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# Austria – Urban and Rural Challenges

Urban and Rural – a complex neighbourhood in Austria

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**Austrian Association of Cities and Towns**

# Austrian Association of Cities and Towns

## *Voice Of Austria's Urban Heartbeat*

- *established in 1915*
- *250 member municipalities*
- *based in Vienna*
- *President Dr. Michael Ludwig, Mayor of Vienna*
- *Secretary General heads an office with 20 employees*
- *eight regional groups*
- *representation of cities towards federal states, federal government, and European institutions (EU and Council of Europe)"*
- *extern office in Brussels*
- *activities: Evaluation of legislative proposals, exchange of information between cities (numerous committees), public relations in the interest of cities, maintenance of international contacts"*



# Austria's “Reality” - Forests, Cities, and ... Exploding Trees



- In Austria .....
- .... *“they live in the forest “.....*
- .... *“they have forest cities” .....*
- .... *“surrounded by exploding trees in these areas”*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGpWWq5JQJE>

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# The Dance of the “ 9 Bundesländer ”



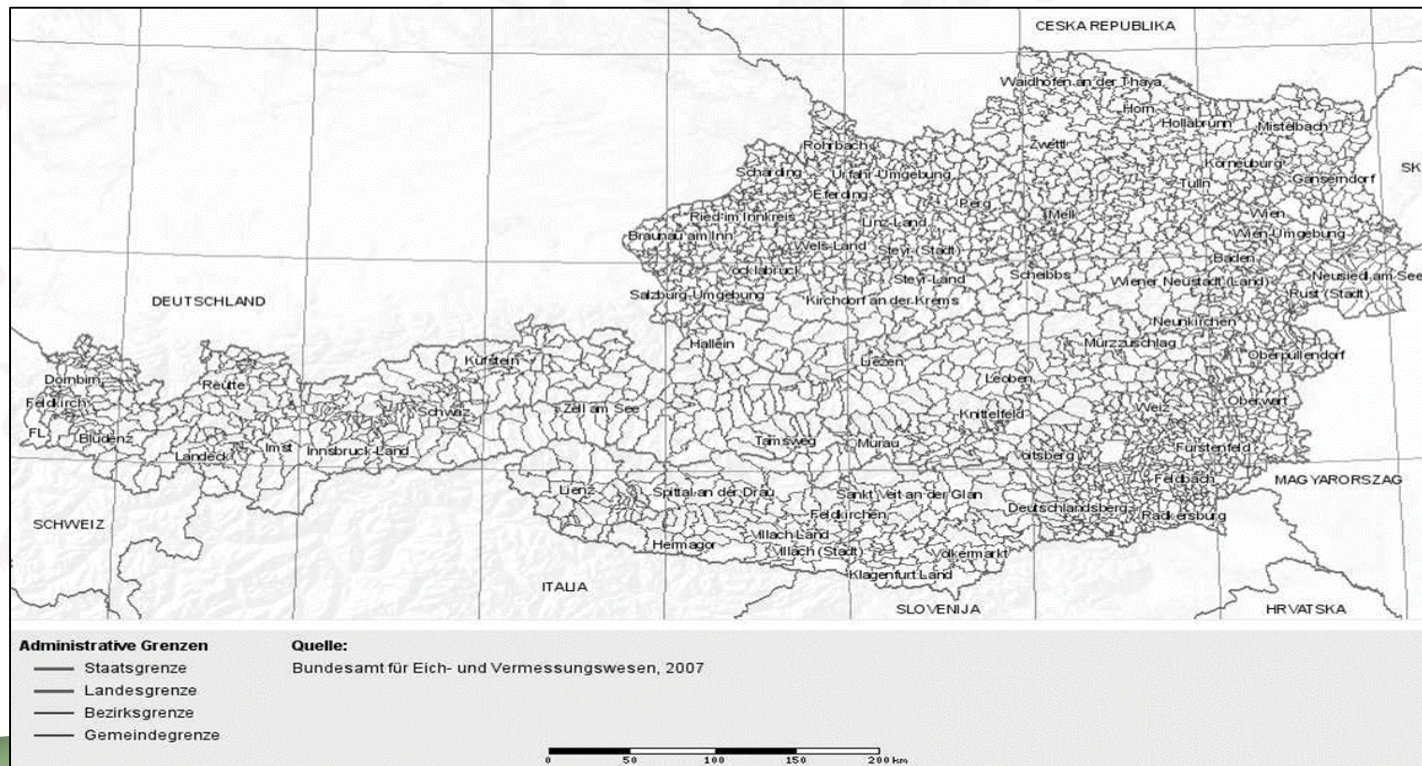
# Districts (“politische Bezirke”)

