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Implementing new challenge type measures RDP Austria

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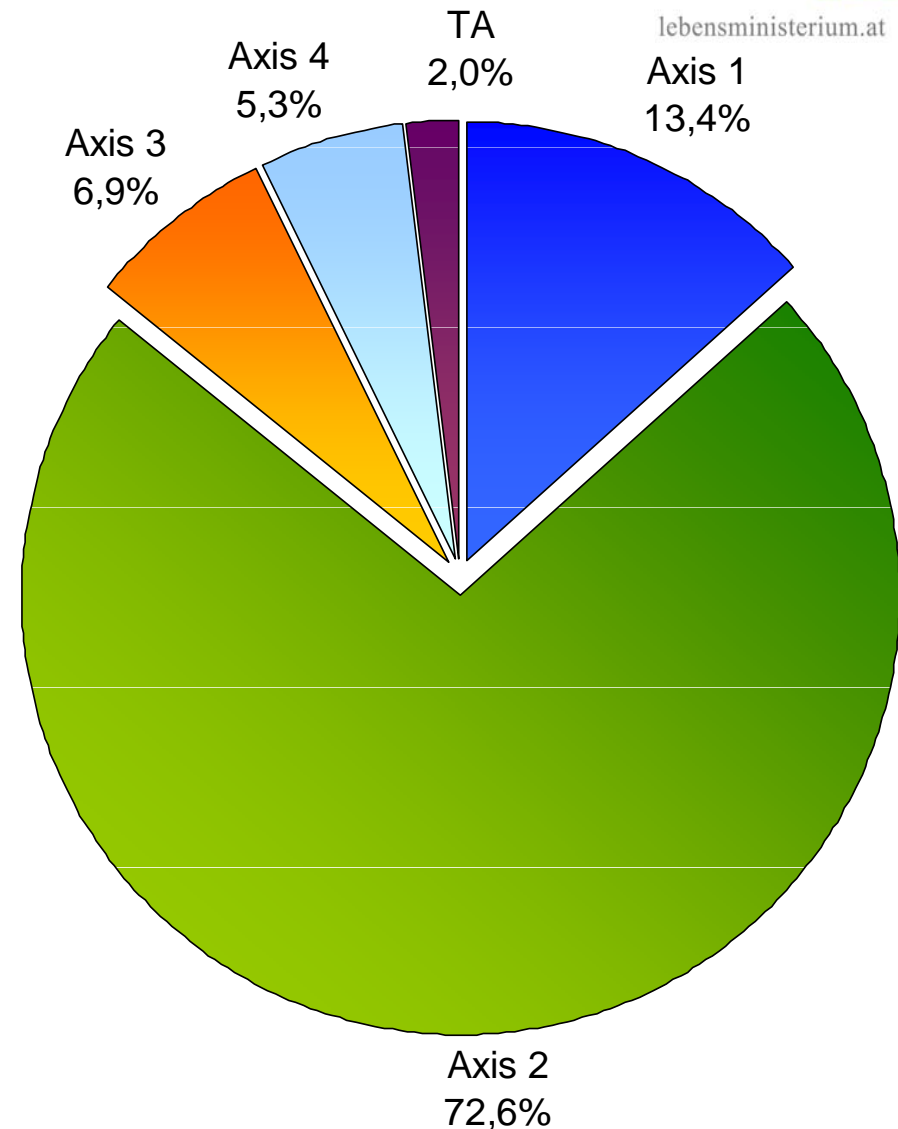


RDP Austria



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- One single programme in Austria
- EAFRD contribution of 4,025 billion EUR [including 97 Mio EUR for HC and RP]
- Co-financing rate slightly above 50 % on average
- Strong emphasis on axis 2
- 50,4 % of UAA are mountain areas
- 78,4 % of area is „predominantly rural“ acc. to OECD definition



New challenges



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- Defined within Article 16a of Council Regulation No. 1698/2005
- New approach: additional funding for determined objectives
- Indicative list of types of operations listed in Annex of Reg. No. 1698/2005
- Tight time table: approx. one year for strategic planning, programming, approval procedure and preparation of implementation
- EAFRD allocation for Austria:
 - 50,8 Mio EUR additional modulation
 - 46,2 Mio EUR European Economic Recovery Package
 - Increase of EAFRD contribution by 2,5 %

