF programmes in Austria in most cases lies in financial control problems. The biggest problems with the financial control occur above all in projects which are research and technology related. Justifying personnel costs and overheads which are the main expenditure in these projects represents a heavy administrative burden to beneficiaries and programme authorities under the current provisions. The already agreed simplification measures (in the framework of the “Recovery Packages”) are a first important step but have regrettably had hardly any positive effects in practice (see AIRs 2011 Kärnten, p. 11, Tirol p. 36).

Effort for financial controls

The administrative effort involved in financial controls is wholly disproportionate to the funding. If a calculation is made of the total effort of all those concerned in the administration to complete a recovery of funds procedure⁴ on a small sum (e.g. EUR 100) – which occurs frequently – the total days spent amount to between approximately 2.5 (in simple cases) to 5 person days in more complicated cases.

Comment from a CBC Managing Authority, September 2012

Progress in relation to targets set

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

³ Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft mbH

⁴ According to implementing regulation for the Structural and Cohesion Funds 2007-2013

In the Enterprise support, RTDI and ICT policy area, the high level of commitment as regards direct support measures to enterprises (with the exception of research projects for SMEs) are well reflected in the core indicators “investment induced” and resulting “jobs created”. Core physical indicators such as the creation of new jobs show a significant increase in the course of the year. The number of newly created jobs increased from about 2,000 (as indicated in last year’s report) to 3,143 up to the end of 2011.

The number of cooperation projects between enterprises and research institutions exceeds expectations. This is presumably linked to the high commitment as regards cross company research initiatives which is in stark contrast to the low rate in respect of company research projects (as explained above).

The number of supported “start-ups” is substantially below the target value and implementation in respect of ICT (broadband) is also lagging, as reflected in the very low level of payments.

In the environment and energy, 20-34% of the target has been reached (with the exception of renewable energy production) which is slightly below the expenditure rate of 40% (achievements may be underestimated).

In territorial development, the targets have been more or less reached which is in stark contrast to the low expenditure rate, suggesting that in this policy area, the targets were set very cautiously.

Table 1 – Performance of core indicators in C&RCE programmes

Code	Core Indicator	Final Target	2011	in % of target
Enterprise support, RTDI, ICT				
01	Jobs created	6,876	3,143	46
04	No. of RTD projects*	798	164	21
05	No. of cooperation project enterprises-research institutions	206	391	190
06	Research jobs created	862	141	16
08	No. of start-ups supported	342	47	14
10	Investment induced (EUR million)	3,750	1,655	44
12	No. of additional population covered by broadband access	10,000	0	0
Environment and energy				
23	No. of renewable energy projects*	25	5	20
24	Additional capacity of renewable energy production	105	87	83
30	Reduction greenhouse emissions (CO ₂ and equivalents, kt)	296	102	34
31	No. of risk prevention projects*	32	9	28
32	No. of people benefiting from flood protection measures	300	0	0
33	No. of people benefiting from forest fire protection and other protection measures	80,000	18,289	23
Territorial development				
34	No. of tourism projects*	9	9	100
39	No. of projects ensuring sustainability and improving the attractiveness of towns and cities	41	32	78

Source: DG Regio data, own calculation

The targets have, in some cases, been adapted in the process of programme implementation. Accordingly, the targets – in line with the reduction of funds allocated to EU code 04 (research) – for “number of RTD projects” and “Research jobs created” have been revised downwards

(Oberösterreich, Steiermark, Tirol). If the targets are adapted as a consequence of changes in the allocation of funds, this should be made a more transparent than has so far been the case – and explained in the AIRs. Modifications to targets should be taken into account in the assessment of the achievements of the programmes.

In assessing the success of programmes, the achievements of targets should not be considered in isolation and be given undue importance as they are only one basis for assessment among many. A multi-dimensional perspective of a number of criteria is needed to allow a meaningful assessment of programme performance.

Progress in implementing ETC – Cross border programmes (AT-HU, AT-SK, AT-CZ, AT-BAY)

Main points from previous country report:

- In the four CBC programmes, which have been examined, project approvals are already well advanced. In total, 65% of allocated ERDF finance has been committed (EUR 194 million of EUR 297 million allocated) as at May 2011). In comparison with the figures for the end of 2009 (50%), commitments rose by 15 percentage points.
- Commitments are relatively high in most policy areas. The only intervention areas which are lagging are Support for innovation in SMEs (a commitment rate of 22%) and Planning and rehabilitation (5%). Company and innovation-related measure appear to be difficult to implement in CBC programmes.
- Unlike commitments, however, expenditure in most programmes is still very low (AT-HU: 4%, AT-SK: 8%, AT-CZ: 11%, and AT-BAY: 18%).

At the end of 2011, taking the four CBC programmes together, **22%** of the ERDF available (EUR 67.7 million) was spent and **76%** (EUR 231.6 million) committed. In comparison to the figures for May 2011 (65%), commitments rose by 11 percentage points. Commitments are relatively high in most policy areas (RTDI, Human resources, Environment & energy, Territorial development). The only areas in which there are delays are Support for innovation in SMEs (35% commitments compared with 22% in May 2011) and Planning and rehabilitation (28% compared to 5% in May 2011). This confirms the point made last year that company and innovation-related measures seem difficult to implement in CBC programmes.

Unlike commitments, however, expenditure on most programmes increased significantly compared with May 2011 but is still very low (AT-HU: 20%/4%, AT-SK: 19%/8%, AT-CZ: 22%/11%, and AT-BAY: 29%/18%).

Accordingly, there is an urgent need to speed up expenditure in CBC programmes to fully absorb the funds available. The long start-up phase of many projects as well as the slow pace of implementation and, as a consequence the lags in disbursement, have become a major concern. Counter-action taken includes (i) the period for the conclusion of partnership agreements at project level has been limited and (ii) MAs has been empowered to propose serious consequences to projects which are lagging. Prolonging such projects will be subject to conditions and might lead to budget cuts (see AIR 2011 SK-AT, p. 4).

As regards the achievement of targets (which are mainly set in terms of number of projects) in the AIR SK-AT (2011, p. 16), it is noted that most of targets will not be met, mainly due to the project size being significantly underestimated in the programming phase. In future, there is a need for better benchmarks to be established for programmes.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROGRAMMES SO FAR

Main points from previous country report:

- The key intervention area in Austrian ERDF programmes, direct support to enterprises, performed well (with the exception of research projects for SMEs) on the basis of physical outputs and results collected systematically through the Austrian Monitoring System (ATMOS).
- AIRs are focused on progress in spending (input-output) and administration issues and do not comment on physical indicators of achievements (results) in relation to programme objectives. The achievements in the AIRs are usually presented in the form of single good practice projects (this is a useful approach if good practice extends to describing what has been achieved as a result of the projects).
- Evaluations are an important source of information on outcomes; however, available evaluation results are very selective and do not apply to all funding activities co-financed by the ERDF.

Demonstration of the main outcomes so far in each of the broad policy areas relies to a high extent on the ATMOS monitoring system. The systematic analysis of qualitative information in the AIRs which could help to interpret the result indicators is mostly missing. Therefore it is not possible to start from qualitative information about programme outcomes – as is proposed in the template – and to verify this in terms of indicators since this kind of information is largely not provided by the AIRs (a few rare examples are indicated in the text or in text boxes).

With respect to a more results based management of ERDF programmes, it was possible to compile “standardised” result indicators in the Austrian monitoring programme which could be aggregated across programmes in order to gain an overall view of achievements (this is less the case for CBC-programmes). This is a first step. Result indicators give an idea of the contribution of projects to specific policy goals such as the increase in innovation capacity (new R&D jobs, participation in technology transfer) and employment opportunities (number of new jobs). On the other hand, policy goals such as regional specialisation or increases in competitiveness are not targeted through result indicators. Accordingly, result indicators do not reflect the full spectrum of policy goals in ERDF programmes.

