



The ESPON 2013 Programme

Applied Research Project 2013/1/2

EDORA

(European Development Opportunities
for Rural Areas)

Country Profiles Report

AUSTRIA

Report n° 25.1

Thomas Dax

Federal Institute for Less Favoured and Mountainous Areas



EUROPEAN UNION
Part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund
INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

CONTENTS

1. Introduction	3
2. Demography	4
3. Employment	6
4. Rural business development	8
5. Rural-urban relationships	10
6. Cultural heritage.....	11
7. Services of General Interest.....	12
8. Farm structural change	14
9. Institutional Capacity	16
10. Climate change	18
References	19

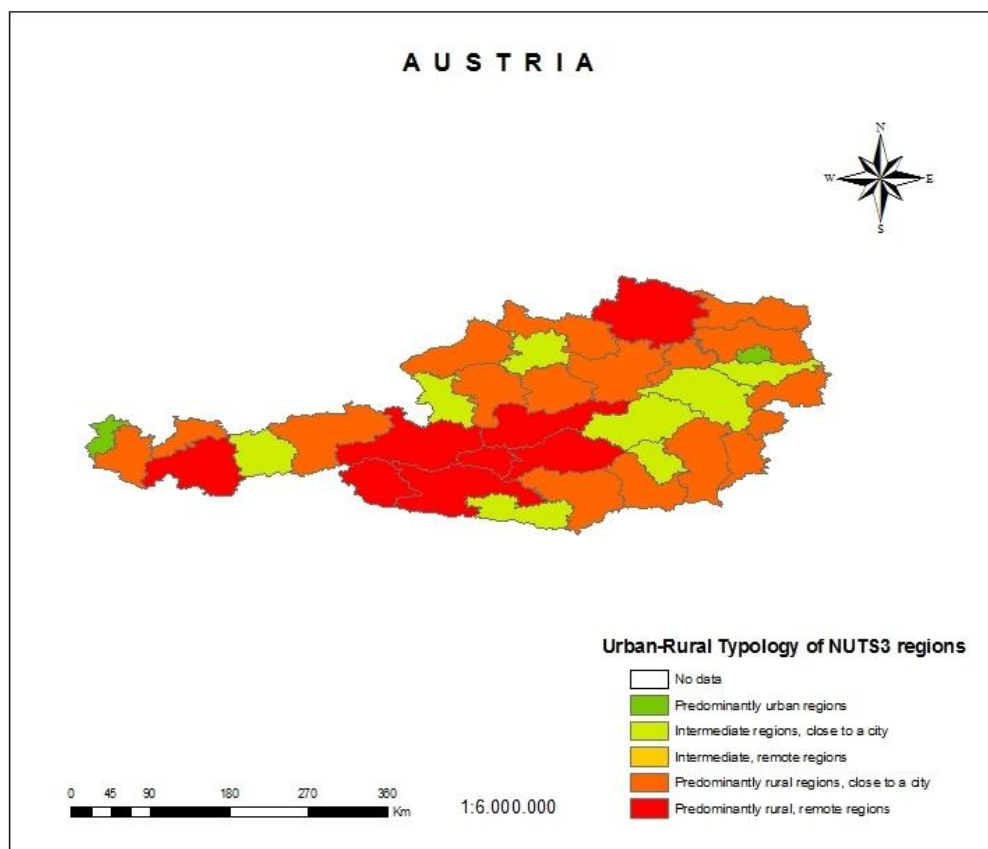
1. Introduction

Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):

- Key ideas/comments on the resulting DG Regio Typology (reasonable classification? processes hindered? degree of internal variation? etc.)
- Basic comments on the main Drivers, Opportunities and Constraints affecting different typologies of regions in the country
- Basic comments on the implications of the three “Grand Narratives of Change” described by Mark Shucksmith in the rural areas of Austria (ref. document “Narratives of Change Affecting Rural Areas of Europe”)

The DG Regio Typology is quite reasonable in the Austrian context, and the new differentiation provides a good separation of more accessible and more peripheral rural regions. At the national level we tend to term the regions differently, in particular with a focus on medium-sized cities which are included in the DG Regio typology as intermediate regions. The two areas of remote rural regions reflect the two main types of peripheral rural regions, i.e. the regions with difficult access situation within the Alpine range (central Austria) and remote regions in the North of Austria with accessibility problems. Regional policy in Austria addresses the need to focus on these areas as priority regions within the rural field and the Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning (ÖROK) has consequently focused in recent activities (Dax et al. 2009) on innovative action in such remote rural regions.

