

SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism

Working for a Sustainable Mediterranean, Caring for our Future

Decentralized water management – scale and scope

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UMWELTBUNDESAMT

ATKINS

Terminology: Technical versus organisational decentralisation

Example 1: water data

Decentralised RB water resource manager (*user*)



Centralised IT water data manager (*hosting /processing*)

Example 2: water utility

Decentralised decision making (*majors*)



Centralised implementation (*One treatment plan for many villages*)

Aspect in the decentralization process

- **redistributing authority and responsibility** for providing public services from the central or national level of government to a sub-national and/or local level
- decentralization of government **expenditure and revenue-raising** authority to sub-national government structures in line with their allocated functional responsibilities
- a process whereby the **voice of citizens** is integrated into policy decisions at a sub-national level and civil society can hold the associated authorities and officials accountable

Dilemma for organisations in decentralisation (Stefan KÜHL, 1994)

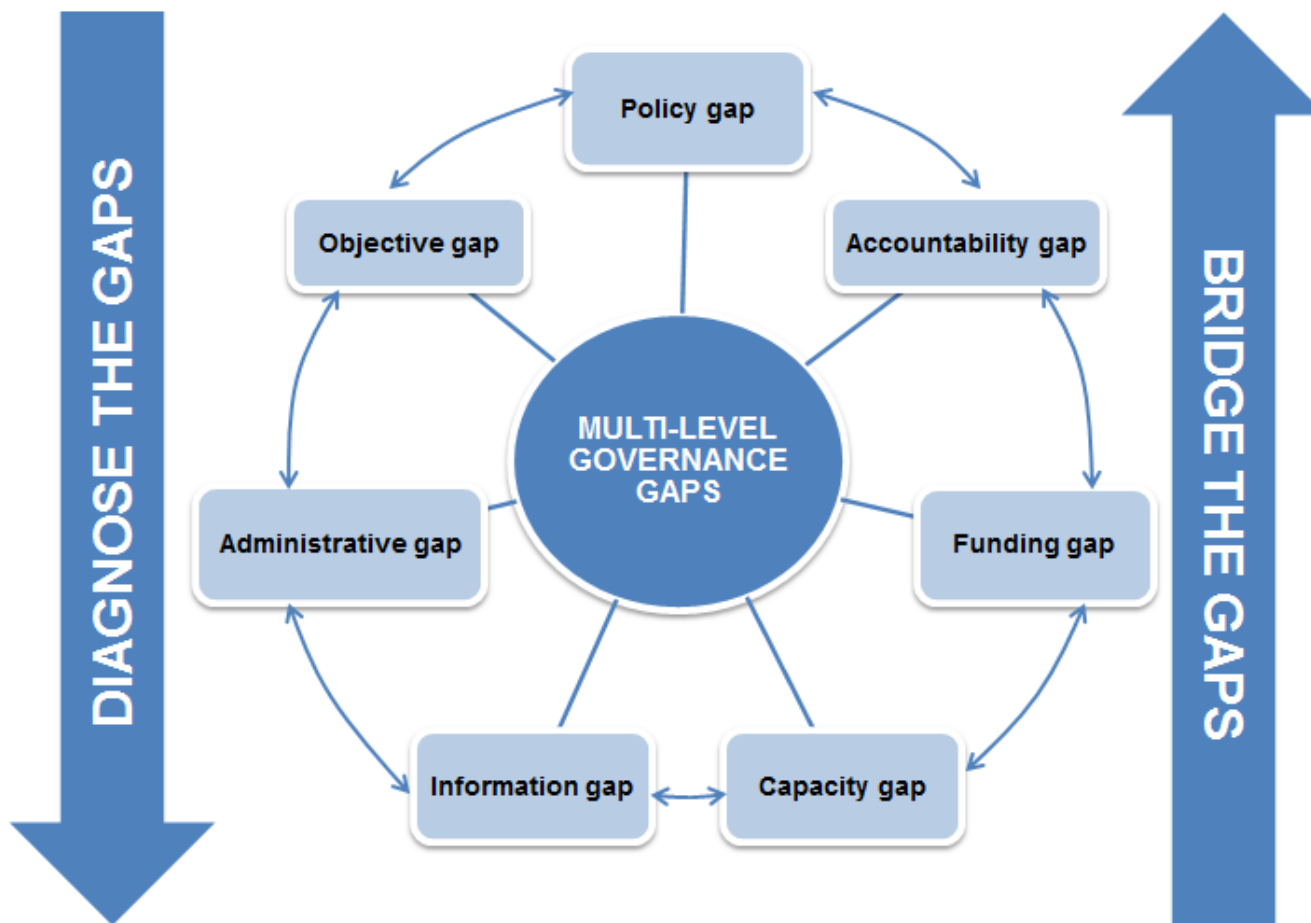
Flexibility: Interaction between organisation and its environment increases but put pressure on the identity of the organisation

