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ANNEX II - Housing Graphic

Chapter 1: Shelter

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.

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.

The housing policies of the city have to respond to:

- securing affordable housing
- renewing the old structure
- a growing demand for more space and new forms of dwelling and building (e.g. ecological)

1) To provide security of tenure:

Policy: Step by Step Plan for the Reintegration of Homeless

To avoid homelessness the city of Vienna in 1996 at Habitat II presented the concept: Step by Step Plan for the Reintegration of Homeless, with a strong focus on prevention of homelessness.

The prevention programme (Fawos) started as a pilot project in two districts as a partnership programme between different stakeholders. Offering an intensive counselling process, which actively approaches tenants in danger of eviction it has helped to avoid the actual evictions in $\frac{3}{4}$ of the cases.

The programme which was recognised as a Best Practice by UNCHS (Habitat) in 1998 was then applied to the whole city and is going to be evaluated for the 2000 Best Practices submission process.

(see Annex: Best Practice – Fawos)

Lessons Learned and recommendations:

The project needs funding but it is low in comparison with the costs of reintegration measures.

The project needs a communication platform between landlords, eviction courts and the office handling the programme.

2) To promote the right to adequate housing:

Since decades the provision of the population with an adequate shelter represents the main objective of the Austrian housing policy. By this way Austria is characterised by a high level of the quality of housing and by housing subsidy schemes which prove effective in a large measure. This system of housing promotion prevails at first of all a promotion of the objects. As additional measure the housing schemes bear also social aspects by granting individual housing allowances too (promotion of the individual). Nevertheless within the last years both the Federation and the federal provinces made all efforts for a further improvement of the housing conditions. As legislator the Federation is responsible not only for the non-profit building associations but also for the law governing tenancy and the law concerning owner-occupied houses. The system of the non-profit building associations should be understood as system in addition to the housing promotion schemes of the federal provinces. The efforts mentioned above begin with a first step by a realistic prognosis of the housing demand not only for the present time but also for the future; other steps are undertaken by amendments of the respective laws concerning the legislation of housing promotion to ensure that public aid is given to those individuals who need really such an assistance. Further steps are set by the development of special housing promotion schemes, the creation of new sources for financing housing and finally by a better use of the existing housing stock.

Legislative changes since HABITAT II

In 1999 passed Parliament a New Housing Amendment Law („Wohnrechtsnovelle 1999“, „WRN 1999“), which concerns especially adaptations of the Non-profit Housing Act, the Law governing tenancy and the Law concerning residential properties. The Amendment focuses to measures taken when dwellings of the older housing stock are related. This means that in future costs can be made only valid in the case that an extensive modernisation of a dwelling has been realised. Further the rights of both information and audit for the occupants of dwellings were strengthened.

Recent Developments in the Housing Market

The Federal Austrian Government elaborated a Housing Rights Package („Wohnrechtspaket 2000“) aiming at a general reduction of housing costs by amending in particular the Law governing tenancy („Mietrechtsgesetz“) and the Law governing the non-profit housing sector („Wohnungsgemeinnützigkeitsgesetz“).

These laws belong to the three „pillars“ of the provisions of Austrian civil law in respect of housing:

- the Law governing tenancy („Mietrechtsgesetz“)
- the Law governing the non-profit housing sector („Wohnungsgemeinnützigkeitsgesetz“)
- the Law concerning residential property („Wohnungseigentumsgesetz“)

The above-mentioned proposed legal amendments will be discussed on parliamentary level and contain the following main points:

- liberalisation of the time-limitation right in tenancy agreements and the introduction of a 25 % rent discount if the tenancy is not unlimited;
- obligation of standardised accounting of running costs of a flat;
- deregulation measures, facilitation of quality improvements and cost reductions in the sector of non-profit housing (e.g. extension of the permissible sphere of business of non-profit building associations, introduction of contracting models especially if measures are concerned to improve the heat-insulation etc.);
- liberalisation of, and cost reductions for, housing management costs (run out of the so-called Caretaker-Law „Hausbesorger-gesetz“);
- promotion of residential property (Tenants forced to contribute on one-time basis to land and construction costs for new houses or of the existing older housing stock shall be entitled to purchase such flats at current market value).

