

# Indicators Rural Development

EUROSTAT grants for 2005 / Theme 61:

Data collection exercise for indicators covering DG Agri's axis 3  
"Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging  
diversification of economic activity"

FINAL REPORT  
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## 5 ABBREVIATIONS USED

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**Annex A:** Typical rural municipalities classified as regions with medium population density

**Annex B:** Classic core regions with small city and industrial character in Styria classified as thinly populated regions thinly populated regions

## 1 Introduction

This report deals with a set of indicators for rural areas to be processed in the course of a data collection exercise. This set of indicators is based on a proposal from EUROSTAT and initially covers just the third axis of rural development. The areas covered are:

- Demography and migration,
- Economy and human capital,
- Access to services and infrastructure, and
- Social well-being.

To develop a system of comparable statistics on rural development, the rural areas first have to be defined for statistical purposes. At international level, two methods based essentially on population density were proposed, namely the OECD approach and the EUROSTAT approach.

The municipality (LAU 2) is the basic geographic unit for which statistical data sometimes are collected through surveys or from administrative sources. As the municipality forms the basis for recording statistical data, one can proceed from the lowest level to the regional or national level by appropriately aggregating the statistics based on the characteristics of the municipalities. This method will assure the necessary flexibility in the transition to a new coding of the municipalities once a final demarcation of rural regions is completed.

The following steps are planned in connection with this double approach:

- OECD approach

EUROSTAT has presented the classification for all NUTS 3 regions based on the OECD definition. The Member States were permitted to reclassify NUTS 3 regions where necessary (in exceptional cases) based on their sound local knowledge.

One value per indicator is to be reported for each NUTS 3 region.

- EUROSTAT approach

EUROSTAT has stipulated the classification of all LAU 2 regions (municipalities) based on the EUROSTAT definition (degree of urbanisation). The object was to determine the lowest classification level (NUTS) for which statistically significant indicators can be determined for the thinly populated subdivision of this particular NUTS region.

For each NUTS region of this kind (e.g. NUTS 2), one value is to be reported per indicator for the thinly populated regions, for the regions with medium population density and for the densely populated regions (subdivisions) of this NUTS region.

The data recording procedure (pilot project) is aimed mainly at:

- Examining the availability of data (completeness) for the indicators for rural development and determining the necessary corrective actions;
- Evaluating the quality (metadata/definition) of the statistics and determining the necessary corrective actions;
- Determining the lowest geographic level (NUTS) for the reporting of statistically significant data based on the EUROSTAT approach;
- Building up the necessary cooperation between the competent authorities;
- Providing the necessary statistics based on the OECD and EUROSTAT approaches.

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The plan is to repeat this pilot project twice or three times apart from 2007 onward. In this phase, the focus will be on improving the data quality.

## 2 Methodology

The approach selected in this project for developing a system of statistics on rural development clearly shows that rural development is a cross-sectional task covering a number of statistical subjects. This fact naturally means the work has to be organised to guarantee the generation of harmonised statistics. In the compilation of the final indicator list, the user and the data supplier must be consulted so that the meeting of user needs involves a minimal reply burden for respondents. For this reason, it was clearly specified that no new surveys were to be carried out. Instead, the necessary data was to be drawn to the best extent possible from already existing data holdings.

### 2.1 *Coordination of Work Internally and with Other Service Entities*

Appropriate coordination was essential to ensure that data was collected with maximum efficiency at the various institutions.

Coordination extended to the following areas:

- Cooperation with various institutions (government ministries, federal agencies, etc.) with a focus on the areas stipulated as falling under this project;
- Cooperation with several Directorates at STATISTIK AUSTRIA responsible for acquiring data in the actual topics of rural development statistics sections;
- Steps to assure the generation of statistics;
- Contribution to the future development of the project.

At STATISTIK AUSTRIA, the project monitoring cooperated through two contact persons with the experts from the Directorates of Population and Macroeconomics. The professional exchange with external departments was coordinated in close cooperation with the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management ((BMLFUW), Dept. II/5 Foundations of Agricultural Policy, Evaluation).

The project was presented and discussed at two meetings with representatives from the department at the Federal Chancellery involved in the matter (BKA IV/4), the Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning (ÖROK), the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, the Federal Institute for Mountain Farming (BABF) and representatives from the provinces.



## 2.2 Indicators Which Were Processed

Table 1 shows the indicators to be processed during data acquisition.

Table 1: Indicators and the associated variables

	Issue	Indicator	Variable
<b>I.</b>	<b>Demography – Migration</b>		
1	Population change	Change of total population	- Population year 1 - Population year 2
2	Net migration	Age-specific migration by sex (rate per 1000)	- In migration - Out migration by sex and age working age 15 – 64 y young work force 15 – 24 y and pensioners 65 y and more
3	Natural population change	Birth/death ratio and % change	- Total births year 1 - Total births year 2 - Total deaths year 1 - Total deaths year 2
4	Age structure changes	Age structure year 1 by sex  Age structure year 2 by sex	Minimum: - 5 – 14 years - 55 – 64 - 65 and older young work force 15 – 24 y by sex
<b>II.</b>	<b>Economy – Human Capital</b>		
1	Forms of employment	Percentage of self-employed persons	- Number of self-employed persons - Total of employed persons by sex
2	Importance of different sectors	Employment in agriculture and forestry, secondary and tertiary sector by sex	- Average total employment in agriculture and forestry/secondary /tertiary sector - Total employed persons by sex
3	Importance of public sector	Percentage of employment in public sector by sex	- Employment in public sector by sex - Total employed persons by sex
4	Capacity of collective tourist accommodation	Capacity of hotels and similar establishments (tourist camp sites, holiday dwellings)	- Number of establishments - Number of bedrooms - Number of bed places
5	Occupancy of collective tourist accommodation	Occupancy of hotels and similar establishments (tourist camp sites, holiday dwellings)	-Total nights spent

	Issue	Indicator	Variable
6	Weight of manufacturing	GVA in manufacturing as percentage of total GVA of the area	- GVA in manufacturing - Total GVA of the area
7	Weight of tertiary sector	GVA in the tertiary sector as percentage of total GVA of the area	- GVA in tertiary sector - Total GVA of the area
8	Relative changes of unemployment	Rate of unemployment	- unemployed persons - Active population by sex and by age group: 15-24 y; 25-54 y; 55-64 y
9	Human capital	Educational level of population by sex and age	- Number of people with a certain level of education by sex and by age group: 15-24 y; 25-54 y; 55-64 y
10	Potentially available human resources	Activity rate by sex	Active population - Population of the working age (15-64) by sex
11	Relative changes of employment	Rate of employment	- employed persons - Active population by sex
<b>IIa.</b>	<b>Economic Structure &amp; Performance (Agriculture and Forestry)</b>		
1	Structure of agricultural businesses	Farm size distribution	- Number of farms in different size classes expressed in Economical Size Units (ESU)
2	Weight of primary or agricultural sector	GVA in agriculture and forestry sector	- GVA in agriculture and forestry - Total GVA of the area
3	Productivity of the agricultural holdings	Nominal GVA per AWU	- GVA in agriculture and forestry - Annual work units
<b>III.</b>	<b>Accessibility to Services – Infrastructure</b>		
1	Availability of roads / rails	calculated by EUROSTAT	calculated by EUROSTAT
2	Supply with schools	Number of primary schools per 100,000 inhabitants	MS to deliver the number of primary schools rest is calculated by EUROSTAT
3a	Proximity to primary schools	calculated by EUROSTAT	- coordinates of primary schools
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Social well-being</b>		
1	Relative wealth of the population	Households disposable income	
2a		GDP per fulltime equivalent or per hours worked	- GDP for the area - fulltime equivalents or hours worked
2b		GDP per capita	- GDP for the area - population

	Issue	Indicator	Variable
3	Poverty	At-risk-of poverty rate	- Laeken's indicator No 1 for different age groups: 0-15, 16-24, 25-49, 50-64, >64
4	Quality of life	Accommodation, housing conditions	- %age of households reporting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Absence of bath or shower</li> <li>✓ Absence of hot running water</li> <li>✓ Shortage of space</li> <li>✓ Pollution, grime and other environmental problems caused by traffic or industry</li> <li>✓ Vandalism or crime in the area</li> </ul>
5		Durables	- %age of households reporting enforced lack of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Car or van</li> <li>✓ Telephone</li> <li>✓ Home computer</li> </ul>

## 2.3 Regional Schemes Used

### 2.3.1 OECD Definition

The OECD distinguishes between two hierarchical levels: local and regional. At local level (LAU 1/2), the municipalities are deemed to be rural if they have a population density of less than 150 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>.

At regional level (NUTS 3), larger functional or administrative units are divided according to the degree of rurality, i.e. according to the percentage of the regional population living in rural areas.

A distinction is made between three different types of (rural) regions:

- Predominantly rural areas: >50 % of the population lives in rural communities;
- Partially rural areas: 15 % – 50 % of the population lives in rural communities;
- Predominantly urbanised areas: <15 % of the population lives in rural communities.