Politicising: competency increase on operative level but power struggle between same level hierarchy increases

Complexity: shorter decision making but increase of internal coordination demand

OECD Multi-level Governance Framework

“Mind the Gaps, Bridge the Gaps”



Source: <http://www.oecd.org/cfe/regional-policy/OECD-Programme-water-governance.pdf>

OECD guidelines for effective management of multi-level governance

1. **Diagnose multi-level governance gaps** in water policy making across ministries and public agencies, between levels of government and across sub-national actors
2. Involve **sub-national governments** in designing water policy, **beyond their roles as “implementers”** and allocate human and financial resources in line with responsibilities of authorities
3. Adopt **horizontal governance tools** to foster coherences across water-related policy areas and enhance inter-institutional co-operation across ministries and public agencies

Source: Water Governance in OECD; <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264119284-en>

OECD guidelines for effective management of multi-level governance – cont.

4. Create, update and harmonises water **information systems** and databases for sharing water policy needs at basin, country and international levels
5. **Encourage performance measurement** to evaluate and monitor the outcomes of water policy at all levels of government
6. **Respond to the fragmentation** of water policy at the sub-national level by **facilitating co-ordination** across sub-national actors and between levels of government

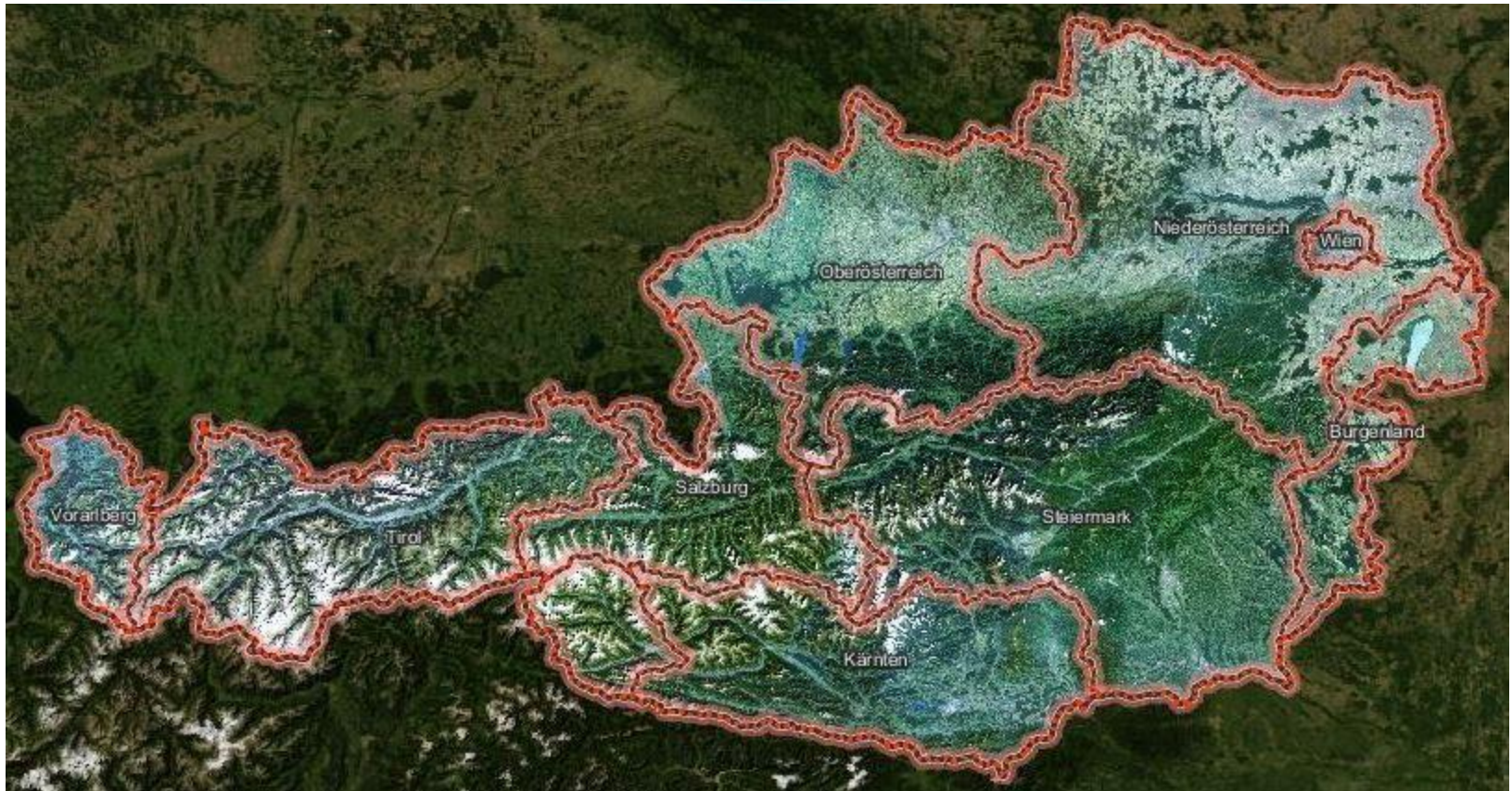
Source: Water Governance in OECD; <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264119284-en>

