

7 REASONS, WHY AUSTRIA IS A SHOWCASE

FOR SERVICES OF GENERAL INTEREST

... and should remain so

Provision of essential services to the people at affordable prices



1 HARDLY ANY PRIVATISATIONS

In Austria services of general interest have remained in the public sphere. In many other European countries water and power supply as well as housing or public transport were sold on a large scale to private operators. Austria has not followed this trend.

2 HIGH QUALITY; FAIR PRICES

In Austria services of general interest have above average quality when compared to the European level and at a fair price level. For example the EUR 365-annual pass of the Vienna Public Transport Authority, is internationally considered to be best practice.



3 EU TOP: RENEWABLE ENERGY

In an EU wide comparison Austria is the best performer with 72% of total power generation coming from renewable energies. Hydro-electric is the largest source for electric power, while wind and solar are increasing.



4 EU TOP: WATER QUALITY

Water quality in Austria is exceptional and continually monitored. All drinking water is coming from ground- and spring water. 90% of Austrians are supplied centrally with drinking water.



5 EU TOP: TRAIN TRAVEL

Every year Austrians travel an average of 1427km by train. Only the Swiss travel more. The Austrian Railways (ÖBB) have 88% market share of passenger train kilometres.



6 EU TOP: PUBLIC HOUSING

For more than 100 years Vienna has invested in affordable living and is considered today the 'World Capital of social housing'. 62% of the residents live in public housing or publicly supported cooperative flats.



7 HAPPY RESIDENTS

Surveys organised by the Chamber of Labour and the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns prove that Austrians are satisfied with their services of general interest. Privatisations are rejected by a large majority of people. In a 2013 referendum in Vienna, 87% of people voted against privatisations.

