

AUSTRIA

Short cultural policy profile

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DATE: January 2023

1. Facts and figures

Political system: Federal parliamentary republic

Official language(s): German as well as recognized minority languages: Hungarian, Slovenian, Croatian (Burgenlandkroatisch), Czech, Slovakian, Romani, Austrian Sign Language

	<i>Latest available data</i>	<i>2015</i>
Population on January 1st	9 090 868 (1.10.2022)*	8 656 797 (1.10.2015)
GDP in million EUR	406 149 (2021) 450 785 (2022, preliminary)	344 269
GDP per capita in PPS Index (EU27_2020 = 100)	123 (2021)	131
General government expenditure (in % of GDP)	56.0% (2021)	51.1%
Public cultural expenditure	2 928 380 000 EUR (2020)	2 480 510 000 EUR
Public cultural expenditure as % of GDP	0.77% (2020)	0.72%
Public cultural expenditure per Capita	328 EUR (2020)	287 EUR
Share of cultural employment of total employment	4.0% (2021)	4.0%

Sources:

Population on January 1st, *latest data available* / <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data-browser/view/tps00001/default/table?lang=en> * Source: Statistic Austria <https://www.statistik.at/statistiken/bevoelkerung-und-soziales/bevoelkerung/bevoelkerungsstand/bevoelkerung-zu-jahres-/quartal-sanfang>

GDP in million EUR, *latest data available* / Statistic Austria <https://www.statistik.at/fileadmin/publications/VGR1995-2021.pdf>

GDP per capita in PPS Index (EU27_2020 = 100), *latest data available* / <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/tec00114/default/table?lang=en>

General government expenditure (in % of GDP), *latest data available* / <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/tec00023/default/table?lang=en>

Public cultural expenditure / Public cultural expenditure as % of GDP / Public cultural expenditure per Capita: Statistic Austria: <https://www.statistik.at/statistiken/bevoelkerung-und-soziales/kultur/kulturfinanzierung> (Public cultural expenditure excluding intergovernmental transfer payments)

Share of cultural employment of total employment / *latest data available*:

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/cult_emp_sex/default/table?lang=en

2. Cultural policy system

2.1 Objectives

In Austria, as a federal state, the majority of cultural competences is assigned to the cultural sovereign Bundesländer, while national cultural policy is the responsibility of the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport as well as a State Secretary for Arts and Culture, within the ministry. Hence, the national government and most of the Bundesländer draft their own legislative programmes or strategies for arts, culture and related policy.

National cultural policy follows the strategic outline of the government's programme (current programme: 2020-2024). The main objectives as set out in the programme are:

- Support Austria's art and culture and foster its visibility in the world
- Arts and cultural institutions
- Protect and enhance cultural heritage
- Strengthen adequate frameworks for arts and culture in Austria
- Strengthen contemporary arts and culture
- Support cultural commemoration

In recent years, the main priorities of the Austrian national cultural policy have been to promote fairness in the arts and cultural sector (FORUM Fairness, see below), to foster sustainable development in as well as via the cultural sector (Green Filming,

“Klimafitte Kulturbetriebe”, see below) and to support the sector’s digital transformation. Further core objectives are to strengthen the presence of Austrian artists abroad (Auslandsateliers, mobility support, see below) and to support gender equality within the arts and culture sector (Gender report, Austrian film institute, see below).

2.2 Main features

Austrian cultural policy can be divided into three leading conceptual categories:

1. **Basic cultural needs and framework:** freedom of art and artistic expression, (media) pluralism, cultural rights, quality, working conditions, creativity and innovation, and internationalisation.
2. **Governance:** decentralisation, public-private cooperation, participation of civil society, flexibility, longer-term planning options, service orientation and evaluation.
3. **Socio-political objectives:** sustainability, anti-discrimination, inclusion, diversity, (gender) equality

Main National Actors and Financing Model

As stated above (2.1) the cultural sovereignty lies within the Bundesländer; responsibility for national cultural policy lies on the federal level. Approval and control of the state budget is one of the central rights of Austria’s national Assembly [parliament]. The budget is the federal government's budget plan for a fiscal year, including expenditure for culture. It contains the comparison of expected receipts/income (e.g. taxes) and maximum permissible disbursements/expenses (e.g. for transfer payments and personnel). Fiscal equalization is the process by which revenues from certain taxes levied by the federal government are divided among the federal government, the states and the municipalities. Fiscal equalization is an agreement that must be negotiated and decided by mutual consent between the federal government, the states and the municipalities. This happens every four to six years. When a fiscal equalization agreement is concluded, the tasks that each level has to assume and finance are also agreed upon.