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

Table 2 - Summary of actual achievements per policy field in C&RCE programmes

Policy area	Main current achievements at end 2011
Enterprise support and RTDI including ICT	<p>EUR 1,500 million was invested in the enterprise environment in regions in order to improve links between research and businesses, to strengthen the innovation potential of companies and to develop regional competitiveness in terms of smart specialisation (to put it into perspective: about EUR 7,000 to 8,000 million are invested yearly on R&D in Austria by the public sector, business sector and others.</p> <p>Through the development or creation of regional research, technology and innovation centres (27 projects), important regional nodes were created. 40 new jobs were created and 242 jobs were maintained.</p> <p>Through the support of 22 research projects in regional research centres, 3 new R&D jobs were created and 29 R&D jobs were safeguarded.</p> <p>1,700 companies participated in technology transfer supported by regional cluster initiatives.</p> <p>Through 45 research projects for SMEs about 117 new R&D jobs were created.</p> <p>4,700 support services (mostly advisory projects) have been implemented in about 1,000 SMEs and 200 large companies.</p> <p>Through 125 RTDI related investment projects in companies, mainly SMEs, new innovative technologies were implemented and new products created. This resulted in 1,000 new jobs and 10,200 jobs were maintained.</p> <p>Through 190 investment projects with no direct RTDI content and investment projects related to the tourist sector mainly implemented by SMEs, about 1,571 new jobs were created and about 8,000 maintained. As a contribution to the increase in the high quality segment in the offer of beds, 3,000 new, high quality beds have been created to date.</p> <p>74 investment projects in Eco-Innovation, mainly by SMEs, created 119 new jobs.</p> <p>A limited number of relatively small private equity and venture capital (PE and VC) funds have been created for the support of a small number of enterprises (about 20). This broadens the mix of instruments available for the support of innovative enterprises.</p>
Human Resources (ERDF only)	<p>EUR 8.8 million of support</p> <p>2,962 participants in training (with ESF cross financing)</p>
Transport	<p>EUR 0.7 million of support</p> <p>No specific result indicator was defined</p>
Environment and energy	<p>EUR 99.4 million support for development of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) (biomass) and Energy Efficiency (EE) measures and environmental infrastructure to prevent floods and avalanches</p> <p>89 MW newly created power capacity in 55 plants (in particular biomass) which is a significant proportion of the 195 existing biomass plants with 426 MW</p> <p>110 kt reduction of greenhouse gases (this is equivalent to CO₂ emissions of about 31,000 cars)</p> <p>85,713 beneficiaries of risk-protection (households, companies)</p>
Territorial development	<p>EUR 37.1 million for support of investment in tourism, cultural activities and planning and rehabilitation of urban areas</p> <p>In a specific area in Vienna a surface area of approximately 28,500 sq. m. of public space and 1,350 m of pavements and cycle routes were regenerated and newly designed. In addition, approximately 4,500 participants took part in events.</p>

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

Achievements per policy- and intervention area

Achievements for the nine regional programmes are summarised below for the main policy area “Enterprise environment” and for the supplementary areas “Environment and Energy” and “Territorial development”. The policy areas “Transport” and “Human resources”, in which there is only a very small amount of ERDF funding, are not covered. Each policy area is presented as a whole initially and then in detail by main area of intervention. The aim is to summarise all available evidence on the outcomes achieved from ERDF co-financing up to the end of 2011. The “big picture” on achievements (which is being successively completed as evaluations emerge) is based primarily on the combined use of two main sources, the ATMOS monitoring system (on the basis of actual expenditure) and research studies and evaluation reports (including the most recent ones). Evaluations allow a deeper analysis than is possible from the monitoring indicators and the information included in the AIRs. The aim is to cover all relevant intervention areas which have been the subject of evaluations. (The evaluations provide details of outcomes in the policy areas concerned even if the ERDF covers only part of the area as is usually the case). Some examples of achievements indicated in AIRs are presented in text boxes. In general there are no substantial improvements in the presentation of outcomes in the AIRs for 2011.

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

The “Enterprise environment” has by far the largest weight in regional programmes, accounting for 80% of total ERDF as at end- 2011. A broad range of activities is supported, including RTDI activities in research centres, R&TD infrastructure, advisory projects and RTDI investment projects in companies, investment grants for enterprises in industry and tourism, technology transfer and cooperation networks, research projects for SMEs, investment in eco-innovation, inter-communal business location cooperation and soft-projects in ICT services. The broad mix of support activities should however not hide the fact that, in financial terms, the programmes are mainly focused on support for business investment.

No new measures to increase access to finance by SMEs to help them to overcome the effects of the credit crunch or on youth unemployment have been introduced. Investment support for SMEs is one of the cornerstones of existing programmes and a broad spectrum of funding options is provided in this regard.

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

- **RTDI activities in regional research centres** are currently being implemented in four programmes (originally scheduled for six programmes but those in Burgenland and Vorarlberg were not yet implemented). The funds allocated are already committed to a large extent (79%). About 50 soft projects have been approved and 22 research projects implemented (a significant increase in implementation occurred in 2011). EUR 25.8 million was actually invested (EUR 95.2 million committed to projects). Three new R&D jobs were created and 29 R&D jobs were maintained.
- Over 100% of ERDF funding is already committed to support for **R&TD infrastructure**. About 50 investment projects have been approved and 27 projects implemented (a significant increase in implementation is evident in 2011). EUR 57 million was actually invested (EUR 127 million committed to projects). Through the (further) development

of research, technology and innovation centres 40 new jobs were created and 242 jobs were maintained. Over a number of programming periods, the ERDF has significantly contributed to the creation and further development of the regional network of RTDI centres in Austria. Many of the centres are flagship ones from the perspective of regional innovation policy (e.g. in the Steiermark the Impulse Centre for Raw Materials – *Impulszentrum für Rohstoffe* – in Leoben).

- Under **Technology transfer and cooperation networks**, ERDF programmes provide support to regional clusters, one of the most widely used measures to enhance competitiveness and restructure the economy. Around 57% of available funding has been committed, 300 soft projects approved and 181 projects implemented with 1,700 companies participating in technology transfer. EUR 22 million was invested (EUR 71 million committed to projects). However, in 2011, little progress in implementation can be observed and the expenditure rate at the end of the year is still very low (14%).
- With respect to **Research projects for SMEs**, about 200 soft projects have been approved and only 45 implemented, which is less than originally expected. EUR 29.7 million was invested (EUR 69 million committed to projects). Implementation was speeded up in 2011 but is still very low (4% expenditure rate). The original allocation was already reduced by 18% due to serious implementation problems. Up to the end of 2011 about 117 new R&D jobs had been created. For R&D projects (national and ERDF supported projects) an Austria-wide Annual Impact Monitoring of the FFG basic programme is in place covering national and ERDF co-financed projects which were finalised in 2007 (KMU FORSCHUNG AUSTRIA, 2012). There is a time lag of about four years between the completion of projects and their evaluation. Accordingly, the current evaluation addresses projects carried out in the 2000-2006 and 2007-2013 periods, though ERDF projects are not analysed separately. The survey of approximately 300 projects shows the effectiveness of the FFG funding. A third of the enterprises stated that the project provided the impetus for the creation of a new area of activity for their company. For 85% of the projects, this represented the further development of existing R&D activities. For 9% it meant the introduction of the first R&D activity in the company. For about 85% of the projects results had already been put into economic use. A total of 313 patents were registered. The projects funded through the FFG led to 1,700 jobs being maintained or created.
- As regards **advanced support services for companies or groups of companies**, about 5,100 soft projects (mostly advisory projects) have been approved and 4,700 implemented (implementation accelerated greatly in 2011). EUR 44.9 million was invested (EUR 85 million committed to projects). Advisory services cover company organisation, environmental management, use of technologies and innovation, and enterprise creation. Support services have been introduced in about 1,000 SMEs and 200 large companies.

An evaluation has been carried out on the needs oriented qualification measures for micro-enterprises and start ups in Vienna, the 'Mingo Services' (by L&R Sozialforschung, 2011, though an online questionnaire and in-depth interviews with participants for the period 2008 to mid-2010). The evaluation found that the coaching for start-ups was relatively effective and produced favourable results.

The INiTS organisation, co-financed in Wien, provides a various kinds of support for young entrepreneurs with university degrees to implement their ideas, including setting up a company. Since its establishment in 2002, a total of 107 start-up ideas had been taken up by end-2011 (though financed not only by the ERDF). Approximately 590 new jobs had been created, 154 patents registered and EUR 82.8 million (private and institutional) invested (according to the INiTS in Numbers; Annual Report 2010/2011).

The evaluation results are in line with the qualitative estimation of the effects given by the MA in the Salzburg programme as outlined in the text box below.

Effects of support services for companies, RCE Programme Salzburg

According to the MA in Salzburg, project implementation so far has shown that the smaller project involving, for example, coaching, innovation support or network assessments provided a good mix of support for the core target group of SME. These projects use less ERDF resources than investment but they can reach a large number of SMEs and support them in their first innovative activities. In addition, these smaller projects are often a first step towards further innovation and investment.