EUROSTAT has presented the classification for all NUTS 3 regions based on the OECD definition. The Member States were permitted to reclassify NUTS 3 regions where necessary (in exceptional cases) based on their sound local knowledge.

### 2.3.2 EUROSTAT Definition, Degree of Urbanisation Concept

EUROSTAT currently applies a definition of the “degree of urbanisation” based on the criteria below:

A distinction is made between three different types of areas:

- Densely populated area: These are groups of contiguous municipalities, each with a population density greater than 500 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup> and a total population of at least 50,000 inhabitants;

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- Intermediate area: These are groups of contiguous municipalities, each with a population density greater than 100 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>, not belonging to a densely populated area. The area must have a total population of at least 50,000 inhabitants or be adjacent to a densely populated area;
- Thinly populated area: These are groups of contiguous local territorial units not classified as either densely populated or intermediate.

A group of local territorial units covering less than 100 km<sup>2</sup> and located in a densely populated zone or a zone of medium population density (intermediate) but lacking the requisite population density is assigned to the zone surrounding it. If it is enclosed by a densely populated zone or a zone of medium population density it is considered part of the intermediate zone.

A "local territorial unit" in Austria, as in most Member States, is considered to be a municipality or its equivalent (LAU 2).

EUROSTAT has presented the classification of all LAU 2 regions based on the EUROSTAT definition (degree of urbanisation).

### 2.3.3 Dual Approach

The Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (GD AGRI) has decided in favour of the OECD definition for the time being. However, GD AGRI noted that further consideration has to be given to this subject before a final decision can be made. The OECD approach is obviously pragmatic and allows statistics to be generated that are comparable world-wide. The disadvantage of this approach is its coarse structure. The features of a predominantly rural NUTS 3 area, for example, could be substantially influenced by the presence of an urban conurbation in the region.

The EUROSTAT definition could greatly speed up the creation of the necessary indicators in the social sphere, as this delimitation was already adopted in the existing Labour Force Survey (LFS) and is planned for use from 2005 on for the new Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC). Statistics for "purely" rural areas without conurbations could also be generated on the basis of this definition. As the collection of these data require sampling procedures, the sampling plan naturally has to be examined to ascertain whether statistically significant facts can be determined at a lower geographic sub-level (than the national level), e.g. for thinly populated areas in a given NUTS 2 region.

The municipality (LAU 2) is the basic geographic unit for which statistical data are sometimes compiled through surveys or from administrative sources. As the municipality forms the basis for recording statistical data, one can proceed from the lowest level to the regional or national level by appropriately aggregating the statistics based on the characteristics of the municipalities.

With this aspect in mind, EUROSTAT suggested working with both approaches concurrently and developing a system with inherent flexibility. The flexibility of the system is assured to the extent that the Member States can apply new delimitation criteria at LAU 2 level. The Commission must still take a final decision on the delimitation of the rural areas.

## **2.4 Provision of the Data (Excel Files)**

Under this dual approach, the values for variables and indicators for 2000 to 2004 were compiled at NUTS 3 level where available. In cases in which the data were not available or were not of adequate quality, the indicators were automatically calculated for the next higher NUTS level and in some cases up to the highest aggregated level (= national level). Pertinent reasons were given for these actions.

- OECD approach

Under the OECD approach, one value was provided per indicator and year for each region (ideally for NUTS 3).

- EUROSTAT approach

The objective was to use the available sampling plans (LFS, SILC) to ascertain the lowest geographic classification level (NUTS) for which statistically significant indicators for the thinly populated sub-group of a particular NUTS region can be provided. For each NUTS of this kind (e.g. NUTS 2), the indicators were to be given for the listed subregions (densely populated region, intermediate region and thinly populated region).

The following additional information was to be compiled for each indicator, where possible:

- Data source
- General assessment of data quality (good, medium, low)
- Reference to the metadata/definitions (as described in Annex 5) or to alternative national metadata/definitions. In the latter case, the alternative indicators were exactly defined and clearly described.

## **2.5 Report**

In parallel with the provision of data in Excel files, the following items will be covered in greater detail in this report:

- Comments on the territorial schemes;
- Sources and approaches used for providing the indicators;
- Information on the professional fields and organisations involved and
- Possible ways of improving data availability along with a general estimate of the costs involved.

## 3 Results

### 3.1 *Comments on the Territorial Schemes*

#### 3.1.1 Territorial Scheme under the OECD Approach

The classification for the NUTS 3 regions under the OECD approach is quite general but reflects conditions in Austria relatively well. The Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW, Dept. II/5 Foundations of Agricultural Policy, Evaluation) therefore filed no change requests as regard the classification of individual regions.

#### 3.1.2 Territorial Scheme under the EUROSTAT Approach

In its response (18.05.2005 – BMLFUWLE.1.3.5/0015-II/5/2005), the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management identified municipalities which subjectively seemed to be assigned to incorrect territorial categories. For instance, regions with a rural character were reported as regions with medium population density, while core areas with a small-city and industrial character are listed as thinly populated.

The first example (see Annex A) applies to communities in northern Burgenland and in the Salzkammergut lake region and to the communities of Egg and Alberschwende in the Bregenzerwald in Vorarlberg. In Tyrol, communities in the Wipp Valley like Mutters or Schönberg do not seem to fit fully into the intermediate region category. Serious doubts were expressed about the categorisation of the Upper Austrian communities of Raab, Andorf or Taufkirchen as an intermediate region, all with population densities of just over 100. The spatial contiguity of these communities pushes them over the 50,000 inhabitants limit but that does not make this relatively loosely populated, typically rural area of scattered settlements a region with medium population density. Subjectively, the region seems to lack the well-defined central town or city needed to justify a classification in this category (for instance, one the size of a genuine district center – a population of 25,000 inhabitants might be a possible criterion).

The second example (see Annex B) applies to the eastern upper Styrian cities of Leoben, Bruck an der Mur, and Kapfenberg and other classic core regions with a small city/industrial character. Eastern upper Styria (NUTS 3 AT223) lost about 10,000 inhabitants from 1991 to 2001. From 2000 to 2003 these communities were classified as intermediate regions, whereas for 2004 they were reported as thinly populated regions (see Chapter 3.2.3.3). For this reason, one cannot draw comparisons over time with the indicators from the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

**For data collecting in the future, the question arises on how the assignment of municipalities to the three territorial categories should be updated to take account of decisive changes in density values and, if the classification is changed, whether the data for the past should be revised. In this context, possible amalgamations or splittings of municipalities shall be pointed out.**

In a country as highly structured topographically as Austria, problems can arise when spatial contiguity is applied as a criterion to municipalities with over 100 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>. It might be advantageous to have an option of taking into account natural borders like mountain ridges or lakes/bodies of water in connection with this criterion in cases of doubt. It seems problematic to apply spatial contiguity to cases in which insurmountable natural barriers preclude a uniform contiguous area of settlement.

## 3.2 Indicators

### 3.2.1 Indicators I.1, I.2 and I.4

The data for the 3 indicators below stem from the population statistics system of STATISTIK AUSTRIA (POPREG) and are therefore treated jointly as a group:

I.1	Population change	Change of total population	- Population year 1 - Population year 2
I.2	Net migration	Age-specific migration by sex (rate per 1000)	- In migration - Out migration by sex and age: - working age 15-64y - young work force 15 – 24y - pensioners 65y and more
I.4	Age structure changes	Age structure year 1 by sex Age structure year 2 by sex	Minimum: - 5 – 14 years - 55 – 64 - 65 and older - young work force 15 – 24 y by sex

#### 3.2.1.1 Data Source

Ind I-1 2001 Population census

Ind I-1 and Ind I-2 for the years 2002 to 2004 POPREG, average population as of 30 June of the given year

Ind I-4 POPREG, population as of 1 January of the given year

POPREG is a database whose main data source is from registrations and registration cancellations (e.g. births, deaths, moves to an area, moves from an area) for a calendar quarter and from the data on persons registered with a main place of residence in the central registration database (ZMR: Zentrales Melderegister) on a given reference date. Data are available from 2002 onward. The organisational entity at STATISTIK AUSTRIA responsible for POPREG is the Analysis and Forecast Unit in the Population Directorate.

#### 3.2.1.2 Data Quality

General assessment of data quality:

At NUTS 3 level, both approaches: **good**

#### 3.2.1.3 Comments

Only individuals whose stay in Austria exceeds a minimum of 90 days including the reference date are counted as part of the population (exception: newborns).

### 3.2.1.4 Improvement of Data Quality with a General Estimate of Costs Involved

Does not appear necessary, as the figures from 2002 onwards can be presented in the necessary quality (at municipality level).

### 3.2.2 Indicator I.3

I.3	Natural population change	Birth/death ratio and % change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Total births year 1</li> <li>- Total births year 2</li> <li>- Total deaths year 1</li> <li>- Total deaths year 2</li> </ul>
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#### 3.2.2.1 Data source

The statistic for natural population change is available annually.

