

th CONFERENCE on the Evaluation of EU Cohesion Policy

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Shaping Transitions with Evidence



Evaluation on the urban and territorial dimension of the IGJ/ERDF programme Austria 2014-2020

ÖIR GmbH (responsible consortium partner for the evaluation on the urban and territorial dimension)
 Consortium: ÖIR GmbH, convelop – cooperative knowledge design gmbh, KMU Forschung Austria, ÖAR GmbH, ÖGUT GmbH, Spatial Foresight GmbH



FUND COVERED

▶ (ERDF)

PROGRAMMING PERIOD

▶ 2014-2020

PROGRAMME COVERED

▶ Investment for growth and jobs Austria (IGJ/ERDF)

THEMATIC OBJECTIVES

- ▶ T04. Low carbon economy
- ▶ T06. Environment and resource efficiency
- ▶ T08. Employment and labour market
- ▶ T09. Social inclusion

TYPE OF EVALUATION

▶ Theory based impact evaluation



YEAR OF COMPLETION

▶ 2019

METHODOLOGY USED

Contribution Analysis (theory based impact evaluation), combining qualitative and quantitative perspectives.

Methodological approach

Urban and territorial dimension

Objective and focus: Evaluating the effects of measures on

- mechanisms of actions supporting territorially oriented development
- general framework and regional significance in relation to other strategies, programmes and funding
- in addition, "classic evaluation questions": target achievement, outputs and implementation

Combination of qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods

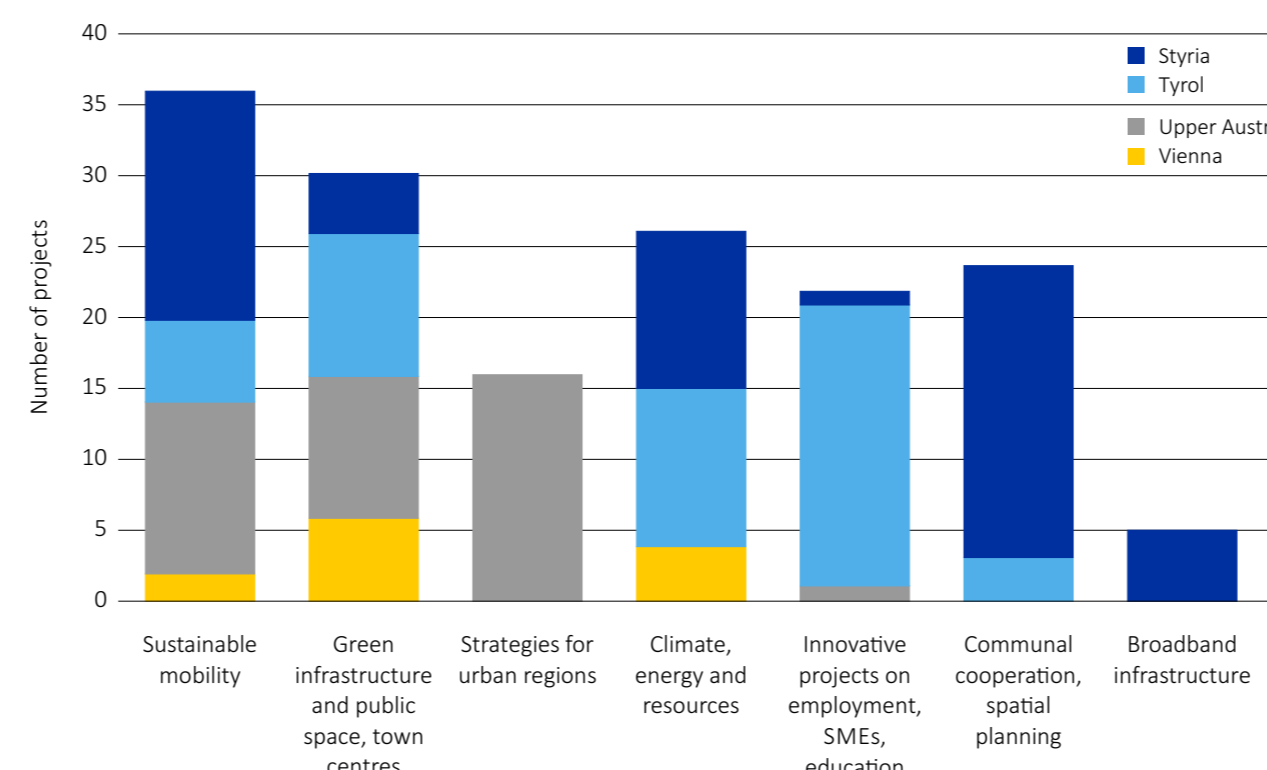
- Desk Research
- Focus groups per province
- Final assessment and valuation of effects per measure, priority axis, province and urban and territorial dimension in general
- Quantitative analysis
- Case studies including interviews

DATA SOURCES

- ▶ monitoring data and questionnaires
- ▶ desk research (project descriptions, funded urban-regional strategies)
- ▶ interviews and focus groups in the 4 provinces

