



ADC Report

Thematic focuses

Part I

Austrian
Development Cooperation



Publisher

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Abbreviations

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific (states)
ADA	Austrian Development Agency
ADC	Austrian Development Cooperation and Cooperation with Eastern Europe
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
CDM	Clean development mechanisms
DAC	Development Assistance Committee of the OECD
EU	European Union
DC	Development cooperation
DCA	Federal Development Cooperation Act, Federal Law Gazette I 49/2002 as amended by Federal Law Gazette I 65/2003
EUWF	European Union Water Facility
IFI	International Finance Institution (World Bank group)
LDC	Least Developed Countries
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MSME	Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprises
WTO	World Trade Organization
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Foreword

Development cooperation and the unconditional fight against poverty, promotion of peace and protection of natural resources in the poorest countries of the world are core foreign policy concerns. Austrian development cooperation was reformed and adapted to the changing international context and new challenges through the new Development Cooperation Act of 2002 and the establishment of the Austrian Development Agency in 2004. The Austrian approach has proved itself in practice, and more human and financial resources are available today for development cooperation.

In 2005 Austria earmarked a record 1.2 billion euros to support our partner countries. This is also an expression of our clear commitment to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the excellent collaboration with our international and European partners.

It has become increasingly important for the international community to coordinate its programmes and objectives. Austria has therefore defined thematic focuses and provides assistance in those areas where it has well established and internationally recognised expertise. Without the idealism, zeal and competence of our many partners, Austrian and local non-governmental organisations (NGOs), businesses and private initiatives the progress that is reported here would not have been possible. I should like express my sincere thanks to all those who have been involved in the successful development in our partner countries.

Ursula Plassnik
Federal Minister for European and International Affairs

About the Report

The Report consists of a review of thematic focuses of Austrian Development Cooperation and Cooperation with Eastern Europe (ADC) and a statistical section listing all official development assistance (ODA) by Austria.

The section “**Thematic focuses**” describes the themes and sectors in which ADC is currently active. ADC concentrates on specific themes and sectors so as to increase the effectiveness of its resources. Complementarity and coherence with other international donors are of increasing importance in this respect.

ADC uses a number of instruments to implement its thematic focuses – from programme and project financing to basket funding with other donors and sectoral budget support.

The section “**Official development aid in figures**” is a statistical reference work. It offers a comprehensive survey of the composition, geographical and thematic distribution of resources and the origins and implementation structure. The ODA figures also reflect the breadth of Austria’s participation in development cooperation with multilateral organisations – the European Union (EU), United Nations (UN) and international financial institutions (IFIs).

Development policy context

The development policy debate which provides the framework for Austrian development cooperation was marked by a number of milestones in the period under review.

International and EU context

The international and EU context were marked by significant decisions to **increase the scope** and **improve the quality** of development cooperation.

In the run-up to the UN Summit in September 2005 the **European Union** determined that by 2010 each of the 15 old Member States should contribute 0.51 per cent of their gross national income (GNI) to ODA and should achieve the old UN target of 0.7 per cent by the year 2015. The ten states that joined the EU as full members on 1 May 2004 also committed themselves to a timetable for the achievement of targets for their development cooperation activities.

The **UN Summit** in September 2005 confirmed the MDGs as guidelines for national and international development activities, consolidated the UN human rights mechanisms and laid the groundwork for more concerted efforts regarding security and development through the decision to establish a Peacebuilding Commission.

The **Paris Declaration** of 2005 was designed to improve the quality of development cooperation. It calls for the alignment by donors with the planning documents of the partner country, greater harmonisation within the donor community, shared responsibility by donor and partner countries and results-oriented reporting.

Greater thematic coordination within the EU, the largest donor group, was achieved in 2005 through the adoption of the **European Consensus on Development**, which defines the principles to be observed by both the Commission and the individual EU Member States in their development cooperation activities in future and specifies the sectors to be coordinated by the European Commission and the Member States.

The EU gave particular priority to Africa in 2005 through the adoption of a comprehensive **EU Africa strategy**, which covers all policy areas and was fostered significantly by the African focus of the British EU Presidency and the G-8.

The **review of the Cotonou Agreement** – partnership between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states – was concluded in spring 2005, opening up the possibility for more intensive cooperation between the EU and the ACP states with regard to human rights, rule of law and combating terrorism, and in respect of trade relations. Negotiations on economic partnerships were started, after 2007 the old preference arrangements will no longer comply with World Trade Organization (WTO) regulations.

The hope that a further global round of trade liberalisation – the WTO Doha development round – would stimulate the development process in developing countries by permitting greater integration in the world economy did not come to fruition in the period under review.

Austrian milestones

Following the adoption of the Development Cooperation Act (DCA) in 2003, the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) started operations on 1 January 2004 as a state-owned limited company (GmbH). Since that time, ADC has had a dual structure: Department VII of the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs until March 2007) is responsible for elaborating the policy framework and strategy, while their implementation is the sole responsibility of the ADA.

A periodic country audit by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) was carried out in 2004. The audit was generally positive and recommended further geographical and thematic concentration of ADC.

The **Three-Year Programmes** for 2004-2006 and 2005-2007 respond to the OECD recommendations through a greater concentration on priority countries: Ethiopia, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Uganda; Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro including Kosovo (in the period under review), Moldova; Palestinian Territories. In addition to the priority countries, regional programmes were initiated to foster the regional integration of partner countries in accordance with their own focuses. This is also in line with the EU approach.

In accordance with the **coherence requirement** of the 2003 DCA, which states that “the Federal Government, in the fields of policy it pursues that may have effects on developing countries, shall take into consideration the objectives and principles of development policy”, Department VII of the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs set up an interministerial working group whose programme is based on the EU coherence agenda. The inclusion of development policy considerations in law review was also given a more systematic structure.

As part of the **internationalisation offensive** of Austrian foreign trade, cooperation with industry was intensified.

The **IFI strategy** for 2005 elaborated by the Federal Ministry of Finance in conjunction with the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs and other relevant agencies on Austria's collaboration in IFIs formed the basis for more effective representation of Austrian interests in these important institutions.

The **tsunami disaster** of 26 December 2004 and the munificent demonstration of solidarity by the Austrian public necessitated rapid and comprehensive planning to ensure that the resources could be used effectively and sustainably.

Activities at the **EU level** in 2005 were dominated by preparations for Austria's EU Presidency in the first half of 2006. Particular attention was paid by ADC to relations with the new Member States and the exchange of experience on the establishment of development cooperation structures.



Water is intimately linked with education, gender equality, health, environmental protection and the urbanisation of poverty. "The stakes are high. Without an integrated approach, we could face a tangle of problems. But with one, we could generate a cascade of progress."

Kofi Annan, Sustainable Development Commission, 2004

ADC water activities: geographical focuses



Key terms

■ SANITATION

Sanitation includes the facilities and hygiene principles and practices related to the safe collection, reuse and/or disposal of human excreta and domestic wastewater.

Definition from: *Sanitation Policies, Thematic Overview Paper, International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC), Delft 2003*

■ INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (IWRM)

"IWRM is a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximise the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems."

Definition from: *Global Water Partnership (GWP), Technical Advisory Committee (TAC): Integrated Water Resources Management. TAC Background Papers No. 4, Stockholm 2000*

■ EU WATER FACILITY

In April 2003 the EU Commission proposed to increase its contribution to the financing of the water sector in ACP countries through the setting up of the EU Water Facility (ACP-EUWF). The aim of the EUWF is to develop a sustainable water and sanitation infrastructure and to improve water and resource management in the partner countries.

Global context

Water as key sector in MDGs

Reliable drinking water supply, improved sanitary conditions and sustainable water resource management are among the main requirements for development. Poverty, hunger, many diseases and child mortality cannot be combated without an appropriate water supply. Conservation of the environment is therefore linked to the protection of water resources. Added to this is the indirect effect: if they have a secure water supply children will attend school more regularly because they are not sick so often and do not have to fetch water. There is also a close correlation with gender equality, democratisation and conflict prevention. The water sector is therefore vital to the achievement of the MDGs.

Our perspective

Water supply and sanitation as part of an integrated approach

The MDGs, which call for the halving by 2015 of the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, provide an important orientation for the Austrian water sector programme. Water and sanitation have been a focus of development cooperation in Austria for many years, with particular concentration on rural areas. The geographical focuses have been South Eastern Europe, East Africa, Mozambique, Cape Verde, Central America and the Palestinian Territories.

