



# Austria

## 1 Which bioeconomy-related policy strategies exist?

In recent years, the Austrian government has taken several steps to develop bioeconomy-related policies which are predominantly research-oriented. Based on a comprehensive **policy paper on bioeconomy** (2013), published by BIOS Science Austria and the Austrian Union for Agricultural Research (ÖVAF), the political commitment to supporting a bioeconomy research initiative was laid down in the coalition agreement of 2013. One year

later, the government published the **Research, Technology and Innovation Strategy (RTI Strategy) for Biobased Industries** (2014). Furthermore, an inter-ministerial working group submitted an RTI Status Quo Report in 2015 in order to evaluate current bioeconomy-related RTI activities in Austria. The report defines relevant research areas and is used to elaborate a comprehensive national RTI Strategy on Bioeconomy.

## 2 Is the term “bioeconomy” or “biobased economy” used in the strategy documents?

Yes No



The bioeconomy definition used in the policy paper (2013) refers to the German definition of bioeconomy and encompasses “the knowledge-based production and use of renewable resources, in order to provide products, processes and services in all

areas of the economy, within the framework of an economic system that is viable for the future”<sup>15</sup>.

<sup>15</sup> Austria. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, 2013, p. 1. (see also BMELV, 2013, p. 15.)

## 3 Who is the author of the strategies?

Bioeconomy-related policies in Austria are mainly driven by the Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology, which published the RTI Strategy

for Biobased Industries in 2014. The current RTI Status Quo Report (2015) was prepared by an inter-ministerial working group, composed of the

Ministries of Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT); Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW); Science, Research and Economy; and the Austrian Federal Chancel-

lery. The report recently underwent an online consultation process with various stakeholders from science and research, technology and innovation.

## 4 What are the key goals of the strategies?

The RTI Strategy for Biobased Industries (2014) aims at further developing biobased industry in Austria by promoting research, technology and innovation projects. In this respect the strategy

seeks to strengthen the regional added value and to reduce its dependence on natural resources which are usually imported.

## 5 What are the priority areas of the strategies?

The RTI Strategy (2014) addresses the Austrian food, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and timber industry in particular. In this context, it highlights their development potential with respect to raw material extraction, product development and processing methods. The strategy prioritizes the following product groups: insulation and building products, biogenic composite materials, biopolymers, biobased bulk chemicals, biofuels, biogenic fertilizers, as well as biobased specialty products, such as enzymes and pharmaceutical products. In addition, innovation initiatives are intended to focus on processing methods, i.e. fermentation, gasification and pyrolysis of biomass, timber processing and new biorefinery concepts, such as the use of grass and algae.

In order to promote biobased industry, the strategy provides explicit recommendations for actions that focus on developing integrated concepts for the efficient use of biomass and on assessing biobased products and their economic and ecological impact. Furthermore, the biobased industry sector's competitiveness and presence in Austria should be strengthened, for example, by setting up a stakeholder platform. Finally, the strategy emphasizes the need for further research, e.g. on microorganisms, and collaboration with traditional industries.

### REFERENCES

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