

CEI KEP AUSTRIA Priority areas

Priority Areas have been identified by taking into account the country and sector strategies of the EU, the CEI Plan of Action, specific programmes of International Organisations and International Financial Institutions operating in the region (such as EBRD, OECD, UNECE, the World Bank), complying with development assistance objectives pursued in most of EU-CEI Member States.

KEP AUSTRIA Priority Areas for 2014-2016:

1. **European Integration and related capacity building**

- European integration (preparing for EU accession including assistance in setting up documents; improving skills of public administration; assistance when filing laws in accordance with EU requirements);
- Strengthening the rule of law through the introduction of European standards;
- Strengthening capacities of central administration (including institution building, improvement of efficiency and performance of State administration, application of high standards and transparency in civil service and training for civil servants);
- Strengthening administrative and educational structures at regional and local levels (including assistance when preparing development strategies, implementation of transparency measures for local government finance systems and human resources development with regard to local civil servants). Support to schools and universities (modern learning, necessary educational strategies in order to improve general living conditions).

2. **Social and Economic Development, Inclusion and Equality**

- Improvement of local labour market conditions and development of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprise sectors (including support to start-up SMEs, promotion of spin-offs and innovative enterprises, development of micro-credit schemes and SME financing);
- Addressing social inclusion, social dialogue; tackling gender inequalities, social exclusion and vulnerabilities; support to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, ethnic minorities and youth; support youth participation in the economy and job creation;
- Strengthening the social advancement of recipient countries (support civil society structures and build capacities to act towards social inclusion, fighting poverty, promoting good governance, accountability, transparency; human rights-based approach and promotion of corporate responsibility).

3. **Agriculture, Environment and Climate Change**

- Sustainable agriculture and rural development (food safety and food quality, regulatory standards, farm development plans, development of infrastructure for wholesale trade of agricultural products, training of specialists in farming-related areas; promotion of rural and environmentally sensitive tourism).
- Environment (protection of the environment, waste management, water management and water resource development).
- Energy (energy efficiency, renewable energy, clean energy and climate change)