



## Facts: The Austrian Spatial Development Strategy (*Österreichisches Raumentwicklungskonzept, ÖREK*)

### Legal basis

- The Austrian Spatial Development Strategy is a voluntary agreement between all members of the Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning (Österreichische Raumordnungskonferenz, ÖROK) and serves as a strategic steering instrument for coordination.

### Competencies

- The ÖROK is a permanent body made up of representatives from the federal government, states and municipalities to enable cooperation among all relevant territorial authorities. Since 1981, it has developed the Austrian spatial development strategy every 10 years, providing a non-binding strategic guideline for federal spatial development over the following decade. Its members include all federal ministers and heads of the federal states, the presidents of the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns and the Austrian Association of Municipalities as well as the heads of the social and economic partners with a consulting vote. To execute its tasks at the administrative level, ÖROK employs a Standing Subcommittee as well as several committees and working formats that are made up of representatives of the territorial authorities and the social and economic partners. Apart from the formal bodies, soft governance formats have been gaining significance for ÖROK's work in recent years.

### Binding force

- The strategy is not legally binding, but represents a self-commitment by all ÖROK members and relevant stakeholders in spatial planning.

### Tasks and content

- ÖREK 2011 has three sections: The **introductory section** defines the fundamental tenets and main goals of spatial development policy. The **Action Plan ÖREK 2011** includes selected action proposals assessed as very important, and presents a summary of their backgrounds and objectives. These summaries describe the work packages that will be further implemented within the scope of ÖREK partnerships. Implementation is described in the third section **Outlook and Implementation**.
- Systematic monitoring of spatial development has been implemented since 2011. Instruments of the Regional Monitoring System: ÖROK Atlas: web tool which is based on the content of ÖREK 2011 and offers many different materials and indicators for spatial planning analysis in Austria. Spatial Planning Report: published every three years; contains analyses of relevant spatial developments and reports on the activities of ÖROK members relevant to spatial development.
- The elaboration of ÖREK 2030, the next Austrian spatial development strategy, has already started. It builds on the content and implementation structures of ÖREK 2011 and will be published in 2021. The central focus lies on proactive actions due to the expected social, environmental and technological transformation processes. In particular, spatial planning challenges such as environmental protection, adapting to climate change or the transformation to a decarbonised society play an essential role.

### Process, duration, participation

- The development of the strategy includes an extensive participation process (currently ongoing for ÖREK 2030) with conferences, discussion groups, a think tank and young experts. Therefore, it takes over a year for the strategy to be agreed on by all stakeholders.

