

Making Missions Work in Austria

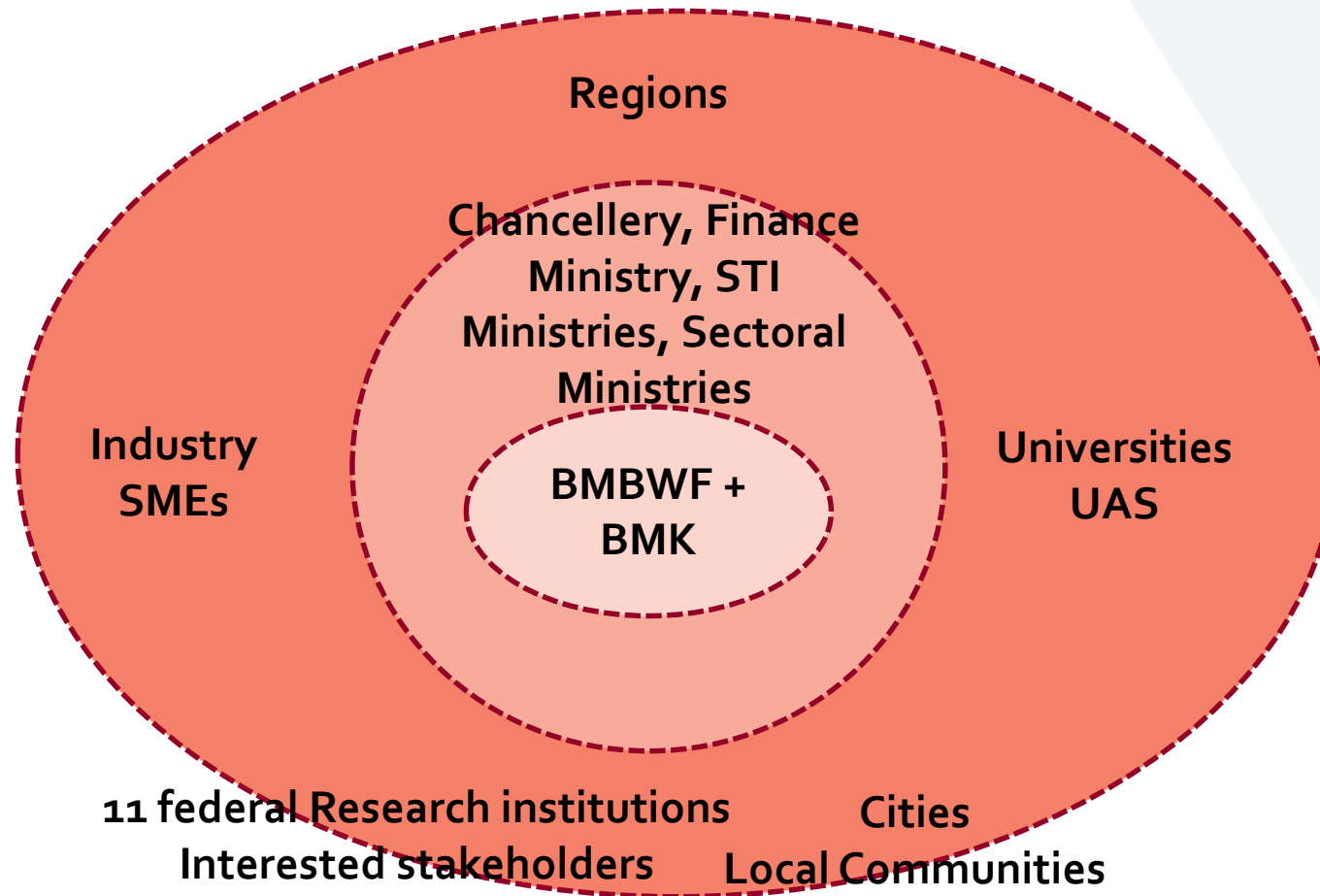
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EEA&Norway Grants contributions to EU Missions
Warsaw, 22 November 2023

Baseline for Austria's approach on Missions

- In general, Austria's STI system favours bottom-up instruments for autonomous STI actors.
- Missions had precursors in the form of thematic programmes of the Ministry for Technology (BMK). Today, BMK runs four national missions.
- BMBWF (Ministry of Education, Science and Research) & BMK took the five EU Missions as starting point to explore the potential of Missions beyond the domains of BMK.
- In 2020, the Austrian STI Strategy 2030 offered a hook for promoting EU Missions in Austria, further detailed in the STI Pact 2021-2023.
- Approach: we have to start with and get the governance right!

