



INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

# ÖPUL - the Austrian Environmental Program

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Inovace studijních programů AF a ZF MENDELU směřující k vytvoření mezioborové integrace  
CZ.1.07/2.2.00/28.0302

Tato prezentace je spolufinancovaná z Evropského sociálního fondu a státního rozpočtu České republiky



**With its agricultural environmental programme, “ÖPUL”, Austria is actively working to foster environmentally benign farming practices.**

**ÖPUL is a tool to encourage and push sustainable and environmental friendly agricultural management.**

**The programme exists since 1995**



# Agricultural Environment Programme in Austria

Unlike some other EU countries which apply their environmental programmes only in specific, environmentally sensitive areas, Austria chose an integral, horizontal approach for ÖPUL which aims at the participation of Austrian farmers all over the country.

The legal basis of the programme is a Special Ordinance of the Federal Government which is implemented on a private administration basis and which includes general eligibility criteria and special eligibility criteria for specific measures.





# Agricultural Environment Programme in Austria

- **Overriding goals of ÖPUL**
- Promotion of sustainable rural development
- Contribution towards satisfying the increasing social demand for environmental services
- Encouragement for farmers, in the interest of all of society to introduce or maintain production methods that are compatible with the protection and improvement of the environment, the landscape and the rural habitat, the natural resources, the soil and genetic diversity



# Agricultural Environment Programme in Austria

- Which measures are there?
  - Organic management
  - Environmentally friendly management of arable and grassland surfaces
  - Renunciation of yield-increasing agents on arable land
  - Abstention from using yield-increasing agents on field forage land and grassland
  - Abstention from the use of fungicides on grain-growing land
  - Environmentally friendly management of medicinal plants and herbs, alternatives and seed reproduction
  - Integrated production of certain arable crops (potatoes, strawberries, vegetables and beat)



# Agricultural Environment Programme in Austria

- Erosion protection fruit and hops
- Integrated fruit and hops production
- Erosion protection for vineries
- Integrated production of wine
- Integrated protected cultivation production
- Abandonment of silage
- Preservation of scattered fruit tree stands
- Mowing of steep surfaces
- Management of mountain meadows
- Alpine pasturage and shepherding
- Ecopoints
- Grass planting on arable surfaces
- Mulch and direct sowing





# Agricultural Environment Programme in Austria



- Regional project for groundwater protection and grassland preservation
- Preventive soil and water protection
- Management of arable surfaces particularly at risk of erosion
- Undercropping in maize
- Low-loss application of liquid organic fertilizers and biogas manure
- Rare livestock breeds
- Rare agricultural crops
- Preservation and development of surfaces valuable in terms of nature conservation and important in terms of water protection
- Animal welfare measure



# Agricultural Environment Programme in Austria

- **Initiative Agriculture 2020”**
- The common strategy for the future of domestic agriculture and forestry is to create perspectives for Austria's farmers. It is developed and implemented in modules.
- Module 1: Future of the CAP “Home in your heart, Europe in your mind”
- The goal of the first module is to further develop the European Model of Agriculture for the time after 2013. It shall be guaranteed that agriculture renders services for society in the entire national territory, also in mountainous regions and in less-favoured areas. Furthermore, the share of agriculture is to be safeguarded both in the EU budget in Austria’s national budget. Stable market instruments provide a safety net for agriculture and foster its productive capacity.





- **Module 2: Rural Development – RD 14 – 20 “Growth needs fertile ground”**
- At EU level, the legal bases for the orientation of the rural development policy after 2013 are negotiated. This is the basis on which Austria has to work out a new rural development programme for the next programming and financial period (2014 – 2020). Farmers are confronted with new challenges like climate change, renewable energy and biodiversity. To cope with them clear, consistent target “packages” are formulated (competitiveness, value-adding, training and further training).



- **Module 3: Business plan – Educational plan “Sow education, reap success”**
- Competitiveness is dealt with in the third module. To increase our competitiveness, technical knowledge, entrepreneurial competence and personality formation have to be enhanced. The goal is to create a business plan for every enterprise, to establish stronger networks between the education and advisory systems and to foster research / teaching linkages. Austria’s high-quality education and advisory services shall be guaranteed and further extended.



