



Two Years After Habitat II, Viennese Examples of Sustainable Urban Development

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Regarding this Report

The work of any municipal administration is naturally manifold and comprises many parallel strategies. This report will highlight the general concept pursued by the City of Vienna - i.e. a commitment to sustainable development - on the basis of selected projects taken from several fields of urban policy and administration. Some of these projects were submitted as UNCHS Best Practice models for the 1998 Dubai Award for improving the living environment because the City of Vienna is convinced that these initiatives can offer useful suggestions for other cities; other projects were developed in keeping with specifically Viennese requirements. The City of Vienna participates in a number of European and international programmes, and some of the measures cited are implemented in the context of these programmes.

The City of Vienna is highly interested in sharing its experiences with other cities and regions and for this purpose organises a variety of seminars and conferences on issues of sustainable urban development. The results are published regularly, e.g. on the homepages of the City of Vienna. (<http://www.vienna.at>; <http://www.magwien.gv.at>)

Habitat II and Afterwards - Viennese Examples of Sustainable Urban Development

Preconditions

Sustainability is a requirement defined in the 1994 Urban Development Plan of the City of Vienna as well as in the "Vienna Traffic Concept" adopted in the same year. The need for action in this field did not result so much from individual deficiencies requiring urgent remedy, but from the conviction of Vienna's municipal administration that future-oriented, viable and systematic concepts are imperative to preserve the advantages of the Austrian capital for coming generations.

For this reason, the Aalborg Charter as well as the Valencia Charter were signed by the Mayor of Vienna in 1996 in addition to the Habitat Agenda; moreover, a programme for a Local Agenda 21 was developed for Vienna in 1997.

There are a number of positive preconditions for a Local Agenda 21 process in Vienna.

For a metropolis of more than 1.6 million inhabitants, Vienna boasts an enviable natural basis. Almost 50% of the municipal territory are covered by green space. In addition to the Vienna Woods, it is above all the Danube area that has evolved into the prime recreational zone of the city population - a consequence of the decision, adopted as early as in the 1950s, to use flood protection as an opportunity to recover the river as social and natural space.

Systematic and sustainable urban development planning is the key prerequisite for preserving woods and green areas in and around big cities. Different green-space concepts were combined under the joint heading "A Green Belt for Vienna" and formally adopted by the Vienna City Council in 1995 in order to safeguard a supralocal green system. A large share of inner-city green zones is composed of inner courtyards, which are being systematically mapped by means of biotope monitoring since the 1980s. A package of measures was developed to preserve and improve these "green" courtyards. The first pilot projects will be implemented in 1998.

Architecturally, Vienna's inner districts are characterised by highly densified turn-of-the-century structures. At a time when many cities rehabilitated their centres by tearing down large parts of the old building stock, Vienna's municipal administration developed the concept of "gentle urban renewal", thus preserving the historic structure of Vienna and improving the living conditions of the inhabitants. The „gentle urban renewal programme“ was presented at the world summit Habitat II in the context of its Best Practice Programme.

The urban expansion areas are situated above all at the northern and southern periphery of Vienna, where large-scale settlement began in the 1960s and 1970s. The 1994 Urban Development Plan tried to concentrate development areas along so-called "urban axes", thus safeguarding the traffic-related and infrastructural optimisation of these areas in keeping with the key objective of the Urban Development Plan: sustainable urban development.

Currently, Vienna is experiencing a re-orientation phase focusing on "urban completion", a strategy which co-ordinates inner city and peripheral areas by means of Land Management and Building Commissions.

The City of Vienna owns and administers approximately one fourth of all Viennese flats. It is in fact one of the biggest landlords of all of Europe with a total of nearly 250,000 units. This high figure is the result of the many municipal housing construction projects implemented in the last one hundred years. Today the City of Vienna acts mainly as subsidiser and contributor towards the cost of housing construction, stepping in as property developer only in very few cases (usually ecologically, socially or architecturally innovative pilot projects). The historical commitment to social housing construction is continued in the context of the subsidy programme by instituting commissions and development competitions (see Planning and Housing).

There have been no marked demographic changes in Vienna over the past few years. The only exception was provided between 1989 and 1993, when the population figure rose significantly for the first time since 1945, largely due to the political changes in Europe. Vienna is characterised by an excess of deaths over births; the stable population figures are thus the result of immigration. This requires the City of Vienna to launch a series of programmes to implement the objective of integrating newcomers into the city's texture. A special Integration Fund was instituted within the context of the Executive Policy Group for Integration, Women's Issues, Consumer Protection and Personnel.

Participative Planning

After more than 20 years of participative planning in Vienna, the term “Second Viennese Model“ might be employed to define current practices. Information and PR work take a central position in all current procedures, which are also decisively influenced by mutual information and the provision of a platform for controversial opinions. This requires a range of new instruments: in addition to occasionally used questionnaires (for packages of methods), key evaluation techniques include qualitative interviewing, on-site interviews and inspections, workshops, round-table discussions as well as counselling and problem solution models based on group and community work, mediation and/or institutional counselling.

Public participation is not only getting closer, figuratively speaking, to Vienna’s inhabitants and decision-makers, but also literally approaching the physical locations where projects are implemented, thus becoming decentralised even in case of large-scale projects. This decentralisation is also evident from the fact that municipal district offices are much more integrated into the participation process than in the past. Finally, an important role is assigned to transparent and published documentations of the entire planning and participation process.

This form of integrating public participation into planning processes is applied in the planning of large-scale projects - e.g. the “Marchegg Branch“ project or the “Vienna Traffic Concept“ - as well as in smaller planning ventures (such as the planning for Yppenplatz Square in the context of URBAN+, which takes account of the ethnic variety of the zone and markedly involves women in the planning process). The Second Viennese Model provides for a “public participation module“ that is as well suited for work on large-scale projects spanning several years as for public participation in conflict management or for area management offices. Concept development and project organisation are delegated to a team of counsellors, thereby establishing a level of mediation that permits a more flexible and neutral attitude both towards citizens and the municipal administration system.

Comprehensive Urban Programmes since 1996

The Strategic Plan: Maintaining Quality: Innovations for Vienna

In 1998, the notion that all segments of urban policy must be networked in order to formulate joint goals to meet the requirements of the 21st century motivated the city government to develop a Strategic Plan for Vienna as an additional tool to complement the existing Urban Development Plan.

On the basis of Vienna's general image profile - which associates the Austrian capital with top quality in many areas - this Strategic Plan spells out Vienna's future commitment in both international and regional arenas.

Challenging but realistic objectives serve to define a small number of key strategic lines and projects which should be implemented with the full commitment of Vienna's politicians and administration in co-operation with interested and motivated partners within pre-defined time periods.

The Strategic Plan for Vienna is to serve as a binding basis for a municipal campaign to operationalise the objectives of future-oriented urban development in new partnerships between public and private actors. In this way, the implementation of adopted concepts will be achieved more quickly and in accordance with clear priorities and high quality standards.

