

## D.1.2.1

# Development of regional stakeholder reports Austria



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## **Chapter 1: Abstract**

In Austria it is a continuing trend that the older population is increasing and the younger population is decreasing. This trend is mainly driven through increasing life expectancy, low fertility and increasing migration. A large part of the population lives in rural Austria but also a relatively high proportion of added value is achieved there. The partnerships between the state and the city are being promoted centrally at federal and state levels as well as bilaterally between neighbouring communities at local levels. In Austria exist three important strategies concerning: *Bioeconomy Strategy*, *#mission2030: die österreichische Klima- und Energiestrategie* and *Aufschwung für den ländlichen Raum*. All strategies were developed for the national level, but most of them are implemented also regional level. Austria strives to promote bioeconomy, minimise rural exodus and also strengthen urban-rural cooperation through policies, legislation and research. Particular emphasis should be made of the universities and research centres, which play a pioneering role in Austria. Austria is also trying to strengthen the environmental conditions. For example, through sustainable agriculture and preservation of the forest. In chapter four, most important stakeholder groups are described, from the Cluster Organization's point of view. In the annex, a stakeholdermatrix can be found, that illustrates the whole possible potential in the field of biobased circular economy, to be developed via participative governance schemes. Generally spoken, it can be said, that there is a lot of potential in this aspect, but the whole transformation process needs to be guided by experts, in order to efficiently and sustainably implement biobased circular economy schemes with participatory and transparent decision-making processes.

## **Chapter 2: Definitions**

### **Chapter 2.1: Circular Bioeconomy**

The following definition is based on the bioeconomy strategy for Austria created by the federal ministry for sustainability and tourism (2019).

Bioeconomy stands for an economic concept that aims to replace fossil resources (raw materials and energy sources) with renewable raw materials in as many areas and applications as possible. It covers all

industrial and economic sectors that produce, process, handle or use biological resources. The bioeconomy thus offers a great opportunity to tackle global challenges, such as increasing climate change, food and water scarcity or growing environmental pollution, while at the same time strengthening economic development, especially in rural areas.

A bioeconomy encompasses the production, development and use of biological resources, processes and systems to provide products, processes and services in all economic sectors as part of a sustainable circular economic system. It holds the potential for sustainable and circular solutions that conserve resources while creating wealth. For the bioeconomy, scientists are not only researching the diverse processes and living things on our planet. They are combining their newfound understanding of biological processes with the latest technologies to produce innovations for a bio-based circular economy. However, the transition to a circular bioeconomy means profound social change.

The concept of the bioeconomy includes raw material sources (agriculture and forestry, water management and waste) as well as the use of these bio-based raw materials (food and feed, chemicals, materials, energy). The objective is a circular economic system that reconciles technology and ecology and interacts with the requirements and developments of the European research and economic area. These goals can only be achieved if, in addition to the decarbonisation of the energy system, fossil raw materials are largely replaced in all everyday products. To ensure this, three levels must be addressed:

- Increase of efficiency at all levels of the value chain, from raw material generation, logistics and material use to energy recovery, as well as rethinking of consumer behaviour with regard to extending the lifetime of products
- Exploitation of all renewable raw material sources through the use of residues, by-products, wastes and the production of new raw materials, such as algae
- Highlighting the opportunities for replacing fossil with renewable, bio-based resources

In order to make the step towards the implementation of the knowledge-based bioeconomy – involving the relevant stakeholders and using all political instruments –, the Government has undertaken in the government programme to create a strategy for bioeconomy in Austria. This Austrian Bioeconomy Strategy is intended to be an essential cornerstone of the Climate and Energy Strategy and to support the decarbonisation of the economic system.

#### Objectives and examples of a Circular Bioeconomy Strategy

The objective of a bioeconomy strategy is to identify concrete measures for the further establishment of the bioeconomy in Austria in order to generate sustained growth spurts for bio-based products, bioenergy and related technologies and services. The bioeconomy strategy is aimed at all relevant players in agriculture, forestry, water and waste management, processing and especially retail sectors, as well as consumers who should benefit from the advantages of bio-based products. The graphic below shows the target areas of the Austrian Bioeconomy Strategy.



Presentation of the Target Areas of the Austrian Bioeconomy Strategy (2019)

## Chapter 2.2: Contemporary processes

### a) Demographic change:

The demographic development in Austria has been showing a steady trend for decades with an increasing proportion of the older and a decreasing proportion of the younger generation.