The data are based on the registration of births and deaths at registrar's offices in the municipalities. The organisational entity at STATISTIK AUSTRIA responsible for this is the Demography and Labour Market Unit in the Population Directorate.

#### 3.2.2.2 Data Quality

General assessment of data quality:

At NUTS 3 level, both approaches: **good**

#### 3.2.2.3 Comments

None

### 3.2.2.4 Improvement of Data Quality with a General Estimate of Costs Involved

Does not appear necessary, as the figures can be presented in the necessary quality (at municipality level).



### 3.2.3 Indicators II.1 to II.3 and Indicators II.8 to II.11

The data for the 7 indicators below are drawn from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and are therefore treated jointly as a group:

II.1	Forms of employment	Percentage of self-employed persons	- Number of self-employed persons - Total of employed persons by sex
II.2	Importance of different sectors	Employment in agriculture and forestry, secondary and tertiary sector by sex	- Average total employment in agriculture and forestry/secondary /tertiary sector - Total employed persons by sex
II.3	Importance of public sector	Percentage of employment in public sector by sex	- Employment in public sector by sex - Total employed persons by sex
II.8	Relative changes of unemployment	Rate of unemployment	- unemployed persons - Active population by sex and by age group: 15-24 y; 25-54 y; 55-64 y
II.9	Human capital	Educational level of population by sex and age	- Number of people with a certain level of education by sex and by age group: 15-24 y; 25-54 y; 55-64 y
II.10	Potentially available human resources	Activity rate by sex	- Active population - Population of the working age (15-64) by sex
II.11	Relative changes of employment	Rate of employment	- employed persons - Active population by sex

#### 3.2.3.1 Data Source

The data stem from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), sets of annual data from 2000 to 2004. The responsible organisational entity at STATISTIK AUSTRIA is the Demography and Labour Market Unit in the Population Directorate.

The data source for a collection of indicators at European level can logically be based only on a collection that is virtually standard throughout Europe or at least on a combination of LFS data (or other EU-wide data surveys) and administrative data, if this is common practice.

The Labour Force Concept (LFC) based on ILO guidelines defines employed persons based on the criterion of a workweek of at least one hour and the unemployed on the basis of the criterion of active search for work and availability for the labour market within two weeks. Classifications for insurance or administrative purposes are not taken into account. Thus, the unemployment figures and rates based on the LFC as well as the employment figures differ fundamentally from those furnished by administrative statistics (ArbeitsMarktService (AMS),

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Public Employment Service Austria) or from data collected on the basis of another approach.

It should be noted that the level at which data is compiled is place of residence, not place of work.

Indicator II.3 (Importance of public sector) covers the ÖNACE subdivision LA (public administration, national defence and social insurance).

### 3.2.3.2 Data Quality

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) meets the EU specifications regarding the representativeness of the sample; the provision in the Council Regulation 577/98 (Art.3/1) requires the sampling plan be set up so that “for a group of unemployed people representing 5 % of the working age population the relative standard error for the estimation ... shall not exceed 8 % of the sub-population, whereby a design effect for the “unemployment” variable must be assumed.”

**Only results at the provincial level (NUTS 2) can be sensibly represented with these data.** The weighting was also done at provincial level (NUTS 2), i.e. results for NUTS 3 and below are susceptible to a high standard of error in the sample.

General assessment of data quality:

At NUTS 2 level, OECD approach:	<b>good</b>
At NUTS 2 level, EUROSTAT approach:	<b>medium</b>
At NUTS 3 level, both approaches:	<b>low – very low</b>

### 3.2.3.3 Comments

#### Spatial Comparability:

As regards the sampling error, the sampling plan creates almost the same quality of results for the federal provinces (NUTS 2) regardless of their size. When analyses go deeper at regional level, the influence of factors in addition to the sampling error increases, e.g. interviewer failures, systematic errors by individual interviewers, etc.

The LFS is a survey conducted on the basis of an EU Regulation, for which the EU determines the individual subjects, questions and definitions exactly (in accordance with the ILO). The results among the countries carrying out the LFS are therefore largely comparable at NUTS 2 level.

#### Comparability over Time:

Owing to a change in methodology, there is only a limited degree of comparability between LFS results from 2004 onward and earlier results.

Information on municipalities is not available in the microcensus so that anonymity may be maintained. The suggested division into densely populated, less densely populated and thinly populated was therefore not done at municipality level for the years **up to and including 2003**. For the subdivision up to 2003, a feature contained in the set of data (degree of urbanisation stld) was applied. The variants are as follows:

- 1 thinly populated region
- 2 Regions with medium population density
- 3 Densely populated region

## RD INDICATORS --- Axis 3 --- Data collection exercise

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Assignments to the individual categories are based on **the national census for 1991**, whereby units of settlement were decisive in this case, too. Furthermore, sampling was done at two stages (clustered sample) up to and including 2003, i.e. not all municipalities were represented in the sample.

Assignments are done according to the EUROSTAT criteria in column 104. The criteria were the same as for the variable degree of urbanisation used by EUROSTAT. Differences arose from the different times at which the variables were established. For example, eastern upper Styria (NUTS 3 AT223) lost about 10,000 inhabitants from 1991 to 2001. The pertinent years (2000 to 2003) cannot be subsequently recoded, as the municipality information was not kept for reasons of anonymity.

The variable xurb EUROSTAT degree of urbanisation was applied to the data for **2004**, as desired for the project.

- 1 Densely populated region
- 2 Region with medium population density
- 3 thinly populated region

The classification for 2004 was based on the precise allocation to the municipality.

The limited comparability was also due to the complete exchange of addresses (sample), organisational changes, more effective recording of the foreign population and, to a smaller extent, altered definitions. In 2004 the microcensus was restructured and converted from a two-week procedure of data collection to a continuous collection of data over the entire quarter. This change also caused breaks in the time series. There has been just a single-stage sampling plan since 2004.

NUTS 3 data are not evaluated in Austria, because extrapolation is not set up for the Nuts 3 level and there is not an adequately sized sample to obtain high quality data at this level.

### **3.2.3.4 Improvement of Data Quality with a General Estimate of Costs Involved**

To achieve appropriate representativeness at NUTS 3 level, an EU regulation with precisely these requirements would be needed for the microcensus. However, that would increase the sampling base from its current total of some 22,700 households in Austria. The weighting would also have to be adjusted accordingly to NUTS 3.

To improve the data quality and thus obtain values for NUTS 3 regions, the sample would have to be increased from 22,700 households to 87,500 households. This change would allow statements to be made about NUTS 3 regions (OECD) using the same quality criteria that now apply to statements at NUTS 2 level.

To further subdivide the NUTS 3 regions under the EUROSTAT approach, the sample would also have to be further increased so that representative values could be reported for groups of municipalities.

An increase would cause costs to skyrocket and put a much heavier burden on respondents.

### 3.2.3.5 Alternative Data Sources Not Traced

#### 3.2.3.5.1 Re Indicator II-2:

Data availability: From the Regional Accounts, employed persons for NUTS 3 regions are calculated by economic sector according to the ESA data supply programme: ESA Table 12 "Regional Table by Economic Sector (NUTS 3), Applicable Prices". This table states the average annual number of jobs. Allocation to a given region is based on workplace. A finer regional subdivision is not available. In the primary sector, fulltime equivalents are also reported owing to the disproportionately large share of the marginally employed. The time series begins with the reference year 1995.

Periodicity: annual (t+24 months)

**A subdivision by gender is not possible in the Regional Accounts!**

Data source: Sector census 1995 (BZ95), Structural Business Survey from reference year 1997, wage tax statistics, Short-Term Business Survey from reference year 1996, data from the government sector, education statistics, health statistics. With the newly designed Structural Business Survey (from reference year 2002), there are regional data that can be evaluated at NUTS 3 level for NACE Sections C to K for the first time since reference year 1995.

#### 3.2.3.5.2 Re Indicator II-3:

Data would be available as a result of the Regional Accounts for **NUTS 2** but only for workplace and only for total employed persons = number of jobs (there is **no distinction by gender**). For the government sector data are available, but they are not published.

Data sources:

Data of the government sector, wage and tax statistics, education statistics, health statistics.

Periodicity: yearly (t+24 months), from 2006 on: yearly (t+21 months)

### 3.2.4 Indicators II.4 and II.5

The data for the 2 indicators below are drawn from the accommodation statistics and are therefore treated jointly as a group:

II.4	Capacity of collective tourist accommodation	Capacity of hotels and similar establishments (tourist camp sites, holiday dwellings)	- Number of establishments - Number of bedrooms - Number of bed places
II.5	Occupancy of collective tourist accommodation	Occupancy of hotels and similar establishments (tourist camp sites, holiday dwellings)	-Total nights spent

#### 3.2.4.1 Data Source

The monthly statistics on nights spent and annual capacity statistics are part of the accommodation statistics from which the official data on Austrian tourism are derived. They are based on reports from about 1,500 reporting municipalities (reference year 2003: 1,538; 2005: 1,566), totalling some 2,400 municipalities. Only municipalities with more than 1,000 nights spent per year are taken into account as reporting tourism municipalities. That means that this is not a census survey, but rather a concentration sample, as only the (key) tourist

municipalities are included in the statistics. Each reporting municipality collects reports from accommodation enterprises each month and sends them to STATISTIK AUSTRIA as municipal aggregates (total number of arrivals and nights spent by types of accommodation and country of origin). The responsible organisational entity at STATISTIK AUSTRIA is the Tourism and Transport Unit in the Spatial Management Directorate.

