



# Regional Actor Map

## Lower Austria

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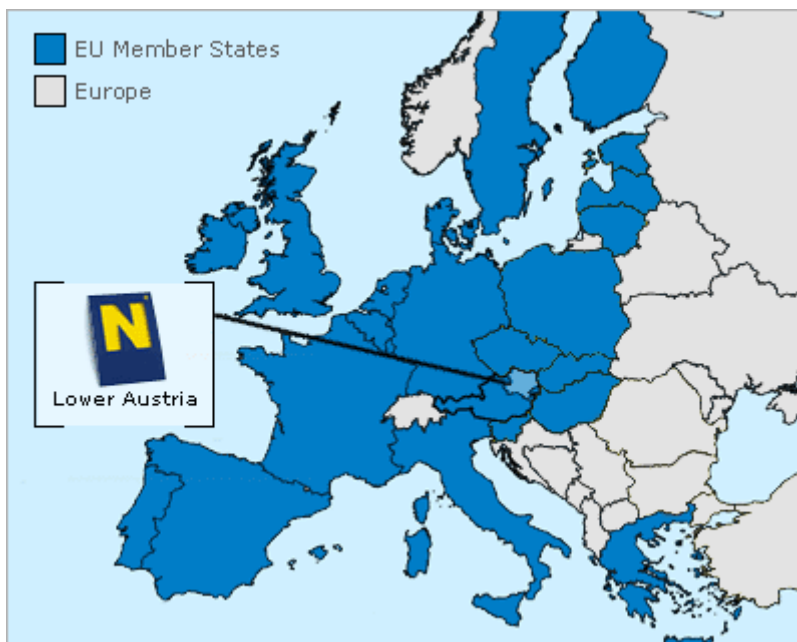
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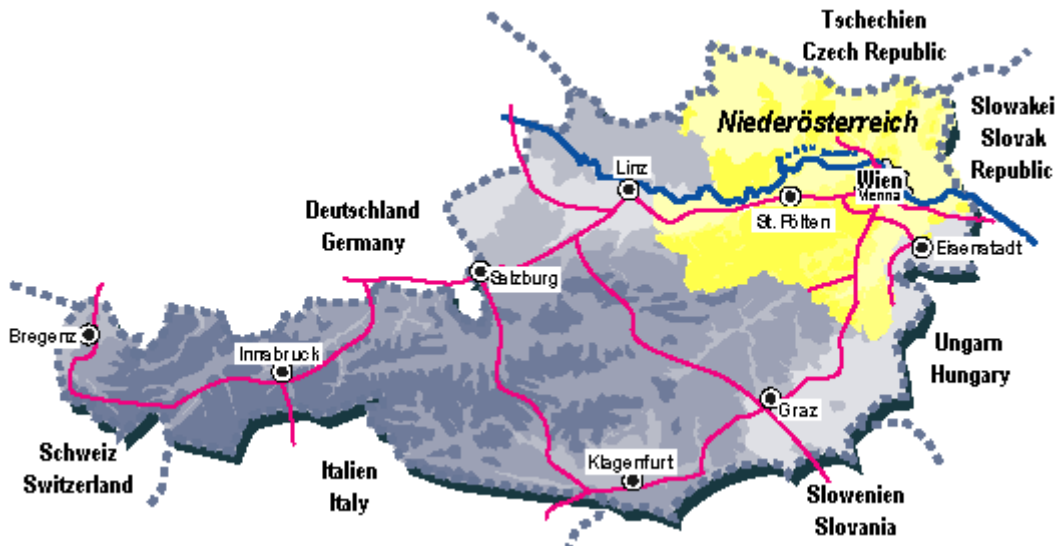
<http://www.noe.gv.at/service/lad/lad1/er/english/English.htm>

and

<http://www.loweraustria.biz/>

### 1.- Defining the region





## 2.- Characterising the region

Niederösterreich (Lower Austria) is often described as the 'province around Vienna' because, from a geographical point of view, Vienna, which is Austria's capital and at the same time a separate federal province, is located in the centre of Niederösterreich - similar to the situation of Berlin and Brandenburg in Germany. Vienna had also been for a long time the seat of the provincial government of Niederösterreich and it was not until 1986 that St Pölten was chosen as its provincial capital. In 1997, the provincial government, provincial administration and provincial parliament, followed by other important institutions were transferred to St Pölten.

