

# INtegrated Spatial Planning, land use and soil management Research ActiON:



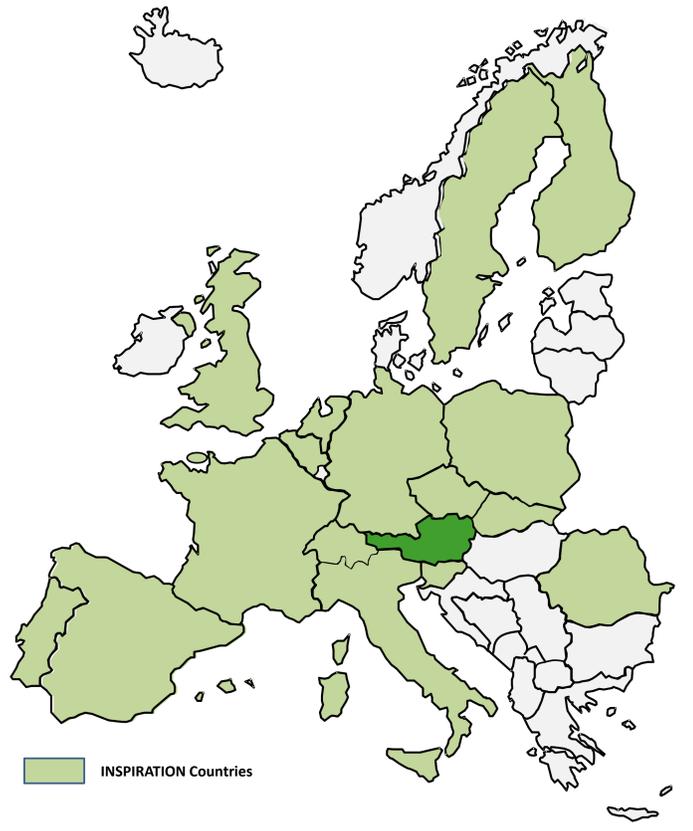
## National results: AUSTRIA

### Societal challenges and needs

- According to the Austrian NKS the general protection of environment and the support of sustainability within the changing conditions is to be focused.
- Climate change is seen to be the number one threat as it is a very complex problem with a fast cascade effect, needing urgent solutions in mitigation and societal adaptation.
- Land consumption, land use and land availability are the most important topics.
- Food security will become more and more important and should be regarded from an international viewpoint.
- The reduction of raw material and resource consumption is key. Efficient use of natural resources must be ensured.
- Additionally, the protection of biodiversity remains a major challenge to the NKS.

### Topics / research needs to be included in the SRA

- AT-1 Soil and land management contribution to food security
- AT-2 Improvement of management measures for the cultivation of agricultural land
- AT-3 Digitalisation and usage of existing/new technology
- AT-4 Dealing with natural hazards
- AT-5 Monitoring and evaluating land and soil use for settlements and infrastructure
- AT-6 Land use for infrastructure
- AT-7 Restoration and re-cultivation of land
- AT-8 Soil and landscape diversity
- AT-9 Decoupling of the economic impact
- AT-10 Demographic changes and urban land use
- AT-11 Participative research and communication
- AT-12 Impact of research projects
- AT-13 Political regulations and involvement
- AT-14 Is the ideal spatial utilisation possible?



### Experiences regarding the connection of science to policy and practice

- To approach wide acceptance and secure best multiplication, it is critical to involve the civil society and all stakeholders (spatial planners, soil scientists, society, land owners, politicians...) throughout the whole project period.
- To improve linkages between policy needs and research programs and to enhance the accessibility of scientific knowledge to policy makers, the dialogue between scientific and policy-making communities needs to be strengthened.
- It is key to provide information for the non-science community in an understandable language and to foster open communication.
- There is a clear need for strengthened action and de-bureaucratisation. Financial benefits for resource-saving measures or restriction of intervention possibilities for municipalities (e.g. the fragmented spatial planning laws of the counties) would counteract re-zoning of green land.

### National and transnational funding schemes

- In Austria, a distinct need for new structures of the call process and the implementation of new research projects and programs was identified. This should secure sustainable success, avoids parallel research and reduces implementation deficits.
- The establishment of a clear structured and transparent research platform for a wide range of topics about soil and spatial planning and for the whole range of stakeholders is recommended. Added value could be achieved from (1) inter-/trans-disciplinary approaches, (2) applied research as well as (3) the consideration of local issues, and even more from elimination of fragmentation.

### A key message from Austria:

- Politicians need valid knowledge to reduce the societal pressure on certain types of land use.
- Successful scientific research policies need political support.

### Background of Austrian Key Stakeholders

- In total, 11 expert interviews were conducted.
- 139 experts participated in the national workshops in Vienna on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2015.

