



# Nature protection and land management in Styria (Austria)

- creating a new model of cooperation

Trinet Workshop  
,Building Nordic-Baltic and European partnership in grassland farming for biodiversity‘

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## Characteristics of Austrian/Styrian agriculture

- Small structured (6% > 50 ha; e.g. 33% France)
- 80% of Austrias surface in farmers ownership
- 2/3 of the farms situated in mountainous or disadvantaged regions
- farmers assure 20% of full-time jobs in rural regions

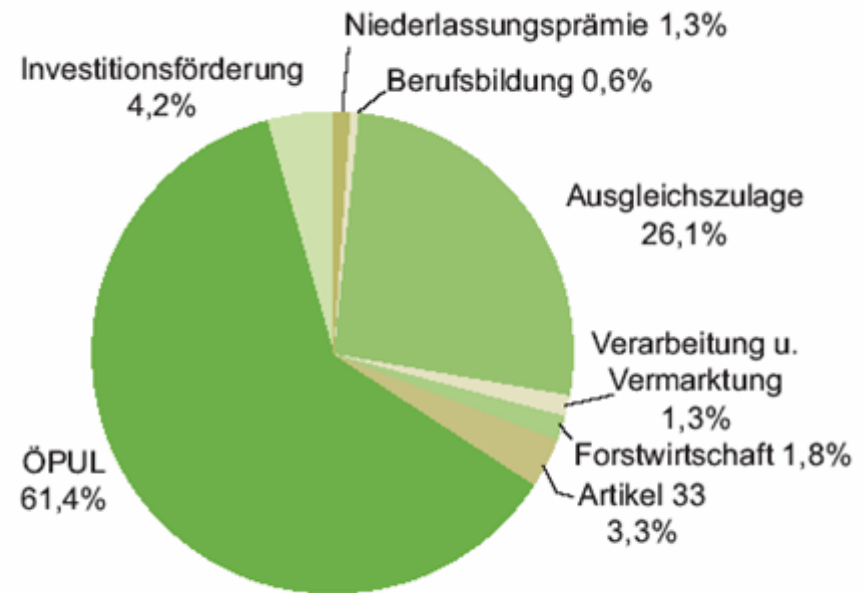
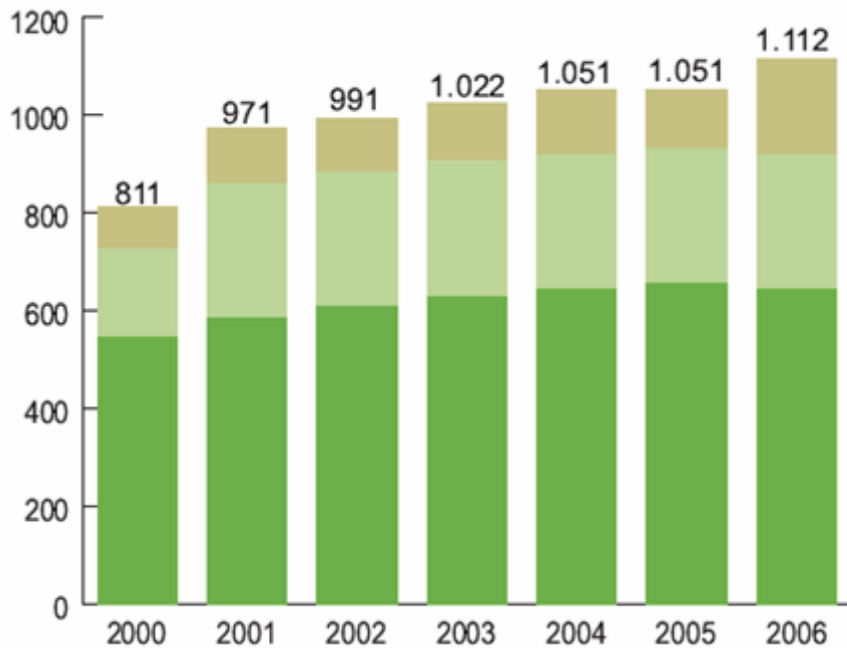


## The Austrian agri-environmental programme ÖPUL

- 75% of the farms take part in ÖPUL
- 135.000 farms (89% of the agricultural area) receive support
- „green contract“ – new programme (2007-13) just approved
- AMA central agency - processing all ÖPUL agendas

