

The impact of migration on growth and decline

Migration as a driver of regional population change in Austria

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Introduction

- **Background**
 - PHD Thesis
 - Age-selective Migration in Austria (Retirement Migration)
 - Project work on demographic development & economic performance in Austria („Demographie-Check“)
 - Demographic change and regional development
 - Migration as a driver of regional economic development & a factor that cause regional differences
- **Overview**
 - Presentation should give an insight on regional disparities in Austria...
 - ...as well as an overview on how migration drives regional development on the example of Austria

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Regional Disparities


In Austria

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Regional Disparities in Austria

- Austria generally a country with relatively stable economy
 - Services (bank sector, tourism); production
 - Rising level of unemployment since 2008
- Population growth and immigration
 - +77.140 (0,91%)
 - total pop. 2014: 8.507.786; 2015: 8.584.926
- High regional development support for regions lagging behind
 - Dates back on the 1960s (prosperous economy)
- Still regional disparities with permanent characteristic

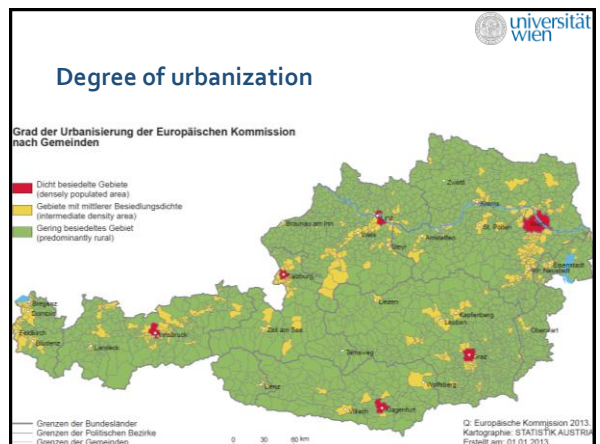
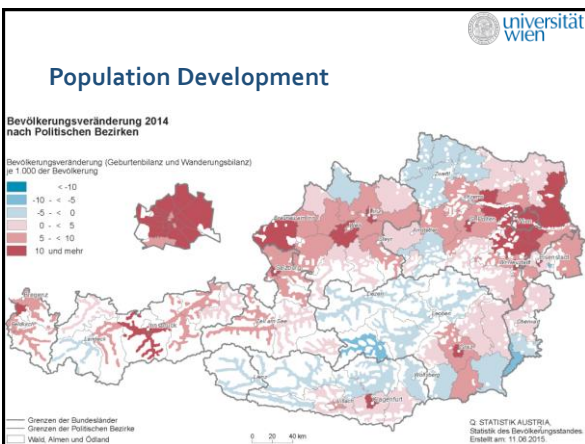
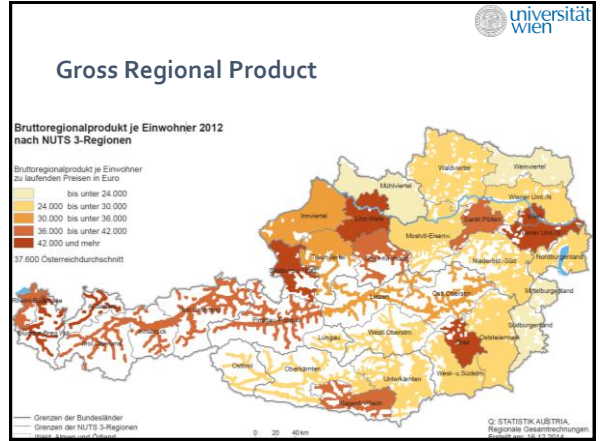
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Geographic Patterns of Regional Disparities

- Regional Disparities according economic development and population development
 - East – West; North – South; Urban – Rural
 - Wage level, price level, population growth
- Growing/prosperous regions
 - Cities & suburbs
 - University cities
 - Tourism hot-spots (Western Austria; Tirol)
- Structural Disadvantaged Regions
 - Low accessibility
 - Border regions
 - Iron curtain
 - Old industrial centers
 - Rural areas

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The impact of migration on regional disparities

Selective Migration effecting regional development

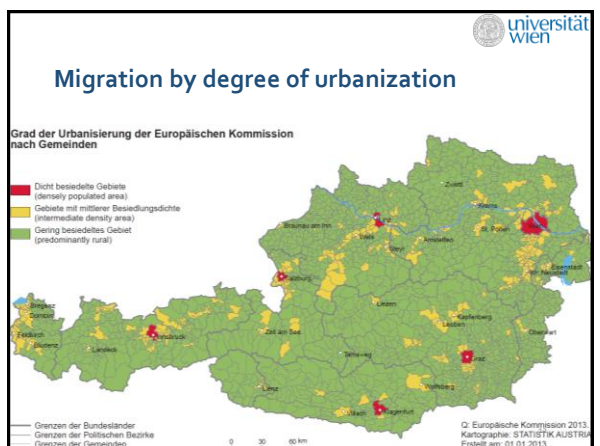
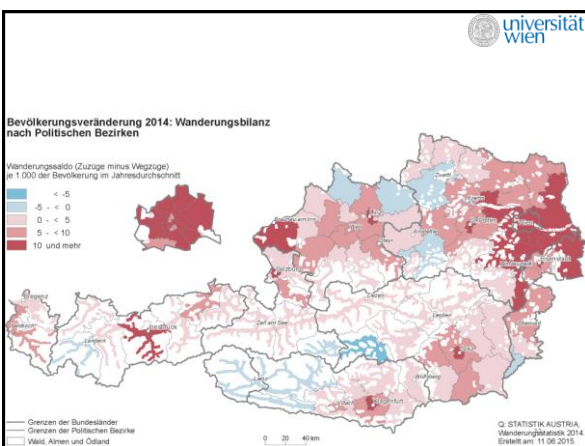
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Migration as a driver of regional development