OECD guidelines for effective management of multi-level governance – cont.

7. **Foster capacity-building** at all levels of government
8. Encourage a **more open and inclusive approach to water policy** making through public participation in water policy design and implementation
9. **Assess the effectiveness and adequacy of existing governance** instruments of coordination water policy at horizontal and vertical levels

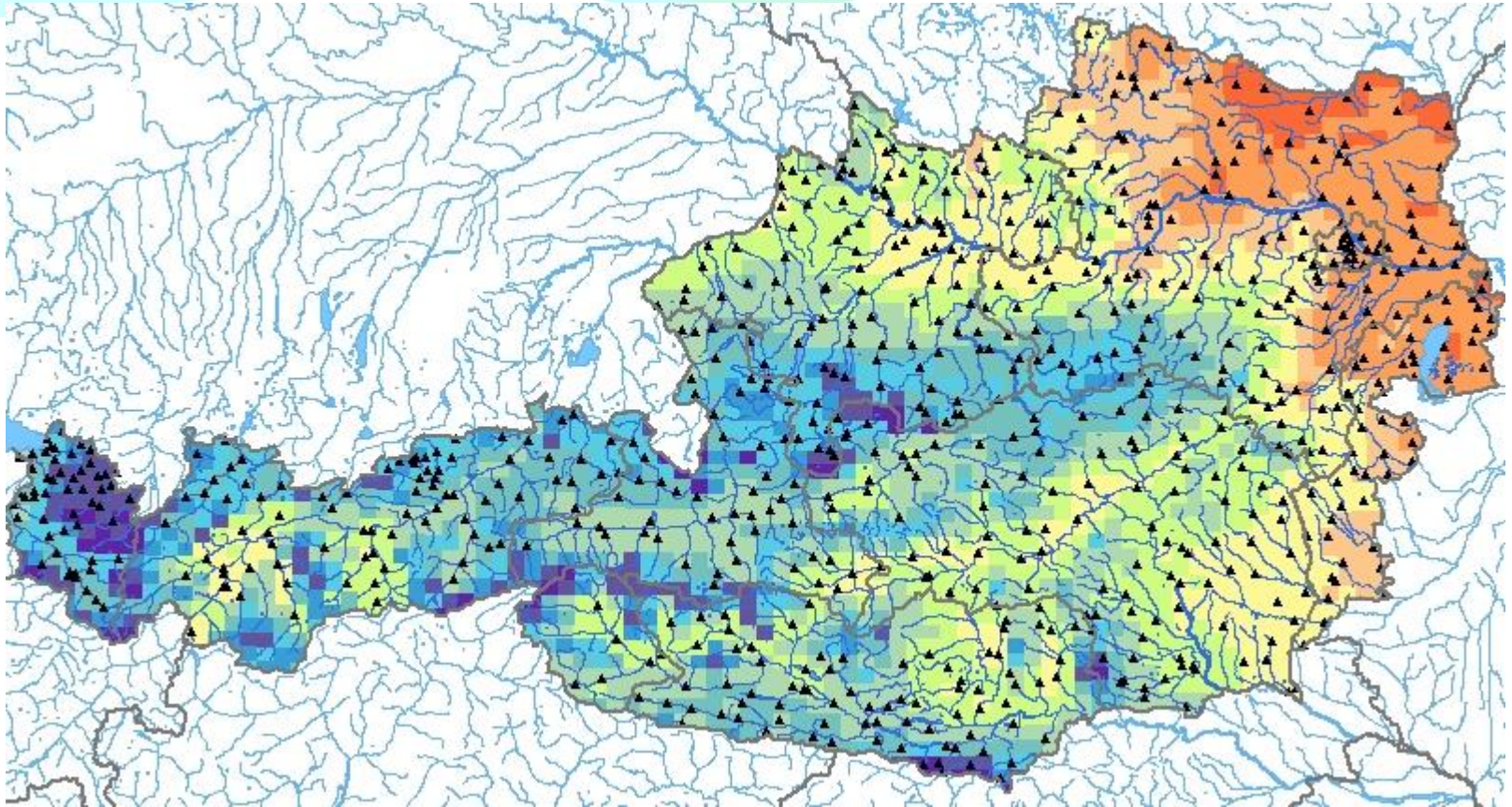
Source: Water Governance in OECD; <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264119284-en>

