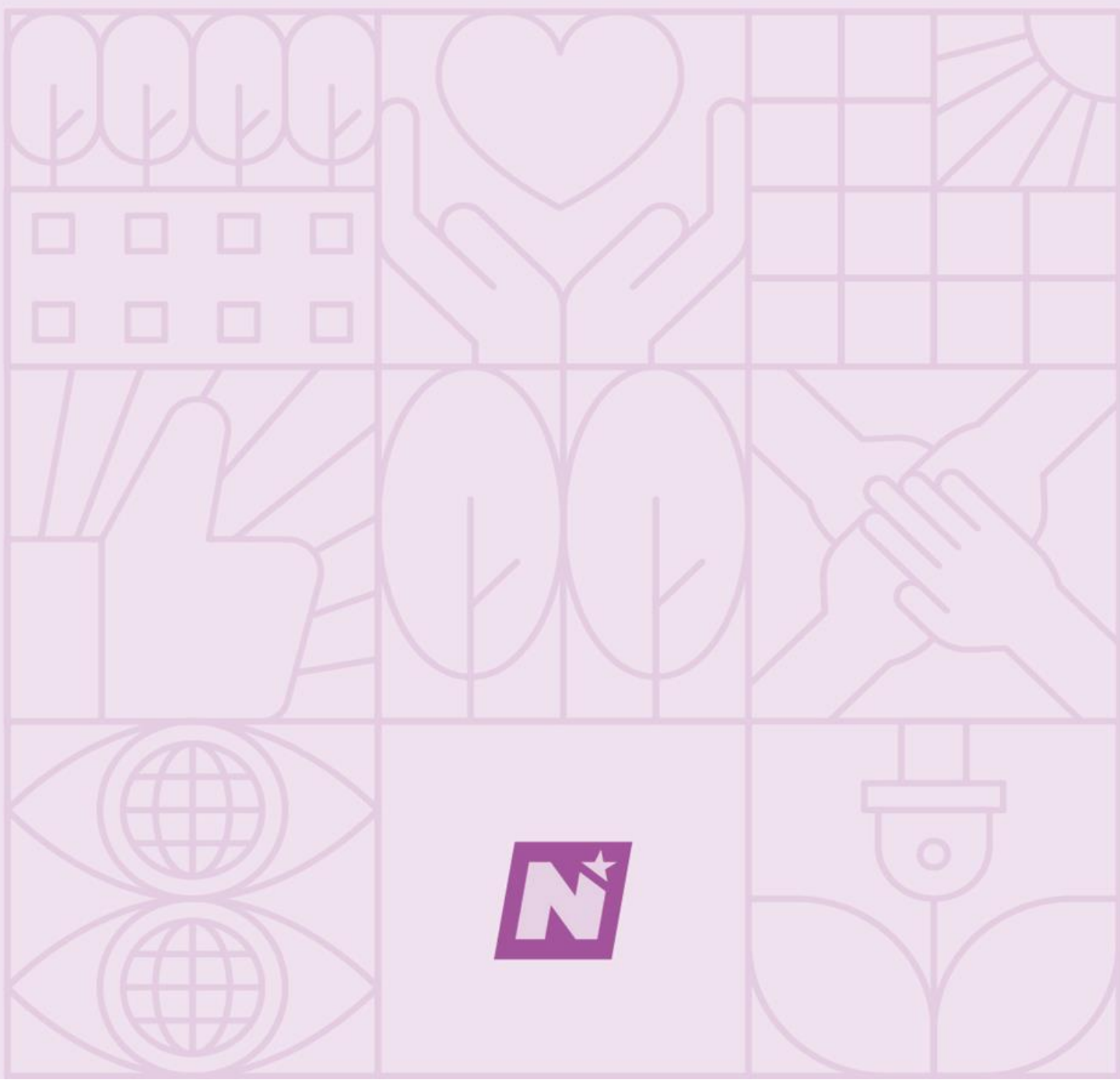




Allocation and Impact Report

Federal State of Lower Austria

October 2025



on behalf of

State Government of Lower Austria, Department of Finance

carried out by

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St. Pölten, 2025

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1 Introduction

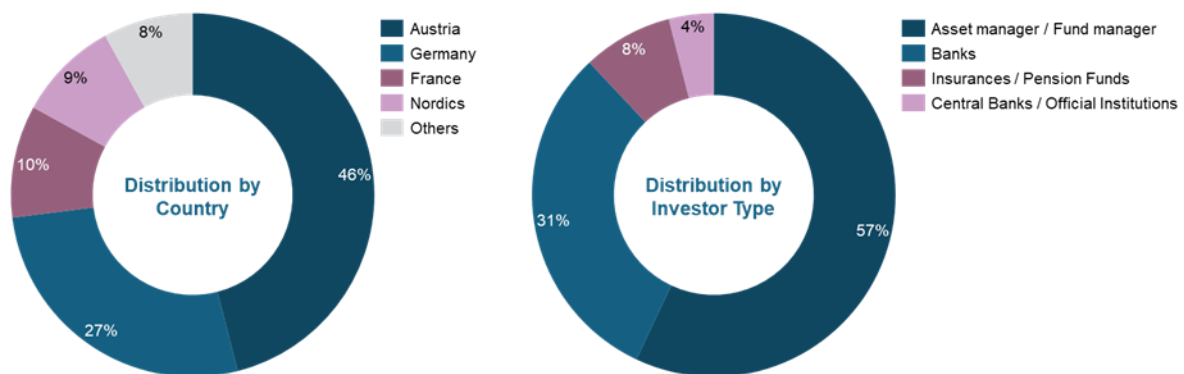
1.1 Purpose

This inaugural Allocation and Impact Report marks a significant milestone for Lower Austria, detailing the utilization and impact of proceeds from its first EUR 500 million Sustainable Bond, issued on 23 October 2024. The bond was well received, attracting strong demand and being oversubscribed more than twice, showcasing broad geographic interest and diverse investor participation. This performance underscores investor confidence in Lower Austria's strategy. Published in alignment with its Sustainable Finance Framework 2024 (Framework), the report underscores Lower Austria's commitment to transparency and accountability in sustainable finance. It provides investors and stakeholders with a comprehensive overview of how funds have been allocated to projects that generate measurable environmental and social benefits. By integrating sustainability into its financial strategy, Lower Austria reinforces its long-standing dedication to environmental stewardship and social welfare.

By issuing the first Sustainable Bond of an Austrian federal state, Lower Austria has set an important example for a sustainable financial policy and is supporting the transformation to an ecologically and socially sustainable federal state.

ISIN	Size	Tenor	Coupon
AT0000A3EK38	EUR 500,000,000	12 years	3.125% p.a.

Figure 1: Breakdown of investors by country of origin and investor type



1.2 Sustainable Strategy and Achievements

Lower Austria's sustainability strategy is a comprehensive and forward-looking plan that has placed the region at the forefront of environmental stewardship and social responsibility. This journey began in 2004 with the approval of the first Climate and Energy Program, marking a proactive approach to addressing climate change and reinforcing environmental policy. By enshrining climate protection in the state's constitution in 2007, Lower Austria set a precedent among Austrian federal states, showcasing its unwavering dedication to contemporary challenges. The strategy has evolved through successive Climate Programs, with the 2020-2030 Climate and Energy Roadmap¹ delineating clear directions for municipalities, businesses, and residents. This roadmap defines five major target fields:

Goal 1: Creating a sustainable energy system

Goal 2: Limiting the impacts of climate change

Goal 3: Ensuring a future-proof and efficient infrastructure

Goal 4: Increasing regional value-added and employment through "green technologies"

Goal 5: Involving the population - bringing the energy transition to the people

In July 2025, Lower Austria published an update to the 2020-2030 Climate and Energy Roadmap², with revised targets. This update reflects Lower Austria's commitment to its responsibilities and reinforces its position as a leader in Austria's renewable energy sector. The plan establishes clear goals to enhance energy security, boost independence, and drive local economic growth.

Concrete targets for 2030 include a 48% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, generating 4,500 GWh of photovoltaic energy, 8,000 GWh of wind energy and ensuring that every fifth vehicle on Lower Austria's roads is electric.

Lower Austria's commitment to sustainability extends beyond environmental goals. The region is dedicated to strengthening its social welfare system, employing over 23,000 individuals in the care sector and allocating approximately half of the state budget (including the budget of the Health Agency of Lower Austria) to the healthcare and social system.³ Key initiatives include expanding nursing homes, modernizing hospitals, and enhancing training for nursing staff. Lower Austria recognizes the importance of relieving financial burdens and has implemented measures to address rising costs in essential services.

The sustainability strategy is closely aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with Lower Austria actively engaged in advancing these goals at the regional level. Lower Austria has demonstrated unwavering commitment to sustainable development by actively integrating the United Nations 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into regional policies and practices. This commitment was solidified in May 2017 with the establishment of clear targets for SDG implementation, aligning regional strategies with global sustainability objectives. The SDG Advisory Committee ("SDG Beirat") plays a pivotal role in this integration, serving as an interdepartmental expert group tasked with developing solution-oriented approaches that underpin political decision-making and guide programmatic strategies.

¹ [Lower Austria Climate and Energy Roadmap 2020 – 2030](#)

² [Update to Lower Austria Climate and Energy Roadmap 2020 – 2030](#) (Update to Lower Austria Climate and Energy Road Map 2020-2030)

³ [Budget 2025/26](#)

To further enhance Lower Austria's sustainability impact, the SDG Advisory Board with scientific support has developed the "N-Check-Strat", a sustainability impact matrix designed to ensure a balanced, evidence-based approach to regional development. This tool represents an advancement in analyzing strategies, programs, and objectives, aligning with the requirements of the UN Agenda 2030. Lower Austria remains committed to advancing climate adaptation, sustainable procurement, and inclusive development. Through continued collaboration, innovation, and adaptation of existing structures, the region aims to deepen its contribution to the SDGs and secure a more sustainable future for all.