## Rural Development – distribution of expense 2000 -2006

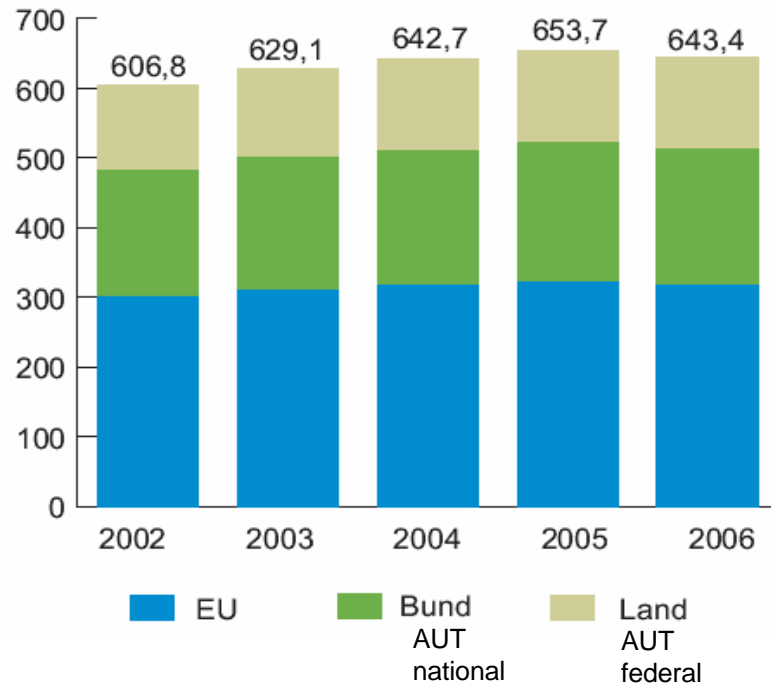
Total 7.009 Mio € = 100%



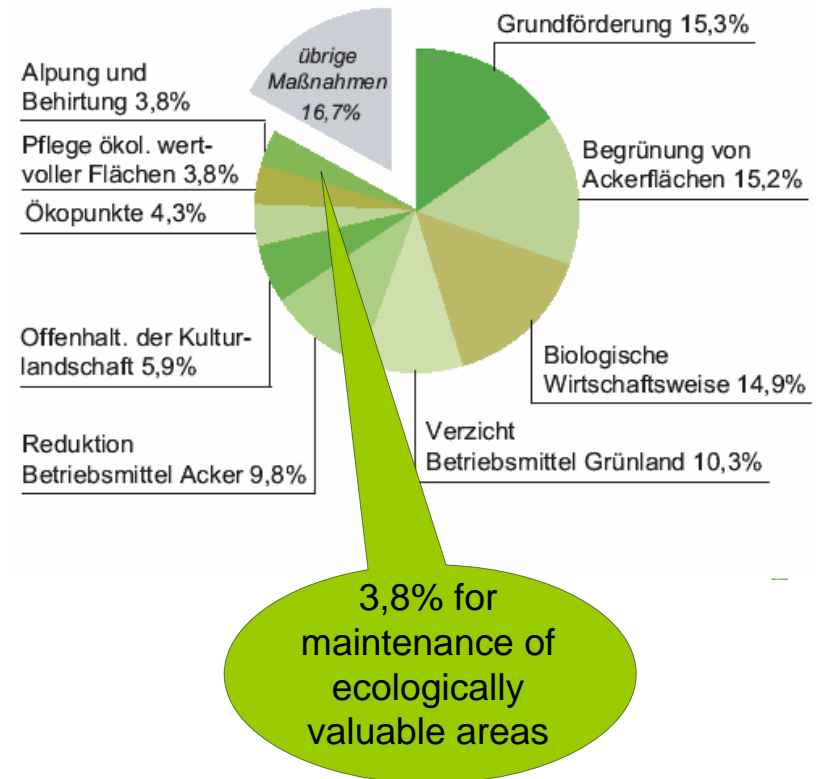
Measures and framework for rural development (2nd column GAP)  
61,4% ÖPUL (Austrian agri-environmental programme)

