

‘How do we see the past, present, and future of regional planning and regional development? We asked ourselves these questions while reflecting on a synchroptic table — the result reflects a variegated array of opinions of the research unit's staff. It is exciting to read how differently several generations of planners think about what regional planning and regional development have meant, what they mean today, and will mean to us.’

TEAM REGION

FOREVER YOUNG — 15 YEARS OF (T)RAUM.REGION

REGIONAL PLANNING AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH UNIT

REGION TEAM

The staff of the Regional
Planning and Regional
Development research unit
TU Wien

The synchronoptic table presented below is an overview of historical and future intermediate steps and turning points, both technical and personal. Not only are we looking back, we also dared to look into the future. As planners and researchers, we do shape the future.

Why forever young? We have already achieved a lot, yet would still like to achieve more, which keeps us young. In addition, working at a university with committed students and colleagues is a great privilege; it stimulates reflection, change, development, and action. In short, we just do not have the time for growing old. Milestone anniversaries always entice one to pause and take stock. We are no exception: we did this beyond the history of the (t)raum.region — on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the launch of spatial planning studies at the TU Wien.

What has changed over this long period of time? We compiled events, instruments, attitudes, and activities with a spatial character into a synchronoptic table. This list is not intended to be exhaustive: in this yearbook, we can only reproduce a short extract of the chronological table, which would fill an entire wall. Of the almost 1,000 entries (as of July 2020), we selected around 20%, which we considered to be important for the references and relationships between space, regional planning, and regional development in general, and for our research unit in particular. What were the milestones — important projects, legal provisions, publications, and plans? But, also, which events, artworks, and literature have particularly influenced us? How do they relate to the *zeitgeist* of planning and the planning culture of the last half-century? What are they rooted in? At the same time, we wondered about what might happen in the coming ten years — the field of study will then be 60 years old and the (t)raum.region 25. We cannot know about it, but this is precisely what motivates us to think about space in the future — this anniversary year is also underlain by some dream of the future, which may help us backcast to the present from the future and set up new, targeted activities.

How do we see the past, present, and future of regional planning and regional development? We asked ourselves these questions while reflecting on the synchronoptic table — the result reflects a variegated array of opinions of the research unit's staff. It is exciting to read about how differently several generations of planners consider what regional planning and regional development have meant, what they mean today, and later will mean to us.

The following data are a foretaste of a large chronological table on regional planning and development that is being prepared in the research unit. The timelines presented here and the synchronoptic representation cannot, and do not make any claim to completeness. For this reason, we wish to convert the currently static version (Excel file) into a freely accessible, interactive version on the World Wide Web. This will greatly increase visibility and ensure that the records can be easily maintained and, as is appropriate for a synchronoptic table, can be expanded in future.

Tab. 1 A selective chronological table of regional planning and development in Austria up to 1970

1814	Stand Montafon
1854	Invention of the planimeter
1920	Land-use plan in the Vienna Building Code
1930	Maps of settlement forms by Adalbert Klaar
1937	First Provincial Planning Act (not implemented), Upper Austria
1938 - 1945	National Socialist Party (NS) spatial planning
1946	Land Use and Development Plans Act, Styria
1950	Adalbert Klaar teaches 'Settlement Studies and Spatial Planning' at the University of Vienna
1951	Founding of the Association of Austrian Planners; dissolved in 1957 following protests by municipal officials
1952	First instance of regional planning: draft regional zoning plan for the Wörthersee
1954	Verdict by the Constitutional Court: spatial planning is a matter for the states and a cross-cutting issue Civilian expansion of Vienna Airport Foundation of ÖGRR (Austrian Society for Spatial Planning; formerly ÖGLL, then ÖGR)
1955	State Treaty, withdrawal of occupying troops
1956	First Spatial Planning Act in Austria: Salzburg Doris Day: Que Sera, Sera
1958	First instance of regional planning in Lower Austria: development of zoning plan for the Marchfeld
1959	Austria has 7 million inhabitants Ybbs-Persenbeug Danube power plant Appointment of Prof. Wurzer to Urban Planning and Spatial Planning at the Technical University Vienna, today's TU Wien
1960	First instance of regional planning in Salzburg: drafting of development plan for the Lungau
1961	First regional development programme in Austria enacted through legislation: Lower Carinthia Lake District Roland Rainer: basic urban development scheme for Vienna Kramergasse pedestrian zone in Klagenfurt
1962	ecoplus, Lower Austria Economic Agency
1965	190 cars/1,000 inhabitants in Austria Ministerial Committee for Regional Planning The Beatles: Nowhere Man
1967	Garden City of Puchenu
1968	Drafting of Provincial Development Programme for Burgenland
1969	First human being on the Moon

Source: own compilation.