A parliamentary resolution in respect of the above-mentioned „Wohnrechtspaket“ (Housing Rights Package) is expected to be adopted within the next weeks, the entry into force is planned for 1st July, 2000.

Housing Construction in Austria

According to the results of „Statistik Österreich“ (the former Austrian Central Statistical Office) can be noted that in Austria have been completed in 1998 approx. 57,500 dwellings compared with approximately 58,000 in the previous year.

The figure in Annex II illustrates the development of the dwellings completed and the dwellings permits of the years 1991 – 1998.

The number of 57,489 dwellings completed in 1998 can be classified as follows: 22,977 (40 %) have been achieved in owner-occupied houses, 12,239 (21 %) dwellings were built as owner-occupied dwellings and 19,979 (35 %) refer to rented dwellings. The rest of 2,294 (4 %) dwellings completed concerns other dwellings. The average usable floor area of the dwellings completed amounted to 94 m².

The future need of new dwellings will not amount in each case the level of the last years. A volume of approximately 45,000 dwellings completed yearly will be necessary also in the future. This figure corresponds to the dwellings completed within the eighties. But at the other side we expect more fields of activity in the sector of housing modernisation. In Austria exists nevertheless a high stock of older dwellings, whose quality is subject of renovation. Further there is also a great need for thermic renovation of dwellings built in the sixties and seventies.

The development of the population

Following the population trend the „Statistik Austria“ (the former “Austrian Central Statistical Office”) calculated for the year 1998 an average number of the population of 8,078,000 individuals. During the next 30 years the number of the Austrian population should stay at the same level. Within a forecast of the population (medium variant of projection) the Statistik Austria calculates for 2030 a population of 8,1 million individuals living in Austria. But until the year 2050 the population will decrease to 7,7 millions of inhabitants, because the balance of child births can not more be compensated by the surplus of migration.

At the other side the forecast makes clear that the changes of the share of the elderly persons is remarkably. Starting by the population census of 1869 can be registered a continuous increase of persons more than 60 years. In 1869 their share amounted to 400,000 persons this is equal to 8,6 % of the total population. Until 1890 the level of persons more than 60 years reached half a million, this corresponds to 9,2 % of the population. With regard to the population census of 1951 more than 1 million of the Austrian population was older than 60 years, this is a share of 15,6 %. At the beginning of the seventies the number of the senior citizens reached a level of 1,5 million persons. This means that in these times each fifth person in Austria was older than 60 years. Beginning 2000 the number of the older people will increase rapidly. Now, the individuals born in the forties are 60 years old and due for retirement, twenty years later will follow the baby boomer generation of the late fifties and the early sixties. It can be estimated, that until 2050 the share of persons 60 and more years will escalate to 37 % of the total population.

Activities of the City of Vienna

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 fine-tune 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 of UNCHS (Habitat)
(see Annex: Best Practice - Property Developers completion)

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.

Policy: Soft Urban Renewal

The soft urban renewal concept of the city of Vienna started in 1984 by laying a legislative foundation: The Tenancy Act and the Non Profit Housing Act, followed by the Housing Improvement Act.

These build the regulatory framework for the renewal of 150.479 apartments until 1999 cutting down the number of "substandard" flats (without running water or inside toilets) to a half.

The cornerstone of the soft urban renewal is it's strategic aspect, shown by:

- priority of social criteria
- avoidance of social segregation and gentrification
- avoidance of forced changes in ownership
- affordability of rehabilitated housing
- tenant-oriented housing schemes
- allowances to low income households
- controlled and limited rent increases

The soft urban renewal was recognised as Best Practice by UNCHS (Habitat) in 1996.

