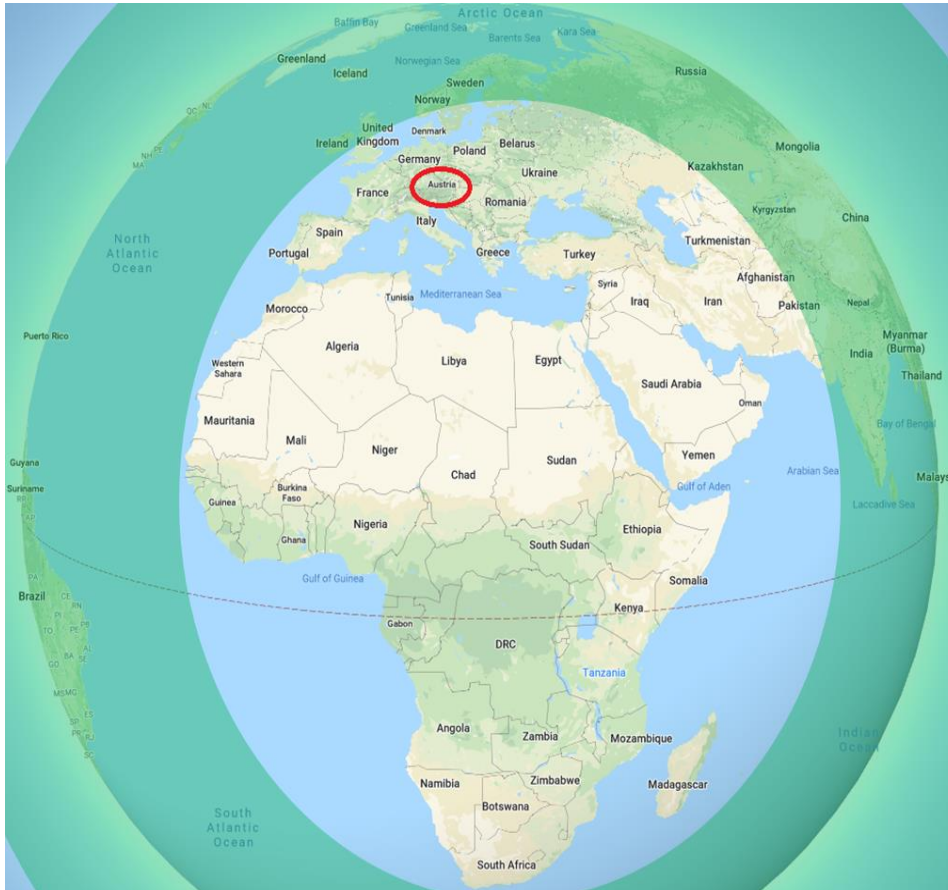


„DEEPENING AUSTRIAN-AFRICAN COOPERATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH,,

„MEET AND GREET“ SESSION, EUROPEAN FORUM ALPBACH

26.08.2020



General Information	
Population	8.88 Million
Area	83,879 km ²
Capital City: Vienna	1.9 Million
GDP per capita	~ €44.000
Life expectancy at birth 2018	82 (F 84, M 79)
Time required to start a business	21 days
Number of Higher Education Institutions	73
<p>Well known for music, culture, alpine areas, historical cities, well developed tourism. Also specialized fields of industry - steel, auto-mobile, chemicals and pharmaceutical) & financial services (banks, insurances)</p>	

AT = small – but we have a lot to offer in R&I Science & Research / Facts & Figures

**OECD 2017: AUT 2nd in cooperation of
large businesses with universities
& 3rd with SMEs**

**tax deduction of research relevant investments
(14% research premium)**

profound know-how areas like:

- **renewable and alternative energy**
- **life sciences**
- **agriculture or water management**
- **quantum physics**
- **Demography**
- **Cultural Heritage**
- **artificial intelligence, robotics and
health technologies/diagnostics**