1970

1975

1980

►► 1980 — 2000

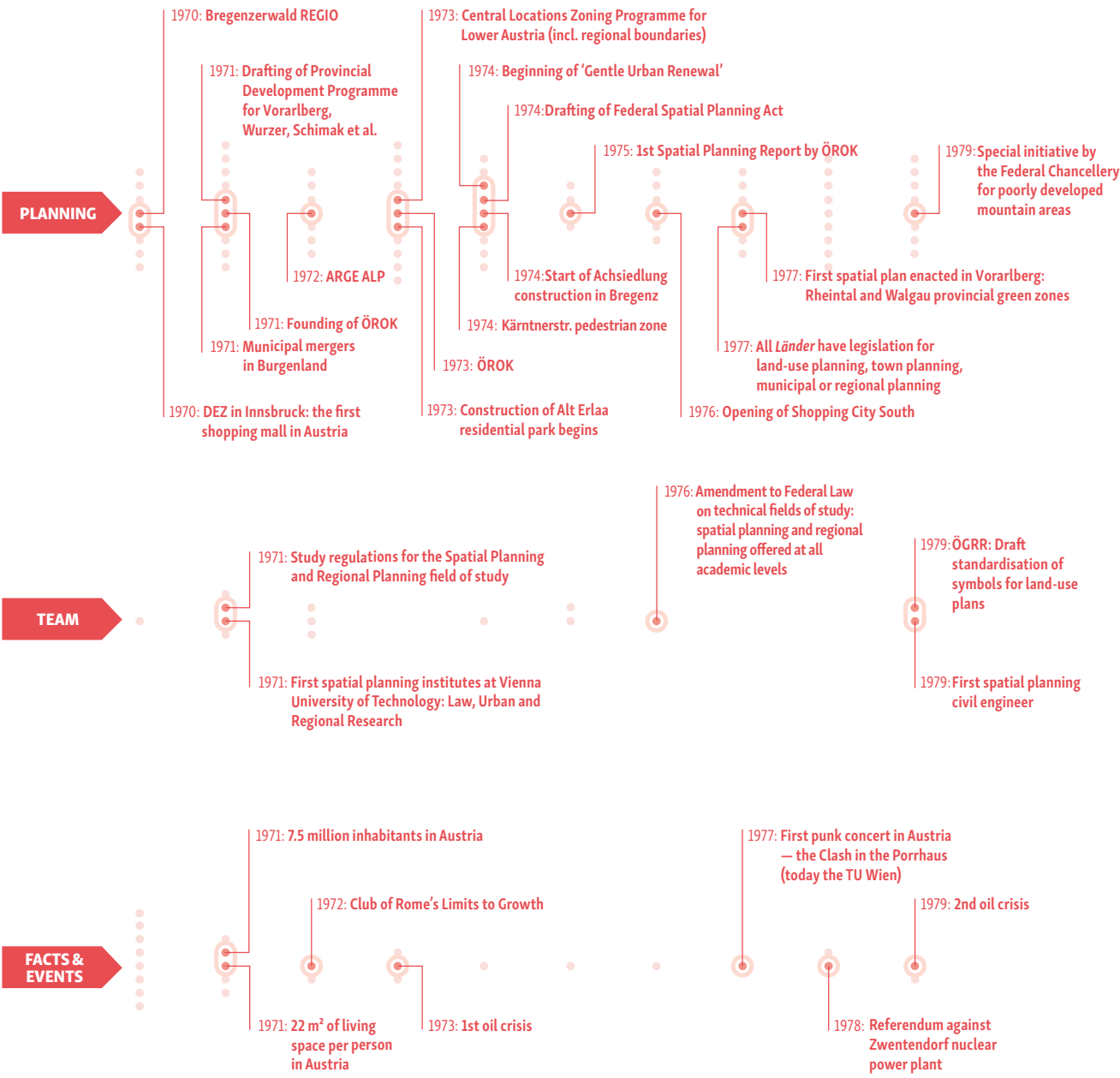


Fig. 1 Regional planning and development in a temporal context — a synchronoptic table from 1970 until 1980. Source: own compilation.