#### 3.2.4.2 Data Quality

General assessment of data quality:

At NUTS 3 level, EUROSTAT approach: **good**

At NUTS 3 level, OECD approach: **good**

Although about 800 municipalities throughout Austria are not covered, the survey is indeed a full one. If each of the municipalities not covered had 999 overnight stays by tourists, this would account for less than <1% of total nights spent, a negligible amount.

#### 3.2.4.3 Comments

New reporting municipalities are added at the suggestion of the federal provinces based on how figures for nights spent develop in the individual municipalities. Because of this updating of the status of the reporting municipalities, slight changes in capacity can arise in time series analyses at the more local level as compared with total capacity. These changes relate to design and not to the actual trend. Owing to the large absolute number of beds (approximately 732,000 in 2005) in Austria, these changes are at most in the range of tenths of a percent. Over the past 10 years, the number of reporting municipalities fluctuated between 1,498 in 1993 and 1,566 in 2005.

The results at **national level** are basically comparable **structurally and temporally** over the period reviewed. It should be noted however that slight differences in survey measures – as regards addition of new or striking of old reporting municipalities – do exist that cause slight fluctuations against the previous year's data.

As regards **international comparability**, it can be said that the EU Member States are obligated to collect, compile, process and transmit these data in accordance with the indicated regulations (Directives/Regulations), if nationally implementable.

According to § 19. (2) of the Austrian Federal Act on Federal Statistics (Bundesstatistikgesetz 2000) StF BGBl. I No.163/1999, in the version BGBl. I No. 136/2001, BGBl. I No. 71/2003, statistics must be published in a way that precludes connections being drawn from them to particular parties involved or parties ascertainable as such, unless the affected parties have no interest meriting protection as regards keeping the information secret.

For this reason, data fields occupied by three or fewer businesses or assignable to three or fewer businesses appear in **red** and must be **treated confidentially** in the event of **publication!** This also applies to totals if connections can be drawn by subtracting the undisclosed cells.

#### 3.2.4.4 Improvement of Data Quality with a General Estimate of Costs Involved

Irrelevant, as the data quality is deemed sufficient.

### 3.2.4.5 Alternative Data Sources Not Traced

The number of businesses by category issued by the Austrian Economic Chamber (WKÖ) is not comparable with data of STATISTIK AUSTRIA on this subject. The reason for this discrepancy is that the WKÖ only lists the businesses subject to a corresponding categorisation (for a charge); non-categorised hotel businesses are reported separately. The data of STATISTIK AUSTRIA are based on the reports from the businesses and allocated in accordance with the most recent categorisation even if WKÖ classifies a business as non-categorised (because the last categorisation procedure was so long in the past). If the business itself designates itself as non-categorised (a rare occurrence), the reporting municipality assigns it to the 2-/1- star category ("non-categorised" is not an optional characteristic on the municipality form).

Furthermore, the total number of accommodation establishments (regardless their category) published by WKÖ does not coincide with the number published by STATISTIK AUSTRIA: This is due to the fact that data collection by STATISTIK AUSTRIA is restricted to reporting tourism municipalities whereas WKÖ collects data all over Austria.

### 3.2.5 Indicators II.6, II.7 and IIa.2

The data for the 3 indicators below are drawn from the Regional Accounts and are therefore treated jointly as a group:

II.6	Weight of manufacturing	GVA in manufacturing as percentage of total GVA of the area	- GVA in manufacturing - Total GVA of the area
II.7	Weight of tertiary sector	GVA in the tertiary sector as percentage of total GVA of the area	- GVA in tertiary sector - Total GVA of the area
IIa.2	Weight of primary or agricultural sector (refer also to Chapter 3.2.7)	GVA in agriculture and forestry sector	- GVA in agriculture and forestry - Total GVA of the area

#### 3.2.5.1 Data Source

According to the ESA data supply programme, gross value added at manufacturing prices for NUTS 3 regions is calculated from the Regional Accounts by economic sector. ESA Table 12 "Regional Table by Economic Sector (NUTS 3), at Applicable Prices." The responsible organisational entity at STATISTIK AUSTRIA is the National Accounts Unit in the Macroeconomics Directorate.

Data source: Sector Census 1995 (BZ95), Structural Business Survey from reference year 1997, Short-Term Business Survey from reference year 1996, Wage Tax Statistics, microcensus, data of the government sector, VAT statistics, education statistics, health statistics, business reports. With the newly designed Structural Business Survey (from reference year 2002), there are regional data that can be evaluated at NUTS 3 level for the first time since reference year 1995. As they are not yet incorporated into all areas of economic activity, there is a possibility that data for earlier reporting years may be revised.)

The data required in this project are thus available only to a limited extent from the Regional Accounts and will be provided basically with the notation that they are estimates.

### 3.2.5.2 Data Quality

No finer regional subdivision than NUTS 3 is possible. The implementation of the urbanisation concept of EUROSTAT must therefore be viewed critically, as it would implicitly require an estimation of the indicators at municipality level (LAU 2).

Periodicity: 1 time yearly (t+24 months)

At NUTS 2 level, OECD approach:	<b>good</b>
At NUTS 2 level, EUROSTAT approach:	<b>not possible</b>
At NUTS 3 level, OECD approach:	<b>good</b>
At NUTS 3 level, EUROSTAT approach:	<b>not possible</b>

### 3.2.5.3 Comments

#### 3.2.5.3.1 Re Indicator II-6:

According to the ESA data supply programme, the gross value added at production prices is calculated for the NACE Section D only at the NUTS 2 regional level, whereas at NUTS 3 level only a calculation by economic sector is done (division A3: primary, secondary, tertiary sector). To achieve the deepest possible regional subdivision, the data collection exercise gave preference to the secondary sector approach at NUTS 3 level (industry, NACE C to F) preference over manufacturing (NACE D) at NUTS 2 level. According to the planned revision of the ESA data supply programme, both NUTS 3 and NUTS 2 figures are to be made available in the regional subdivision A6 in future.

#### 3.2.5.3.2 Re Indicator IIa-2:

(refer to Chapter 3.2.7)

### 3.2.5.4 Improvement of Data Quality with a General Estimate of Costs Involved

From the standpoint of National Accounts experts, an estimate of gross value added at a lower regional level than NUTS 3 should be rejected. There is no legal basis for this procedure and the data sources necessary for calculation are not designed for the LAU 2 level.

The NUTS 3 value-added account that is available is already an estimate; a yet deeper regionally subdivided estimate would provide unreliable results.

### 3.2.6 Indicator IIa.1

IIa.1	Structure of agricultural businesses	Farm size distribution	- Number of farms in different size classes expressed in Economical Size Units (ESU)
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### 3.2.6.1 Data Source

**Farm Structure Surveys (FSS)** are carried out in a census every ten years (1999; 2010).

In the interim, the Farm Structure Surveys take the form of a sample survey (2003; 2005; 2007). The sampling frame for the **2003 Farm Structure Survey (FSS03)** was essentially the active operating units (217,103 holdings) listed in the register of agricultural and forestry holdings of the 1999 Farm Structure Survey (FSS99). In addition, 2,969 holdings which were not included in the 1999 Farm Structure Survey, but which applied for area or livestock aid in 2001 or 2002, were also included in the sampling population. The sampling frame therefore covered 220,072 holdings. The sample was designed as a multi-stage stratified random sample with a free extrapolation per stratum. In the 1993 and 1997 Farm Structure Surveys, a sample size of 40,000 farms proved successful to meet the quality requirements. This sample size was therefore retained. As a result, some 18% of holdings were to be questioned.

The responsible organisational entity at STATISTIK AUSTRIA is the Agricultural Statistics Unit in the Spatial Management Directorate.

### 3.2.6.2 Data Quality

General assessment of data quality:

1999

At NUTS 3 level, OECD approach: **good**

At NUTS 3 level, EUROSTAT approach: **good**

2003

At NUTS 3 level, OECD approach: **medium** (depending on cell numbers)

At NUTS 3 level, EUROSTAT approach: **low** (depending on cell numbers)

At NUTS 2 level, EUROSTAT approach: **medium** (depending on cell numbers)

### 3.2.6.3 Comments

According to § 19. (2) of the Austrian Federal Act on Federal Statistics (Bundesstatistikgesetz 2000) StF BGBl. I No.163/1999, in the version BGBl. I No. 136/2001, BGBl. I No. 71/2003, statistics must be published in a way that precludes connections being drawn from them to particular parties involved or parties ascertainable as such, unless the affected parties have no interest meriting protection as regards keeping the information secret. If conclusions cannot be precluded, publication may not proceed until the affected party gives prior express permission in writing.

