

Higher Education Planning in Austria

Public Universities

Sabine Koch

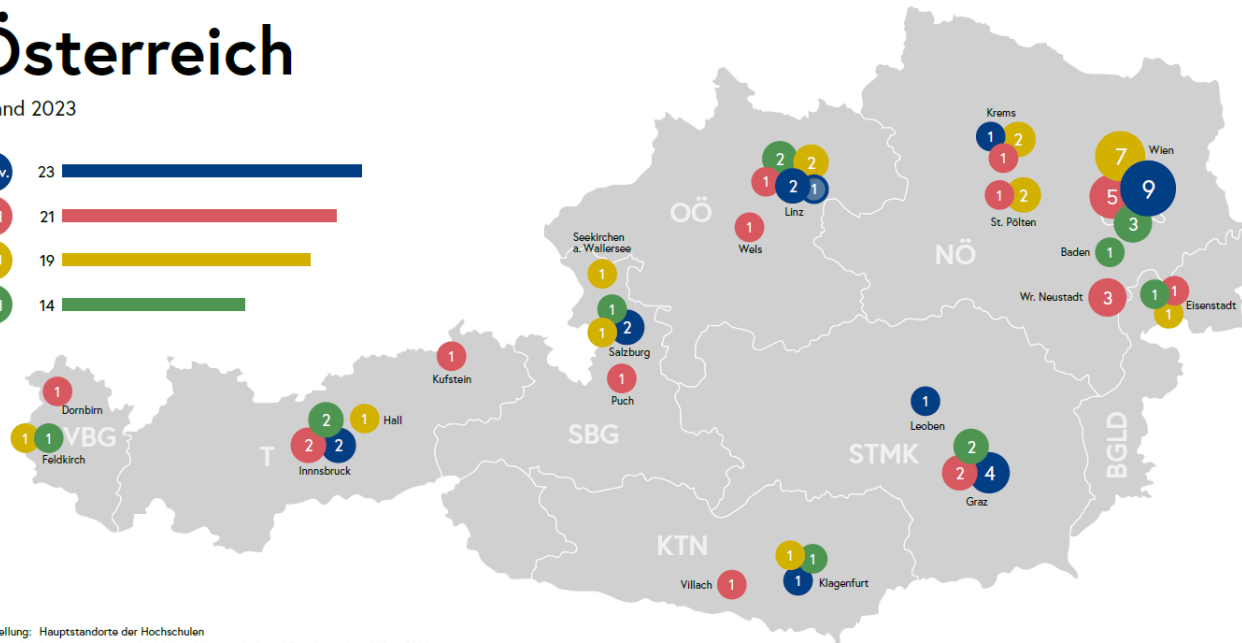
Overview Today

- Higher Education Governance in Austria → Steering Model
- Strategic Instruments:
 - Austrian Higher Education Plan
 - Austrian National Development Plan
 - Performance Agreements
- Possibilities for Participation