Favouring quality as a master concept constitutes a rejection of all forms of development rooted in purely quantitative criteria. The Strategic Plan is to evolve qualitative and process-based indicators to evaluate objectives.

The three key terms of the Strategic Plan: *Maintaining Quality, Innovations for Vienna* are: economic quality, social quality and quality of experience, thereby deliberately refraining from the use of such traditional sectors as e.g. culture or the environment. This approach is to highlight the significance of a crossover interaction of these areas with all sectors of Viennese municipal policy. Thus economic quality for Vienna also means the conscious prioritising of high environmental standards; by the same token, social quality also concerns all "soft" location factors influencing life in the city.

The Strategic Plan develops a number of strategic projects to implement the principal objectives at a concrete level. In this context, special attention is given to pilot pro-

jects that are strong and convincing enough to become best practice models for municipal policy in general.

The Strategic Plan is currently being couched in more concrete terms. Being a multidisciplinary issue, it can only be developed by all municipal departments together. In a later phase, representatives of science, economy, culture and social groups will be involved in the work; regional co-operation and city networks are another objective.

Local Agenda 21

By signing the Aalborg Charter, the City of Vienna has undertaken to draft a Local Agenda 21. In 1997, a working group composed of the Planning Group of the Urban Planning Bureau and the Municipal Department for Environmental Protection (MA 22) as well as Zukunfts.Station and Ökologieinstitut as external partners began to develop a concrete concept for this Local Agenda 21 process.

The Local Agenda 21 programme is currently implemented as a pilot project involving all social groups in one municipal district of Vienna (the ninth). Since the programme makes use of a decentralised approach taking account of the specific characteristics of the individual municipal districts, the experiences made will be incorporated into the Local Agenda 21 process for Vienna.

The concept of the Viennese Local Agenda 21 programme provides for three platforms of content and organisation: municipal administration, economy and general public. These focuses were defined on the basis of an analysis of ongoing LA 21 processes.

Environment, a term normally given a central role in LA 21 processes, will also be covered as an interdisciplinary issue in the Viennese LA 21 programme; like the social angle, it is also to serve as a basis for considerations.

In almost all LA 21 programmes monitored, involving the entire population has proven a major difficulty. The programme launched in the ninth municipal district of Vienna is co-ordinated by an independent counselling organisation in keeping with the principles of the Vienna Participative Model.

KliP - Vienna's Climate Protection Programme

Best Practice Submission 1998

KliP, Vienna's Climate Protection Programme, was launched to help comply with the commitments the city entered by joining the Climate Alliance in 1991(- 50% CO₂ by the year 2010) and by signing the Aalborg Charter of 1996 - the Charta of European Cities and Municipalities for a Sustainable Future. The

programme is to set the standard for all measures concerned with energy, traffic, procurement and waste management. Suitable instruments and pilot projects are being devised and put into practice based on past experience and proposed measures. Structural shortcomings which have hitherto stood in the

way of implementing measures will be removed, information deficits and lack of motivation will be made up for.

Climate protection is a matter of far-reaching concern which calls for the commitment of all pertinent municipal departments and companies operated by the City of Vienna (Vienna Public Enterprises acting as energy supply organization and the Transport Authority) as well as external organizations such as representatives from the local business community, NGOs and various interest groups. The measures will be coordinated by MA 22, the Municipal Department for Environmental Protection, with technical and organizational support from the Energieverwertungsagentur EVA (the Energy Agency) and the Interuniversitäres Forschungszentrum für Technik, Arbeit und Kultur IFZ (Inter-University Research Centre for Technology, Work and Culture).

One of the main aims of KliP Vienna is "to find the broadest possible basis of cooperation to protect our climate". 11 workshops have been set up with approximately 200 people working to prepare concrete measures for climate protection. The concept is proving very successful, and municipal departments and

enterprises, NGOs and other external interest groups are submitting their contributions for more efficient climate protections.

However, KliP Vienna wants to produce more than concepts. Measures that can be implemented in the short term should be put into effect as soon as possible. For all medium and long-term measures KliP Vienna will establish an Action Plan which sets the guidelines for effective climate protection in Vienna and lists instruments and supporting measures necessary for effective implementation. Realistic time schedules will ensure that there is no undue delay in preparing the framework conditions. Procedures for continuous performance control will also be introduced. Environmental reports must clearly document what effect different measures have on Vienna's CO₂ emissions or which tools may require further modification. The Action Plan will also contain proposals on such organizational structures as will ensure continued implementation of climate protection projects without the support of EVA or IFZ.

The "KliP" Action Plan will be ready to go by autumn 1998 and should then be submitted for approval to the City Council.

The Best Practice and Local Leadership Programme of UNCHS: Hub Vienna

The UNCHS Best Practice Programme was adopted to implement the Habitat Agenda. Examples of best practice in urban development are to trigger and foster an awareness creation process concerning the various possibilities of active, sustainable urban development.

The Best Practice Programme is a UN partnership programme. Centres (called "hubs") are to disseminate best practice models both regionally and thematically.

On the occasion of the Habitat II world summit in Istanbul, the City of Vienna and UNCHS (Habitat) concluded an informal agreement to establish a regional hub for Central and Eastern Europe as well a centre with the thematic focus on urban environmental technologies in Vienna.

Until the formal establishment of the hub in 1998, the City of Vienna was already committed to implementing the Best Practice Programme in several ways.

For municipal administrations, working with best practices in the field of sustainable urban development means launching a process of imagination and concretisation. An important step lies in the joint evaluation and documentation of the individual pro-

grammes. This process was chosen by the City of Vienna in its own entries to the programme. 12 projects were jointly selected and submitted for the second round of the Dubai Award for Best Practices for improving the living environment.

Moreover, the City of Vienna has also actively participated in disseminating the call for best practice submissions.

The Technical Advisory Committee for entry evaluation was hosted by Vienna in July 1998.

In the future, the City of Vienna will support the UNCHS Best Practice Programme with even greater commitment. A main task lies in creating a competence centre within the UNCHS network to become a point of contact for municipalities and local authorities in search of viable solutions, above all in the field of urban environmental technologies.

Best Practice Submissions

It was already during the Istanbul summit in 1996 when the City of Vienna participated in the appeal to submit entries for the Dubai Best Practice Award for Improving the Living Environment. A technical infrastructure project, "The Spittelau Waste Incineration Plant in Vienna" was included in a list of one hundred examples classified as best practices by the UNCHS Technical Advisory Committee.

For the second round of the Dubai Awards for Improving the Living Environment - a prize organised in the context of the UNCHS Best Practice Programme - the City of Vienna submitted 12 entries.

These submissions provide an overview of the activities of the City of Vienna over the past few years. Both entire programmes - e.g. the KliP Climate Protection Programme - and individual, one-time-only measures largely funded by the municipal administration were proposed. What is particularly interesting in this context is the great number of infrastructural projects, best practices concerning traffic and transport, supply and waste disposal as well as one large-scale venture which evolved from the objective of flood protection into a comprehensive project that has changed the outlook of Vienna: Danube Island.