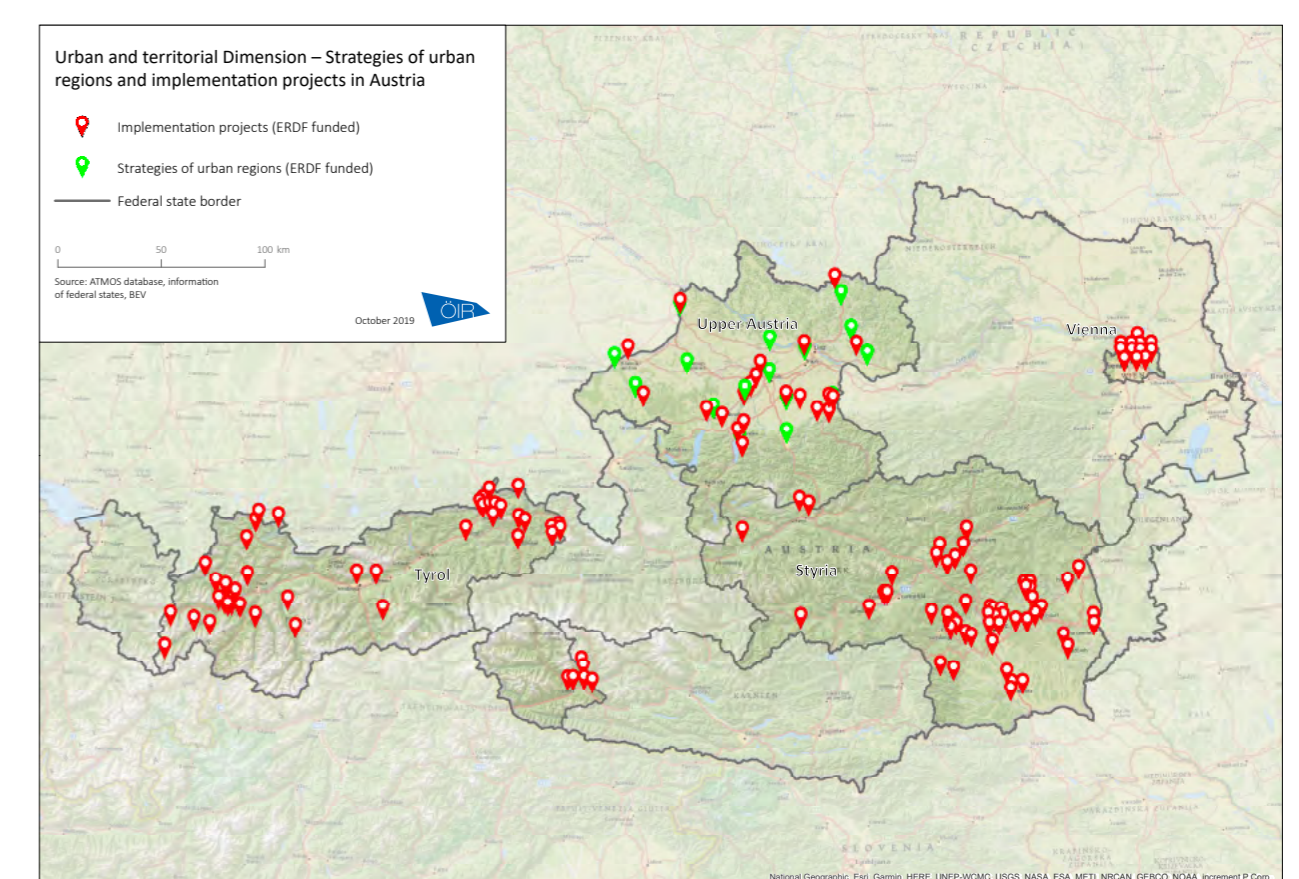
MAIN FINDINGS

- ▶ The impact of the broad thematic portfolio of measures in 4 Austrian provinces was examined in particular with regard to their qualitative medium to long-term effects.



In summary, the following effects of the implemented measures have been identified:

- ▶ a considerable impetus for cooperation processes and their deepening in the regions
- ▶ the improvement of cooperation and coordination of the regional level with the province level as well as the support of mutual learning within the multi-level governance system
- ▶ support for partnership and participation at regional level (especially in the context of CLLD in Tyrol)



- ▶ a very high visibility of EU funding for the population due to the involvement of local and regional political representatives and diverse communication activities at regional level (proximity to citizens)

- ▶ multiple (small) contributions to territorial development by investment projects in the regions.

Within the context of (existing, national) regional funding, the core impact of the urban and territorial measures of the IGJ/ERDF programme in Austria lies in the stimulation of regional cooperation and the implementation of pilot projects as well as in the support for coping with new challenges at regional level (innovation-promoting impact).

CONCLUSIONS

The impetus provided by the measures was used for tailored regional development. New regional actors were integrated into co-operations and innovative projects were implemented in different regions. Experiences have proven that a province-specific development and implementation of the territorial dimension by embedding the measures in the respective governance system of the province is necessary. Successful implementation required support and advice for the beneficiaries, which was largely provided by regional managements or the responsible funding agencies at provincial level.

Due to the relatively small Austrian ERDF budget for the urban dimension, a stronger thematic concentration of the funds is planned in the coming period, taking into account the lessons learnt from the current period.

Effects

Co-operation and pilot projects	Targeted impulses for more cooperation in the regions and implementation of regional pilot projects.
Multi-level governance	Cooperation and coordination between regional and province level is important for successful project implementation and supports mutual learning.
Visibility of ERDF funding	The benefits of these projects, enabled by EU funding for the region are widely perceived by the population due to an integration of regional multipliers and local politicians.
New regional challenges	Funding of territorially-oriented projects provides a valuable impetus for addressing new, cross-sectoral challenges from a regional perspective.

AUTHOR(S) OF THE EVALUATION

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LINK

https://www.efre.gv.at/fileadmin/user_upload/downloadcenter/Evaluierung/Endbericht_Evaluierung_StaedtischeDimension_FINAL.pdf