In January 2020, the Arts and Culture Division, previously allocated to the Federal Chancellery, was integrated into the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport. A Secretary of State is the head of the Arts and Culture Division, which is responsible for federal funding programmes for all segments of contemporary art including the performing and fine arts, music and literature, film, new media, photography, architecture and design as well as regional cultural initiatives. The Arts and Culture Division has the following tasks: promoting contemporary art in Austria and fostering the presence of Austrian artists abroad; the creation of adequate

conditions for artistic and cultural production as well as participation in art and culture and its broad benefit for a majority of people; monument protection and cultural heritage; and EU culture policy and international cultural affairs.

On the regional level, all Bundesländer (federal provinces) have governmental departments responsible for cultural affairs. The legal basis of the promotion of arts and culture are the respective *Cultural Promotion Acts* (except Vienna), which stipulate the establishment of advisory boards and the publication of an expenditure report on the arts and culture. General cultural responsibilities of the federal provinces are: all legal agendas concerning cultural policy (Kulturhoheit, i.e. cultural sovereignty); promotion of cultural activities in the respective Bundesland; promotion of activities to preserve the appearance of villages and towns; maintenance of the old town centres; promotion of contemporary art; foundations and funds owned by the Bundesländer; music schools; theatres, cinemas and events; heritage, tradition and folk art; and annual festivals. In addition to cultural support acts, several Bundesländer – as well as local authorities – set out cultural (development) strategies or guiding principles. Political responsibility for culture at the local level rests with either the city/town councillor or in some smaller municipalities with the mayor. Their cultural departments (often combined with sports, tourism, science and education) are inter alia responsible for libraries, amateur art, folk culture, traditions and village renewal.

Matters regarding the creative industries (CI) lie within the competence of the Federal Ministry for Labour and Economy. The Austrian national support programme for CIs, following the “Creative Industries Strategy” implemented by Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH and Kreativwirtschaft Austria. The Advisory Board for the Creative Industries (Kreativwirtschaftsbeirat) advises and supports the Federal Ministry for Labour and Economy in implementing the creative economy strategy as well as in monitoring the implementation of the strategy. It is composed of external experts, carrying out an annual monitoring of the creative economy strategy and presenting recommendations. Further, a cultural heritage division within the ministry is via two subordinate agencies (Burghauptmannschaft Österreich, Bundesmobilienverwaltung) responsible for building and object management.

For further important non-governmental actors, please see the long profile section 1.2.5.

2.3 Governance system: Organisational Organigram

Currently not available

2.4 Background

1955-1980

The post-war cultural policy was mainly prestige-oriented and it supported major federal theatres or festivals. With the general European politicisation and radicalisation of the 1960s and 1970s, the post-war attitude toward culture changed. The cultural vanguard became a political factor and cultural policy was recognised as part of social policy. In 1975, a package of national cultural policy measures was adopted, aiming to improve the cultural habits and education levels of the public and to reduce the gap between city-dwellers and the rural population (Keyword: “culture for all”). The decisive step towards the current system of arts promotion was taken up at this time, including the establishment of various advisory and intermediary bodies.

1980-2000

In the 1980s, Austria was seized by a veritable culture boom. The number of large-scale events, festivals and major exhibitions increased, and so did the cultural spending, with cultural sponsorship gaining importance. In 1988, public support for the arts was enshrined in the *Federal Arts Promotion Act*. In the 1990s, discussions on privatisation took place, especially in fields better positioned in the market, such as musicals, popular operas and museums. Entrepreneurial thinking became more important and the accession to the EU in 1995 reinforced the primacy of the economy.