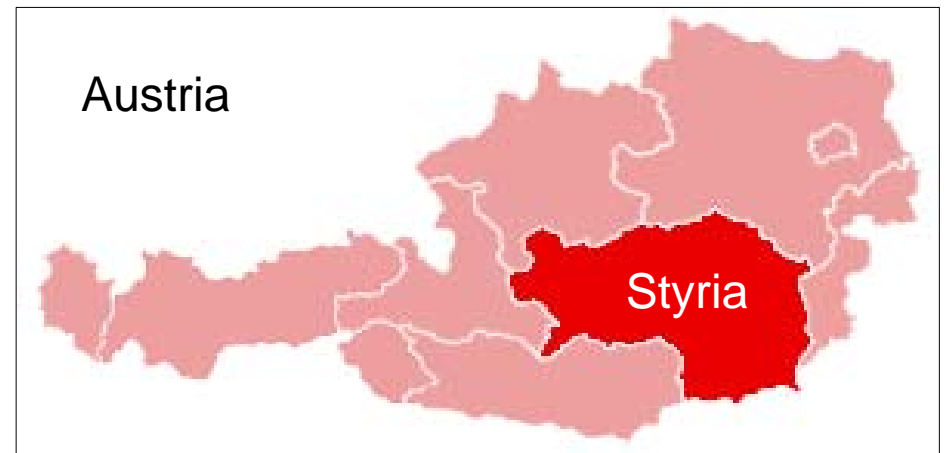
## Austrian agri-environmental programme ÖPUL

in Mio €



## Distribution within ÖPUL-programme 2006





## Agri-environmental programme in Styria 2006

- 24.865 (284.667 ha) farms take part in programme
- 4.869 farms take part in nature protection measures (1/5);  
(3.169 organic farming)
- 81,71 Mill. € ÖPUL; 4,2 Mill € nature protection measures



## Changing models of nature conservation

- some decades ago – nature conservation solely in responsibility of official authorities (decreed by law)
- often low acceptance by land owners
- 1980's: first programmes – voluntary contracts
- ca. 1.000 farms are still in this ,old‘ programme for endangered meadows (BCP – biotope conservation programme)

Participation voluntary !!!



## New partnership

- farmers - the most important partners of nature conservation
- high acceptance
- 5 - 7 years contracts
- specific characteristic: **direct contact – consulting on the farm – preparing the contract together**





## Tools for making contracts...

- Standard handbook containing all measures & procedure
- A team of well trained experts (about 150)





## Tools for making contracts...

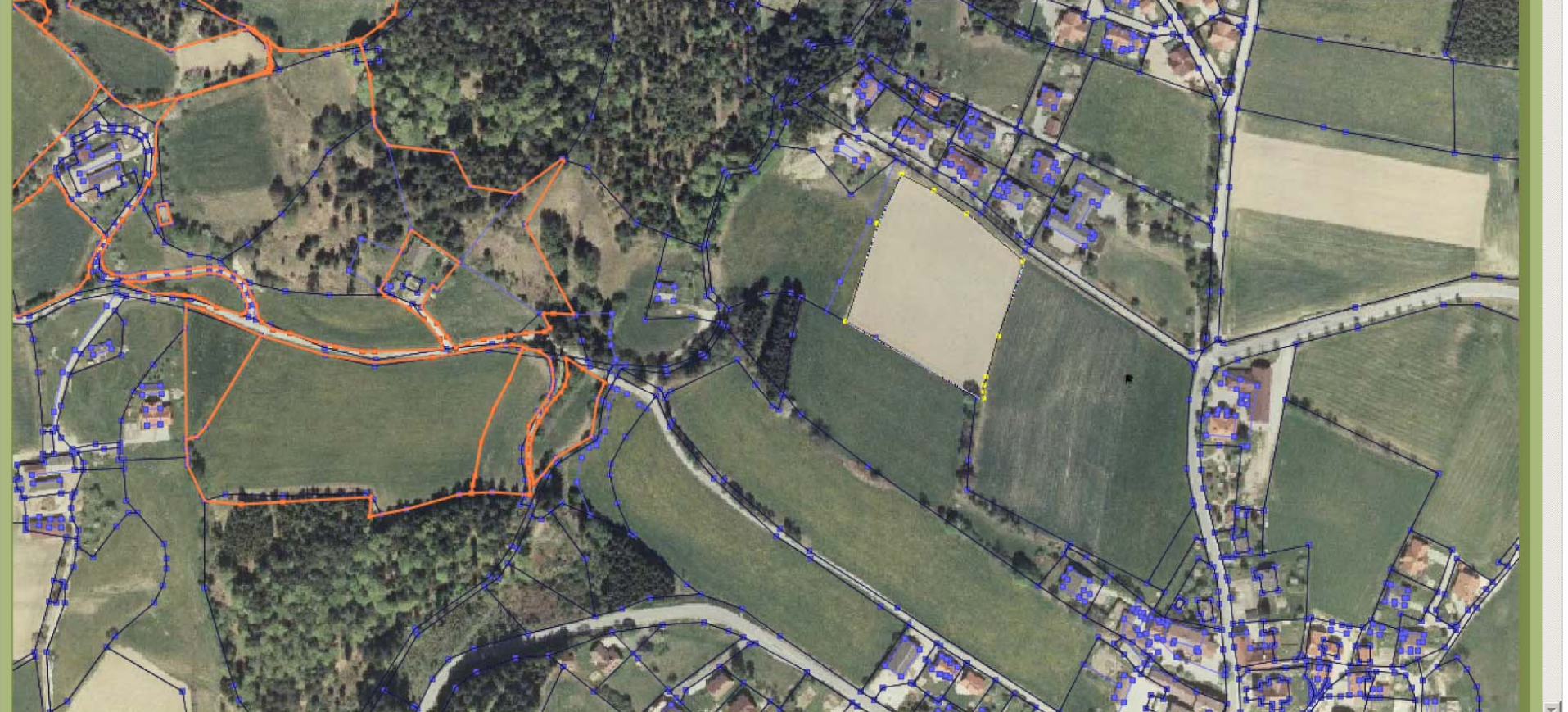
- GIS – based maps (aerial photographs)
- equipment for field work ...