Lessons Learned and recommendations:

- Priority of social criteria: Renewal programs have to target on those already living in the area considering their (financial) possibilities.
- Accepting different lifestyles: The political aim is to preserve and improve as many old buildings as possible as long as it is economical to do so (i.e. cheaper than new housing).
- "Soft" renewal strategies should concentrate on small-scale and/or low-standard renewal schemes giving new hope and pride to deteriorating areas. At the same time significant improvements can be reached by a step-to-step approach following a careful survey of the existing problems, and including self-help activities. Such measures can also strengthen local business and provide new jobs in the area.
- Information and training: Early information has to be given to all parties involved, but if all groups are to participate, professional support has to be provided especially for weaker groups and for minorities.
- Using economically weak times to set the frame: as the case of Vienna shows foundations for a future sustainable development can be laid even if at present there is only little money to carry out improvement works.

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

started its information and consulting activities in 1996. 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 co-operates 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.

The project was recognised as Best Practice by UNCHS (Habitat) in 1998.

(see Annex: Best Practice - Housing Exchange)

3) To promote equal Access

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 1998 a separate institution to deal with problems of women-specific planning was added.

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 lifestyles 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.

4) Promote Equal access to credit

In the sectors of free financed housing construction and housing modernisation each person has the possibility to get loans at banks and saving banks under the condition that securities can be offered in the required extent.

Since 1988 legislation and implementation of the relevant laws concerning the system of subsidies for new housing and the rehabilitation of the existing housing stock is in the responsibility of the provinces ("Länder").

In the sectors of new construction and of rehabilitation of the existing housing stock assistance under promotion schemes includes a long-term loan granted by the federal at favourable conditions. As additional measure the provinces grant annuity or interest subsidies to mortgage loans. If own capital is required low-income applicants for housing promotion can receive a loan which substitutes these own funds to extremely favourable conditions. Further it is possible to get also housing allowances if the running costs of a dwelling are unreasonably high in relation to the household income.

In general the level of a loan granted under a Housing Promotion Scheme depends on:

- a) the level of the construction costs
- b) the useful floorspace of the dwelling.

In general the useful floor area of a subsidised dwelling should not surpass 130 m². Only if the family is a greater one (three or more children) the useful floor area can amount to 150 m². Subsidised dwellings under a Housing Promotion Scheme are provided for favoured households whose income (household income) does not exceed certain limits.

Special promotion measures are available

- a) for the use of renewable energy respectively for the use of district heating;
- b) b) for young families (the applicant for promotion is younger than 35 years);
- c) c) for handicapped persons/children.

At present the interest rates for loans in the housing sector vary as follows: Depending on the banking institute the nominal interest rate (mortgage loans with a five years fixed rate) and running 20 years amounts to 5,25 to 6,75 % (which corresponds to a real interest rate of 5,6 to 6,8 %). The nominal floating interest rate of mortgage loans running 20 years amounts only between 4,5 to 5,75 % what corresponds to a real interest rate of 4,6 to 6,2 %.

The interest rate of loans granted by building societies is more favourable. They grant mortgage loans running between 20 and 27 years at a nominal interest rate of between 3,5 and 4,75 %.

Chapter 2: Social development and Eradication of Poverty:

6) To provide equal opportunity for a healthy and safe life

Policy: The 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 Healthy Cities Project is currently in it's third phase.

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 Vienna Health Promotion Plan passed the City Council in 2000.

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. It passed the City Council in 1999 and is now institutionalised through a **commissioner for women's health**.

A focus lies also on specific needs of migrant women.

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

The Program F.E.M. has already proved successful in being transferred. Both programmes employ indicators in basic research as well as in process evaluation.

7) To promote social integration:

Policy: Co-ordination of youth related social work (M.A.ST.A.)

Since 1997 the City of Vienna is following a new conceptual approach in its youth social work. M.A.ST.A. stands for a participatory approach between different programmes developed by NGO's and programmes developed by the Municipal Department of the City. M.A.ST.A. is a platform trying to integrate differently developed activities, helping in technical and administrative ways but leaving them their autonomy to develop concepts on different levels. M.A.ST.A. co-ordinates youth work for homeless (street) children, children (youth) with different ethnic backgrounds, supports gender related youth activities etc. and networks these groups. Integrated for example is: Back on Stage 16/17 a streetworkers programme which was recognised as Best Practice by UNCHS (Habitat) in 1998.
(see Annex: Best Practice - Back on Stage 16/17)

Since 1996 the City of Vienna also has a city counsellor for integration policies.