2000-2020

The period **2000-2007** brought a political shift with the coalition between the Conservative Party and the right-wing Freedom Party. Its cultural policy objectives focused on the outsourcing of public cultural institutions and a reduction of the cultural budget, while greater emphasis has been placed on prestige culture, the creative industries, and the promotion of economically oriented projects. Between **2007-2017**, social democratic culture ministers implemented measures such as scholarships for emerging artists. The main goals were to reform the artists' social insurance; to support the Austrian film industry; to increase subsidies for federal theatres and museums; and to promote art and culture education in school. **2017**, the Austrian parliamentary elections resulted in a marked shift to the right. Strategic cultural policy aims were for e.g. the protection of cultural heritage; strengthening the Austrian cultural identity and the younger generation's cultural education.

2020-ongoing

Since **January 2020**, Austria is ruled by a coalition of the Conservative Party and the Green Party. The task of Austrian cultural policy (government programme 2020-2024) is to create suitable conditions for a lively cultural scene. This includes the promotion of contemporary artwork, fair pay, the preservation of the existing wealth of culture, providing information and education about Austria's cultural heritage and better public access to arts and culture.

As in all European countries the Austrian cultural scene is severely affected by measures to combat the **Corona virus**, such as entry bans, travel restrictions and assembly restrictions. Cultural institutions have suffered from a major loss of revenues. The loss of income poses an existential threat for many freelance artists, cultural operators and NGOs in the field of culture. A study by the Austrian Institute of Economic Research in 2020 estimated that the Corona-crisis caused EUR 1,5-2 billion damage in the field of culture, which is a quarter of the annual added value. The Federal Government adopted a series of general and sector-specific measures to support the cultural and creative sectors. Various relevant measures were also implemented by regional governments.

3. Current cultural affairs

3.1 Key developments

The current situation, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the manifold crises, heavily impacts cultural policy making on the local, national as well as international level. The health and economic crises have resulted in an enormous loss of income for the arts and culture sector in Austria. Against this backdrop, the focus on the working and living conditions in the cultural sector is being continuously intensified, aiming at the improvement of the socioeconomic situation of professionals in the sector. The government programme 2020-2024 entails the envisaged implementation of the “fairness” strategy, including fair pay as well as the further development of social security of cultural actors. Anti-Discrimination and diversity are important aspects of the fairness process.

Further measures improving **gender equality** are among the key developments. Such measures aim at the continuous decrease of the Gender-Pay-Gap in cultural institutions. In addition, culture’s contribution to the sustainable development goals is an important factor. In the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the contribution of arts and culture is a cross-cutting issue. The role of the arts and culture sector toward sustainable development was acknowledged, such as in the voluntary report (Voluntary National Review, SDGs 2020). A particular focus of the Austrian cultural policy is a **climate-friendly transition of cultural institutions, green filming, sustainable building culture and arts and health**. The **digital transformation** is another important challenge, see below at section 3.2.

Strategy for Arts and Culture 2022 & Municipal Strategies

The chapter on arts and culture in the government programme 2020-2024 sets out the goal of "developing an arts and culture strategy in a structured process involving all local authorities and with the participation of cultural initiatives, artists and cultural workers". The development of the federal government's arts and culture strategy is designed as a participatory process and with the involvement of people from all sectors of the arts and culture scene as well as from related sectors of society. Plurality, diversity and the intelligence of the many in the Austrian art and culture scene are to be used to facilitate a continuous, sustainable discourse on art and culture in Austria over the coming years. The process was started in 2021 and is currently still being implemented. Further, several Bundesländer – as well as local authorities – set out cultural (development) strategies or guiding principles.

