



BUNDESANSTALT für Agrarwirtschaft  
FEDERAL INSTITUTE of Agricultural Economics



# Farming in Austria: Rural Areas versus Demi-Towns

Erika Quendler  
Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics  
[erika.quendler@awi.bmlfuw.gv.at](mailto:erika.quendler@awi.bmlfuw.gv.at)


# Content


---


- **Definitions**
  - **Data and methods**
  - **Characteristics**
    - Density
    - Farms, production and activities
    - Family
    - The whence and the whither
    - Self-assessment
  - **Reflections**
-

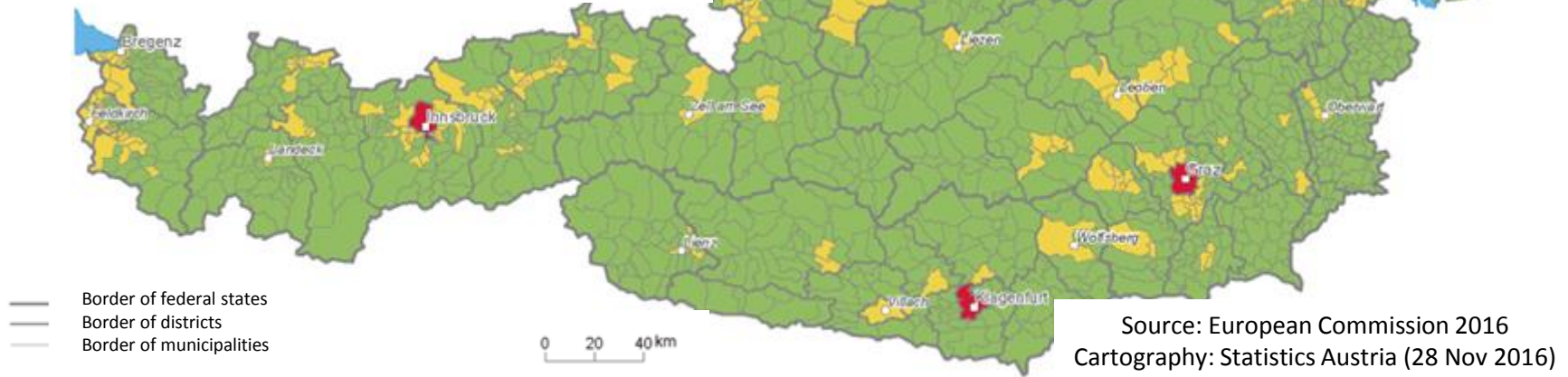
# Areas – where is where?

## Degree of urbanisation

 Densely populated area at least 50% of the population lives in urban centres

 Intermediate density area: less than 50% of the population lives in rural grid cells and less than 50% of the population lives in urban centres (**demi-town**)

 Predominantly rural: thinly populated areas more than 50% of the population lives in rural grid cells (**rural areas**)










# Data and methods

---

- **Integrated administration and control system (IACS) data**
  - Agricultural population 115,953 farms
  - Study area: Austria
- **Survey of female farmers**
  - Online survey
  - 2,182 questionnaires
- **Descriptive analysis**


# Density

Density characteristics	Unit	Rural areas	Demi-towns
<b>Population density**</b>	Population per sqkm	45	251 
<b>Farms*</b>	Number per capita	0.03	0.01 
<b>UAA of total area</b>	Share in %	28	31
<b>UAA**</b>	Hectare per capita	0.62	0.12 
<b>LSU**</b>	LSU per capita	0.51	0.09 
<b>of which RGVE</b>	LSU per capita	0.41	0.08 
<b>Ø LSU per 100 hectare UAA*</b>	Number	82	77 
<b>Ø RGVE per 100 hectare UAA</b>	Number	66	64
<b>Ø SO**</b>	Euro per capita	1.408	280 