Figure 22.1 DG Regio modified Urban-rural typology of NUT3 regions: Austria



Source: own elaboration from http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/focus/2008_01_rural.pdf

2. Demography

Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):

- Which are the main demographic processes in the country?
- Which are the features of the “natural growth”? (positive or negative growth, ageing process)
- Which are the features of migration processes? (Dimensions, size, directions, prevalence, tradition, consequences on territorial model).
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (i.e. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

Demographic structure in remote rural regions is still somewhat younger than in urban or intermediate regions. Population scenarios predict an ageing of population in all types of regions of Austria, and hence an increase of ageing problems also in rural regions. The dependency ratio is almost equal for all types, except the urban one, but is somewhat below the European average.

Population has increased recently in all regional types of Austria with no significant differences between types. This reflects analysis of population development over last two decades in Austria where no (significant) losses, also not in rural areas, were recognized. Only several specific regions have shown population losses over several decades – most of them are related to the group of remote rural regions. Net migration losses were still considerable for rural and particularly remote areas although immigration towards many rural regions has increased over recent years. In several contexts this has changed significantly the components of population development in these areas.

Educational attainment is similar for all types of regions, in comparison to European educational situation the strong concentration on the medium level of education is obvious. This is linked to the specific role of vocational training in Austria and a low orientation towards highest educational levels. Only recently these features changed slightly. Despite the low difference between the types of regions, educational differences are quite relevant in school provision between rural and urban contexts, and a high commuting rate of students towards middle and larger towns is reality for many young people of rural regions. This was investigated in studies on young people in rural areas and confirmed the strong orientation of this age group towards more central regions with a wider set of available educational, job and cultural opportunities (Dax and Machold 2003).

Farmers' educational attainment and life-long learning show quite impressive values. However, parts of these positive values have to be attributed to the national methodology of statistics in this field and the particular situation of vocational education and definitions of these terms.

Table 1.1 Demography indicators

DEMOGRAPHY		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR		Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS +LI+MK+ NO+TR	
Variables		1	21	22	31	32	Average country		Average EU 27
Census population 2001	% people aged 0 to 14 years	16.99	16.12		17.67	18.41	17.45	16.75	16.70
	% people aged 15 to 64 years	68.89	68.08		66.70	66.35	67.06	66.62	66.65
	% people aged 64 years and over	14.12	15.80		15.63	15.24	15.49	16.53	16.55
	Age dependency rate	20.48	23.25		23.46	23.00	23.14	25.09	25.09
Population	Population change 2001-2007 (Index pop. 2001=100)	105.05	102.19		102.24	102.39	102.42	96.58	96.31
	% pop. 0_14_2007	16.45	16.03		16.04	16.10	16.08	16.68	15.97
	% pop. 15_64_2007	68.72	67.24		66.96	67.67	67.29	69.75	70.18
	% pop. >64_2007	14.84	16.72		17.00	16.22	16.63	13.55	13.84
	Age dependency rate	45.55	48.73		49.35	47.79	48.64	44.08	43.17
	Natural increase change_01_06	-108.09	69.48		108.82	-13.33	63.93	-5.99	-6.09
	Net migration change_01_06	58.58	-42.43		-91.63	-112.12	-76.48	7.09	8.97
Education*	% ISCED 0_2**	29.53	29.65		31.60	29.25	30.50	33.62	36.65
	% ISCED 3_4**	54.26	56.97		55.67	56.96	56.18	43.29	47.14
	% ISCED 5_6**	15.66	12.68		12.09	13.08	12.65	17.03	18.54
	% of farmers with basic or full educational attainment *	18.85	49.51		45.46	47.85	45.41	35.34	39.54
	Life-Long Learning in Rural Areas*	13.82	12.43		12.08	12.27	12.30	7.69	8.61