As a small donor, Austria needs to exploit its comparative advantages. As an external evaluation of the water sector in 2003 confirmed, these include the ability to react flexibly to local requirements, to produce innovative solutions and to implement them reliably. In the development of its strategic approach, which concentrates increasingly on harmonised and integrated sectoral programmes in accordance with international requirements, ADC has maintained this potential, and existing programmes have been integrated increasingly in the national sectoral policies of the partner countries without any sacrifices in terms of co-determination and innovation.

Examples of innovative approaches include the use of solar energy as an alternative to diesel pumps to supply water, or the promotion of environmental concepts in sanitation in the form of dry toilets or plant-based water treatment systems as a low-cost environmental solution for rural areas. There have also been innovations in organisational structures: the amalgamation of small water suppliers to form umbrella organisations so as to remedy technical and organisational weaknesses through decentralisation, for example, or the development of publicly owned companies as an alternative to privatisation, which is often the subject of controversy.

ADC has also had good experience with the commissioning of private companies to operate water supply facilities without privatisation of the decision-making competencies or water resources.

Activities 2004–2005

South Eastern Europe: rehabilitation, development of operating structures and alignment with EU standards

Large investments are required to restore public drinking water supply and even more so for wastewater disposal following the armed conflicts of the 1990s. The utilities need to be adapted to the EU water directive. This rehabilitation is designed to achieve sustainable water utilisation and, in particular, to improve aquatic ecosystems and wet areas.

In the place of short-term individual projects in the immediate post-conflict period, a more effective and systematic approach was embarked upon in 2004–2005. This can be seen, for example, in the activities initiated with the Swiss development cooperation agency in 2005 to supply water to rural areas of Moldova. This programme was devised in coordination with the national strategies to develop a basic infrastructure and to reduce poverty.

Increasing concentration on a few regional programmes in the South

In the Paris Declaration of 2005 Austria undertook to coordinate its development cooperation activities with national programmes and with other donors. Since 2004–2005 it has been involved in an internationally recognised joint partnership fund in Uganda and is looking to take over a leading function in this body (see also: Our achievements).

The ADC water sector programmes in Mozambique, Cape Verde and Kenya were continued and further developed in 2004–2005. A new regional water sector programme was initiated in Rwanda in 2004. These programmes focused on improving water supply and sanitation in rural areas. In Guatemala and Cape Verde ADC also supported the development of community water utilities. In the Palestinian Territories/Gaza Strip an extensive seawater desalination project was completed with the setting up of new operating structures.

More international cooperation and coordination

ADC stepped up its cooperation with international initiatives and programmes in 2004–2005, and participated in the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

At the 2004 World Water Week in Stockholm it presented a communications and information system for the European Commission financed by Austria, which will make an important contribution to the EU Water Facility.

Austria provided financial support and expertise to the World Bank Water and Sanitation Programme (WSP). For Austria as a small donor, this programme is important at the political level. It creates a framework in which its own contribution can be made visible and its experience can also be put to good use at the international level.

Since 2005 ADC has also made a financial contribution to and provided an expert for the African Development Bank water initiative, which seeks close cooperation with the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW).

In future ADC will provide greater support for the sustainable management of water resources and river basins. A pilot programme was successfully implemented during the period under review in Cape Verde and is to be extended.

Our achievements

Macedonia: from first aid to complete service

Before ADC became involved in the year 2000 in Cucer Sandevo, a small town near Skopje, many inhabitants had to fetch their water from their own wells. The drinking water supply situation was disastrous.

With support from Austria catchworks have been enlarged and the reservoirs and pipes renewed. A large proportion of the community now has drinking water of high quality. ADC also helped with the development of a self-financing community water supply utility to service the installations. Following the achievements to date, the participants are now planning a wastewater disposal project.

PROJECT PARTNER

Ministry of Transport and Communication, Republic of Macedonia;
municipality of Cucer Sandevo;
BDL – Büro Dr. Lengyel ZT GmbH, consulting engineers

Uganda: internationally recognised model project

Since 1996 ADC has been financing a regional programme in south-west Uganda to provide water to 40 settlements. The special feature of the South Western Towns Water and Sanitation Project is the fact that it was designed and is being implemented without an Austrian partner in direct cooperation with the Ugandan project holders. The intensive mobilisation of all concerned, the systematic use of adapted and innovative technologies such as solar energy, dry toilets and plant-based water treatment systems, the systematic protection of natural resources (e.g. springs) and the establishment of a Ugandan umbrella association to support the small water supply utilities were all instrumental in the success of the project.

The sectoral programme was transformed into a national financing instrument and was considerably expanded with co-financing of the EU Water Facility: an annual investment of 3.5 million euros (Austrian contribution 1.4 million euros) is planned for the coming years.

The Austrian project is regarded in Uganda as a model project and was presented at the CSD Conference in New York in 2004 as an example of best practice.

PROJECT PARTNER

Ministry of Water and Environment, Directorate of Water Development

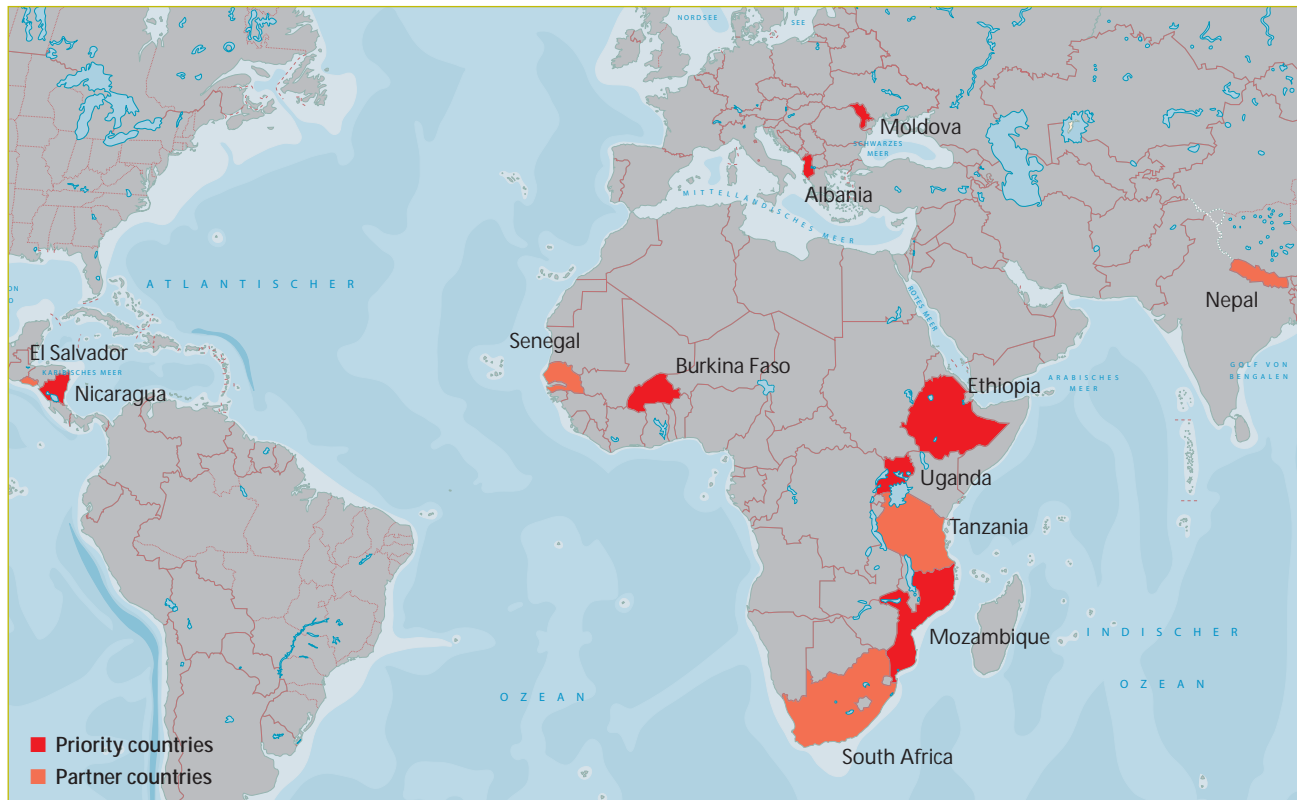


Rural development

"Agriculture creates jobs and income, and helps the rest of the economy to grow by boosting demand for local goods and services. ... But to expand agriculture, governments need to guarantee land ownership ... and see that land is used sustainably so it continues to be productive."

From: Department for International Development (DFID): Eliminating world poverty. Making governance work for the poor

ADC rural development activities: geographical focuses



Key terms

■ LOCAL ECONOMIC CIRCLES

... establish the relations between producers and consumers in a given region. Producers offer goods and services. For this purpose they need resources (land, labour, capital), expertise and access to the market. Consumers provide resources, particularly their labour, demand the goods and services in accordance with their preferences and possibilities and stimulate production in this way.