- administrative units



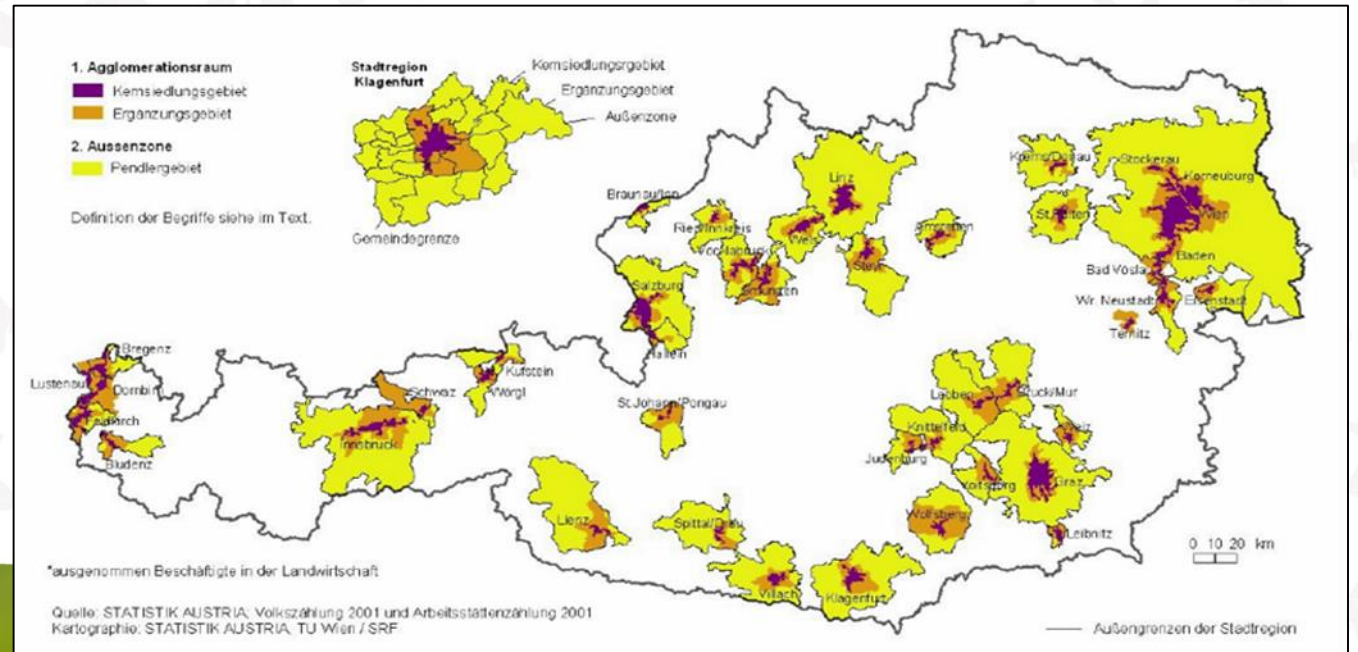


# 2,093 municipalities in Austria the Kaleidoscope of Communities...



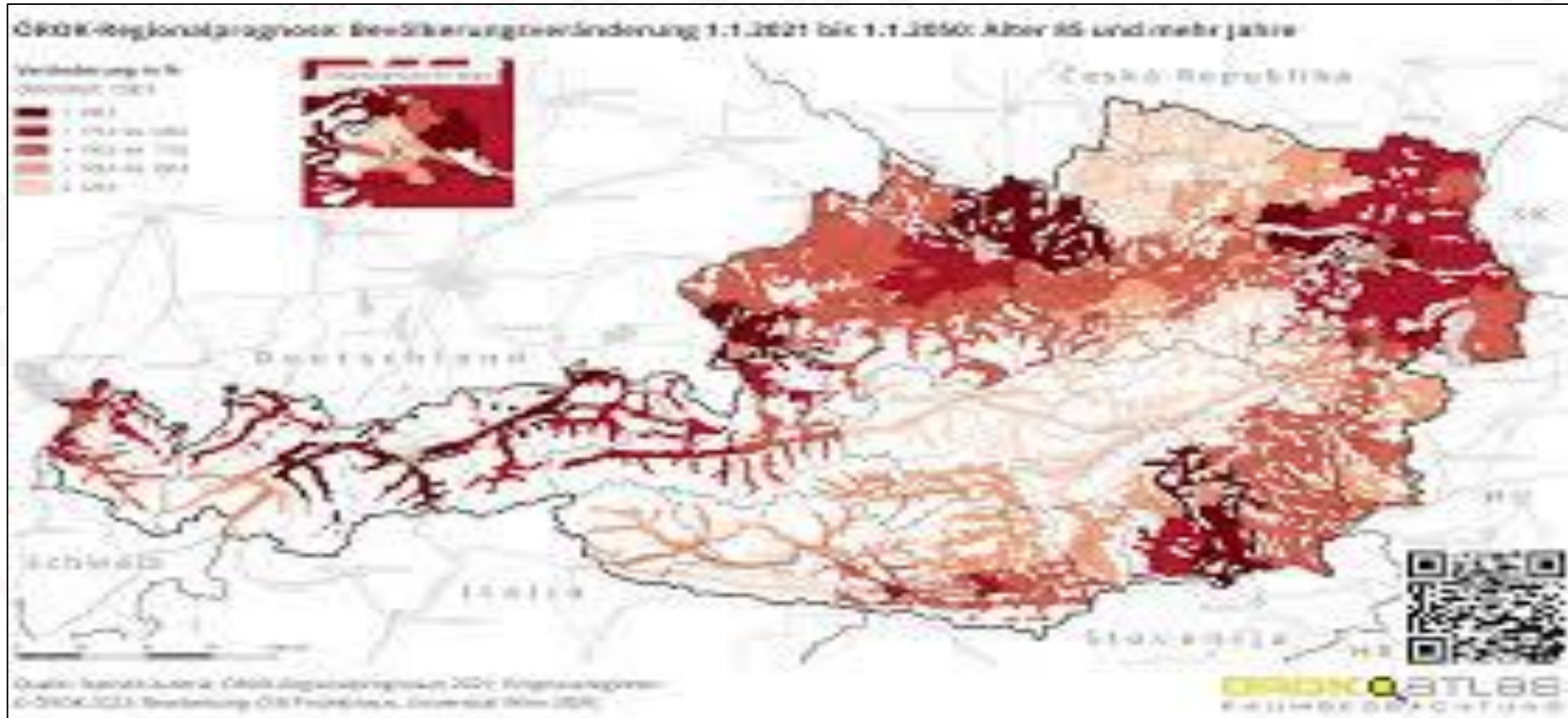
# ..... everyone is different

- **89 municipalities** over 10.000 inhabitants – **10 municipalities** more than 50.000 inhabitants
- **15 cities** with their own statutes
- **201 Stadtgemeinden** – 201 town municipalities
- **250 members** in the Austrian Association Of Cities and Towns
- functional regions





# Population Development in Austria: Projections and Implications





# Urban Development - Highlights

- Vienna as the “Beating Heart of Innovation” -capital city and economic heart
- High quality of life, cultural offerings, innovation
- Sustainable urban development: Public transport, green spaces, eco-buildings, Social Housing,

# Rural Development - Highlights

- Demographic Change and Community Engagement
- Agricultural Modernisation und Sustainability
- Economic Diversification and Tourism
- Innovation and Infrastructure Development
- LEADER Program and Local Development



# Common Challenges, United Strategies

- Climate change, digitalization, demographic change
- EU support for inclusive development
- Digital Transformation in Public Services
- Innovative Mobility Solutions
- Focus on Resilient Infrastructure

# Urban-Rural Strategies – “Hand in Hand”

- City and countryside hand in hand in Austria – for a resilient community
- Example “City Region Graz” – creating synergies, sharing resources
- Joint management of pandemic crisis and climate adaption
- Aging requires interconnected health and care services



# Cooperation Strategies – Building Bridges

- Our strategy: sustainability, integration, innovation
- For example “Seestadt Aspern” in Vienna
- Public transport in Austria
- Municipal Waste and Wastewater Management
- Social Housing
- Budget Transparency with Open Spending Austria

- Austria's path forward
- The “*15–Minute City*” as a model – everything important close and accessible
- Intermunicipal Cooperation
- Answer to the pandemic efforts, climate change and aging





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**MUCHAS GRACIAS | *THANK YOU VERY MUCH!***

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