### Duration of validity

- 10 years

**Details of the plan**

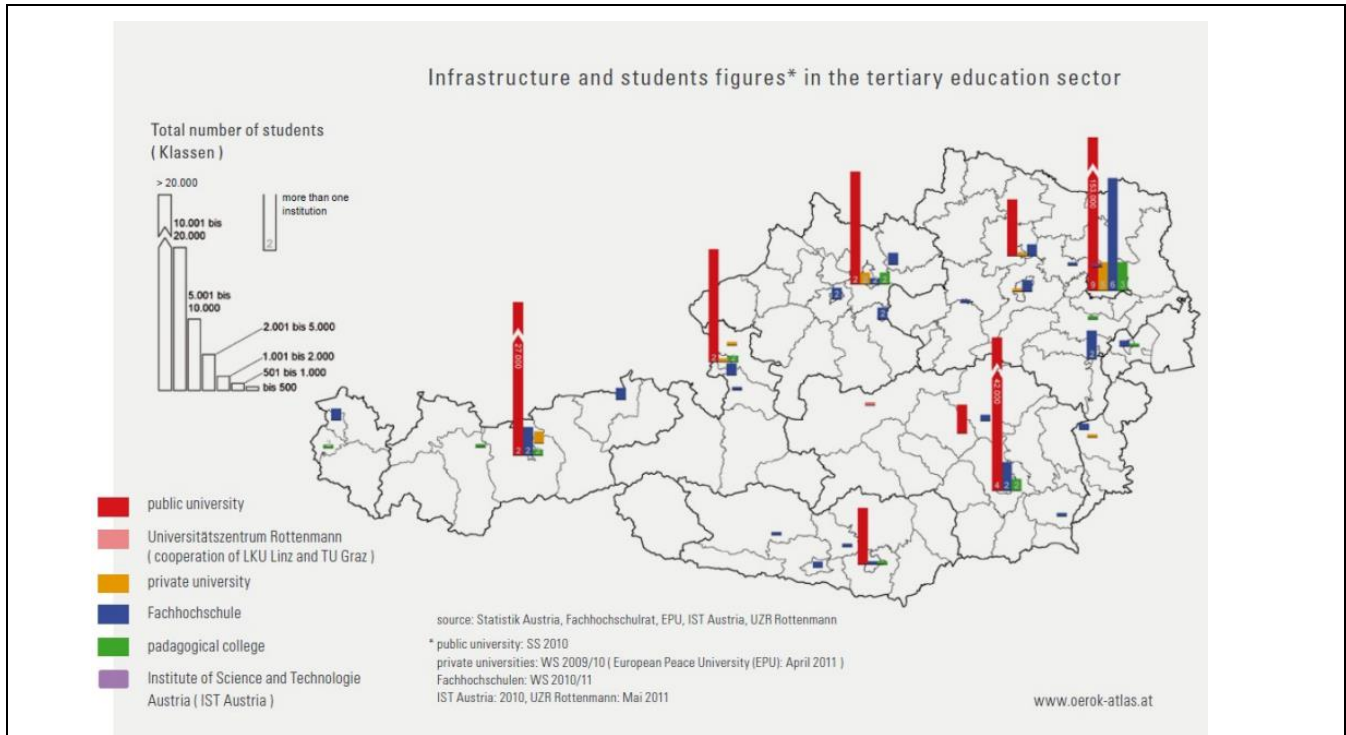
1	2	3	4
Regional and national competitiveness	Social Diversity and Solidarity	Climate Change, Adaptation and Resource Efficiency	Cooperative and efficient handling structures
<p><b>1.1 Accessibility costs competition other: targeted further development of linear infrastructure (transport, energy, ICT)</b></p> <p>1.1.1 Development of a national mobility concept</p> <p>1.1.2 Efficient further development of local transportation to secure regional accessibility</p> <p>1.1.3 Implementation of the "Digital Agenda for Europe" – modernise, upgrade and regionally expand telecommunication systems</p> <p>1.1.4 Secure corridors for high priority infrastructure</p> <p><b>1.2 Growth driver: Research, technology and innovation</b></p> <p>1.2.1 Improving the steering of research policy and coordinating research, technology and innovation context</p> <p>1.2.2 Expanding "innovation leadership" and promoting a spatial orientation</p> <p><b>1.3 Regional innovation policy, employment growth and qualification</b></p> <p>1.3.1 Implementing regional education management</p> <p>1.3.2 Establish and further develop regional innovation management</p> <p>1.3.3 Strengthen regional competitiveness in the context of tourism, agriculture and forestry</p>	<p><b>2.1 Immigration country on the way to becoming an immigrant society</b></p> <p>2.1.1 "Diversity and cohesion" – Develop principles and integration strategies at the local and regional level</p> <p><b>2.2 Securing basic services locally and regionally</b></p> <p>2.2.1 Spatially-sensitive education policy – Defining standards for supplying basic services</p> <p>2.2.2 Defining minimum standards for the development of public transport</p> <p>2.2.3 Use of central places as locations for social infrastructure</p> <p>2.2.4 Reorganising basic services – Prepare models as examples and check their transferability</p> <p>2.2.5 Strengthen a regionally differentiated, active labour market policy</p> <p><b>2.3 Quality-based approach