■ INDEPENDENT DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL OWNERSHIP

Rural development is a long-term socioeconomic process that must be induced and controlled locally for the desired independent development, which is possible only through cooperation of equal partners, to be achieved. Local planning, administration and implementation are not only vital factors legitimising every intervention but also contribute significantly to the effectiveness of development strategies.

Global context

Poverty is rural

The majority of poor people live in rural areas. The roots of poverty are diverse: deficient social and economic infrastructure, absence of basic services such as health, school education or clean water, low income and poor employment possibilities, and undernourishment or poor nutrition, particularly for women and children. The rural population is extensively excluded from political decision-making processes.

ADC rural development activities therefore focus on poverty reduction. The vast majority of measures concentrate on agriculture, which is practically the only source of income in rural areas. The aim is to conserve natural resources, create income and safeguard nutrition for producers and consumers alike. Vital prerequisites in many countries are the clarification of land ownership, the development of adapted technologies to improve agricultural production and the processing and marketing of products. Support in self-help processes often plays a decisive role in this respect.

Our perspective

Austria adopts a strongly poverty-related approach and has recognised expertise, notably in the areas of organic farming and regional development. As rural development can work only if the population is involved in the decision-making processes, ADC again focused in 2004–2005 on capacity building of all actors at the local level. Of importance in this respect is the economic and social empowerment of target groups through formal or informal training and the provision of information and knowledge to enable them to participate in decision-making processes. Since the local population is extremely vulnerable to external political, economic and environmental factors, protection from risks is also of great significance.

Activities 2004–2005

The rural development sector policy in 2003 was the most important programme point in the period under review. It includes not only the traditional production-oriented subsectors such as agriculture or animal husbandry but also measures to stimulate the subsistence economy and social organisation and interest groups as a prerequisite for the modernisation of society and the economy.

At the international level ADC coordinated its rural development activities with the European Commission and within the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD).

In specific terms, ADC country and regional programmes in 2004–2005 were coordinated with national poverty reduction and sectoral strategies.

In order to carry out rural development measures it is important to have a precise knowledge of the local situation, the socioeconomic conditions and the institutional and cultural context. To this end, ADC carried out baseline surveys and poverty assessments.

Our achievements

Mozambique: rural consultancy – from autonomous supply to secured revenue

PROJECT PARTNER
H3 Development Consult

Four fifths of the population of Mozambique live from agriculture. The promotion of rural and agricultural development is therefore vital to reduce poverty. This not only provides food for small farming families but also creates a long-term basis for increasing production to enable surpluses to be sold or further processed.

In the first phase of the project trade relations between small farmers, groups and associations on the one hand and commercial buyers (dealers, agroindustry) on the other were developed and consolidated. Small farmers combined to form *clubes de negócio* to market their products and represent their interests. In 2005 there were already 47 of these clubs with 1,255 members, 47 per cent of whom were women. Some 1,300 tonnes of agricultural produce such as maize, beans, pineapples, manioc and vegetables and around 750 tonnes of sesame from 5,000 family operations were sold generating income of 270,000 euros.

The PROMEC project is aimed at the sustainable production of marketable products through organic farming and conservation of resources. The storage and preservation of products is also based on sustainable and organic criteria. The main contributors to the success of the project are the close cooperation with government farming consultants and participative and low-cost consultancy and training for farmers (farmer to farmer). The programme was expanded from the districts of Búzi and Dondo to three further districts in the province of Sofala.

Senegal: hope for the Casamance

PROJECT PARTNER
HOPE'87

The sustained drought in the Casamance in south-west Senegal has depleted the soil. Water supply was difficult and women and children had to walk kilometres to fetch water. The farmland is now being cultivated in accordance with a jointly devised land utilisation plan. Dug wells and a millet mill in the village save long distances and make life easier. With the aid of a special fund women can carry out small projects and earn additional income. A savings and credit bank permits small investments in seed, tools or training.

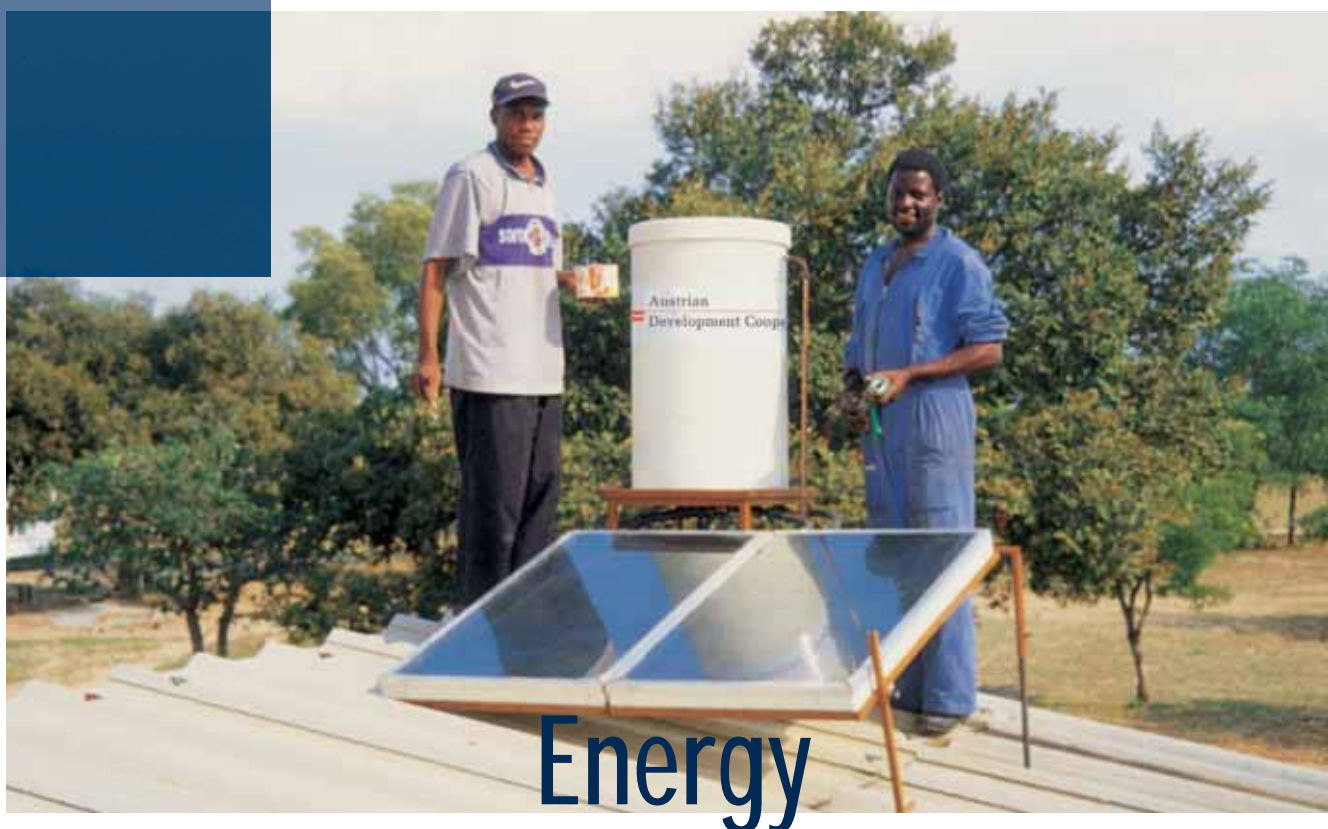
Uganda: donkeys for the market

PROJECT PARTNER
HORIZONT3000

Market days in Kisoro in south-west Uganda are hard labour for women – heavy loads transported through mountainous regions, children ... And yet at the end of the day they have sold only a small proportion of their products, at a poor price at that because they have no information about current market prices and are exploited by intermediate dealers.

With the support of ADC, Horizont 3000 and its African partner organisation Africa 2000 Network have addressed the problem by means of an extensive rural development programme. The first steps involved increasing harvest yields with better seeds, introducing natural fertilisation and building terraces to counter soil erosion. Training was also offered for farmers.

The second phase consisted of increasing the added value of agricultural products. Savings and credit programmes enabled farmers to make small investments to process their products: the journey to the market and the customers there is now made easier thanks to donkeys, which can negotiate the impracticable terrain of Kisoro. The farmers' association provides its members with regular information on the current market prices.



“Energy affects all aspects of development – social, economic, and environmental – including livelihoods, access to water, agricultural productivity, health, population levels, education and gender-related issues. None of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) can be met without major improvement in the quality and quantity of energy services in developing countries.”