Source: IACS data 2014 (rural areas n = 101,196 and demi-towns n = 14,757),

\*\* statistically highly significant (p < 0.01), \* statistically significant (p < 0.5)

# Farms

Density characteristics			Unit	Rural areas	Demi-towns
<b>Full-time farms</b>			Share in %	55	55
<b>Legal form</b>	Natural person	male	Share in %	50	53
		female	Share in %	27	27
	Marriage relationship		Share in %	17	15
	Group holding		Share in %	5	5
<b>Farms in mountain areas**</b>			Share in %	65	7 
<b>Ecological farms</b>			Share in %	18	16
<b>Ø UAA per farm</b>			Hectare	20	21

Source: IACS data 2014 (rural areas n = 101,196 and demi-towns n = 14,757), \*\* statistically highly significant (p < 0.01)


# Production and activities

Production and activities characteristics		Unit	Rural areas	Demi-towns	
<b>Most important area of operation*</b>	Milk production	Share in %	35	29	↓
	Production of cash crops	Share in %	11	14	↑
	Direct marketing, holidays etc.	Share in %	9	12	↑
	Suckler cows	Share in %	11	9	
	Pig farming	Share in %	6	6	
	Vegetables, fruit and vines	Share in %	6	6	
	Forestry	Share in %	6	4	
	Cattle fattening	Share in %	5	4	
<b>Additional activities**</b>		Share in %	49	56	↑
<b>of which</b>	Direct marketing	Share in %	31	22	
	Holidays on farms	Share in %	14	11	
<b>No off-farm job of the female farmer*</b>		Share in %	65	60	↓
<b>No off-farm job of the partner*</b>		Share in %	48	42	↓

Source: Survey of female farmers 2016 (rural areas n = 1,868 and demi-towns n = 314),

\*\* statistically highly significant ( $p < 0.01$ ), \* statistically significant ( $p < 0.5$ )

# Family

Family farm characteristics		Unit	Rural areas	Demi-towns
<b>Ø number of people on the farm</b>		Number	5.2	5.3
<b>Ø number of children per female farmer</b>		Number	2.4	2.3
<b>of which farms with</b>	adult children	Share in % (No)	45 (846)	43 (135)
	children requiring care	Share in % (No)	49 (919)	53 (165)
	childless	Share in % (No)	6 (103)	4 (14)
<b>Marital status</b>	marital cohabitation	Share in %	86	85
	extra-marital cohabitation	Share in %	7	9
	single	Share in %	7	6
<b>Transfer of the farm regulated**</b>		Share in %	30	23 

Source: Survey of female farmers 2016 (rural areas n = 1,868 and demi-towns n = 314), \*\* statistically highly significant (p < 0.01)



# Origins and prospects

The whence and the whither characteristics		Unit	Rural areas	Demi-towns
<b>Female farmer grown up on farm**</b>		Share in %	70	60 ↓
<b>Partner grown up on farm*</b>		Share in %	90	86 ↓
<b>Very good or good future for the own farm</b>		Share in %	43	45
Self-assessment characteristics		Unit	Rural areas	Demi-towns
<b>Professional title 'female farmer'***</b>		Share in %	76	68 ↓
<b>Would do it again?</b>		Share in %	74	72
<b>Image of female farmers vis-à-vis other professionals</b>	somewhat higher	Share in %	5	4
	equal	Share in %	28	32
	somewhat lower	Share in %	67	64

Source: Survey of female farmers 2016 (rural areas n = 1,868 and demi-towns n = 314),

\*\* statistically highly significant (p < 0.01), \* statistically significant (p < 0.5)

