

AUSTRIA

Youth for science, Youth for business, science for business

Good practices: policy measures for circular economy and eco-innovations¹:

a. Publicly co-funded venture capital funds:

- ✓ [The Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH \(aws\)](#) – CleanTech initiative benefits from 100 Mio EUR support;
- ✓ [Mountain Cleantech Fund II](#) - aiming at volumes of €100 million. Mainly invested in future Austrian Cleantech-growth enterprises with turnovers of €3-50 million.
 - [NEUSCHNEE GmbH](#) - green start-up founded by the Technical University of Vienna and the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna. The company produces snow by adapting the process of nature, and thus, represents an environmental friendly alternative to artificial snow. Instead of freezing water drops, as for artificial snow.

b. Support for R&D sector

- **Programs:**
 - ✓ [Programme on Technologies for Sustainable Development](#) consisting in 4 sub-programmes: Building of Tomorrow, City of Tomorrow, Factory of Tomorrow, Energy systems of Tomorrow.
 - ✓ [Climate and Energy Fund \(KLIEN\)](#) – 100 Mio Eur support
 - ✓ Collaborative grants – [Austrian Science Fund](#) & Austrian Research Promotion Agency
 - ✓ [Program to support research infrastructure](#)
 - **Education, training & mobility:**
 - ✓ Advise and support for entrepreneurs: [Chamber of Commerce Founder`s Service](#), [INiTS](#), web platforms and networks for students – [ECOTechnology](#), [GO-Social](#)
 - ✓ Support for HR, especially when it comes to [R&D workers](#)
 - **Networks and partnerships:**
 - ✓ 45 [COMET centers](#) – competence centers for excellent technologies;
 - ✓ The [Platform Kreislaufwirtschaft Austria](#) is a multi-stakeholder platform acting as a think tank, incubator, and catalyst for projects and initiatives towards a transition to a circular economy in Austria.
- ✓ [GO- international](#) – market intelligence

c. Regulation standards:

- ✓ Austrian Climate Protection Law determines maximum emission levels for six economic sectors;
- ✓ ACM (Austrian Carbon Management) - is the only Austrian interdisciplinary service for climate change services;
- ✓ Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) as an alternative to ISO 14001;
 - Governmental support for the thermal insulation of private homes. For a complete insulation following the "[clima.aktiv](#)" standards.
- ✓ "Green" public procurement of goods and services
 - *Awareness is done by: [Service centres for innovativeness](#)
 - *Form of organization: 6 procurement groups (E.g. [recyclability of IT-products](#))
- ✓ [RepaNet](#) - national umbrella association of the European network [RREUSE \(Recycling and Reuse of European Social Enterprises\)](#)
 - Internal regulation ensures the high quality of recycling potential of the waste that occurs among construction and demolition processes.
 - *For example, identification of hazardous substances before building and demolition assures a high quality of waste.
 - "[clima.aktiv](#)" standards - maximize energy and resource efficiency and increase the use of ecological products in the construction of new buildings and the renovation of existing structures.

Other measures undertaken by Austrian government in order to stimulate startup environment are:

- New **funding sources** to be made available to the **Business Angel Fund**;

¹ [Burcu Gözet, Stefan Giljum, *Eco-Innovation in Austria, EIO Country Profile 2016 – 2017*, Eco – Innovation Observatory, 2017](#), p. 14

- **Capital premium for investors (regulation)** - Accumulated investments of up to EUR 250,000/year are supported through a maximum of 20% of the investment amount being reimbursed;
- The creation of a **new legal entity**, the "[Mittelstandsfinanzierungsgesellschaft \(MiFiG\)](#)" (financing company for SMEs) - providing risk capital for SMEs companies. Tax exemptions will apply for up to EUR 15,000 in dividends for investors in a MiFiG²;
- **Fellowships for academic spin-offs** (EUR 5 Mio. /year): to ensure the financing of salary costs and access to the academic infrastructure. This measure is funded to the amount of €5 million per year. Some 50 founders were supported in teams up to the year 2018³;
- [Fronrunner Initiative](#) supporting through grants successful companies based in Austria acting in niche sectors, willing to invest in research projects.
- [AplusB Program](#) (7 centers);
- [Technology & impulse centers.](#)

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² Guerrini Federico, "[Austria Wants to Attract Startups with a \\$ 204 Million Program](#)", Forbes Magazine, 08.07.2016

³ [Ohr Thomas, „Austrian government passes a comprehensive program to make the country more attractive for startups“, EU Startups, 08.07.2016](#)