1.3 Sustainable Finance Framework

Supporting this robust sustainability strategy is Lower Austria's Sustainable Finance Framework, which serves as a tool for mobilizing capital to fund impactful projects. Developed in accordance with the Green Bond Principles (GBP)⁴, the Social Bond Principles (SBP)⁵ and the Sustainability Bond Guidelines (SBG)⁶ issued by the International Capital Market Association (ICMA) and the Green Loan Principles (GLP)⁷ and Social Loan Principles (SLP)⁸ issued by the Loan Market Association (LMA), the framework facilitates the issuance of Green, Social, and Sustainable Finance Instruments. In line with these principles, the Framework is based on the following four core components:

Table 1: Core elements of the Sustainable Finance Framework of Lower Austria

1. Use of proceeds

- Eight green and six social use of proceeds categories
- Eligible Expenditures are limited to expenditures that occurred in the two budget years prior to issuance, the current budget year, and future budget years following issuance
- Exclusions: Expenditures related to nuclear power, fossil fuels, alcohol, gambling, tobacco, weapons and defense, any product or activity considered illegal under national or international laws or regulations, conventions and agreements signed by Lower Austria

2. Process for Expenditure Evaluation and Selection

- Establishment of an interdepartmental Sustainable Finance Board ("SFB"), with members of the SDG Advisory Board
- Assessment of eligibility and selection of appropriate Eligible Expenditures in close cooperation with relevant departments and associated entities
- Final decision for allocation by the SFB after reviewing all relevant information

3. Management of Proceeds

- Instrument-by-instrument approach
- Proceeds to be allocated to eligible green and social expenditures tracked via a "Sustainable Finance Registry"
- The SFB is responsible for monitoring the expenditures, including identifying, managing and reporting any political, legal, climate, environmental or social risks relating to the expenditures
- Full allocation at latest within two budget years following issuance, and at latest until the maturity of the Sustainable Finance Instrument

4. Reporting

- Annual publication of the Allocation and Impact Report, until full allocation
- Disclosure on allocation of proceeds and environmental and social impact metrics at level of Eligible Categories
- External review of Allocation Report

⁴ [Green Bond Principles \(GBP\) 2021 \(with June 2022 Appendix 1\)](#)

⁵ [Social Bond Principles \(SBP\) 2023](#)

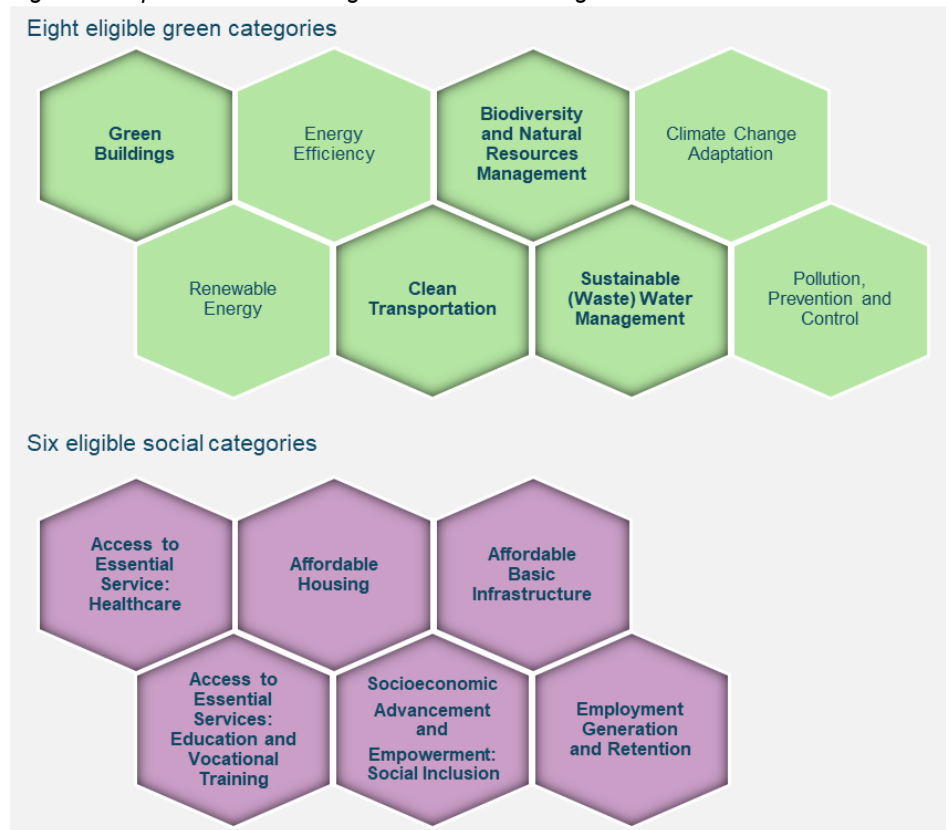
⁶ [Sustainability Bond Guidelines \(SBG\) 2021](#)

⁷ [Green Loan Principles \(GLP\) 2023](#)

⁸ [Social Loan Principles \(SLP\) 2023](#)

The Framework distinguishes between eight green and six social categories. The proceeds of this issuance have been allocated to four green and five social categories, as highlighted in the graph below:

Figure 2: Representation of the green and social categories of the framework

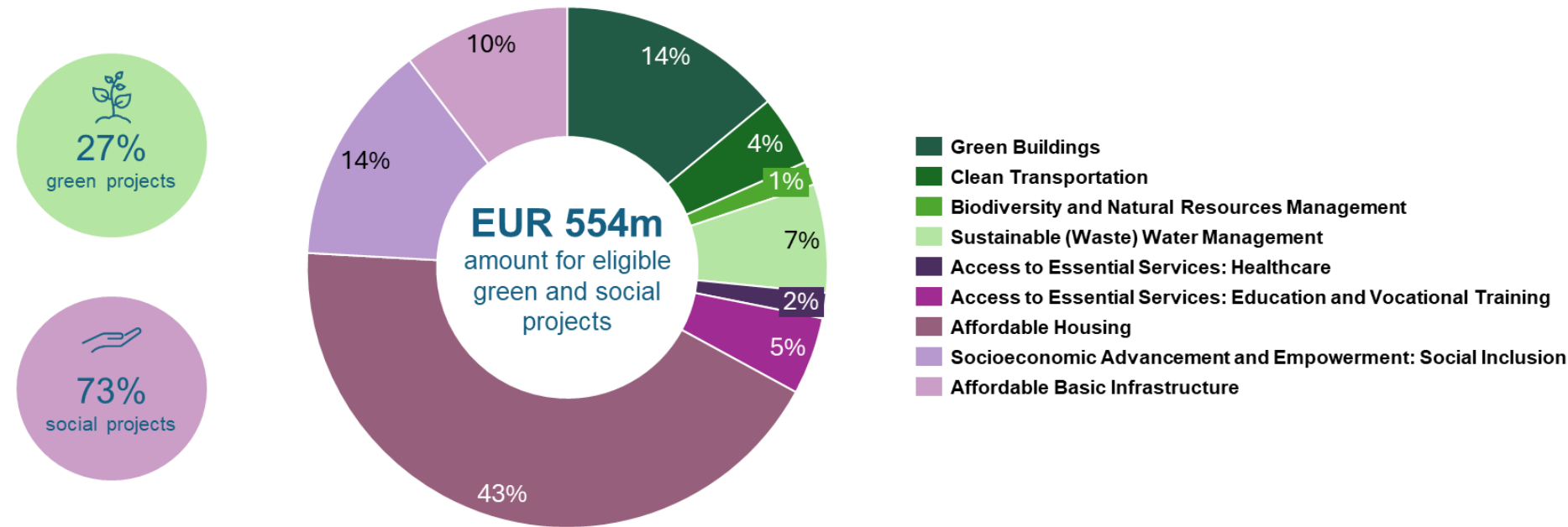


In addition, Lower Austria follows ICMA's recommendation regarding External Review. ISS Corporate has been commissioned to conduct an independent pre-issuance review in the form of a Second Party Opinion on the framework and a post-issuance review on this Allocation and Impact Report.

The Framework is a catalyst for innovation, raising awareness and with that supporting projects that deliver measurable environmental and social benefits. The recent EUR 500 million Sustainable Bond is a testament to how the Framework is employed to advance further steps toward sustainability. Following the first Sustainable Bond issuance, a monitoring system was implemented to accurately measure and track the impacts of funded projects and projects that can potentially be funded under the Framework, enhancing the ability to assess their contributions to sustainability goals.