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

ADC energy activities: geographical focuses



Key terms

■ ENERGY SERVICES

Poverty reduction and sustainable development are contingent not on energy itself but on access to energy services such as lighting, heating, refrigeration, motor power and cooking.

■ KYOTO MECHANISMS

The industrialised countries have undertaken in the framework of the Kyoto Protocol to reduce their CO₂ emissions. To honour this commitment they can carry out emission-reducing projects in accordance with defined criteria in other countries as part of the 'flexible mechanisms' – the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Joint Implementation (JI) – with the savings achieved being counted towards certification of their own Kyoto targets.

Global context

Energy system in a blind alley

Since the World Summit in Johannesburg in 2002 there has been formal agreement worldwide on the unsustainability of the current global energy system. There are serious imbalances in per capita consumption and it places an unacceptable burden on the local and global environment. Around 2.4 billion people – particularly in sub-Saharan Africa – are currently deprived of energy services including electricity. Rural regions and disadvantaged groups such as women, children and minorities are particularly hard hit by this deficiency and its consequences.

The poorest countries in the world cover 90 per cent of their energy requirement with firewood, charcoal, dung and agricultural waste. This inadequate and unequal access to energy services is a great obstacle to development in developing and transition countries and is also the cause of economic, social, environmental and political problems. Should these countries adopt the same kind of unsustainable energy policies as industrial countries, serious environmental consequences can be expected for all sides.

Our perspective

Energy services as a vital tool for development aims

In view of the complex challenges in the partner countries and the expertise that Austria has to offer in this field, ADC attaches great importance to the energy focus. Energy services are important tools for achieving development and sustainability targets as formulated in the DCA, MDGs and the World Summit in Johannesburg. All aspects of sustainable development, such as access to water, agricultural and industrial productivity, health care, education, employment, environmental protection and stabilisation of the world climate, are closely linked with energy supply. The provision of modern, affordable and sustainable energy services is therefore an important development factor. Energy services are a prerequisite for an enabling environment, i.e. a framework in which an efficient private sector can be developed and jobs created. By improving energy efficiency and encouraging sustainable energy sources, the discrepancy between growth and environmental targets can be attenuated.

Activities 2004–2005

In order to give definition to its projects and programmes both intrinsically and in an international context, ADC began work on a policy document entitled “Energy for sustainable development” and provided expert assistance to the Federal Ministry of Finance in the formulation of an energy strategy for Austrian participation in IFIs. At the multilateral level ADC continued to support a fair and sustainable world energy system.

ADC participated actively in 2004–2005 in all relevant international conferences on sustainable energy and shared responsibility for the resulting commitments. It supported the UNIDO Cleaner Production Centres and the organisation’s work to increase energy efficiency. Austria worked in close collaboration with UNDP, supporting the publication of the World Energy Assessment 2000 and the 2005 update. It has contributed to the UNDP Energy Trust Fund since 2004. Applications for energy-efficient building in Podgorica have also been developed together with UNDP and the University of Montenegro.

As far as its efforts to achieve a joint energy paradigm in the EU’s development cooperation are concerned, the greatest success by ADC was the designation by the European Commission of energy as a priority in the European Consensus on Development. It was instrumental in the establishment of a fund worth 220 million euros for an ACP energy facility.

At the bilateral programme and project level, ADC endeavoured in 2004–2005 to increase the development prospects of partner countries in an environmentally compatible manner by giving them access to energy services and associated technologies. In this context, ADC implements its energy interventions as stand-alone sectoral projects in selected partner countries (Ethiopia, Bhutan, Albania and Macedonia) while enhancing energy mainstreaming as a cross-cutting component of other sectors such as health care through improved ovens or water through optimised solar energy pumps.

In planning and implementing projects ADC took account of guiding principles that ensure that its energy interventions further the achievement of development and sustainability targets. Austria took a neutral line as far as technology is concerned. In the period under review, however, it focused in particular on hydropower, modern biomass, and solar and geothermal energy for heating water. In all cases priority was given to energy efficiency. As the investments required in the energy sector cannot be met by public development cooperation alone, ADC sought to involve the private sector as much as possible. By building capacities in the national agencies in the partner countries responsible for clean development mechanisms (CDM), in Bhutan for example, ADC helped to create the necessary framework for projects under the flexible mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol.

Our achievements

Bhutan: hydropower drives social projects

PROJECT PARTNER
Ministry of
Trade and Industry,
Department of Energy

The most outstanding project in the last few years was the hydroelectric power station (64 MW) in Basochhu, Bhutan, which was completed in March 2005. It is the first modern power station in Bhutan, which since its commissioning has been operated and serviced in its entirety by local staff. Bhutan's hydropower potential is more than sufficient for its own requirements and the country is therefore seeking to export electricity. The revenue from the power stations is invested in development, e.g. schools, health, communication and infrastructure. Alongside tourism, the power industry has become the greatest driving force behind modernisation. Hydropower in Bhutan is thus a model example of the involvement of financial resources that do not come from ODA. ADC also financed the electrification of the mountain valleys of Bhutan. Work started in 2001 and more than 1,400 households in various provinces – at a rate of 250 per year – have been connected to the local electricity grid.

Albania: new hydropower

PROJECT PARTNER
Andritz AG;
KESH (Albanian
Power Corporation)

The most extensive energy project of the Austrian Cooperation with Eastern Europe is to be found in Albania. Together with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), ADC financed the rehabilitation of hydroelectric power stations in the Drin cascade. The Fierza, Vau i Dejes, Ulza and Shkopeti power stations generate 810 MW of energy and together account for around 50 per cent of the power station output in Albania.

Macedonia: use of geothermal energy

PROJECT PARTNER
BLUEWATERS
Environmental Consultants;
Ministry of Economy,
Rep. of Macedonia;
Arbeitsgemeinschaft
Erneuerbare Energie;
Ministry of Economy, Trade
and Energy, Rep. of Albania

The Vinica geothermal project in Macedonia was concluded in 2004 and the use and sustainability of the Podlog-Banja geothermal field has been improved since 2005. ADC has also been supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Albania and Macedonia since 2005 in the manufacture of solar energy units.



Private sector and development

"Let us choose to reconcile the creative forces of private entrepreneurship with the needs of the disadvantaged and the requirements of future generations."

Kofi Annan, The Global Compact

ADC private sector and development activities: geographical focuses



Key terms

■ BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (BDS)

... include a wide spectrum of services that help enterprises to increase their productivity and efficiency through access to information, knowledge and expertise. They include fairs and exhibitions, management and marketing training and technical assistance in the drafting of business plans, feasibility studies or legal consultancy, etc.

■ MICRO-FINANCING SERVICES

... include loans, savings deposits and other financial services such as insurance or money transfers. Clients are low-income groups who are provided in this way for the first time with the basis for entrepreneurial initiatives.

Global context

Business as a poverty reduction instrument

Poverty reduction has been recognised internationally as the most important aim of development cooperation and is also an inherent component of the MDGs. Although the governments in developing and industrial countries are responsible in the first instance for the achievement of these goals, there is general agreement that the private sector should be involved in public-private partnerships in the implementation of poverty-reducing activities. The private sector is the most important instrument for the creation of revenue and employment. If it is provided with a suitable framework the private sector with its high productivity can also help to provide poor populations with affordable goods and services.

Our perspective

Benefits of growth to be shared by all

To reduce poverty in developing countries the 2003 DCA calls for the promotion of the economic and social development of these countries. ADC strives for socially balanced and environmentally sustainable development.

Through its private sector and development activities ADC endeavours to ensure that poor population groups actually benefit from economic growth. The aim is pro-poor growth – growth in which poor population groups have an above-average stake as a means of reducing inequalities.

Activities 2004–2005

ADC private sector and development activities included:

1. Interventions to improve the framework for private sector commitment
2. Direct strengthening of local enterprises
as part of programmes and projects based on long-term planning and coordination with the countries concerned
3. Involvement of Austrian and European industry in the form of business and development partnerships.

Framework for private sector involvement

In addition to the country-specific activities, ADC concentrated on sector-specific and transborder measures. It contributed financially to several multilateral programmes including the regional reform programme for bookkeeping and auditing in South Eastern Europe (REPARIS – Road to Europe – Programme of Accounting Reform und Institutional Strengthening) implemented by the World Bank.

In South Eastern Europe Austria supported a number of investment promotion projects including the Investment Promotion Agency in Macedonia as part of the European Investor Outreach Programme (EIOP) for South Eastern Europe, and also participated in the OECD Investment Compact.

In Africa ADC financed the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) outreach programme and supported the African Development Bank's African Water Facility.

Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises

In accordance with international good practice ADC has shifted in the MSME sector from the promotion of individual enterprises or groups of enterprises to strengthening the way in which markets function.

In Uganda ADC financed a coordination office that devises strategies for the development of an efficient private sector and implements them through dialogue and lobbying. In this way Austria was able to give marginalised population groups access to the market, establish transparent rules and demonstrate the infrastructure required for the development of an efficient private sector.

In Central America ADC strengthened the negotiating capacity of regional institutions with central government agencies. The formation of regional business networks was also supported to enhance their position with respect to larger companies further down the value added chain. The aim was to stimulate regional economic development.

Micro-credit programmes and projects were supported in practically all ADC partner countries. An innovation in 2004-2005 was the development of micro-finance markets as a goal in its own right. During this time ADC started promoting finance service providers offering insurance and the management of savings deposits as well as loans and participated in innovative projects of this type in Burkina Faso, Uganda, El Salvador and South Eastern Europe.

At the international level ADC participated in various donor coordination committees such as the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor, involved primarily in research and development in the field of micro-finance services, and the Donor Committee for Enterprise Development.

Austria also promoted MSMEs in collaboration with UN organisations such as UNIDO.

Involvement of Austrian and European business

The 2003 DCA called for support for sustainable economic, social and environmental development in developing countries using synergies from business and development organisations. In the Three-Year Programme on Austrian Development Policy 2004–2006 this sector became a focus.

ADC therefore developed a new concept with the establishment in 2005 of a coordination office in Brussels to foster the participation of Austrian actors in EU projects and to better coordinate with other development agencies.

In this new concept ADC offers project partnerships to Austrian and European investors in developing and transformation countries so as to increase the utility for both partners through the exploitation of synergies between commercial and development interests.

In April 2005 ADC introduced development (public-private) and business (business-to-business) partnerships and had launched eight projects by the end of that year. With 1.2 million euros of funding for projects, a total of 7.6 million euros were generated.

Our achievements

El Salvador: micro-credits for women

ADC provided women in El Salvador with micro-credits for their business projects. These small businesses were very successful and learnt at the same time to articulate their wishes and to assert their interests by lobbying with local politicians – an example of successful empowerment.

PROJECT PARTNER
Austrian North-South
Institute

West Africa: autonomous craft associations

In Burkina Faso and Senegal support was offered in 2004–2005 to craft associations which now act independently and represent their own interests. Their savings associations have become so professional that they no longer manage just their own savings but are also in the process of transforming themselves into micro-finance service providers and hence into potential business partners for banks.

PROJECT PARTNER
Entwicklungswerkstatt
Austria

Albania: improved yields for the dairy industry

One consequence of migration from Albania is high imports of milk, meat and other products that could be produced within the country.

Almako – an ADC-backed competence centre in Albania – has done something to counter this development by offering training in dairy engineering for Albanian farmers. Many participants were able to see the milk production of Austrian cattle breeds, which produce three times as much milk as Albanian breeds. In the long term the market share of Austrian breeds could increase to 30 per cent. Thanks to the higher yield farmers will be able to look to a brighter economic future.

PROJECT PARTNER
Austrian Regional
Business Cluster ALMAKO



"If you think education is expensive, try ignorance."

Derek Bok, former president of Harvard University

ADC education activities: geographical focuses



Key terms

■ BASIC EDUCATION

... aims at the acquisition of basic knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that every person, be it a child, juvenile or adult, requires for their survival, the full development of their capabilities, their unrestricted participation in the development of their own society and continued learning. It includes reading, writing, oral expression, arithmetic and problem-solving. Basic education is not a fixed term, however, as it must adapt to social requirements.

■ FORMAL EDUCATION / INFORMAL EDUCATION

Formal education is the conscious and systematic communication of knowledge, skills and attitudes – with emphasis on knowledge – in a clearly defined spatial, temporal and material framework incorporating both teaching and learning standards. Informal education is aimed at the communication of attitudes, knowledge and skills – with the emphasis on attitudes. The spatial, temporal and material organisation allows for very different and culturally adapted patterns and takes account of the role of individuals and relations (family, society).

■ EDUCATION FOR DISADVANTAGED GROUPS / INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

The concept 'inclusive education' includes the fostering of comprehensive approaches. It provides for a holistic concept of education addressing the learning needs of children, juveniles and adults, while paying particular attention to marginalised and underprivileged groups. Inclusive education differs from traditional special needs concepts.

Global context

Still too little and inadequate education

More than 100 million children in the world lacked basic education in 2005. In the sub-Saharan countries primary school attendance is chronically low and averages just 62 per cent. In 71 of 175 countries primary school education is considerably lower for girls than it is for boys and the disparity increases with the level of education.

In many countries the quality of education remains very deficient. The content and teaching methods are antiquated with the result that the children can barely apply what they have learnt in the real world. With the pressure of increasing school attendance, teachers are frequently hired without the appropriate qualifications. There are limited opportunities for further education and teachers are often absent from school because they are not paid adequately.

Science and research suffer in developing and transition countries because of the departure of qualified experts (brain drain) and because of the fact that research centres on areas that are not relevant to the country's problems.

International developments

Fast track towards basic schooling for all

In the year 2000 the UNESCO advanced training forum Education for All (EFA) in Dakar formulated six education targets to be achieved by 2015, including the expansion of pre-school education and general access to free and competent primary school education. The Fast Track initiative supported by more than 30 donors was established to speed up the achievement of the EFA goals. To achieve just two of the goals – gender equality and universal primary school education – current education spending would have to be doubled by 2015.

Our perspective

Education reduces disadvantages and promotes peace

Among the main objectives of ADC is the safeguarding of general access to education, particularly for women and socially disadvantaged groups, quality assurance in the education sector of partner countries, overcoming the scientific and technological North-South divide and supporting democratic structures.

While projects at all educational levels are carried out in Southern partner countries, ADC in South Eastern Europe concentrates on vocational training and higher education. The education policy in South Eastern Europe is aimed at job creation, social peace and conflict prevention. It is also intended to promote economic and social development and foster European integration.

Activities 2004–2005

The focus of ADC assistance in the period under review was on science and research, more specifically the training of young academics, who were given the opportunity to obtain further education or to carry out research in Austria and in the respective partner regions. It is hoped that they will strengthen the institutional capacities of the partner countries and thus support economic innovation processes. In 2004–2005 a regional scholarship programme was introduced in Burkina Faso based on experience with similar projects in Ethiopia and Uganda.

In South Eastern Europe ADC concentrated in 2004–2005 on the institutional strengthening of universities. Curriculum development, improving the infrastructure, quality assurance, alignment with European standards, “brain gain” (measures to counter brain drain) and university reform were amongst the most important measures during the period under review.

The focus in vocational training was on training programmes for both the formal and informal sectors.

In the South ADC activities concentrated on vocational training in Burkina Faso. As part of the new country sub-programme “Vocational training 2005–2007” in cooperation with other donors – Denmark, Netherlands, China, Luxembourg, Switzerland and France – the Burkina Faso government will be given support in the drafting of a coherent vocational training policy. Together with France and Switzerland ADC financed the standardisation of vocational training, which will benefit craftsmen and juveniles without a regular school leaving certificate.

In South Eastern Europe ADC supported transborder projects to modernise tourism and business schools. In Albania and Moldova it also supported quality assurance in agricultural training. Through close cooperation with enterprises in the region it is hoped that the agricultural schools will become competence centres for rural development.

In addition, ADC co-financed NGO projects at all education levels designed to increase the quality of teaching and to give disadvantaged children such as refugees, girls or members of minorities greater access to education. Preschool education and adult literacy were further focuses.

At the international level ADC participated actively in the EU education expert working group and the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA).

Our achievements

South Eastern Europe: ECONET and TOURREG improve work prospects for business and tourism students

The ECONET project offers students at vocational business schools the opportunity to found virtual practice enterprises and to simulate business life in them. The project promotes practical key qualifications of relevance to the labour market such as business management knowledge and computer skills, thereby improving the job prospects for graduates.

At the same time the project supported improvements in teacher training and curriculum reform. Practice enterprises have been established to date in Albania, Bulgaria, Romania and Macedonia. In Serbia, Kosovo, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Moldova work is proceeding to implement this concept. The TOURREG project uses the same method for tourism training.

PROJECT PARTNER
KulturKontakt Austria

Burkina Faso: reformed vocational training improves job prospects in the informal sector

ADC financed three pilot facilities in Burkina Faso in which technical training is adapted to the needs of the informal sector, since it is almost exclusively here that graduates of vocational schools find employment. Measures included the reform of curricula for plumbers, dyers and weavers and for electrical engineering and tourism.