Five of these entries were assigned the title of "best practice" by the UNCHS Technical Advisory Committee and two were recommended to the jury. However, the jury stressed above all the wide range of different entries submitted by the City of Vienna. These below listed submissions will appear in this report within the individual municipal policy areas they belong to.

Planning and Housing

Property developers' competition, a project of Vienna Land Provision and Urban Renewal Fund

Housing Information for Disadvantaged Population Segments and "Housing Exchange", a project of the Vienna Land Provision and Urban Renewal Fund

Financing Model: Energy Contracting, a project of Municipal Department 32, Technical Services and Maintenance

Environment and Infrastructural Planning

Garis -The Garage Information System, a project of Municipal Department/Urban Planning Bureau

Biowaste Management - Organic Farming, a project of Municipal Department 48, Waste Management

Sewerage System - The Viennese Approach, a project of Municipal Department 48, Waste Management

Vienna at the Danube, a project of Municipal Department 45, Flood Protection

KliP - Vienna's Climate Protection Programme, a project of Municipal Department 22, Environmental Protection

Companies in the Climate Alliance, a project of Municipal Department 22, environmental Protection

Social Equity and
Equality

Fawos - Prevention of Homelessness, a project of Municipal Department 12, Social Welfare

East-West Women's Network, a project of Municipal Department 57, Women's Issues

Back on Stage 16/17 – Mobile Youth Work, a project of Municipal Department 13, Municipal Youth Unit

Planning and Housing

The new strategy of “urban completion“ takes account of the fact that land and infrastructure are amongst the most important urban resources due to their finiteness on the one hand and high investment and maintenance costs on the other hand. Recourse protection and resource efficiency must be thus guiding principles in all activities concerning these assets.

Roughly 40% of energy consumption are in some way related to housing. Energy-conscious construction methods are therefore given top priority when planning and building new municipal housing projects. Although the factor of economic viability should not be overlooked, the use of ecological building materials and methods as well as building material recycling will be assigned even greater importance. The aim will thus be to establish an architecture that takes account of natural cycles. Currently, numerous housing construction projects function as pilot concepts to prove that even large-scale projects permit saving up to 50% of energy without becoming prohibitively expensive.

Energy coefficients were also included in the Building Code.

Several commissions were appointed in the context of the Urban Planning Bureau to safeguard quality control at the planning stage.

It is the task of the **Infrastructure Commission** to clarify how the technical and social infrastructure can be brought in line with the newly constructed flats, what priorities must be set in view of the available funds and what alternatives might be considered. The Commission mainly focuses on planning (protection of green spaces, traffic and transport links, zoning and land use planning), social infrastructure (facilities in the fields of education, healthcare and social amenities), technical infrastructure (supply and waste disposal, cycling tracks, motorised individual traffic), supply with everyday necessities, recreation, sports and housing construction (current demand assessment).

The Infrastructure Commission is entitled to postpone housing construction projects if these present unresolved problems. This enables the City of Vienna to prevent the emergence of purely monofunctional developments (dormitory quarters) and to implement housing projects precisely where high demand co-exists with urban infrastructure.

To finetune the activities of all municipal authorities concerned with land provision as well as in co-operation with municipal institutions such as the Vienna Economic

Promotion Fund and the Vienna Land Provision and Urban Renewal Fund, the Urban Planning Bureau has instituted a “**Commission for the Optimisation of Land Management**“ (abbreviated KOG) in 1997.

As a first management stage, the Commission decided to determine an industrial site programme. This programme was developed using GIS and covers the entire area potential suitable for industrial projects, largely in developed urban zones; it serves as a basis for increasing the efficiency of industrial site development by harmonising property management, land use categories and infrastructural measures. Another aspect lies in preventing aimless land consumption as well as inefficient infrastructural investments.

Housing construction subsidies are amongst the most important instruments of housing construction policy. In an era of ever tightening public budgets, the City of Vienna has decided to make use of the competitive situation in the housing construction market to reduce both building costs and set new quality standards, in particular concerning ecological quality and functionality.

The **property developers’ competitions** are a model specifically designed for this purpose. As 1998 best practice submissions, they were classed amongst the 100 worldwide best practices.

Since the autumn of 1995 and concomitantly with the competitions, all other housing construction projects submitted for subsidisation in Vienna are individually evaluated by an **expert advisory board** and either recommended to the subsidising authority or rejected. Like the jury of the property developers’ competitions, the expert advisory board is composed of architects, representatives of the housing industry, representatives of the organiser (i.e. the Federal Province of Vienna) and experts from such fields as ecology/environmental technology, economy and law.



Property Developers’ Competitions

Best Practice Submission 1998

✻ Hundred Best Practices

1. Objectives and Strategies

Since 1995, the Vienna Land Procurement and Urban Renewal Fund (Wiener Bodenbereitstellungs- und Stadterneuerungsfonds, WBSF) has pursued a policy of promoting competition to improve the quality of subsidised residential housing with regard to design, cost efficiency and ecological impact.

The competitions are intended to reduce construction costs as well as costs borne by inhabitants of large-scale, multi-story residential buildings (up-front capital requirements, annuities), while at the same time raising the quality of design and improving ecological standards.

2. Results achieved

To date, more than 150 (major) projects have been assessed in a competition process, and more than 110 (minor) projects have been reviewed by a commission established for this purpose. Over a period of slightly more than one year, the aggregate volume of projects that have been scrutinised has amounted to 35,000 dwellings.

What is particularly remarkable is the fact that while architectural and ecological qualities have improved substantially – a so-called “low energy consumption standard” is achieved in all projects, there are apartment water meters, solar and thermal energy are

being used, etc. – construction costs have also come down as a consequence of increased competition. The average drop in costs across all property developers' competitions is no less than 20% – while the costs of ATS 1.5m (approx. US\$ 125,000) for the competition process, which are fully covered by the WBSF,

are quite moderate. This model is transferable regardless of the financial resources of communities or states, and can be applied wherever public authorities are making efforts to establish cooperation with privately-owned enterprises.