2 Highlights Sustainable Bond 2024

Figure 3: Allocation of the Lower Austria 2024 Sustainability Bond proceeds to eligible categories



3 Allocation Report

The net proceeds from Lower Austria's sustainable bonds issued as of October 2024 (ISIN: AT0000A3EK38) have been notionally allocated against a selection of eligible projects⁹ as detailed below:

Table 2: Allocation of the net proceeds to a selection of eligible projects

ICMA project category		Project name	Expenditures 2022 (EUR m)	Expenditures 2023 (EUR m)	Expenditures 2024 (EUR m)	Total Expenditures (EUR m)
Green	Green Buildings 	Construction of the new extension building at Campus Krems	24.37	31.63	14.60	70.60
		Energy-efficient refurbishment of office building 2 in Lilienfeld	0.04	2.81	2.17	5.02
		Conversion of the lighting systems in the government district to LED technology	0.00	0.00	1.90	1.90
	Clean Transportation 	Expansion of rail infrastructure in Lower Austria	2.17	2.22	19.82	24.21
	Biodiversity and Natural Resources Management 	Shareholder capital contributions for the Donau-Auen and Thayatal National Parks	1.30	1.30	1.30	3.91
		Rural development: conservation, restoration and improvement of the natural heritage	1.15	2.21	0.86	4.22
Social	Sustainable Water and Wastewater Management 	Investments in the expansion of flood protection systems	15.50	12.70	9.00	37.20
	Access to Essential Services: Healthcare 	University Hospital Krems – New building to extend the existing radiotherapy facilities, including pathology	0.00	3.31	5.41	8.72
	Access to Essential Services: Education and Vocational Training 	Nursing education bonus	0.00	4.54	5.00	9.54
		Landeskrankenhaus Mauer – educational campus in the Mostviertel region	0.00	16.93	0.13	17.06
	Affordable Housing 	Subject promotion housing subsidy	0.00	35.50	41.60	77.11
		Liability model – subsidisation by guaranteeing an interest rate cap	0.00	64.95	95.65	160.60
	Socioeconomic Advancement and Empowerment: Social Inclusion 	Investment grants to private care facilities and facilities for people with disability	0.00	34.20	7.91	42.11
		Social housing facilities	0.00	11.98	11.81	23.79
		Lower Austria socio-educational care center in Korneuburg	0.00	5.16	5.03	10.19
	Affordable Basic Infrastructure 	Fare subsidy for public transportation	0.00	28.19	29.21	57.63
Total			44.53	257.65	251.39	553.81

⁹ Only eligible expenditures disbursed and confirmed as eligible by the Sustainable Finance Board by 31st December 2024 are included in the Allocation and Impact report. In case that an eligible expenditure no longer meets the expenditure category's requirements, Lower Austria commits to reallocate the proceeds allocated to such expenditures to other eligible expenditures until the maturity of the respective Sustainable Finance Instrument.

4 Impact Report

The impact report breaks down the funded projects according to the ICMA categories, which are internationally recognised standards for sustainable investments. The projects are assigned to the following impact areas:

- Green Buildings
- Clean Transportation
- Biodiversity and Natural Resources Management
- Sustainable Water and Wastewater Management
- Access to Essential Services: Healthcare
- Access to Essential Services: Education and Vocational Training
- Affordable Housing
- Socioeconomic Advancement and Empowerment: Social Inclusion
- Affordable Basic Infrastructure

Under each of these categories, the respective projects that have been realised in this impact area are presented.

The following table shows an aggregated presentation of the projects according to impact categories of the Lower Austrian framework with assigned economic values and parameters. The listed parameters describe the impacts contributing to key sustainability objectives. As the selection of relevant and representative parameters is a major challenge, available parameters which could be derived from the project data have been selected (details can be found in the appendix).

Data on GHG emissions avoidance is a key parameter for the impact on climate protection. However, information on such avoidance is always influenced by an assumed reference condition or baseline, which can shift over time (baseline drift) and thus alters the reported GHG avoidance estimation. The magnitude of the values also depends largely on the regional scope and the system boundaries (direct or total emissions according to Scope 1, 2 and 3). In any case, it is important to note that energy efficiency and CO₂ intensity represent only one area in the broad spectrum of sustainability and therefore the impacts in other target areas, such as the social sector and the economy, must not be neglected.

Table 3: Aggregated presentation of the projects according to impact categories of the Lower Austrian framework with assigned economic values and parameters

ICMA GBP / SBP category	Number of projects	Total expenditure volume (2022 - 2024) ¹⁰	Constructed or renovated building areas	Beneficiaries or affected persons	Preserved or supported natural areas	Estimated annual energy savings	Estimated annual avoided greenhouse gas emissions
<i>Unit</i>	<i>[Quantity]</i>	<i>[EUR million]</i>	<i>[m²]</i>	<i>[Quantity]</i>	<i>[ha]</i>	<i>[MWh]</i>	<i>[t CO2e]</i>
Green Buildings	3	77.52	29,827	1,197	0	1,566	307
Clean Transportation	1	24.21		2,500	0		1,906
Biodiversity and Natural Resources Management	2	8.13		397,292	504,149		
Sustainable Water and Wastewater Management	1	37.20		19,000	0		
SUM Green Projects	7	147.06	29,827	419,989	504,149	1,566	2,213
Access to Essential Services: Healthcare	1	8.72	2,982	30,000			
Access to Essential Services: Education and Vocational Training	2	26.60		5,878			
Affordable Housing	2	237.71		61,835			
Socioeconomic Advancement and Empowerment: Social Inclusion	3	76.09	2,456	1,749			
Affordable Basic Infrastructure	1	57.63		72,075			
SUM Social Projects	9	406.75	5,438	171,537			
TOTAL SUM	16	553.81	35,265	591,526	504,149	1,566	2,213

¹⁰ Green Expenditures from the budget years 2022-2024 and social expenditures from the budget years 2023-2024 have been selected for allocation.

4.1 Green Buildings

PROJECT 1: Construction of the new extension building at Campus Krems

Department	Office of the State Government of Lower Austria Division of General Management and Administration of the Office of the State Government Department of Building and Property Management (LAD3)		
ICMA GBP Project category	Green Buildings		
Total expenditure for the State of Lower Austria 2022-2024	EUR 70.60 million		
The State of Lower Austria's share of total project financing	100%		
Total expenditure of the State of Lower Austria by year in EUR million	2022	2023	2024
	24.37	31.63	14.60
Assigned SDG			
Relevance	Contributing to the decarbonisation of the health and social welfare sector		

Project goals

- Creation of additional capacities for teaching and research at the Krems educational site
- Construction of an energy-efficient, ecologically sustainable university building
- Establishing the State of Lower Austria as a role model in the area of sustainable building
- Reduction of energy consumption and GHG emissions through structural, building services and electrical engineering measures
- Improvement of building standards in accordance with klimaaktiv GOLD certification

Project impact indicators

Indicator	2022	2023	2024
Newly created GFA (gross floor area in m ²), building	18,924		
Newly created GFA (gross floor area in m ²), underground car park	8,731		
Heated newly created area (in m ²)	14,459		
Additional office and laboratory workstations	752		
Additional students	1,197		
Additional PV power in kWp	180		
Additional PV power in %	20		
Heating demand: Estimated annual energy savings (MWh)*	170		
Heating demand: Estimated annual avoided greenhouse gas emissions (tCO ₂ e)*	22		
Electrical energy: Estimated annual energy savings (MWh)*	140		
Electrical energy: Estimated annual avoided greenhouse gas emissions (tCO ₂ e)*	32		

Data source: Department of Building and Property Management (LAD3), *Calculation IIO¹¹

¹¹ Details in the Appendix (Section 5)

Project description

The new extension to Campus Krems was under construction between 2019 and 2024, creating a modern university location that offers three educational institutions space for teaching, research and administration. The new building fulfils the highest environmental and energy standards, sets a new benchmark for sustainable educational construction and was awarded the klimaaktiv Gold Standard certification.

Measures

Comprehensive structural, building services and electrical engineering measures were realised to build the sustainable extension to Campus Krems. The building is heated by a heat pump in combination with 53 geothermal probes, supplemented by biogenic district heating to cover peak loads. Highly energy-efficient systems with heat recovery (up to 94%) are used for ventilation. Thermal insulation in summer is ensured by structural measures such as automated night ventilation, intelligent shading control and extensive and intensive green roofs.

Photovoltaic systems with a total output of 180 kWp were installed on all building roofs to generate electricity. These are part of the state-wide “Lower Austrian Solar Power Plant” project, which generates a total of around 950,000 kWh of electricity per year at the campus, with a total output of 900 kWp. The technical equipment also includes free-cooling systems using geothermal energy and recoolers, LED lighting with daylight- and presence-based control and comprehensive energy monitoring for the entire building services.

In addition, environmental building materials were used, with particular attention paid to consistent chemical and product management. Materials containing HFCs, PVC or formaldehyde were avoided in favour of renewable raw materials such as wood and linoleum. The indoor air quality was checked by means of specific air quality measurements. The construction measures were supplemented by social sustainability criteria in the award procedure, such as prioritising bidders with apprenticeships or employing older workers.

Achieved impacts

- Significant GHG savings through low-emission energy supply
- Role model for sustainable public construction projects
- Optimal conditions for education, research and innovation
- Contribution to achieving the objectives of the climate and energy programmes of the Province of Lower Austria
- Improving the energy efficiency of public infrastructure and reducing operating costs in the long term

Taking into account the current framework conditions for energy supply and assuming a useful life of 30 years, the cumulative greenhouse gas avoidance for the new building is around 669 tonnes of CO₂e due to the reduced heating requirements. For the newly installed photovoltaic system, the same assumptions result in a cumulative greenhouse gas avoidance of around 966 tonnes of CO₂e.