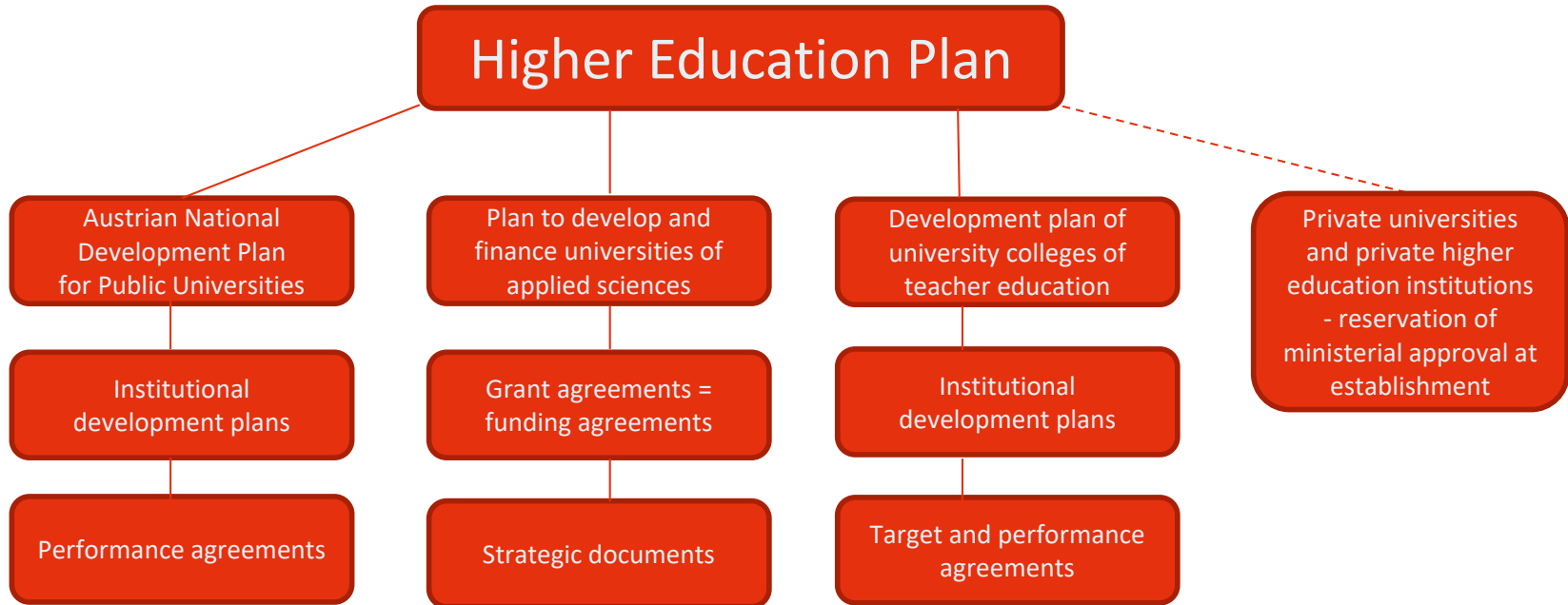
Austrian Higher Education Area

Standorte der Hochschulen in Österreich

Stand 2023



Steering model



Austrian Higher Education Plan

The Strategic Agenda for the future Austrian HE system

- Umbrella strategy covering all 4 sectors of the Austrian higher education area
- Creates a vision for the Austrian higher education area in 2050
- Defines goals and standards for 2030
- 4 quantitative developmental indicators
- 5 qualitative lines of development
- Implemented via strategic sectoral documents

5 qualitative lines of development

- Higher education landscape and location development
- Austrian higher education institutions in an international context
- New education biographies and permeability
- Participation in education
- Teaching, research as well as development and promotion of the arts in the context of societal challenges