For this reason, data fields occupied by three or fewer businesses or assignable to three or fewer businesses appear in red and must be treated confidentially in the event of publication! This also applies to sums if conclusions can be drawn by subtracting the undisclosed cells.

### 3.2.6.4 Improvement of Data Quality with a General Estimate of Costs Involved

The only way the data quality could be improved in the sample surveys would be to increase the size of the sample in the Farm Structure Survey. This is infeasible, not only for cost reasons but also in light of the extra burden on respondents.



### 3.2.6.5 Alternative Data Source

The Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) governs the handling of subsidies, and aid (i.e. support schemes). All rules on support linked to land area and livestock are integrated into this system. Department II 5 of Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management collects, maintains and makes available the IACS data pool. Besides the structural data for 1995 and 1999, this pool also contains the data on milk quotas, the data on the payment office for Rural Development and bookkeeping data. Types of business operations, required working hours, and associated measures as regards land area have been newly added.

This data at the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management is currently accessible only to those who “need it professionally.” In this project, the data on individual holdings was not able to be passed on without a legal basis; only the data aggregated at municipality level. Since all tables were updated in 2005 with the current municipality code numbers, it is basically possible to make evaluations at municipality level.

At the present time, data can be retrieved from this data pool for 2003 and 2004. It should be noted, however, that this compilation does not include holdings which are too small to claim support or which for various reasons choose not to do so. The FSS 2003 indicated a total of 173,748 holdings, whereas the IACS data pool covered only 161,416 holdings for 2003. Of this latter total, about 16,900 have no standard gross margin (SGM) assigned to them. It remains to be seen which size category these holdings should ultimately be assigned to, even if most are probably holdings with fodder land and no livestock and thus have a lower SDB. The tendency seems to be that the smaller holdings and the extremely large ones would be under-enumerated by using the IACS data.

In the juxtaposition in Table 3 below, the holdings in the IACS data pool without standard gross margin are assigned to the size category 2 ESU (Economical Size Units; corresponds to €1,200). In contrast to the small and very large farms, the medium-sized holdings reveal an astounding correlation. However, this fact in itself is too little to present comprehensively the development of farm size distribution.

*Table 1: Juxtaposition of the Distribution of Farms in Different Size Classes according to **FSS 2003** and according to the IACS Data pool for **2003***

Farm size (ESU)	below 2	2 – below 4	4 – below 8	8 – below 16	16 – below 40	40 – below 100	100 – below 250	250 and more
farms FSS 2003	47.933	20.719	26.467	29.501	36.051	11.736	1.155	186
farms IACS Data Pool 2003	42.070	18.587	24.336	28.866	35.719	10.916	805	116
difference	5.863	2.132	2.131	635	332	820	350	70
IACS/ FSS	88%	90%	92%	98%	99%	93%	70%	62%

### 3.2.7 Indicators Ila.2, and Ila.3

The data for the 2 indicators below stem from the National Accounts (NA) or from the Economic Accounts for Agriculture and Forestry (EAA/EAF) and are therefore treated jointly as a group (for more on Ila.2, refer also to Chapter 3.2.5):

Ila.2	Weight of primary or agricultural sector	GVA in agriculture and forestry sector	- GVA in agriculture and forestry - Total GVA of the area
Ila.3	Productivity of the agricultural holdings	Nominal GVA per AWU	- GVA in agriculture and forestry - Annual work units

#### 3.2.7.1 Data Source

The units involved are the Macroeconomic Directorate and the Spatial Management Directorate within STATISTIK AUSTRIA. National Accounts (NA) data already available and published were drawn on for the initial calculation of the indicators Ila-2 and Ila-3. Alternatively, the indicator Ila-3 can also be calculated with data from the Economic Accounts for Agriculture and Forestry (EAA/EAF). The results deviate from each other, however, owing to certain conceptual differences between the EAA/EAF and the NA.

The **data of the National Accounts** are available for the following aggregates (refer also to Indicators II.6 Weight of manufacturing, II.7 Weight of tertiary sector):

- Gross value added at basic prices by sector and NUTS 3 region, ESA 1995 and
- Employed persons by NUTS 3 region, ESA 1995, whereby employed persons for the primary sector are available in full-time equivalents.

The data are transmitted annually to EUROSTAT under the ESA data supply programme and published nationally. The periodicity is t+24 months.

The **data for the Economic Accounts for Agriculture and Forestry** are available for the following aggregates:

- Gross value added at basic prices for the agricultural industry and forestry industry by NUTS 3 region (separate data for agriculture and for forestry ) and
- Labour force in agriculture and forestry (in annual work units) by NUTS 3 region (only the aggregate for agriculture and forestry is currently available at NUTS 3 level).

The EAA/EAF data serve as the basis for regionalisation in the scope of the National Accounts for the industries agriculture and forestry (whereby an adjustment to the NA peripheral values is done within the scope of the NA). They are **not currently published** as such. The periodicity is t+24 months.

In this project, the NA data are passed on to EUROSTAT, as they are adjusted to the NA peripheral values and can thus be applied better to the entire gross value added of a region in the calculation of the indicator.

#### 3.2.7.2 Data Quality

General assessment of data quality:

Indicator Ila-2

At NUTS 3 level, OECD approach: **good**

At NUTS 2/3 level, EUROSTAT approach: **not possible**

Indicator Ila-3

At NUTS 2 level, OECD approach:

**good**

At NUTS 3 level, OECD approach:

**not possible**

EUROSTAT approach:

**not possible**

The indicators Ila-2 and Ila-3 can only be calculated using the OECD approach. To calculate the indicators using the degree-of-urbanisation concept would require appropriate calculations at municipality level (which the Macroeconomic Directorate rejects due to unavailable data; refer to Chapter 3.2.5.4).

If the regionalisation model is further developed in an appropriate way, the indicator Ila-3 could be generated using the degree-of-urbanisation concept.

### 3.2.7.3 Comments

The calculations can only be done for the primary sector as a whole. Fisheries are of immaterial importance in this context in Austria.

#### 3.2.7.3.1 Background Information on Regionalisation of Labour Force in Agriculture and Forestry by NUTS 3 Region:

A distinction is made in the Economic Accounts for Agriculture between paid and non-paid work.

##### 3.2.7.3.1.1 Non-paid work

The Farm Structure Survey is the main source of data for determining non-paid work in the EAA/EAF. It was last conducted as a full survey in 1999; the surveys in 2003 and 2005 were sample surveys. The number of workers is converted into annual work units based on the information on work time provided in the Farm Structure Survey and the conversion factors used by EUROSTAT in the Farm Structure Surveys for Austria for the various categories of employment. In the years between the surveys, the figures are extrapolated at Austria level based on econometrically estimated forecast equations by the Federal Institute for Agricultural Economics. Figures for the previous years are then revised as soon as the results of the next Farm Structure Survey are available (next full survey in 2010).

The results of the Farm Structure Surveys form the basis for the calculations by NUTS 2 and NUTS 3 region. Data are also available at NUTS 2 level in the event of sample surveys but for NUTS 3 level only in the event of full surveys. The interpolation between the survey years is done at NUTS 2 level with data from the Austrian Social Insurance Institution for Farmers and with results of bookkeeping documents of agricultural and forestry holdings of the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management which voluntarily keep books. As mentioned before, data for the NUTS 3 level is available from the Farm Structure Survey only at larger intervals (full surveys; last done in 1995 and 1999). No suitable data has yet been available for the interpolation. It has therefore been done at NUTS 3 level since 1999 on the basis of change rates in the NUTS 2 results.

##### 3.2.7.3.1.2 Paid Work

At national level, data from the National Accounts are used for paid work. Data from the Main Association of Austrian Social Security Institutions and microcensus data are the two sources of data for the calculations in the scope of the National Accounts. The regionalisation by NUTS 2 region is also based on data on employed persons from the Main Association of

Austrian Social Security Institutions. These data are not yet accessible at NUTS 3 level. The regionalisation by NUTS 3 region is therefore based on data from wage tax statistics.

#### 3.2.7.3.1.3 General Remarks Re Indicator Ila-3:

**This indicator should generally be viewed critically!** The calculation of the annual work units in the EAA is not fully harmonised in the Member States. Comparing the absolute value added per capita of the Member States is therefore problematic. In the EAA, value added per annual work unit is reported neither at national nor at European level; it is merely juxtaposed against the various change rates.

Several Member States began implementing the Single Farm Payment under the latest CAP reform in 2005. Since this new scheme is not applied the same in all Member States, only a limited comparison can be made of gross value added at basic prices among the individual Member States and years (compare summary statistics for 2/2006 (Statistics in Focus 2/2006), p. 7 Changes in Recording of Subsidies).