PROJECT 2: Energy-efficient refurbishment of office building 2 in Lilienfeld

Department	Office of the State Government of Lower Austria Division of General Management and Administration of the Office of the State Government Department of Building and Property Management (LAD3)		
ICMA GBP Project category	Green Buildings		
Total expenditure for the State of Lower Austria 2022-2024	EUR 5.02 million		
The State of Lower Austria's share of total project financing	70%		
Total expenditure of the State of Lower Austria by year in EUR million	2022	2023	2024
	0.04	2.81	2.17
Assigned SDG			
Relevance	Contributing to the decarbonisation of the health and social welfare sector		

Project goals

- Increasing the energy efficiency of the office building
- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through renewable heat supply
- Improvement of building standards in accordance with klimaaktiv GOLD certification
- Promoting sustainable mobility by installing an e-charging station
- Ecological enhancement through unsealing of the car park

Project impact indicators

Indicator	2022	2023	2024
Renovated GFA (gross floor area in m ²)	2,172		
Heating demand: Estimated annual energy savings (MWh)*	366		
Heating demand: Estimated annual avoided greenhouse gas emissions (tCO ₂ e)*	48		

Data source: Department of Building and Property Management (LAD3), *Calculation IIO¹²

¹² Details in the Appendix (Section 5)

Project description

Office building 2 in Lilienfeld, an administrative building dating from 1894 with a gross floor area of 2,172 m², was extensively refurbished from 2022 to 2023. The modernisation measures were aimed at significantly increasing energy efficiency and making the building more environmentally friendly. The building is used jointly by the District Court of Lilienfeld and the State of Lower Austria.

Measures

- Thermal refurbishment of the building envelope:
 - Insulation of the facades
 - Replacement of the windows with triple insulating glazing
 - Insulation of the top storey ceiling
- Conversion of the lighting to LED technology
- Conversion of the heating from gas to biogenic district heating
- Installation of an e-charging station
- Unsealing the car park

Achieved impacts

- Reduction in energy consumption and heating costs
- Reduction of GHG emissions through the use of renewable district heating
- Improving the indoor climate and working conditions
- Contribution to achieving the climate targets of the State of Lower Austria
- Promoting sustainable mobility for employees and visitors
- Role model effect for existing public buildings

Taking into account the current framework conditions for energy supply and assuming a useful life of 30 years, the building will achieve cumulative GHG emissions avoidance of around 1,437 tonnes of CO₂e due to the energy efficiency improvements.



Figure 4: Refurbished office building 2 Lilienfeld, (Source: LAD3)

PROJECT 3: Conversion of the lighting systems in the government district to LED technology

Department	Office of the State Government of Lower Austria Division of General Management and Administration of the Office of the State Government Department of Building and Property Management (LAD3)		
ICMA GBP Project category	Green Buildings		
Total expenditure for the State of Lower Austria 2022-2024	EUR 1.90 million		
The State of Lower Austria's share of total project financing	100%		
Total expenditure of the State of Lower Austria by year in EUR million	2022	2023	2024
	-	-	1.90
Assigned SDG			
Relevance	Contribution to decarbonisation		

Project goals

- Reduction of electricity consumption and GHG emissions at the Landhaus in St. Pölten
- Improved energy efficiency through the use of modern LED technology
- Automation of lighting control for further energy savings

Project impact indicators

Indicator	2024
Number of LED lights	17,900
Electrical energy: Estimated annual energy savings (MWh)*	890
Electrical energy: Estimated annual avoided greenhouse gas emissions (tCO ₂ e)*	205
Old system power per light point (watts)	11-120
New system power per light point (watts)	9-60

Data source: Department of Building and Property Management (LAD3), *Calculation IIÖ¹³

¹³ Details in the Appendix (Section 5)



Figure 5: Environmental Statement 2024, Office of the State Government of Lower Austria

Project description

In accordance with the “Energy Efficiency and Sustainability for Provincial Buildings” guidelines, the lighting systems in the Landhaus district in St. Pölten were comprehensively converted to energy-efficient LED technology. The corridor, WC, washroom and kitchenette areas were particularly affected. In addition, presence-based controls were installed using motion detectors. The conversion work in the Lower Austrian Landhaus involved a total of three large areas:

- Corridor lighting (incl. WC, washrooms, kitchenettes)
- Office lighting
- Garage and basement areas (e. g. technical rooms, archives)

The measure is intended to lower energy consumption in order to reduce GHG emissions in the long term and make a contribution to the state’s climate strategy. In the meantime, the power supply to the Lower Austrian Landhaus has also been converted to 100% renewable energy sources.

Measures

- Conversion of lighting in corridors, offices, garages and basements to LED technology
- Installation of presence-based motion detectors for demand-based lighting control
- Use of energy-efficient light sources with high efficiency
- Optimisation of lighting design, taking into account the use of daylight and surface reflection
- Avoidance of inefficient covers and reflectors for lights
- Implementation of the measure in line with efficiency targets for functional areas
- New lights with a long service life and minimal maintenance requirements

Achieved impacts

- Significant reduction in electricity consumption and GHG emissions
- Reduction of energy consumption through automation of lighting control
- Improved lighting quality in working and functional areas
- Less maintenance and longer service life of the light sources
- Role model effect for other public buildings and facilities
- Contribution to achieving the state’s energy and climate targets

Taking into account the current framework conditions for energy supply and assuming a useful life of ten years, the conversion of the lighting to LED lights leads to cumulative GHG emissions avoidance of around 2,047 tonnes of CO₂e.

4.2 Clean Transportation

PROJECT 4: Expansion of the rail infrastructure in Lower Austria

Department	Office of the State Government of Lower Austria Division of Spatial Planning, Environment and Traffic Department of Spatial Planning and Transport Matters (RU7)		
ICMA GBP Project category	Clean Transportation		
Total expenditure for the State of Lower Austria 2022-2024	EUR 24.21 million		
Financing share of the State of Lower Austria for planning	40%		
Financing share of the State of Lower Austria for infrastructure	20%		
Total expenditure of the State of Lower Austria by year in EUR million	2022	2023	2024
	2.17	2.22	19.82
Assigned SDGs			
Relevance	Decarbonising and making rail transport in Lower Austria more attractive		

Project goals

- Expanding and making public transport in Lower Austria more attractive
- Contribution to GHG emissions avoidance through electrification or conversion to emission-free drives (e. g. battery-powered trains)
- Improving the capacity, frequency and reliability of public transport
- Strengthening rural regions through better rail connections
- Promoting the switch from private motorised transport to public transport
- Modernisation and barrier-free design of railway stations and stops

Project impact indicators

Indicator	2022	2023	2024
Estimated additional passengers per working day due to the expansion of the Traisental railway*	1,100		
Increase in the number of passengers transported on the Traisental railway in %*	38		
Estimated additional passengers per working day due to the expansion of the Kamptal railway*	1,400		
Increase in the number of passengers transported on the Kamptal railway in %*	93		
Traisental railway: Estimated annual avoided greenhouse gas emissions (tCO ₂ e)**	839		
Kamptal railway: Estimated annual avoided greenhouse gas emissions (tCO ₂ e)**	1,067		

Data source: Department of Spatial Planning and General Transport Matters (RU7), *Data on additional passengers are forecasts of the values expected at the time of completion (RU7), **Calculations IÖ¹⁴

¹⁴ Details in the Appendix (Section 5)

Project description

With the infrastructure package, the State of Lower Austria is investing in the targeted expansion and modernisation of the railway network through payments to ÖBB-Infrastruktur Aktiengesellschaft. Both main lines and regional railways are subsidised.

The focus is not only on urban mobility but also on improving connections to peripheral regions. The measures make a significant contribution to shifting passenger and freight transport to rail and support the achievement of the Lower

Austrian climate and energy strategy and the Lower Austrian 2030+ mobility strategy.



Figure 6: Waldviertel railway (NÖVOG) near Weitra (C: Paul G. Liebhart)

Overview of current modernisation projects:

- Erlauftal railway: Pöchlarn – Scheibbs from 2024 to 2035
- Traisental railway: St. Pölten – Traisen – Hainfeld/Lilienfeld – Schrambach, 2024 to 2028
- Kamptal railway: Hadersdorf – Sigmundsherberg from 2023 to 2031
- Puchberg railway: Bad Fischau – Puchberg am Schneeberg by 2033
- Franz-Josef railway: Absdorf-Hippersdorf – Gmünd speed increases by 2028 and selective two-track expansion by 2034 in the updated framework plan
- Southern railway and north-west railway phase 1 with platform extensions by 2026

Measures

As part of the infrastructure package, targeted measures were implemented to modernise and increase the efficiency of the rail infrastructure in Lower Austria. A central focus is on the electrification of existing regional railway lines, such as the Traisental railway and Erlauftal railway, in order to reduce transport-related emissions and make operations more cost-efficient in the long term. For routes that cannot be electrified, preparations have been made to convert to battery-powered operation. This also included infrastructural adjustments such as the construction of loading facilities and the adaptation of platforms. To make rail transport more attractive and faster, line extensions such as straightening and curve optimisation were carried out. In addition, a partial two-track expansion was carried out to enable overtaking track sections and thus ensure denser intervals and higher capacities.

Achieved impacts

- Reduction of transport-related greenhouse gas emissions through low-emission rail mobility
- Comprehensive expansion of public transport, especially in rural regions
- Improving regional accessibility and the quality of life of the population in remote regions

Taking into account the current framework conditions for energy supply and assuming a service life of 25 years, the increase in efficiency of the rail infrastructure results in cumulative GHG savings of around 20,966 tonnes of CO₂e for the Traisental railway and 26,684 tonnes of CO₂e for the Kamptal railway.

See also <https://www.niederoesterreichbahnen.at>.