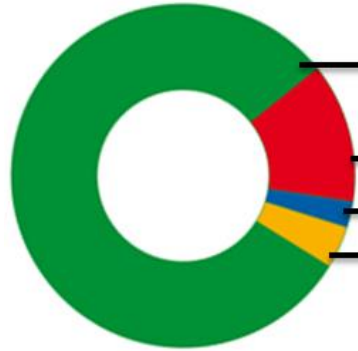
Horizon 2020 (2014-2020; nearly €80 billion budget)

**currently
more 3650 successful
participations
and ~ € 1.53 billion
raised by Austrian institutions**

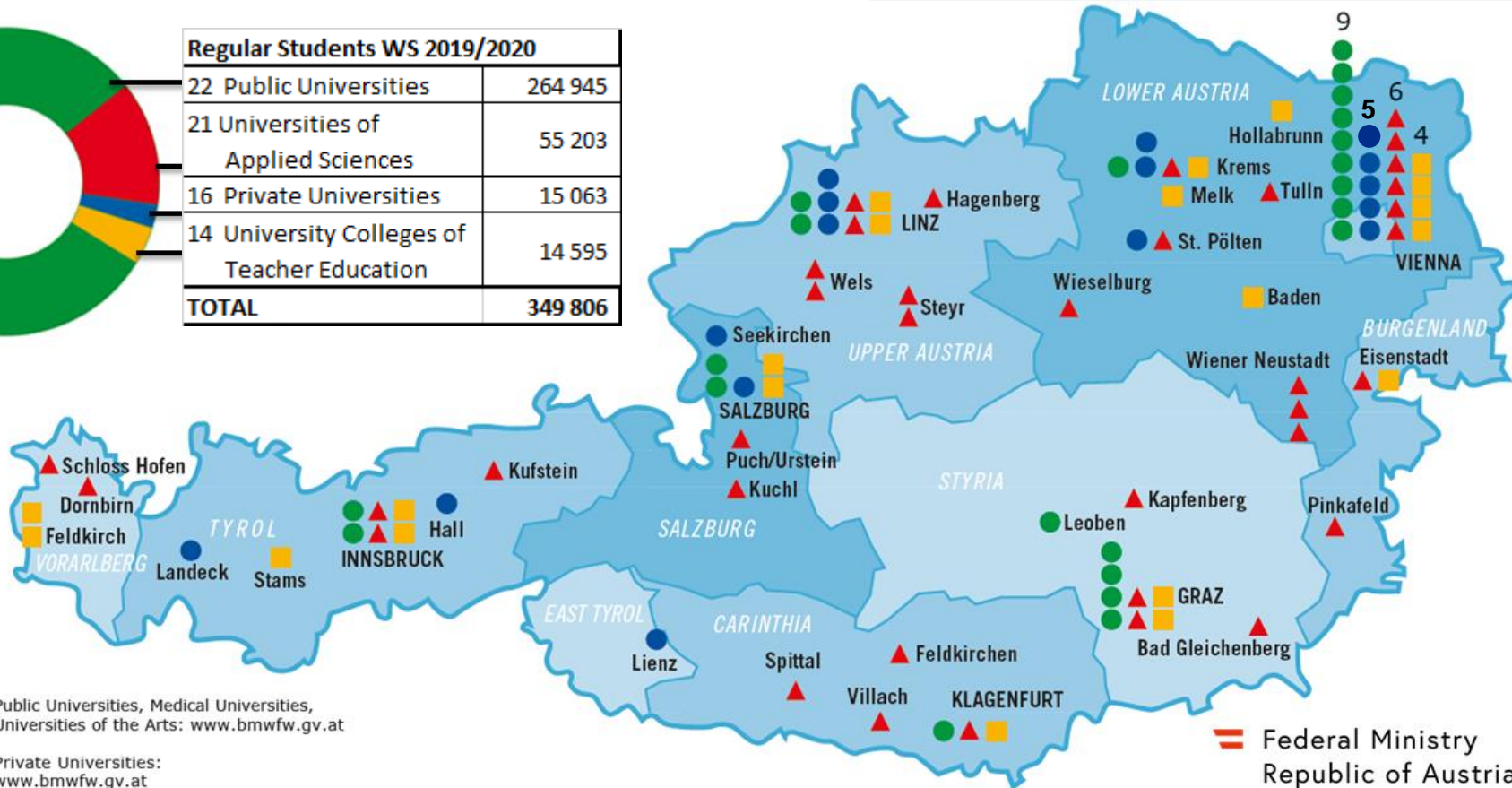
**Austrian Success rate
18,2% = 2nd in Europe**