*Values NUT3 are replaced by values NUTS2

**% ISCED by groups is calculated for population more 15 years.

3. Employment

Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):

- Main processes and trends in relation to the labour market (employment/unemployment, disadvantaged groups and territories). Explanatory reasons
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (i.e. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

Employment rates are characterized by typical aspects of territorial and gender and age specific divergences. The most relevant is the urban-rural and the men-women employment rate and wages gap. The statistics of the types shown in the table partly hide the strong differences. In many rural regions (many of them in the remote part), employment rates of women are more than 20% below the corresponding rates of men. Though there was a particular catch up process over the last two decades for women employment in almost all regions of Austria (as for many regions of the EU) the gender gap could hardly be decreased.

Of course, sector structures are different for the regional types, with rural remote regions showing the highest involvement in primary sector activities. In Austria the secondary sector is rather weak (on average) in these regions, and the tertiary sector, including in particular tourism activities is historically strong, but has even increased over recent years significantly.

Unemployment situation and rates have remained rather stable over the observed period, with increases in unemployment only very recently. Overall the rates are rather low and show a high incidence in urban contexts. Table 22.3 provides some evidence on the increasing relevance of unemployment for young people (men and women), and increasing tensions with regard to a higher portion of long term unemployed persons.

Table 1.2 Employment indicators (a)

EMPLOYMENT		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR		Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS	
Variables		1	21	22	31	32	Average country	+LI+MK+NO+TR	Average EU 27
Employment rate*	T15_64 years	70.15	72.18		72.65	72.28	72.31	66.40	66.42
	Tmale 15_64 y	77.40	79.34		79.98	79.31	79.53	73.05	73.12
	Tfemale 15_64 y	62.95	65.01		65.29	65.29	65.09	59.72	59.70
	Total 15_24 y	52.95	56.96		57.28	57.39	56.99	39.66	39.67
	T 45_64 years	60.45	60.74		61.62	60.99	61.21	62.37	62.34
	Total 45_54	80.55	83.00		83.63	82.59	83.07	78.30	78.38
	Total 55_64	40.35	38.48		39.61	39.40	39.35	46.44	46.30

Table 1.3 Employment indicators (b)

EMPLOYMENT		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR		Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS +LI+MK+ NO+TR	
Variables		1	21	22	31	32	Average country		Average EU 27
%Employment in principal sector	%Emp_primary	2.43	7.57		22.80	23.50	18.31	7.95	7.97
	%Emp_secondary	23.29	23.58		26.12	21.74	24.38	26.71	26.71
	%Emp_tertiary	74.28	68.85		51.08	54.76	57.31	65.33	65.31
Unempl. evol. 2002_05*	Total > 15 years	166.83	295.88		358.95	206.08	298.61	187.25	188.17
	Total 15_24 years	265.90	535.75		573.34	260.94	475.78	255.25	257.16
	Total >25 years	134.17	103.21		97.69	107.95	103.38	82.27	82.21
	Male > 15 years	140.48	99.50		103.90	108.96	106.14	82.45	82.35
	Female > 15 years	151.45	140.21		128.38	141.56	135.41	94.74	94.79
Unemployment rate 2007*	Total >15	6.00	3.44		3.48	3.46	3.61	7.61	7.63
	Total Male >15	8.50	2.96		2.68	2.83	2.99	7.06	7.05
	Total Female >15	6.40	4.08		4.26	3.84	4.24	8.61	8.59
	Total 15_24	15.30	7.53		7.24	7.48	7.67	15.80	15.64
	Total >25	5.05	2.84		2.73	2.74	2.89	6.66	6.66
Long term unemployment*	% long term unemployment rate_07	29.09	21.87		22.31	20.68	22.22	43.07	43.12
	Evolution of long term unemployment 2002_07	142.10	113.28		112.45	131.53	118.69	111.33	110.94

4. Rural business development

Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):

- Which are the features of the rural businesses (size, dominant activities, employment, profitability, innovation, use of IST, etc)?
- Which is the profile of the rural entrepreneur?
- Which are the niches of activity in which rural companies are being created?
- Which are the opportunity sectors for future rural business operation?
- Which are the main constraints that need to be overcome?
- Are there specific policies/programs/initiatives that could be labeled as “best practices” in rural business promotion?
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (i.e. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

There are few characteristics of the business structure at regional level in Austria from the following table that underline territorial specificities. Maybe the most relevant is the higher incidence of hotels and restaurants activities in all regions except urban regions, indicating the wide spread significance of tourism across large parts of Austria's regions. With a contribution of 8% directly, and 15% with all tourism-related activities, tourism is one of the central economic activities in Austria. It is apparent that for remote rural regions this activity is particularly expressed.