Open Access Download von BiblioScout am 09.01.2024 um 09:03 Uhr

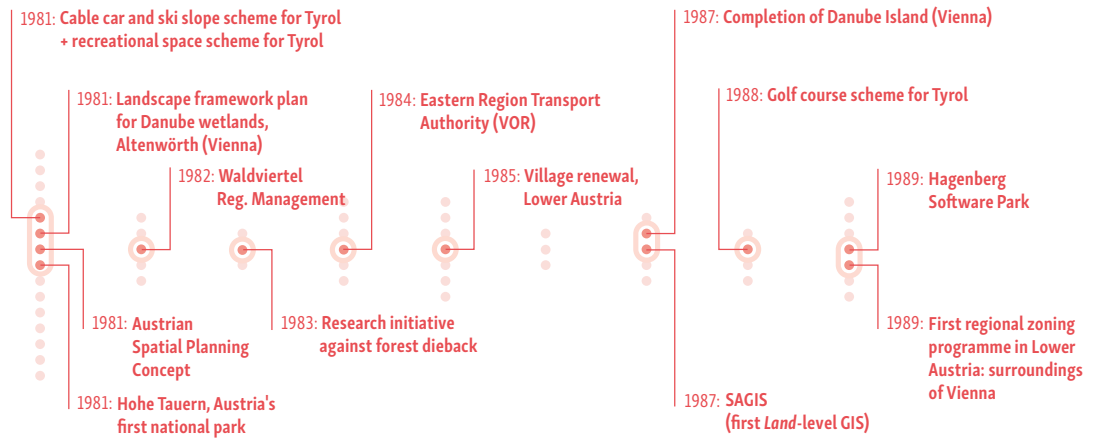
◀ 1970 — 1980

1980

1985

1990

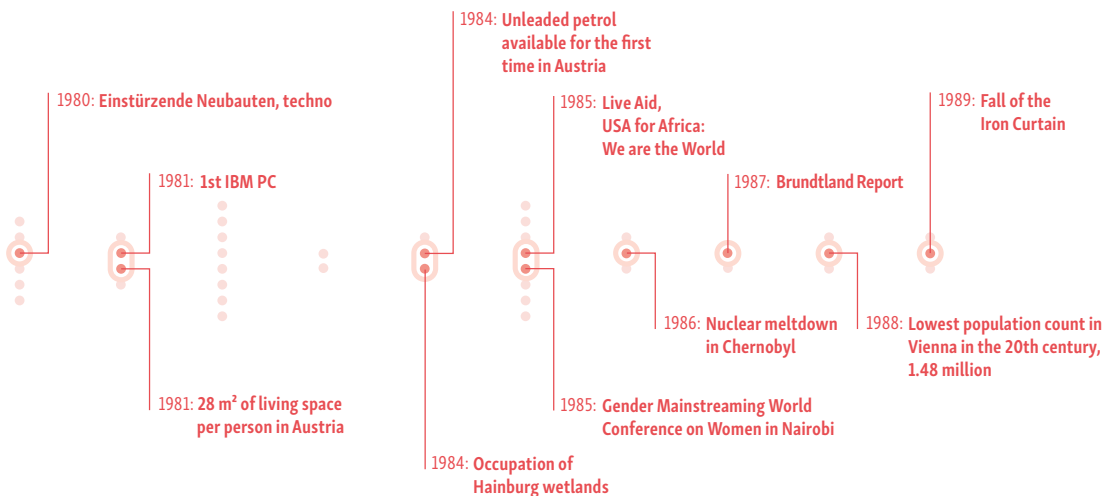
PLANNING



TEAM

1987: Founding of AESOP, Association of European Schools of Planning

