



THE STATE OF NATIONAL URBAN POLICY IN AUSTRIA

Name of national urban policy	<i>Austrian Spatial Development Concept (ÖREK 2011)</i>
Date of national urban policy	2011-2020
Explicit or partial	Partial
Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.)	Voluntary strategic planning instrument
Previous/secondary policies	<i>Local Urban Renewal Schemes; formulation of Agglomeration Policy; Integrated Transport Service and Tariff System</i>
Stage of development	Implementation
How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.)	Participatory process with members at multiple levels of government
Implementing body	As the ÖREK does not have the character of a national programme there is no specific implementing body
Government system	Federal
Type of national urban agency	Not existent
Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination)	Co-ordinated by the Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning (ÖROK); voluntary, consensus-based agreement

Current national urban policy

Austria does not have a national urban policy, but the *Austrian Spatial Development Concept (ÖREK 2011)*, covers urban areas, and includes the development of an Austrian agglomeration policy (OECD, 2015). *ÖREK 2011* (covering 2011-2020) is a voluntary, consensus-based agreement among members of the Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning (ÖROK) (Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning, 2011).

ÖREK 2011 provides strategic guidance to steer spatial planning and development at national, *Länder* and city/municipal levels. Its main objectives include compact and polycentric settlement structures; the development of infrastructure along high-capacity axes to support a network of small and medium-sized municipalities and to promote urban-rural linkages; strengthened regional development; and the management of population growth. Actions to meet these objectives are organised under four strands:

1. **regional and national competitiveness**, including innovation and infrastructure development;
2. **social diversity and solidarity**, including social integration, provision of basic services, and spatial planning that manages growth and improves quality of life in urban areas;
3. **climate change, adaptation and resource efficiency**, including energy self-sufficiency, protection of open space and spaces at risk of natural disasters, and sustainable mobility; and
4. **co-operative and efficient handling structures**, including strengthening regional planning, developing an agglomeration policy for all of Austria, and partnerships between rural and urban regions (Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning, 2011).

ÖREK 2011 emphasises coherence between multiple levels of government and participation by non-governmental stakeholders. It is intended to inform and foster co-operation among the federal government, *Länder*, cities, municipalities and stakeholder representatives in the development and implementation of spatial strategies (Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning, 2011).

Some sectoral policies also address policies relevant to urban areas, including the *Integrated Transport Service and Tariff Systems*, which is co-funded by national and local governments (UN-Habitat, 2015). One of the ÖREK 2011 implementing partnerships is currently addressing city region policy issues.

Areas covered by current urban policy

Sector	Sectoral representation in the Austrian Spatial Development Concept ÖREK 2011
Economic development	Extensive
Spatial structure	Extensive
Human development	Extensive
Environmental sustainability	Extensive
Climate resilience	Moderate

Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The *Spatial Development Concept (ÖREK 2011)* includes the following characteristics:

Criteria for national urban policies	Appears in the policy
Responds to population dynamics	X
Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages)	X
Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities	X
Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space)	X
Promotes urban land-use efficiency	
Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change	X
Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment)	
Promotes effective municipal finance systems	
Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors	
Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.)	X
Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data	

Bibliography

- Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning (ÖROK) (2011), *Austrian Spatial Development Concept ÖREK 2011*, Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning (ÖROK), Vienna, Austria, [www.oerok.gv.at/fileadmin/Bilder/2.Reiter-Raum u. Region/1.OEREK/OEREK_2011/Dokumente_OEREK_2011/OEREK_2011_EN_Downloadversion.pdf](http://www.oerok.gv.at/fileadmin/Bilder/2.Reiter-Raum_u_Region/1.OEREK/OEREK_2011/Dokumente_OEREK_2011/OEREK_2011_EN_Downloadversion.pdf) (accessed 26 May 2016).
- UN Habitat (2017, forthcoming). *A Consolidated Report of Regional National Urban Policy Reviews (Africa, Arab States, Asia and Pacific Europe and North America, Latin America and the Caribbean)*, Nairobi: UN Habitat.OECD (2015), “Regional Outlook Survey Results: Austria”, unpublished.
- UN-Habitat (2017, forthcoming), “NUP Regional Report: Western and Eastern Europe and North America.” Nairobi: UN Habitat.