

Facts & Figures

(Status: December 2008)

ecoplus divisions: business locations & services
 companies & technology
 projects & impulses

Employees: **77**

business locations & services

▪ Investor Services:

- **over 30 years** of investment promotion and investor services in Lower Austria
- Consultations and comprehensive support in industrial investment and site selection: approx. **450** per year
- Total number of inward investments in Lower Austria with the help of ecoplus over the past 10 years: more than **651** businesses with approx. **16,740** newly created and secured jobs

▪ Business Parks:

- **45 years** experience in the planning, developing and operating of business parks in Lower Austria
- Management of **8 ecoplus-owned business parks** and stake in **8** additional business parks: 609 ha (1,505 acres) primary site servicing and infrastructure,
- **488** international and Austrian businesses with approx. **15,420** employees
- Construction of **61 rental business premises** in the IZ NÖ-Süd (Industry Center Lower Austria/South) and in the ecoplus Business Parks Wolkersdorf, Wiener Neustadt and Poysdorf

▪ Management of Investments in regional projects, innovation centers and business parks:

- RIZ. The Business Agency for start-ups in Lower Austria,
- Organisation for University Development and Controlling in Niederösterreich,
- Vienna Region Business Agency GmbH,
 - TECHbase Science Park Vienna,
 - Vienna Region Marketing GmbH
 - Austrian Automotive Association Service GmbH,
 - CCK Craft Center Kottlingbrunn,
- Best Health Austria Gesellschaft für Gesundheitstourismus mbH.,
- ecoplus International GmbH.,

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- Kematen Business Park GmbH.,
- Lower Austrian Danube Port Holding Ltd.,
 - Danube Port Ennschafen Lower Austria GmbH,
- ecoplus Beteiligungen GmbH.
 - ACCESS Industrial Park in Gmünd-Ceske Velenice
 - HPCV Ceské Velenice
 - Residential and Industrial Park St. Pölten
 - GIP Business Park Strasshof GmbH.,
 - Schrems Business Park GmbH.,
 - Techno-Park Tulln GmbH.,
 - ecoplus. Immobilien GmbH.,
 - TFZ Technology and Research Center Wiener Neustadt GmbH.,
 - BTZ Biotechnology Center Krems GmbH.,
 - RIZ Nord GmbH
 - TZT Technology Center Tulln GmbH.,
 - TZWL Technology Center Wieselburg Land GmbH.,
 - CNG Civitas Nova Wr. Neustadt Grundstücksges.m.b.H

companies & technology

▪ Networks & Clusters:

- Automotive Cluster Vienna Region (started in July 2001):
104 business partners, **33,127** employees
- Wellbeing Cluster of Lower Austria (started in November 2002):
100 business partners, **3,560** employees
- Green Building Cluster of Lower Austria (fusion of timber (2001) and green building (2003) Cluster of Lower Austria: started in May 2007):
178 business partners, **9,173** employees
- Plastics-Cluster (started in January 2005)
85 business partners, **9,802** employees
- Food initiative Lower Austria (started in May 2006)
project platform with 4 key projects
- Logistics Cluster Lower Austria (started in July 2008)

Sum: approx. **467 business partners** with more than **55.600 employees**

▪ **Technopols:**

ecoplus, as the program agency, implements the new Technopol Program on behalf of the provincial government of Lower Austria. At each of the 3 Technopol locations Wiener Neustadt, Tulln and Krems a designated manager is responsible for the activities of the R&D facilities, business operations and the educational and training institutions located on site.

Project budget: €3 Mio p.a.

- **Technopol Krems:**

Focus on biotech and regenerative medicine, 46 researchers

- **Technopol Tulln:**

Focus on environmental biotechnology and agrobiotechnology, bioanalytics, 200 researchers

- **Technopol Wiener Neustadt:**

Focus on: microsystems engineering, tribology, surface technology, 300 researchers (research center and university of applied science)

- **Research site Wieselburg:**

Focus on: bioenergy, 30 researchers

▪ **Internationalization**

The aim of ecoplus International is to support Lower Austrian companies, and in particular small and medium-sized businesses, in their plans for internationalization. The ecoplus International business agencies in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland and Romania will guide businesses in their implemental activities on site. The ecoplus service offer is rounded out by a selection of seminars and events relevant to the target group and support for trade fair participation.

