

Partnership and Collaboration is Key!

European Week of Regions and Cities

16th October, 2024 – Sombor, Serbia

Alexander Lesigang, Austrian Association of Cities and Towns (AACT)



ReSPA
Regional School
of Public Administration



With funding from

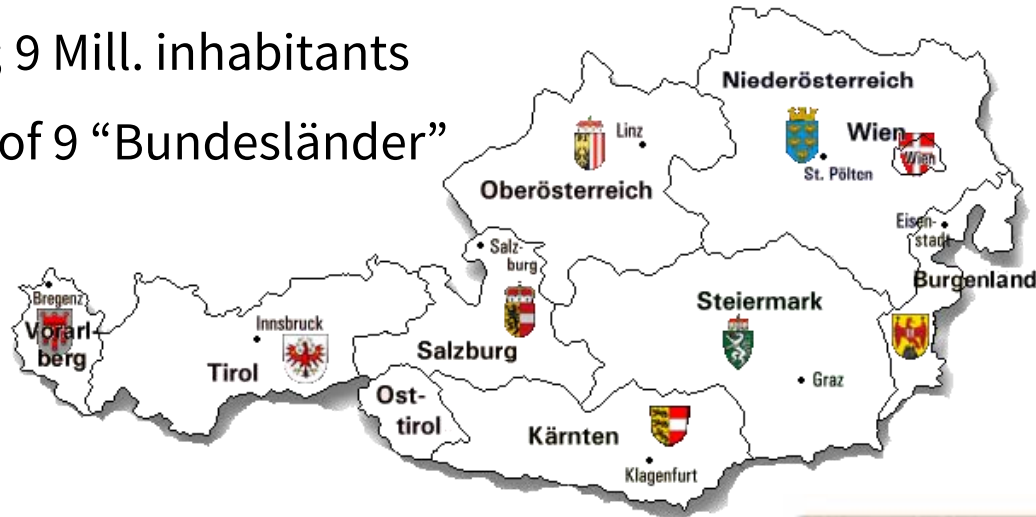


Austrian
Development
Cooperation

- The Austrian Association of Cities and Towns (AACT) and its role in capacity development at local level
- The BACID Project
- Future perspectives

Austria in Brief

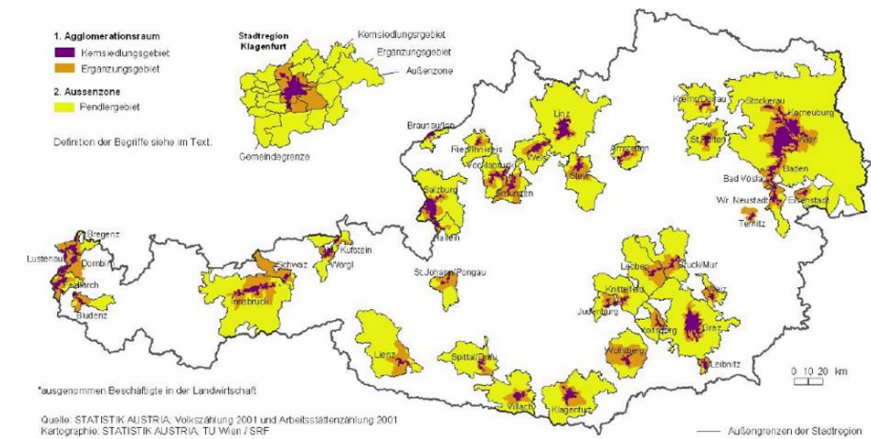
- 83.871 km²; 9 Mill. inhabitants
- Federation of 9 “Bundesländer”



- Vienna the only metropolitan area
- Functional urban regions as field of activity

- Small-scale municipal structure
- 2 Associations as representation of interests:
Austrian Association of Cities and Towns
Austrian Association of Municipalities

Österreich	
bis 100	7
101 bis 500	106
501 bis 1.000	302
1.001 bis 2.500	947
2.501 bis 5.000	472
5.001 bis 10.000	172
10.001 bis 20.000	60
20.001 bis 50.000	17
über 50.000	10
Gesamt	2.093



Austrian Association of Cities and Towns (Österreichischer Städtebund)

- Founded 1915
- Mainly representing urban interests
- 260 members (approx. 65% of the population)
- President **Dr Michael Ludwig**, Mayor of Vienna
- Secretary General **Dr Thomas Weninger**,
Head of office in Vienna City Hall
- 8 regional branches (Landesgruppen)



- *Both embodied in the federal constitution*
- *Partners in the negotiations for fiscal equalisation*
- *Representation to international organisations*
- *251 municipalities are double members*

Austrian Association of Municipalities

(“Österreichischer Gemeindebund”)

- Mainly representing rural interests
- 2082 members; approx. 72% of the population
- Federal structure

European Memberships and Activities

- Committee of Regions (EU)
- Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (Council of Europe)
- Council of European Municipalities and Regions
- Eurocities
- SGI Europe (former CEEP)
- NALAS



BACID 2015-ongoing

~140 activities

All BACID activities are carried out
with our local project partners
ReSPA and NALAS



ReSPA
Regional School
of Public Administration



Network of Associations of
Local Authorities of South-East Europe



BACID III – Building Administrative Capacities in the Danube Region

Objectives

- Improving **good public governance** in the Western Balkans & Republic of Moldova
- Increasing the **quality of public administration** and public services with the Common Assessment Framework (**CAF**)
- **Decentralisation** and **local autonomy** as key elements of the “Western European Democracy Model” and guarantors for the provision of high-quality local services



Network of Associations of
Local Authorities of South-East Europe



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The future existence of the Regional Quality Management Centre of ReSPA is assured and excellent CAF services are provided.



Effective CAF User Certification



CAF Implementation



CAF Network



CAF Mentoring



Publication and Dissemination



The institutional sustainability of NALAS is ensured through high competence in decentralisation and the provision of excellent services.

Digitalisation



Decentralisation



Decentralisation and Local Autonomy

• The Fiscal Decentralisation Report

- Development of local finance in South-East Europe (SEE) for the period 2006 – 2021
- Analysis of the intergovernmental fiscal relations in each of the SEE economies
- Major developments and challenges faced by local governments as regards the collection of local taxes, fees and charges.



• The third edition of the NALAS Statistical Brief: Local finance indicators in South-East Europe

- Overview of the size and structure of local governments in SEE
- Regional comparisons on the status and development of national and local government finance in SEE in 2021
- Patterns and evolution of national and local government revenues and expenditures for the period 2006-2021



Digitalisation and Smart Cities

- **Nalas Digitalisation Working Group**



(Study Visit – Linz and Vienna)

- **Digitalisation Study**



- **Smart Digital Pilots in Sombor and Delchevo**



(Innovative Elderly Care in Delchevo)

- **Additional factsheets on Digital Skills and AI**

Future perspectives....

Further Development of the NALAS Digitalisation Working Group, e.g., model of the AACT - Information Technology and Digitalisation Committee

- Municipal representatives gather two times per year and discuss recent communal regulation

Continuing to promote smart and sustainable solutions

Regional “Local Government Digitalisation Hub”

Thank you for the attention!



Alexander Lesigang

**Austrian Association
of Cities and Towns**

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