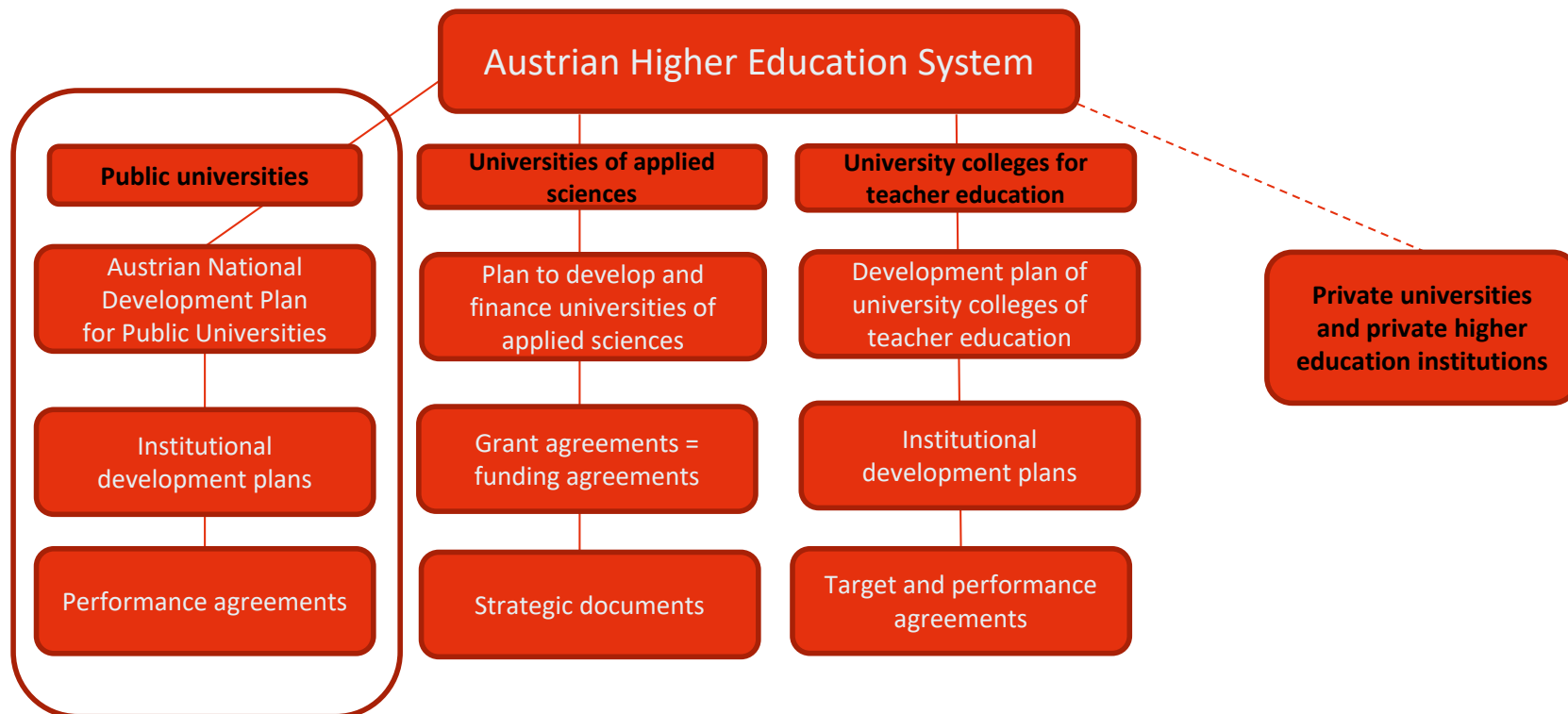
4 quantitative developmental indicators

- Improving the mentoring ratio in all sectors of higher education
- Increasing the number of graduates
- Enhancing the degree of internationalization of graduates
- Improving the proportion of women in key positions in research and teaching

Austrian Higher Education Plan

Highlighted aspects

- Improving the proportion of women in key positions in research and teaching
- Improving the attractiveness of Austrian HEIs as employers



Austrian National Development Plan for Public Universities (1)

- Universities Act 2002, § 12b
- Strategic planning framework for the public universities
- Covers two following performance agreement periods and defines the general contents for the scope of tasks of public universities
- First launched in 2015
- Since then updated every three years

Austrian National Development Plan for Public Universities (2)

Structure

- Objectives
- Implementation Objectives
- Fields of Action
- Financing
- Statistical Information as a basis for financing
 - number of active students by field of study, number of graduates, number of persons in research
- Strategic documents of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research
- Digitalisation strategy “Universities and Digital Transformation in 2030”