FACTS & EVENTS



1990

1995

2000 ▶ 2000 — 2020

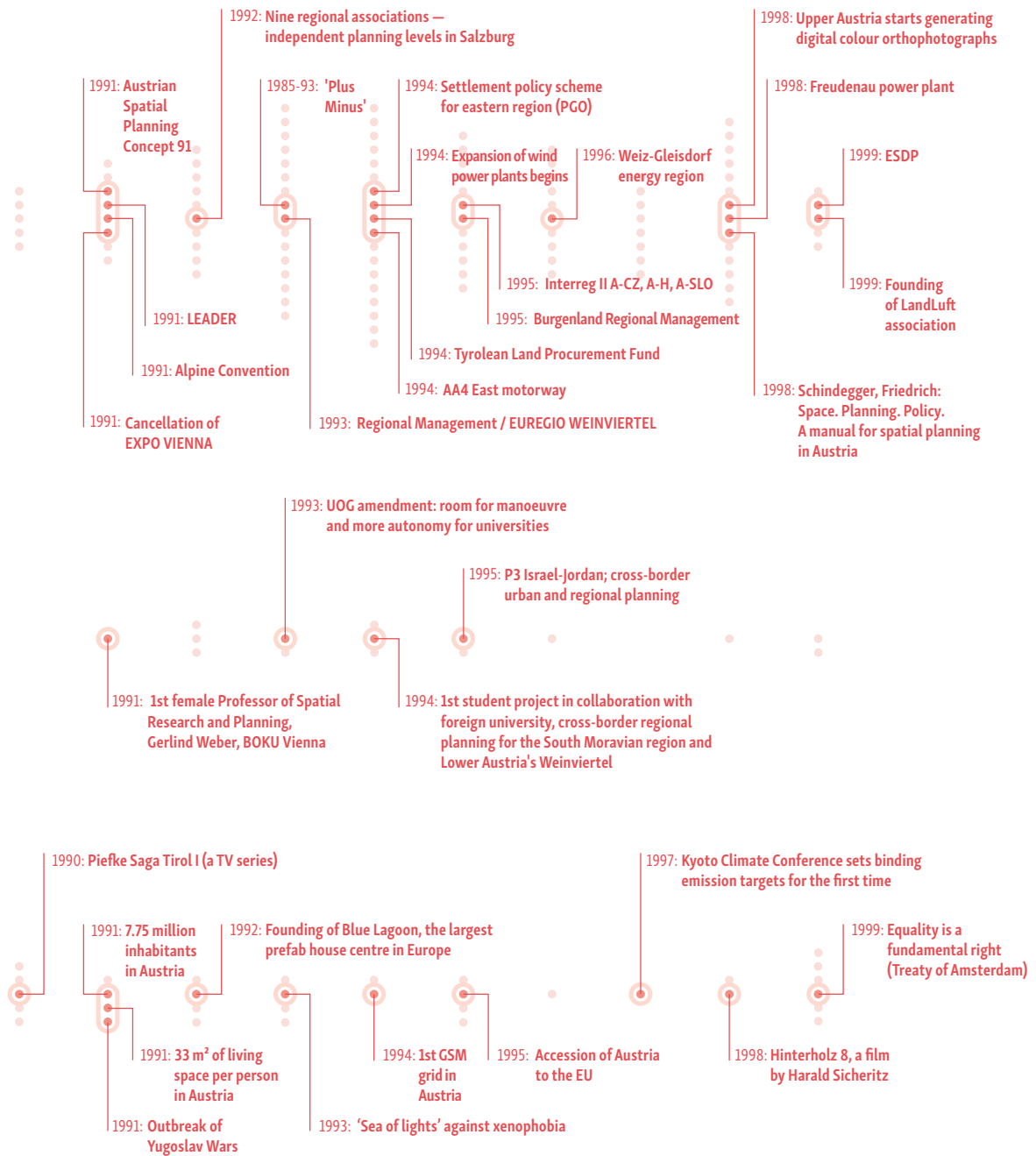


Fig. 2 Regional planning and development in a temporal context — a synchronoptic table from 1980 until 2000. Source: own compilation.