#### 3.2.7.3.2 Background Information on the Regionalisation of Gross Value Added in the Agricultural Industry by NUTS 3 Region

The Economic Accounts for Agriculture are generated in Austria at NUTS 0 level and by NUTS 2 region. The NUTS 2 Accounts are drawn up in a bottom-up procedure where possible.

By contrast, the value added by NUTS 3 region is calculated for NA purposes in a top-down procedure based on the pertinent NUTS 2 data. The level of activity (area in cultivation, number livestock, etc.) at municipality level is applied to regionalise the value of farm output. Some of these data are available annually and some are collected only at multi-year intervals. The municipality results calculated in this manner are subsequently aggregated to NUTS 3 regions.

The components of intermediate consumption are also broken down in a top-down procedure using keys from NUTS 3 level. This is done by calculating the requirements for the different goods and services used as inputs in the production process using coefficients of the standard gross margin accounts based on the production structure at NUTS 3 level. Finally, these requirements are appropriately scaled if the calculated aggregates for NUTS 2 regions deviate from the given NUTS 2 values.

#### 3.2.7.3.3 Background Information on the Regionalisation of Gross Value Added in the forestry industry by NUTS 3 Region

The Economic Accounts for Forestry are also generated in Austria at the NUTS 0 and NUTS 2 levels.

The NUTS 2-specific product quantities of the various types of timber serve as the central unit of measure for regionalisation at NUTS 2 level. The relative percentages of total area (based on the area of forests primarily used for wood and timber production), among other factors taken up by the three property categories "small forest up to 200 ha", "forestry holdings over 200 ha" and "Österreichische Bundesforste AG" are applied to subdivide the total Austrian values at NUTS 2 level.

Gross value added in forestry by NUTS 3 region is currently regionalised using the pertinent NUTS 2 results based on the distribution of forested areas according to the last full Farm Structure Survey (1999).

### 3.2.7.4 Improvement of Data Quality with a General Estimate of Costs Involved

The procedure for regionalising the value added in agriculture could be further developed and refined to improve the quality of the data. If the regionalisation model were appropriately refined, the indicator Ila-3 could also be reported according to the degree-of-urbanisation concept, where applicable.

Labour Force in agriculture and forestry is currently calculated only at NUTS 3 levels. Extrapolation between the survey years is problematic for unpaid work. New data sources should be developed where necessary (evaluation of data from the Main Association of Austrian Social Security Institutions or the Austrian Social Insurance Institution for Farmers below NUTS 2 level). This is also a prerequisite for calculating the labour force in agriculture and forestry according to the degree-of-urbanisation concept.

In a rough and non-binding estimate, the appropriate further development of this model would take 4 man months.

### 3.2.8 Indicator III.1

This indicator is processed by EUROSTAT.

III.1	Availability of roads / rails	Transport system  ESTAT will provide data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kilometres of motorways</li> <li>- Kilometres of primary roads</li> <li>- Kilometres of railway system</li> <li>- number of train stations</li> <li>- number of motorway exits</li> </ul>
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### 3.2.9 Indicator III.2

III.2	Supply with schools	Number of primary schools per 100,000 inhabitants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of primary schools per NUTS3 area</li> <li>- Total population of NUTS3 area (MS to deliver the number of primary schools of all NUTS3 areas)</li> </ul>
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#### 3.2.9.1 Data Source

Surveys on Austrian School Statistics. The responsible organisational entity at STATISTIK AUSTRIA is the Science, Technology, Education Unit in the Population Directorate.

#### 3.2.9.2 Data Quality

At NUTS 3 level, both approaches: **good**

### 3.2.9.3 Comments

Primary schools are defined as schools attended by pupils in the 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> year of school in primary schools, special schools or general education charter schools. The data for 2003 are based on an estimate, as the corresponding values for this year are not available.

### 3.2.9.4 Improvement of Data Quality with a General Estimate of Costs Involved

Does not appear necessary, as the figures can be presented in the necessary quality (at municipality level).

### 3.2.10 Indicator III.3

The **coordinates** of schools with pupils of primary school age are the only statistics provided for this indicator. EUROSTAT does the further calculation.

III.2	Proximity to primary schools	calculated by ESTAT	- coordinates of primary schools to LAU 2 areas
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#### 3.2.10.1 Data Source

The organisational entities at STATISTIK AUSTRIA involved in this area are the Science, Technology, Education Unit in the Population Directorate and the Registers, Classifications and Methodology Department.

Austrian School Statistics ("Österreichische Schulstatistik") supplies the school addresses along with the object numbers.

Each building in Austria has an unambiguous object number (OBJNR), which extends in Austria from 1 to n. The object number of a torn-down building is not reassigned, not even to a building built on the same site. Each building (object) in the building register can therefore be unambiguously identified by computer with the help of the address number or object number. Object numbers or address codes are also linked in the building register to the regional territorial units and to the coordinates of the building. These coordinates for the building (in Gauss-Krüger) are taken from the digital cadastral file (DKM) of the Federal Office for Metrology and Surveying (BEV) and transformed by STATISTIK AUSTRIA into the UTM coordinates and Lambert coordinates. The prerequisite for this operation was the reconciliation of addresses between the property addresses of the BEV and the building addresses of STATISTIK AUSTRIA.

#### 3.2.10.2 Data Quality

Coordinates are lacking throughout Austria at present for about 50 schools with pupils of primary school age. These coordinates are missing because BEV has not yet recorded them and because at the time of the 2001 Census, there was still no complete merger of addresses between the real estate database of BEV and the building register of STATISTIK AUSTRIA. The fact that BEV has only current building coordinates (as of 2004) in its real estate database also gives rise to differences against the 2001 National Census.

### 3.2.10.3 Remarks

The “Adress-GWR-Online” is an Internet reporting service that STATISTIK AUSTRIA makes available so that municipalities can keep two separate registers using a single work operation, namely, the address register kept by BEV and the building and flat register set up by STATISTIK AUSTRIA.

BEV makes available a geo-coding client software (“Geocodierungsclient”) that can be called up in the “Adress-GWR-Online” application. With this software, municipalities can stipulate geo-coding data for each address and building. In other words, the municipalities must enter the coordinates for each address while working online.

### 3.2.10.4 Improvement of Data Quality with a General Estimate of Costs Involved

As municipalities add missing building coordinates on an ongoing basis, constant progress is being made in reducing the number of non geo-coded buildings.

### 3.2.11 Indicator IV.1

The data for indicator IV.1 can be drawn from the Regional Accounts as well as from the SILC, albeit with very little spatial detail (see Chapter 3.2.13).

IV.1	Relative wealth of the population	Households disposable income per capita	
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#### 3.2.11.1 Data Source

The disposable income of households stems from calculations in the Regional Accounts (regional level: NUTS 2). The responsible organisational entity in this context is the Macroeconomics Directorate, National Accounts Unit. Data sources are wage tax statistics, income tax statistics, integrated wage and income tax statistics, the microcensus, the statistics of the Federation of Austrian Social Insurance Institutions and the Consumer Survey.

The population data are taken from the population statistics (Population Directorate).

#### 3.2.11.2 Data Quality

At NUTS 2 level:	<b>good</b>
At NUTS 3 level:	not possible
At NUTS 2/3 level, EUROSTAT approach:	not possible

#### 3.2.11.3 Comments

The data on disposable income of private households are currently available for the years 1995-2000 (status of revision for National Accounts: December 2002).

The deadline for providing the revised and supplemented time series 1995-2004 is 31 December 2006 (periodicity: t+24).

The ESA 95 data supply programme provides for an annual transmission of the ESA Table 1300: “Accounts of Private Households at Regional Level (NUTS 2), Applicable Prices.” The income distribution accounts of private households (p.14) at federal province level can be

used for interregional comparisons of the most important transactions in which private households are involved. In this way, differences in the generation of income in the various regions can be analysed and the disposable income of the private households can be determined (place of residence concept!).

Disposable income data are not available at a regional level below the federal provinces (NUTS 2).

### 3.2.11.4 Improvement of Data Quality with a General Estimate of Costs Involved

The procedure for calculating the disposable income of private households at NUTS 2 level could be further developed and refined. This would improve the quality of the data.

There is no legal basis for calculation at a regional level lower than NUTS 2 so no work is being carried out in this regard.

### 3.2.12 Indicator IV.2a/b

The data on gross domestic product (GDP) stem from the Regional Accounts. The responsible organisational entity is the National Accounts Unit in the Macroeconomics Directorate.

IV.2a		GDP per fulltime equivalent or per hours worked	- GDP for the area - fulltime equivalents or hours worked
IV.2b		GDP per capita	- GDP for the area - population

#### 3.2.12.1 Data Source

The GDP is based on calculations in the Regional Accounts, at the regional levels NUTS 2 and NUTS 3.

The population data are taken from the population statistics (Population Directorate).