Administrative boards Austria



Sources: WISA; Austrian Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism

Precipitation (annual average)



mm/a	< 500	- 600	- 700	- 850	- 1000	- 1250	- 1500	- 1750	- 2000	- 2500	- 3500

Water key figures Austria

Size of Country	83.879 km ²
Preceptiation	1100 mm
Inflow	310 mm
Outflow	910 mm
Evaporationtranspiration	500 mm
Water abstraction	24 mm (< 3 %)

Three River Basins: Danube 96,1 %, Rhein 2,8 %, Elbe 1,1 %

Sources WISA, Austrian Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism

The major, general characteristics of the Austrian Water Act

it is part of the **national administration but is executed through the nine federal states** (provinces)

the responsibility for **water supply and sewage disposal** lies with the communities and **municipalities**

it clearly defines the rights and obligations of **user cooperatives** (Genossenschaft) for owning and managing water supply or wastewater treatment systems for their own demand. According to the act, communities and municipalities can **transfer their responsibilities to user cooperatives**.

The major, general characteristics of the Austrian Water Act

the **usage of water resources** (abstraction or emission) is subject to individual legal acts which lie under the responsibility of the **provincial water authorities**. Beside the **usage of groundwater** for private water supply, potential users do **not have a priori rights** with regard to any activity, regardless of its nature (water supply, sewage disposal, agricultural use, etc.).

thus the **overall resource management** is automatically put in the hands of the **water authority**, which is obliged to strive for optimisation with regard to the various interests involved in the use of the natural resource – an important basis for practical **integrated water and resource management**

Danube River Basin

icpdr iksd

International
Commission
for the Protection
of the Danube River

Internationale
Kommission
zum Schutz
der Donau



Danube River Basin

People resident	More than 80 million
Size	> 800.000 km ²
Number of countries	19

transboundary cooperation in protecting the Danube → Danube River Protection Convention in 1994, signed by 14 countries

International Commission for the Danube River

<http://www.icpdr.org/main/>

References

Water Governance in OECD Countries

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264119284-en>

Dealing with post-decentralisation implications in the water sector. Based on country experience cases

<http://www.oecd.org/env/outreach/44096445.pdf>

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Thank you for your attention.

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