Evaluation sheet for property developers' competitions

Criteria	Explanations
PLANNING/DESIGN	
Layout	Internal layout (apartment), external layout (stairwells, corridors), ratio usable floor space/access areas
Ground plan quality	Usability of rooms (e.g., location of doors and windows), sunlight, ventilation, functional context
Living quality	Free spaces belonging to apartments, threshold areas apartment-building / building-free space, design and utilisation of green areas and open spaces
Architecture and urban development	In line with present-day science and technology standards, discussion on formal and technical aspects, development plan
ECONOMY	
Production cost	Total project cost, net construction cost, incidental expenses, cost of land, incidentals relating to the plot of land (from conclusion of contract to occupancy), financing cost, maximum limit for subsidised projects at the time of initial occupancy)
Costs borne by inhabitants	Divided into subsidised and non-subsidised floor space: rent costs, up-front capital requirement, service of capital, development of costs, amount and due date of land price and construction cost shares, price of garage
Cost impact of construction and installation features	Features which reduce/increase management and maintenance costs; sound insulation, heat insulation, quality of installations, maintenance and operating costs, caretaker
Conditions for users	Type of development/construction sponsorship, contractual conditions of use, user contracts, special conditions, right of participation in decision-making
ECOLOGY	
construction technology, in-house technology	(Environmental) Technology: energy consumption, energy supply, water, apartment water meters, other in-house infrastructure
Ecology in building / resource-efficient construction	Environmentally compatible construction technology (external effects/costs): building materials, structure, qualities of structural elements and components with regard to building physics and building climate
Domestic ecology / building biology	Domestic ecology (impact on inhabitants): materials used and quality of work in interior design, circuitry qualities, sunlight and ventilation, non-network switches, radiant heating system, private green areas and open spaces belonging to individual apart
Urban ecology/ open spaces/ green areas	Spatial ecology (positioning of buildings in their surroundings): amount of land used, extent of surface sealing, percolation, plants for green roof/facades, ecological quality of green areas, usability of common infrastructure, urban development configuration



**Housing Information for disadvantaged population segments:
Housing Information Office and "HOUSING EXCHANGE"**

Best Practice Submission 1998
✱ Hundred Best Practices 1998

The Housing Information Office (Wohnungsberatungszentrum, WBZ), which is run by the Vienna Land Procurement and Urban Renewal Fund (Wiener Bodenbereitstellungs- und Stadterneuerungsfonds, WBSF), started its information and consulting activities in 1996. The centre, which is open to the public 60 hours per week, often on weekends as well, supplies all kinds of relevant information on the legal aspects of housing and provides a comprehensive overview on thousands of subsidised apartments in Vienna.

The aim was to create a "one-stop shop" which would supply clients in search of an apartment with all the relevant information (including financing and inspection of available dwellings) under one roof. The Housing Information Office cooperates closely with several high-circulation dailies and has a remarkably high inquiry frequency: in 1997, there were approx. 56,000 telephone inquiries and 14,000 personal visits by home seekers.

The "Housing Exchange" ("Wohnungsdrehscheibe") was established in 1997 as a complementary institution:

The target group of the project is the low-income population segment in Vienna, with a particular focus on migrants – provided they are legally resident in Vienna or are potentially able to legalise their status under the recently reformed Aliens Act.

Apart from the fact that disadvantaged population segments are addressed, one remarkable feature of the project is the close cooperation with several large daily newspapers which publish housing supplements once or twice per month with the assistance of the Housing Information Office. These publications reach a broad public, and the model is therefore certainly transferable to other cities with a high share of subsidised housing.



Similar to housing projects, public buildings owned by the City of Vienna also offer numerous possibilities for environmentally relevant measures. The City of Vienna has developed a financing model which is applied with great success for these measures.

Financing Model: Energy Contracting

Best Practice Submission 1998

Based on a tender process for energy contracting organised by Municipal Department 32/Technical Services and Maintenance, an expert jury selected the best bidder who was

awarded the contract for renovation and renewal measures in 10 buildings belonging to the City of Vienna (schools, kindergartens, homes, administrative buildings). Eight of the

ten proposed projects were eventually carried out.

The objective of the pilot project was to achieve energy savings – and thus, environmental benefits – within a short period of time by means of a novel financing model.

Energy contracting means that contractors carry out energy saving measures (renewal of boilers, conversion to district heating, modernisation of control systems, lighting, insulation measures) at their own expense. They are subsequently paid, within a guaranteed amortisation period, according to the amount of energy costs which are actually saved.

Aggregate investment has been approx. ATS 10,000,000, and annual energy cost savings of ATS 1,550,000 are expected. Amortisation periods are between 4 and 10 years, depending on the building.

Based on these measures, annual savings of 33,000m³ of natural gas, 1,450 MWh of district heating, 60t of fuel oil and 115 MWh of electricity are expected. In addition, there are substantial environmental effects: the expected annual reduction of emissions into the atmosphere will amount to 750t of CO₂ and 0.8t SO₂.

Environment and Infrastructural Planning

For some time, Vienna has been classifying environmental policy as an interdisciplinary issue. While there are a number of municipal authorities directly concerned with environmental protection (Municipal Department for Environmental Protection, Vienna Ombuds-Office for Environmental Protection, Council of Environmental Protection Experts, Eco-Counselling, Climate Protection Officer, ...), environmental policy also constitutes a basis underpinning the entire municipal policy of Vienna and comprising such diverse sectors as urban planning, traffic policy, social issues and economic policy. The objective, defined in the early 1990s, of becoming an environmental model city has led to individual high-visibility projects (waste management - biowaste concept, district heating etc.); however, an important factor lies above all in creating both public awareness and obligatory legal standards for environmental issues.

The environmental situation of the City of Vienna is documented annually in the Vienna Environmental Report. In keeping with the interdisciplinary character of this issue, the Vienna Environmental Report is jointly developed by a number of Municipal Departments (and not only by the department in charge of environmental issues).

Like the activities undertaken in the context of the Climate Protection Programme, this comprehensive report on Vienna's environment has shown clearly that such highly complex tasks cannot be solved by hierarchical, linear administrative structures but rather require the intensively networked co-operation of all offices and authorities concerned.

The City of Vienna has developed a number of technical infrastructure projects to resolve various specific problems. In this context, urban environmental technologies are not viewed as end-of-pipe solutions but as infrastructural improvements in the context of a systemic ecological model.

A monitoring system permits the surveillance of key environmental developments and data:

- air quality monitoring
- biotope monitoring
- forest status monitoring
- soil status monitoring

The data obtained as well as information on planning processes and urban development issues can be accessed via a data network available on the Web.

Transport

Since the early 1990s, transport-policy measures presupposing a heightened awareness level regarding the individual citizen's mobility requirements have been developed in Vienna by directly involving all citizens concerned. In 1991, the public participation initiative "New Vienna Traffic Concept" was launched. It was to set new specific objectives (necessitated by adverse developments such as increasing passenger-car volume, growing ecological problems, urban renewal requirements) and at the same time to test a new form of co-operating with the population. For the first time in Vienna, citizens (and citizen' action groups) were invited to participate in a high-level, fundamental and concept-oriented discussion that had a bearing on the entire city and its future transport development.

The City Council Commission on Public Participation drew up a master plan which was subsequently adopted by the City Council.

The core of the plan lies in the commitment to create public awareness, implement so-called "soft policies" and, above all, promote public transport in order to systematically influence citizens to use more low-impact means of transport. The objective defined was to change the modal split from 37 (public transport):37(motorised individual traffic):26(non-motorised individual traffic) to 45:25:30 by the year 2010.

This ambitious objective can only be attained if the public transport network is comprehensively expanded and accelerated. At the same time, this means giving more attention to the needs of pedestrians and cyclists.

Short overview of the most important currently implemented measures contained in the new Vienna transport plan:

- acceleration, densification, expansion, automation and modernisation of the Vienna tram and bus system (*development of the ultra-low floor tramcar ULF*)
- densification and extension of the existing Underground line system in urban expansion areas
- commuter train ("Schnellbahn") concept for the Vienna region in co-operation with the Federal Republic and the neighbouring provinces (shortening of intervals between trains)
- testing of flexible operating methods for public transport
- expansion of parking-space management system (*currently encompassing all inner districts*)
- promotion of garage construction (*development of GARIS*)
- traffic-calming and speed-reducing methods
- further development of the cycling track network
- making walking more attractive to citizens
- shifting goods transport from road to railway and waterway traffic
- promotion of city logistics

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Parking space management, which has now been introduced in all inner districts of Vienna, has been accepted by the population as a method to reduce traffic and liberate public space from parked cars. To complement parking space management, the municipal administration has introduced a garage information system, which was submitted by the City of Vienna as a best practice model in 1998.

Garis-The Garage Information system

Best Practice Submission 1998

1. Objectives and Strategies

The garage information system was created with the following objectives in mind:

- a coordinated approach towards parking issues;
- creating a tool for cooperation between private parties (garage operators) and public authorities (City of Vienna);
- making planning and investment predictable and safe for private operators;
- prevent unnecessary surface sealing by an excessive number of garages;
- creating the technical potential for modelling the impact of parking space management on the parking space supply both in the public area and in garages.

The City of Vienna does not build garages, but it subsidises garage construction, makes building sites available and uses garage subsidisation as an important controlling instrument.

The reform of regulations on garage subsidisation has made GARIS the single most important basis for decisions on possible subsidisation of new garage construction projects.

In the course of creation of GARIS, a basic research study was commissioned which examined the effects of parking space management and collected a series of relevant data on the Vienna garage network.

2. Results achieved

A survey of the density of parking before and after introduction of parking space management, combined with an investigation into the catchment areas of individual new garages, has shown that several planned gar-

es in the core area (9 out of 23 districts have parking space management) are not necessary.

GARIS has thus contributed to saving the equivalent of US\$ 3.9m in public subsidies which would otherwise have been spent on unnecessary new garage construction projects.

GARIS is an information system which includes information on all commercially operated garages; these data are compared to demographic data and extrapolated in connection with information gathered in the context of parking space management.

This creates a model which allows a calculation of the required parking space capacity and the sizes of garages to be newly built.

The data sets are then used by a "cooperative parking space management body", in which the competent Municipal Departments, garage operators and motorists' associations are represented in a public-private partnership, to draft strategic guidelines for new garage construction.

3. Outcome: With the help of GARIS, a decision was taken to pursue only 2 out of 20 proposed garage construction projects in districts with parking space management.

The GARIS system ensures:

- investment safety (projects correspond to actual demand);
- reduction of subsidies;
- no surface sealing in 18 locations.

GARIS has thus contributed to saving the equivalent of US\$ 3.9m in public subsidies which would otherwise have been spent on unnecessary new garage construction projects.

Supply and Waste Disposal

To create a cost-efficient economy that takes account of the principles of long-term environmental protection and optimal resource utilisation, it is necessary to under-

stand the material balance (metabolism) of a city because only this knowledge will permit us to recognise future ecological and resource-related problems and take timely measures to counteract them.

For this reason, the City of Vienna in 1996 commissioned an analysis of the urban metabolism of carbon (C), nitrogen (N) and lead (Pb). This made Vienna a pioneering city in this field. The municipal administration has set itself the goal to understand Vienna's metabolism and adjust it in the future so as to ensure minimal short-term and long-term environmental impact and optimised resource utilisation.

✱

This systematic approach has given rise to a project submitted for the 1998 Best Practice Award; it was duly recognised by the UNCHS Technical Advisory Committee as a best practice model and symbolises the efforts of the City of Vienna to improve its system of supply and waste disposal.

Biowaste Management-Organic Farming

Best Practice Submission 1998

✱ Hundred Best Practices and 40 Best Practices Shortlisted for the Jury 1998

Purposes and achievements of the initiatives

Purchase/Consumption

One of the most important tasks of the municipality of the City of Vienna was to convince the citizens of Vienna that the development to the so called „throwaway society" could not be continued any longer for economical and ecological reasons.

Separate Collection of Biowaste

Compostable refuse is collected separately to produce low-pollutant compost for use in farming.

The basic rule is: bring only those kinds of waste which you would put on your own compost heap.

Composting process/Composting Plant

The City of Vienna operates their own open-ground composting plant. The composting process itself has been developed by means of co-operation with Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Biological Agriculture.

Collected and processed biogenic material is regularly sample-checked and exam-

ined for heavy metals and many other parameters.

Compost use

The municipal departments MA 48 and MA 49 have entered into close co-operation for organic waste management and organic farming in Vienna.

The Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Organic Agriculture provides scientific guidance and evaluation with regard to the use of compost in organic and conventional farming.

Compost is also distributed free of charge.

Foodstuffs/Foodstuff trade

A very successful do-it-yourself harvesting project (with compost as fertiliser) has been established.

A long term goal was to make it possible that citizens of Vienna could buy bread, potatoes or vegetables which were produced with compost made from the biowaste, which was collected by themselves. This is an example how to close waste management circuits and nutrient cycles in the practice.

Water, Wastewater, Water Protection

Vienna's supply with fresh mountain spring water is a unique asset worldwide whose basis was laid in the second half of the 19th century when the City of Vienna had two mountain-spring pipelines built. The Vienna Water Board aims at supplying the city with mountain spring water throughout the year. Additional demand is met by means of groundwater plants situated in the vicinity of the Danube.

The City of Vienna tries to economise its resources and to use industrial water wherever drinking-water quality is not required. A number of decentralised industrial-water plants mainly supply municipal institutions (parks, cemeteries, sports-grounds, street cleaning facilities).

To analyse the groundwater quality, a database was created to serve as a monitoring instrument and provide a scientific basis for groundwater rehabilitation measures.

For this purpose, the self-purification performance of different soils was examined to permit the increasing use of percolating water zones in housing construction. In the future, it will be tried to avoid introducing untreated surface water in the sewer or groundwater system.

A series of research projects are concerned with studying the background of Vienna's water supply (deep-bed groundwater, karstic water) to safeguard the city's sustainable supply with high-quality drinking water.

In Vienna, wastewater disposal and water protection are closely related tasks that call for a combination of engineering and technological measures.

These include:

- reduction of the nutrient content in Vienna's wastewater
- recovery of Vienna's bodies of surface water
- sewer system management



Sewerage system-the Viennese approach

Best Practice Submission 1998

Parts of the Viennese sewer systems, especially in the central areas are older than one hundred years. The construction of the sewers is similar to many European and some northern American cities. The sewers are built in walkable egg-shaped construction. The expansion but also the maintenance and permanent renewal of the sewer net made it necessary to find a technical solution to the following criteria:

- Working time and the disturbance of the traffic should be minimised
- while the sewer operation was maintained

- the emissions on the construction site should be reduced
- A system which would be cost-effective
- tighter
- and would better the dangerous and unhealthy working conditions.