Also for the situation of high and medium tech activities there is no significant difference to the European average and no internal differentiation visible. Importantly, rural regions achieve similar values to other regional types and firms with website are only slightly less frequent than in urban situations.

Table 22.4 Rural business development indicators

RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR	Average country	Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS+LI+MK+NO+TR	Average EU 27
Variables		1	21	22	31	32			
N° FIRMS BY SECTOR OF OPERATION (1_2 digits)_2006	% Mining and quarrying		0.25		0.26	0.23	0.24	0.30	0,30
	% Manufacturing	10.24	10.82		11.58	10.12	10.99	14.08	14,05
	% Electricity, gas and water supply	0.38	0.83		0.84	0.81	0.80	0.61	0,63
	%Construction	7.89	8.83		9.48	8.65	9.05	9.48	9,46
	%Wholesale and retail trade	30.06	31.86		32.74	30.31	31.83	23.02	21,83
	%Hotel and restaurants	13.36	17.50		16.28	20.02	17.24	6.52	6,15
	%Transport, storage and communication	6.11	6.84		6.51	7.11	6.70	8.69	8,46
	%Real state, renting and business activities	31.88	23.07		22.32	22.76	23.14	37.29	39,12

RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR	Average country	Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS+LI+MK+NO+TR	Average EU 27
Variables		1	21	22	31	32			
EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR OF OPERATION (1_2 digits)_2006	% Mining and quarrying	0.10	0.41		0.41	0.39	0.39	0.58	0,52
	% Manufacturing	24.13	27.64		28.95	25.38	27.56	29.18	28,08
	% Electricity, gas and water supply	1.44	1.15		1.23	1.20	1.22	1.14	0,89
	%Construction	9.39	10.73		11.44	10.64	10.98	9.09	9,14
	%Wholesale and retail trade	24.41	25.77		25.58	25.53	25.54	26.14	26,93
	%Hotel and restaurants	10.19	10.86		9.96	13.44	10.97	8.27	8,37
	%Transport, storage and communication	9.80	9.41		9.07	9.70	9.33	8.65	8,52
	%Real state, renting and business activities	20.45	13.97		13.29	13.64	13.93	16.78	17,51
Employment in high and medium technologies manufacturing activities_2004	Employment in high and medium tech manufacturing activities_2004_Media	5.72	6.67		6.44	6.11	6.37	6.88	7,42
	Employment in high and medium tech manufacturing activities_2004_%EU 25	85.42	96.30		97.86	86.16	94.12	95.89	107,13
	%firms with own website	63,90	51.25		50.04	53.24	51.84	50.21	50.21

* Values NUT3 are replaced by values NUTS2

5. Rural-urban relationships

Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):

- Are there established or incipient initiatives for cooperation between urban and rural areas?
- Is the “territorial approach” developed? (i.e. Territorial Employment Pacts, supra-municipal planning, etc.),
- are there rural-urban partnerships? If so, which are their goals and ways of operation? Where is the power located?
- Which is the importance/extent of suburbanization processes?
- What are the main demands/uses over rural areas from urban inhabitants? How these are met?
- Are there specific policies/programs/initiatives that could be labeled as “best practices” in promoting appropriate rural-urban relations?
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (i.e. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

Rural and urban areas are historically closely linked in many respects in Austria. There are a number of dimensions to the debate on linkages, but no system, like “rural proofing” has been established here. On the contrary, there is a vague, wide-spread notion that Austria is in general a strongly rurally characterized country with a lower relevance of urban centers. Nevertheless there is a long tradition on commuting patterns and historically linkages of regions to cities. This long-range and long-time commuting patterns show very stable features, and link a great share of rural regions strongly to urban centers.