8) To promote gender equality in human settlement development

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 (gender mainstreaming).

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.

East West Women Network is a network to promote exchange on the level of local authorities and NGOs in Central and Eastern Europe concerning gender related issues. After running for two years it was recently reshaped into the network MILENA. (see Annex: Best Practice - East West Women's Network)

Chapter 3 Environmental Management

9) To promote geographically balanced settlement structures:

Vienna has several integrated policy frameworks to ensure sustainable settlement development:

- The Settlement development plan (STEP) issued 1994
- The Vienna traffic concept, which was conceived in a tender consultancy process with various stakeholders in
- Several commissions work in fine-tuning 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.

Since 1996 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.

Lessons learned:

A strong commitment to sustainable development in integral programmes like the Vienna traffic concept has proved to be a worthy background and evaluation basis for the implementation by the various actors in the city.

10) To manage supply and demand for water in an effective way:

The Water and Waste Water concept was issued in 1996/7.

Since then 250.000 ATS (17.000 ECU) have been spent to realise the measures indicated in the programme. 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

11) To reduce urban pollution:

Activities of the Austrian Development Co-operation

In 1994 UNIDO, together with UNEP, set up the **National Cleaner Productions Centre Programme**. The **objective** of this programme is the promotion of cleaner production processes in the Industry of developing countries and countries with transition economies. To date eighteen such centres have been established - four of which have been **financed by the Austrian Development Co-operation** (i. e. in Nicaragua, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic).

By financing the aforementioned Cleaner Production Centres, Austria focuses on policies to **reduce urban pollution**, resulting especially from inadequate water supply, sanitation and drainage, poor industrial and domestic waste management, including solid waste management, and air pollution, as foreseen by Article 43 (I) of the HABITAT Agenda.

The Nicaraguan Cleaner Production Centre (NCPC) in Managua, gives an excellent example of the successful focus on the development of cleaner and sustainable industrial development in urban areas. The Centre has been established in May 1998 and operates with the technical support of an Austrian associate expert and the fruitful co-operation with the Austrian consulting company STENUM. The establishment and initial operational phase of the centre has been entirely financed by Austrian (approximately 650. 000 EURO).

In this **first phase of the project** the challenge has been to introduce the cleaner production concept to the country's Industry as an issue of relevance, importance and success, while at the same time laying the basis for the Centre's long-term financial

sustainability. The strategy adopted was to implement pilot projects and training courses that gave visibly successful results. First results clearly show the successful implementation in 20 Nicaraguan companies of different sizes and sectors (both manufacturing and service sectors). Examples are the more efficient use of raw materials & energy, substantial reduction of waste streams and emissions, replacement of toxic substances through less harmful alternatives, enhanced consciousness in handling of toxic substances, improvement of health and safety conditions in the workplaces.

One of the **next steps** will be the strengthening of the policy dialogue between client companies, the NCPC and national authorities in order to disseminate the know-how on environmental benefits through Cleaner Production on a broader scale

Activities of the City of Vienna

Policy: The Climate Protection Programme Vienna (KLIP)

passed 1999

aims: To reduce CO₂ emission to 50% of 1987 by 2005

KLiP was recognised as Good Practice by the UNCHS (Habitat) in 1998

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. (see Annex: Best Practice - Climate Protection Programme)

Lessons Learned:

The aim to divide into half CO₂ emissions (until 2005), while potentially feasible, includes a change into the whole society structure which can be furthered but not forced by the municipality. The climate protection target will not be reached.

Policy: Waste concept:

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 understand 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.

Vienna's biowaste concept (including organic farming) has been recognised as Best Practice by UNCHS (Habitat) in 1998.

