Statistical profile

Figure 1. Statistical profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regions</th>
<th>Population growth 2006-2019 (%)</th>
<th>Growth in employment 2008-2017 (%)</th>
<th>GVA per worker (1 000 USD ppp)</th>
<th>GVA manufacturing share (%)</th>
<th>Hospital beds per 1,000 inhabitants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regions with a city &gt;250K</td>
<td>1 (0.7)</td>
<td>1.0 (0.9)</td>
<td>94 (92)</td>
<td>16 (18)</td>
<td>7.4 (8.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regions near a city &gt;250K</td>
<td>0.3 (0.4)</td>
<td>0.8 (0.5)</td>
<td>88 (79)</td>
<td>34 (26)</td>
<td>6.3 (6.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regions with/near a city &lt;250K</td>
<td>0.3 (0.4)</td>
<td>0.5 (0.0)</td>
<td>88 (71)</td>
<td>28 (23)</td>
<td>7.2 (7.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote regions</td>
<td>-0.1 (0.6)</td>
<td>0.5 (0.2)</td>
<td>86 (73)</td>
<td>25 (16)</td>
<td>8.5 (4.6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: OECD average is presented in parenthesis. Data for hospital beds are from 2018 and data for GVA per worker, GVA by sector and unemployment rate are from 2017. GVA and GDP are measured in USD PPP (2015). The OECD average by order in the table has been made with 33, 25, 26, 25, 19 countries with available data. Employment growth measured as employment in the workplace.

Policy framework and Institutional setting of rural development

**Rural Definition**

- Austria’s definition of rural areas is outlined by the Rural Development Program. The main criteria for the definition of rural areas is the threshold of population density. This includes, in particular, all municipalities with less than 30,000 inhabitants and all parts of municipalities with more than 30,000 inhabitants which show rural features. The definition...
acknowledge two types of rural areas: mixed rural/urban areas, addressed as "Zwischenregion", and remote rural areas, as "periphere region".

**National rural policy**

- Austria does not have an explicit national rural policy.

**Lead ministry(ies) and other co-ordination bodies in charge**

Main institutions in charge of rural development policies at the **national level**:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministries/Comittees (most important first)</th>
<th>Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism</td>
<td>Preparation of Rural Development Program (RDP), funding, implementation and evaluation of RDP; national supplementary action; research; coordination with regional level and with other federal authorities; information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring Committee of RDP</td>
<td>Control function (for RDP implementation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning (ÖROK) since 1972; vertical and horizontal coordination; information exchange; strategy building</td>
<td>Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning (ÖROK) since 1972; vertical and horizontal coordination; information exchange; strategy building</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Main institutions in charge of rural development policies at the **sub-national level**:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institutions</th>
<th>Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional government offices of the Länder</td>
<td>Spatial planning, regional policy, nature protection and resource use, and implementation of rural policy instruments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local institutions, at municipality and/or small-scale level</td>
<td>Implementation of specific measures</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key objectives in rural policy and delivery mechanisms**

- Austria’s rural development policy allocates a high degree of importance to economic areas (Table 1). Table 2 shows the main priorities of the rural policy in Austria.
- The main delivery mechanisms to implement rural policies are dedicated grants programmes.

**Table 1. Relevance of sectors in rural development policy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy areas</th>
<th>Weight on rural policy</th>
<th>Average OECD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Self-reported responses from country delegate to the question: “Please grade from 1 to 10 the importance rural development policies in your country assigns to economic, social and environmental areas”.

Source: OECD (2018), “Responses to the institutional survey on rural policy in OECD countries”. 
### Table 2. Relevant objectives in rural development policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top objectives</th>
<th>Programmes</th>
<th>Main financial mechanisms to support the strategy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>CAP pillar 1 and pillar 2 (RDP)</td>
<td>Direct payments; AECM, LFA/ANC payments, diversification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land occupation, resilience and landscape preservation</td>
<td>RDP LFA/ANC; some smaller landscape-oriented payments</td>
<td>RDP LFA/ANC; some smaller landscape-oriented payments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service delivery</td>
<td>RDP</td>
<td>Public services support, LEADER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility via transport/broadband</td>
<td>RDP</td>
<td>Small roads investment; broadband initiative for rural areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of life/well-being of rural</td>
<td>RDP</td>
<td>LEADER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation support to “rural” sectors</td>
<td>RDP</td>
<td>Advice and training support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: These objectives are the objectives with higher scores in the survey responses.*

*Source: OECD (2018), “Responses to the institutional survey on rural policy in OECD countries.”*