



Identification, Dissemination and Exchange of good practice in
Local Employment development and promoting better governance

TERRITORIAL EMPLOYMENT PACTS- REGION OF STEYR-KIRCHDORF- AUSTRIA

General details

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Details of activity: “Regional management for employment Steyr-Kirchdorf”

Background to the case study	<p><i>AIMS AND OBJECTIVES</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support the Territorial Employment Pact (TEP) Upper Austria on local level• Develop local employment strategies, partnerships and projects• Integrate employment focus into economic and rural development• Obtain additional funding (public, private) for the region. <p><i>BRIEF RATIONALE</i></p> <p>Beginning in Feb. 01, the “Regionalforum” as regional development agency added the employment focus into his work (1, 5 employees). Projects and strategies of all 3 structural EU-funds have been developed in the NUTS-3-area in meantime</p>
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European Commission

	<p>with a clear added value. The special needs of rural-alpine area, urban/old-industry-area (City of Steyr) and medium-sized-industry/agricultural area have been worked out with a strategic development plan. Different Partnership are implemented on community or regional level, and dealing with EQUAL or LEADER programmes as well as single projects and networks. The question of gender in regional development is actually focused by projects.</p> <p>Regional management for employment was firstly created in 3 areas in Upper Austria. Up to now, 5 regional managements are established.</p> <p><i>IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION</i></p> <p>Verein Regionalforum (private association of all communities, social partners and political mandatory in the area) receives funding by transfer via government of Upper Austria in charge of the Territorial Employment Pact Upper Austria.</p> <p><i>FUNDERS</i></p> <p>Austrian Ministry for Economic Affairs and Labour (BMWA), ESF - European Social Fund, Regionalforum</p> <p>Projects in the field of employment are funded by the Provincial Government of Upper Austria, LEADER+, EQUAL, and ESF-Art. 6., EFRE-innovative measures, by means of the Chamber of Commerce, Chamber of Labour, Public Employment Service (AMS), enterprises, private non-profit associations.</p> <p><i>WHEN ACTIVITY STARTED / END DATE?</i></p> <p>The Activity started in Feb. 01 and will – for the time being - end in Dec. 06 (end of ESF-period).</p>
Description of activity	<p><i>OUTLINE OF PROGRAMME / ACTIVITIES AND APPROACHES USED</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building up of the Local steering group (partners are the



public employment service, Chambers of Commerce, Chamber of Labour, political mandatory)

- Building local networks with NGO's, public bodies, community council, enterprises, -special for people with special needs, for women affairs concerning employment, for employees in social economic enterprises, etc.
- Creation of local projects with partners – Tourism, youth education, social-economic enterprises a. o.
- Project management – for specific regional tasks, if necessary
- Information and Support concerning employment-policy, measures and project-funding for communities, enterprises, non profit associations in the region
- Networks in Upper Austria and on national level – exchange of experience and information in employment, education and social inclusion-themes.

ORIGINS – HOW IT CAME ABOUT – BOTTOM UP / TOP DOWN, GREW FROM PREVIOUS INITIATIVE (IF SO WHAT)

a) Local level

Based on good local experience in regional development by establishing economic and agriculture strategies, the regional association in co-operation with the Chamber of Labour (on the provincial level) have asked for an employment focus in addition.

Decision to act locally instead of a centralised consulting agency was the basis of the pact decision.

10 years ago there were “labour market agents” in order of public employment agency, stopped because of more centralised strategies.

Other agents, e.g. youth employment, for special measures of the pact – have a more marketing-based focus, no strategic mission or background.

b) Regional and national level

Since 1998 the Territorial Employment Pacts (TEPs) have been



implemented under the auspices of the Federal Government after positive results were gained from pilot pacts established within the scope of the European Union's Initiative. Since December 2001 TEPs have been established in all nine Austrian Provinces. Additionally, some partnerships were set up on local levels.