PROJECT PARTNER
BPI – Teachers' Training
College, Institute for
Professional Training and
Development

Europe and East Africa: water research network

An international postgraduate training programme in limnology (IPGL) was developed to improve water research and training in East Africa and to assist partner institutions in solving environmental problems. Research institutions from the Netherlands, Czech Republic, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania were involved as part of an international network. The academic accreditation for the tropical limnology training course was submitted in Europe and East Africa. This is an important requirement for the development of a joint training and research programme involving Europe and East Africa.

PROJECT PARTNER
Institute for Limnology of
the Austrian Academy of
Sciences, Mondsee with
Egerton University, Kenya

Uganda and Vienna: control system improves opportunities for organic farmers

Some 15 students from Uganda and 10 from Austria took part in a three-week summer school in July 2005 run jointly by Makerere University in Uganda and the Vienna University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences. In lectures and practical field work the participants developed a control system for organic farmers enabling them to sell their products on the growing market for organically produced goods.

PROJECT PARTNER
University of Natural
Resources and Applied
Life Sciences, Vienna with
Makerere University,
Kampala

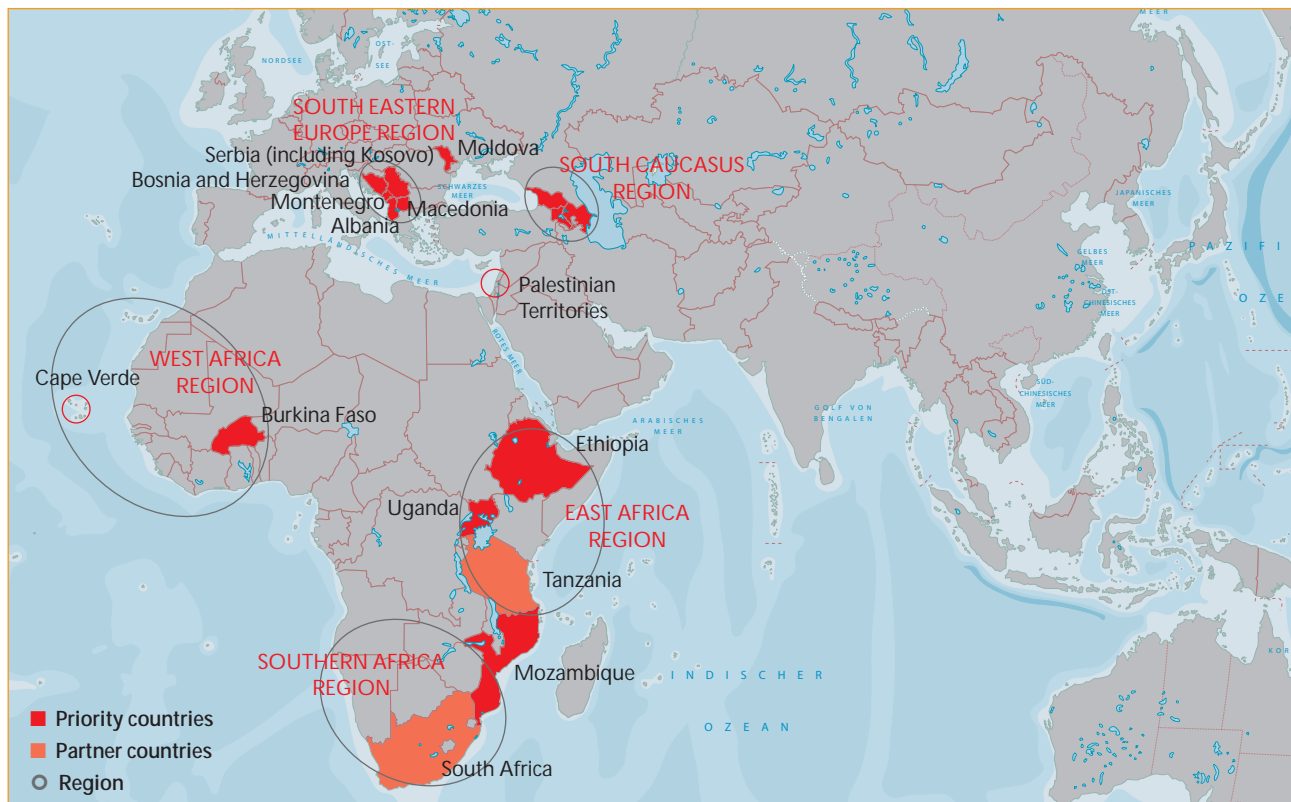


Good governance

“Human security, in its broadest sense, embraces far more than the absence of violent conflict. It encompasses human rights, good governance, access to education and health care and ensuring that each individual has opportunities and choices to fulfill his or her potential.”

Human Development Report, 2003

ADC good governance activities: geographical focus



Key terms

■ EMPOWERMENT

... is the process enabling disadvantaged persons to assert their rights. Poor people should have the ability to acquire property, to participate in institutions that influence their lives, to negotiate with them and to call them to account.

■ OWNERSHIP

Apart from the government of a country, partners at the local level should also assume responsibility. In the first instance they should be able to control their own development process ("be in the driver's seat").

■ HUMAN SECURITY

... describes economic, social and political aspects of security and the preservation of a natural living environment as the prerequisite for peaceful co-existence. The deficient poverty-related realisation of human rights (e.g. food and health) and inter- and intra-state armed conflicts all present a threat to human security.

Global context

No development without human rights

Good governance, human rights and decentralisation, democratisation, peacebuilding and conflict prevention are central ADC focuses: when institutions function poorly, where transparency and corruption are the order of the day, armed conflicts permanently violate human rights, the political will to reduce poverty is absent or capacities are inadequate, it is the poor that suffer most, because they can scarcely assert their rights. These factors form a fundamental threat to human development.

A functioning public sector that respects principles such as the rule of law and participation and is accountable to its citizens, a dynamic civil society that can express the needs of the poor and demand that they be met, and a legal system that communicates legal security all contribute to human security and poverty reduction.

Decentralisation brings political power closer to the people. This involves the transfer of political decision-making competencies and budget resources to the provincial, district or community level and strengthening the relevant institutions such as communal authorities and also the authority of their elected representatives. Decentralised administrative and government institutions become responsible for creating the necessary infrastructure and offering the relevant social services. The involvement of the local population – above all poor and disadvantaged population groups – in the planning and budgeting is a fundamental requirement in this respect.

Our perspective

Conflict prevention and peacebuilding

Human security and peacebuilding are among the main legally defined objectives of ADC. These objectives are pursued in all country and regional programmes.

Some of the ADC priority and partner countries are situated in regions of violent conflict. Some countries are in a post-conflict situation or are fragile with weak or absent leadership.

Violent conflicts cause great personal suffering and high costs. ADC has therefore stepped up its commitment to proactive conflict prevention. Peacebuilding and conflict prevention aim to create the structural basis for lasting peace and justice as the framework for sustainable development and welfare and life in security with freedom from want and fear.

Activities 2004–2005

The priority aim in 2004–2005 was to secure peace and human security on a systematic basis as a fundamental objective of ADC.

In 2005 ADC drafted policy documents on good governance, human rights, and peacebuilding and conflict prevention. The new focus was reinforced by training programmes for ADC staff.

At the programme and project level activities in East Africa, Central America and the South Caucasus were supplemented by good governance components. Thematically, ADC projects sought judicial reform in Uganda, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, support for the peace process in Sri Lanka and the protection of children in armed conflicts in northern Uganda.

In addition, ADC supported global and regional conflict prevention initiatives (West Africa) and early warning of conflicts. A new focus with regard to democratisation was established in 2005 through the enlistment of parliamentary support.

An important ADC focus was the integration of human rights and democratisation in the World Bank planning instruments, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs). Collaboration in the drafting of guidelines for good governance and human rights in development cooperation within the OECD Development Assistance Committee, which formulates new requirements for donors, was an important strategic consideration in this area in the period under review.

Human rights education in South Eastern Europe

The European Training Centre in Graz developed human rights teaching material in collaboration with various university institutions in South Eastern Europe. In 2004–2005 human rights trainers were trained (train the trainer) to act as multipliers.

Great Lakes conference

As a member of the Group of the Friends of the Great Lakes, Austria provided financial support for the summits in 2004 and 2005 as part of the peace process. The UN Security Council has called for more peace and security, democracy and good governance, better integration and economic development in the Great Lakes region.

UNICEF project in Cape Verde

The fight against impunity is a focus of Austrian human rights and development policy. ADC supported the two-year United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) project "Strengthening National Institutions to End Impunity for Violation of Children's Rights" in Cape Verde in 2005.