The demographic development is largely shaped by the following three trends<sup>1</sup>:

- Increasing life expectancy: Life expectancy increases on average by two years per decade. It is currently 77.7 years for men and 83.1 years for women
- Low fertility: The "fertility rate" in Austria is 1.44 children per woman, which is well below the reproductive level
- Increasing migration: The population growth in Austria is mainly based on positive net migration. Without immigration, the Austrian population would stagnate or shrink in the medium to long term.

These change processes have far-reaching effects on our society, including on the economy, companies and the labor market, on politics and social systems.

In 2019, around 58.5 percent of the population in Austria lived in cities and the trend was rising<sup>2</sup>. Now, however, due to the corona pandemic, the trend seems to be changing. 43% of property seekers wanted a house or apartment in the countryside in 2020<sup>3</sup> especially due to the attraction of rural living.

With around 312,000 jobs, the Upper Austrian central area is one of the economically strongest and fastest developing small regions in all of Europe. The close interweaving of urban density and extensive rural open space for business settlement, suburban development as well as for local supply and recreation makes this space exquisite<sup>3</sup>. However, the income differences between lower incomes in rural areas and higher incomes in urban areas are still significant. In consequence there is still a trend towards urban areas but the attraction of the suburban regions with the positive characteristics of rural areas but also good working conditions is rising.

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<sup>1</sup> As of 20.05.2020 the WKO listed on its website [https://news.wko.at/news/oesterreich/Demografische\\_Entwicklung\\_in\\_Oesterreich.html](https://news.wko.at/news/oesterreich/Demografische_Entwicklung_in_Oesterreich.html)

<sup>2</sup> As of 20.05.2020 the statistica listed on its website <https://de.statista.com/statistik/daten/studie/217716/umfrage/urbanisierung-in-oesterreich/>

<sup>3</sup> As of 20.05.2020 the Verein Stadtmarketing Austria listed on its website <https://www.stadtmarketing.eu/urbanisierung/>

The following table shows a SWOT Analysis of the demographic structure and development of rural areas in Upper Austria<sup>4</sup>

<b>Strength</b>	<b>Weakness</b>
Dynamic population development in well-developed regions especially in urban regions including dynamic development in the urban surrounding regions	Population losses or lower growth dynamics in the peripheral and / or economically weak Sub-regions, associated with unfavorable age structures Less dynamic in the core cities
<b>Chances</b>	<b>Risks</b>
Attractiveness, especially in urban areas Immigration	The proportion of older people is increasing More emigration, aging Social integration needs

## **b) Rural development:**

Locally produced economic development strategies:

- Österreichische Programm für die Entwicklung des Ländlichen Raums (ÖPUL) 2014-2020 (national)
- LEADER 2014–2020 Programme: Various projects in rural areas
- Masterplan für den ländlichen Raum<sup>5</sup> (national)
- Regional Managements

In 2019, around 58.5% of the population in Austria lived in cities. The degree of urbanization thus reached a new high<sup>6</sup> and the economic performance in rural areas is far below urban areas. However compared to other European countries a large part of the population lives in rural Austria but also a relatively high proportion of added value is achieved there. Since joining the EU, economic output per inhabitant and the volume of employment in rural areas have increased slightly faster than in the other areas. The gap between rural areas and the rest is therefore narrowing<sup>7</sup>. Furthermore, Austria's rural population is the least at risk of poverty across Europe only 14,1% are affected by poverty or social

<sup>4</sup> Amt der Oberösterreichischen Landesregierung, 2009

<sup>5</sup> BMLRT. Bundesministerium für Landwirtschaft, Regionen und Tourismus, 2017

<sup>6</sup> Martin Mohr, as of 06.07.2020 the de.statista listed on its website, <https://de.statista.com/statistik/daten/studie/217716/umfrage/urbanisierung-in-oesterreich/>

<sup>7</sup> Sinabell 2006, 1-12

exclusion.<sup>8</sup> One factor in preventing poverty is work. With 68.9 % employment in the city, Austria is below the EU average of 70%, while in rural areas with 77.6 % employment rate is significantly higher than the EU average<sup>8</sup>.