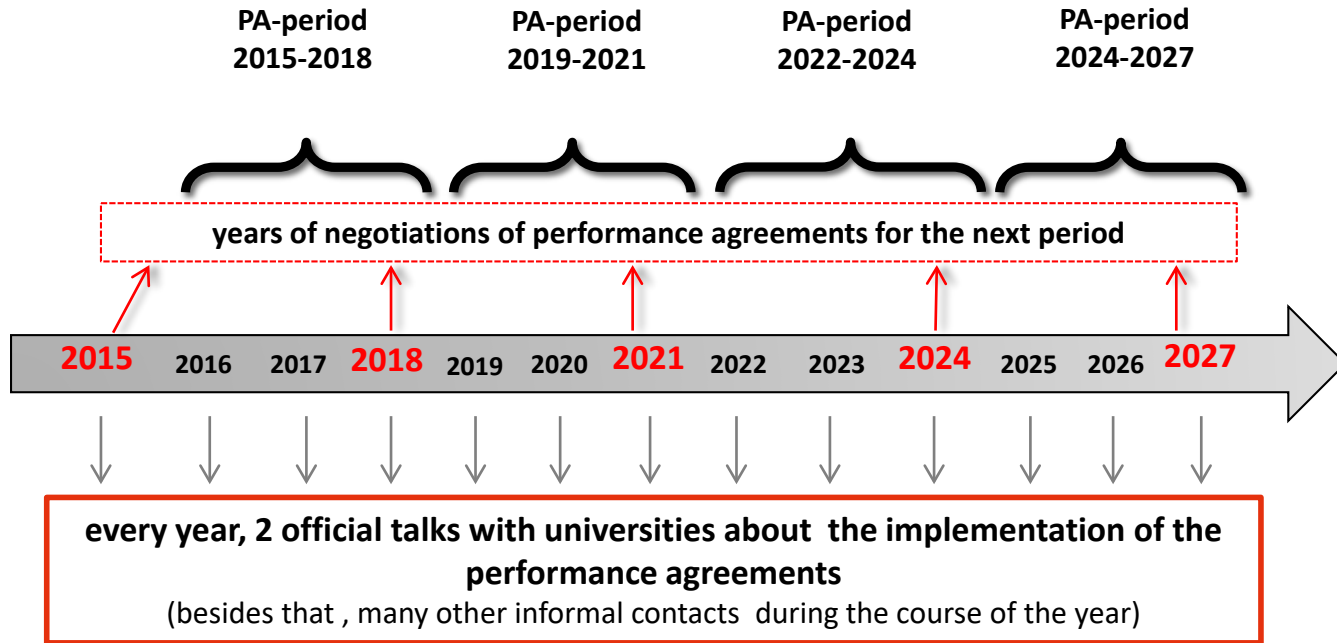
Austrian National Development Plan for Public Universities 2025-2030 – highlighted aspects

- Objective 4: “Promoting the next generation of scientists and artists as well as of equality and social inclusion”
 - Attractive career concepts for young scientists and artists
 - Continued development of PhD-training
 - Gender equality and inclusion

University management: an overview

- Paradigm shift in 2002 with Universities Act 2002 → universities are suddenly autonomous
- universities now act as legal personalities
- the government is obliged by law to ensure university financing
- every three years each university concludes a performance agreement (PA) with the federal government
- universities submit intellectual capital reports and financial statements on an annual basis
- Main tasks of universities: Teaching, Research and 3rd Mission

Steering through performance agreements (1)



Steering through performance agreements (2)

Focal Points in the PAs (2022-2024)

- **Promotion of young scientists and artists**
- Horizon Europe
- Developments in the field of studies
- Collaborative action
- Freedom for unconventional research and creativity
- New worlds of learning
- SDG's and sustainability
- Studyability
- Knowledge transfer
- Lifelong learning

Participating in the Management of Public Universities in Austria

→ Possibilities for PostDocs

- Universities Act 2002 – legal basis
- Definition of PostDocs
- Possibilities for engagement:
 - Senate
 - Working Group on Equal Opportunities

Bridges over Breaches – Assessment Criteria for Research Careers

An Interactive Online Workshop

28.11.2023, 9 am to 12.10 pm

Workshop Objectives:

1. Raise awareness about various assessment criteria in research careers
2. Foster dialogue on policy advice to cocreate future assessment criteria
3. Develop a set of assessment criteria beneficial for both the ministry and researchers across key pillars of academia.

Please register by 14.11.2023 at iv-1.Workshop@bmbwf.gv.at

Happy to answer your questions!

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