Our achievements

Uganda: rehabilitation and reintegration of child soldiers

The project is intended to provide former child soldiers with psychological care and vocational training in a centre in Gulu in northern Uganda so as to enable them to fend for themselves. Courses are offered in reading and writing, domestic science and basic hygiene, and also human rights and women's rights. A prototype project with 300 juveniles in 2004–2005 successfully verified that the training courses were in line with the demands of the employment market. During the time the children were at the centre, staff attempted to find their families and to prepare for the return of the children to them. The project also had an adult training component in which 60 per cent of participants were women.

PROJECT PARTNER

Missio Austria

Guatemala: bilingual teaching in Maya communities

In Guatemala Maya communities were long excluded from public life. The promotion of their rights has led to a new sense of identity and permits the indigenous population to take an active part in public affairs. Austria supported the bilingual teaching in Maya communities in the western highlands, cultural exchange and recognition of traditional Maya law. Women's organisations and networks fighting against discrimination, marginalisation and suppression of Maya women were also strengthened. Equality and mutual respect for men and women in the family and village community are prerequisites for the active participation of women in society.

PROJECT PARTNER

Austrian North-South
Institute

West Africa: Strategic Partnership for Peace (PASPA)

This proactive platform, which brings together different actors from civil society and government organisations in West Africa and the regional organisation Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is an innovative Austrian contribution to conflict prevention. The transborder network serves for the exchange, awareness raising, advocacy in the areas of peacebuilding and conflict prevention and training of its members, who function as multipliers in their own countries. Thematic focuses of PASPA are the role of the media in conflicts, the land issue and the role of young people.

PROJECT PARTNER

Austroprojekt



*“There is no peace without justice –
and no justice without women”*

Renate Winter, Judge at the Sierra Leone Special Court

Key terms

■ GENDER

... refers to the social differences between women and men that have been learned, are changeable over time and have wide variations both within and between cultures.

■ GENDER MAINSTREAMING

... concerns the (re)organisation, improvement, development and evaluation of policy processes so that a gender equality perspective is incorporated in all policies, strategies and interventions, at all levels and at all stages by the actors normally involved therein.

■ GENDER EQUALITY

... is a concept that all human beings are free to develop their personal abilities and make choices without the limitations set by strict gender roles; that the different aspirations and needs of women and men are considered, valued and favoured equally.

■ EMPOWERMENT

The process of gaining access and developing one's capacities with a view to participating actively in shaping one's own life and that of one's community in economic, social and political terms.

European Commission, 100 words for equality

Global context

Improvements but not yet equality

Gender equality has improved in many areas since the first Women's Conference in 1975. Today a much higher proportion of girls attend schools than was the case 30 years ago, the life expectancy of women has increased, maternal mortality has declined and women are much more strongly represented in the working world and political life. But the inequality between men and women, the "gender gap", continues to exist.

By way of comparison:

- More boys than girls attend school throughout the world.
- More women are affected by the AIDS crisis than men.
- Women have the most insecure jobs and lowest wages.
- Prenatal selection and neglect of girls lead to an imbalance of the sexes in India and China.
- There are around seven times more men than women in politics, particularly in South Eastern Europe.

Gender equality remains on the agenda

The international community is agreed that great efforts are required to achieve gender equality. This was confirmed most recently in the UN Reform Summit and the European Consensus on Development in 2005.

Our perspective

Four core areas for gender

In 2005 ADC formulated a policy document on gender equality and empowerment of women. It had four core focuses:

1. strengthening the human rights of women such as education and health
2. access to economic resources
3. political participation
4. personal security, e.g. protection from violence or human trafficking

ADC is committed to gender mainstreaming, which means that all development activities are examined and improved if necessary to ensure that they contribute to gender equality.

Activities 2004–2005

In 2004 ADC strengthened its focus on gender-relevant activities. Staff were given training for international women's rights conventions and for the gender mainstreaming principle in Uganda and Ethiopia.

Our achievements

Ethiopia: human rights – how Nomadic women have become more healthy

PROJECT PARTNER
APDA, Afar Pastoralist
Development Association

In north-eastern Ethiopia ADC supports the Afar Pastoralist Development Association, a local NGO that trains mobile health teams. ADC financed training, medical equipment and payment of the mobile social workers. These taught Nomadic women hygiene and diet, trained traditional midwives and accompanied them on their work.

One of the particular achievements of the project was the fact that the local religious leaders were involved in combating female circumcision. Some circumcisers stopped working. In some districts circumcisions were no longer carried out against the girls' wishes.

Nicaragua: economic opportunities – women as entrepreneurs

PROJECT PARTNER
Austrian North-South
Institute

In the town of Esteli ADC supports business initiatives by women. For example, a tailor's workshop, butcher's shop and even a radio station have been started up. Women have been given advice on possibilities for further education. They have also received loans required to become economically independent and to create jobs.

"Strength in numbers" – on this basis the project successfully supported self-help groups and business associations who have been able to assist each other in purchasing, marketing, product innovations and the transfer of applied and adapted technologies. Some loans have already been paid back and programmes have been expanded, giving women independence that also strengthens their position within the family.

Himalayas / Hindu Kush: political participation – women's rights and representation

PROJECT PARTNER
ICIMOD, International
Centre for Integrated
Mountain Development

In 2004–2005 ADC supported the regional organisation International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), which is active in the Himalayas / Hindu Kush region, ensuring that women are guaranteed access to natural resources such as land, forest, water and pastureland. This safeguards the survival of communities, social justice and good governance. HIMAWANTI, a women's network in Nepal supported by ICIMOD, promotes women's rights and offers legal advice. In a similar fashion, SUNGI, an NGO in north-west Pakistan, actively supports women's rights and the representation of women in local councils. Numerous ICIMOD partner organisations assert women's rights to land in the region. In doing so ICIMOD combines information and training with lobbying and advocacy with a view to persuading governments to pass appropriate legislation.

South Eastern Europe: personal safety – protection and advice for women

PROJECT PARTNER
Belgrade: IOM, International
Organization for Migration;
Counselling Against
Family Violence (CAFV);
Gnjilane: municipality
Gnjilane with Caritas Austria

ADC supported local women's shelters in Belgrade and Kosovo in 2004–2005. Women, children and juveniles who have been victims of domestic violence, suffered from poverty or have been traumatised by the war in the Balkans, can find refuge in these shelters and look forward to a brighter future. With Austrian support the shelter for women and children in Gnjilane, Kosovo, for example, offers legal advice and psychological care. Training courses in computers or languages offer new professional prospects.



Development communication

"It is people that make the difference. Communication is about people. Communication for development is essential to make the difference happen."

Nelson Mandela

Key terms

■ GLOBAL LEARNING

... provides knowledge about the world and global connections and promotes responsibility for sustainable development.

Austrian Strategy Group for Global Learning

■ EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

... is comprehensive forward-looking education that permits peaceful and cooperative co-existence in a free society and hence in a world of sustainable development.

Expert group on education for sustainable development of the Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Waste Management, 2006

Background

The European Union and United Nations have on several occasions emphasised that international development goals and progress in reducing worldwide poverty can be achieved only if the public in industrial countries supports and is critical of international development efforts. Development information and communication at all levels of society are therefore a priority for all EU partners and for the OECD Development Assistance Committee. Sustainable development needs to be integrated in education systems at all levels so as to reinforce education as a driving force behind social change. The UN decade Education for Sustainable Development 2005–2014 is a reflection of this international commitment.

Our perspective

Acceptance and support by the Austrian public for development policy and development cooperation is contingent on dynamic communication of development issues in Austrian society. ADC therefore provides information about government targets and performance and its own programmes and projects, creating in this way a basis for better understanding of development cooperation and transparency on the use of taxpayers' money.

In its promotional measures ADC seeks in particular the broad and informed participation of the public in development policy and development cooperation questions. Civil society organisations are of special significance in this respect. In view of their experience they have many contacts and competencies in all areas of sustainable development and are well established in Austrian society in terms of financial and human resources. They are notable for their federal structure and small scale. There are around 1,000 development groups in Austria, most of which operate on a voluntary basis.

ADC also seeks to develop and consolidate global learning as a forward-looking material and educational concept within Austria's education system. Of particular importance is the close cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture and other relevant public and private organisations.

The programme for development information, education, culture and public relations work for 2004–2006 permits the coordinated and effective use of available resources and also ensures the transparency of the funding policy and funding decisions.

Activities 2004–2005

The years 2004–2005 saw the restructuring of ADC. The Austrian Development Cooperation Information Office and the development information, education, culture and public relations work previously promoted by KommEnt – Gesellschaft für Kommunikation und Entwicklung have now become part of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA).