**R&D-rate 3.19% (2018)
2nd highest in Europe; 6th highest worldwide
Strong Innovator / rank 8
European Innovation Scoreboard**

Higher Education in Austria



Regular Students WS 2019/2020	
22 Public Universities	264 945
21 Universities of Applied Sciences	55 203
16 Private Universities	15 063
14 University Colleges of Teacher Education	14 595
TOTAL	349 806



-  Public Universities, Medical Universities, Universities of the Arts: www.bmwf.gv.at
-  Private Universities: www.bmwf.gv.at
-  Universities of Applied Sciences: www.bmwf.gv.at
-  University Colleges of Teacher Education: www.bmbf.gv.at

SPECIFIC COOPERATION OPPORTUNITIES AT-AFRICA



Profile of the OeAD

Agency and central service point for European and international mobility and cooperation programmes in education, science and research:

- ERASMUS+ National Agency
- Administration of grants/scholarship programmes and support of recipients
- Information and advice for students and researchers (Visa, Housing, etc.)
- Global alumni network
- Worldwide promotion of Austria as attractive location for education & research

Facts and figures	Budget 2019:	€ 69,61 million
	Staff 2019:	217

www.oead.at



- **Scientific & Technological Cooperation (WTZ)**
 - based on inter-governmental agreements or memoranda of understanding on scientific and technological cooperation
 - Bilateral and multilateral research cooperation programs with: Argentina, Albania, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, the Czech Republic, **Egypt**, France, Hungary, India, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, **South Africa**, Ukraine and Vietnam
 - <https://oead.at/en/projects/international-cooperations/scientific-technological-cooperation-st-cooperation>



– Cooperation Development Research

- Austrian Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) has funded projects in the area of development research for many years, mainly centred around the cooperation with African countries.
- In 2019 the respective budget for these initiatives has been considerably increased and a new, revamped programme has been launched.
- Programme focuses on the support of solution-oriented cooperation projects between Austrian research institutions with partners in countries of the Global South in order to contribute to analysing and solving local challenges and to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- <https://oead.at/en/projects/international-cooperations/cooperation-development-research/>



– Cooperation Development Research

- 1st Call of the programme was launched in 2019;
huge interest of the scientific community;
- 14 projects approved for funding with a total budget of around € 500,000
- Project starts envisaged for October 2020 with a possibility of extending the duration due to the COVID-19 situation (travel restrictions etc.)



— Africa-UniNet

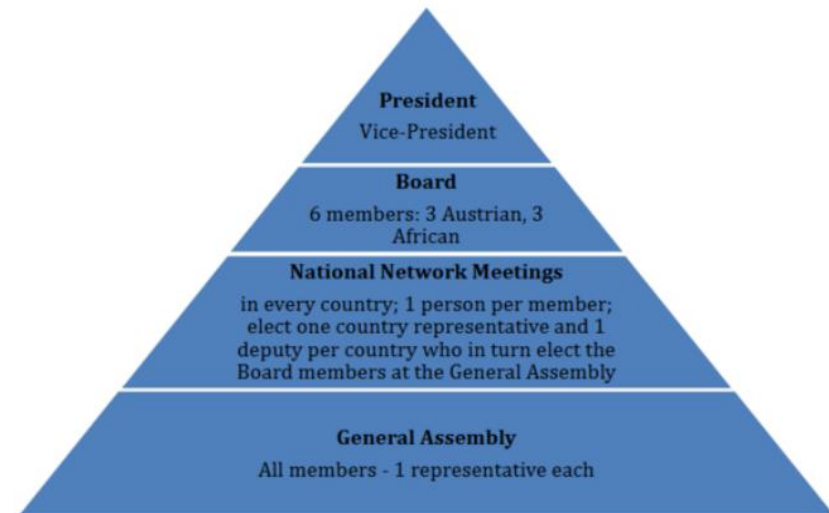
- The Austrian-African Research Network Africa-UniNet was initiated to create a long-term, stable basis for cooperation between Austrian and African universities and research institutions. It intends to promote new contacts, deepen scientific cooperation and provide excellent opportunities for innovative joint research projects.
- Goals & Tasks:
 - Promoting cooperation between academic institutions
 - Initiating research / research & education projects
 - Establishing a solid communication structure
 - Creating a platform for long-term science discourses
 - Providing expertise on the higher education & research landscape in AT & Africa



