

Territorial Employment Pacts in Austria

Multi-level Cooperation of TEPs: Lessons Learnt from the 'Green Paper for Elderly'

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ZENTRUM FÜR SOZIALE INNOVATION
CENTRE FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION



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Content

- _ **Who** are the TEPs and **what** do they do?
- _ **Why** and **how** do they work together?
- _ **What** are the lessons learnt from the multi-level cooperation by establishing a Green Paper for elderly?



The Austrian TEPs ...

- _ are established since 1997 and are considered as **new forms of governance** on regional and local level;
- _ adopt principles of **good governance** for their work, such as e.g. participation, openness, accountability, efficiency and coherence;
- _ **link** employment **policy** with economic, social, and education policy in order to improve the employment situation on local and regional level;
- _ facilitate **horizontal and vertical co-operations** by working across institutional boundaries and administrative districts and exchange know-how also nation-wide;
- _ can apply for **funding** for the support structure (Objective 3 Programme, European Social Funds, 2000-2006).



TEP - Partners

Labour Market Service

Federal Office of Social Affairs

Chamber of Labour

Economic Chamber

Chamber of Agriculture

NGOs (Local Initiatives)

Gender Mainstreaming
Experts



Provincial Government

Federation of Industry

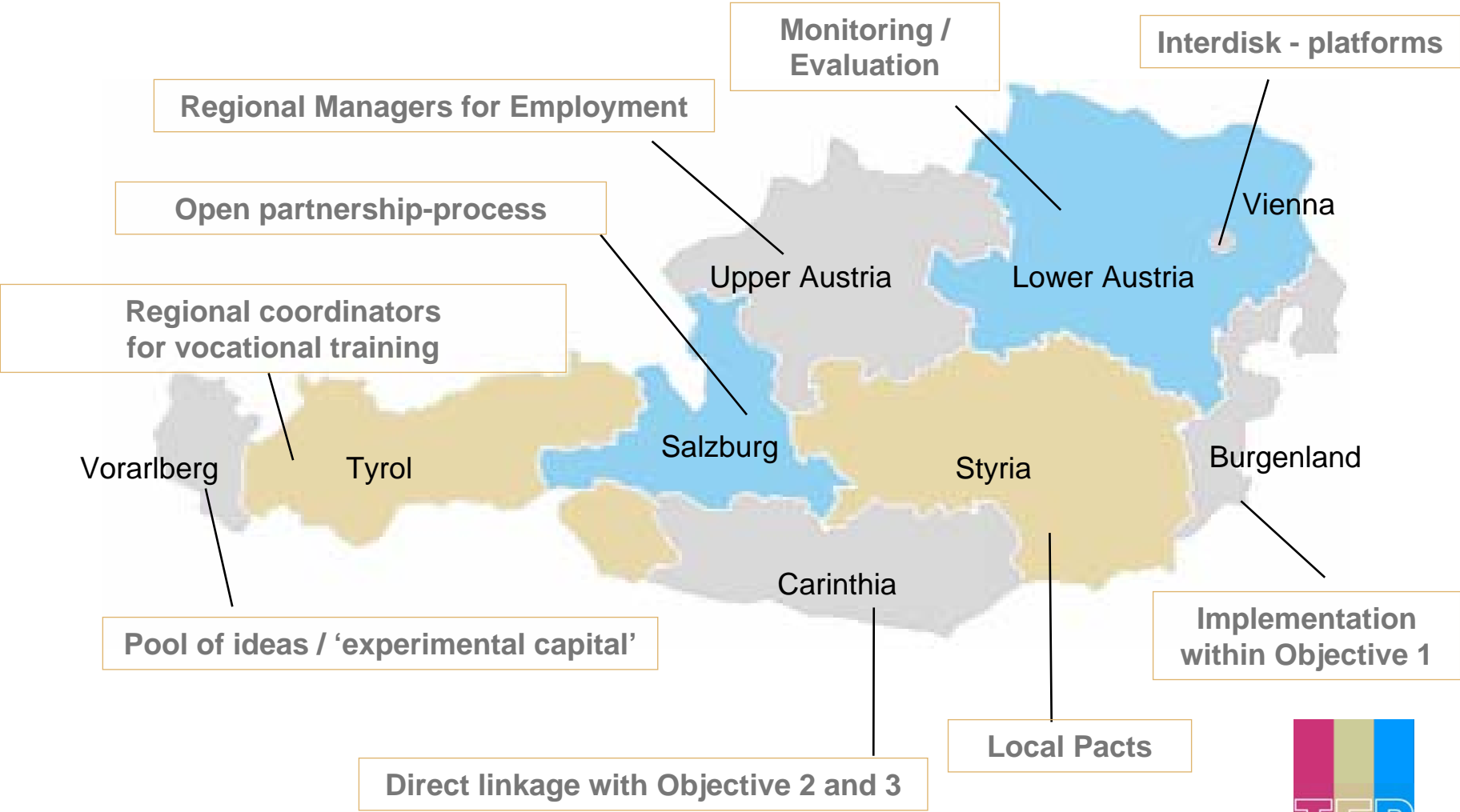
Federation of Trade Unions

Provincial School Board

Educational Institutions

Municipalities

Examples of Fields of Action



Forms of Cooperation of TEPs

- _ Formally and informal cooperations (across stakeholders and levels, in particular local, sub-regional, regional levels)
- _ Loose cooperation and networking between individual partnerships (e.g. cross-border cooperation between some TEPs and neighbouring countries)
- _ Contracted cooperation between individual TEPs (e.g. bi-lateral on sub-regional level in the Province of Styria)
- _ Loose cooperations of **all** partnerships in Austria (e.g. TEPGM-project)
- _ Contracted cooperation of all Austrian TEPs (**TEP-EQUAL-ELDERLY: joint development partnership of all Austrian TEPs**)

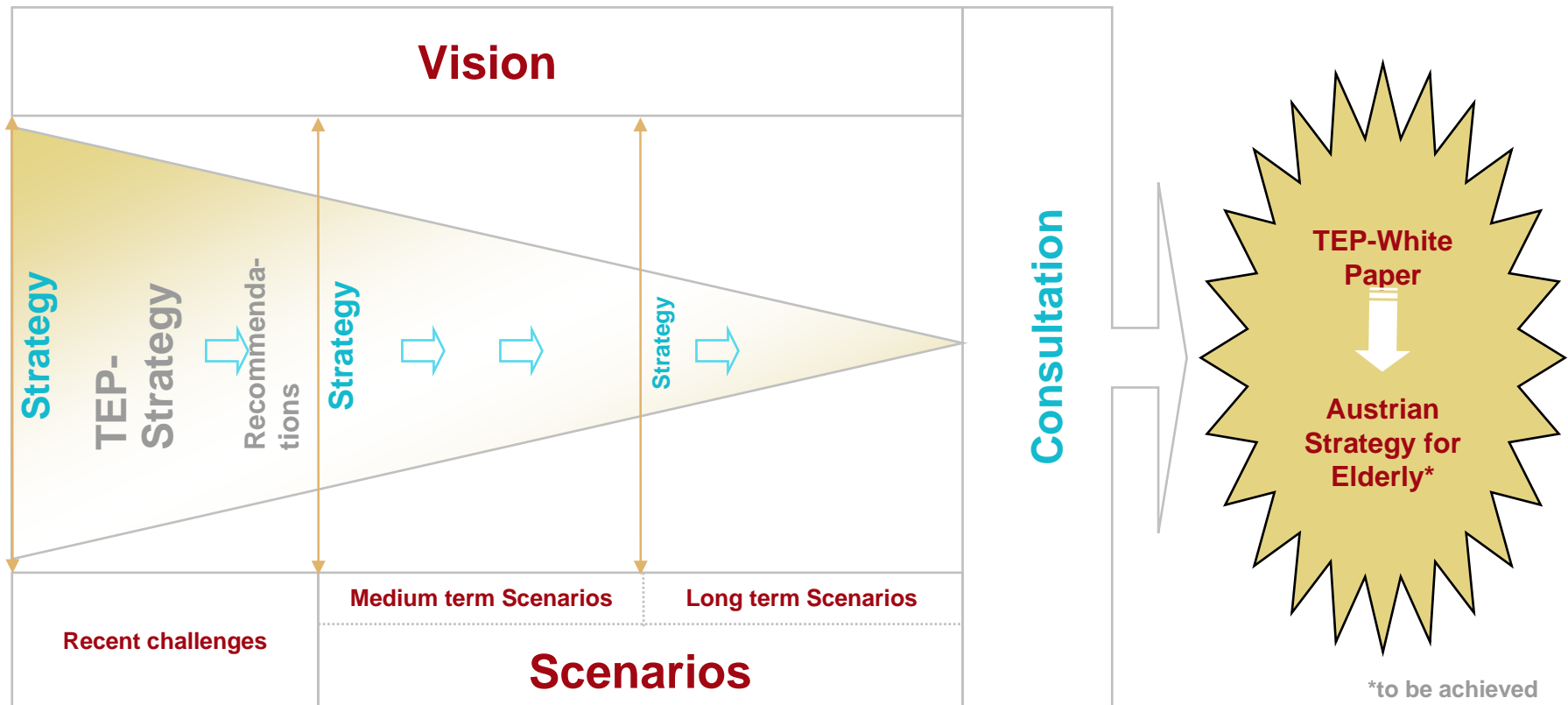
Why joining forces (exemplified by TEP-EQUAL-Elderly)?