to coping with growth</b></p> <p>2.3.1 Communicate the true costs of development</p> <p>2.3.2 Comprehensive assessment of new zoning</p> <p>2.3.3 Tie subsidies for residential construction to spatial planning criteria</p>	<p><b>3.1 Aim for energy self-sufficiency – Spatial impact of the energy system</b></p> <p>3.1.1 Securing spaces for energy production and energy distribution</p> <p><b>3.2 Priority spaces for protection against natural disasters</b></p> <p>3.2.1 Flood retaining dams and preservation of flood plains</p> <p>3.2.2 Enlarge and update the Hazard Zone Plan</p> <p><b>3.3 Sustainable development of settlements and free space</b></p> <p>3.3.1 Implementing space-saving and space management</p> <p>3.3.2 Create and secure free spaces</p> <p>3.3.3 Increase energy efficiency through spatial planning measures ("spatial planning for energy")</p> <p>3.3.4 Securing commodities</p> <p><b>3.4 Sustainable mobility</b></p> <p>3.4.1 Intensity the enlargement of inter-modal interfaces</p> <p>3.4.2 Further development of transport and ICT, technically and organisationally</p>	<p><b>4.1 Strengthen regional planning</b></p> <p>4.1.1 Create regional governance models</p> <p>4.1.2 Check and further develop models and incentive systems for cooperation among municipalities</p> <p><b>4.2 Development of an agglomeration policy for all of Austria</b></p> <p>4.2.1 Position urban regions for the future</p> <p>4.2.2 Set up a cooperation platform "urban region"</p> <p>4.2.3 "Smart cities" Promote research and development in cities and city networks</p> <p><b>4.3 New partnerships between rural and urban regions</b></p> <p>4.3.1 Further development of strategic measures for the development of economically competitive rural regions</p> <p><b>4.4 Strengthen the national and European perspectives</b></p> <p>4.4.1 Set up adequate management and support structures for spatial and regional development</p> <p>4.4.2 Give sectoral policy a "spatial dimension" – Improve interaction</p> <p>4.4.3 Cooperation with neighbouring states – Strengthen cross-border perspectives</p>