All Austrian TEPs attend to the integration of districts and municipalities as an important task in order to better manage their measures to local needs. Very soon after establishing the TEP on provincial level, the question of development of sub-regional components of pacts (creation of new TEPs under the provincial level) arose. Therefore, the TEPs created several co-operation models. Local actors are integrated in steering committees or working groups of some TEPs. Some TEPs on provincial level act as overall roof and strategic board for TEP structures on local level. Existing local structures, such as e.g. Regional Management Associations serve as co-operation partners. Actors of both, the regional and local level co-ordinate their strategies and implement measures. Though all TEPs are working together with the local level, the intensity of co-operation varies within Austria.

The reconciliation of topics between the regional and local levels is regarded as tasks of the TEPs and, therefore, funded by the Austrian Objective 3 programme, priority 6 (ESF, 2000-2006).

The TEP in Upper Austria decided to further devote their structures and called for co-operations on local level. The Regional management associations as well established local structures showed great interest in co-operating with the TEP on regional level. A co-operation was designed, which help both levels: the regional level gain local know-how and expertise and the local level can better bring in ideas from the ground.

WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THE DESIGN, MANAGEMENT AND DELIVERY OF THE PROGRAMME

Province Upper Austria (Department regional development), Public Employment Service, other members of TEP, Austrian Ministry for Economic Affairs and Labour, regional development associations.

RECOGNITION – HAS THE PROGRAMME BEEN



	<p>RECOGNISED AS GOOD PRACTICE? IF SO, BY WHOM?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from the nation-wide Coordination of the TEPs in Austria and Austrian Ministry (BMWA) is very positive concerning projects and strategies. • The Regional Management (RM) was asked to co-operate in 4 EQUAL-development partnerships and in one ESF-Art 6-project as they can ensure the contact to the broad local network. • RM was invited as good practice for the sustainability network Austria in 2004. • Recognised as good practice concerning integration of gender mainstreaming in regional development (BAB 2005)
<p>Policy context within which the programme operates</p>	<p>Is there an explicit relationship between policy priorities / local activities?</p> <p>The Austrian objective 3 programme (ESF 2000-2006) provides funding for technical assistance (priority 6 – TEPs), which is used for the implementation of the regional managers for employment (based at the Regional management associations- here: Verein Regionalforum) in Upper Austria. The main framework for our work is the European Employment Strategy.</p> <p>Is the policy context supportive / prohibitive?</p> <p>Very supportive to allow small regions and communities a strategic development instead of short-time, measure-oriented consulting. The funding period was very helpful for the building of local partnerships, which is necessary for the development of practical projects (and project funding).</p> <p>Has the policy context changed during the life of the activity</p> <p>The legal framework is still the same. Operational, short-time-oriented targets from some of the partner organisations make it harder to allow a long-time-view.</p> <p>Which came first – local activities or policy priorities (i.e. is activity leading or following policy priorities)?</p>



	Policy priorities have been very helpful for the local activities
Geographical focus of the case study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional management for employment: on NUTS 3 level Steyr-Kirchdorf (Upper Austria) • TEPs: provincial and local level
Impact	<p>Outputs – scale and scope of people reached through the programme</p> <p>About 100 local actors, enterprises, social partners per year implemented in local employment development process.</p> <p>3 – 5 projects per year started and have got additional funding (10.000,- - 1,5 mio €)</p> <p>Outcomes: at local level – what difference at local level and at regional and / or national level – what difference made?</p> <p>Partnership models, such as TEPs support local development policies. Through their designing and implementing of area-based development strategies, partnerships gain helpful know-how on local practices. The main tasks of TEPs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • co-ordinating partners and their topics; • developing joint work programmes (TEP-programme) and • Implementing the measures according to the emphasis of the TEPs. <p>In co-operating as partners, the TEPs contribute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to increase effectiveness and efficiency in the use of resources; • to improve the quality of support given to certain target groups; • to secure and create jobs; • to obtain funding for the regions and • To preserve in a sustainable manner the region as a place to live. <p>Any impact at European level?</p> <p>In recent years, partnerships have been successfully developed in many EU member and several non-member countries. Austria is among the few countries in the EU to push ahead employment</p>