Source: Summary of AIR 2011 Salzburg p. 24 f

- **Investment projects in Eco-Innovation**, i.e. investment in environmentally-friendly products and production processes, are planned for all Austrian ERDF programmes. To date, funding has been committed to 125 investment projects (and 1 soft project), 74 projects were implemented (progress in 2011 was moderate and the expenditure rate is still very low). EUR 62.2 million was invested (EUR 118.8 million committed to projects). Investment projects, which are mainly implemented by SMEs, are aimed at preventing pollution of the environment, implementing new environmentally friendly technologies and creating new eco-products. Significant effects in terms of jobs and economic returns are expected. About 119 new jobs have been created. However, no meaningful evaluation has been carried out.
- **Innovation related investment projects in companies** are the second most important interventions in financial terms. They are included in 8 out of 9 regional ERDF programmes in Austria. About 200 investment projects (20 by newly founded companies) have been approved and 125 projects implemented. EUR 478.7 million was invested (EUR 1,000 million committed to projects). 70% of support went to SMEs and 30% to large companies (mostly with between 250 to 500 employees).

The projects concern the implementation of new innovative technologies and the creation of new products. A number of the projects are carried out in cooperation with universities. About 1,000 new jobs were created and 10,200 jobs maintained. Most of the new jobs created are linked to RTDI Investment projects. In the context of continuous decline in employment in industry, the creation of new jobs is a real success story.

A more recent evaluation was undertaken by the HIS (institute for Advanced Studies) in June 2011 on investment subsidies for growth projects under the labour market support law (AMF-Investitionsförderung), in the period between 2005 to 2006, when it was partly co-financed by the ERDF. The evaluation found that the law is an appropriate means of encouraging growth and employment, though the effects could be significantly increased if the support was better coordinated with the economic cycle. An internal

evaluation by the AWS (Knoll, 2011) showed that AMF supported projects helped companies to implement strategic goals. They were aim not only at expanding capacity but also at modernisation of supply and diversification and innovation of the product portfolio.

A recent evaluation (IHS, July 2012) examines the impact of funding support for innovative investment projects in large companies in a regional context (based on a regionalised input-output model). As a case study, a company in Kärnten which is the Austrian branch of a large international corporation with around 49,000 employees was chosen. It was shown that the development of the Unterkärnten region was directly linked to the growth of the company and that there were large spill-over effects as regards supply chains, cooperation, research and further education and training. The evaluation concluded that support of innovative investment in large companies should continue to be possible under EU Cohesion policy.

- **The broad category of “other” investment projects (including in the tourist sector)** is at present – due to the latest changes in allocation (+18%) – the most important area of enterprise support. About 300 investment projects (40 by newly founded companies) have been approved and 190 projects implemented (good progress was achieved in 2011). EUR 716.7 million was actually invested (EUR 1,400 million committed to projects). 85% of investment was carried out by existing SMEs and a minor part by start-up companies. The area covers investment which has no RTDI link as well as projects relating to tourism which accounted in total for more than 30% of all expenditure in regional programmes at end 2011. In the original allocation in 2007, only 15% of the funds were foreseen for this category. However, with the change in economic conditions, the allocation has been significantly increased. Around 1,571 new jobs have been created and some 8,000 maintained.

Around 70 projects are intended to improve tourist infrastructure. They have led to increased high quality accommodation for tourists (in the form of 3,000 new beds, adding some 0.5% to the existing capacity in Austria). (The quality-end of the sector alone is being supported by the ERDF).

A recent evaluation (WIFO 2010) confirms that the expansion of spa tourism in Burgenland had a positive effect on the development of tourism as a whole in the region, adding some EUR 100 million a year to GDP and helping to maintain 2,400 jobs.

As emphasised in the AIRs for Salzburg, Tirol and Kärnten, investment in tourism has shown strong growth compared to the economy as a whole and has therefore contributed to the economic upswing (ÖIR October 2012, p. 6 f).

- An aim in a number of programmes was to develop **New financial instruments** (in Oberösterreich, Wien, Burgenland and Kärnten, especially), but it turned out to be extremely difficult to put into practise. Only in Burgenland and Oberösterreich could relatively small Private Equity and Venture Capital (PE and VC) funds for the support of a small number of enterprises be created. The new funds with a very specific financing function have been implemented only recently and are – with the exception of the Burgenland ATHENA fund which set up as long ago as 2002 – not yet fully operational. The ATHENA fund has invested in a total of 23 enterprises so far. The overall effect of the ERDF supported funds is to have made it possible to widen the very narrow range of instruments provided by private equity and venture capital funds, which are important

to broaden the finance available for innovative enterprises. This was confirmed by the evaluation by Peneder (2010).

The Environment and energy

The Environment and energy is a supplementary policy area accounting for 6% of total ERDF financing (EUR 40.7 million allocated funds). Support for energy infrastructure is included in 7 out of the 9 programmes, though support for environmental infrastructure (in terms of risk prevention) is included in only three programmes.

Funding has been increased over the period (by 4%) due to the stable demand and there was a high level of commitments at the end of 2011 (94%). In the course of 2011, the rate of implementation was increased significantly.

Energy infrastructure includes support for RES (in particular biomass) and EE measures in enterprises. Interestingly, the focus of ERDF co-financing has shifted from RES to EE in commercial buildings. By the end of 2011, 80 investment projects on RES and EE had been supported a total investment cost of EUR 91.6 million (EUR 192.5 million has been committed to projects). Through this, 89 MW of additional capacity for renewable energy production has been created in 55 plants (based on expenditure). This is a significant proportion of the total number of 195 existing biomass plants with 426 MW power capacities (under the Green Electricity Act according to Ökostrombericht 2011, p. 150). The projects give the possibility of reducing greenhouse gases by 110kt, equivalent to the CO₂ emissions of about 31,000 cars. The economic effects, however, are not being monitored.

Some 29 **Environmental infrastructure** projects, mostly involving investment, were implemented with total investment costs of EUR 7.8 million to prevent floods and avalanches (EUR 28.8 million committed to projects). As a result, 35,000 people are expected to benefit. No evaluations of this policy area have been carried out.

Territorial development

Territorial development accounts for 7% of the total ERDF allocation (EUR 47.6 million). The aim is to help to attain a diversified and balanced mix of economic activities and settlements in all regions. Integrated development policies are being pursued by using spatial planning as well as direct support for regional development. Territorial development includes the creation and preservation of nature reserves, tourist and cultural facilities and services, integrated projects for urban regeneration and broadband networks. It is included in 7 of the 9 programmes.

The low rate of financial implementation, indicated in last year's report, increased significantly during 2011. At the end of the year, 49% of the funds had been committed.

By the end of 2011, it had been possible to support 170 investment and soft projects (such as studies) on tourism, cultural activities and planning and rehabilitation with total investment costs of EUR 37.1 million.

For this area, hardly any suitable and meaningful result indicators have been included in the ATMOS monitoring system.

A recent evaluation in Vienna (Metis 2012), noted in the AIR 2011, demonstrates the positive effects of urban regeneration projects (see the following text box).

Description of (interim) outcomes achieved in the RCE Programme Vienna in urban regeneration.

Priority Axis 2 for integrated urban development is given a high status in the programme. Up until the end of 2011, investment of EUR 17 million was supported, a surface area of approximately 28,500 sq. m. of public space and 1,350 m of pavements and cycle routes were regenerated and newly designed. In addition, approximately 4,500 participants took part in events. The main focus of the investment is the area "Gründerzeitviertel-Westgürtel", an area with urgent problems that - building on a previous project under the URBAN initiative - could be made much more attractive. The main focus of the projects receiving EU support is in the design of public space. EU co-financing makes larger and more ambitious projects possible, which are more sustainable and which would not have been undertaken without support or only sometime in the future. The target area approach which was introduced under the urban strategy STEP 05 and continued in subsequent years has created the strategic and institutional conditions to carry out projects in a coordinated way. Alongside the contribution to urban development, flagship projects for the development of new urban areas (Aspern, St. Marx) were supported. Through the funding of the local Agenda 21 initiative, the residents and businesses in the various districts could be encouraged to take a more active part in the design of their environment. Cycle routes were also extended.

Source: Summary of AIR 2011 Wien p. 18 f

Achievements under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective – CBC

By the end of 2011 in the four CBC programmes, funds had been committed to about 312 projects, 163 of them relating to the priority "Innovation and Competitiveness" and 149 to "Sustainable Development".