**Detail 1: ÖREK 2011 – Action programme: / 4 Strands / 14 Actions / 36 Tasks**

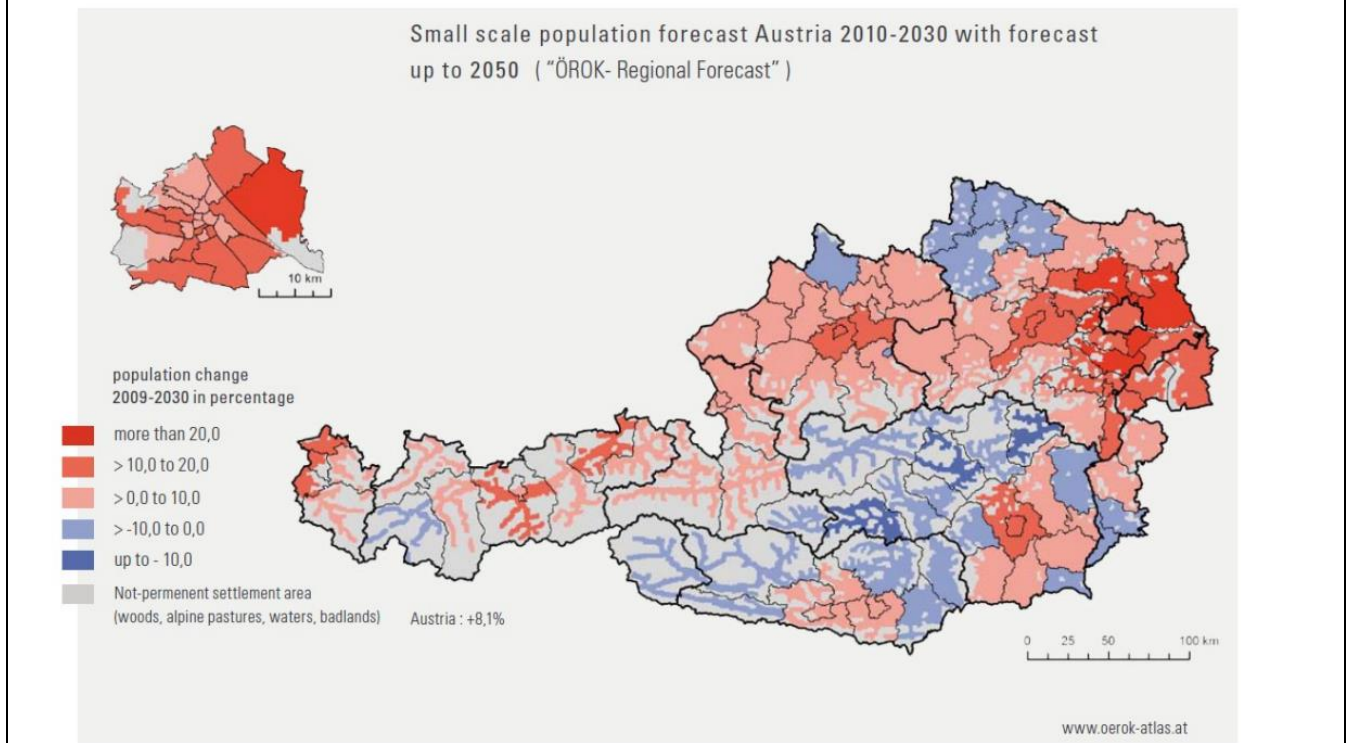


**Detail 2: Area for international connectivity (ÖREK 2011)**

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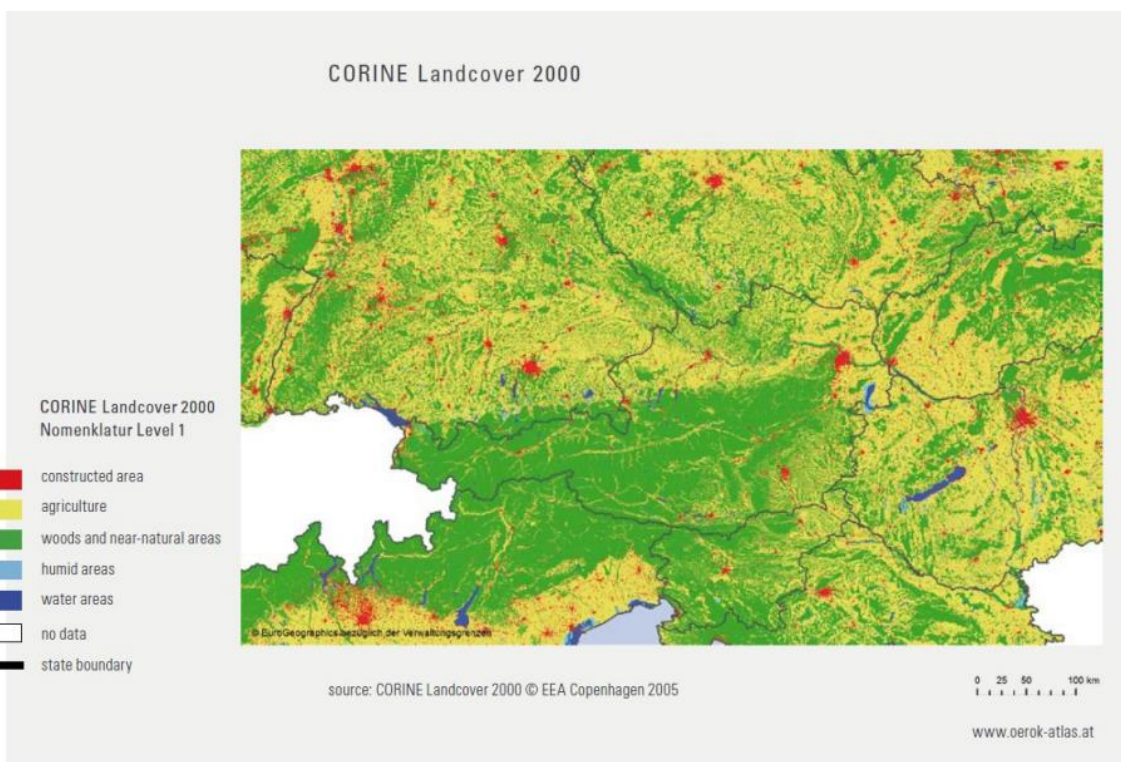
**Detail 3: Infrastructure and student figures in the tertiary education sector (ÖREK 2011)**