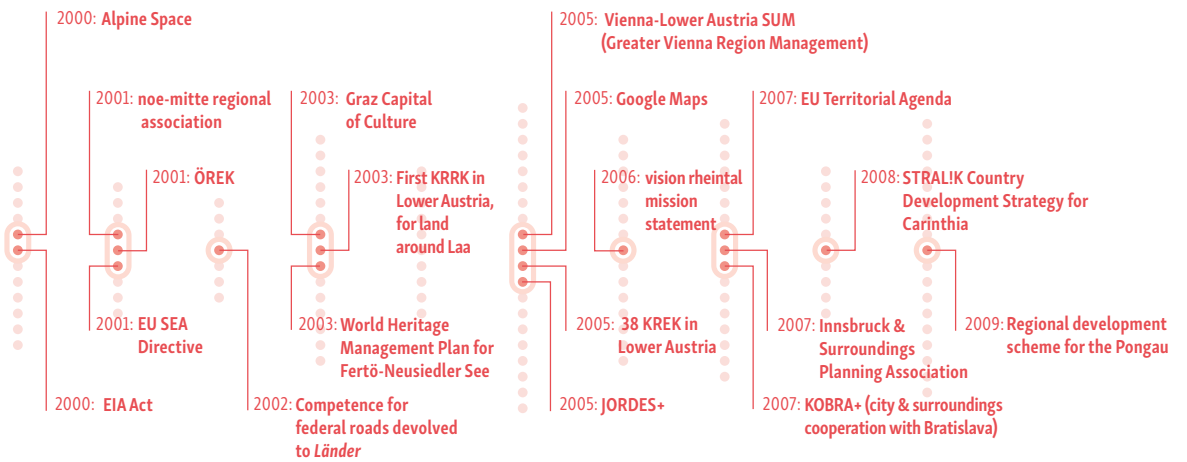
◀ 1980 — 2000

2000

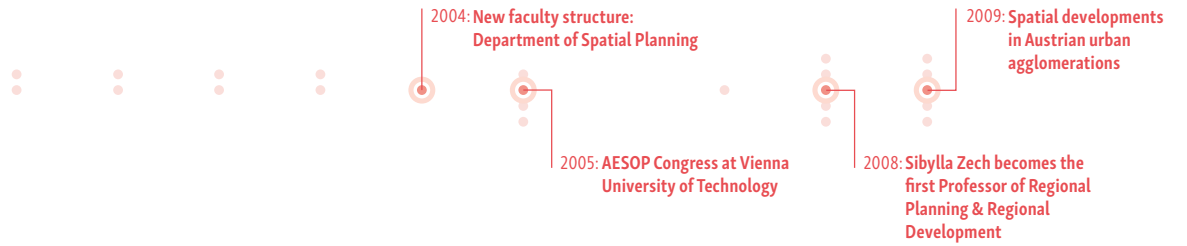
2005

2010

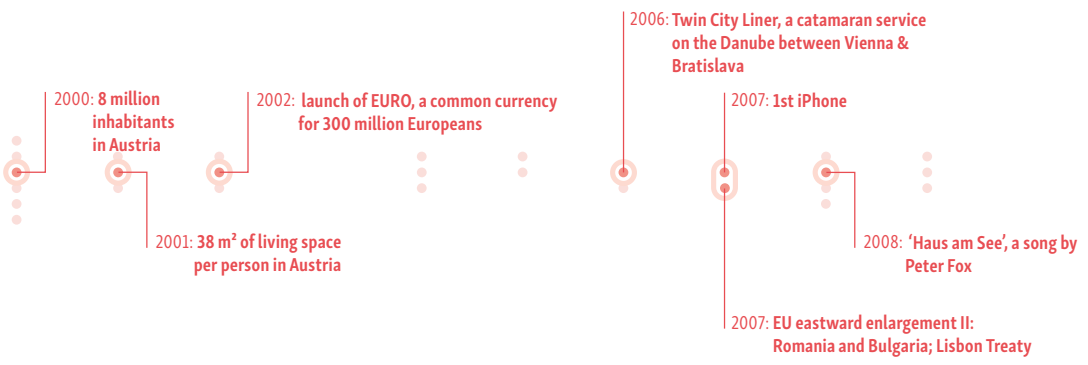
PLANNING



TEAM



FACTS & EVENTS



2010

