



ERA PROGRESS IN AUSTRIA HIGHLIGHTS

This fact sheet provides a snapshot of Austria's progress in implementing the European Research Area (ERA) over the past decade.



== POLICY CONTEXT

The leading institution for the development and implementation of national R&I policy and ERA is the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) in close cooperation with the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK), which likewise supports various research and innovation programmes and projects. The federal government also promotes various research institutions and initiatives, such as the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) for developing basic research, and the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) focusing on applied research associated with industry.

In December 2022, BMBWF adopted the Austrian National ERA Action Plan 2022-2025 (ERA NAP). This plan contains 12 initiatives with concrete measures to implement the Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe and the ERA Policy Agenda 2022-2024. The national initiatives covered include open science, human resources development, gender equality, citizen science, energy transition, research infrastructure, and international cooperation.

The main document reflecting the general R&I policy in Austria is the RTI Strategy 2030. The strategy is based on the OECD's 2018 analysis of Austria's innovation policy, the European Commission's concept of Smart Specialisation, and cross-cutting issues such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), digitalisation, and open science. The strategy is accompanied by RTI Pacts, which operationalise the targets and fields of activity.

Compared to the first RTI Pact (2021-2023), the budget for R&I has increased by around 31% (to EUR 5,048.673 million) with the adoption of the second RTI Pact (2024-2026). Additionally, the Austrian Research and Technology Report (2023) presents the R&I situation in Austria and covers the status of implementation of the RTI Strategy.

One specific and relevant initiative to note focuses on the Austrian participation in (the recently concluded) European discussions to revise the Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan, aiming to protect national interests and contribute valuable technical insights from energy policy experts to enhance the plan's revision process. In terms of enabling the open sharing of knowledge and research outputs, BMBWF has been actively involved in the development of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC), which aims to create a virtual environment for open and seamless access to data, services, and expertise for research across Europe. In 2022, the Council of Ministers adopted the 'Open Science Policy Austria', which provides the basis for Austria's contribution to EOSC.



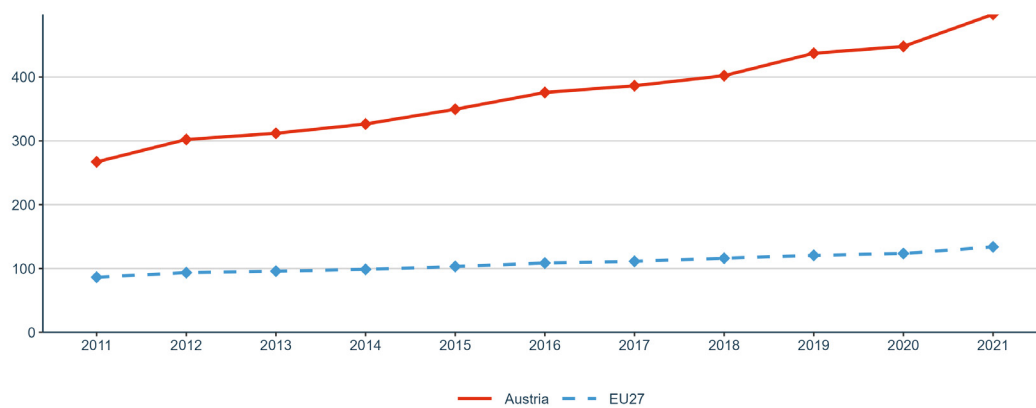
KEY TAKE-AWAYS AUSTRIA

- Austria is a strong innovator, but has not yet reached its aim formulated in the RTI Strategy 2030 to become an innovation leader.
- Austria has significantly improved its performance concerning the open science goal.
- While Austria is making progress in reforms and investments related to the green transition, the European Semester Report 2023 states that challenges remain with regard to skills shortages, subsidies that are environmentally harmful and lengthy permitting procedures.

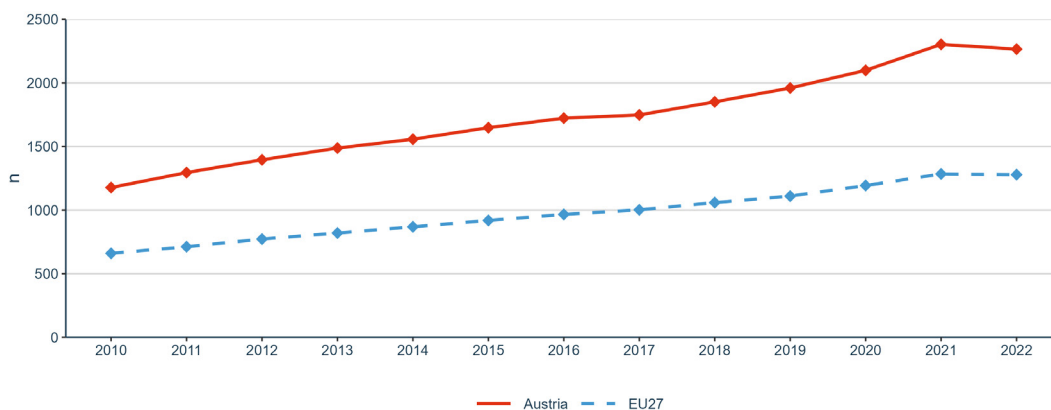


CHARTING THE WAY FORWARD...

Sub-priority 1.5: Knowledge valorisation – Share of public-private co-publications per 1 mio inhabitants



Sub-priority 1.7: Global engagement – International co-publications with non-EU partners per 1,000 researchers in the public sector



LEARN MORE

- [Download](#) the full ERA Monitoring Austria Report 2023
- [Read](#) the ‘Communication on A new ERA for Research and Innovation’
- [Consult](#) the background on New ERA, the EU Pact for R&I, the EU Policy Agenda and more