- Migration (internal migration, international migration) is the **main driver of demographic development** in Austria
 - natural balance plays a minor role
- **Migration patterns follow the patterns of economic development**
 - regional disparities are intensified by migration
- Migration is **influenced by & influencing economic development**
 - job opportunities
 - innovation, market sizes
- Furthermore demographic development (and thus migration) in Austria has **direct influence on the allocation of taxes**
 - „Länderfinanzausgleich“
- Migration patterns is thus having great influence on regional disparities
 - It is worth to take a closer look on migration patterns

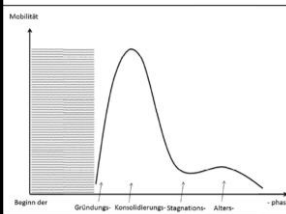
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Migration Patterns in Austria

- **International migration**
 - Between 2010 and 2014: 222.185 people migrated to Austria
 - 52% into an urban area
 - 20% to a suburban/intermediate area
 - 28% into a rural area
- **Internal Migration**
 - Internal Migration between 2010 and 2014 was negative for rural areas and positive for urban & suburban areas (Definition EC)
 - Total rural population: 3.5 Mio; Intermediate: 2.45; Urban: 2.64
 - In total also rural areas win population due to international migration, still the patterns of migration for rural/urban areas is very different

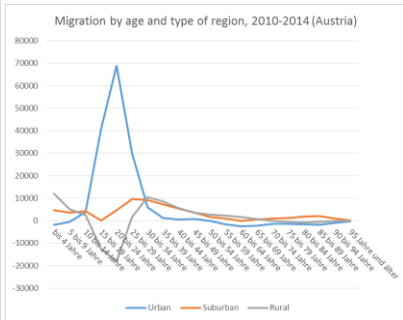
Migration Patterns in Austria



Mobility during the life course (own illustration after KILLISCH 1979, S.40)

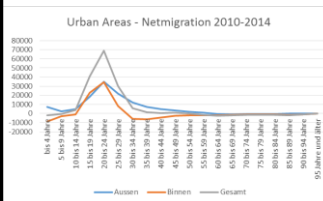
- Migration is **highly selective**
 - Most people migrate in their younger years (between 20 and 29)
 - Age is presenting a life course stage
 - education, family foundation, retirement
 - Migration schedules by age are relatively stable over the years
 - Peaks of mobility around 0-4; 20-29; 30-39 & 60+
- Migration is also selective by sex and education

Migration Patterns in Austria



- Net Migration **absolut**
- Migration patterns are not only differing to a **great extent by the total quantity of the net migration by type of region, but are also highly selective by age groups**

Urban areas



- Net Migration yearly average: **+54.456**
- High immigration of young adults
 - From other parts of Austria as well as from foreign countries
 - Negative „family migration“ (children 0-4 & 30+)

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Suburban/intermediate areas

- Net Migration yearly average: +24.977
- Show also a high international in-migration
- And family in-migration (0-4 & 30+)
- Youth Outmigration

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Rural areas

- Net Migration yearly average: +9.440
- Experience immigration from families
 - Family formation phase (30+) and children
 - Positive foreign immigration
 - Total negativ youth outmigration
- Rural areas not only structural disadvantaged areas
 - Tourism regions (Tyrol)

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Internal Migration 18 to 26 years

Binnenwanderung 2014 der Altersgruppe 18-26 Jahre nach Politischen Bezirken

Q: STATISTIK AUSTRIA, Wanderungsstatistik 2014, Erstellt am: 11.08.2015

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Explaining migration patterns

- Reasons for Migration (internal migration) are to a high extent **economic** ones, but also other factors play a role
 - „Work & Love“
- Besides economic decisions often **(higher) education, housing preferences and also lifestyle decisions** play a role
- Vacancies in outmigration area are a phenomena in Austria
 - Monostructure economies (tourism, industry)
 - „Demographie-check“ Eisenstraße

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Consequences of migration patterns

- Low economic performance of regions is mostly the starting point for outmigration/slowing down in-migration
 - mono-structured economies in regions, certain economic sectors
- Migration as the main driver for population development outmigration is furthermore leading to a **sustainable loss of population**
- Population outmigrating is to a high percentage **young population**
 - **Feedback effects:** missing mothers & fathers
 - Innovation leaving
 - Brain drain (migration for education)
- Outmigration is leading to a further **decrease of living quality** and additional challenges for the region
 - tax revenue, missing critical mass, vacancies, shrinking

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Conclusion

- Demographic development is **result but also driver** of growth and decline
 - Internal & international migration steering development
- Population development (migration patterns) show sustainable concentration processes
 - Negative migration balance of young people (for rural areas, whereas not all rural areas in Austria are structural disadvantaged areas)
 - Feedback effects for natural population balance
- Migration patterns serve as multiplier effect of regional disparities

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Can regional development steer future population development?

- Economic development can have effect on positive population development
- How to make attractive living places besides economy?
 - Lifestyle, society, education, housing
- What are future trends that have influence on living preferences?
 - Rural vs. Urban Lifestyle?
 - Suburbia vs. Reurbanization?
 - Mobility
 - Climate
- Countersteer decay – support growth?

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Sources

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