#### Economic Drivers

- Digitalisation: Upper Austria is investing 100 Million Euros in the expansion of a high-performance broadband connection<sup>9</sup>,
- Rural regions show clear tendencies towards urban lifestyles. Urbanization processes are repeated in medium-sized towns in rural regions, and increasing commuter radius enable massive changes in settlement structures<sup>10</sup>.
- In addition to the intact landscape, attractive cities and cultural assets, tourism and leisure activities are increasingly among the soft location factors in regional competition<sup>10</sup>.
- Large shopping centers and infrastructures in the leisure and tourism industries promote spatial specialization. On the one hand, they can represent an important economic factor, but on the other hand, they can lead to an economic decline of traditional city and town centers and the small-scale trade structures in smaller communities<sup>7</sup>.
- A persistent, intensifying separation of the existential functions of living - working - leisure leads to the impairment of living spaces, to high traffic volumes and social inequalities in space - decentralized supply systems decrease<sup>10</sup>.

To contribute the improving of the quality of life and economic well-being the government of Austria together with a high level of citizen participation developed a Masterplan for the rural area identifying 20 points were to work on and how to improve rural life and economy. The implementation of this master plan is currently in progress<sup>10</sup>. The current strengths of rural areas such as the attractive landscape and life close to nature are just as anchored in it as well as other high potentials of these areas (decentralized administration, cross-community cooperation, digitalisation, natural resources, land consumption, mobility, health care and care for the elderly, economy, volunteering, food, culture and education)

#### **c) Rural-urban cooperation:**

The partnerships between the state and the city are being promoted centrally at federal and state levels as well as bilaterally between neighbouring communities at local levels. Only through joint planning can

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<sup>8</sup> Österreichischer Gemeindebund, as of 23.03.2021 the <https://gemeindegund.at/oesterreich-geringste-armut-am-land/>

<sup>9</sup> As of 23.02.2021 the State Government of Upper Austria listed on its website, <https://www.thomas-stelzer.at/digitalisierung-gemeinden-regionen/>

<sup>10</sup> Amt der Oberösterreichischen Landesregierung, 2011

the attractiveness of the location and competitiveness of both regions - city and rural area - be increased. The different functions of the regions require cooperation.

In Austria, regional governance has established itself as a form of territorial multi-level governance. People work together in public and private institutions to implement their interests on a regional level. Regional development is therefore the result of cooperation between administration, politics and private organizations<sup>11</sup>.

Intermunicipal cooperation in Upper Austria:

- Urban-rural cooperation: Funding of intercommunal implementation projects in the Upper Austrian city regions based on existing city regional strategies (joint infrastructure projects and investment-projects)<sup>12</sup>

In 2017 there were a total of 13 such collaborations in Upper Austria. Due to their close interdependencies and their mutual dependency, city-surrounding areas are ideally suited for inter-municipal cooperation<sup>13</sup>.

- Provincial law on cooperation between district administrative authorities in Upper Austria (Upper Austrian District Administrative Authorities Cooperation Act - Upper Austria BVB-KG): The law obliges administrative cooperation between the district authorities and the cities to reduce procedural times and resources<sup>14</sup>.
- Cooperation between cities and their surrounding communities is essential especially in matters of spatial planning. Particularly in urban regions with high development dynamics but limited space resources, cooperation between the cities and the surrounding communities is a prerequisite for mastering these challenges as best as possible<sup>13</sup>.
- Stronger cooperation in the field of culture: cooperation between region Upper Austria and the city Linz<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Pohn-Weidinger, 2003

<sup>12</sup> As of 02.20.2020 the the State Government of Upper Austria listed on its website <https://www.land-oberoesterreich.gv.at/198679.htm>.

<sup>13</sup> As of 23.02.2021 the the State Government of Upper Austria listed on its website <https://www.land-oberoesterreich.gv.at/191923.htm>

<sup>14</sup> As of 23.02.2021 the the State Government of Upper Austria listed on its website <https://www.land-oberoesterreich.gv.at/208138.htm>

<sup>15</sup> As of 23.02.2021 the the State Government of Upper Austria listed on its website <https://www.land-oberoesterreich.gv.at/198942.htm>

- Cooperation in the operation of sewage systems

The settlement of federal and state institutions as well as outsourced organizations in regions is an effective instrument of structural policy. This will create additional jobs in the newly established facilities and create attractive prospects for university graduates and qualified specialists in the region. Through decentralization in business and administration and rural-urban partnerships, the regional innovative capacity is generally strengthened and economic development is positively influenced<sup>16</sup>. A relocation of authorities in rural areas as well as a closer rural-urban partnership should support the optimization of the administration or the increase of its efficiency.