Suburbanization processes have been discerned since long and have extended to more and more regions. This had a considerable effect on rural statistics, with stabilization of population development, increase of employment etc. in rural regions. The most significant and wide-ranging area is found in relation to the Vienna agglomeration which has significant employment effects (in terms of commuting regions) in a diameter of up to 200 km to the south of the city. All other major capitals of the Länder have experienced also a considerable increase of their suburbanization areas over the last decades.

We can therefore see a marked difference between population and employment development in many regions affected by this trend. A highly significant indication of these spatial linkages can be seen in the establishment of “zones for public traffic” around major cities, integrating the different traffic systems and regulations in a combined area. Another attempt to increase the “territorial approach” is the use of Territorial Employment Pacts in almost all Länder of Austria.

6. Cultural heritage

Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):

- Which are the main cultural resources?
- Which are the main cultural resources of rural regions?
- Is cultural heritage used? If so, in which senses (i.e. tourism, other economic activities, identical reference, education, other non profit uses?)
- Which are the main demands upon cultural heritage?
- Are there specific policies/programs/initiatives that could be labeled as “best practices” in protecting/promoting sustainability of cultural heritage?
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (i.e. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

Cultural resources are core to the development and identity of all types of regions in Austria. As a country largely involved in tourism activities, these have been addressed and developed since long, and cultural assets have a high priority in many respects.

The recognition extends also to rural regions, and remote regions, although in some regions it was developed only recently. Nowadays, the discussion on valorizing cultural resources and use of “rural amenities” extends to almost all regions. One of the best proofs is the high participation and commitment for Leader Local Action Groups (LAGs) which extend to about 85% of the total area of Austria and include 50% of the total population of the country. In addition reference to local cultural assets and a focus on spatial identity building through local initiatives can be experienced all over the country.

Heritage is primarily linked to aspects of natural resources, preservation of the environment and specific features of cultural landscapes which coin the identity of many regions of Austria. However, this cannot be separated from other cultural resources, like monuments, settlement structures etc. which add to the use of landscape potential for tourism purposes.

Variations depending on the types of regions seem to be limited and, in general, other determinants are more important. These include local aspects, the provision of amenities, the institutional development and social capital achieved in an area and strategies to harness the respective potential.

There are numerous examples of projects and initiatives at a very local level and the main challenge is to achieve sustainability in relation to larger geographical levels. The Interreg programme Alpine Space is one of the significant initiatives that strive for the sustainable development of the regions in the Alpine area.

7. Services of General Interest

Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):

- Which is the general situation of the services of general interest (SGI) in the country?
- Which are the main problems in relation to accessibility and provision to SGI for rural residents and visitors?
- Which are the main forms of provision of services in rural areas? Are there innovative solutions to low accessibility areas?
- Are there specific policies/programs/initiatives that could be labeled as “best practices” in promoting accessibility/provision of Services of General Interest, particularly in rural areas?
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (i.e. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

Accessibility features show a stronger situation of peripherality of regions for PRA and PRR, but also for IRA. This reflects the feelings of many inhabitants to have difficult access to some of services. National analysis show that extremely peripheral regions are limited to some parts (particularly of remote rural regions) and provision with public services is up to now still better than in other European regions. Nevertheless there is increasing concern about decrease of services and retreat of service provision from more and more rural regions. Particularly for older and young people (with no access to car mobility) this poses extreme difficulties in daily life and further contributes to out-migration. Recent calculation on accessibility through a national study (IPE 2007) has shown an improvement also for rural regions, but in relative terms differences continue to exist. Infrastructure and accessibility indicators reveal the significantly lower density and decreasing density of transport infrastructure in rural areas and the difficulties to access various services, signified here through hospital, university and airport, particularly for remote rural regions. These are the regions with an expressed problem situation (i.e. worse accessibility to these services) in comparison to the EU-27 average.

Supply with broadband and internet is at the European average with no significant regional divergences. However, these figures are NUTS 2 calculations and don't reflect the local situation of small regions (NUTS3 level) which might be less positive in several cases.

