

Austrian Focus Group: Suggested Case Studies on Rural Development in Alpine Regions

Please note that this is a *preliminary* selection of rural development initiatives, which *might* be selected as case study projects. The final list will be subject to the discussion in the workshop.

Weidegenossenschaften in Niederösterreich

Cooperatives of fodder farming enterprises in Lower Austria, targeting at improving of the competitiveness of extensive grassland farming; managed by the Agrarbezirksbehörde NÖ; representative for the alpine part of lower Austria (or the fringe of the Eastern Alps); there can be selected one co-operative (or more) out of about 30 local cooperatives which are joined by about 660 participating individual enterprises.

Fleischveredelungszentrum Waldviertel

This is a cooperation of about 500 farmers and meat processing and distributing enterprises, managed by the Waldviertel-Management. It is representative for projects in a mountainous, peripheral and especially marginal regions.

Initiative Waldland

This is an initiative to process pharmaceutical plants (especially "Mariendistel" and "Johanniskraut", a silymarine-producing plant and St. John's wort; managed by the Waldviertel-Management; representative for any region, especially for local co-operatives in search for market niches, but by preference for mountainous (alpine) areas.

Kärntner Holzstraße

This is a "multifunctional" and "endogenous" project in the Carinthian region "Nockberge", part of the Gurktaler Alpen, targeted at using of the regional resource of wood (lumber, timber), based on realistic economical, cultural, social and other objectives; managed by nine co-operating local communities, together with the Federal Forest Centre Ossiach; the project is representative for marginal and mountainous areas which are densely forested after a century or more of agricultural extensification, like in the Eastern alpine regions.

OEKOPHARM

- A research team develops natural products for health and beauty
- Located Unterberg-Moosham
- Commercially very successful

Steinbach and der Steyr –“Steinbacher Weg”

- Is a local development concept of keys of global local development and redevelopment of villages
- Located in Steinbach, Steyr

Bezirk Kirchdorf/Krems

- A regional development initiative focusing on the Agenda 21
- Located in Bezirk Kirchdorf

Waldviertel Management

- Various rural development projects (tourism on farms, biomass, recycling, forest management)
- Located in Waldviertel

Moorbach Harbach

- The project Ecological Cycle shows how to combine agriculture, health tourism and SME
- Located in Moosnach/Waldviertel

NÖ Hoflieferanten

- Marketing of farm products
- Located in Niederoesterreich

Aktion Bauernkorb

- no information available

Kornberg Institut Feldbach

- Sustainable regional development
- Located in Kornberg