The challenge remains to demonstrate results – going beyond inputs and outputs – which are measured by meaningful indicators. Achievements with regard to cooperation are particularly difficult to demonstrate and to measure concretely. In the current programming period, no impact evaluations have been carried out as yet, which is partly due to the low rate of implementation.

It seems to be that implementation alone of CBC projects is already considered evidence of success in itself. After three CBC programming periods in Austria, substantial changes in the programme design can be expected.

Table 3 - Achievements per CBC programme based on selected indicators

	Priority 1: Innovation, Competitiveness		Priority 2: Sustainable Development	
OP	Indicator, Value achieved end of 2011 (2010)		Indicator, Value achieved end of 2011 (2010)	
AT-Bay	No. of projects to support clusters and networks	36 (30)	No. of projects for joint improvement of the environment	21 (17)
	No. of projects which focus on innovation and new markets	30 (23)	No. of cooperation projects between public bodies	46 (41)
	No. of projects to network SMEs and research bodies	26 (24)	No. of projects to improve the accessibility	14 (12)
	No. of projects related to education and qualification	21 (18)	No. of projects related to renewables	11 (10)
	No. of projects related to tourism	29 (24)	No. of projects related to risk prevention	20 (20)
AT-HU	No. of projects related to leisure, tourism	8 (6)	No. of projects related to risk prevention	4 (4)
	No. of projects related to research and technology	5 (3)	No. of projects related to biosphere management	2 (2)
	No. of projects related to human resource management	4 (4)	No. of projects related to renewables and EE	6 (3)
	No. of permanent networks established	14 (11)	No. of permanent networks established	9 (8)
AT-SK	No. of organisations participating in RDTI	65 (36)	No. of transport studies	8 (5)
	No. of services for SMEs introduced	30 (24)	No. of transport investment projects	1 (0)
	No. of visitors of tourism destinations p.a.	345,500 (37,000)	No. of municipalities involved in cooperation for better regional governance	69 (22)
	No. of organisations benefiting from education & training	261 (236)	Total nature areas covered by common management initiatives (km ²)	2,884 (1,024)
	No. of person benefiting from improved health & social services	1,500 (1,500)	No. of activities improving the joint protection and management of the environment	45 (36)
AT-CZ	No. of projects related to clusters, networks	9 (7)	No. of projects improving the accessibility	21 (16)
	No. of projects with innovative, technology oriented approach	5 (3)	No. of projects related to joint protection of nature/environment	8 (5)
	No. of projects related to tourism	28 (19)	No. of projects related to risk prevention	9 (7)
	No. of projects related to education & qualification	18 (14)	No. of projects developing collaboration in public services	1 (1)
	No. of projects related to health and social integration	8 (7)	No. of people to people action	3 (3)

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

3. EFFECTS OF INTERVENTION

Main point from previous country report:

- In the regional innovation strategies which have recently been developed at Länder level it is stated that the regional R&D expenditure rate has increased substantially over the last 10 years. A structural change towards technology intensive sectors is also evident. ERDF support contributed to this development.

Since no new evaluations on the overall effects (e.g. the impact of interventions on the regional innovation systems) have been carried out in relation to ERDF programmes in 2011, the wider effects of the interventions on the development of the regions can only be estimated on the basis of the author's own judgement and experience.

The following effects can be identified where the contribution to the regional dimension of innovation policy is clearly apparent.

The ERDF has contributed substantially to the development of regional innovation policy.

Through the support to companies and cross-company and infrastructure measures as regards innovation (investment support, technology centres, clusters, coaching, cooperation between research centres and businesses), the ERDF contributed to the development of competencies and the creation of 'technopoles'. With the help of the EU funding, additional projects have been supported in relevant areas of the regional innovation system. New instruments for economic development support have also been established to a modest extent (e.g. new approaches for technology transfer and regional venture capital funds).

Eurostat statistics indicate that regional R&D expenditure (in relation to GDP) has risen continuously in Austrian regions over the period 2002 to 2009 (with the exception of Kärnten).

ERDF is contributing to developing green energies and technologies

The ERDF (jointly with the rural development programme) is successfully supporting the implementation of a policy centred on biomass (including accompanying quality control). It is also supporting EE in enterprises as well as a broad spectrum of measures relating to the development of RES as an area of technology of major interest. Eco-innovation investment, R&D projects in SMEs, technology transfer by clusters, RTD activities in research centres and support services are partly related to RES and EE, which means that RES support is linked to the regional innovation and competitiveness policy pursued by the Austrian ERDF programmes.

ERDF has contributed to a policy of stabilising rural areas and the development of growth centres in suitable locations

About 70% of ERDF funds are spent in both structurally weak and strong rural areas (rather than in agglomerations). Many of the rural areas in Austria are traditional manufacturing regions and have sufficient potential for funding projects. Moreover, the tourist sector in particular is of importance in rural areas. Tourism support is important in all the Austrian EU-programmes (RDP, C&RCE, and CBC). Moreover, traditional forms of investment support are used to target enterprises in rural areas. As a wider effect of interventions (taking account also of the interventions under the rural development programme which is of importance in Austria) the growth gap between structurally weak rural areas and agglomerations has not widened, while structurally strong rural areas had the same growth rate as agglomerations in the 2002-2008 period.

4. EVALUATIONS AND GOOD PRACTICE IN EVALUATION

All relevant evaluations and research studies so far covered by the 2010 and 2011 country reports and addressed by the 2011 report are listed in the annex (Evaluations and research studies in this list are organized around policy fields and themes).

The main features of the strategy in place for evaluating the effects of interventions co-financed by the ERDF and Cohesion Fund can be summarized as follows:

- The coordinating body ÖROK⁵ established a framework to support a content-based discussion in addition to administrative and funding-related issues which involve all relevant regional policy actors. This framework is known as Strategic Monitoring in Austria (STRAT.ATplus). However, there is no comprehensive strategy for evaluating the effects of ERDF co-financed interventions.
- In evaluation, MAs and Implementing Bodies (agencies) follow their own agenda at the regional level. They usually conduct pragmatic, operational reflections (management evaluations) of the progress of Programmes for their own use which are not intended for publication and which are primarily focused on financial performance and management issues and less on tangible outcomes and quantified effects.
- Classical evaluations of ERDF programmes, going beyond a purely internal assessment, are being conducted at present at national level solely by ÖROK and – in a very specific form – by the central agency FFG. ÖROK is the Contracting Authority for ad-hoc cross-programme evaluations for all Austrian Programmes co-financed by the ERDF in addition, the FFG, a distinct research support agency, has regularly conducted assessments of the research programmes they manage (*Basisprogramme*) for 30 years. All recent reports by ÖROK and FFG are downloadable.

The evaluation activities which are described in the AIRs mainly refer to the higher level ÖROK activities and – with some exceptions – only the ÖROK evaluation reports are mentioned.

Programme specific evaluations which go beyond these are mentioned in only two 2011 AIRs (Wien and Vorarlberg, see table below), though in the AIR for Tirol it is mentioned that a study is planned.

Table 4 - Recent evaluations - mentioned in AIRs 2011

Title and date of completion	Policy area and scope (*)	Main objectives and focus (*)	Methods used (*)	Full reference or link to publication
Kairos (March 2011), Zwischenevaluierung des OP RWB Vorarlberg Landesregierung (45 pages including annex)	RCE programme Vorarlberg (9)	Analysis of progress of programme implementation in terms of financial performance and achievement of targets; contribution of selected projects to impact objectives (assessment is done by an internal group of administrators, the so called "Bewertungsgruppe") (2+3)	(4)	Not published (DG Regio has received a copy)

⁵ 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.

Metis (March 2012): Zwischenevaluierung des Programms RWB Wien 2007-2013, im Auftrag MA 27	RCE programme Wien (9)	Result oriented assessment of all projects which have been implemented so far (2+3)	Analysis of monitoring data, desk research, interviews with all beneficiaries (4)	Not published (DG Regio has received a copy)
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Source: Metis

Note: (*) Legend:

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

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

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

Interestingly, the evaluation activities in Austria at the operational level are much broader than presented in the AIRs. Many evaluations are carried out by the implementing bodies at federal or regional level and Managing Authorities partly translate them into the AIRs.

It is a time-consuming process to obtain an overview of the evaluation activities outside the AIRs and to access the studies which are mostly for internal use (a common database on evaluations undertaken by ÖROK might be developed in the future). The present report tries to sum up all relevant evaluations (thanks to the support of Markus Gruber, Convelop). It shows that there is a significant body of evaluation evidence which was only used to a limited degree in the AIRs to qualify and shed light on achievements.