– Africa-UniNet

- The 1st General Assembly of the network has taken place in Vienna in January 2020
- The Africa-UniNet has **46 Founding Members**: 30 institutions from 12 African countries and 16 institutions from Austria.

Organisational structure of Africa-UniNet



The Africa-UniNet structure

© Africa-UniNet Statutes



– Africa-UniNet

- **1st Call currently open with a deadline of 30th September 2020 with a budget of more than € 300.000,-; member institutions of the network are invited to apply for research cooperation projects.**
- The aim of the projects is to promote excellent research and to contribute to the SDGs. They support the creation of new cooperation and reinforce existing partnerships between Austrian and African universities and research institutions. They strengthen the ties of Africa-UniNet members and put the network on a profound scientific basis.
- Funding can be provided for mobility costs, monthly scholarships or daily allowances as well as for equipment & material. Projects can be financed for a duration of max. 2 years.
- <https://africa-uninet.at/en/>



- **APPEAR - Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development**
 - APPEAR is a programme of the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC).
 - Financed by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and implemented by OeAD. Based on the ADC Strategy on “Higher Education and Scientific Cooperation” and several programme and project evaluation, see reports on [website](#)
 - The overall objective is to strengthen the institutional capacities in higher education, research and management in the addressed countries through Academic Partnerships with Austrian higher education institutions and master’s and PhD scholarships as a contribution to effective and sustainable reduction of poverty.
 - www.appear.at



- **APPEAR - Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development (ADC)**
 - Programme phases:
 - APPEAR programme phase I and II (2009-2020)
 - **APPEAR programme phase III:**
Tentative start in December 2020, currently negotiation process between ADA and OeAD (no specific information is at this point publicly available, general programme outline will remain probably as in previous phase with some changes and further developments)
 - Focus on partner countries of the ADC. Eligible countries in Africa (phase I and/or II):
 - Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya
 - Mozambique
 - Cape Verde, Burkina Faso, Senegal



Erasmus+ Higher Education – Cooperation with Partner Countries

– International Mobility between programme & partner countries

- Student or Staff Mobility to / from Erasmus+ Partner Countries:
 - **Studies:** 3 – 12 months (credit mobility) in a partner university
 - **Traineeships:** 2 – 12 months in a relevant organisation; recognition foreseen
 - **Teaching** (short-term) at a partner university abroad or
 - **Job-related training** at a suitable institution (university, company, NGO) abroad
- Funding:
 - **Student mobility:** 700 – 850 Euro per month;
 - **Staff mobility:** 160 – 180 Euro per day;
 - One-time payment of the travel grant according to distance
- Mobilities approved with Partner Countries worldwide in 2020: 1 660
- Mobilities approved between Austria and African Countries in 2020: 221
- <https://bildung.erasmusplus.at/de/hochschulbildung/internationale-mobilitaet/>



Erasmus+ Higher Education – Cooperation with Partner Countries

– Capacity Building in Higher Education

- Cooperation projects with a focus on the needs of developing partner countries worldwide (no participation of industrialised countries foreseen);
- Two forms:
 - **Joint Projects:** to develop, modernize and implement new curricula, teaching methods or materials, boost a quality assurance culture and modernize the management and governance of higher education institutions.
 - **Structural Projects** for the development and reform of national HE structures; projects should work on governance, qualification systems, quality assurance, accreditation etc. or enhance the links between higher education and society.
- Funding: up to 1 000 000 Euro per project
- **African countries** currently involved in projects with **Austria:** Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Morocco, Mozambique, South Africa, Tunisia
- <https://bildung.erasmusplus.at/de/hochschulbildung/capacity-building/>