The second table (Table 22.6 b) provides an overview on some aspects of service provision:

- Tertiary education is lower than in European average.
- Provision with doctors is quite good in all regions of Austria and significantly higher than the EU average. This holds true also for hospital beds, but in contrast to doctors these are much more spatially concentrated towards the centers. The number of hospital beds is high in urban and remote rural regions, and does not show a significant decrease in rural areas; but in urban regions number of hospital beds were reduced recently (2000-2005).

Table 22.5 Services of general interest indicators (a)

SERVICES OF GENERAL INTEREST		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR	Average country	Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS+L I+MK+NO+T R	Average EU 27
Variables		1	21	22	31	32			
Density of motorways		0.05	0.04		0.02	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.04
Density of trunk road		0.39	0.20		0.15	0.10	0.16	0.17	0.17
Density of railways		0.23	0.09		0.07	0.04	0.08	0.10	0.10
Area (km2)**		1140.10	16932.30		39967.20	25831.60	83871.20	5659749.80	4600910.40
DENSITY	Evolution density 2001_06*	5.15	2.36		1.79	-0.33	1.79	0.93	0.92
	Density of population 2006***	2180.23	177.67		72.23	31.62	207.51	414.65	446.23
Daily population accessible by car		21434.50	13566.87		13685.23	11990.87	13713.71	18078.54	19285.23
Time to nearest hospital		11.45	20.70		32.84	54.62	33.82	22.83	22.83
Time to nearest university		49.50	29.21		56.10	79.59	54.95	45.10	45.10
Time to nearest airport		77.18	88.06		96.87	125.45	100.26	83.44	83.44
%households with broadband Access*		57.00	52.00		53.23	52.12	52.91	49.07	48.00
% households with internet at home*		79.50	78.12		79.17	77.87	78.65	81.46	81.20

* Values NUT3 are replaced by values NUTS2

** The findings of these variables are the sum of values, not the average, as the others.

*** These values are only indicatives and aren't reals because in the calculation there are values NUTS2 and NUTS3.

Table 22.6 Services of general interest indicators (b)

SERVICES OF GENERAL INTEREST		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR	Average country	Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS+LI+MK+NO+TR	Average EU 27
Variables		1	21	22	31	32			
N° STUDENTS ISCED 0_6*	N°students ISCED_0 per 1.000 inhabitants	28.84	25.49		26.65	25.40	26.22	29.59	29.46
	N°students ISCED_1 per 1.000 inhabitants	43.98	43.77		43.76	43.82	43.79	61.66	60.76
	N°students ISCED_2 per 1.000 inhabitants	48.98	48.47		48.19	48.86	48.45	43.21	43.28
	N°students ISCED_3 per 1.000 inhabitants	46.46	48.11		47.11	49.83	47.92	48.05	48.03
	N°students ISCED_4 per 1.000 inhabitants	8.57	9.78		9.46	9.91	9.58	3.06	3.10
	N°students ISCED_5_6 per 1.000 inhabitants	43.30	22.91		15.90	29.15	22.09	37.37	37.23
	N° of beds in hospitals per 100.000 inhabitants_05	706.05	799.62		706.82	828.23	755.74	696.91	704.88
	Evolution nbeds 2000_05	66.65	99.80		96.82	100.56	96.63	91.53	91.94
	Density of hospitals	18.94	1.54		0.53	0.42	2.56	5.44	5.44
	Hospital beds per head	6.73	6.50		3.26	4.63	4.94	4.98	4.98
	Doctors per inhabitant	358.90	302.61		279.02	311.51	296.41	171.35	171.35

*Values NUT3 are replaced by values NUTS2

8. Farm structural change

Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):

- Which are the main DOC in relationships to agriculture?

- Are there specific policies/programs/initiatives that could be labeled as “best practices” in promoting agriculture?
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (i.e. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

There is a large share of very small farms (less than 2 ESU), particularly in remote regions. Structural changes of farm numbers reveal an on-going concentration process for all types of regions. Larger farm holdings are only present in urban regions; however the increase of large holdings is most strong in rural remote regions. This points to a catch-up process in the agricultural structures of these regions towards larger farm structures. The changes for small and large farm holdings (as shown in the table) are significant and divergent for the types of regions, indicating structural adjustment as a relevant issue in Austria.