Funding measures during the period under review helped to improve the thematic and methodological approaches to education, culture and public relations work. Quality development in the individual programmes and the use of innovative communication forms were prerequisites for funding. The sustainable impact of projects was achieved through continuous work on priority themes and with selected target groups. The MDGs, fair trade, global learning and dialogue of cultures were particular focuses in this respect. The projects were mainly aimed at multipliers in education, science, the media, political parties, churches and NGOs. Thematic and methodological improvements were achieved in particular through cooperation in the environmental, social, economic (including agricultural) and cultural fields.

ADC public relations was involved in the making of the television series “Ferne Nachbarn” in cooperation with 3sat, which featured 12 half-hour documentaries presenting ADC partner countries. The series was broadcast on ORF 1 and is available with supplementary teaching material for educational purposes.

Journalists were informed in detail about ADC activities and projects and about international development themes by means of press documentation, press releases, press conferences and project visits.

Events such as an international film presentation and podium discussion to mark the tenth anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda or two events on World Food Day (16 October) in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management offered forums for information, exchange and networking.

The quarterly *Weltnachrichten*, monthly ADC information service and websites www.mfa.at/adk and www.ada.gv.at provided details about current events and developments in ADC partner countries and in Austria.

The ADC information office also dealt with around 1,100 telephone and written enquiries from journalists and others interested in development policy and distributed some 4,700 information leaflets.

Our achievements

Information campaign on MDGs

One particular focus was the launch of a long-term information campaign on the MDGs. The eight “goals for the world” were publicised in TV commercials, media reports, brochures and events. Details were highlighted in special campaigns directed towards the general public under the slogans “Fight hunger and secure food supply” in 2004 and “Empowering women – opportunities for all” in 2005.

The activities were backed by funded projects by development NGOs. Following invitations to submit projects on the MDGs, around 325,000 euros went towards the funding of 11 projects between July 2004 and September 2005. The projects included a national poster campaign, publications, newspaper articles, plays and workshops, conferences and a new website for schools designed in cooperation with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture. The success of this campaign was evaluated and lessons learned for future development activities in Austria.

In the Eurobarometer survey for 2005 Austria was in third place with 18 per cent behind Sweden and Italy in terms of public awareness of the MDGs. This validates the work carried out today but also reveals the need for even further awareness-raising activities.

Review

2004–2005

■ 1 January 2004

Austrian Development Agency becomes operational

The new legal framework established in 2003 and the founding of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) gave a new and modern structure to ADC in 2004–2005 and prepared it for current international challenges.

ADA is a federally owned non-profit limited liability company and has been responsible since 2004 for the operational aspects of ADC in accordance with the strategies set forth in the Three-Year Programme.

Department VII of the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs is responsible for the thematic orientation of ADC and develops policies and strategies. It conducts dialogue with partner countries and is involved in donor coordination in all relevant international committees with a view to harmonising and aligning bilateral and multilateral programmes.

ADA is responsible for the implementation of bilateral programmes and projects of the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs and manages the corresponding budget. It cooperates closely with NGOs and enterprises. Through education and information (see Development Communication) in Austria it makes an important contribution to awareness and acceptance of development cooperation. ADA has also had a liaison office in Brussels since July 2005 to facilitate access by Austrian organisations and enterprises to EU-funded development projects.

■ 12 November 2004

OECD praises ADC

The OECD gave Austria high marks for the long-term reform of its development cooperation activities. It particularly highlighted the new Development Cooperation Act and the founding of the Austrian Development Agency, which has been responsible since January 2004 for the implementation of all programmes and development projects. Austria's efforts to concentrate more on South Eastern Europe were also welcomed. The auditors noted that Austria's support of local civil societies was appreciated by partner countries and encouraged it to continue and intensify dialogue with partner governments.

■ 3 December 2004

Water for Albania: contract worth 1.2 million euros signed in Vienna

ADC invested a further 1.2 million euros in water management in Albania. The Republic of Albania contributed an additional 94,000 euros to the project. The Albanian Deputy Minister for Regional Planning and Tourism and the mayor of Shkodra came to Vienna to sign the agreement, which continues the programme initiated in 1997 to improve living conditions in Albania. To date ADC has provided 4.6 million euros for the development of a water supply system.

■ 25 March 2005

Opening of Basochhu hydroelectric power station

During a visit to Bhutan Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik visited the largest ADC project to date. Together with prime minister Lyonpo Yeshey Zimba she opened the lower stage of the Basochhu hydroelectric power station, which will provide 40 per cent of the energy requirements in the Himalayan kingdom. The target set by the government of Bhutan to provide the entire country with electricity by 2020 is one step nearer to realisation.

■ 5 May 2005

Austria – Burkina Faso: new agreement continues established partnership

Jean-Baptiste Compaore, Minister of Finance of Burkina Faso, and Ambassador Irene Freuden-schuss-Reichl, Director-General of Austrian development cooperation in the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs, signed a bilateral cooperation agreement until 2007. The three-year working programme is a continuation of the successful partnership between Austria and Burkina Faso. Development cooperation focuses are rural development, vocational training and SME promotion.

■ 13 May 2005

5th Global Forum on Sustainable Energy

Biomass and alternative energy sources offer enormous potential for developing countries. The great challenge for the future is to develop modern technologies to make the use of biomass more efficient, reliable and environmentally friendly. This was the result of the 5th Global Forum on Sustainable Energy (GFSE) in Vienna, during which 160 international experts discussed the potential of biomass and alternative energy sources to improve the living and environmental conditions in the poorest countries. ADC is strongly committed to the development of alternative forms of energy, not least because as a world leader in biomass technologies Austria has a large amount of expertise to offer.

■ 27 May 2005

Foreign Minister meets Nicaraguan counterpart Caldera Cardenal

Austria and Nicaragua are cooperating to combat poverty. Apart from political questions such as the EU summit with Latin America and the Caribbean in May in Vienna, the meeting also focused in particular on ADC with Nicaragua.

■ 10 June 2005

EU Commission and Member States combat worldwide poverty together

On the occasion of a working meeting between Foreign Minister Plassnik and Louis Michel, the EU Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian aid, both parties emphasised the importance of intensive development cooperation between the European Commission and the Member States. The talks also focused on the significant role of the EU as the world's largest development aid donor in the fight against poverty, hunger and disasters. Austria contributed 165 million euros to the European Development Fund in 2005.

Plassnik referred to the meeting of the General Affairs and External Relations Council of 24 May 2005, which adopted conclusions to increase development cooperation spending by EU Member States to 0.51 per cent of the GNI. Based on current forecasts, by 2010 Austria will have more than doubled the 2004 level of contributions.

■ 11-13 June 2005

Parliamentarians for development

The role of parliamentarians in the international development agenda was the theme of a conference organised together with the World Bank, which was held in Vienna from 11 to 13 June. Delegates from 25 parliamentary associations met with representatives of Austrian and international organisations to discuss joint actions for effective poverty reduction. Apart from Ian Goldin, vice-president of the World Bank, and Myles Wickstead, head of the secretariat of the Commission for Africa, the meeting at the Diplomatic Academy was also attended by Eveline Herfkens, Executive Coordinator of the Millennium Campaign.

■ 29 June 2005

Foreign Minister meets counterpart from Cape Verde Barbosa Borges

"Austria and Cape Verde can look back on more than 20 years of development cooperation and many successful initiatives and projects," said Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik during a working meeting with her counterpart in Cape Verde, Victor Manuel Barbosa Borges. Talks focused on bilateral relations and relations with the EU as well as regional and pan-African developments. Foreign Minister Plassnik highlighted the fact that Cape Verde was not involved in any conflict and was a valuable interlocutor for Austria with respect to the African security architecture and West Africa.

■ 17 November 2005

Opening of an Austrian coordination office in Podgorica

Johannes Kyrle, Secretary-General for Foreign Affairs, opened a coordination office for development cooperation and cooperation with Eastern Europe as a branch office of the Austrian Embassy in Belgrade. The states of the Western Balkans, particularly Serbia and Montenegro, form a focus of ADC and the opening of this new ADC coordination office marked a further consolidation of this cooperation.

■ 24 and 25 November 2005

ADC dialogue conference with new EU Member States

A two-day conference entitled Harmonisation and Alignment – Challenges for New and Old Donors Alike in Vienna discussed ways of improving the quality and effectiveness of development cooperation. Experts and representatives of the European Commission, OECD and scientific institutions examined the role of smaller donor states and possibilities for better coordination and cooperation. The invitation by the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Austrian Development Agency was taken up by development cooperation representatives from both old and especially new EU Member States.