Contact

OeAD | Department for International Cooperation in Higher Education

Gerhard Volz, Head of Department | gerhard.volz@oead.at

Unit Science and Research for Development Cooperation

APPEAR, Africa UniNet

Andreas Obrecht, Head | andreas.obrecht@oead.at | appear@oead.at

Unit Mobility Programmes and Cooperation

Cooperation Development Research, Scientific & Technological Cooperation (WTZ)

Lydia Skarits, Head | lydia.skarits@oead.at | mpc@oead.at

Unit Erasmus+ Higher Education

Erasmus+ Actions (International Mobility, Erasmus Mundus, Capacity Building in Higher Education)

Martin Gradl, Head | martin.gradl@oead.at | hochschulbildung@oead.at

Centralised Actions within ERASMUS+ Higher Education

Martina Friedrich, Programme Manager | martina.friedrich@oead.at | hochschulbildung@oead.at



EU Africa Strategy

Communication of the European Commission from 9th of March 2020

„Towards a comprehensive Strategy with Africa”

Horizon 2020

H2020 is open to collaborations on global level. For a number of African countries automatic co-funding is available. Dedicated calls for collaborative projects with African countries have been launched – e.g. EDCDP (Clinical Trials), European Initiative for Agricultural Research for Development, R&I partnership on Food Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA), Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (CCSE), Square Kilometre Array...

- **Specific COVID-19 related cooperation**
through the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) und their research networks ALERRT (African coalition for Epidemic Research, Response and Training) and PANDORA (Pan-African Network For Rapid Research, Response, Relief and Preparedness for Infectious Disease Epidemics)
- **EU-Africa High Level Policy Dialogue on Science, Technology and Innovation**
established in 2010 as an important element of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy;
- **Africa-Europe Innovation Partnership (AEIP)**
currently in a pilot phase; aims to connect high-quality incubators, accelerators and technology transfer offices from both continents to explore opportunities for mutually beneficial partnerships resulting in collaboration, exchange and growth.
- **1st Ministerial Conference** between European and African Research Ministers took place on 16th of July 2020; results will feed into the **EU-African Union Summit** planned for October 2020

- Austria has Horizon 2020 co-operations with **23 out of the 54 African countries**.
- From the overall 128 projects **South Africa** (35), **Egypt** (13), **Ethiopia** (11), **Kenya** (11) and **Tunisia** (9) are the leading cooperation partners.
- The overwhelming majority of projects take place in the societal challenges part of Horizon 2020 (90), followed by Marie S. Curie activities for mobility and training (16), Research Infrastructures and Industrial Leadership (6 each).

– Salzburg Medical Seminars

The Open Medical Institute in Salzburg, supported by the BMBWF in cooperation with the Open Society Foundation, is offering a postgraduate medical education program aiming at bridging the knowledge gap between East and West, North and South and reducing the massive brain drain in these regions. The seminars link physicians from leading American and Austrian hospitals and their affiliated medical schools with physicians from Eastern and South Eastern Europe **and other countries in transition**. Increasingly participants from African countries are using these opportunity for a state of the art training.

After having successfully completed the first step (medical seminars), fellows return to their home countries. They are now eligible to complete the next steps of the program (Observerships and Satellite Symposia). This method ensures that the fellows do not stay abroad for an extended period of time, but rather take part in several short-term educational activities in Austria and the United States over a number of years. Furthermore, the eligibility of program participants is **limited to physicians who are employed in their home countries**.

<https://www.aaf-online.org/index.php/omi-salzburg-medical-seminars.html>

- **Austrian Science Fund (FWF)**
<https://www.fwf.ac.at/en/>
- **Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)**
<https://www.ffg.at/en>
- **Austrian Promotional Bank (AWS)**
<https://www.aws.at/en/>
- **Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW)**
<https://www.oeaw.ac.at/en/>

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION**