



Green Care Policies in Austria

Working Group 3

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Objectives of Green Care in Austria

Social Integration and fostering quality of life

- Integration into primary or secondary labour market via occupational training and therapy
- long-term care and nursing

► Positive impact of nature on human beings

Multifunctional income strategy for marginalized regions and enterprises

- Agricultural holdings, private households, horticulture etc.
- Utilisation of unspoiled landscapes and nature in remote rural areas

Health Reform

- Structural change within the health sector
- Discussion at the beginning

Green Care in Austrian Agriculture

Target groups

Handicapped and disabled persons

Psychiatric clients

Alcohol and drug addicts

Children: school gardens, kindergartens

Elderly persons: geriatric hospitals

Intercultural Exchange, refugees, migrants, community gardens

Hospices, children hospices

Detainees, released convicts

Further fringe groups

Green Care Institutions

Estimate

Number of institutions: 20-25

Number of clients: 200-300

Run and coordinated by

- **Churches (Caritas, deaconry)**
- **Social welfare institutions**
- **Psychiatric and geriatric hospitals**
- **Private associations**
- **Länder (provinces)**

Characteristics

- **No clear distinction between Farming for Health and Green Care, no commonly used term in Austrian German**
- **Mainly small scale units, many of them family based**
- **Lack of knowledge exchange and networking**
- **Trial and error, learning by doing rather than master plans**
- **Many innovative interdisciplinary approaches**
 - despite feeble public support and strict regulations
 - new tendency of increasing networking
 - growing interest from policy makers and stakeholders

Synergic impact

Green and open space as a tool for promoting social integration

- **Animal assisted therapy**
- **Art and culture**
- **Neighbourhood, enhancing social capital**
- **Community gardening**
- **Education: schools and kindergartens**

Legal Frame of Green Care in Austria

Handicapped and disabled persons as a main target group

- **Antidiscrimination act 1995**
- **Labour act for disabled persons 1999**
- **Federal law for care benefit 1993**

Antidiscrimination Act 1995

- **The act aims at eliminating every kind of discrimination of persons suffering from mental or physical disabilities and at the same time promoting their equal participation in society and an autonomous way of life**
- **The Länder (provinces) established their own implementation acts**

2004: Vienna, Styria, Carinthia

2005: Burgenland, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Tyrol, Vorarlberg

2006: Salzburg

Legal Frame of Green Care in Austria

Labour Act for disabled Persons 1999

- All employers with at least 25 employees are obliged to employ one disabled person for each 25 employees or to pay **compensatory taxes** (209 Euro per month 2007)
- **Integration into the primary or secondary labour market** fostering employment, an utmost degree of independence and autonomy, work assistance. Disabled persons who can reach at least 50 percent of the performance quota laid down for the able-bodied may be employed in sheltered workshops or work assistance centres
- **Long-time care and nursing** institutions providing accommodation and care to persons who are too severely disabled for meeting the minimum requirements of sheltered work. A prerequisite is to keep certain care standards guaranteeing that the disabled are treated and cared properly. Persons running such shops either need special training or are forced to employ professional employees. **Daily care rates** are paid for the nursing of the disabled by the government.

Legal Frame of Green Care in Austria

Federal Law of Care Benefit 1993

- standardized nursing allowances eligible to all persons in need of care due to a physical, psychological or mental disease or handicap
- Nursing needs are officially regulated and divided into 7 levels. The monthly amount comprises currently (2007) at

Level 1	€ 148.30
Level 2	€ 273.40
Level 3	€ 421.80
Level 4	€ 632.70
Level 5	€ 859.30
Level 6	€ 1,171.70
Level 7	€ 1,562.10

- Suspension of nursing allowances in case of hospital or institutional treatment (after the 2nd day) whenever the expenses are covered by the insurance agency, government or hospital

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