4.3 Biodiversity and Natural Resources Management

PROJECT 5: Shareholder capital contributions for the Donau-Auen and Thayatal National Parks

Department	Office of the State Government of Lower Austria Division of Spatial Planning, Environment and Traffic Department of Nature Conservation (RU5)		
ICMA GBP Project category	Biodiversity and Natural Resources Management		
Total expenditure for the State of Lower Austria 2022-2024	EUR 3.91 million		
Financing share of the State of Lower Austria in the Thayatal National Park	50%		
Financing share of the State of Lower Austria in the Donau-Auen National Park	25%		
Total expenditure of the State of Lower Austria by year in EUR million	2022	2023	2024
	1.30	1.30	1.30
Assigned SDG	  		
Relevance	Financing of national parks in Lower Austria		

Project goals

- Conservation and promotion of valuable landscapes and ecosystems
- Protection and development of native flora and fauna
- Strengthening nature awareness among the population through educational programmes
- Supporting biodiversity and providing ecosystem services
- Long-term safeguarding and sustainable financing of national park administrations

Project impact indicators¹⁵

National park	Indicator	2022	2023	2024
Donau-Auen	Number of visitors served	25,616	35,091	32,735
	Area size in ha	9,600		
Thayatal	Number of visitors served	94,991	107,741	101,118
	Area size in ha	1,360		

Data source: Department of Nature Conservation (RU5)

As part of nature conservation projects or research activities, national parks also collect biodiversity data on animal and plant species or habitats.

¹⁵ As the state does not bear all of the costs, not all of the impacts are attributable to it. The table nevertheless shows the overall impacts.

Project description

A national park comprises areas where it is possible to realise objectives such as compliance with the guidelines of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and increasing acceptance among the impacted population. These relate specifically to the conservation and promotion of special landscape areas and ecosystems, the preservation of representative flora and fauna, the creation of a nature experience for visitors, the use of national parks for education and research and the greatest possible coordination of national park projects across provincial and national boundaries (Lower Austrian National Park Act, Provincial Law Gazette 5505-1).

As internationally recognised protected areas, the two Lower Austrian national parks are among the most ecologically valuable natural areas in Austria. Nature conservation and species preservation enjoy top priority here and ensure the largely undisturbed development of the characteristic flora and fauna. National parks are also important recreational, educational and research areas in their efforts to enable the experience of untouched wilderness.

Measures

The Donau-Auen National Park was established in the area of the Danube floodplains in and to the east of Vienna. The tasks of the national park administration (ongoing costs of the national park company, construction of the national park infrastructure) are financed 50% by the federal government and 25% each by the states of Lower Austria and Vienna.

Another national park was established in the Thaya Valley, with the federal government and Lower Austria each covering 50% of the costs of financing the Thayatal National Park Association.

Achieved impacts

The target group for visitors to the national parks is the general public. Benefits for nature arise from contributions to biodiversity and the provision of ecosystem services. In the Donau-Auen National Park, together with the Austrian waterways agency “via donau”, measures have been taken to stop ongoing river bed erosion in an effort to reduce the drying out of oxbow lakes. The value of the forest areas in the national parks lies above all in the vast areas typical of floodplains and the largely unguided process of forest development.



Figure 7 Donau-Auen National Park (C: Kovacs)



Figure 8: Boat tour in the national park (C: Leitner)

See also <https://www.donauauen.at> and <https://www.np-thayatal.at/de/pages/start-63.aspx>.

PROJECT 6: Rural development: conservation, restoration and improvement of the natural heritage

Department	Office of the State Government of Lower Austria Division of Spatial Planning, Environment and Traffic Department of Nature Conservation (RU5)		
ICMA GBP Project category	Biodiversity and Natural Resources Management		
Total expenditure for the State of Lower Austria 2022-2024¹⁶	EUR 4.22 million		
The State of Lower Austria's share of total project financing	50.57%		
Total expenditure of the State of Lower Austria by year in EUR million	2022	2023	2024
	1.15	2.21	0.86
Assigned SDG			
Relevance	Conservation, improvement and restoration of habitats, biodiversity and a cultural landscape with a diverse natural environment		

Project goals

- Conservation, improvement and restoration of areas of nature conservation value that contain habitat types or species worthy of protection or are related to other biodiversity-relevant issues
- Development of competences for natural area management and creation of good conditions for value added through nature conservation services
- Motivation and awareness-raising to support local stakeholders and interest groups as well as the general public in order to anchor the goals of nature conservation and environmental protection, the sustainable improvement of the cultural and natural heritage of rural areas or environmental awareness as socially recognised values
- Management and development of protected areas as well as basic research in this area

Project impact indicators

Indicator	Number	Area in ha	Share of provincial area in %
Managed European protected areas in Lower Austria	36	442,001	23.05
Managed nature reserve in Lower Austria	20	51,179	2.67

Data source: Department of Nature Conservation (RU5)¹⁷

¹⁷ There are overlaps between the two categories, so they must not be added together.

Project description

Nature conservation projects serve to preserve, improve and restore habitats, biodiversity and a cultural landscape with a diverse natural environment. The projects were aligned with the nature conservation priorities of the State of Lower Austria and contribute to the implementation of European nature conservation directives and the Austrian Biodiversity Strategy. According to Section 1 (1) of the Law of Lower Austria on Nature Protection 2000 (NÖ NSchG), the aim of nature protection is to preserve, maintain or restore nature in all its manifestations in such a way that

1. its unique character and capacity for development,
2. the ecological functionality of habitats, diversity, species richness and the representation of native and location-appropriate flora and fauna
3. and the sustainability of naturally occurring processes

typical of the region are ensured and developed. This also includes endeavouring to preserve, restore or improve the environment as the best possible basis for life, which serves human health and recreation.

Measures

The expenditures listed for the Sustainable Bonds programme were incurred or paid out in the years 2022 to 2024

The following measures were funded:

- Baseline surveys and monitoring
- Maintenance measures in protected areas
- Public relations to raise awareness
- Information facilities for raising awareness
- Purchase of ecologically valuable land

The measures were aligned with the nature conservation priorities of the State of Lower Austria and contribute to the implementation of European nature conservation directives and the Austrian Biodiversity Strategy. These projects were financed via the Austrian programme for rural areas, as 100% of the total costs are funded as part of nature conservation projects – 50.57% of which comes from state funds. Around 57% of these costs were used for management and maintenance projects to preserve, improve and restore habitats and biodiversity. Approximately 31% of the costs related to projects with a primary focus on awareness-raising and public relations, while approximately 6% of the costs were allocated to projects with a focus on monitoring and planning and conceptualisation activities, respectively.

Achieved impacts

The measures contributed to the protection and enhancement of valuable habitats and to raising awareness of nature and acceptance of conservation measures among the population. The target groups are therefore very wide-ranging, from experts who continue to work with the data obtained, to the public administration, which fulfils its duty to protect nature, to the general public, which benefits from nature conservation projects through recreational opportunities and the preservation of the environment as a basis for life.

4.4 Sustainable Water and Wastewater Management

PROJECT 7: Investments in the expansion of flood protection systems

Department	Office of the State Government of Lower Austria Division of Water Department of Hydraulic Engineering (WA3)		
ICMA GBP Project category	Sustainable Water and Wastewater Management		
Total expenditure for the State of Lower Austria 2022-2024	EUR 37.20 million		
Financing share of the State of Lower Austria	35%		
Financing share of the federal government	EUR 52 million		
Financing share of municipalities/water boards	EUR 16 million		
Total expenditure for the State of Lower Austria in EUR million	2022	2023	2024
	15.50	12.70	9.00
Assigned SDG			
Relevance	Reduction of flood risks, part of the Lower Austrian Provincial Strategy 2030 (NÖ Landesstrategie 2030)		

Project goals

- Protection of people, settlements and cultural assets from natural hazards and reduction of flood-related damage to health, the environment, cultural heritage and the economy
- Protection and ecological enhancement of bodies of water and riparian zones in the sense of a natural habitat
- Adaptation to climate change through forward-looking, risk-minimising measures

Project impact indicators

Indicator	2022	2023	2024
Projects in direct implementation ¹⁸	35	21	26
Expected employment effects	Around 600 jobs		
Retention volume created in m ³	2,150,000		
Length of the flood defence	30 km river length		
Number of protected municipalities	60		
Number of protected residents	19,000		
Number of protected properties	5,000		

Data source: Department of Hydraulic Engineering (WA3)

¹⁸ Some of these projects last several years. A total of 58 projects were implemented in the period 2022-2024.

Project description

Since 2002, the federal state of Lower Austria has been repeatedly affected by major flood disasters causing billions in damage. The topic of protection against natural hazards is anchored in the Lower Austrian Provincial Strategy 2030. These measures will further expand and increase the protection of settlement areas and infrastructural facilities at risk of flooding.

A significant reduction in flood risk is achieved through the integrated application of preventive protection measures in combination with awareness-raising, individual precautionary measures and cooperation with civil protection organisations. The strategy of the State of Lower Austria is geared towards the prevention of flood damage and includes the consistent construction of technical flood protection facilities, the transparent designation of hazard zones, the targeted retention of water in retention areas, modern and ecological planning approaches, spatial planning geared towards flood protection, the early warning of the population by means of forecasting systems and targeted action by all emergency organisations on the basis of professional disaster control plans.

Measures

Flood protection measures in Lower Austria include technical installations such as dams and walls, retention basins and polders, as well as non-technical approaches such as the restoration of bodies of water, keeping floodplains free and adapting land management. The measures taken based on the strategy of the State of Lower Austria accelerated the expansion of flood protection facilities and large-scale water retention.

Achieved impacts

This strategy of the State of Lower Austria to invest more in the expansion of flood protection facilities and large-scale water retention has proven its worth in the flood events of recent years. All flood protection projects have confirmed their protective effect and additional damage on an even greater scale has been prevented. The projects prevented potential economic damage amounting to twice the investment. The measures also lead to macroeconomic employment effects of around 16 jobs per million euros.