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

Title and date of completion	Policy area and scope (*)	Main objectives and focus (*)	Methods used (*)	Full reference or link to publication
KMU FORSCHUNG AUSTRIA (2012), FFG – Wirkungsmonitoring 2010	Enterprise support, partly covered by RCE programmes, Austria (1)	Short evaluation of all research projects funded by FFG in 2007 regarding effectiveness of funding (2+3)	Survey on 300 projects (4)	http://www.ffg.at/content/evaluierung-der-foerderung
L&R Sozialforschung (2011): Evaluierung des Mingo Gründungscoachings verfasst von Andreas Riesenfelder und Susanne Schelepa im Auftrag der Wirtschaftsagentur Wien	Enterprise support in the RCE programme Wien (2)	Evaluation of qualification measures for micro- enterprises and start ups (2+3)	Online questionnaire and in-depth interviews with participants (4)	Internal, not published
INNO (2008): Zwischenevaluierung AplusB Gründerprogramm, Karlsruhe April 2008 (including INITS, Wien), im Auftrag bmvit	Enterprise environment support, partly covered by RCE programmes (Wien) (2)	Mid-term evaluation of incubator programme (2+3)	Desk-research, interviews, international benchmarking (4)	http://www.bmvit.gv.at/innovation/struktur/downloadsstruktur/aplusbevaluierung.pdf
Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH/Knoll, N. (April 2011): Endbericht zur internen	Enterprise support, partly covered by RCE programmes, Austria (2)	Evaluation of a strategic funding instrument for	Analysis of monitoring data, survey on	Internal, not published

Title and date of completion	Policy area and scope (*)	Main objectives and focus (*)	Methods used (*)	Full reference or link to publication
Evaluierung von Förderungen nach dem Arbeitsmarkt-förderungsgesetz (AMFG)		investment support (2+3)	selected beneficiaries (4)	
IHS/Institute for advanced studies/Miess., M. et al (2011): Evaluierung der regionalen Beschäftigungs- u. Wachstums-offensive 2005/2006 / AMF-Zuschuss, im Auftrag BMWFJ	Enterprise support, partly covered by RCE programmes, Austria (2)	Evaluation of the regional job and growth initiative of the years 2005/2006 (3)	Input-output model (3)	Internal, not published
Convelop (2011): Wirkungs-analyse der Aplusb Gründerzentren Steiermark, im Auftrag der Steirischen Wirtschaftsförderungsgesellschaft mbH	Enterprise environment support, partly covered by RCE programme Steiermark			Currently not accessible
IHS/Institute for advanced studies (2012): Regionalwirtschaftliche Effekte von industriellen Großbetrieben ("Leitbetriebe"), im Auftrag des KWF-Kärntner Wirtschaftsförderungsfonds	Enterprise support, partly covered by RCE programme Kärnten (2)	Assessment of the regional economic impact of a large enterprise in Unterkärnten (3)	Regionalized input-output model (3)	Not published yet
Convelop/Technopolis/ÖIR (2011): KWF-Evaluierung 2010; Bewertung des KWF-Förderungsportfolios; im Auftrag des Kärntner Wirtschaftsförderungsfonds	Enterprise support, partly covered by RCE programme Kärnten			Internal, currently not accessible
WIFO (2010): Eine quantitative Evaluierung der regional-ökonomischen Auswirkungen der touristischen Leitprojekte im Burgenland, im Auftrag des Regionalmanagements Burgenland	Enterprise support in the tourism sector, partly covered by Convergence programme Burgenland (2)	Assessment of macro-economic effects of a major tourist schema (3)	Statistical analysis, multi regional simulation model (3)	Findings published (not full report) http://www.bgl.gv.at/aktuell/2252
Convelop (2011): Pilotevaluierung 4D für NÖ Süd – Wiener Neustadt; im Auftrag des Bundeskanzleramtes IV/4	Integrated development of technopoles, partly covered by various ERDF programmes in Niederösterreich (1,2)	Pilot study in the tradition of a systemic evaluation on the long term development of the Technopol Wr. Neustadt (3)	Story telling – narration, interviews, desk-research (4)	http://www.bka.gv.at/DocVie.w.axd?CobId=46631
ÖIR (2011), Evaluierung der im Phasing-Out-Programm Burgenland EFRE 2007-2013 vorgesehene Aktivität „Regional Governance“ im Auftrag des Regionalmanagements Burgenland	Regional Governance support, partly covered by Convergence programme Burgenland	Analysis of measures to steer regional development measures, adaption of the strategy	Workshops with stakeholders	Internal, not published
Convelop (Kooperationspartner von EPRC/LSE (2012 – ongoing) Evaluation of the Main Achievements of Cohesion Policy Programms over the longer Term, im Auftrag der	Burgenland			Not yet finalized

Title and date of completion	Policy area and scope (*)	Main objectives and focus (*)	Methods used (*)	Full reference or link to publication
Europäischen Kommission				
Henkel, Mitschele-Thiel, Stampfer (2011): Evaluierung der Lakeside Labs GmbH-Bericht des Evaluierungsteams, im Auftrag des KWF	Research, partly covered by RCE programme Kärnten (1)	Mid-term evaluation of a research service platform (2)	Two days site visit, interviews with stakeholders (4)	Internal, not published
Abt. 14-Abteilung Wirtschaft & Innovation (2011): Zwischenevaluierung des Operationellen Programmes Regionale Wettbewerbsfähigkeit Steiermark	RCE programme Steiermark (9)	Internal assessment of the progress in financial and physical terms (2)	Analysis of monitoring data and on interviews (4)	Internal, not published

Source: Metis

Note: (*) Legend:

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

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

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

Regarding the use of evaluation findings two basic types can be distinguished:

- First, evaluation findings which are being used in an instrumental way: For instance, the evaluation of research and innovation in Priority 1 of the Burgenland phasing -out programme (Pöchhacker Innovation Consulting, 2010, unpublished), a management type of evaluation, led to an action plan called “*Innovationsoffensive Burgenland 2020*”.
- Secondly, findings which are meant to stimulate debate on the development of policy: For instance, the study on regional impacts of large company support (IHS, 2012, *Regionalwirtschaftliche Effekte von industriellen Großbetrieben (“Leitbetriebe”), im Auftrag des KWF-Kärnter Wirtschaftsförderungsfonds*) actively lobbies for the continued support for innovative investment in large companies under EU Cohesion policy.

5. FURTHER REMARKS - NEW CHALLENGES FOR POLICY

Main points from previous country report:

- With respect to a **results based management of ERDF programmes** (which should be strengthened in the future), Austria can demonstrate a first successful experience with the collection of result indicators in the monitoring of ERDF programmes. In order for these indicators to become more meaningful, they should – in the context of further impact studies – be seen in relation to the needs and strategies of specific regional sectors (e.g. research, industry, tourism and renewable energy in specific areas). Only in this way can the effects of complex development initiatives be meaningfully assessed.
- The composition and performance of Austrian ERDF programmes is affected mainly by **administrative factors** (e.g. the part withdrawal of national agencies from ERDF co-financing or risk-averse behaviour as a result of the complicated procedures). A stronger awareness of the consequences of the administrative framework should be developed in programme design and evaluations. For example, it can be assumed that the administrative costs of implementation 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 instead a few relatively easily implemented and administered ones.

Again it should be emphasised that a significant reduction in administrative risks and costs in programme management (in particular in relation to financial controls) would allow the integration of emerging, more experimental instruments in programmes which are necessary for the development of a modern innovation policy. This would strengthen the ‘impetus’ aspect of ERDF programmes. For instance, efforts could be made to introduce additional new financial instruments (in particular in respect of guarantees) or exemplary programmes such as FEMtech to promote women and secure equal opportunities in research and technology.

At the same time, programmes should not be too one-dimensional (e. g. only targeting innovation) in order to be resilient to changes in the programme environment and in order to allow funds to be used as intended.

