

Projects & initiatives for regions,
companies and people:

regional development with ecoplus.





For decades, the name ecoplus has been synonymous with innovative business and regional development policies. Activities have always been focused on developing the business location of Lower Austria – and on supporting companies based in Lower Austria. Whether

We advise and accompany.

We promote and connect.

We are there for you.

resettlement or expansion of a company, allocation of attractive business locations, facilitated access to educational and R&D facilities,

financial assistance for important regional projects, cooperation and networking between companies and industries, or even the first step into the new European markets – ecoplus has a wide range of targeted and continually evolving services aimed to help manage new business challenges.

We are partners for entrepreneurial dedication, technological innovation and regional development.

As a privately-run company, ecoplus can guarantee the quick and flexible assistance your business requires.

The extensive experience and professional qualifications of the ecoplus team result in excellent service for all our clients.

As the business agency of Lower Austria, ecoplus is the interface between business and politics, companies and government authorities, investors and initiators

Our promise: one-stop service, a professional partner at your side and dedication to your goals.

of regional projects. As a provider of services, ecoplus is active at both national and international levels.

ecoplus.
The Business Agency
of Lower Austria

We promote regional development and support the regional economy on behalf of the province of Lower Austria.

projects & initiatives

On behalf of the province, for the people: initiatives for the region.

ecoplus initiates, supports and advises on regional initiatives in Lower Austria. A significant contribution to the development of Lower Austrian regions is made with innovative and high-quality projects which use regional resources most efficiently, create jobs, and provide for sustained sources of income. The focus is on investment in infrastructure in economically and structurally underdeveloped regions. Back in 1987, ecoplus was entrusted with the management of this Regional Support Program. Since then, approximately €870 million in funds have been used to support more than 1,900 projects. These in turn have triggered around €2.2 billion in investments and have created more than 17,000 jobs in the regions.

The spectrum of initiative projects ranges from regional innovation and technology centers to the extension of cycling paths and even improvements in winter sports infrastructure and facilities. Other areas of focus in assistance and financial support include wildlife and cultural parks, tourist destinations, and the promotion of Lower Austria as a trade fair location.

We accompany initiatives and support projects with our partners at every stage along the way, from initial consultation to assistance to co-financing with EU means.



New goals, new opportunities: regional support with EU assistance.

Upon Austria's accession to the EU, ecoplus was able to achieve the integration of its Regional Support Program in the then-current EU structural funds programs and thus win additional co-financing means for Lower Austria. In the last program period 2000–2006 alone (from Objective 2, Leader+ and INTERREG IIIA programs), these amounted to over €70 million. ecoplus is a lead participant in the realization of these programs and continues to offer comprehensive consulting services, support and implementation.

Our principles: added value for the region, jobs for our citizens and sustainability for regional development.

Regional support in Lower Austria.

A success story with many chapters.

The start

Concurrently with the establishment of St. Pölten as provincial capital on 10 July 1986, the Lower Austrian provincial parliament enacted the Regional Support Program to provide a sustained boost to Lower Austrian regions. ecoplus was entrusted with the implementation of the program and commenced operations swiftly, on 1 February 1987. Initially, the province provided €25 million per year for regional initiative projects; since 1999, the amount of support available has been increased to €29 million per year.

The fields of activity

The Regional Support Program assists projects characterized by sustainability, innovation, regional anchoring and interconnectedness as well as the utilization of regional resources and potential. In addition, an appropriate

amount of own capital resources must also be made available.

In this way the success of funded projects in creating added value and jobs in the region can be ensured.

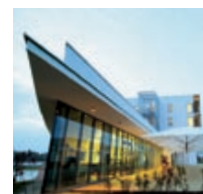
In accordance with its remit, the Regional Support Program focuses on investment in economically and/or structurally

weak regions. Project backers and companies may build on the tailored assistance provided by ecoplus. Support services range from promotion of investment to assistance within the framework of regional services. There are three main fields of activity: initiative projects, initiative themes and region.

The aims

The central aim of the Regional Support Program is the promotion of economic, social and cultural growth in the regions.

To this end, projects are supported which contribute to regional economic development. The program is not only a valuable extension to Lower Austrian provincial funding, but itself a vital pillar.



Field of activity: initiative projects

ecoplus initiates, supports and assists – utilizing EU means to the greatest extent possible – regional initiative projects in Lower Austria. Here the regional interconnectedness of leading operations and regions plays an important role. Well-known model projects include the Donau-Auen National Park and the development of the health centers Ottenschlag and Traunstein and surrounding areas.



Field of activity: initiative themes

With regional support, select priorities for regional development are identified, projects are set in motion, and concrete investment projects are supported. Examples of activities in this field include the themes cycling tourism, winter tourism and wilderness parks.

Field of activity: region

In order to support the development of the region in a targeted way, strategic developmental concepts are created and realized jointly with regional decision makers and partner institutions. Examples of these types of activities include the Wachau Masterplan and the implementation of the Leader program.



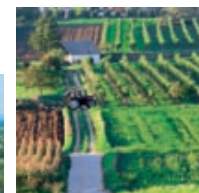
The process

The processing of projects submitted for regional support is done transparently and effectively. ecoplus management submits its support recommendations to the expert advisory board and the board of directors; upon approval in this first instance, the applications will then be granted by the Lower Austrian provincial government. There is an expedited approval process for projects within the framework of the Leader and "Fitness" programs. Support recommendations to the Lower Austrian provincial government are made directly by the chair of the board of directors. Thus the speedy realization of projects is ensured. Consultative services may be agreed upon and implemented on a case-by-case basis.

facts

Regional Support in Lower Austria

- Support program since 1987
- 1,900 approved projects
- € 2.2 billion in investments
- € 870 million in financial support
- € 90 million in EU means since 1995
- € 469,000 average support level per project
- 179 projects with over € 1 million in support
- 772 projects with under € 100,000 in support
- € 563 in support per resident since 1987





service

One source for all your service needs.

- Financial support for investments in infrastructure projects
- Organization, financing and management of consulting projects and/or temporary project management for complex regional development projects of great economic significance
- Field development for major projects
- Platform for development outreach – organization of expert meetings, informational events on the topic of regional development
- Exploratory consultations and background surveys on development topics
- Settlement and auditing of regional support projects
- Exploitation of EU co-financing means within the framework of EU regional policy
- Collaboration in the creation and implementation of the so-called Structural Funds – Operational Programs, management of Leader programs 2007–2013

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