(see Annex: Best Practice - Biowaste Management)

12) To prevent disasters:

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.

The air quality is published on electronic boards on several sites in the city.

To follow recommendations of the European Union a new legislative framework has been established in 1997 for monitoring lead, dust and benzole in addition to before monitored components, even when monitoring lead components in the air didn't prove to be sensible, as lead in the petrol, being the only major contamination source, has been banned in 1991.

13) To promote effective and environmentally sound transportation systems:

Vienna Traffic Concept: see pt 9

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.

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

Policy: TEN-Hub Vienna

Vienna is currently developing strategies in an integrated planning process to build up an environmentally and economically sound nodal point to face the expected changes in freight and passenger traffic in the Central and Eastern European region.

14) To implement Local Agenda 21:

Policy: Implementing Local Agenda 21 in the districts of Vienna:

Vienna started to work out a LA 21 programme in 1997 but the implementation started by the engagement of one district (the ninth), which was followed by other districts transferring the lessons learned in the district 9 to their own conception.

The new strategy of the City is now to work out a programme which builds a communication platform for the districts and integrated measures.

Lessons Learned:

Local Agenda 21 shows to be a concept which can be adopted by various groups of actors. In the case of Vienna LA 21 at first conceived as a „top down“ process turned now to a more subsidiarian process.

Chapter 4: Economic development:

15) To strengthen small and micro-enterprises:

Policy: RUSZ and Service database

Starting out of a programme of EC, Vienna has established a communication platform to network small sized enterprises with repair and service capacity. A service telephone number links to the enterprises.

Policy: Eco-Business Plan

Eco Business Plan was started in 1998 as a service package for Vienna's companies. The Eco-Business-Plan is an integrated measure comprising four different concepts corresponding to the different enterprise sizes of Vienna's companies. These are: Ecoprofit, Companies in the Climate Alliance, EMAS (EC measuring system for environmental management) and a programme for environmentally conscious tourism. The Eco-Business-Plan is scheduled to run until 2002. Every year 60 to 80 companies should join the initiative. The evaluation is done by an advisory project of the University of Economics.

All of the four programmes are furthering environmental management policies.

16) To encourage public - private partnerships and stimulate productive employment opportunities:

Policy: WAFF

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.

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.

The unemployment rate in the Vienna region is currently at 6.4%.

Chapter 5: Governance:

17) To promote decentralisation and strengthen local authorities

Policy: Planning Association Est (PGO)

The Planning Association Est of the Vienna Region represents a government strategy where the constitutional act for the formation of the PGO was passed as a framework by the three Bundesländer of Vienna, Lower Austria, and Burgenland. In this case the policy was aimed at a stronger reflection of national and even European-wide spatial developments.

18) To encourage and support participation and civic engagement:

Policy: Vienna participation model:

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 documentation 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.

Chapter 6) International Cooperation

20) To enhance international cooperation and partnerships:

It should be mentioned that the non-profit building associations play an important role within the international cooperation. The non-profit building associations are members of the CECODHAS and of the IGB (International alliance of Co-operative Societies). The transfer of know-how to the central and eastern European countries is also of great importance.

As additional information we should point out the following. During the Austrian EU Presidency, the 10th informal meeting of the EU-Housing Ministers took place in Austria. The main item of this conference was devoted to the impact of Housing Construction, Renovation and Modernisation on Employment.

// Activities of the City of Vienna - directly related to UNCHS (Habitat):

Policy: Best Practices Hub - Vienna

Following Habitat II, 1996 in Istanbul, the City of Vienna has laid the tracks to become a partner to UNCHS (Habitat)'s Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme.

In 1999 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by both the City and UNCHS to establish a regional UNCHS Best Practices Centre for Central and Eastern Europe and a UNCHS Best Practices Hub for Urban Environmental Technologies.

The Best Practices Hub - Vienna acts as a centre for knowledge, experience and expertise in the region, collecting best practices and furthering their transfer.

It also acts as an Urban Observatory monitoring by means of the Best Practices Programmes the programmes of the City and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in the region.