# Reflections

Status quo



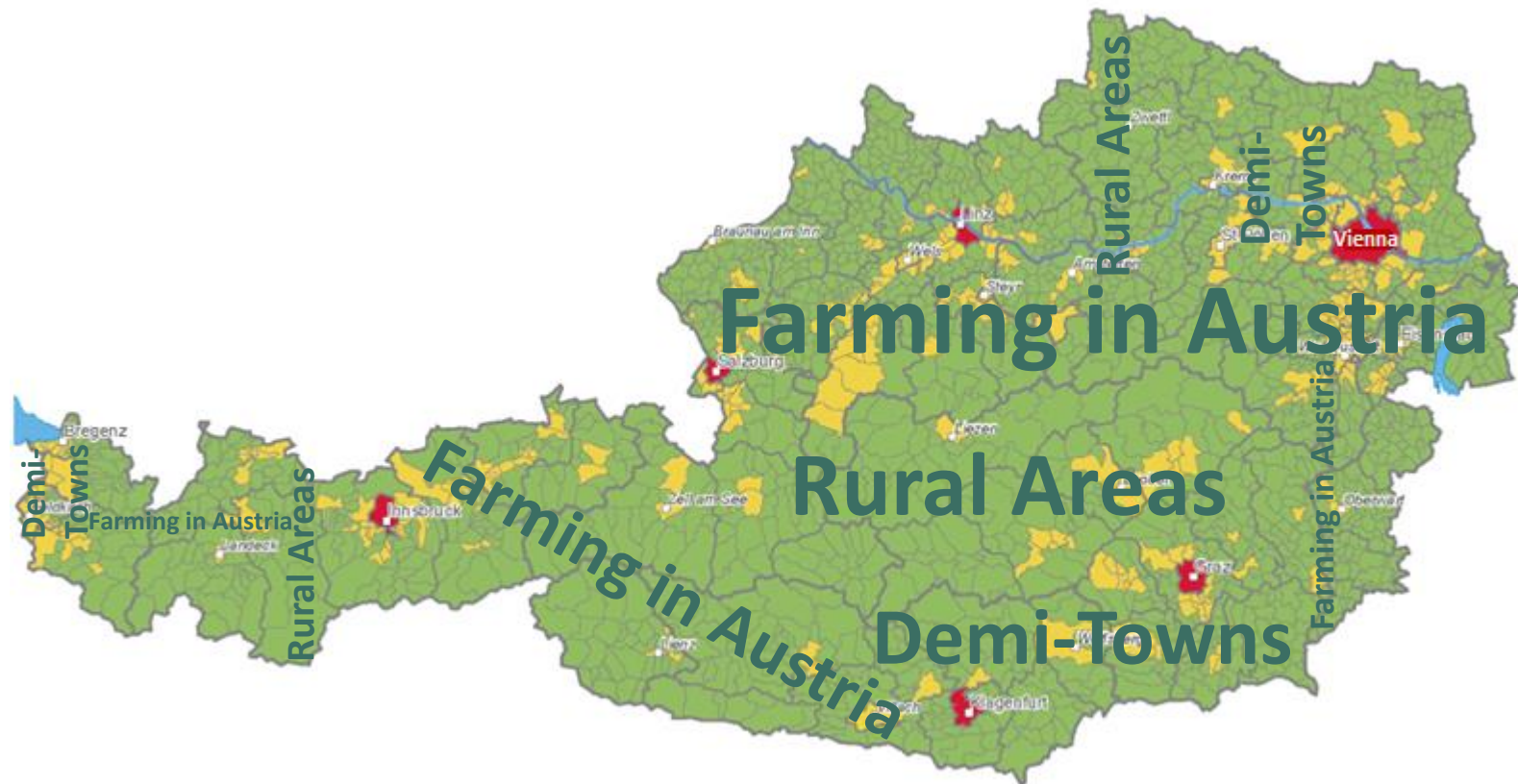
Further research

multiple value from farming  
sound technology  
less resource intensive  
vision for farming in demi-town

hybrid solutions  
hectare sustained  
new concepts  
mini farming  
local food

Innovative potential

# Thank you



Source: European Commission 2016  
Cartography: Statistics Austria (28 Nov 2016)