Strategic considerations



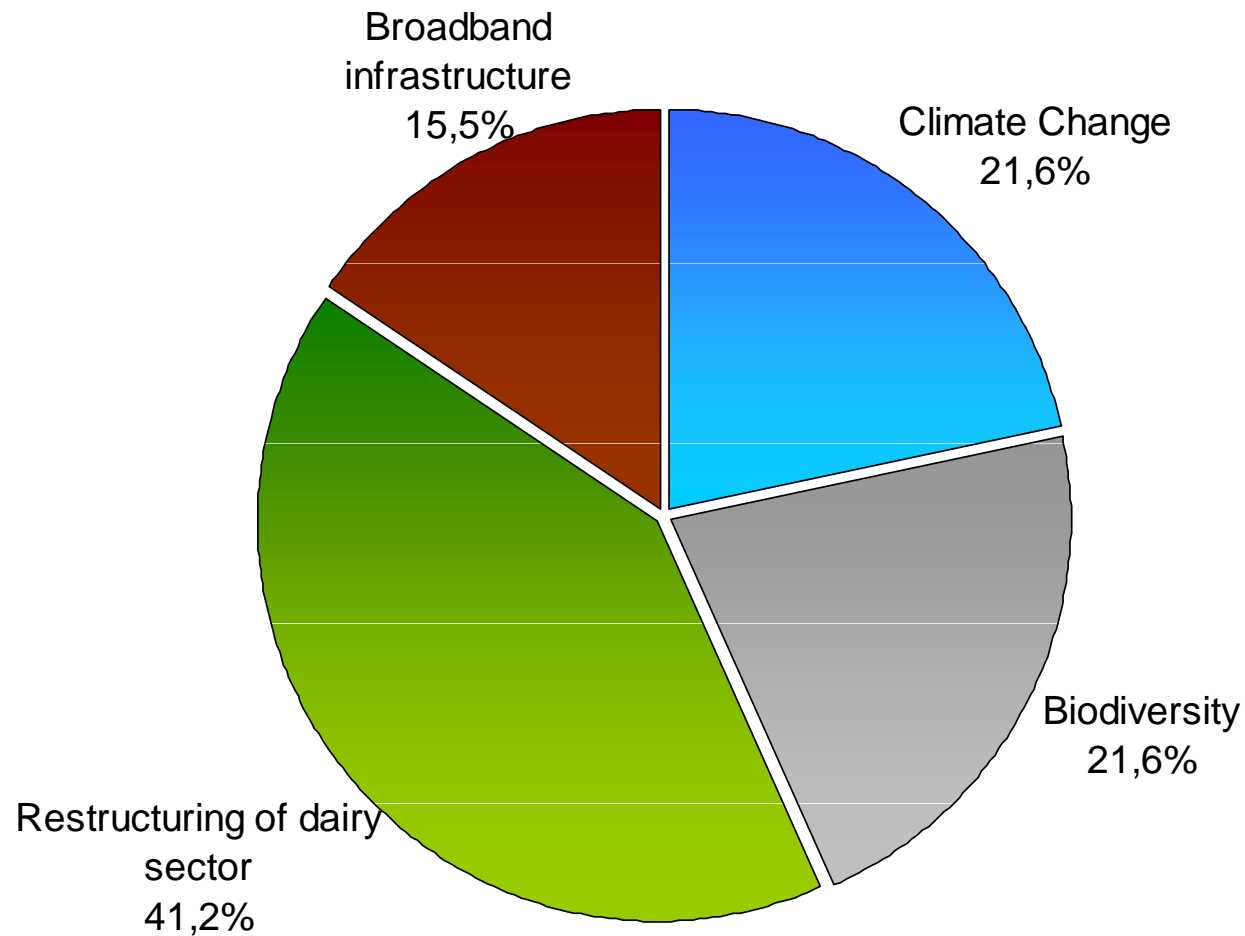
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- New challenges were not new for the Austrian RD strategy, but adaptation of National Strategic Plan was necessary
- Modified Reg. No. 1698/2005 was clearly structured, especially Annex II was helpful to identify respective measures
- Thorough analysis lead to the identification of needs and to allocation of funding, with concentration on the reinforcement of 4 priorities:
 - Climate Change
 - Biodiversity
 - Restructuring of dairy sector
 - Broadband infrastructure
- No application of different cofinancing rates for “old” and “new” funding in one measure
- Discussion with stakeholders, in particular within the Monitoring Committee

Allocation of additional EAFRD funding



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New challenges by axes (1/2)



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- Axis 1
 - Priority: Restructuring of the dairy sector
 - No new measures introduced; no adaptation of existing measures
 - Stimulation of additional investments in agricultural holdings and in the food industry
 - EAFRD allocation: 9,96 Mio EUR; should lead to investments of around 100 Mio EUR
- Axis 2
 - Priorities: Restructuring of the dairy sector, climate change and biodiversity
 - Reinforcement of existing measures: efficiency of nitrogen fertiliser use, soil management practices and grazing premia
 - EAFRD allocation: 72 Mio EUR

New challenges by axes (2/2)



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- Axis 3
 - Priority: Broadband infrastructure
 - New measure designed
 - Funding: 15 Mio EUR EAFRD contribution; indicative breakdown :
 - » 60 % for creation of and access to broadband infrastructure
 - » 30 % for upgrade
 - » 10 % for passive broadband infrastructure
 - Particularities
 - » Co-operation with Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology
 - » Respective State aid scheme did not exist; developed according to the Guidelines on the application of EC Treaty state aid rules to the public funding of broadband networks

Broadband infrastructure (1/3)



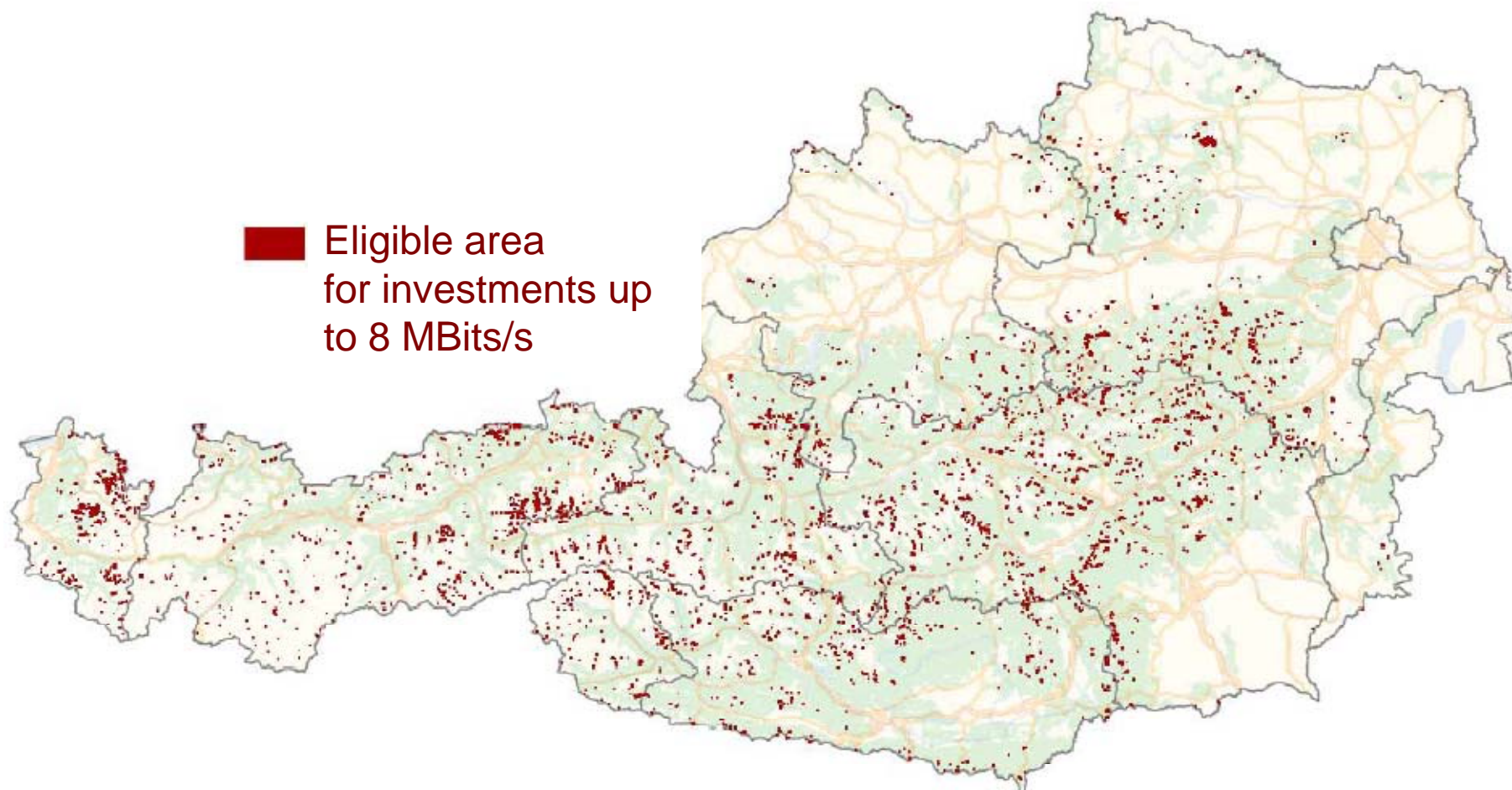
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- Elaboration of Aid scheme lasted around one year
 - submitted for State Aid approval in summer 2010
 - no clearance yet
 - meanwhile use of de-minimis rule
- Guidelines ask for detailed mapping and coverage analysis which did not exist and had to be developed
- Two maps established, showing the existing coverage with different broadband capacities (see following slides)
- Implementation planned via open tender process
- Aid intensity depending on result of tender process
- Up to now no projects implemented

Broadband infrastructure (2/3)



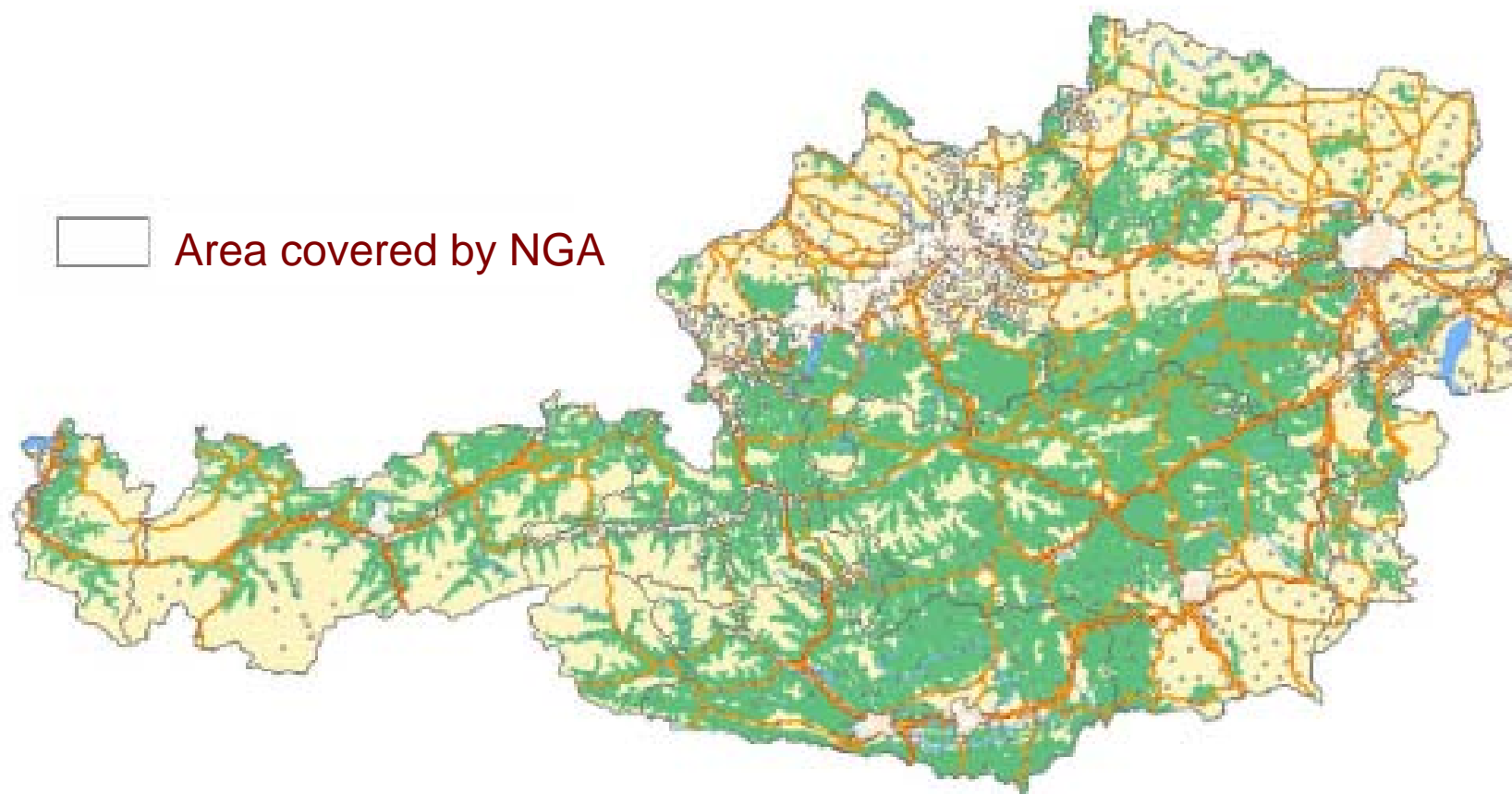
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Broadband infrastructure (3/3)



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Monitoring additional funding



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- Set of monitoring tables was available in time
- Still some uncertainties, i.e. regarding the consequences of overshooting
- Additional workload both for MA and PA; adaptation of IT-systems
- Close cooperation with Paying Agency is of particular importance
- No application of new requirements so far

Key experience



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- RD policy is, despite of bureaucratic difficulties, flexible to react quickly on new demands and expectations
- The new approach – additional money for determined priorities – is very much welcomed by a big number of stakeholders
- Most new challenges were already considered in the original strategy/programme – additional funding lead to reinforcement of strategy and measures
- Broadband was a new challenge also concerning administration: State Aid, cooperation with new players, etc.
- Concentration on just 4 priorities confines monitoring, but keeping separately trace of the new funding creates additional workload both for MA and PA
- Complexity of implementation system increased

Many thanks for your kind attention!



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