2015

2020 ▶ after 2020

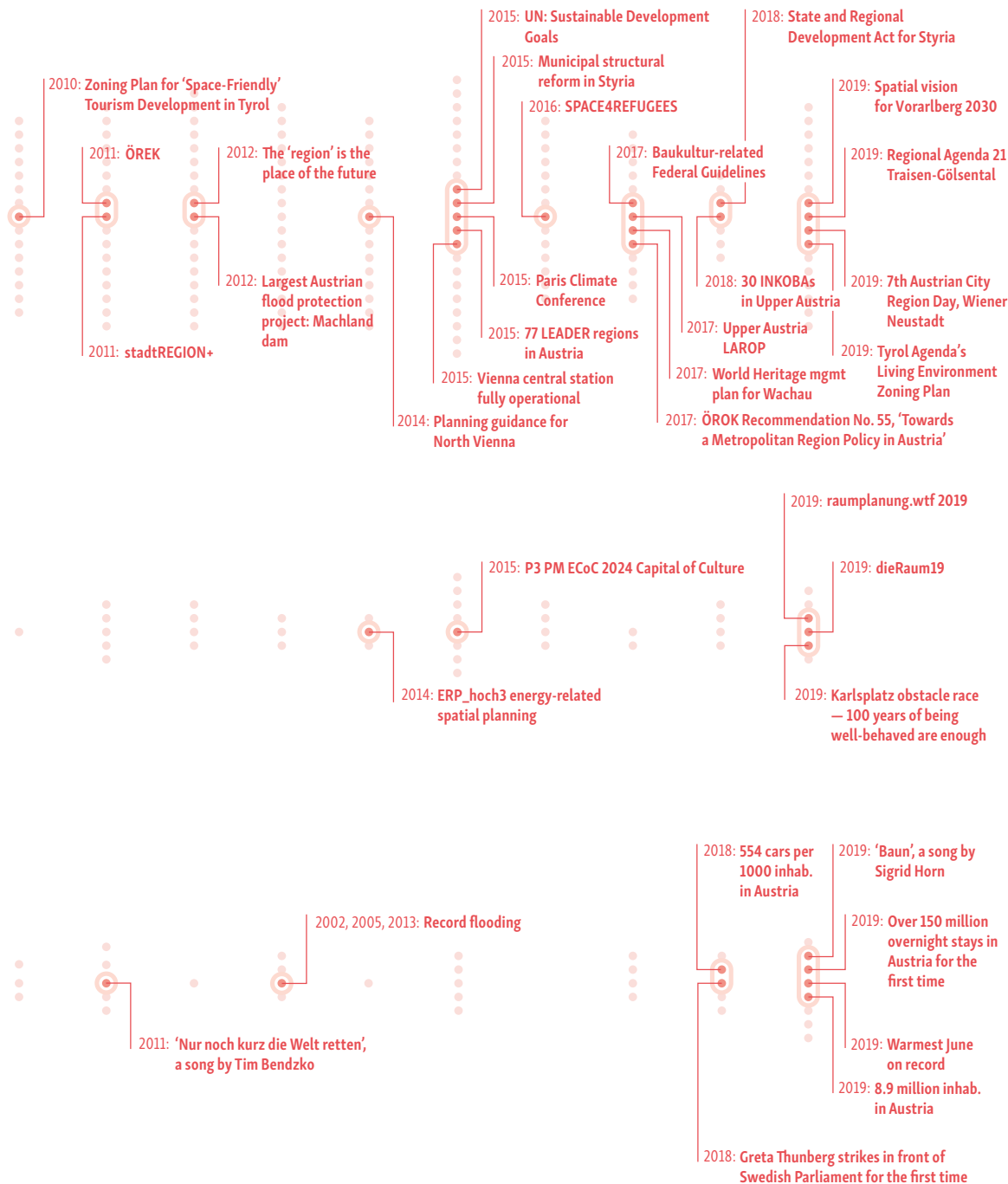


Fig. 3 Regional planning and development in a temporal context — a synchronoptic table from 2000 until 2020. Source: own compilation.