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<sup>16</sup> Studie „Dezentralisierungspotenziale in der Bundesverwaltung – Zahlen und Fakten“ des Institutes für Föderalismus und Institutes für Verwaltungsmanagement, 2017

## Chapter 3: Key determinants of the regional/country governance system

### a) Political conditions (strategic level)

Name of policy or strategy:	Bioeconomy Strategy
Relation to demographic change	
Relation to rural development	
Relation to circular bioeconomy	In addition to efficiency, sufficiency measures as well as circulatory concepts are essential pillars of the Bioeconomy Strategy. In the Bioeconomy Strategy five fields of actions are stated in relation with circular bioeconomy.
Implementation	This strategy provides orientation for all fields of action relevant to the bioeconomy up to 2030. Building on this, the preparation of a bioeconomy action plan was started in 2019, which is aimed at all relevant actors in this field.
Territorial level	National
Interactions between levels	Interaction with regional level:  In principle, the bioeconomy strategy is designed for the whole of Austria, but priorities are also set in the individual federal provinces in connection with this strategy.
Relation to S3	S3 Upper Austria: #upperVISION2030  In the #upperVISION2030, there is a field of action called <i>efficient and sustainable industry and production</i> . In this field, there are some concrete measures that are related to bioeconomy and are therefore connected to the bioeconomy strategy.

Name of policy or strategy:	#mission2030: die österreichische Klima- und Energiestrategie
Relation to demographic change	
Relation to rural development	
Relation to circular bioeconomy	In this strategy, a circular bioeconomy is mentioned as a goal with regard to waste management. The development of the Bioeconomy Strategy is stated as a flagship project of #mission2030. It is also stated that it is possible to get through bioeconomy to a biobased Economic Cycle.
Implementation	To solve the urgent challenges, especially in the transport sector, various federal ministries in cooperation with the federal states and municipalities have process to draw up an action plan for "competitive and clean mobility 2030".
Territorial level	National
Interactions between levels	<p>Interaction with regional level:</p> <p>Austria's provinces, cities and municipalities are important partners for the transformation of the energy system and climate protection. Many of them have developed their own energy, mobility and/or climate strategies with concrete targets.</p> <p>The Austrian climate and energy strategy is intended to create a framework for the federal provinces, cities and municipalities and support them in their efforts; this applies in particular to the further development of action plans.</p> <p>One objective of this strategy is to further expand biomass, solar thermal energy and ambient heat by 2030.</p> <p>This will be defined in a national heat strategy together with the federal</p>

	provinces.
Relation to S3	S3 Upper Austria: #upperVISION2030  #upperVISION2030: there is the action framework <i>energy optimisation</i> , which is related to the climate and energy strategy. For example, #upperVISION2030 mentions the measure <i>Development of new energy-optimised processes and materials</i> .
Name of policy or strategy:	Aufschwung für den ländlichen Raum
Relation to demographic change	It is stated that Austria's demographic development is characterised by strong growth in the large cities and simultaneous population decline in peripheral rural regions. Rural areas lose more than 5,000 well-educated people annually to the Vienna metropolitan area alone.
Relation to rural development	The whole strategy was set up to strengthen the rural areas and their development. It is for example stated that rural areas need more possibilities for mobility and that it is urgent and a goal to stop the loss of doctors in rural regions.
Relation to circular bioeconomy	
Implementation	It is not known whether there is an action plan for this strategy.
Territorial level	National
Interactions between levels	Interaction with regional level:  In this strategy it is mentioned that the creation of a decentralisation concept involving the administrative organisations and the federal provinces is a goal. This will bring competences and qualified jobs (back) to the federal provinces. In connection with a location concept for administrative

	institutions, competence regions are to be created.
Relation to S3	<p>S3 Upper Austria: #upperVISION2030</p> <p>In the strategy <i>Aufschwung für den ländlichen Raum</i>, there is a focus on the topic of digitalisation, and digital transformation is also one of the fields of action in the #upperVISION2030.</p> <p>In the strategy <i>Aufschwung für den ländlichen Raum</i>, there is a focus on the topic of mobility, and connected and efficient mobility is also one of the fields of action in the #upperVISION2030.</p>

## b) Legal conditions (operational level)

The Austrian Climate and Energy Strategy lists a number of legal framework conditions that are (to be) implemented and are related to the bioeconomy.

### New Energy law on 2020:

A new, comprehensive energy law enables the implementation of the targets for the expansion of renewable energy in Austria.

### Newly constructed buildings:

Buildings constructed after 2020 - which will thus not be subject to comprehensive refurbishment until 2050 - are to have the highest efficiency standards. These buildings are to manage without the use of fossil fuels for space heating, hot water and cooling.<sup>17</sup>

A general inertia of the political-social system is seen as a major obstacle to the further development of bioeconomy in Austria. This inertia is caused, among other things, by the defence of existing interests, but also by structures (such as federalism or social partnership) that lead to holding on to the status quo and prevent more far-reaching reforms.