Niederösterreich has the largest area and the second largest population (after Vienna) of the nine federal provinces in Austria. Niederösterreich is bordered to the north by the Czech Republic and to the east by Slovakia, where the river system of Thaya and March marks the frontier line. In the south, the foothills of the Eastern Alps form a natural boundary with Steiermark. In the south-east, Niederösterreich borders the Burgenland and this is where the province also has a share in the Pannonian Plateau, which then stretches into Hungary which is a scant 4 km away.

The Danube plays a very prominent role in both topographical and historical terms. This river, which was once the northern boundary of the Roman Empire, is the lifeline of the region and divides Niederösterreich into a northern part with the Wald- and Weinviertel and a southern part with the Most- and Industrieviertel. The Danube has been of great importance since historical times as a transport artery, and today it forms part of the Rhine-Main-Danube canal, linking the Atlantic to the Black Sea.

Niederösterreich is of crucial importance in the history of Austria, for it is in connection with the Niederösterreich town of Neuhofen/Ybbs that we find the first recorded mention of the name Austria as 'Ostarrichi' (Österreich), over one thousand years ago.

However, Niederösterreich is not only the historical heart of Austria, with countless cultural points of interest, it is also important from the economic point of view, for this province generates the bulk of Austria's agricultural produce as well as featuring a highly developed industrial sector. In addition, the region has major sources of raw materials as well as extensive leisure facilities which offer good tourist connections.

The name 'Niederösterreich = Lower Austria' needs a word of explanation, for it sometimes gives rise to incorrect associations. The prefix 'Nieder = Lower' has nothing to do with being flat or low, in fact it refers to the position of this province with regard to the river Enns, whose lower course forms the boundary between the provinces of Oberösterreich and Niederösterreich. Viewed from Bavaria to the east, this German province was very important to the development of modern-day Austria in the early Middle Ages, Niederösterreich lies 'below' the Enns. So the name Niederösterreich derives etymologically from this fact: it refers to the land "below" the Enns - as opposed to the region "above" the Enns, which accordingly is known today as "Oberösterreich = Upper Austria".

Over the past decade, Austria has developed into a prime location for companies within Europe, due largely to the excellent basic conditions for companies setting up here: above all the country's position at the gateway to Central and Eastern European markets, its geographic positioning right at Europe's core, its EU membership and the introduction of the Euro. Companies also profit from Austria's economical and social stability, low rates of tax and the booming high-tech industry. A highly qualified labour force and optimal infrastructure are also deciding factors in the location's attraction.

Austria – an overview of what the area has to offer:

- Core position in Central Europe: Austria's position at the junction of important communications routes enables easy access to the growing markets of Central and Eastern Europe.
- Excellent infrastructure: Austria has around 2,000km (1,200 miles) of motorways and expressways, a highly developed railway system, the Danube Waterway and a dense network of connecting flights.
- Logistical advantages: a wide extension of communications and telecommunications will guarantee the even faster transport of people, goods and data.
- Qualified and motivated labour force: in the IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2005, which analyses and evaluates 51 industrial nations, Austria came fourth in terms of worker motivation and ranks near the top in the following topics skilled labor and educational system.
- Good links between the economy and research, development of technopoles: In Austria, around 2,000 technology-oriented research establishments and university institutes cooperate closely with industry.



- Low tax burden: With a standard corporation tax rate of 25 %, Austria's rates are low compared with the rest of Europe. Investors also profit from the amended industrial laws which now have fewer approval procedures for establishing and running a business.
- High quality of life, political and social security: Austria scores very highly in the international arena in a comparison of quality of life, the environment and personal security. The country's extensive cultural offerings and excellent shopping and leisure facilities add to its substantial advantages.

Lower Austria is a dynamic region:

**Admission into the EU** and the opening of the **eastern European marketplace** has also contributed to the growth dynamic. Through the liberalisation of trading relationships with bordering eastern European states, Lower Austria's businesses have the opportunity to gain new markets for their products and forge more cooperative partnerships. Export to Eastern Europe has almost quadrupled in the last ten years. A study commissioned by one of Lower Austria and Vienna's state departments indicates that the feared slow down in consumer purchasing power has already been taken over by increased consumer demand.

**EU expansion** has allowed Lower Austria to make the step from peripheral state to a central European trading nation. The proximity of affordable markets in the East means businesses are able to more fully embrace the role of supplier. The region's economy has also greatly profited from the set up and blossoming of the new sales market in Eastern Europe.

A total of 527,200 people are employed in the Lower Austrian economy (AMS/2004). The largest proportion of these jobs lies in commerce, followed by trade, industry, transport, tourism and the finance and insurance sectors. Lower Austria's Chamber of Commerce maintains a list of all businesses, collated regionally by trade (see info links).

