Astana Water Action (AWA)
Actions by AUSTRIA

Country: AUSTRIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of the action</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ambitious urban waste water treatment and drinking water supply nationwide in place</td>
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<td>(AWA paragraphs 12b, 12c, 12d, 13h, 15d, 15e, 15f, 15g, 15i, 15j, 15k)</td>
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Description of the action
Centralized networks for urban waste water collection and treatment as well as drinking water supply are established for all agglomerations in Austria based on stringent pollution reduction targets respectively stringent limit values for drinking water. In case of very small and scattered settlements appropriate individual systems are in place. Therefore water quality of Austrian rivers is in general good. Key to success was the continued financial state support system for more than 3 decades. Remaining efforts are focusing on maintenance and upgrading of the systems.

Expected outcome
Prevention of waterborne diseases.
Improvement of water quality and aquatic ecosystems.

Partners
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management
9 Federal provinces (Länder), municipalities

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Country: AUSTRIA

Title of the action
Implementation of IWRM; Improvement of ecosystems by restoration of river continuity and habitat connectivity (AWA paragraph 14b, 14d)

Description of the action
As ambitious waste water treatment (including removal of nutrients) is in place throughout the entire Austrian territory, water quality of rivers is in general good; the main remaining challenge is – in line with the findings of the national IWRM plan - to improve aquatic ecosystems by restoring longitudinal and lateral connectivity of river habitats. An action program is implemented according to a three step time table until 2015/2021/2027 based on an ecological prioritization approach. For all new water constructions, environmental flows in rivers as well as ecological continuity have to be ensured. In addition financial incentives are provided for measures necessary to improve the situation in place. Legal basis for these measures are the National River Basin Management Plan and the Austrian Water Act.
http://wisa.lebensministerium.at/article/archive/27019
http://wasser.lebensministerium.at/article/articleview/71957/1/5662/

Expected outcome
Improvement of aquatic ecosystems

Partners
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management
9 Federal provinces (Länder)
E-Business (hydropower sector)

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Country: AUSTRIA

Title of the action:
Enhancement of renewable energy production -
Refurbishment program for small hydro power plants (AWA paragraph 14d, 14e)

Description of the action
The Refurbishment Program aims at 2 objectives: to increase hydro power production of small hydroelectric power plants and at the same time to adapt them to stringent environmental standards (e.g. installation of fish-passes and appropriate residual water to ensure environmental flows). Cornerstones for the success of this program running in 2 Länder (provinces Upper Austria and Lower Austria) were free advisory services to assess the viability of a potential refurbishment and financial incentives for the investments.

http://www.esv.or.at/foerderungen/oekostrom/kleinwasserkraft/
http://www.noe.gv.at/Umwelt/Energie/Kleinwasserkraft.wai.html
http://www.alpconv.org/documents/Permanent_Secretariat/web/WG/ WP_Annex1.pdf

Expected outcome
Refurbishment of small hydroelectric power plants in order to
- increase overall hydropower production
- while meeting at the same time new stringent environmental standards.

Partners
Federal provinces (Länder) Upper Austria and Lower Austria
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management
E-Business (hydropower sector)

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