Figure 9: Completed flood protection along the Danube in Bacharnsdorf and Mitterarnsdorf (2024) (C: Department of Hydraulic Engineering WA3)



Figure 10: Flood protection under construction along the Danube in Rossatzbach (2022) (C: Department of Hydraulic Engineering WA3)

4.5 Access to Essential Services: Healthcare

PROJECT 8: University Hospital Krems – New building to extend the existing radiotherapy facilities, including pathology

Department	Office of the State Government of Lower Austria Division of Health and Social Affairs Department of Healthcare Strategy (GS3)	
ICMA SBP project category	Access to Essential Services: Healthcare	
Total expenditure for the State of Lower Austria 2023-2024	EUR 8.72 million	
The State of Lower Austria's share of total project financing	100%	
Total expenditure of the State of Lower Austria by year in EUR million	2023	2024
	3.31	5.41
Assigned SDG	 	
Relevance	Improving regional oncology care	
Target groups	General population and oncology patients	

Project goals

- Improving the regional availability of modern cancer therapies
- Reducing supply bottlenecks in radiation oncology
- Strengthening the medical infrastructure through additional treatment capacities
- Contributing to the realisation of nationwide health planning goals
- Creating highly qualified jobs in the healthcare sector

Project impact indicators¹⁹

Indicator	Value
Planned additional total new space in m ²	2,296
Planned additional space for connecting the existing radiotherapy facilities in m ²	458
Planned additional space for post-mortem rooms in m ²	228
Percentage increase in capacity compared to the initial situation	66
Additional linear accelerators (LINACs)	2
Number of new jobs created	40
Number of additional radiation treatments (currently 45,000)	30,000

Data source: Department of Healthcare Strategy (GS3)

¹⁹ The indicators take into account the planned expansions after completion of construction in 2026.

Project description

Radiation oncology is one of the central components of modern treatment for numerous types of cancer. Due to rising incidence and prevalence figures, healthcare planning throughout Europe is anticipating an increasing need for radio-oncological treatment options. In eastern Austria, there has been a marked underuse in the field of radiation oncology for many years now.

In 2022, the six clinics in Lower Austria treated a total of over 11,600 cancer patients, more than 3,200 of whom received radiotherapy. While the clinics do have state-of-the-art equipment for carrying out radiotherapy, the purchase of additional equipment is essential for improved care.

Accordingly, the planning specifications of the large-scale equipment plan as part of the Austrian Health Structure Plan 2017 (Österreichischer Strukturplan Gesundheit 2017) provide for the expansion of capacities in Lower Austria from six to nine linear accelerators. This project will expand University Hospital Krems' capacity by two linear accelerators.

Measures

In order to expand the radiotherapy facilities by integrating two new linear accelerators, a new building will be constructed next to the existing radiotherapy infrastructure with three linear accelerators. The new building will be completed by September 2026, with patient operations planned for February 2027 once the technical facilities have been commissioned. This new building also required a new pathology facility, which was completed in autumn 2024.

Achieved impacts

The additional radiotherapy capacities offer the population of eastern Austria the possibility of accessing radiotherapy treatment for cancer in their local area. Figures for additional treatments cannot yet be provided, as operations will not start until 2027. In future, this will create around forty jobs for highly qualified medical staff.

See also <https://krems.lknoe.at>.

4.6 Access to Essential Services: Education and Vocational Training

PROJECT 9: Nursing education bonus

Department	Office of the State Government of Lower Austria Division of Culture, Science and Education Department of Science and Research (K3)	
ICMA SBP project category	Access to Essential Services: Education and Vocational Training	
Total expenditure 2023-2024	EUR 9.54 million	
Year	2023	2024
The State of Lower Austria's share of total project financing	33.71%	42.43%
Total expenditure of the State of Lower Austria by year in EUR million	4.54	5.00
Assigned SDGs	 	
Relevance	Long-term safeguarding of healthcare and care in Lower Austria through the targeted promotion of training programmes in the care sector	
Target groups	Trainees in healthcare professions	

Project goals

- Sustainable coverage of quantitative and qualitative personnel requirements in the care and social sector
- Increasing the attractiveness of nursing training programmes
- Increasing the number of applicants and graduates in the care sector
- Reducing the training drop-out rate
- Financial relief for trainees

Project impact indicators

Indicator	2023	2024
Sponsored persons ²⁰	2,957	2,657
Number of people starting training programmes for healthcare and nursing professions	1,030	1,321

Data source: Department of Science and Research (K3)

²⁰ Concerns persons in training for "healthcare and nursing professions" and "social care professions"

Project description

The State of Lower Austria pays a monthly bonus to persons who complete training as a care assistant, specialist care assistant, qualified healthcare and nursing assistant, qualified social carer or specialist social carer. This financial support is aimed exclusively at the trainees themselves and does not serve to finance care structures. The bonus is currently up to 630 euros per month.

The aim of the measure is to reduce structural and financial barriers to enrolment in nursing training programmes in order to attract more people to care and nursing professions and meet the increasing demand for nursing staff in the coming years. In recent years, training capacities have been significantly expanded; they currently stand at 1,600 to 1,900 places per year. Accompanying measures – such as the nursing training bonus – were considered necessary in order to fill these positions. The financial incentives are intended to make training more attractive and thus facilitate entry into nursing professions. The current training data shows that the number of people starting their training rose by around 300 from 2023 to 2024.

Measures

During the period under review, the following measures were implemented that are significant for the effects:

- Consideration of tuition fees in the bonus amount
- Processing in accordance with the Nursing Training Purpose Grant Act (Pflegeausbildungs-Zweckzuschussgesetz)
- Monthly bonus payment to trainees in care and social professions
- Implementation since the government resolution of 18 July 2023

Achieved impacts

The main benefits of the project are as follows:

- Increasing the number of trainees in care and social professions in order to meet the rapidly increasing demand for nursing staff
- Strengthening health and nursing care in the federal state
- Relieving the burden on trainees through financial support



*Figure 11:
Lower Austrian nursing training bonus
(symbolic photo on the State of Lower
Austria website)*

See also <https://www.foerderung-pflegeausbildung-noe.at/foerderungen/noe-pflegeausbildungspraemie>.

PROJECT 10: Landeskrankenhaus Mauer – educational campus in the Mostviertel region

Department	Office of the State Government of Lower Austria Division of Health and Social Affairs Department of Healthcare Strategy (GS3)	
ICMA SBP project category	Access to Essential Services: Education and Vocational Training	
Total expenditure 2023-2024	EUR 17.06 million	
The State of Lower Austria's share of total project financing	100%	
Total expenditure of the State of Lower Austria by year in EUR million	2023	2024
	16.93	0.13
Assigned SDG	 	
Relevance	Expansion of training capacities for healthcare professions in the Mostviertel region and support for the state's care campaign	
Target groups	Trainees in healthcare professions	

Data source: Department GS3

Project goals

- Bundling and modernising training opportunities in the field of healthcare and nursing at a central location in the Mostviertel region
- Creating a contemporary educational campus through the further utilisation and refurbishment of historic buildings in keeping with their listed status
- Promoting new pedagogical models and improving the quality of education
- Strengthening the link between theoretical and practical training through proximity to the regional hospital
- Ensuring demand-orientated and sustainable nursing training for the region

Project impact indicators

Indicator	2023	2024
New training places available	264	

Data source: Department of Healthcare Strategy (GS3)

Project description

As part of the project, an educational campus for the Mostviertel region is being built at the Landesklinikum Mauer site. The existing school locations in Amstetten, Scheibbs and Mauer will be merged in order to bundle the training programmes in the field of healthcare and nursing in terms of space and content. The structural implementation is being carried out in consideration of the protection of historical monuments through the conversion and adaptation of the campus buildings. The campus is intended to facilitate new educational models in future and expand training capacities, particularly in healthcare and nursing professions.

Measures

As part of the project, four listed buildings are being technically and thermally refurbished and functionally adapted for their new use as school buildings (adult education). The windows were thermally improved in consultation with the Federal Monuments Office. Two buildings were equipped with ramps for the disabled on the outside and lifts on the inside. The structural conditions in the remodelling areas were also coordinated with the Federal Monuments Office and the necessary infrastructure measures were taken into account.

The project is structurally complete and is currently in the warranty phase. Construction work began on 6 June 2020 and was completed and officially opened on 17 October 2022. As this construction project could not be fully completed until 2024, the project was settled in accordance with the accounting requirements with the specified amounts in 2023 and 2024.

Achieved impacts

The location of the educational campus on the grounds of the Landesklinikum Mauer creates synergy effects due to the close proximity of care and education. As part of this pioneering project, the listed buildings at the Mauer site will be optimally utilised. It is currently assumed that there will be a minimum annual intake capacity of around 60 people for specialist care assistants and around 40 for care assistants.

For the Health Agency of Lower Austria, the benefit arises from the combination of theoretical and practical training. The Landesklinikum Mauer is the only school location in the Mostviertel region to cover all needs in the area of further education and training at one location, which is a unique selling point throughout the country. The Austrian Healthcare and Nursing Academy (Gesundheits- und Krankenpflegeschule, GuKPS) of the Landesklinikum Amstetten was relocated to Mauer after completion in 2022.

See also <https://pflegeschulen-noe.at/gesundheits-und-krankenpflegeschulen-noe/gesundheits-und-krankenpflegeschulen/bildungscampus-mostviertel>.

4.7 Affordable Housing

PROJECT 11: Subject promotion housing subsidy

Department	Office of the State Government of Lower Austria Division of Finance Department of Housing Subsidies (F2)	
ICMA SBP project category	Affordable Housing	
Total expenditure 2023-2024	EUR 77.11 million	
The State of Lower Austria's share of total project financing	100%	
Country expenditure by year, in EUR million (figures as per statement of account)	2023	2024
	35.50	41.60
Assigned SDG		
Relevance	Support in the event of excessive housing costs	
Target groups	Lower-income households ²¹	

Project goals

- Securing affordable housing through financial support for lower-income households
- Cushioning the financial burden of housing costs in challenging life situations
- Promoting social justice through targeted support for young families, large families and people in need of care
- Strengthening social housing as an instrument of public services
- Prevention of housing loss and social exclusion through temporary subsidies

Project impact indicators

Indicator	2023	2024
Approved housing units for housing subsidy	14,776	15,493
Approved housing subsidies in EUR million ²²	37.50	39.86
Approved housing units for housing assistance	785	1,420
Approved housing assistance in EUR million	1.11	1.98

Data source: Department of Housing Subsidies (F2)

²¹ Housing subsidy or housing allowance can be awarded to residents of subsidized housing (e.g., cooperative apartment), a subsidized residential facility (e.g., home for the disabled) or a subsidized owner-occupied home. The grant or subsidy is variable and depends, among other things, on the income and the burden of repayment obligations. Young families, families with multiple children or families with a member experiencing a disability are favored in the calculation of the subsidy

²² Deviations from the expenditure in the table above are due to differences between the authorised amounts and the amounts recorded in the statement of account

Project description

In challenging times, the monthly expenses for your own home can quickly become a financial burden: be it due to a lower income, salary cuts or job loss, for example. In order to minimise this burden, financial support is available from the State of Lower Austria in the form of the Lower Austrian Housing Subsidy (NÖ Wohnzuschuss) or the Lower Austrian Housing Assistance (NÖ Wohnbeihilfe) (no difference in content). This subsidy is granted for one year and does not have to be repaid.

Measures

In order to cushion the monthly costs of housing, the housing subsidy or housing assistance was developed in Lower Austria in addition to the existing provincial subsidy. The owner, tenant or authorised user of a subsidised flat, a subsidised residential home or a subsidised owner-occupied home can be awarded a personal subsidy in the form of a housing subsidy or housing assistance to reduce the burden of the annuity payment. The support is variable and depends, among other things, on income and the burden of repayment obligations.

Achieved impacts

Personal subsidies provide support for the following groups of people:

Young families - Families or civil partnerships as well as single parents with at least one child entitled to benefits belonging to the household, where one partner has not yet reached the age of 35 at the time of application.

Large families – Families with at least three children for whom family allowance is received at the time of application.

People in need of care – Individuals or families in which one family member has a reduced earning capacity or is entitled to care allowance from level II in accordance with the Federal Care Allowance Act.



Figure 12: Housing subsidies (C: Department of Housing Subsidies (F2))

PROJECT 12: Liability model – subsidisation by guaranteeing an interest rate cap (housing subsidies: interest rate cap)

Department	Office of the State Government of Lower Austria Division of Finance Department of Housing Subsidies (F2)	
ICMA SBP project category	Affordable Housing	
Total expenditure 2023-2024	EUR 160.60 million	
The State of Lower Austria's share of total project financing	55%	
Total expenditure of the State of Lower Austria by year in EUR million	2023	2024
	64.95	95.65
Assigned SDGs		
Relevance	Support for the creation of affordable housing; handled by non-profit building associations	
Target group	Households with low or low to medium income ²³	

Project goals

- Promoting the creation of affordable, high-quality housing
- Support for non-profit building associations through favourable financing conditions
- Limiting the financial burden on residential property users through an interest rate cap
- Securing the granting of loans through the assumption of liability by the state

Project impact indicators

Indicator	2023	2024
Subsidised housing units	2,740	3,433

Data source: Department of Housing Subsidies (F2)

²³ First time home buyer can apply for a subsidized loan if their annual income is less than a fixed amount. At most one person may earn 55,000,- Euro net per year. A maximum of 80.000,- Euro applies to two persons. The amount is increased by 10,000,- Euro for each additional person.

Project description

Non-profit housing construction in Austria makes an important contribution to affordable housing by curbing rents. A study by the Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO 2022) shows that a 10% increase in the proportion of non-profit housing leads to a reduction in non-regulated rents of 30 to 40 cents per square metre, which corresponds to an average decrease of around 5%.

Measures

In the entire period from 2013 to 2023, subsidised loans for housing construction with assumption of liability were guaranteed for 30,270 housing units. The subsidisation consists of a subsidised loan. The loan was to be taken out with the lender identified by the Lower Austrian provincial government in an award procedure.

The subsidisation by the State of Lower Austria consists of:

- the assumption of liability as guarantor and payer for the collectability of the claim and
- the granting of subsidies in the amount of the difference between the interest on the loan and the subsidised interest rate. With the interest rate guarantee, the state assumes the interest rate risk over the term of the subsidy of 31 years. The development of interest rates results in a higher or lower subsidy payment by the state.

Achieved impacts

To support “affordable housing”, the creation of affordable, high-quality living space is subsidised. Construction and management are carried out by non-profit building associations.

The liability model offers the advantage that at most the subsidised interest rate has to be paid by the housing users, based on the subsidised share.

4.8 Socioeconomic Advancement and Empowerment: Social Inclusion

PROJECT 13: Investment grants to private care facilities and facilities for people with disability

Department	Office of the State Government of Lower Austria Division of Health and Social Affairs Department of Social Affairs and Generation Subsidies (GS5)	
ICMA SBP project category	Socioeconomic Advancement and Empowerment: Social Inclusion	
Total expenditure 2023-2024	EUR 42.11 million	
The State of Lower Austria's share of total project financing	max. 50% ²⁴	
Total expenditure of the State of Lower Austria by year in EUR million	2023	2024
	34.20	7.91
Assigned SDG	 	
Relevance	Contribution to ensuring and improving inpatient care for people	
Target groups	People with disabilities and people in need of care	

Project goals

- Expansion of capacity in inpatient care for people with disabilities and people in need of care
- Improving the structural and technical infrastructure in care facilities
- Support for digitalisation and modern care technology in the care sector
- Strengthening regional supply structures through targeted investments in existing and new facilities

Project impact indicators

Indicator	2023	2024
Number of subsidised facilities ²⁵	22	24

Data source: Department of Social Affairs and Generation Subsidies (GS5)

²⁴ Varies depending on the number of contracted places in the social assistance centres (GS5a,b)

²⁵ A total of 45 different institutions received funding in the period 2023–2024. (One institution received support in both years.)

Project description

As part of the investment promotion programme of the State of Lower Austria, grants are awarded for the construction and renovation of residential and day care facilities for people with disabilities as well as inpatient care places for people in need of care. Only contracted places in accordance with Section 48 of the Lower Austrian Social Assistance Act 2000 (NÖ SHG) are subsidised. The aim is to provide high-quality care places and to expand or modernise existing facilities in line with demand. The subsidy rates per place are set out in the relevant guidelines; the subsidy amount may not exceed 50% of the total eligible costs.

Measures

Subsidies can be provided in particular for:

- Structural measures
- Infrastructural measures for digitalisation (e.g. WLAN installation and expansion, electronic health record system (ELGA) connection/hardware and software, IT integration, telemedicine)

Achieved impacts

The main impacts of the measure are:

- Creation and long-term safeguarding of residential and care places throughout Lower Austria
- Improving the quality of life for people in need of care through modern infrastructure
- Supporting provider organisations in the implementation of sustainable care concepts
- Strengthening digital infrastructure and networking in care facilities
- Sustainable relief for public supply structures through targeted investments in contracted places in private facilities

PROJECT 14: Social housing facilities

Department	Office of the State Government of Lower Austria Division of Health and Social Affairs Department of Social Affairs and Generation Subsidies (GS5)	
ICMA SBP project category	Socioeconomic Advancement and Empowerment: Social Inclusion	
Total expenditure 2023-2024	EUR 23.79 million	
Financing share of the State of Lower Austria	90%	
Total expenditure of the State of Lower Austria by year in EUR million	2023	2024
	11.99	11.81
Assigned SDG		
Relevance	Support for people in acute emergencies	
Target groups	Homeless people and women affected by violence	

Project goals

- Ensuring temporary, sheltered accommodation for homeless people and victims of violence
- Provision of individual support and social counselling with the aim of reintegration into an independent, stable life
- Gender-specific protection through targeted support for women and children in situations of violence and crisis
- Implementation of gender budgeting through targeted promotion of women-specific programmes

Project impact indicators

Indicator	2023	2024
People cared for in homeless facilities	1,303	1,287
People cared for in women's shelters	411	394

Data source: Department of Social Affairs and Generation Subsidies (GS5)

Project description

Within the framework of social housing facilities, the State of Lower Austria supports a wide range of services such as residential homes, assisted living, emergency accommodation, emergency sleeping facilities, day centres, mother-child homes and women's shelters. The facilities offer temporary accommodation and socio-educational support for people in need of help in accordance with Section 4 of the Lower Austrian Social Assistance Act 2000 (SHG 2000), who usually have multiple burdens (secondary problem indications, e.g. due to unemployment, addiction, release from prison).

These services are handled by provider organisations with which the State of Lower Austria establishes contractual agreements on the scope of services, financing and quality assurance. Each type of programme has its own funding rates to cover personnel and material costs in day-to-day operations.

Measures

- Funding and support for women's shelters, emergency accommodation, day centres, mother-child homes and other social housing facilities
- Conclusion of contracts with provider organisations to ensure availability of the services
- Implementation of gender budgeting through targeted support for women-specific programmes
- Provision of individual socio-educational counselling and support
- Development of prospects for an independent, stable life

Achieved impacts

The measures are aimed at achieving the following impacts:

- Protection and stabilisation in acute crisis situations
- Increasing the social participation and quality of life of affected persons
- Strengthening protection against violence for women and children
- Reducing homelessness and social isolation
- Long-term reintegration into the labour and housing market

Homelessness centres are open to people in need of help who are homeless and also have a secondary problem indication (see above), and they offer temporary accommodation and psychological support.