The percentage market share of Lower Austria's economy on the GDP in economic sectors is divided as follows:

- Primary sector: 4,8%
- Secondary sector: 36%
- Tertiary sector: 59.3%

Lower Austria looks back on a **strong industrial tradition**. The proportion of the gross net product lies at 36% above the Austrian national average. The most important areas in industry are:

- Machine building and the steel industry
- Electrical industry
- Stone and ceramics
- Iron and metals



- Food and luxury consumer goods industry
- Chemical industry

Through increased EU demand Lower Austrian industry has been able to realise considerable gains in production.

### **3.- MAPPING THE ACTORS**

#### [Wirtschaftskammer NÖ \(Lower Austrian Chamber of Commerce\)](#)

The Wirtschaftskammer Niederösterreich gives an overview of Lower Austrian economic data, businesses and economic structure, with national and international comparisons.

#### [Industriellenvereinigung NÖ Landesgruppe Niederösterreich \(Lower Austria's Regional Industrial Organisation\)](#)

Industriellenvereinigung NÖ Landesgruppe Niederösterreich is the first point of contact for all members' queries, and acts as an efficient service organisation. It offers comprehensive advice, helps to source business partners and acts as mediator between its members and legislature

#### [ecoplus - business location](#)

ecoplus is your partner in questions of business location in Lower Austria and offers you an all-inclusive service.



## Starting Up

Lower Austria possesses great potential for innovative, technology-orientated business start-ups. Formation strategies and consulting centres assist new businesses to realise their plans.

The start-up scheme **GENIUS** is financed by the Lower Austrian local government's **Department of Business Promotion**. GENIUS draws together public participants from the field of company formation and representatives from education and research to take part in this initiative. Co-operation between GENIUS partners means that services and facilities for new business initiatives become more focused and coherent. In addition, the Department of Business Promotion and GENIUS partners are able to offer more self-driven sponsorship programmes and start-up investment.

Based in a number of districts, the Chamber of Commerce's **start-up services** offer professional support to aid local new business in the first stages of launch.

The Chamber of Commerce is also in partnership with the Business Plan Competition "I 2 B" and the "GO!Formation Offensive". Both schemes contribute to the formulation of concrete and viable business concepts. A further service WKNÖ also runs affordable mentoring through sector-specific consultancy.

The **Regional Innovation Centres (RIZ) in Lower Austria** build on years of experience in guiding young businesses. RIZ Founding Centres already exist at eleven locations in the region, delivering low-cost production and office space with complete infrastructure to young enterprises.

A RIZ start-up office is a fully equipped workspace available for the first three months of the set-up period. The minimal costs and negligible risk enjoyed by access to RIZ's services serve to accelerate a company's first steps to independence.

As part of the seminar programme "**4 Steps To Business**", entrepreneurs receive expert and practice-oriented support in drawing up their business concepts. The essence of business success is a well-thought out concept: those attending the seminars benefit from simply put, targeted information about products, markets, competition, marketing, sales and accounts.



### [Gründungsinitiative Niederösterreich GENIUS \(Lower Austrian Start-up Initiative\)](#)

GENIUS's website has a topical guide to offers which are relevant to start-ups and tips on procedure. It also has a comprehensive internet service with an annotated list of links.

### [Gründerservice der Wirtschaftskammer Niederösterreich \(Lower Austrian Chamber of Commerce's Start-up Service\)](#)

The Wirtschaftskammer Niederösterreich's Start-up Service offers professional support at individual district offices

### [Regionale Innovationszentren in Niederösterreich – RIZ \(Regional Innovations Centres\)](#)

RIZ has the task of setting up enterprise development centres and to stimulate processes for start-ups, as well as activating regional growth potential through education and network services.

### [NÖBEG - NÖKBG](#)

Lower Austria's Bürgschafts GmbH and Beteiligungsfinanzierung GmbH are credit institutions which specialise in the promotion of medium-sized businesses in Lower Austria. They take on responsibility for obtaining finance and provide risk capital.

### [Gründerservice \(Start-up Service\)](#)

This internet portal offers all the information, tips and checklists needed to successfully establish a new company: Information on starting up and running a company, franchising and dealing with authorities as well as a timetable and a test for entrepreneurs.