REFERENCES

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

Bundesministerium für Wissenschaft und Forschung gemeinsam mit Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Innovation und Technologie sowie Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft, Familie und Jugend (2012), Österreichischer Forschungs- und Technologiebericht 2012, 1010 Wien

Energie-Control Austria (2011), Ökostrombericht 2011, www.e-control.at

FFG (2012), Herausforderungen und Knackpunkte in der verschränkten Nutzung von FTEI-Fördermitteln: EU-Rahmenprogramm und EFRE sowie EFRE und national; internes Papier zu Abrechnungsproblemen im EFRE

ÖIR (2012), Tourismus in der EU-Strukturfondsperiode 2014-2020, 1. Entwurf Expertenpapier, im Auftrag BMWFJ, Abteilung III/4 Tourismus-Förderungen

ÖROK (2009): EU-Kohäsionspolitik in Österreich 1995–2007. Eine Bilanz. Wien

Rat für Forschung und Technologieentwicklung (2012); Empfehlung des Rates für Forschung und Technologieentwicklung zu EFRE (Strukturfonds); Stellungnahme zu Abrechnungsproblemen in EFRE, <http://www.rat-fte.at/>

List of AIRs 2011:

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-Österreich

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ERDF monitoring representative, Elfriede Kober

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ANNEX 1 - EVALUATION GRID FOR EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE IN EVALUATION

Evaluation Grid A - The impact of venture capital on innovation behaviour and firm growth

BASIC INFORMATION	
Country: Austria	
Policy area: Enterprise support – New Financial Instruments (NFI)	
Title of evaluation and full reference: Peneder, M. (2010), The impact of venture capital on innovation behaviour and firm growth, WIFO Working paper, No 363, April 2010	
Intervention period covered : no direct link to ERDF funding projects but relevant for developing NFI under RCE programmes	
Timing of the evaluation: 2010	
Budget: EUR, not known, research study by research institution	
Evaluator: external researcher	
Method: The paper tests the impact by applying a sophisticated counterfactual analysis (two-stage propensity score matching) on Austrian micro-data (166 venture capital financed companies in Austria have been compared to a control group of about 33,000 companies using a database of the leading Austrian credit rating agency).	
Main objectives and main findings: The empirical findings confirmed that VC backed firms are constrained in their ability to obtain financing through traditional channels. The data show that on average VC financed firms are more innovative and grow faster in terms of employment and sales revenues than other firms in the control group. The observed differences are linked to two factors. Firstly, the selection effect since VC-equity targets firms with particularly high growth potential which means that resources are allocated to more innovative firms fostering structural change. Secondly, the value adding function of informed and active investors boosts the capacity to commercialise innovation and growth. However, VC is not a substitute for public innovation support since there is no causal impact of venture capitalists on the innovation capacity of firms. Despite this limitation it is finally concluded that VC remain an important complementing element of effective innovation systems.	
Appraisal: Sophisticated counterfactual analysis which presents potentially a role model for ERDF evaluations on company support	
CHECK LIST	
Score each item listed below from 0 to 2 as follows: 0: No; 1: Yes, but not fully; 2: Yes	
Report	
Are the objectives, methods and findings of the evaluation clearly set out?	2
Are the findings and recommendations clearly supported by the analysis?	2
Are the methods used suitable given the objectives of the valuation and have they been well applied?	2
Are the quantitative and qualitative data used reliable and suitable for the purpose of the evaluation?	1 (focus on quantitative data)
Are the potential effects of other factors (e.g. the economic situation) on the outcome fully taken into account?	2
Is a serious attempt made to distinguish the effects of the intervention from these other factors?	2

ANNEX 2 - TABLES

See Excel Tables 1 -4:

Excel Table 1 – Regional disparities and trends

Excel Table 2 – Macro-economic developments

Excel Table 3 - Financial allocation by main policy area

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

Excel Table 4 - Commitments by main policy area (by end-2011)

Excel Table 4cbc - Commitments by main policy area (by end-2011) – cross border cooperation

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

Policy Areas	FOI-Codes	Planned ERDF, 10/07	in %	Planned ERDF (07/12)	in %	Change in % 10/07 - 07/12	Commitments 31.12.2011				Expenditures 31.12.2011			
							No. of projects	Total project costs	ERDF	ERDF in % of planned 07/2012	Total project costs	ERDF	ERDF in % of planned 07/2012	No. of projects
1. Enterprise environment		555.2	82	544.4	80	-2.0	6,458	3,147.8	366.0	67	1,471.0	158.9	29	5,361
1.1 RTDI and linked activities	1, 2, 5, 7, 74	254.9	37	229.1	34	-10	5,442	1,364.9	161.7	71	606.7	69.0	30	4,840
1.2 Support for innovation in SMEs	3, 4, 6, 9, 14, 15	191.5	28	185.0	27	-3	688	409.0	81.2	44	147.6	23.8	13	331
1.3 Other investment in firms (in AT: including single company support in tourism)	8	104.6	15	125.1	18	20	327	1,370.0	122.4	98	716.7	66.1	53	190
1.4 ICT and related services	10, 11	4.2	1	5.2	1	22	1	4.0	0.8	14	0.0	0.0	0	0
2. Human resources		14.1	2	22.9	3	62	121	13.6	6.1	27	8.8	3.8	16	79
2.2 Education and training	62, 63, 64, 72, 73		0	9.5	1		0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0
2.2 Labour market policies	65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 80	14.1	2	13.4	2	-5	121	13.6	6.1	45	8.8	3.8	28	79
3. Transport		8.4	1	6.0	1	-29	3	3.1	0.94	16	0.65	0.33	5	2
3.1 Road			0		0									
3.2 Rail	16	3.0	0	0.0	0	-100	0	0.0	0.0		0	0		0
3.2 Other	26, 28, 30	5.4	1	6.0	1	11	3	3.1	0.9	16	0.65	0.33	5	2
4. Environment and energy		39.3	6	40.8	6	4	224	221.3	38.5	94	99.4	16.6	41	109
4.1 Energy infrastructure	33 - 43	30.2	4	31.2	5	3	185	192.5	29.1	93	91.6	13.1	42	80
4.2 Environmental infrastructure	44-54	9.1	1	9.6	1	6	39	28.8	9.4	98	7.8	3.4	36	29
5. Territorial development		45.0	7	47.6	7	6	254	62.8	23.5	49	37.1	13.6	29	170
5.1 Tourism and culture	55-60	23.3	3	25.1	4	8	64	26.6	10.9	43	18.1	6.2	24	45
5.2 Planning and rehabilitation	61	20.8	3	21.6	3	4	189	36.0	12.6	59	18.8	7.4	34	124
5.3 Social infrastructure	10, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79	0.9	0	0.9	0	0	1	0.22	0.03	4	0.24	0.03	4	1
5.4 Other	82, 83, 84		0		0									
6. Technical assistance	81, 85, 86	18.1	3	18.5	3	2	279	19.8	11.6	63	6.1	3.4	18	254
Total Objective		680.1	100	680.1	100	0	7,339	3,468.4	446.6	66	1,623.1	196.5	29	5,975