#### 3.2.12.2 Data Quality

At NUTS 3 level, OECD approach: good

At NUTS 2/3 level, EUROSTAT approach: not possible

#### 3.2.12.3 Comments

The following remark should be made as regards the reporting of the GDP per fulltime equivalent or per hours worked (Alternative "IV2a"): Employed persons are currently only available as number of jobs. According to a planned revision of the ESA data supply programme, the item "hours worked (in 1000s of hours)" is to be included in the data supply programme, but only at the regional level NUTS 2.



### 3.2.12.4 Improvement of Data Quality with a General Estimate of Costs Involved

Only data in the currently valid ESA data supply programme which must be delivered to EUROSTAT (legally mandatory) can be calculated and made available. Constant work is being done to improve the quality of the value added account at NUTS 3 level.

### 3.2.13 Indicators IV.1 and IV.3 to 5

The data for the 4 indicators below are drawn from the ECHP and EU-SILC and are therefore treated jointly as a group:

IV.1	Relative wealth of the population	Households disposable income per capita	
IV.3	Poverty	At-risk-of poverty rate	- Laeken's indicator No 1 for different age groups: 0-15, 16-24, 25-49, 50-64, >64
IV.4	Quality of life	Accommodation, housing conditions	%age of households reporting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Absence of bath or shower</li> <li>✓ Absence of hot running water</li> <li>✓ Shortage of space</li> <li>✓ Pollution, grime and other environmental problems caused by traffic or industry</li> <li>✓ Vandalism or crime in the area</li> </ul>
IV.5	Quality of life	Durables	%age of households reporting enforced lack of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Car or van</li> <li>✓ Telephone</li> <li>✓ Home computer</li> </ul>

#### 3.2.13.1 Data Source

All tables for 2000 and 2001 are derived from the ECHP in Austria, UDB EU-Version from December 2003, all tables for 2003 and 2004 from EU-SILC in Austria. The ECHP as well as EU-SILC are national household surveys.

No data are available for 2002.

The responsible organisational entity at STATISTIK AUSTRIA is the Social and Housing Unit in the Population Directorate.

#### 3.2.13.2 Data Quality

At national level:                      good

Comparability over time is restricted due to the break in series between the two surveys.

## RD INDICATORS --- Axis 3 --- Data collection exercise

For the ECHP NUTS 2 is not available, therefore analysis is restricted to the national level and urban density. Nevertheless the sample size in both surveys is too restricted to allow for more detailed regional analysis. The sample size for the ECHP 2001 was 2,544 households; for EU-SILC 2003, 4,623 households. Even on the level of urban density a subdivided analysis considering risk of poverty in different age groups reduces some cell sizes drastically. Small unweighted cell numbers are therefore marked: cells<50 are put in brackets; cells<20 are omitted.

We have added the total for each group to provide information at national level, in particular for the items with excessively small numbers in the cells.

We further recommend that an analysis be run of housing and durables also on an individual level. This would increase case numbers and weight for household size. Still cases with bad housing or enforced lack of durables are rare. In national analysis we usually use an index, counting whether the lack of at least one or two items occurs. We also use more items, such as the lack of a washing machine, lack of natural light inside housing etc.

### 3.2.13.3 Comments

Detailed comments on the tables:

#### 3.2.13.3.1 Re Indicator IV.1 Households disposable income

Households' disposable income per capita is not a common way of displaying the results. We recommend equivalised household income instead, as it takes account of the economy of scales within households. Therefore the equivalised disposable household income is displayed which corresponds to a weighted per capita income. Household income is weighted with the modified OECD scale, as used to calculate risk-of-poverty-rate. The values refer to the median annual income in Euro. Reference income period is the precedent year of the survey.

#### 3.2.13.3.2 Re Indicator IV.3 At-risk-of-poverty rate

It is recommended that the number of age groups be reduced to avoid small cell numbers.

#### 3.2.13.3.3 Re Indicator IV.4 Housing

The variable "hot running water" is only available in the ECHP. In EU-SILC 2003 the question was not asked any more. A question on the existence of "running water" in the dwelling has been included in the survey in Austria since 2004. It is not displayed due to non-comparability. The subjective assessment of shortage of space in the dwelling is only available in the ECHP. Shortage of space is calculated in Austria based on size and on the number of persons in the dwelling. It is not displayed due to non-comparability.

#### 3.2.13.3.4 Re Indicator IV.4 Durables

We cannot recommend the item "enforced lack of telephone", as it is very rare in Austria. We recommend that the percentage of possession be displayed for all of the items instead, as cell numbers in general are very small.

### 3.2.13.4 Enhancing Data Quality for Regional Estimates for Statistics on Poverty and Household Income in Austria

As pointed out before, the current sample size of EU-SILC allows more detailed estimates only at national level. To achieve representativeness at NUTS 2 level, a sample size similar to the LFS (see Chapter 3.2.3.4) would be necessary. From the standpoint of costs this seems unrealistic. Instead, it is recommended that new estimation techniques like small area

## RD INDICATORS --- Axis 3 --- Data collection exercise

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estimation be developed. Nevertheless it would be extremely helpful to increase the sample size, as detailed analysis is currently very limited even for national estimates on poverty and marginal living conditions. It is difficult to estimate the necessary sample size and hence the associated costs. It depends on the demand as regards which subgroup information should be available. Experience from comparable surveys (e.g. HBS) has shown that a sample size of approx. 8,000 households is recommendable. Austria currently provides for an annual cross-sectional effective sample size of 4,500 households. Costs would increase proportionally. An increase in sample size and techniques like small area estimation, a restricted choice of indicators (e.g. possession rather than affordability of consumer durables) might allow regional analysis.

## 4 Summary

The objective of this data collection exercise was to prepare indicators for the third axis of Rural Development at the lowest possible regional level (NUTS 3) without having to conduct new surveys.

The data set covers the following areas:

- Demography and migration,
- Economy and human capital,
- Access to services and infrastructure, and
- Social well-being.

The data were to be collected on the basis of two territorial schemes (OECD approach and EUROSTAT approach) for rural areas. The OECD approach provides for a classification of the regions (NUTS 3) as “predominantly rural”, “partially rural” and “predominantly urban” based on population density. The EUROSTAT approach, which is already applied in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC), distinguishes between three types of territories according to degree of urbanisation (“densely populated area”, “intermediate area”, and “thinly populated area”).

Thought was to be given to possible improvements based on the quality of the available data.

The approach selected in this project for developing a system of statistics on rural development clearly shows that rural development is a cross-sectional subject matter covering a number of statistical subjects. This fact naturally means the work has to be organised to guarantee the generation of harmonised statistics. In the compilation of the final indicator list, the user and the data supplier must be consulted so that the meeting of user needs puts a minimal reply burden on respondents. For this reason, it was clearly specified that no new surveys were to be carried out. Instead, the necessary data were to be drawn to the best extent possible from already existing data holdings.

At STATISTIK AUSTRIA, the project monitoring cooperated through two contact persons with the experts from the Directorates of Population and Macroeconomics. The professional exchange with external field offices was coordinated in close cooperation with the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW, Dept. II/5 Foundations of Agricultural Policy, Evaluation).

Values for variables and indicators for 2000 to 2004 were compiled at the lowest possible NUTS level in Excel files where data were available. Under the OECD approach, the scope was one value per indicator and year for each region. Under the EUROSTAT approach, the indicators for the available sub-regions (densely populated area, area with medium population density and thinly populated area) were reported for each region. The following additional information was also compiled for each indicator:

- Data source
- General assessment of data quality (good, medium, low)

## RD INDICATORS --- Axis 3 --- Data collection exercise

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- Reference to the metadata/definitions (as described in Annex 5) or to alternative national metadata/definitions. In the latter case, the alternative indicators were exactly defined and clearly described.

The results of this data collection exercise can be summarised as follows:

- The indicators for the area **Demography and Migration** are available in very good quality, in a sufficient breakdown spatially for the purposes of the project and on an annual basis. The same holds true for the indicators relating to **Tourism** and to the supply of primary **schools**.
- The indicators on **employment** stem largely from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) to assure comparability. The unemployment figures and rates calculated according to LFC as well as figures for employed person differed fundamentally from those reflected in administrative statistics or from those taken from surveys applying a different approach. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) meets the EU requirements as regards the representativeness of the sample for NUTS 2. Data at Nuts 3 level are not evaluated in Austria, because interpolation is not set up for the Nuts 3 level and there is not an adequately sized sample to obtain high quality data at this level. Consequently, it is sensible to use the available data to depict only federal provincial results (NUTS 2). The weighting was also done at federal province level, i.e. results for NUTS 3 and below are susceptible to a high rate of sample error. It should also be noted that the results of LFS from 2004 onward are not fully comparable with early results owing to the change in methodology that occurred. To improve the data quality and thus obtain values for NUTS 3 regions, the sample would have to be increased from 22,700 households to 87,500 households. This change would allow statements to be made about NUTS 3 regions (OECD) using the same quality criteria that now apply to statements at NUTS 2 level. To further subdivide the NUTS 3 regions under the EUROSTAT approach, the sample would also have to be further increased so that representative values could be reported for groups of municipalities. Not only would this require an EU regulation, it would entail major costs and put a much heavier burden on respondents.
- The desired data on **gross value added per capita** for the individual **sectors**, for **gross domestic product per capita** and the indicator for the productivity of agricultural holdings are available only to a limited extent from the Regional Accounts. According to the ESA data supply programme, the value creation at manufacturing prices for NUTS 3 regions is calculated by economic sector. A finer regional breakdown than NUTS 3, of the kind necessary for implementing the degree of urbanisation concept of EUROSTAT, is not possible, as it would implicitly require an estimation of the indicators at municipality level (LAU 2). From the standpoint of National Accounts experts, an estimate of gross value added at a lower regional level than NUTS 3 should be rejected. There is no legal basis for this procedure and the data sources necessary for calculation are not designed for the LAU 2 level. The indicator for **productivity of agricultural holdings** should generally be viewed critically! The calculation of the annual work units in the Farm Accounts is not fully harmonised in the Member States. Comparing the absolute value added per capita of the Member States is therefore problematic. In the Farm Accounts, value added per annual work unit is reported neither at national nor at European level; it is merely juxtaposed against the various change rates.
- As might be expected, the indicator for **Structure of Agricultural Holdings** can be represented in the desired regional detail for years in which data is available from a full survey (1999). Statements can also be made on the basis of sample surveys