	<p>agreements in the framework of former NAP, the National Action Plan for Employment. The Territorial Employment Pacts are in line with the European Employment Strategy and provide an essential instrument for the implementation of targets envisaged in the NAP. The NAP reconciles the aims of the employment policy, especially in terms of economic and structural policy, educational policy and regional policy. With the Territorial Employment Pacts, the NAP can point out in what form improved institutional reconciliation can be achieved between Federal Institutions, Provinces and Municipalities to secure and create jobs.</p> <p>Through their designing and implementing of area-based development strategies, partnerships gain helpful know-how on local development practices. However, this knowledge is not adequately exploited due to the weak linkages between partnerships themselves and between partnerships and government administrations. Therefore, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Economy and Labour together with the nation-wide Co-ordination Unit of TEPs in Austria proposed to create and support an OECD LEED Forum on Partnerships and Local Governance.</p> <p>The Forum on Partnerships and Local Governance (implemented at the Zentrum für Soziale Innovation – CSI, hosting also the nationwide Co-ordination Unit of TEPs in Austria) will seek to fill this gap and stimulate the exchange of know-how between relevant organisations throughout the OECD to ensure that: i) partnerships learn effectively from each other, and that ii) local development practitioners and policy-makers at all levels learn the lessons from the partnership experience. This will help make the best use of good practice and avoid costly failures. Central issues of concern will also be addressed through seminars and workshops.</p>
Partners' details	In total, we have approx. 100 partners on local level.

Theme-Specific Questions

Who was targeted by the programme?	<p>Name target group / groups</p> <p>Members of regionalforum from 3 political districts: 44 communities, political mandatory (regional and national level), public employment service, chambers for commerce, employees and agricultural non-profit organizations and associations for education, unemployment, women affairs and people with disabilities. Networks of</p>
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	enterprises, single enterprises as partner of employment activities (see below)
Which levels of government were involved, informed or consulted?	Land OÖ – economic department, regional development department, European coordination department, department for women’s affairs, department for social affairs BMWA (ministry) – department European cooperation, OEROK Austria – regional development studies, Bundessozialbehörde - vocational measures for youth with special needs Public employment service – regional office Steyr, Kirchdorf, Landesgeschäftsstelle Upper Austria
What actions resulted in mainstreaming?	Beginning in 3 regions, the programme has been replicated in 2 additional regions in upper Austria. Regman has been invited by regional government to coordinate local interests in all 4 equal partnerships in Upper Austria., in the ESF-art. 6programme and in RIO-projects (Efre innovative measures) .
Sustainability	Still in discussion because of new funding period.
Successes / lessons learned	<p>What contributed to the programme’s success? The 5-6 years period of strategic development work combined with practical project management has allowed an empowerment of the nuts-3-region for local employment development. The easy availability of project funding in LEADER –region was major point to realize innovative ideas and partnerships – especially for integrative rural, economic and employment development projects.</p> <p>What lessons have been learned? There are so many possibilities, potential partners and themes to develop locally – it is not easy to decide priorities. The priorities of regional partners and local regionalforum members (steering group) need to be agreed regularly. The “pioneer phase” from beginning in 2001 allowed to develop different strategies in the 3 regions and shows options. The points of interest of all local partnerships concentrate sooner or later on the 5 key targets of employment pact Upper Austria, but ask especially for integrative approaches (understanding, vision, and empowerment) on local level. The sale of measures (listed by the pact) needs local preparation to enlarge the level of acceptance, and should stay for a longer period than 6-12 month (like some of the measures do already)</p>



	<p>If you could do it again, what would you change?</p>
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For next period we try to focus clearly on key issues and key targets for our local partnership, and then concentrate on targets for the coordination/regional management.

The cooperation and communication between regional and local level would be strengthened.