Source: ATMOS, author's own calculation

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

Categories of Expenditure		Allocated ERDF, 10/2007	in %	Allocated ERDF, 07/2012	in %	Change in % 10/07 - 07/12	Commitments 31.12.2011				Expenditures 31.12.2011			
							No. of projects	total project costs	ERDF	in % of planned	total project costs	ERDF	in % of planned	No of projects
01	FTE-Tätigkeiten in Forschungszentren	46.92	6.9	40.31	5.9	-14.1	50	95.21	31.99	79	25.80	10.35	26	22
02	FTE-Infrastrukturen	26.29	3.9	26.49	3.9	0.8	50	127.02	33.52	127	57.28	15.89	60	27
03	Technologietransfer und Verbesserung der Kooperationsnetze	38.44	5.7	48.91	7.2	27.2	302	71.34	27.81	57	22.07	7.00	14	181
04	FTE-Förderung, insbesondere in KMU	84.80	12.5	69.00	10.1	-18.6	214	170.14	27.37	40	29.67	2.69	4	45
05	ESF cross-financing	9.45	1.4	0.00			0	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0
05	Fortgeschrittene Unterstützungsdienste	48.98	7.2	41.95	6.2	-14.3	5,140	85.07	24.89	59	44.93	11.67	28	4,666
06	Unterstützung von KMU zur Förderung umweltfreundlicher Produkte	31.21	4.6	31.82	4.7	1.9	126	118.88	10.90	34	62.18	5.39	17	74
07	Unternehmensinvestitionen mit direktem Bezug zu Forschung u. Innovation	123.25	18.1	120.38	17.7	-2.3	202	1,057.61	71.32	59	478.71	31.08	26	125
08	Sonstige Unternehmensinvestitionen	104.64	15.4	125.06	18.4	19.5	327	1,369.97	122.39	98	716.67	66.05	53	190
09	Andere Maßnahmen zur Förderung von Forschung, Innovation	22.66	3.3	21.91	3.2	-3.3	23	33.31	11.99	55	25.86	7.83	36	19
10	Telefoninfrastrukturen	0.50	0.1	0.50			1	0.22	0.03		0.24	0.03		1
11	Informations- und Kommunikationstechnologien	4.23	0.6	5.18	0.8	22.4	1	4.02	0.75	14	0.00	0.00	0	0
14	Dienste und Anwendungen für KMU	7.68	1.1	6.73	1.0	-12.3	23	15.28	3.07	46	7.80	0.93	14	12
15	Andere Maßnahmen zur Verbesserung des Zugangs von KMU zur IKT	6.66	1.0	6.66			0	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0
16	Schienerverkehr	3.00	0.4	0.00			0	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0
26	Kombinierter Verkehr	1.10	0.2	1.40			0	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0
28	Intelligente Beförderungssysteme	1.46	0.2	1.46			2	0.65	0.33		0.65	0.33		2
30	Häfen	2.80	0.4	3.10			1	2.46	0.61		0.00	0.00		0
39	Erneuerbare Energien: Wind	0.07	0.0	0.07			0	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0
40	Erneuerbare Energien: Sonne	6.64	1.0	6.04	0.9	-9.1	6	1.63	0.26	4	1.50	0.23	4	4
41	Erneuerbare Energien: Biomasse	17.21	2.5	18.37	2.7	6.7	68	72.77	11.33	62	36.93	6.00	33	29
42	Erneuerbare Energien: Wasserkraft, Erdwärme u. a.	0.33	0.0	0.57			1	0.48	0.12		0.48	0.12		1
43	Energieeffizienz, Kraft-Wärme-Kopplung, Energiemanagement	5.96	0.9	6.16	0.9	3.4	110	117.63	17.38	282	52.71	6.79	110	46
53	Risikoverhütung	9.07	1.3	9.57			39	28.76	9.43		7.80	3.44		29
55	Förderung des natürlichen Erbes	0.18	0.0	0.18			2	0.20	0.10		0.08	0.04		1
56	Schutz und Aufwertung des natürlichen Erbes	2.00	0.3	2.00			8	2.46	0.72		1.06	0.24		5
57	Verbesserung der touristischen Dienstleistungen	9.02	1.3	10.85	1.6	20.3	29	16.26	4.30	40	11.87	2.18	20	19
59	Entwicklung kultureller Infrastruktur	6.50	1.0	6.50	1.0	0.0	14	2.72	2.02	31	1.63	1.13	17	11
60	Versesserung der kulturellen Dienstleistungen	5.60	0.8	5.60	0.8	0.0	11	4.96	3.72	66	3.43	2.56	46	9
61	Integrierte Projekte zur Wiederbelebung städtischer und ländlicher Gebiete	20.79	3.1	21.56			189	36.02	12.64		18.83	7.40		124
62	Entwicklung von Systemen und Strategien für lebenslanges Lernen	0.00	0.0	9.45			0	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0
68	Unterstützung von Selbständigkeit und Unternehmensgründungen	0.15	0.0	0.15			0	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0
69	Maßnahmen zur Verbesserung des Zugangs von Frauen zur Beschäftigung	1.25	0.2	1.25			0	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0
70	Spezifische Maßnahmen zur Förderung der Teilnahme von Migranten	0.55	0.1	0.55			0	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0
71	Konzepte für die Eingliederung von benachteiligten Personen	1.09	0.2	1.09			0	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0
75	Bildungsinfrastruktur	0.40	0.1	0.40	0.1	0.0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0
80	Förderung des Aufbaus von Partnerschaften, Bündnissen und Initiativen	11.08	1.6	10.37			121	13.60	6.08		8.75	3.76		79
Total C&RCE programmes		680.07	100.0	680.07	100.0	0.0	7,339	3,468.41	446.63	66	1,623.08	196.47	29	5,975

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

Code	Bezeichnung EU-Code	tats. Zahl d. weibl. Teilnehmer	tats. Zahl d. männl. Teilnehmer	tatsächl.neu geschaff.männl.F&E-Apl.VZÄ	tatsächl.neu geschaff.weibl.F&E-Apl.VZÄ	tats.an Durchf.FtE-Proj,bet. m. Forsch. VZÄ	tats.an Durchf.FtE-Proj,bet. w. Forsch. VZÄ	tats.an Durchf.IT/K-Proj,bet.m.Mitarbeiter,VZÄ	tats.an Durchf.IT/K-Proj,bet.w.Mitarbeiter,VZÄ	tatsächl.neu geschaff.männl.Apl.VZÄ	tatsächl.neu geschaff.weibl.Apl.VZÄ	gesch.männl.Apl.tats.nach Proj/Ende VZÄ	gesch.weibl.Apl.tats.nach Proj/Ende VZÄ	tats. Zahl neu geschaffener Qualitätsbetten	tats.Zahl beteiligter UN - TechTransfer/Koop	tats.Zahl beteiligter Institut-TechTransfer/Koop	gepl.Zahl d.gefordr.UN via altern.Finanzinst.	tats. zusätzl.geschaffene Kapazität (in MW)	tats.Ausmals Verringerung Treibhausgase (kt)	tatsächl.Zahl d.angesiedelten UN in Proj/Ende	tats. gesicherte männl.F&E-Apl. VZÄ	tats. gesicherte weibl.F&E-Apl. VZÄ	tatsächl.Zahl UN,zusätzl.Zugang zu Breitbandd.	geplant.Zahl mit höh.IKT-Dienst erreicht.Pers	tatsächl.Zahl mit höh.IKT-Dienst erreicht.Pers	geplant.Zahl mit höh.IKT-Dienst erreichte UN	tatsächl.Zahl mit höh.IKT-Dienst erreichte UN	tatsächl.Zahl d.v.d. Schutzmaßn. Begünstigten
01-2	Softmaßn. - FTE-Tätigkeiten i			3	0	1															27	2						
02-1	Invest. - FTE-Infrastrukturen			0	0					18	22	149	93							13								
02-2	Softmaßn. - FTE-Infrastrukturen,			0	0																							
03-2	Softmaßn. - Technologietransfer			0	0			265	59						1,702	70												
04-2	Softmaßn. - FTE-Förderung, insb. KMU			87	30	586	67														2,795	353						
05-2	Softmaßn. - Fortgeschritt. Unterstützung																											
05-3	Softmaßn. - ESF cross-financing	737	2,225	0	0																							
06-1	Invest. - Umweltfreundl. Produkte/			0	0					76	43	826	171															
07-1	Invest. - UN-Investitionen Forschung			0	0					836	249	8,015	2,217															
08-1	Invest. - Sonst. UN-Investitionen			0	0					904	667	5,473	2,588	3,084														
09-3	Venture Fonds -			0	0												15											
10-1	Invest. - Telefoninfrastrukturen			0	0					1		18																
11-1	Invest. - IKT			0	0																			100.000		5.500		
14-2	Softmaßn. - Dienste u. Anwendungen			14	6	141	10														468	51						
30-1	Invest. - Häfen			0	0																							
40-1	Invest. - Erneuerbare Energien: Sonne			0	0														1									
41-1	Invest. - Erneuerbare Energien: Biomasse			0	0														72	60								
42-1	Invest. - Erneuerbare Energien: Wasser			0	0																							
43-1	Invest. - Energieeffizienz, Kraft-Wärme-			0	0																							
53-1	Invest. - Risikoverhütung			0	0					2	1	19	7															35.213
53-2	Softmaßn. - Risikoverhütung			0	0																							50.500
56-1	Invest. - natürliches Erbe			0	0																							
57-1	Invest. - touristischen Dienstleistung			0	0					1	2	46	7															
59-1	Invest. - kultureller Infrastruktur			0	0						3	2	2															
61-1	Invest. - Integrierte Proj.			0	0																							
Total		737	2,225	104	37	728	77	265	59	1,838	987	14,549	5,084	3,084	1,702	70	15	89	110	13	3,290	407	0	100.000	0	5.500	0	85.713
Total male and female		2,962		141		806		324		2,825		19,633									3,697							