Structural conditions show the persistently high incidence of small structures in many Austrian regions, particularly remote regions. This reflects the situation in mountain areas and some other less-favoured regions. Pluriactivity is however found everywhere and not a specific regional phenomenon, nevertheless farm holders are less likely to work full-time in rural regions than in urban regions where more intensive holdings with higher productivity potential prevail.

According to statistics farmers tend to be younger in Austria than the European average. The on-going structural change can best be seen through the decrease of farmers below 35 years. However, this indicator is similar to the European average as well.

Table 22.7 Farm structural change indicators (a)

FARM STRUCTURAL CHANGE	PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR	Average country	Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS+LI+MK	Average EU 27
Variables	1	21	22	31	32			

								+NO+TR	
% HOLDINGS 2005	< 2 ESU	24.72	29.71		27.79	32.80	29.20	33.42	33.89
	2 to 100 ESU	67.42	69.48		70.97	66.66	69.44	57.56	57.02
	>100 ESU	7.85	0.81		1.24	0.55	1.36	8.33	8.38
%CHANGING N° HOLDINGS 2000-2005	% Change in number of total holdings 2000-2005	-28.57	-12.23		-16.32	-10.04	-14.65	-9.53	-9.19
	% Change in number of holdings less 2 ESU 2000-2005	-22.54	-12.65		-18.56	-6.38	-14.65	-2.22	-0.65
	% Change in number of holdings 2 to 100 ESU 2000-2005	-33.70	-13.33		-16.53	-12.58	-15.88	-13.91	-13.73
	% Change in number of holdings over 100 ESU 2000-2005	43.75	148.61		151.84	122.92	138.31	32.21	31.28

HOLDERS	% Holders working full time 2005	42.09	35.13		34.22	32.33	34.44	35.42	35.50
	% Change in Number of Holders working full time 2000 - 2005	-25.00	-2.85		-1.37	-4.27	-3.72	0.00	0.33
	Economic Farm Size (RDEU07)	45.90	13.41		15.70	11.03	15.83	41.93	41.93
	Farmers with OGA (RDEU07)	31.90	36.95		37.56	39.54	37.55	37.56	37.56
	% holders > 55 years 2007	35.20	28.81		29.60	30.06	29.84	50.19	50.62
	% holders < 35 years 2007	8.27	9.78		9.51	9.81	9.57	6.35	6.32
	% change in holders > 55 years 2000 - 2005	3.42	-4.10		-2.27	-3.90	-2.74	5.88	5.62
	% change in holders < 35 years 2000 - 2005	-43.09	-30.10		-30.75	-27.51	-30.57	-34.01	-33.96
	% farmers with basic and full education in agriculture attained (RDEU07)	37.70	49.51		45.46	47.85	46.75	42.30	42.30

*Values NUT3 are replaced by values NUTS2

9. Institutional Capacity

Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):

- characteristics of the governance system (type of administrative system, levels of government, distribution of powers),
- Dominant types of interactions among levels of government (formal/informal, hierarchical/cooperative, open/closed, top-down/bottom-up, etc.)
- Which are the main problems in relation to government and governance?
- Are there specific policies/programs/initiatives that could be labeled as “best practices” in promoting better institutional capacity, particularly in rural areas?
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (ie. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

The indicator of GDP is compared to the EU average. Both types of rural regions achieve about 100% of the EU average and are thus significantly below the national situation, but better off than many other rural regions in other countries. It is interesting that there is hardly any difference between the two “rural” types and hence remoteness has no negative effect in the Austrian context. However, one has to acknowledge the high influence of cultural assets and rural amenities in Austria’s regions that partly gain from the situation in an un-spoilt nature with regional economy drawing extensively on this particular potential.

Table 22.8 Institutional capacity indicators

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR	Average country	Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS+LI +MK+NO+TR	Average EU 27
Variables		1	21	22	31	32			
GDP DISPERSION OF GDP_2005	GDP in Mio. Euro 2005	37866.15	10510.93		3838.33	2532.28	7009.42	9722.69	9856.11
	GDP in PPS per inhabitant 2005	34836.55	30779.12		22298.62	22473.13	24993.36	20926.83	21110.46
	GDP in euro per inhabitant in percentage of the EU average 2005	160.65	141.91		102.81	103.60	115.23	94.38	95.48

10. Climate change

Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):

- Which are the main perceived threats in relation to climate change for population, authorities, and interest groups?
- Are there any scientific evidence pointing to climate change? Please describe
- Are there specific policies/programs/initiatives that could be labeled as “best practices” in counteracting the effects of climate change, particularly in rural areas?
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (i.e. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

Climate change poses particular threats for mountain areas as it does not only involve a simple temperature increase but an increased climate variability with much more expressed changes in mountain regions than in lowlands. In terms of regional impact it seems important to take account of regional diverse effects that can occur within mountain areas possibly at very low scale. In consequence the threat for rising occurrence of natural disasters (floods, avalanches, gales) is particularly relevant for mountain regions. These might include diverse sectoral impacts and changes for the ecosystems that pose significant challenges for long-term development in these areas.

Over the last years evidence on the implications for different regions has been analysed and led to establishing regional differentiated databases for the greater Alpine region (HISTALP 2007; Auer et al. 2007). Due to this information source impacts for parts of the Alpine range can be calculated more accurately and display the consequences of various adaption strategies at the regional level.

There are of course programmes and initiatives relating to counteracting the effects of climate change in Austria and other Alpine countries. These are summarized in “national climate strategy” documents, but the effectiveness of those programmes can hardly be assessed at the moment. With regard to the regional differentiation of the effects there are some recent studies available, like the work by the European Environment Agency (EEA 2009) and the analysis for the European Alps (Agrawala et al. 2007). In addition to these general studies on the regional effects local initiatives have established action for saving energy, improve mobility concepts etc. in order to reduce emission of greenhouse gases (according to the Kyoto protocol). Another field of activity in Austria is the update of natural hazards management plans and strategies of flood protection and integrated flood management.

References

- Dax, T., Favry, E., Fidschuster, L., Oedl-Wieser, T. und Pfefferkorn, W. (2009), *Neue Handlungsmöglichkeiten für periphere ländliche Räume, Stärkung der sozialen Vielfalt, Ausbau der interkommunalen Zusammenarbeit, Gestaltung der Landschaftsvielfalt*, report no. 181, Österreichische Raumordnungskonferenz (ÖROK), Wien, 112p.
- Dax, T. and Machold, I.(eds.), (2003), *Voices of Rural Youth: A Break with Traditional Patterns? Policies and Young People in Rural Development (PAYPIRD)*, Bundesanstalt für Bergbauernfragen, Wien, 180pp. (ISBN 3-85311-062-2)
- IPE (2007), *Erreichbarkeitsverhältnisse in Österreich 2005, Modellrechnungen für den ÖPNRV und den MIV*, Österreichische Raumordnungskonferenz (ÖROK), report no. 174, Wien.
- Agrawala, S., Abegg, B. and Jetté-Nantel S. (2007), *Climate Change in the European Alps: Adapting Winter Tourism and Natural Hazard Management*, OECD, Paris.
- European Environment Agency (EEA) (2009), *Regional climate change and adaptation, The Alps facing the challenge of changing water resources*, EEA Report No 8/2009, Copenhagen.
- HISTALP (2007), *Historical instrumental climatological surface time series of the greater Alpine region 1760 – 2003*.
- Auer I, Böhm R, Jurkovic A, Lipa W, Orlik A, Potzmann R, Schöner W, Ungersböck M, Matulla C, Briffa K, Jones PD, Efthymiadis D, Brunetti M, Nanni T, Maugeri M, Mercalli L, Mestre O, Moisselin J-M, Begert M, Müller-Westermeier G, Kveton V, Bochnicek O, Stastny P, Lapin M, Szalai S, Szentimrey T, Cegnar T, Dolinar M, Gajic-Capka M, Zaninovic K, Majstorovic Z, Nieplova E, (2007) "HISTALP – Historical instrumental climatological surface time series of the greater Alpine region 1760-2003". *International Journal of Climatology* 27: 17-46. (downloadable from <http://www.zamg.ac.at/histalp/downloads/abstract/Auer-et al-2007-A.pdf>)