(2003) about Nuts 3 regions under the OECD concept. However, with a breakdown by degree of urbanisation, certain cells at NUTS 3 level are sparsely occupied, which means confinement to NUTS 2 level is recommended.

- The indicators on **Social well-being** stemming from ECHP and EU-SILC are to be reported only at national level and according to the degree of urbanisation. In both cases, the small sample size involved allows no deeper regional breakdown. If data quality is improved, one can expect similar values as in the LFS. At present, there are 4,500 households in the sample (EU Framework Regulation No. 1177/2003); conclusions can mostly be drawn only on a national level in this context. The indicator IV.1 can alternatively be used from the Regional Accounts at NUTS 2 level. At present, there are data available from this source for the years 1995 to 2000.

## 5 Abbreviations Used

AMS	Arbeits Markt Service (Public Employment Service Austria)
AWU	Annual Work Unit
BEV	Bundesamt für Eich- und Vermessungswesen (Federal Office for Metrology and Surveying)
BKA	Bundeskanzleramt (Federal Chancellery)
BMLFUW	Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft (Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management)
DKM	Digitale Katastralmappe (digital cadastral file)
DU	Degree of Urbanisation
EAA/EAF	Economic Accounts for Agriculture and Forestry
ECHP	European Community Household Panel
ESU	Economic Size Units
EU-SILC	Statistics on Income and Living Conditions
FSS	Farm Structure Survey
FTE	full-time-equivalent
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HV	Hauptverband der österreichischen Sozialversicherungsträger (Main Association of Austrian Social Insurance Institutions)
IACS	Integrated Administration and Control System
ILO	International Labour Organisation
LFC	Labour Force Concept
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LGR	Landwirtschaftliche Gesamtrechnung (Farm Accounts)
LGR/FGR	Land- und Forstwirtschaftlichen Gesamtrechnung (Farm and Forestry Accounts)
NA	National Accounts
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
ÖROK	Österreichischen Raumordnungskonferenz (Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning)
POPREG	Population Register of STATISTIK AUSTRIA
RA	Regional Accounts
SGM	Standard gross margin
UDB	Users database
WKÖ	Wirtschaftskammer Österreich (Austrian Economic Chamber)
ZMR	Zentrales Melderegister (central register of residence or population register)

**Annex A:** Typical rural municipalities classified as regions with medium population density

CMSBCD01	CLASS	POP.	LAND AREA	DENSITY	LAUCODE	NUTS CODE	CM_NAME_SABE
AT10307	B	2323	12,74	182,34	AT11200009	AT112	Mörbisch am See
AT10303	B	1853	14,20	130,49	AT11200005	AT112	Grosshöflein
AT10315	B	2720	22,90	118,78	AT11200070	AT112	Siegenderf
AT10313	B	2762	26,38	104,70	AT11200015	AT112	Margarethen im Burgenland
AT10317	B	1723	15,12	113,96	AT11200019	AT112	Trausdorf an der Wulka
AT10310	B	1811	16,01	113,12	AT11200012	AT112	Oggau am Neusiedlersee
AT10713	B	5584	31,32	178,29	AT11200076	AT112	Neusiedl am See
AT10723	B	1125	10,54	106,74	AT11200066	AT112	Winden am See
AT10617	B	880	6,93	126,98	AT11200042	AT112	Baumgarten
AT10601	B	1055	9,63	109,55	AT11200026	AT112	Drassburg
AT20419	B	1258	10,18	123,58	AT21100013	AT211	Maria Wörth
AT20414	B	2792	27,05	103,22	AT21100008	AT211	Köttmannsdorf
AT20721	B	1802	17,98	100,22	AT21100034	AT211	Rosegg
AT20702	B	6832	65,73	103,94	AT21100023	AT211	Arnoldstein
AT21009	B	3583	26,85	133,45	AT21200049	AT212	Steindorf am Ossiacher See
AT21006	B	749	14,28	<b>52,45</b>	AT21200046	AT212	Ossiach
AT30645	B	1650	15,83	104,23	AT12200009	AT122	Weissenbach an der Triesting
AT31322	B	6875	66,75	103,00	AT12400054	AT124	Langenlois
AT31308	B	2830	28,10	100,71	AT12400048	AT124	Etsdorf-Haitzendorf
AT31310	B	2056	17,11	120,16	AT12400043	AT124	Gedersdorf
AT31347	B	797	5,84	136,47	AT12400112	AT124	Stratzing
AT32101	B	1605	15,87	101,13	AT12600063	AT126	Absdorf
AT41214	B	2302	22,14	103,97	AT31100094	AT311	Mehrbach
AT41220	B	1181	11,36	103,96	AT31100100	AT311	Ort im Innkreis
AT41202	B	1105	7,67	144,07	AT31100082	AT311	Antiesenhofen
AT41414	B	2271	22,34	101,66	AT31100130	AT311	Raab
AT41402	B	4848	37,30	129,97	AT31100118	AT311	Andorf
AT41403	B	1923	14,81	129,84	AT31100119	AT311	Brunnenthal
AT41429	B	1652	16,03	103,06	AT31100145	AT311	Wernstein am Inn
AT41418	B	2990	23,52	127,13	AT31100134	AT311	Sankt Florian am Inn
AT41426	B	2938	28,86	101,80	AT31100142	AT311	Taufkirchen an der Pram
AT41424	B	828	5,63	147,07	AT31100140	AT311	Sigharting
AT40438	B	2394	19,91	120,24	AT31100038	AT311	Sankt Peter am Hart
AT61025	B	818	3,69	221,68	AT22500065	AT225	Obervogau
AT61029	B	418	3,16	132,28	AT22500069	AT225	Retznei
AT61039	B	1029	9,77	105,32	AT22500079	AT225	Spielfeld
AT61041	B	1738	8,43	206,17	AT22500081	AT225	Strass in Styria
AT61043	B	3013	14,22	211,88	AT22500083	AT225	Tillmitsch
AT61044	B	1057	5,79	182,56	AT22500084	AT225	Vogau
AT61046	B	1490	13,39	111,28	AT22500086	AT225	Weitendorf
AT61613	B	2427	23,62	102,75	AT22500101	AT225	Maria Lankowitz
AT61003	B	598	5,62	106,41	AT22500043	AT225	Berghausen
AT61012	B	1777	11,60	153,19	AT22500052	AT225	Gralla
AT61016	B	1894	18,17	104,24	AT22500056	AT225	Heimschuh
AT61021	B	1919	7,27	263,96	AT22500061	AT225	Lebring-Sankt Margarethen
AT70331	B	1933	18,92	102,17	AT33200029	AT332	Mutters
AT70350	B	1000	7,37	135,69	AT33200048	AT332	Schönberg im Stubaital
AT70365	B	4166	32,17	129,50	AT33200062	AT332	Volders
AT70215	B	2017	19,38	104,08	AT33400015	AT334	Rietz
AT80106	B	3115	24,37	127,82	AT34100006	AT341	Bürs
AT80201	B	3021	20,71	145,87	AT34200001	AT342	Alberschwende
AT80225	B	1328	6,80	195,29	AT34100039	AT341	Lingenau



**Annex B:** Classic core regions with small city and industrial character in Styria classified as thinly populated regions

<i>CMSBCD01</i>	<i>CLASS</i>	<i>POP.</i>	<i>LAND AREA</i>	<i>DENSITY</i>	<i>LAUCODE</i>	<i>NUTS CODE</i>	<i>CM_NAME_SABE</i>
AT60209	C	22234	60,42	367,99	AT22300009	AT223	Kapfenberg
AT60204	C	13439	37,65	356,95	AT22300004	AT223	Bruck an der Mur
AT60806	C	10130	12,78	792,64	AT22600006	AT226	Judenburg
Total		45803	110,85				