Open Access Download von BiblioScout am 09.01.2024 um 09:03 Uhr

Tab. 2 Outlook — vision and reality from 2020

2020	Investment for growth and employment (IWB/ERDF) 2014–2020 Specialised term: focal points of urban life / polycentric Vienna <i>Rettet das Dorf</i> , a film by Teresa Distelberger 6,600 klimaaktiv-mobile projects since 2004 P3 making Karlsgasse COVID-19 pandemic, shutdown from March COVID-19 closure of universities, switch to distance learning Römerland Carnuntum online conference platzfuer.wien initiative Planners4Future Black Lives Matter demonstrations Exhibition and publication on female Planning Pioneers Provincial Development Programme for Upper Austria Baukultur municipal prize for <i>Boden g'scheit nutzen</i> ('land use, the clever way') with around 100 submissions
2021	regREK Montafon 1st energy-related spatial plan: e3 Bruck a.d.L. Austrian spatial development scheme ÖREK 2031 Austrian Federal Government adopts a surface unsealing programme: 60% subsidy for ground reclamation; at the same time a sealing levy is introduced Lower Austria Development Scheme <i>Piefke Saga Part 5</i> (TV series)
2022	MORE: the federal government supports 22 spatial development model projects Construction of 3rd runway at Schwechat (Vienna Airport) is cancelled Opening of the Karlsgasse after redesign on the initiative of the Regional Planning and Regional Development research unit
2023	Austria has 9 million inhabitants Opening ceremony of the REGIONAL <i>landumstadt</i> City of Vienna-Lower Austria Inner-city development instead of building on green meadows — rules for the absorption of planning proceeds Rural Areas are awarded a chair at the TU Wien
2024	Bad Ischl-Salzkammergut European Capital of Culture
2025	ESDP 2: Second European Spatial Development Perspective with the active participation of the seven new Member States 50% of mayoral office staff are women
2026	Vacant property levy takes effect Petrol and diesel vehicles are banned from public space
2027	Semmering Base Tunnel comes into operation Vienna exceeds historical population peak (2.1 million)
2028	Federal Spatial Planning Act passed Daily land use drops below 2.5 ha (target value of the sustainability strategy 2002), Austria is European champion in ground reclamation
2029	Structural reform: 1001 municipalities, instead of current 2095, in Austria
2030	Half-hourly public transport frequency in every Austrian village National Energy-related Spatial Plan adopted The Spatial Planning field of study celebrates its 60th anniversary at the TU Wien The Regional Planning and Regional Development research unit is 25

Source: own compilation.

STANDPOINTS ON THE REGION — A VIRTUAL DIALOGUE OF THE SPATIAL PLANNERS TEAM AT THE REGIONAL PLANNING AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH UNIT

You are prospective spatial planners or have recently entered the professional field: why are regional planning and regional development your future horizon?

THE UNDERGRADUATES

Elias GRINZINGER
Theresa JANESCH
(studying)

THE PREDOCS

Isabel STUMFOL
Daniel YOUSSEF
(studied in the 2010s)

THE POSTDOCS

Nina SVANDA
Thomas DILLINGER
Petra HIRSCHLER
Hartmut DUMKE
(studied in the 1990s)

THE SENIORS

Sibylla ZECH
Gerhard SCHIMAK
(studied in the
1980s/1970s)

THE MODERATOR

the unknown interviewer
(*in italics*)

Elias Grinzinger: Regional perspectives can only gain in relevance in the future in view of the increasing proportion of the population living in urban regions, changes in the world of work and, not least, the challenges of the climate crisis.

Theresa Janesch: Yes, indeed; regional planning and regional development are becoming more and more relevant owing to climate change, because they have the big picture in mind.

Daniel Youssef: Generally-speaking, they will gain greater recognition and relevance for solving current and future complex challenges faced by society, which require a holistic approach, and will thus make a significant contribution to a more nature-friendly way of life. This has a significant impact on coordinated and efficient land use beyond municipal boundaries, aiming to achieve a balance of interests, which is a basic principle for the acceptance and implementation of sustainable spatial development. Interdisciplinary methods or spatial planning working methods are to be used in a transdisciplinary way within a regional context in order to be able to design the living environment according to the highest environmental, economic, and social quality criteria.

Isabel Stumfol: In short: regional planning and regional development will learn to rethink regions in order to equip the world to face all challenges and to attend to them with heart and mind.

Is this only something for the future or can you already see and feel some of it happening?

Isabel Stumfol: Yes, I certainly can! Regional planning processes have made the world of collaboration, communication, and cooperation in Austria more varied and successful. Regional planning and regional development provide a basis and opportunity for creative, multifaceted, forward-thinking projects led by a wide variety of project thinkers and project doers.