Name:  BNR:   
Adresse:  BBKNR:

GISLESEN GIS-MFA2007 Gesamtansicht aller Feldstücke

- 1 Hauptmenü
- 2 GIS-Daten Lesezugriff
- 3 Gesamtansicht aller Feldstücke

Fläche: 0 ha 95 a





## Consulting process & field work ...

- ,opening procedure‘ (many questions)
- common field trip & consultation (agricultural knowledge important)
- check ecological value (endangered or protected species), biotop-type, animals...
- define borders of the contract area within a dialog



## Consulting process & field work ...

- negotiations concerning term and frequency of mowing or pasturing
- fixe fertilizing regime
- fixe status of particular structures (trees, hedges, swamps...)
- Fixing compensation rate (max. € 800,00/ha/yr)



## Two main goals

- conservation of existing areas with high ecological value
- improving areas with (high) ecological potential

Maintaining or creating biodiversity in the cultivated landscape has priority in the agri-environmental programme of Austria.



## Processing data

- Collection of data in the AMA-database NAON (nature conservation **online**)
- write contracts (only in case of FMP farm management plan)
- edit the contract data by official authority (standard form) – forward contract to the farmer

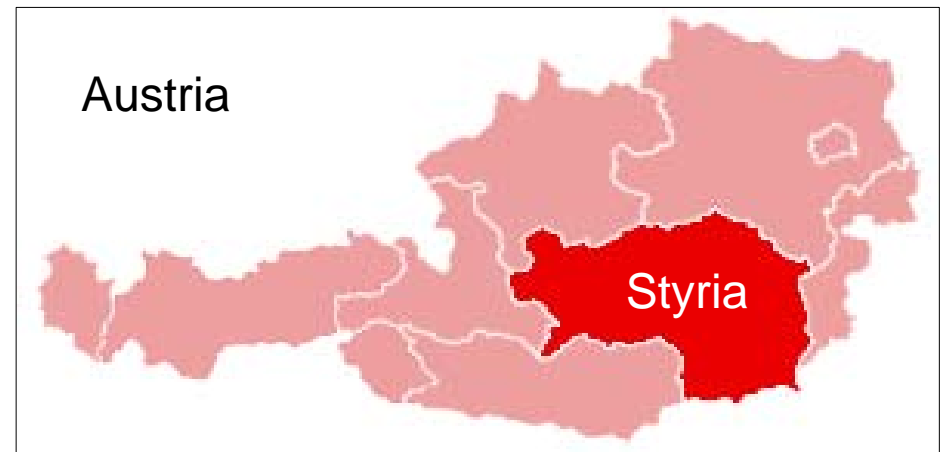




## FMP farm management plans – the comprehensive solution

- ecological consultation regarding the whole farm area (for benefit of nature and biodiversity)
- time consuming – but creating close contact; high participation rate justifies effort
- comprehensive opus containing detailed description, photographs etc.
- 2 days of training obligatory

Goals achieved....



Status 2006

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Austria</u>	<u>Styria</u>
contract area (ha)	78.140	8.896
farm management plan (ha)	9.716	812
Nr. of farms	29.295	4.869
premia (Mio €)	32,92	4,2

In addition some federal programmes



## Progress and problems

12 years of 'nature protection by contract' brought many new problems which caused many new models of solution

- The disposable budget for the nature conservation programmes was sufficient up to 2006
- 2007 only farms within Natura-2000-areas can start new contracts



## Progress and problems

12 years of ,nature protection by contract' brought many new problems which caused many new models of solution

- the cooperation between nature conservation authorities and land owners increased
- a lot of communication work still has to be done



**Thank you  
for your  
attention!**