## Module 4: Food “Safe. Genuine. From Austria”

The goal is to safeguard Austrian agricultural products and food in competition for the long term by means of high quality. Agriculture must meet the request of consumers for safety, especially for Austrian quality and designations of origin for food. The bundling of export-oriented activities and the further development of market shares in the single market and on third-country markets are declared goals as well.





- **Module 5: Quality partnership – Value-adding “Stronger cooperation – Higher quality”**



The goal is to improve the competitiveness of the upstream and downstream industries. Supply processes shall be bundled and the strategic orientation of producer organisations and/or cooperatives shall be promoted. Innovative projects and synergies shall be fostered. The goal includes also the further development of common certification systems



- **Module 6: Administrative simplification “Cut bureaucracy, exploit growth”**
- The goal is to increase the acceptance for record-keeping and documentation by means of targeted information work. Farmers shall be relieved by means of user-friendly offers.



# Agricultural Environment Programme in Austria

- **Module 7: New fields of production “Create opportunities, seize opportunities”**
- The goal of this module is to increase the share of renewable energy and the production of biogenic raw materials for the industry. The dependence on fossil raw materials shall be reduced. By generating renewable energy agriculture contributes also to climate protection. In the Renewable Energy Directive national target values for the share of renewables in primary energy consumption were laid down at EU level. For Austria, this target value is 34 percent; it is to be reached by 2020. On this basis the Austrian “Energy Strategy 2020” was worked out, which sets out the concrete implementing for the individual sectors to make the target a reality. The Austrian Energy Strategy shall be implemented in this context.





# **ÖPUL – Agricultural Environment Programme in Austria 2015-2020**

- **Commitment period**
  - 6 years from 2015 (1.1.**2015** – 31.12.**2020**)
  - 5 years from 2016 (1.1.**2016** – 31.12.**2020**)
- **Eligible areas (only in Austria)**
  - Fields and meadows, mountain meadows, special crops (wine, fruit ...)
- **No eligible areas**
  - Forestry and nurseries
  - Non cultivated areas
  - National Parks (with exceptions)

# **ÖPUL – Agricultural Environment Programme in Austria 2015-2020**

- **Required to be met**
  - Fields
    - Cultivation / care / harvest
  - Meadows
    - Mow at least once a year or use as pasture
  - Special crops
    - Planting / care / harvest

# **ÖPUL – Agricultural Environment Programme in Austria 2015-2020**

- **Per eligible area additions**
  - 2016 all areas
  - 2017 bis 2019 50% of the area based on 2016
  - 2020 no addition possible
- **Reduction of area**
  - Possible but
    - a maximum of 5% per year
    - a maximum of 5 acres
    - in case of emergency



# ÖPUL – Agricultural Environment Programme in Austria 2015-2020

- **Maximum monetary bonus**

- Field 600 EUR/ha
- Field with special environmental obligations 700 EUR/ha
- Meadows 600 EUR/ha
- Meadows in mountain areas 800 EUR/ha
- Meadows with special environmental obligations 900 EUR/ha
- Special crops with special environmental obligations 1.400 EUR/ha

- **Modulation**

- up to 100 ha 100 % monetary bonus
- > 100 ha up to 300 ha 90 % monetary bonus
- > 300 ha up to 1.000 ha 85 % monetary bonus
- 1.000 ha 75 % monetary bonus

Each farmer has to make an application once in a year  
Compliance with the rules is strictly controlled

## **ÖPUL – Agricultural Environment Programme in Austria 2015-2020**

- (1) Environmental and biodiversity-friendly management**
- (2) Restriction in crop protection and fertilization**
- (3) Waiver of fungicides and growth regulators in cereals**
- (4) Cultivation of rare arable crops**
- (5) Preserving rare livestock breeds**
- (6) Cover cropping**
- (7) Greening**
- (8) No till, mulch and strip-till**
- (9) Natural fertilization**
- (10) Erosion control fruit, vines, hops**
- (11) No herbicides and insecticides in wine, hops**
- (12) Predators in greenhouses**
- (13) Preventive groundwater protection**
- (14) Erosion management on slopes**
- (15) Surface Water Protection**
- (16) Protection of Nature**
- (17) Organic farming**

# **Intercropping in the LE 2020 - ÖPUL**



**Thank you for your attention**