### [Nachfolgebörse](#)

The Chamber of Commerce's Nachfolgebörse puts young entrepreneurs in direct contact with company owners who are looking for a successor and want to prepare them for the handover

## Cluster

Smoothly operating networks between companies are catalysts to innovative planning. Hence, **cross-company alliances** and building set **clusters** or units of allied companies forms one of the focal points of Lower Austrian economic policy. With this initiative the region is forging a new way of promoting commerce; the main focus is the improved performance of branches and groups of companies to grow in line with the challenges the future holds.

### Clusters

The establishment of strategic alliances with other companies and research organisations can bring considerable competitive advantages to small and medium-sized businesses. Having a network of available expertise promotes the development of new products and access to markets that might otherwise remain unattainable.

Management teams are set up for each branch of business to offer support in the initial stages of building cooperation schemes between companies. These management teams offer help in identifying areas in which cooperation could be established, as well as finding potential partners, and follow the projects to a successful conclusion.

Cluster Managers nurture the growth of networks and promote creative exchange between businesses. Important elements of the work include qualification workshops, cooperative funding and the targeted building of know-how. In this way, the cluster becomes an expanding network through which close personal and business cooperation leads to win-win results.

**ecoplus** is responsible for sounding out potential clusters in Lower Austria. Its task is to track down possible cooperative alliances, conduct analysis on their viability and to bring the cluster initiatives through the initial phases of development. Each cluster is set suitable sponsorship targets for concrete cooperation projects. This means that businesses are helped through the initial stages with concrete guidelines for their work.

To date ecoplus has called five clusters into existence: **Holz Cluster Niederösterreich, Automotive Cluster Vienna Region, Wellbeing Cluster Lower Austria, Ecological Construction Cluster and Synthetic Material**. Further topics are in evaluation: food and logistics.

The promotion of cross-company cooperation forms one of the cornerstones of the Regional Innovation Strategy (RIS). The separate measures needed to promote these

alliances are collated and coordinated by the "**Lower Austrian Cooperation Platform**", the brainchild of the Lower Austrian Department of Business Promotion, the Chamber of Commerce and ecoplus. An internet platform and resource centre has also been provided to complement this, run by Lower Austria's WIFI, offering enterprises and participants from the public a central point of contact from which to work. The primary aim is to provoke increased interest in cooperation, inform people about risks and opportunities in business and to actively support them in the execution of their business projects.

ecoplus also builds **cross-border networks and cooperation schemes** in Central and Eastern Europe and through this makes the most out of the opportunities presented by EU enlargement. ecoplus works on the improvement of the economic climate to promote offensive internationalisation in Lower Austria, provides information on European Enlargement, works on the building of networks between national and international players and supports economic cross-border initiatives. With a Cross Border Impulse Centre (CBIC), pre-existing psychological barriers between countries can be broken down by way of fostering economic, social and cultural cooperation, motivating business people to initiate more international working relationships - even after the EU Enlargement.

#### [Automotive Cluster Vienna Region](#)

Besides classic car manufacture, the cluster's key focus lies on forward-looking developments in cars and on roads.

#### [Wellbeing Cluster Niederösterreich](#)

The cluster takes advantage of the mega-trend health linking up Lower Austria's health-tourism offers with expertise in preventive medicine.

#### [Ecological Construction Cluster Lower Austria](#)

Central hub for ecological construction for all interested companies, R&D facilities and institutions of qualification.

#### [Plastics-Cluster](#)

The central focus of this cluster - a cooperation with Upper Austria - lies in the optimal support between companies in the plastic sector in Lower Austria.

#### [Regionales Innovations System RIS \(Regional Innovation System\)](#)

RIS Lower Austria contains all of the measures and lines of development relating to innovations policy. RIS's homepage offers a comprehensive overview of the future developments of Lower Austria's innovations policy as well as information on projects and focal points in Lower Austria.

#### [Eco Plus EU Enlargement](#)

ecoplus creates networks with the neighbouring countries and contributes to the internationalisation of Lower Austria in the framework of EU projects.

## Research

### Centres for technology

In Lower Austria three main centres for technology - **Technopols** - have emerged: Wiener Neustadt with its emphasis on "**MIT Modern Industrial Technologies**", Tulln with **environment-** and **agrobiotechnology** and Krems with **biotechnology**. Research and university training combined with a business park, and that all in one location: This is direct technology transfer from science to business – and fundament for a future of innovation.

The sponsor and contact for the entire **Technopol Program** is ecoplus, which maximizes the cooperation among companies and research institutions through active on-site management. On-site technopol managers support applied research projects bringing together technopol-based research institutes and businesses running a location in Lower Austria. The program started on the 1st April 2004.