Women's shelters are specifically aimed at adult women and their children who are exposed to psychological, physical or sexual violence or are at risk of such violence. Temporary accommodation and psychosocial support are also offered here, with the aim of building a self-determined and violence-free life.

Mother and child homes are aimed at adult pregnant women or mothers with their underage children in need of help who are homeless, unable to live independently and also have a secondary problem indication (see above).

PROJECT 15: New construction of the Lower Austrian socio-educational care centre in Korneuburg

Department	Office of the State Government of Lower Austria Division of Health and Social Affairs Department of Healthcare Strategy (GS3)	
ICMA SBP project category	Socioeconomic Advancement and Empowerment: Social Inclusion	
Total expenditure 2023-2024	EUR 10.19 million	
The State of Lower Austria's share of total project financing	100%	
Total expenditure of the State of Lower Austria by year in EUR million	2023	2024
	5.16	5.03
Assigned SDGs		
Relevance	Securing and further developing socio-educational care through modern living and care concepts	
Target group	Children and young people	

Project goals

- Implementation of contemporary socio-educational care concepts
- Improvement of the structural infrastructure to support educational principles
- Creation of modern, functionally separate yet networked living and working areas
- Ensuring high-quality care by means of appropriate spatial conditions
- Strengthening social interaction and everyday skills
- Contributing to the structural development of socio-educational care centres

Project impact indicators

Indicator	2023	2024
Utilisation units	4	
Newly created GFA (gross floor area in m ²)	2,456	
Minimum number of care places	35	
Minimum number of care places in FTEs	30.5	
Care places in residential groups	27	
Care places in small groups	8	

Data source: Department of Child and Youth Welfare (GS6)

Project description

The structural concept of the Lower Austrian social-educational care centres includes a repositioning of the Lower Austrian social-educational care centre in Korneuburg. In order to implement contemporary concepts for children and young people, the visions of educational concepts and principles are implemented both organisationally and structurally. As a pioneer in the development of new care services, the State of Lower Austria is taking the lead in this multifaceted field and is responding proactively to the changes in social challenges with social innovations.

In order to continue to provide modern and professionally responsible socio-educational services, the Lower Austrian socio-educational care centre in Korneuburg must offer a modern organisation with a wide range of services that meet the individual needs of young people. In recent years, new services and concepts have been developed in all of the State of Lower Austria's socio-educational care centres, regardless of the building structures, to ensure that the young people entrusted to them receive high-quality care that meets today's requirements.

Measures

From 2021 to 2024, the construction project implemented the legal, technical, economic and operational requirements and guidelines of the State of Lower Austria contained within the 2017 – 2022 expansion and investment plan. The new build project comprises the construction of two residential buildings, each with two residential groups for a total of 35 children and young people. The project has been completed, and the newly created residential groups were occupied in spring 2025.

The relevant functions organise the planning site into four utilisation zones, which satisfy the spatial-functional separation between living and working while also creating connections that, together with the existing buildings and the park landscape, form a living space that meets the needs and requirements of children and young people.

Achieved impacts

The building is designed for the care of at least 35 children and young people in socio-educational residential groups, with 3 socio-educational-inclusive residential groups for 9 children and young people each and 2 small groups with 4 places. The living area is a creative and social space that corresponds to normal everyday life. The ability to empathise is promoted through communicative exchange and strengthened for future challenges. A sense of community is developed as a value and organised within a balanced relationship between closeness and distance.



Figure 13: Inner courtyard view of the new building (source: Website of the Graf-Holztechnik GmbH)



Figure 14: Bird's eye view of the new building (source: Website of Graf-Holztechnik GmbH)

4.9 Affordable Basic Infrastructure

PROJECT 16: Fare subsidy for public transport

Department	Office of the State Government of Lower Austria Division of Spatial Planning, Environment and Traffic Department of Spatial Planning and Transport Matters (RU7)	
ICMA SBP project category	Affordable Basic Infrastructure	
Total expenditure 2023-2024	EUR 57.63 million	
Year	2023	2024
The Province State of Lower Austria's share of total project financing	33.92%	32.09%
Total expenditure of the State of Lower Austria by year in EUR million	28.28	29.35
Assigned SDGs	 	
Relevance	Central contribution to an affordable and socially just mobility infrastructure in Lower Austria	
Target group	General population	

Project goals

- Ensuring affordable public mobility for all population groups
- Financial compensation for fare-related losses in the transport association (*Verkehrsverbund*) to maintain favourable ticket prices in the long term
- Promoting the widespread use of public transport

Project impact indicators

Indicator	2023	2024
Passengers transported in millions	161.2	177.7
Number of KlimaTicket Austria purchased in Lower Austria (in December of each year) ²⁶	64,368	72,075

Data source: Verkehrsverbund Ost-Region (VOR)

²⁶ As the state does not bear all of the costs, not all of the impacts are attributable to it. The table nevertheless shows the overall impacts.

Project description

As part of the subsidisation of the Verkehrsverbund Ost-Region (VOR), the State of Lower Austria finances the losses in fare revenue resulting from the introduction of a uniform fare system. Compensating for these losses makes it possible to offer low-cost season passes (weekly, monthly and annual passes) and continuous use of all means of transport with just one ticket.

Measures

- Subsidies to reduce the price of season passes for passengers (especially monthly and annual passes)
- Cost compensation for transport companies to cushion fare losses
- Financial support to ensure fare integration across all means of public transport (bus, rail, etc.)

Achieved impacts

- Affordable mobility for all income groups
- Simple and flexible use of public transport thanks to a continuous fare system
- Strengthening social participation through low-threshold transport services
- Reduction of traffic congestion and associated emissions



Figure 15: ÖBB REX near Mödling (C: Paul G. Liebhart)

5 Appendix – Notes on the data and calculations in the impact report

Green Buildings

The areas indicated represent the constructed building areas at Campus Krems (Project 1) and the floor areas of the refurbished office building in Lilienfeld (Project 2). The number of people relates to the additional capacity created for students.

Calculation of energy savings and avoided GHG emissions:

The Excel tool for housing subsidy reporting (version 2024-07-05) provided by the Federal Environment Agency in 2024 was used to calculate the energy savings and GHG emission avoidance. This tool is used to implement the reporting obligations pursuant to Article 15a Agreement (Federal Law Gazette II No. 213/2017, Art. 16 (2)) for the 2024 reporting year.

The following was assumed for extensions: Extensions to existing public buildings are generally to be recognised as new buildings (UBA 2024). The energy savings for the new public building (Project 1) were calculated on the basis of the heated area (14,459 m²), the reference heating demand of 35 kWh/m²-a shown in the tool, the actual heating demand (klimaaktiv, 2025a) and the primary energy factor of 1.24. This resulted in a direct GHG emission reduction by using the specific GHG emissions for space heating in new public buildings (0.131 kg CO₂e/kWh).

The following was assumed for refurbishments: For the calculation of energy savings in the renovation of public buildings (Project 2), a reference heating demand of 150 kWh/m²-a was applied. The primary energy factor for space heating demand is 1.51 in the case of non-renovated public buildings and 2.00 in case of energy-efficiently renovated public buildings (this assumption is based on the fact that the heating system's efficiency decreases, as it was designed for the non-renovated building and is therefore oversized) (UBA 2024). The heating demand after energy-efficient refurbishment is given by project data (klimaaktiv, 2025b). For the calculation of GHG savings, 0.131 kg CO₂e/kWh was used as the specific GHG emissions for space heating.

The savings in electrical energy were specified in Projects 1 and 2 and were part of the project data. The annual GHG savings can be calculated using the emission factor for electricity supply in Austria of 0.23 kg CO₂e/kWh (UBA 2024).

Clean Transportation

The number of beneficiaries corresponds to the estimated additional passengers per working day due to the expansion of the Traisental railway and Kamptal railway lines.

Calculation of avoided GHG emissions:

The avoided GHG emissions were calculated on the basis of additional passengers per working day, which are indicated by the indicator determined. For the calculation, an average journey distance of 30 km per person per day and 220 working days per year (transport office) was assumed. The direct GHG emissions of car transport were set at 0.139 kg CO₂e/km and those of passenger transport by rail in Austria at 0.0032 kg CO₂e/km (UBA 2025). To account for uncertainties, a safety margin of 15% was taken into account (OeBFA 2025).

Biodiversity and Natural Resources Management

The number of visitors to the two national parks during the period under review is indicated. The natural areas indicated represent the areas of the national parks.

Sustainable Water and Wastewater Management

The number of people indicated is the number of people protected by the adaptation measures of Project 7.

Access to Essential Services: Healthcare

The area indicated represents the sum of the additional floor area for the new building and the extension of the existing radiotherapy centre (Project 8).

Access to Essential Services: Education and Vocational Training

The number of beneficiaries results from the persons who received a nursing training bonus (Project 9) and the additional training places created at the Landeskrankenhaus Mauer (Project 10).

Affordable Housing

The number of beneficiaries was calculated on the basis of the total number of approved housing units in Project 11 and Project 12 in the period under review, assuming an occupancy rate of 1.6 persons per housing unit. This includes multiple counting in the case of multiple years of individual support.

Socioeconomic Advancement and Empowerment: Social Inclusion

The areas indicated are from the new building of the Lower Austrian social-educational care centre in Korneuburg (Project 15). The number of people cared for results from the care places created and the number of people cared for in Projects 13 to 15.

Affordable Basic Infrastructure

Here, the average number of annual Climate Ticket purchases (Project 16) in the period under review is used as the number of beneficiaries.

Literature

State of Lower Austria: Department of Social Affairs and Generation (GS5a): Guidelines for the allocation of subsidies for facilities for people with special needs

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Image rights:

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