Source: ATMOS, author's own calculation

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

Policy Areas	FOI-Codes	Allocated ERDF, 2007	No of approved projects	Total project costs approved	Commitments ERDF	in % of allocated ERDF	Payments total project costs	Payments ERDF	in % of allocated ERDF
1. Enterprise environment		50.3	59	45.9	34.2	68	15.0	10.4	21
1.1 RTDI and linked activities	1, 2, 5, 7, 74	21.3	33	29.5	22.9	108	10.2	7.5	35
1.2 Support for innovation in SMEs	3, 4, 6, 9, 14, 15	19.6	15	9.2	6.8	35	2.4	1.3	7
1.3 Other investment in firms	8								
1.4 ICT and related services	11, 12, 13	9.4	11	7.1	4.6	48	2.4	1.5	16
2. Human resources		41.6	54	52.1	37.3	90	21.0	13.0	31
2.2 Education and training	62, 63, 64, 72, 73	10.6	15	9.7	7.4	70	5.0	3.5	33
2.2 Labour market policies	65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 80	31.0	39	42.4	29.9	96	16.0	9.5	31
3. Transport		48.9	35	51.8	37.7	77	11.4	7.9	16
3.1 Road	20, 21, 22, 23	16.9	18	18.2	15.3	91	6.4	3.9	23
3.2 Rail	16, 17, 18, 19	9.2	5	18.2	9.7	106	0.71	0.45	5
3.2 Other	24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32	22.8	12	15.4	12.7	56	4.26	3.5	15
4. Environment and energy		56.1	55	56.8	42.4	76	16.9	11.0	20
4.1 Energy infrastructure	33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43	13.9	13	11.3	9.1	65	3.9	3.0	22
4.2 Environmental infrastructure	44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54	42.2	42	45.5	33.4	79	12.9	8.0	19
5. Territorial development		69.5	98	78.3	55.1	79	28.3	18.5	27
5.1 Tourism and culture	55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60	51.9	76	64.3	44.8	86	21.9	14.6	28
5.2 Planning and rehabilitation	61	4.0	3	1.5	1.1	28	0.12	0.1	2
5.3 Social infrastructure	10, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79	13.5	19	12.6	9.2	68	6.3	3.7	27
5.4 Other									
6. Technical assistance	81, 85, 86	37.4	66	38.7	24.8	66	11.0	7.0	19
Total ETC (AT-CZ, AT-HU, AT-SK, AT-BAY)		303.7	367	323.6	231.6	76	103.5	67.7	22

Source: ATMOS, author's own calculation

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

Institution/Author, Title and date of completion	Policy area and scope (*)	Main objective and focus (*)	Method used (*)	Link to publication
ÖIR, RCi (2005): Evaluierung des Schlüsselprojektes profactor in Steyr (im Rahmen der Aktualisierung der Halbzeitbewertung des Ziel-2-Programms Oberösterreich 2000 – 2006), im Auftrag der OÖ Landesregierung	1	2+3	4	
ÖIR, RCi (2007): Wirkungsanalyse Modellprojekte aus dem Ziel-2-Programm Niederösterreich 2000–2006 (Teil FTI Infrastruktur); im Auftrag der NÖ Landesregierung	1	3	4	
KMU Forschung Austria (2008): Interimsevaluierung des Technopolprogramms des Landes Niederösterreich; Auftrag der niederösterreichischen Landesregierung (Abteilung WST3)	1	2+3	4	
Economica/Helmenstein et al (2010): Umwegrentabilität von Technopolen in Niederösterreich; im Auftrag der ecoplus	1	3	3	
CSIL/Joanneum Research/Technopolis Group (2009): Case study Styria, Work Package 4 “Structural Change and Globalisation”, Prepared for the European Commission	1,2	3	3+4	http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/evaluation/pdf/expost2006/wp4_cs_styria.pdf
4C foresee – Management Consulting GmbH Wien AUSTRIA/Clement, W. et al (2009): Cluster in Österreich-Bestandsaufnahme und Perspektiven; im Auftrag bmwfj	2	2+3	4	http://www.clusterplattform.at/fileadmin/user_upload/studien/Endversion_Cluster_in_Oesterrreich_-_Bestandsaufnahme_und_Perspektiven_080809.pdf
KMU Forschung Austria (2007): Evaluierung des EU-Ziel 2 Projektes VITE (Vienna IT Enterprises); im Auftrag Wiener Wirtschaftsförderungsfonds	2	2+3	4	
IWI / Industriewissenschaftliches Institut (2010): Evaluierung des EU-Projektes Vienna IT Enterprises (VITE), verfasst von Herwig W. Schneider et al im Auftrag der Wirtschaftsentwicklungsagentur Wien	2	2+3	4	
Amt der NÖ Landesregierung/WST3 (2008): Interne Evaluierung 8/2008 Förderlinie Innovationsassistent/-innen	2	2+3	4	
Pöckhacker Innovation Consulting (2010): Evaluierung des Themenbereichs „Forschung und Innovation“ in der Prioritätenachse 1 des Phasing Out-Programms Burgenland EFRE; im Auftrag der Regionalmanagement Burgenland GmbH	2	1+2	4	
Austrian Wirtschaftsservice GmbH/Knoll, N. (2007): Endbericht zum Pilotprojekt interner Evaluierungen von Förderungsprogrammen, September 2007	2	2+3	4	
Convelop/IFIP (2008): Bewertung der Bedeutung von geförderten Unternehmen im Ziel-2-Programm Niederösterreich; im Auftrag NÖ Landesregierung	2	3	3	
Kreutzer, Fischer & Partner (2007): Evaluierung des volkswirtschaftlichen Nutzens von EU-Förderungen am Beispiel der Sonnentherme in Lutzmannsburg; im Auftrag Regionalmanagement Burgenland, Burgenländische Landesregierung	2	3	3+4	

Institution/Author, Title and date of completion	Policy area and scope (*)	Main objective and focus (*)	Method used (*)	Link to publication
ÖIR, RCI (2007): Wirkungsanalyse Modellprojekte aus dem Ziel-2-Programm Niederösterreich 2000-2006 (Teil touristische Leitprojekte); im Auftrag der NÖ Landesregierung	2	3	4	
WIFO/Peneder, M. Schwarz, G. (2008), Venture Capital: Ergebnisse der Wirkungsanalyse für Österreich, in WIFO Monatsberichte 6/2008	2	3	1	
WIFO/Peneder, M. (2010), The impact of venture capital on innovation behaviour and firm growth, WIFO Working paper, No 363, April 2010	2	3	1	http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=964954
ÖAR, RIMAS (2011): Programmübergreifende Evaluierung der EFRE-kofinanzierten Umweltmaßnahmen der Kommunalkredit Public Consulting; im Auftrag der ÖROK	5	2+3	4	http://www.oerok.gv.at/eu-regionalpolitik/eu-strukturfonds-in-oesterreich-2007-2013/projekte/wirkungsevaluierung-ein-praxistest.html
BMLFUW/Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft (September 2011): Evaluierung der Umweltförderung des Bundes 2008 – 2010, korrigierte Auflage	5	2+3	4	http://www.lebensministerium.at/suchergebnisse.html?queryString=Evaluierung
ÖIR, RCI (2007): Wirkungsanalyse Modellprojekte aus dem Ziel-2-Programm Niederösterreich 2000-2006 (teil Innerörtliches Einkaufszentrum); im Auftrag der NÖ Landesregierung	7	3	4	
Ruland, G., Technisches Büro für Landschafts- und Freiraumplanung (2009): Pilotprojekt FußgängerInnenverkehr Vorher-Nachher-Untersuchung Elterleinplatz, im Auftrag der Magistratsabteilung 18	7	3	4	
Hummelbrunner, R. et al (Juni 2011): 15 Jahre INTERREG / ETZ in Österreich: Rückschau und Ausblick, im Auftrag der ÖROK	9	2+3	4	http://www.oerok.gv.at/eu-regionalpolitik/eu-strukturfonds-in-oesterreich-2007-2013/projekte/15-jahre-interregetz-in-oesterreich.html
Convelop (2010): Wirkungsmonitoring „Regionale Wettbewerbsfähigkeit Steiermark 2007-2013“, im Auftrag Amt der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung	9	2+3	4	
Convelop (2011): Interne Reflexion des RWB Programmes Niederösterreich; im Auftrag NÖ Landesregierung, Februar 2011	9	2	4	Internal, not published
WIFO / Mayrhofer, Peter et.al. (2008): Quantitative Effekte der EU-Regionalförderung in Österreich. Teil der ÖROK Publikation: EU-Kohäsionspolitik in Österreich 1995-2007 - Eine Bilanz, Materialienband, Wien 2009	10	3	3	http://www.oerok.gv.at/eu-regionalpolitik/eu-strukturfonds-in-oesterreich-2007-2013/projekte/13-jahre-eu-kohaesionspolitik-in-oesterreich.html

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

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

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

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