An important centre of technology in the field of MIT "Modern Industrial Technologies", microsystems engineering, microelectrochemical technology, tribology and medical technology - the central element of which is the **TFZ** (Technology and Research Centre)- has been founded in both ecoplus and in Civitas Nova business parks in **Wiener Neustadt**. Wiener Neustadt University of Applied Science, the RIZ and a range of high-tech businesses such as Diamond Aircraft are nearby. The full operation of Ion Therapy & Cancer-Research Centre Projects - MedAustron, the largest research project of Austria - is planned for 2013.

**Tulln** has emerged as the focal point for agrobiotechnology thanks to the interuniversity Department for Agrobiotechnology (IFA). ecoplus, together with Raiffeisen Holding and the City of Tulln built a business park directly in the vicinity, creating attractive commercial properties with a view to attracting biotechnology companies to the area. Wiener Neustadt's University of Applied Science has also started a course named 'Biotechnical Processes' with the help of the IFA. The nearby Technology and Research Center Tulln (TZT) offers companies in the field of environmental and agrobiotechnology modern offices and laboratory facilities.

**Krems** has seen biomedicine taking the foreground with the establishment of the Bio Science Park. This centre was the result of close collaboration between ecoplus, Donau Universität, Krems' University of Applied Science IMC and the RIZ. This area creates a very attractive environment and considerable incentive for international firms to settle here. Krems is already the base of American pharmaceutical company Baxter.

Within the scope of an offensive '**Technology Policy**' aimed to promote technology and to reinforce the international competitiveness and position of Lower Austria as Europe's modern centre of the technology industry. Many innovative, industry-targeted projects are in the areas of finance, science and education. A central initiative in this area is the establishment of **centres of expertise** and **clusters** of new businesses.

### Important areas in research are:

- Microsystems Technology and Nanotechnologies
- Biomedicine
- Electrochemistry
- Tribology
- Environmental Technology
- Agricultural and Environmental Biotechnology
- Automotive Technologies
- Bioenergy
- Information and communications technology and innovative construction
- Innovative Construction
- Rapid Prototyping RPT
- Powder Injection Molding PIM

### Centres of expertise

In centres of expertise the scientific basics of research and applied research are combined. They offer the optimal infrastructure to facilitate heightened cooperation between industrial entrepreneurs and participating research partners.

- **ECHEM** – Applied electrochemistry, Wiener Neustadt
- **AC<sup>2</sup>T** – Centre of competence for Tribology – Wiener Neustadt
- **WOOD** – Competence centres for wood adhesives and wood chemistry
- **MCL** – Material Centre Leoben (in cooperation with the federal region of Styria)

#### [ECHEM – Kompetenzzentrum für Angewandte Elektrochemie \(Center of Competence for Applied Electrochemistry GmbH\)](#)

ECHEM's competence centre has established itself in Wiener Neustadt's Technology and Research Centre. The areas of research are: basic research, electrochemical environmental technology, surface treatment, energy storage and conversion

#### [Department für Agrarbiotechnology IFA Tulln](#)

The IFA runs specific research activities at three of Vienna's universities. These include the fields of molecular biology, environmental procedural technology, development of new biopolymers and innovative analysis procedures as well as breeding animals and cultivating plants

#### [Techno-Park Tulln](#)

Business park for business locations, spin-offs, company foundations and researchers in the field of "green & grey biotechnology" and renewable energies - start of construction 2005



### [TecNetArea](#)

Lower Austria started a wide-reaching 'Technology Offensive' in the year 2000. The goal is to strengthen international competitiveness and to position Lower Austria as Europe's modern technology centre.

### [TIP - Regionale Technologie- u. Innovationspartner Niederösterreich \(Lower Austrian Regional Technology and Innovations Partner\)](#)

TIP advises companies, particularly in the areas of research and development, EU research programmes, total quality management and business strategy.

### [BIZ - Business- und Innovationszentrum](#)

BIZ offers start-up and established companies support with business ideas which are innovative, technology-oriented and geared to the market.

### [BIT \(Bureau for International Research and Technology Cooperation\)](#)

BIT is the national point of contact for the EU research programme and other European programmes and initiatives in Austria. It offers access to European finance, information and advice for the preparation of project proposals, contact with international partners for the realisation of concepts and a European network to widen technologies.

### [MCL – Material Center Leoben](#)

MCL is an industrial cooperation partner in the area of materials technology (physics, development, processing, production techniques and use). Researchers from universities and other institutes, and people who are employed in industry, work together on a project basis in interdisciplinary teams at MCL.