○ **Services provided in 2007**

9 Foreign trade fairs in CZ, SK, RO (85 participants)

2 Exploratory market excursions (50 participants), 1 meeting with expert (12 participants)

4 Professional events (renewable energy, energy efficiency, health & wellness tourism, 105 participants)

9 Professional seminars (sales planning in Eastern Europe, efficient communication in Eastern Europe, 96 participants)

124 Consultations in Vienna, 354 in other countries

304 New clients (2007)

○ **New Start-Up Center in Timisoara**

Opened on 1 November 2007, the ecoplus Start-Up Center in Timisoara has already enabled two Lower Austrian companies to enter the Romanian market in an efficient and affordable manner. As both companies have selected the "permanent use option," there is only one remaining permanent use option still available.

Thanks to positive feedback, a Start-Up Center is now being offered in Budapest.

- **Online Tendering and Commercial Representative Portal:** ecoplus International's Internet portal offers Lower Austrian companies German-language access to the tendering process in neighboring countries for contracts and awards (approx. **300 per country per month**) valued below the EU tender threshold. Also possible is systematic and selective access to qualified commercial representatives in Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland and Romania. This service has been very well received.
- **Pocket Guides** have been published on the subject "Personal and Intercultural Know-How" for Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Poland. With countless helpful tips and a wealth of information for companies, these guides have been so well received that additional Pocket Guides (e.g. on sales and distribution channels) were produced.
- As of January 2008 two **EU projects** (SPOLU+, Lower Austrian Products Project) have reached completion. Within the framework of these two INTERREG projects, 1087 and 150 Lower Austrian clients, respectively, were serviced (trade fair participation, exploratory market excursions, workshops and seminars).

projects & impulses

▪ Regional Support:

- **Since 1987 experience** in implementation of the **Lower Austrian regional support program**:
- Support for **1,685 projects** with a total volume of **€755 million in financial assistance**, triggering investments of approx. **€2,045 billion** and creating around 6.000 jobs in the regions.
- Since 1999 and within the scope of the **fitness program**, **481 projects** with a total investment volume of **€532 million** have been supported with **€198 million** from regional promotion funds (including conditional decisions).
- **Regional consulting:** advisory service for 800 projects since 1996

▪ EU Regional Support and Support Processing

ecoplus has once again been able to integrate the regional support program of the federal state of Lower Austria into the new **EU program planning period 2007-2013**:

- In the Objective 2 follow-up program **Competitiveness and Innovation framework Program 2007-2013** ecoplus will function in an additional three measures as so-called implementing body and will implement the Cluster and Technopol programs with the assistance of EU co-financing means (EFRE).

- The LEADER and INTERREG initiatives (INTERREG will be continued as an objective 3 program in the periode 2007-2013) will be promoted to program status and their budgets will be increased. ecoplus has signaled its readiness to once again apply its experience in the execution of programs.

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In comparison to:

- In the first program's period 1995 -1999, **175** regional support projects were **co-financed by the EU (objective 2 projects, objective 5b projects, LEADER II, INTERREG II)** with a sum of € 18 Mio.
- In the recently expired program period 2000-2006, there were a total of **462** regional assistance projects co-financed by the EU within the framework of the follow-up programs (Objective 2, LEADER+, INTERREG III). In total, **€72 million** in EU co-financing means were utilized:
 - In the Objective 2 program a total of **135** projects with an investment volume of approx. **€264 million** were co-financed, whereby EU co-financing means (EFRE) of approx. **€52 million** could be incorporated (an additional €3 million are expected to be realized via so-called reserve projects). In three of the measures, ecoplus acted as the implementing body and was thus responsible for the handling of around one-third of the program budget.
 - Within the framework of the **LEADER+** initiative, **277 (!)** projects with a total volume of €22 million were co-financed, incorporating EU co-financing means (EAGF) of approx. **€11 million**. ecoplus served as the implementing body and was responsible for the handling of around two-thirds of the program volume.
 - The **INTERREG IIIA** initiative featured **45 co-financed projects** with total costs of approx. € 20 million, whereby around € 8.5million in EU co-financing means (EFRE) were incorporated. Here as well, ecoplus acted as the implementing body.