Theresa Janesch: That means crossing boundaries and achieving something together.

Elias Grinzinger: Exactly, because we know that social interdependencies rarely stick to administrative boundaries. Yet even though regional planning and regional development span an essential competence area as regards the management of land-use claims and conflicts, in reality this is sometimes underestimated.

You are amongst the pioneers of regional planning and regional development in Austria and have helped shape the field in teaching, research, and practice. How do you see this policy field in retrospect?

Sibylla Zech: Austria has been at the forefront of endogenous regional development since the 1970s. Furthermore, accession to the EU in 1995 and the use of EU funding programmes brought about successful regions and also interregional cooperation. Binding regional planning has been approached rather hesitantly, at least in some *Länder*. The reasons may lie, on the one hand, in the short history of the Republic, during which municipal autonomy and federalism have been particularly highly regarded. At the same time, paradoxically, the willingness of the *Länder* to shape spatial development was limited: management was delegated to cooperation between municipalities. The strategic linking up of regional planning with regional development has only been successful in a few cases.

Gerhard Schimak: Through diverse strategies, regional planning and regional development have created the legal, institutional, and instrumental framework that underpins and promotes endogenous regional development. Today, efforts are being made within participatory processes to develop the identity and branding of regions and thus to stimulate the commitment of regional players.

Sibylla Zech: The Austrian legal and administrative framework and, even more, practice are characterised by a wide range of platforms, instruments, mission statements, and projects that are geared towards a sustainable design of our living and economic space. Numerous creatively designed planning processes show that regional actors increase awareness of 'their' region, develop a common understanding of its development opportunities and, ultimately, turn the region into a common planning and design space.

What will the future bring?

Sibylla Zech: The future belongs to the regions. Today, we cross the boundaries of the 2,095 Austrian municipalities every day — when we go to work, to school, shopping, or to the doctor, to practice sport or visit friends. A new quality of public services and regional identity will be grounded in the combination of a new municipal structure, with around 1,000 municipalities, and work within cooperation areas that implement planning according to need and with pinpoint accuracy.

Gerhard Schimak: It will take a lot of creativity to develop new forms of participatory, organisational, and institutional processes within policy advice for a better and more liveable future for the population.

You are in the middle of your professional careers, have asked regional research questions and set planning tasks in your dissertations and many projects. How do you see current challenges?

Nina Svanda: ROF all planning levels, regions best represent people's everyday space. This was painfully demonstrated during the COVID crisis, for example if the doctor was not allowed to come from the neighbouring municipality, or if the Viennese were prohibited from having a rest at the nearby Lake Neusiedl. Regional planning and regional development have an essential significance for people's everyday lives, but are underrepresented in the awareness and actions of the political and administrative spheres. Hopefully, by learning from the experience of the COVID crisis, they will become a stronger instrument in the fight against the climate crisis.

Petra Hirschler: I would like to present a positive picture; in retrospect, regional planning and regional development have organised land-use claims while avoiding conflict. They are shaping the spatial future now and will continue to do so in the coming decades, while also paying even more, lasting attention to social values, protecting resources, and contributing to sustainable development.

Thomas Dillinger: At first, regional planning was very much influenced by spatial planning notions. It was Austria's accession to the EU that particularly brought to the fore the spatial development aspect. Access to European funding has led to numerous regional initiatives, projects, and programmes, and has made a significant contribution to the positive development of regions within Austria and Europe. In the current Austrian planning system, regional planning and regional development have reached their limits. Not only do we live in a globalised world, but also a highly regionalised one. As a result, new questions regarding the design of our living environment have arisen. Austrian regional planning has not yet provided the right answers. Often, the answers were not heard or not correctly understood by planning policymakers either. Despite numerous efforts and initiatives, they cannot ensure the coordination of spatial development that is needed in Austrian regions. Regional action will have to grow in importance in order to meet the challenges of the future. The regional planning level must be given a stronger mediating role between provincial and local planning. To this end, the anchoring of regional planning in the planning system must be reconsidered and innovative instruments developed. Regional planning 4.0 is needed!

Hartmut Dumke: In short: regional planning and regional development have (a) had a hard time, (b) are legitimate and (c) will have to be taken for granted.