### [K plus Competence Centers Program](#)

The K plus program aims to improve cooperation between the sciences and the economy in Austria, and to implement excellent research in an internationally competitive manner.

### [K ind - Industrial Competence Centers](#)

K ind promotes the concentration of research and development activities for various companies and research institutes at a single location.

### [K net - Competence Networks](#)

K net brings together various non-neighbouring areas of competence in the fields of economics and science

## Training

The training of well-educated and qualified professionals demands a strong education system; Austria's counts amongst the world's best and as part of an international study by The World Competitiveness Yearbook 2004 Austria came in 6th place. When compared within Europe, the position was an excellent 3rd. Considerable international interest has been shown in Austrian educational methods as a result of quality, structure and curriculum.

### School system

Austrian pupils must attend school for a minimum of nine years. Secondary schools (Hauptschule) and lower schools (Unterstufe) complement four years spent at elementary school; together all three types of school make up the Comprehensive Higher Schools (AHS).

Once past the 9th year there is the opportunity to begin training toward a chosen career path, by attending a polytechnic college, a vocational intermediary school, higher school (known as BMS or BHS, respectively) or embarking on an apprenticeship.

**Apprenticeship training** takes place in two different but mutually complementary learning environments: industrial placement schemes and vocational schools (together the 'Dual System'). The purpose of the latter is to supplement an individual's practical knowledge whilst imparting professional know-how and general knowledge.

In a **BMS** (or technical college), vocational courses are taught alongside the general curriculum. These courses typically last 3 to 4 years, ending on completion of the final exams.

In a **BHS**, students follow a more industry-related study path, in combination with a strong foundation in general subjects. These courses last 5 years, completed by course unit and final qualification exams. This gains individuals a school leaver's as well as a complete vocational qualification (double award).

The aim of the **AHS** is the provision of an in-depth, all-round education whilst equipping students with the skills needed for university study.

### Further study and university

Over and above the numerous universities and institutes of higher education in Vienna, Lower Austria offers seventeen courses of study at Fachhochschulen or 'FH' (Universities of Applied Sciences) and a multitude of university courses in tertiary education.

The **Donau Universität Krems** is the leading national university for postgraduate education in Europe. Its range of courses lead to full academic degrees. Collaborative schemes established with select universities and research institutes guarantee a fruitful exchange within the scientific community. A project due to be completed in 2005 will transform Donau Universität Krems into a campus after the international model, to be known as **Campus Krems**.

Following the establishment of **vocational college study paths** in 1994/5 the higher education sector is very grounded in practical learning. The length of study at a vocational college is eight terms, inclusive of one term's work experience. Once the studies have been completed, students in any technical field receive the title of Diplom Ingenieur/In (FH) – equivalent to Master of Science - and in non-technical subjects Magister/Magistra (FH) - Master of The Arts. FH study paths are offered in Krems, St. Pölten and in Wiener Neustadt (with affiliated institutes in Wieselburg and Tulln).

### Further career-oriented learning

The modern working world is subject to unpredictable change and as a result career-driven further education has particularly high worth. The first port of call for business training in Austria is WIFI, the **Institute of Business Promotion**, established by the Chamber of Commerce.

Lower Austria's WIFI, with over 3,500 school events and more than 44,000 participants, is undisputed number one when it comes to career-oriented training and further education.

Offering 900 courses, the emphasis on the curriculum lies in information technology. In addition there are a number of courses characterised by university-style teaching, earning successful students academic qualifications. Since autumn 2001 the Lower Austrian WIFI have been running a new cluster of IT training course units, established in co-operation with the HTL and vocational colleges.

The promotion of business involves **comprehensive training** as well as offering **career advice**. WIFI's Career Information Centre provides group and one-on-one sessions for young people as well as adults. Approximately 3,500 aptitude tests are conducted annually to help Austria's youth select the most suitable career. At the department of Trade's Career Week young people can gain a practical insight into their career prospects in over 100 internships.

**Lower Austria's Regional Innovation Centres (RIZ)** are tailoring their information and training schemes specifically for young entrepreneurs, business and management. Seminars and apprenticeships offered as part of training schemes provide concise and practical further education. The make-up of this training covers a whole range of areas, from business studies to business English and IT courses.

Since autumn 2001 Lower Austria has been operating a completely new education model for IT jobs: the **TecNetAcademy of Lower Austria**. The Regional Innovation Centre in Lower Austria, teams of experts from amongst career advisors, IT professionals from Lower Austrian WK as well as the national Academy all played a big part in devising this new model.