The Waste Management Law was cited as another example of an obstacle. This is seen as an obstacle in its existing form, as it stipulates that waste may not be recycled economically. Although there are

<sup>17</sup> Bundesministerium für Nachhaltigkeit und Tourismus, 2018

possibilities to get waste out of the waste regime and recycle it as residual materials, it is difficult, especially for smaller companies, to take advantage of this option. <sup>18</sup>

### c) Socio-economic conditions

The table below shows the current socio-economic situation in Austria. In 2019, Austria had an increase in real gross national product of 1.6%. According to IHS, this has decreased by 7.3% in 2020 and will then increase again by 5.8% in 2021. Thus, a clear impact of COVID-19 can be observed.

A change can also be seen in the unemployment rate. This was 7.4% in 2019, projected to be 10.2% in 2020 and 9.2% in 2021. <sup>19</sup>

	2019	2020	2021
Gross national product, real <sup>1</sup>	1,6	-7,3	5,8
Unemployment rate <sup>2</sup>	7,4	10,2	9,2

1 change compared to the previous year

2 absolute figures

Closely related to the unemployment rate is the risk of poverty or exclusion in Austria, which shows a regionally uneven distribution with regard to the factor of origin. Households in Vienna (28%) or in municipalities with more than 100,000 inhabitants (21%) showed a significantly higher risk of poverty or exclusion than municipalities with fewer inhabitants and especially small municipalities with less than 10,000 inhabitants (12%). The risk of poverty or exclusion is thus primarily an urban problem. <sup>20</sup>  
90 % of the federal territory of Austria is rural. <sup>21</sup>

In the meantime, about 30 % of all political districts and more than 40 % of all municipalities are facing a population decline. The largest out-migration losses of young people from the predominantly rural regions exist in the age group 20-24 years. <sup>22</sup>

Bioeconomy product fields are already in demand as export goods, and all the associated economic sectors account for around 8 % of Austria's gross national product. <sup>23</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Schriefl, 2016

<sup>19</sup> Fuchs et al, n.d.

<sup>20</sup> Statistik Austria, 2020

<sup>21</sup> Bundesministerium Für Land- Und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt Und Wasserwirtschaft und Edelweiß Consulting, 2017

<sup>22</sup> Hiess et al., 2017

<sup>23</sup> Denkstatt, 2018

Indicator	2018	EU 28
Generated municipal waste (kg per capita)	500 <sup>24</sup>	491 (2018) <sup>25</sup>
Recycling rate of municipal waste (%)	57,7 <sup>24</sup>	46,8 (2018) <sup>25</sup>
Food waste generated (thousand tons)	157 <sup>26</sup>	80,000 (2018) <sup>25</sup>

#### d) Technological conditions

Austria's (public) universities have already positioned themselves as competence centres for bioeconomy in recent years. One third of them are active in the field of bioeconomy.<sup>27</sup>

Austria's particular areas of strength are the paper and pulp industry, the construction, insulation and wood sectors, the basic chemical industry with products such as fibres, plastics or biofuels, and the use of bioenergy.

Development potentials in areas of bioeconomy have already been identified in numerous analyses and exist in Austria, for example, in the area of timber construction in combination with other natural building and insulation materials. Research, development and innovations can also be built on in the area of bio-based materials and bio-based plastics.<sup>23</sup>

The Christian Doppler Laboratories (CDL) and Josef Ressel Centres (JR Centres) play an outstanding role in the cooperation between science (focused on basic research) and business. Under the leadership of highly qualified scientists, research groups work in close contact with businesses on innovative answers to entrepreneurial research questions. Numerous CDL and JR centres are funded in the thematic area of bioeconomy, currently 16 CD laboratories and 4 JR centres, with the participation of 11 universities and 35 companies.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>24</sup> As of 23.03.2021 the Österreichischer Wasser- und Abfallwirtschaftsverband (ÖWAV) listed on its' website <https://rundgehts.at/zahlen-und-fakten/>

<sup>25</sup> As of 23.03.2021 the Republic of Slovenia listed on its' website <https://www.stat.si/StatWeb/en/News/Index/9406>

<sup>26</sup> As of 23.03.2021 the City of Vienna listed on its' website <https://www.wien.gv.at/umweltschutz/abfall/lebensmittel/fakten.html>

<sup>27</sup> As of 24.02.2021 the Federal Ministry Republic of Austria Education, Science and Research listed on its' website <https://www.bmbwf.gv.at/Themen/HS-Uni/Hochschulgovernance/Leitthemen/Nachhaltigkeit/Bio%C3%B6konomiestrategie.html>

<sup>28</sup> "Fact Sheet Bioökonomie", n.d.