These solution was found in co-operation with the two companies: Baustoffkontor and Wienerberger.

In the central city, we mainly use egg-shaped sections as well as special sections (e.g. in pressure mains). Not so long ago, complicated wooden shells were constructed for bot-

tom concrete application. Thereafter, stone-ware shells and wall panels were applied to construct the conduit for the dry- weather flow. The shell of the section consisted of one- meter rigid steel constructions that were connected with each other, so that sections of up to 10 m length could be constructed. In cooperation with contractors, a system that meets all requirements of modern sewer construction was developed. The concrete polymer bottom shell („Wiener Profil“) is the improved design for a monolithic construction of sewers with egg-shaped mix-in-situ concrete sections. The one-meter bottom shells remaining inside the trench allow a swift and thus economical construction.

The design of the „Wiener Profil“ makes it possible to construct the sewer sections, which depend on the shell length, within on day. This means that one day of work is enough for pipe laying, shell installation, and application of concrete on the egg-shaped section- The sleeve- connected concrete polymer bottom shell elements are rested on special concrete blocks which ensure that the joints are entirely covered with concrete which ensure that joints are entirely covered with concrete and thus need not be additionally sealed. The connecting sleeve prevents the shell elements from becoming dislocated as the concrete is filled in compacted. The longitudinal groove running along the upper edges provides a neat

transition to the mix- in-situ concrete. Special segments with folded seam joints are provided which, when connected to one another, can be added up to form an arch with radius.

If the sewer is constructed in an area with oscillating groundwater levels or is embedded in the groundwater, the vertical and horizontal construction joints are lined with tapes to achieve a compact structure and prevent groundwater penetration.

Due to the new system, which is now applied to all Viennese sewer construction sites, working time per construction site was cut down for ap. 20 %. This means a cost reduction of about 15 % per sewer section.

The system is tighter due to the reduction of joints. The maintenance became easier and less cost effective due to the improved roughness of the surface. The working conditions as well during the construction as the maintenance could be improved, because the joints don't have to be point up by hand any more.

The system is also used for the modification of sewers.

The Viennese Sewer Construction system is a clean economically efficient and fast technology for sewer construction, which can be applied to all egg-profile or round, walk in sewers. It has been transferred to the City of Brno (Czech Republic).



“Vienna at the Danube“ is a submission that may be viewed as emblematic for Vienna’s approach to infrastructural problems. Originally conceived as a flood protection programme, it now comprises hydrological, ecological, energetic and urbanistic aspects and last but not least increases the quality of life of Vienna’s citizens.

Vienna at the Danube

Best Practice Submission 1998

Vienna at the Danube is the name of a multifunctional flood protection project concerning the Danube region near Vienna. The centre of the project is a flood protection system in form of a bypass canal. But from the

first beginnings of the project in 1957 the system was designed for a variety of uses and intended to increase the recreational value of an urban area with a multitude of social, ecological and economical functions.

The project proposes the following technical measures: constructing of a flood bypass canal - the „New Danube" - within the flood plain area along the left bank dike; using the material excavated from the New Danube to create a flood free island - the „Danube Island" - between the waterway and the existing river bed, and directing water through the New Danube during high-water periods only. Outside the high-water periods, i.e. most of the year, the water in the New Danube is kept constant by weirs 1 and 2, resulting in a calm, lake-like surface. The recreational area consists in 270 ha lake and 390 ha public park, 7 minutes from the centre of Vienna.

The network of paths along the New Danube and on the Danube Island were not designed for private vehicles as they were intended for recreational purposes, i.e. to be used by pedestrians, bike riders, joggers etc. The island can be reached via public transport lines (subways, streetcars, bus and commuter train for the region), which crosses the bridges.

In summer time the New Danube and Danube Island are used by approx. 300 000 persons per weekend.

By maintaining old arms of the Danube and excavating ponds, and with the proper landscaping, a number of biotopes were created. On the surface it may seem that certain

areas of the island and its embankments are given little care, but this encourages the growth of several species of flora, e.g. Thistles, sorrel, poppies and larkspur, which in turn serve as habitats for small game animals, butterflies, lizards and other fauna.

Vienna at the Danube consists of the following projects:

- The flood protection system
- a groundwater management system for the 2nd and 20th district
- a new sewer system for the northern districts
- a recreational area in the center of Vienna
- a decrease of weekend traffic
- the recovery of habitats for flora and fauna
- a hydroelectric power plant
- a water management system for the meadows of the Lobau (a nature preserve)
- an urbanistic and architectonic project to integrate the Danube into the city
- a participatory process between city officials and inhabitants, resulting in a plebiscite whether the power plant should be built or not (62% per cents pro).

Vienna at the Danube is not only a project for the Viennese but the most important recreational area for the whole region.

The main components of this project were finished in 1988.

Air

Due to its geographic and climatic position, Vienna enjoys very favourable conditions. The quality of Vienna's air is mainly impaired by pollutant emissions caused by the combustion of fossil fuels, motorised traffic, industrial emissions and - to this day - by domestic heating. In the future, action will above all have to be taken in two areas: reducing the number of individual heaters and combating exhaust gas emissions.

The systematic promotion of district heating as one of the most environmentally friendly forms of energy has already improved the air quality. District heating is based on the interconnected Vienna District Heating System, in which many different energy producers supply heat to the district heating network. The supply of energy from waste incineration facilities, private industrial enterprises and co-generation plants chiefly reduces the primary energy input; this, too, decreases the pollution level.

A comprehensive emission network was instituted to measure Vienna's air quality. The data of the Vienna air quality monitoring network are communicated to the population at several points all over the city by means of electronic information boards. They are updated every hour and can also be accessed by phone and Web.

The air monitoring network measuring the content of SO₂, NO₂, CO, dust and ozone was presented in the context of the 1996 Best Practice Programme of Habitat II.

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The 1998 best practice submissions of the Municipal Department for Environmental Protection comprise two levels. On the one hand, there is a comprehensive project that combines measures and co-ordinates different programmes: the Climate Protection Programme (KliP see page 8) aiming at the implementation of the objectives adopted at the Rio Summit; on the other hand, there is a measure of the Climate Protection Programme that emphasises the new possibilities inherent in public-private partnerships: companies in the Climate Alliance.

Companies in the Climate Alliance

Best Practice Submission 1998

The project was established primarily to provide free consulting services on climate related matters to small and medium-sized companies and thus foster widespread implementation of policies in the field of energy saving, transport logistics or procurement. The idea behind this is that climate protection will secure jobs and reduce costs. The main priority is given to curbing energy consumption and thus lowering CO₂ emissions.

"Companies in the Climate Alliance" was launched in May 1997. In the course of the next 5 years the City of Vienna will invest approximately 2 million ATS per year in this

project. It is coordinated by MA 22, the Municipal Department for Environmental Protection, and put into practice by the Climate Alliance for Austria. Additional project partners are the Chamber of Industry and Commerce for Vienna and the Österreichische Kommunalkredit AG. "Companies in the Climate Alliance" is open to all companies prepared to reconsider their operating methods from the point of view of climate protection and to seek out ways of improvement. The project is part of a larger, comprehensive action plan, the KliP - Vienna's climate protection programme.

**Social equity and equality, reintegration of the homeless,
gender equity and equality,
job creation,
health and urban poverty**

Social quality is one of Vienna's strong points and a basis for the quality of life of all citizens of the Austrian capital.

The basic concept of urban social policy is undergoing a change, which is also reflected in those best practice submissions of 1998 that are rooted in the social sector. The new strategy followed is one of empowerment and counselling to enable self-help. The City of Vienna co-operates with a number of initiatives, NGOs, self-help groups and associations in the social sector to give a say to society strata that often have no voice in the formulation of social objectives.



The Vienna Step by Step Plan for the Re-integration of the Homeless was presented at the 1996 Habitat II conference in Istanbul. After two years, the individual programmes are beginning to take effect. The initiative Fawos, which is handled by Municipal Department 12 together with Volkshilfe, is part of the Step by Step Plan.

Fawos - Prevention of Homelessness

Best Practice Submission 1998

*** *Hundred Best Practices, Shortlist for the Jury***

FAWOS is a central consulting office for all inhabitants of the 2nd and 20th districts of Vienna who are tenants in danger of being evicted. Under current legal provisions, the district courts notify FAWOS of court-issued execution titles and eviction dates relating to dwellings.

FAWOS invites all persons who have come to its notice to an interview. If there is no response, a visit by a social worker follows.

The first interview aims at clarifying the following points:

- underlying causes and reasons of the critical situation;
- personal circumstances;
- situation with respect to tenancy law;
- economic situation;
- personal coping strategies;
- clarification; working out perspectives for the future.

Information, counselling

- Counselling by social workers to help clients cover their fundamental need for a place to live in a self-reliant way;
- counselling services relating to tenancy law and potential ways to avoid termination of a lease and/or eviction: court appeal, instalment agreement,
- identifying rights and legal claims;
- drawing up a personal finance plan;
- negotiations with landlords and property managers;
- with regard to other problem areas, clients are referred to the competent authorities, as FAWOS is unable to provide long-term care.

FAWOS' approach aims primarily at "help for self-help", i.e., the main focus is on clients' own efforts.

In some cases, however, unbureaucratic action is necessary to cover outstanding rent payments for short periods of time. This financial support for indebted tenants is regulated by Vienna's Social Assistance and Youth Wel-

fare Laws. The Vienna Integration Fund provides financial support for adult foreign na-

tionals.

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Back on Stage 16/17 – mobile youth work

Best Practice Submission 1998
*** *Hundred Best Practices***

Mobile youth work is a social work strategy which reaches out to and supports young people who may be potentially at risk at an early point, i.e., before actual damage occurs. The target group of this practical approach with its real-life orientation are young people between the ages of 11 and 20 (no strict maximum age limit) whose main area of social contacts are public spaces and who are not supported by the social services network because of their belonging to a sub-cultural youth group or a certain nationality. Back on Stage 16/17 reaches out to young people through streetwork and counselling, thus providing easily accessible support to young people on the streets. In many instances, the mobile youth worker is the only adult fulfilling the role of a "significant other"; he or she can provide assistance, support and counselling to young people who have problems or are faced

with difficult situations. Youth workers help their clients cope with all kinds of problems, from everyday difficulties to existential crises (school, family, job, unemployment, homelessness, ...). Their work focuses on the real-life experience of the young people, they are present at young people's meeting points, and they provide counselling and assistance to individual youths (integration). This approach has a highly risk-preventive effect and promotes the cooperation of young people in participation projects. Neighbourhood-based mobile youth work also pursues community-related objectives. Networking and cooperation models are used to achieve objectives such as lobbying functions for youths. Through information exchange and a holistic perspective, problem-solving strategies are jointly developed and implemented.

Gender Equity and Equality

In 1991, the Vienna City Council decided to establish Municipal Department 57 - the Women's Issues Office of the City of Vienna, thus anchoring the needs of women in a municipal institutional context.

In addition, the "Office for Planning and Housing Construction Methods That Take Account of Women's and Everyday Needs" was likewise set up to act as a coordinator in the context of the Urban Planning Bureau, thereby giving a voice to women-specific planning requirements.

The Women's Office of the City of Vienna

It is the objective of the Women's Issues Office to create equal living conditions for women and men in Vienna; in the municipal framework, the Women's Issues Office is concerned with institutionalising gender equality of female and male employees of the City of Vienna.

However, the Women's Office is not defined as the sole department responsible for women's issues; rather, it aims at generating important impulses in favour of women in other municipal authorities as well.

Specifically, the Office deals with such issues as "work/training", "combating violence against women" and "female migrants". Moreover, measures taken have focused on equal treatment of men and women, women-friendly urban planning, security and women-friendly housing construction.

Other tasks of the Vienna Women's Office are e.g. operating an around-the-clock women's emergency hotline and funding women's shelters.

„Women at Work for Housing in Vienna“, Europe's biggest women for women conceived housing project was presented in 1996 at Habitat II in the context of its Best Practice Programme.



The East-West Women's Network project was submitted for the 1998 Dubai Award for Improving the Living Environment by the Women's Office of the City of Vienna.

East-West-Women's Net

Best Practice Submission 1998

The project "Frauennetzwerk Ost-West 2000" (Women's Network East-West 2000) is an initiative organised by the City of Vienna with the objective of contributing to the development and promotion of transboundary co-operation between women at the municipal and regional level.

The main areas of exchange and further activities are:

Equal Access - Equal Chances: equal opportunities, women's

promotion policies, qualification, labour market, career chances Urban Planning by and for Women: social infrastructure, housing, public space, security Physical Integrity of Women: health, violence against women

An international conference was held in Vienna in September 1997. The meeting conveyed information on the current implementation degree of women's issues at the

municipal level in Eastern and Western Europe, presented concrete and innovative solutions and models by and for women, and created concrete contact points for future transboundary co-operation between municipal institutions in East and West.

Continuing the successful initiative started in September, a follow-up workshop focusing on "Preventive Healthcare for Women" took place only two months later at the Ignaz Semmelweis Gynaecological Clinic.

Another follow up workshop aiming at "labour market policy for women" organised by the Wiener ArbeitnehmerInnenförderungsfonds - Viennese Workers' Promotion Fund on January 26th in Vienna.

The creation of a Website, mailing lists and a best practise database turned out to be one of the most convenient, efficient and less expensive ways to continue the communication

.This Internet Website was established according to the priorities outlined in the workshops.

