

Evolving water governance practice

Capacity-building in the drinking water supply sector by a professional organisation in Austria



ÖSTERREICHISCHE VEREINIGUNG
FÜR DAS GAS- UND WASSERFACH

Promoter of the practice:

Institution: Association for Gas and Water, Austria (ÖVGW)

Contact point: Anna Pomassl

Email: pomassl@ovgw.at



Location : Austria



Timeframe: 1970 → ongoing



Scale (s): National



Water function(s): Drinking water supply

Stakeholders involved

Central government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Economics Ministry of Health Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management Drinking water utility operators
Business / Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Austrian Association for Gas & Water

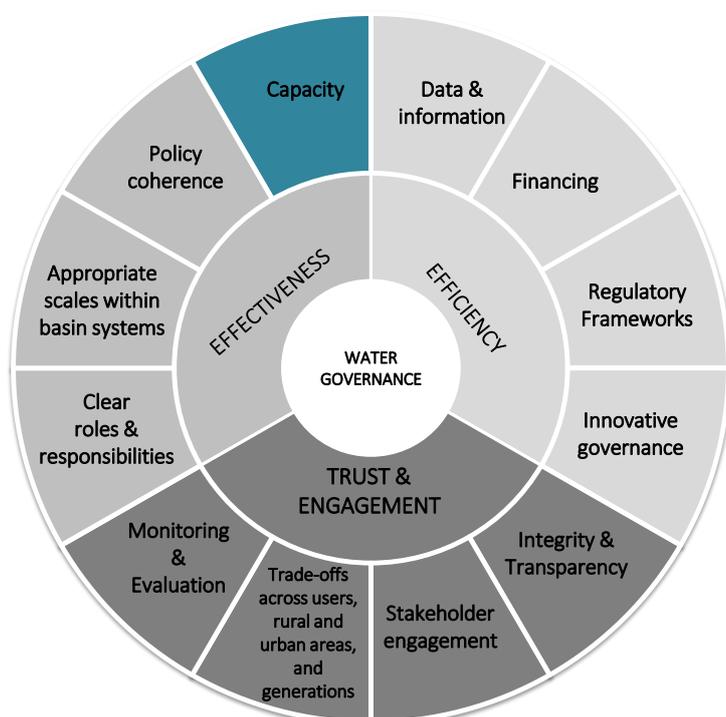
Brief description of the practice

In Austria, professional associations **promote the education and training of water professionals** to strengthen the capacity of water institutions as well as stakeholders at large. The Austrian Association for Gas & Water (ÖVGW) is a key actor in the professional training sector in Austria. In 1970, the ÖVGW launched the first seminars and the Masters for drinking water operators, which were the first programmes in Austria dedicated to training drinking water utility personnel. In 2000, the Water Masters received the EN ISO 17024 accreditation from the Ministry of Economics, and in 2002, the Ministry of Health certified that the ÖVGW's training programmes comply with the requirements set in the Drinking Water Act for personnel to work in public utilities

Governance gaps in implementing the practice according to the practice promoter

- **Lack of a national programme** to build capacity of water utilities personnel

OECD Water Governance Principle (s)



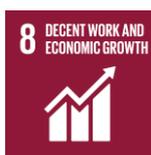
■ Most prominent Principle (s) ■ Other related Principle (s)

Access the OECD Principles in 16 languages [here](#)

Reported links to OECD Principles

Principle 4: Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ÖVGW's education and training committee has written a book that summarises all relevant legal requirements, rules, guidelines and standards that are learned during the course. According to ÖVGW the book is under constant review and regularly updated.• ÖVGW offers three types of education and training programs that are tailored to the needs of water utility operators:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Basic Training (one-day course). Provides a general overview on issues related to water quality for operators of small drinking water suppliers (≤ 10 m³/day)◦ Water Guards (three-day course). Tailored to operators of utilities supplying more than 10 m³/day◦ Water Master (five-day course). Includes lectures on water quality, chemical treatment, construction methods, engineering and management, for utility operators supplying more than 100 m³/day
------------------------------	---

Reported link to SDGs



Online information:

[ÖVGW homepage](#)

[Austrian Drinking Water Act](#)