## e) Environmental conditions

In 2016, around 162,000 agricultural and forestry enterprises were registered in Austria. The area used for agriculture per farm has doubled in the past 60 years, yet domestic agriculture still has a small structure. The distribution of farmed land in 2016 was as follows: 2.7 million ha (37%) agricultural land, 3.4 million ha (47%) forest; other land accounted for 1.2 million ha (16%). In 2018, the production value of agriculture was around 7.4 billion euros.<sup>29</sup>

Since joining the EU in 1995, Austria has also been part of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and receives payments from this budget. In the budget period 2014 to 2020, Austria received 4.8 billion euros. A large share of this money, 3.1 billion euros, is earmarked for the promotion of environmentally sound agriculture and supports farmers, for example, in doing without pesticides, greening fields over the winter, using beneficial organisms in protected cultivation or preserving endangered livestock breeds.<sup>30</sup>

With the Austrian Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan, both pillars of the CAP, i.e. direct payments and market measures from the 1st pillar and rural development measures from the 2nd pillar, are implemented in a joint plan for the first time. In accordance with EU requirements, many instruments will be further developed in the direction of climate protection.

The following measures will be new:

- Air pollution control and ammonia avoidance
- Biodiversity areas (DIV) on arable land and grassland: DIV at least 7% (possibility up to 20%)  
Obligation to maintain grassland

## Chapter 4: Stakeholder inventory

Generally, it can be stated, that there is little to none experience in the field of circular biobased economy – with special regard to participative governance – among the Stakeholders.

Following Subgroups of the stakeholders are described in the following.

Stakeholder Group	Industry
Stakeholder Subgroup	Cluster
Position in the Network	Cluster organizations have an important role as networkers in Upper Austria. The scope of tasks of the clusters is adapted according to the S3 of

<sup>29</sup> Bundesministerium für Nachhaltigkeit und Tourismus, 2019

<sup>30</sup> As of 24.02.2021 Global 2000 listed on its' website <https://www.global2000.at/gemeinsame-agrarpolitik>

	the province of Upper Austria. Thus, all business-supporting activities are bundled in a targeted manner. If possible, funding instruments will also be aligned on this basis in order to be able to offer financial support.
Importance for GoDanuBio	The network of clusters interlocks in Upper Austria and comprises more than 2500 partner companies. Although circular bio-based economy is gradually becoming a concept for companies, this economic concept still has to be implemented in many areas. The cluster organizations will have to make an important contribution to networking with relevant stakeholders - especially with regard to participatory forms of governance. Experience shows that cluster partner companies also have a certain status in the business world that makes it easier to approach other stakeholders through cluster coordination.

Stakeholder Group	Academia
Stakeholder Subgroup	Educational Institutions
Position in the Network	From the perspective of the cluster initiatives, educational institutions are an important link between business and research. In addition, trainees can already enter into cooperation with potential future employers during their training in the respective subject area, in the context of a final thesis or academic thesis. Thus, these reciprocal relationships are important interfaces in Austria.
Importance for GoDanuBio	Teachers as well as pupils and students can be involved in workshops in a targeted way in order to be able to incorporate a variety of aspects and ideas. For example, current and planned research projects with companies can so be included in considerations.

Stakeholder Group	Public
Stakeholder Subgroup	Regional Institutions
Position in the Network	Business Upper Austria has maintained close cooperation with the departments of the provincial government from the very beginning. This is not only due to the objectives of the S3, but also due to the comprehensive expertise of the experts of the state government.
Importance for	Agriculture and forestry play an important role in Austria. Many activities

GoDanuBio	and efforts of the envisaged bioeconomy strategy should build on this. Consequently, all relevant stakeholders of the respective relevant departments of the Office of the Provincial Government and the regional workshops for the development of participatory forms of governance must be involved at an early stage
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Stakeholder Group	Society
Stakeholder Subgroup	NGOs
Position in the Network	From the perspective of the food and cleantech clusters, NGOs play a subordinate role in their field of activity. Specialist events and research commissions are often dealt with in cooperation.
Importance for GoDanuBio	No advantages to be expected for either side.

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