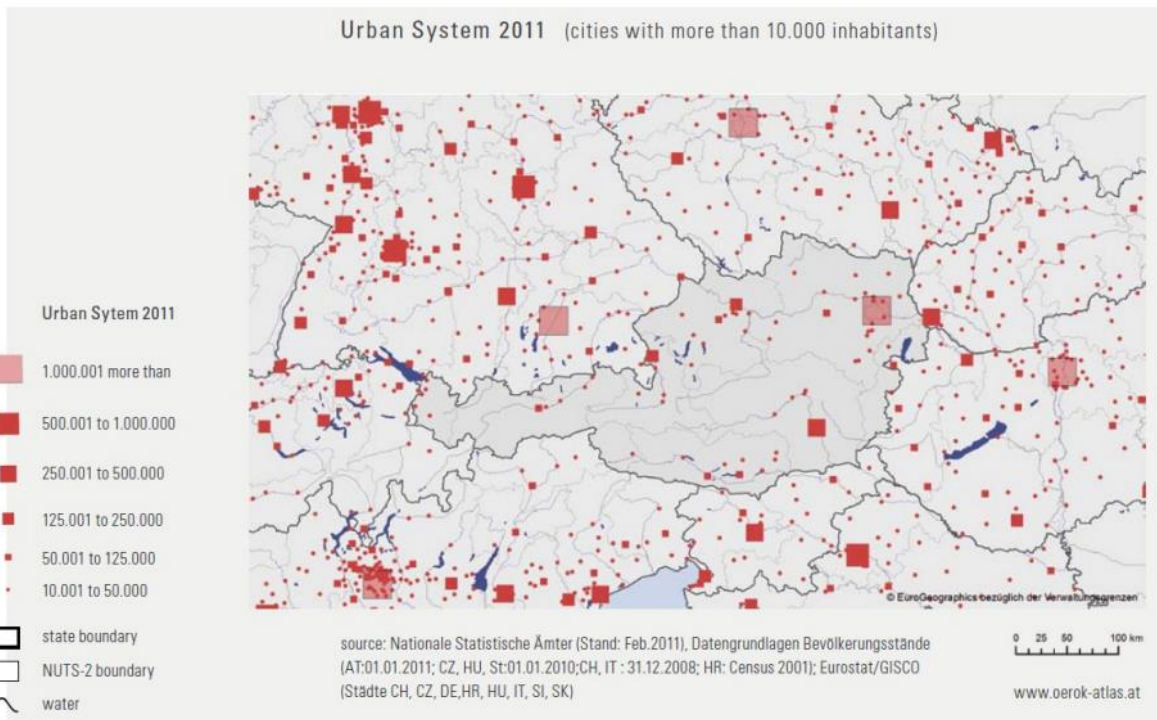
**Detail 4: Small-scale population forecast for Austria 2010–2030 with the forecast up to 2050 (ÖREK 2011)**

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**Detail 5: CORINE Land Cover 2000 (ÖREK 2011)**

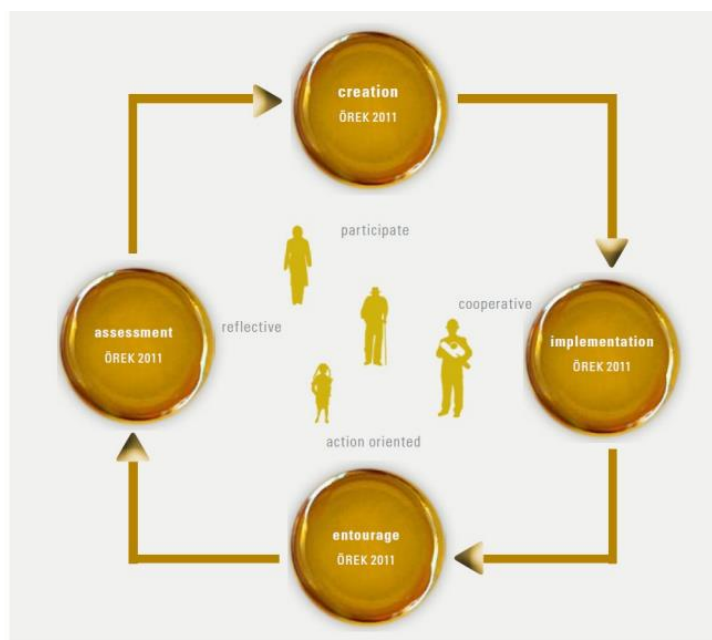


**Detail 6: Urban system 2011 – Cities with more than 10,000 inhabitants (ÖREK 2011)**

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**Detail 7: Overarching implementation process (ÖREK 2011)**

## Characteristics

### Location of the area

The Austrian Spatial Development Strategy (ÖREK) covers all of Austria.

### Initial situation

The strategy replaces the previous version.

### Particularities of the procedure and/or contents

The strategy is a strategic steering instrument for overarching spatial planning and development on all levels as a programme for action and guidance for all stakeholders.

## Notes and links

Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning (ÖROK) (2011). Austrian Spatial Development Strategy ÖREK 2011. Available at: [https://www.oerok.gv.at/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Bilder/2.Reiter-Raum\\_u.\\_Region/1.OEREK/OEREK\\_2011/Dokumente\\_OEREK\\_2011/OEREK\\_2011\\_EN\\_Downloadversion.pdf](https://www.oerok.gv.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Bilder/2.Reiter-Raum_u._Region/1.OEREK/OEREK_2011/Dokumente_OEREK_2011/OEREK_2011_EN_Downloadversion.pdf) (15 Jan. 2021).