Key actors in the Austrian governance of EU Missions



Milestones from 2021 until 2023

- In autumn 2021, creation of the “**STI Task Force Working Group on EU Missions**”, co-chaired by BMK and BMBWF. Moreover, establishment of a “**Mission Action Group**” for each EU Mission, co-chaired by the responsible STI and sectoral ministries and composed of a total of 300 stakeholders.
- In spring 2022, results from a “**baseline study**” on the potential of the Austrian STI institutions to absorb and/or contribute to the EU Missions.
- In summer 2022, “Mission Action Groups” proposed a **set of recommendations** for implementing the EU Missions in Austria.
- In March 2023, adoption of the **strategy document**, which is the basis for developing **five tailor-made action plans** from autumn 2023 until summer 2024.

Austrian governance approach

Working Group of the standing STI Task Force
On „EU Missions“

Co-chair by BMBWF + BMK to create coherence across all five missions / impact pathways

(Members are STI actors, sectoral agencies, regions, communities, cities, industry, SME, higher education)

*Cancer
Action*

Group

*Climate
Action*

Group

*Cities
Action*

Group

*Waters
Action*

Group

*Mission Soil
Action
Group*

Implementation Framework for the Implementation of EU Missions in Austria



- Austrian strategy for the optimal exploitation of EU Missions for and in Austria
- Content of the strategy:
 - State of play
 - Summary of recommendations for activities in Austria in the area of the five EU Missions
 - Instruments and processes for the implementation in Austria
 - Annex 1: Non-binding commitment of ministries and important STI institutions
 - Annex 2: Full text of the recommendations developed by the five “Mission Action Groups”



Support from OECD: 'Mission Action Lab'

LEVERAGING EU MISSIONS IN AUSTRIA

AUSTRIAN STI TASK FORCE WORKING GROUP ON EU
MISSIONS

15 May 2023

OECD Mission Action Lab



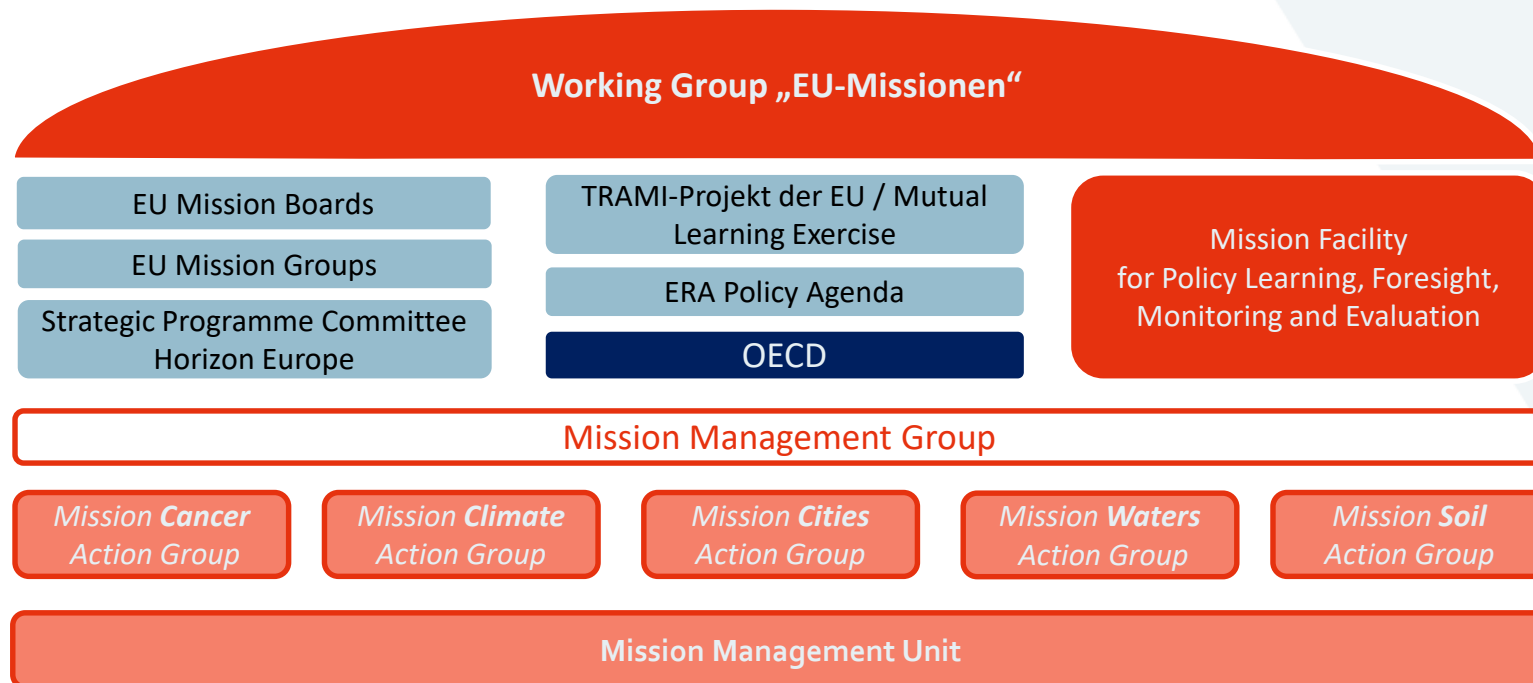
Overall conclusions

- Missions cannot not be ‘imposed’, but have to be purposively and painstakingly built-up through a progressive and iterative process
- Although most of them still need to be consolidated, broadened and deepened, the Austrian EU missions have systematised and institutionalised linkages across siloes and have the potential do so even stronger in the future
- Missions in Austria start from quite different levels of development and vary in the degree to which they can be fitted more or less easily into the given structures of the Austrian research and innovation system
- A challenging period for missions: they are only in nascent stages and too young to deliver results already, but at the same time already need to be assessed

Policy recommendations for Austria derived from OECD MAL (by Austrian experts)

- Give Missions time to **build up trust and capabilities** within administration, and foster a change of culture
- Engage **higher levels of politics** to raise commitment and resources for Missions
- Continue to explain the meaning of Missions to a large arena of (interested) stakeholders, and make Missions a priority for the **whole government**
- **Expand the coalition of the willing** by involving regional and local actors, sectoral agencies, and business sector
- Secure enough **additional resources** (seed money) for Missions and combine them with other impactful instruments
- Establish appropriate **implementation capacity** at responsible agencies and ministries

Further development of Austrian governance approach: institutional infrastructure and international linkages



Mission Management Unit (MMU)

- Contract between Ministry of Education, Science and Research and the Agency FFG in the range of 1,6 M Euro per year
- Term from mid-2023 until end of 2026, followed by revision in the light of FP10
- Key tasks:
 - Supporting the development and implementation of five action plans
 - Assistance to the governance bodies, in particular “Mission Action Groups”
 - Ensuring communication and collaboration with stakeholders and the public

Mission Facility for Policy Learning, Foresight, Monitoring and Evaluation

- Call for Tender by the Ministry of Education, Science and Research with a volume of 0,4 M Euro per year
- Term from 2024 to 2027, followed by revision in the light of FP10
- Core tasks of the Mission Facility:
 - Establishing a „Monitoring & Evaluation Framework“ for all five EU Missions
 - Foresight activities on the changing eco-system for missions and the advancement of thematic areas related to the missions
 - Reflections on future European and/or global developments
 - Training & Learning, in particular for cross-mission activities
 - Regular Implementation Report on the EU Missions in Austria

**Thank you for your attention and
looking forward to further mutual
learnings!**

Contact

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