// Further international Co-operation.

EUROCITIES: Vienna joined the EUROCITIES network in 1995. The main tasks of Vienna's Eurocities policy in the next year will be to promote and evaluate sustainable settlement development and therefore to develop indicators, recognised by the whole European Community, including air quality, traffic, biodiversity etc.

INTERREG: INTERREG I started during the end of the 80s as a means of co-operation between countries already in- and countries outside the EC.

INTERREG II followed between 1994-1999.

INTERREG III starts now in 2000.

The City of Vienna has participated in about 25 INTERREG programmes in the fields of: economic development, traffic-mobility, city networking, resources, culture, education.

VITECC (Vienna Tele Co-operation Centre), forms a platform for the Cities: Győr, Bratislava, Brno and Vienna

Planning The Gateway tends to establish close cooperations between Vienna and Bratislava, Győr and Brno for traffic, infrastructure, labour market, environment and cultural development.

UTN tends to establish contacts between these cities in the field of urban technologies.

PAMACOM (Pannonian Mayors Conference) is a cooperation of the Austrian Cities Union, Sopron and some cities of western Hungary to intensify the contacts. Planned is a network comprising similar cities unions in Hungary, Slovenia, Slovakia and Czech Republic.

MOVE is a continuous monitoring of the traffic development in the eastern region.

VORWÄRTS was a traffic investigation project on the enlargement of the Vienna traffic region towards Bratislava.

Other cooperations in the field of traffic development were: **VIEBAHN; MAGISTRALE FÜR EUROPA; TECNOMAN** and **IMONET**.

WATER MANAGEMENT and **KATER** are projects on regional water management systems.

Vienna also participated in the **LITMUS** project of the EC (Indicators).

Vienna is also participating in activities of OECD, WHO (Healthy Cities Project) and the Sustainable Cities and Town Campaign.

Chapter 7: Future Actions and Initiatives:

Trends:

Pressure upon housing development has decreased. Together with the city's policy of densification in the inner city areas this does not only improve the situation. Settlement in the periphery if not dense enough results in postponing infrastructure measures and the development of necessary public traffic development. The densification of inner city areas makes a monitoring of inner city's environmental qualities throughoutly necessary.

The continuation of urban renewal, the strategies of using public spaces in multiple ways and a strategic planning model are some of the steps undertaken to cope with this new development.

Policy: Strategic Planning

In the last two years the municipality of Vienna in a joint effort of all of its departments has worked out a strategic plan to maintain and manage the qualities of the City. The strategic plan lies its emphasis on planning via strategic projects comprising projects from the TEN nodal point to mainstreaming gender in all policy decisions of the city. The strategic plan has been discussed in public in a series of discussions.

Policy: KLiP Vienna

Having just passed the City Council in 1999 many programmes to further sustainable development are comprised in the Climate Protection programme of the City of Vienna.

A strong point of this programme lies in integrating and stimulating private efforts (companies).

Policy: Best Practices Hub - Vienna

Cooperation with UNCHS (Habitat) does not only mean to act as a partner in running the Best Practices Center for Central and Eastern Europe in Vienna, but also to actively sustain UNCHS policies for the region by close collaboration with the UNCHS experts situated in UN-Office Vienna.

One emphasis of the centers' programme lies in organising a symposium during the world-wide planners conference URBAN 21 on the topic of intelligent mobility in the region.

Annex:

Documentation of Best and Good Practices of the City of Vienna as recognised by UNCHS (Habitat)

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 Welfare Laws. The Vienna Integration Fund provides financial support for adult foreign nationals.

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
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**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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 examined 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.

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 unhealthful 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 bottom concrete application. Thereafter, stoneware 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

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.

Housing Construction 1991 - 1998

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
dwel. completed	40372	40889	43449	48851	53353	57984	58029	57489
dwel. permits	42007	51846	58316	60984	66689	65358	56925	50789
dwel. completed per 1,000 inhabitants	5,2	5,2	5,4	6,1	6,6	7,2	7,1	7,1