With this modular, career-focused IT qualification Lower Austria is setting new standards in education. Graduates can be confident in handling the IT infrastructure once settled in their chosen industry, take the development of hardware and software to decisive new levels whilst being able to support other IT users competently. The TecNetAcademy also offers an impressive range of options for higher education.

### [Organisation for University Development](#)

The Organisation for University Development offers detailed information on technical colleges and universities in Lower Austria. There's also a list of all courses on offer in Austria and links to further educational establishments and institutes. A Lower Austrian education atlas can also be found here.

### [Lower Austrian Landesakademie](#)

The Landesakademie's task is to build forward-thinking core competences, ensuring an innovative contribution to Lower Austria's development as a region.

### [Donau-Universität Krems](#)

Donau-Universität Krems, the only postgraduate university in Austria, offers studies in the areas of: economics and management sciences, environmental and medical sciences, telecommunications, information and media, European integration and the arts. One further main research field is biomedicine.

### [Fachhochschule Wiener Neustadt](#)

Wiener Neustadt's technical college is the largest in Austria with 1,700 students. This is a practical, success-oriented research and educational institute with a regional connection. Following studies are available in Wiener Neustadt: precision, systems and information technology, economics, logistics, production and process design and geo-information technology.

### [FH-Studiengang in Wieselburg](#)

This branch of Wiener Neustadt's technical college offers courses in product and project management

### [FH-Studiengang in Tulln](#)

This branch of Wiener Neustadt's technical college offers a course in biotechnical procedures.

### [Fachhochschule KREMS](#)

There are six courses of study at IMC-Fachhochschule KREMS: tourism management and leisure science, export-oriented management, business management and electronic business management (both also as part-time courses for those in employment), health management, medical and pharmaceutical biotechnology.

### [FH-Studiengänge in St. Pölten](#)

This institute in St. Pölten offers four courses of study: telecommunications and media, media management, SimCom – simulation-supported news technology, and social work.

### [Forum Erwachsenenbildung NÖ](#)

This forum for adult education has the entire spectrum of courses on offer.

### [WIFI](#)

The Wirtschaftsförderungsinstitute offers a comprehensive programme degree courses and further training, with the focal point being the field of IT. This site gives an overview of courses, sponsorship and events. Entrepreneurs can find information on employment law, employee training and running a business. WIFI will also offer support in decisions on training and choosing a career or course of study.

### [Bundesministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Kultur \(Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Culture\)](#)

Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Culture offers an overview of the country's educational institutes. Its focal points are education and schools, culture, science and research, Europe and the world, universities and studying. Students and researchers can find information here about new bills, research projects and (EU) announcements.

### [Landesschulrat für Niederösterreich](#)

This site offers useful and valuable information on the region's schooling system: forms, current press releases, information on seminars, further education and events can be viewed and/or downloaded. There are contact links to doctors and school psychologists in the information section.

### [Vienna University](#)

Universität Wien (Vienna University): [www.univie.ac.at](http://www.univie.ac.at) (English version available)  
Vienna University is Austria's oldest and largest institute of education and research. There are approximately 80,000 students currently enrolled and around 6,000 people employed in the areas of research, education and administration. The university has eight faculties and 172 institutes and collaborates with numerous foreign scientific institutes.



### [Vienna University of Technology](#)

Approximately 25,000 students are currently enrolled at the TU. The spectrum of courses and research opportunities ranges from theoretical natural sciences to purely technical disciplines and integrated scientific subjects. There are 15 degree and two short-term courses, as well as two courses of further education.

### [Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien \(Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration\)](#)

There are currently approximately 22,000 students at the Wirtschaftsuniversität. The WU is the largest educational establishment for economic and social sciences in Austria and nurtures its close contact to over 160 foreign partner universities. Thanks to the diversity of disciplines there is a wide range of research activity here also.

### [Universität für Bodenkultur](#)

Approximately 5,000 students are enrolled at the Universität für Bodenkultur in Vienna. There are six courses of study. BOKU is a research and education centre for renewable resources. Through the combination of natural sciences, technology and social sciences, knowledge of the ecological and economic sustainable use of natural resources in a harmonious cultivated landscape is increased.

### [Veterinärmedizinische Universität Wien \(University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna\)](#)

Approximately 2,800 students are currently enrolled at Vienna's University of Veterinary Medicine. From a total of 7 Departments 4 are forming the animal hospital, additionally there are 3 further research institutes

## Sponsorship

Lower Austria offers enterprises a wide range of sponsorship. The level of investment depends on each project's merits and the classification of the planned location within the EU.