“The Office for Planning and Housing Construction Methods That Take Account of Women’s and Everyday Needs“

In addition to Municipal Department 57, the administrative unit in charge of women-specific issues of urban policy, a separate office was instituted last year to deal with problems of women-specific planning.

The “Office for Planning and Housing Construction Methods That Take Account of Women’s and Everyday Needs“ is answerable to the Urban Planning Bureau.

It is one of the tasks of this unit to analyse projects funded via housing construction subsidies in order to establish whether their concepts correspond to the specific life-styles of women.

The scientific basis of this work was laid in the context of the project “ Women at Work for Housing in Vienna“, which was submitted as a best practice model in 1996 and in addition to the actually built flats also comprised a research project. The Office plans to transform the principles developed by women planners and architects - such as flat layouts, links between outside and inside, and the incorporation of common facilities into the overall concept - into standards for new housing construction projects.

The Office is represented in the jury of the property developers’ competitions and evaluates all projects submitted for housing construction subsidies in Vienna. It develops criteria for family and women-friendly housing construction in the context of urban renewal projects, which account for a large share of Vienna’s construction volume. The main objective is to develop models for entire-block rehabilitation projects.

Job Creation - The Vienna Employee Promotion Fund

The Vienna Employee Promotion Fund (WAFF) was launched by an initiative of the Chamber of Labour and the trade unions. It was established in June 1995 against a background of economic and structural change and, in some areas, dramatic shifts in the labour market.

A part of the dynamic economic policy of the City of Vienna, WAFF is defined both as an instrument of active labour market policy and as a tool of economic policy measures aiming at the targeted promotion of human resources in the Viennese economic region.

It is the task of WAFF to develop the employment potential both qualitatively and quantitatively. The labour-market activities of the City of Vienna are to be further deployed; moreover,

- improving the qualifications of Viennese employees,
- increasing the attractiveness of Vienna as a business location,

- taking measures to re-integrate unemployed persons into the work environment,
 - promoting gender equality
- will combat unemployment problems and contribute to a more satisfactory employment level..

The projects launched by the Vienna Employee Promotion Fund in 1998, its third year of life, comprise:

objective: improvement of human resources for the Viennese economy

- employment foundations: various measures to fund both employment-policy and demand-oriented on-the-job training courses,
- a teacher promotion programme for secondary school-leaving examinations of employees,
- programmes for young people,
- qualification network for small and medium-sized enterprises;

objective: support of new enterprises

- qualification measures for young entrepreneurs;
- modern urban management to develop problem solution strategies in urban areas;

objective: employment potentials

- Home Service: a social research project of AMS (Arbeitsmarktservice, the Vienna employment exchange),
- RUSZ: a training programme for “ecological repair services“,
- Job Award: a prize awarded annually to innovative, newly established enterprises,
- Eleven 11: participation in the EU city network Eleven 11 which focuses on EU-wide employment policy.

Vienna Health Promotion Plan

The Plan is based on the working agreement concluded by the parties forming the municipal coalition government in the autumn of 1996, which stipulates the development of a Vienna Health Promotion Plan as a main point of emphasis for the health sector in the coming years. However, Vienna's participation in the WHO Healthy Cities Project also entails the obligation of formulating a so-called City Health Plan.

The Health Promotion Plan supports the implementation of the WHO strategy “Health for All“ in a local context.

The Health Promotion Plan provides direction for current and future health promotion plans and facilitates the development of integrated approaches as well as the co-ordination of all health-relevant activities.

In keeping with the WHO concept, the Vienna Health Promotion Plan defines planning as a dynamic process. The comprehensive implementation of the Vienna Health Promotion Plan will be begun in early 1999, although some pilot projects were already launched in 1998. A large-scale international conference on 8 and 9 October 1998 at Vienna City Hall will symbolise the - provisional - end of the planning process and start off the implementation phase.

While the **Vienna Women's Health Programme** follows a separate planning process, it is integrated into the general framework concept of the Vienna Health Promotion Plan. The Women's Health Programme focuses on the following issues:

- cancer prevention
- pregnancy care
- mental health
- drug and alcohol abuse prevention
- violence against women
- preventive healthcare for elderly women
- legal aspects concerning women in the healthcare sector
- psychosocial care
- objectives and measures for the integration of migrants
- occupational medicine
- women in healthcare professions
- women as mothers

Both programmes employ indicators in basic research as well as in process evaluation.

International Relations

Two events have radically changed the geopolitical situation of Vienna in recent years: the fall of the „Iron Curtain“ a few kilometres to the east of the Austrian capital, and Austria's accession to the European Union. In the wake of the peaceful revolution in Eastern Europe and the subsequent process of transition both, new opportunities and new challenges have arisen for Vienna and the surrounding region. While considerable possibilities have been opened up by the economic developments in Eastern Europe, the social problems of migration and, to a certain extent, the democratic change should not be underestimated.

The implications of Vienna are clear. Vienna is willing to take up the challenge of competing with other metropolitan areas in Europe and to assume its role as a turntable for transactions in and with Central Europe.

The priorities of international co-operation and municipal foreign policy include:

- securing and creating jobs by bringing foreign investors to Vienna and offering assistance and support to Vienna-based enterprises in their activities abroad, particularly in newly emerging markets;
- activate participation in the joint work of European cities and regions to secure peace and foster economic co-operation;
- active participation in the elaboration of pan-European concepts of transport and environmental policy, above all regarding the extension of environmentally compatible trans-European networks (railways, waterways, telecommunication);
- proactive representation of Vienna's interests in the middle East peace process and the economic development of the entire Mediterranean region
- maintenance and further development of quality-oriented tourism

Vienna is actively taking part in numerous **networks and partnership initiatives**, e.g. Euorcities, The European Sustainable Cities and Town Campaign, INTA, Arbeitsgemeinschaft Donauländer, ICLEI, UNFOHLM, WHO, Healthy Cities Project, OECD-Urban Affairs Group, IULA.

MUNICIPIA and VITECC are two project-oriented networks partly operated by the City of Vienna.

In the autumn of 1996, representatives of 15 European capitals met in Vienna on the occasion of the **“Second Conference of Mayors of Southeastern European Capitals”**. The **“Vienna Paper on Sustainable Capitals in Southeastern European Countries”**, which above all emphasises the responsibility and challenge of designing a future-oriented environmental policy for these cities, was the outcome of this event.

Moreover, the City of Vienna has since 1997 organised a number of conferences that serve as a contribution to the intensive process of re-orientation of European urban policies. For this purpose, an expert conference **“Cities and Urban Policies in Europe”** was held in November 1998, preceded by **“Co-operation for Enlargement - East-West Urban Workshop”** in June 1998, which aimed at an exchange of experiences between the cities at the **“border of the European Union”** and the preparation of strategies for the eastern enlargement of the EU.

A large-scale EU urban conference entitled **“Urban Forum”** will be held in Vienna in November 1998 to discuss the upcoming **“Action Plan for Urban Development”** of the European Union.

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