- **Week inclusion** of older people in the labour market
- To **assist each other** (testing and exchanging experiences on an innovative labour market instrument, the “Elderly plans”, transferring know-how and learning from each other)
- To **consult** with all relevant stakeholders (method used: establishing a Green Paper which will be published as White Paper after consultation with relevant stakeholders)
- To **align** and **jointly influence policy** on all levels (local, regional, national and international)
- To **enhance the power** (‘the whole is greater than the sum of its parts’)

Strategy for Elderly

- **Creation of a joint vision** (9 partnerships, each cooperating with ~11 institutions on regional level)
- Development of **trends** and **scenarios**: only demographic data were available; no serious prospective data on regional or local level)
- **Linking policies** according to the main aim of TEPs
 - Covering a wide range of policy interventions (sustainable economic growth & social cohesion; pension reform & social security system; pilot projects on working-time flexibility, skill formation, etc.)
 - Focus on regional measures for TEPs (in accordance to changes on the national level)
 - Recommendations for setting-up bundles of measures on regional level

Process



*to be achieved

The Challenges ahead

- **Consultation** with relevant stakeholders on local, regional and national level (tour to all TEPs with their partners on local and regional level)
- **Common perception** and **consensus** of the TEPs in the main statements and topics covered
- **Risk** of losing partners (if topics / opinions are unbalanced)
- Unclear **definition of terms** and **design** of measures (e.g. recommendation on introducing basic income into the Austrian social security system)
- **Agreement** of **all TEPs** to implement the strategy
- Implementation by the TEPs (e.g. **financing** the recommended measures)

Lessons learnt

- **Responsibilities** and **limits**: What can partnerships do / what are partnerships allowed to do? What not?
 - e.g. in order not to cross too many boundaries some terms were not defined / the design of some measures was not described (responsibility is with other stakeholders)
- Balance between the **wide range of interests** and a clear **focus**
- The **method** allows a broad consultation (involvement of all stakeholders)
- Added value for all by working with **researchers** and **practitioners** (combining know-how from different points of view)
- **Process facilitation** causes a lot of effort, but is extremely necessary (steering the process, clarification of interests, involvement of relevant stakeholders)
- TEPs **aligned** and **influenced policy** already during the process of establishing the Green Paper

Contact

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Thank you