The **Department of Business Promotion** operating from the offices of the Lower Austrian Local Government manages the Lower Austrian Business Sponsorship and Structural Improvement Fund. For this reason it is the central hub of sponsorship in Lower Austria and takes on a proportionate responsibility in furthering the development of the **Regional Innovation Strategy (RIS)**. With its own programme of sponsorship, important cornerstones of the strategy are covered. Within the parameters of sponsorship initiative, innovation, research and development, young businesses receive financial support with fledgling projects. A further advantage for businesses is guidance through the **TIP (Technology & Innovation Partner)**. They are able to benefit from competent consulting and information services in addition to the information product 'Innovation Survey' and the internet resource **INFINÖ**.

The **NÖG** offers businesses and organisations the following as part of sponsorship: investment in fixed assets, comprehensive consulting services and active delivery of commercial as well as non-commercial consultancy. Alongside NÖG's own advisory resources, enterprises and organisations are also able to take advantage of low interest loans.

**Lower Austria's Department for the Promotion of Tourism** offers a helping hand to projects and business focused around the tourist and leisure industries. Through targeted financial help the competitive nature of Lower Austria's tourism should take an upward turn. For this reason high value is placed on securing more businesses and jobs within those businesses, aiming for the highest possible net product for the Lower Austrian economy as a whole.

To complement the region's active sponsorship of commerce the specialist bank **NÖBEG – NÖKGB** offers advice for small and medium-sized businesses and support in financial business.

### [Wirtschaftsförderung in Niederösterreich \(Business Sponsorship in Lower Austria\)](#)

The Business Sponsorship and Structural Improvement Fund's homepage gives information on all the possibilities for sponsorship in the fields of innovation, research and development, investment, cooperation, new markets and local supply.

### [NÖ Landesregierung](#)

The Lower Austrian regional government's homepage offers an overview of politics, administration and details of individual departments and their areas of responsibility.

### [NÖBEG - NÖKBG](#)

Lower Austria's Bürgschafts GmbH and Beteiligungsfinanzierung GmbH are credit institutions which specialise in the promotion of medium-sized businesses in Lower Austria. They take on responsibility for obtaining finance and provide risk capital.

### [Austria Wirtschaftsservice GesmbH](#)

Offers multiplexed information on sponsorship for and financing of small and medium-sized companies, young high-tech companies, university researchers and inventors in Austria. This central service institution arose of the fusion of FGG, BÜRGES and Innovationsagentur

### [ecoplus Ltd](#)

ecoplus is the business agency of Lower Austria and has bundled its diverse services into five fields of competence: business locations, networks and cluster building, support to catalytic projects, technology and EU enlargement

### [ERP-Fonds](#)

ERP-Fonds is a client-oriented service institute for sponsorship in Austria

### [FFF – Forschungsförderungsfonds für die gewerbliche Wirtschaft](#)

Offers innovations sponsorship in the areas of applied research, development and transfer of production. Sponsorship includes personal costs for the development, research, set-up and model as well as 50% of the development costs in the form of allowances and low interest loans.

### [FWF – Der Wissenschaftsfonds](#)

Offers sponsorship of precisely transcribed research projects from all scientific fields. Its goals are to promote new blood in scientific areas, to stimulate a European research collaboration, public relations work serving scientific research and the provision of a suitable broadening and exploitation of research projects

### [Österreichische Kontrollbank AG](#)

Offers project finance, export finance and export insurance. Consignments or payments take place in Austria so a positive effect on the Austrian balance of trade can be expected

### [Niederösterreich Förderungen im Tourismus \(Lower Austrian Sponsorship of Tourism\)](#)

An overview of the opportunities for tourism sponsorship in Lower Austria, information on general sponsorship regulations and EU competition.

### [Environmental Subsidy of the Lower Austrian Province](#)

Subsidies can be awarded for investments made by enterprises that aim to save energy and that avoid waste production and air, water and noise pollution



### [Ecomanagement Lower Austria](#)

Ecomanagement aims to: reduce the repercussions of production and operation on the environment (e.g. reduce waste and emission) through technical and financial support, utilise potentials for cost reduction (i.e. use resources and energy more efficiently) and to sustain the conformity to laws and standards in the long-term

### [Tourismus Bank \(Austrian Hotel and Tourism Bank\)](#)

The Austrian Hotel- und Tourismusbank Ges.m.b.H. (ÖHT) specialises in financing and sponsoring investment in tourism.