3.2 Key themes

Fairness: Fair Pay, Diversity, Anti-Discrimination

Subsumed under the concept of “fairness” various measures have been implemented within the current government period. This includes fair pay, decent and adequate working environments for artists and cultural workers as well as social security, fair practice, including a strengthened copyright system, and respectful cooperation. The “Fairness Process” was initiated by the Ministry for Arts and Culture in 2020, sector involving regional, local and non-governmental stakeholders. First results of the process are the establishment of an ombuds committee for persons working in arts and sports who are affected by abuse of power, a study aiming to measure the “fair pay gap” as well as the publication of the Fairness Codex. “Fair pay” and “diversity” have become crucial criteria in project evaluation for all federal funding and additional funds have been made available to close the “fair pay gap”. From 2022 onwards, the Fairness Working Group of the Laender and the Forum Fairness of the stakeholders will meet annually to exchange information on the progress of the joint efforts and to openly discuss further topics and measures under the Fairness Process. In addition, fairness will be a regular item on the agendas of the cultural officer meetings at Laender level.

Copyright

Copyright in Austria is covered by the Copyright Act, i.e. the Federal Law on Copyright in Works of Literature and Art and on Related Rights. The European Union Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market was implemented in Austria at the end of 2021. The new Austrian Copyright Act (UrhG) contains a number of improvements for creators, as well as more rights protection regarding large online content sharing platforms. However, as many compromises had to be made to achieve a balance of interests, the implementation heavily criticized by creator’s interest groups.

Digital Transformation

Strengthening and supporting the arts and cultural sector in the digital environment is key to Austrian cultural policy. In the government’s programme Austria is to be established as an innovative international platform for the fusion of art, culture, technology and the digital world. In the course of the “New Start Culture” package, a call for the funding programme “From Stage to Video” was launched. Further, the Federal Ministry of Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport funded innovative digital projects in the field of art and culture with a total of 1.1 million euros in 2020. In 2021, there was a joint call from the federal and state governments to promote digital projects. A process for the **national digitalisation strategy for cultural heritage** of the Ministry for Arts and Culture was further initiated.

Art restitution

The restitution of artworks confiscated during the Nazi regime, and still in possession of the state, is an issue that repeatedly gives rise to debates. In 1998, the Commission for Provenance Research was established, in order to systematically examine the government's collections. That same year, the return of cultural objects to the original owners or their legal heirs was made possible with passing the *Law on the Restitution of Art Objects from the Austrian Federal Museums and Collections (Art Restitution Act)*. The Law was amended in 2009 and extended to movable cultural goods. The Austrian National Library as an example has drawn up a comprehensive report and since 2003 more than 45 000 objects have been restored to their legal owners (see [chapter 2.9. of the country profile](#)).

Sustainability: Climate & Gender Equality & Health

In the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the contribution of arts and culture to sustainable development is key. Various measures contribute to a **green transformation of the sector**. A funding programme launched by the Federal Ministry, with funds from the EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility, provides incentives for ecological investments in the cultural sector.

The Austrian Federal Guidelines for Building Culture, Stimulus Programme as well as the Austrian Federal Building Culture Report are further key measures. As of the beginning of 2022, ecologically sustainable, production-related measures according to point 5 of the Guideline UZ 76 Austrian Eco-Label "Green Producing in Film and Television" are obligatory for film production companies and associations funded by federal production subsidies.

Austria has obliged itself politically and legally to implement **gender mainstreaming** at national level. Measures in the film sector (funding guidelines of the Austrian Film Institute, Gender Incentives, Austrian Film Gender Report) are examples of good practice. According to a decision by the National Parliament in 2020, the Federal Minister for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport will publish a gender report in the fields of arts and culture every five years. The new gender report aims at going beyond the binary view of gender and carrying out a comprehensive data collection. It is to be finalised by 2024.

The 10 Austrian health targets were defined in a broad and participatory process that involves more than 40 stakeholders from relevant institutions and civil society. Against this background, the "**Competence Group Destigmatization**" was initiated. The panel of experts consists of representatives from science, healthcare practice, administration, law, art, culture, media and other experts. Within a series of

awareness-raising events on art, culture and sustainability, the Federal Ministry highlighted the important intersection of arts, culture, health and well-being.

3.2 International Cultural Cooperation

The agendas of international cultural cooperation are distributed over various ministries in Austria. The main actors are the International Cultural Policy Department of the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs as well as the Department "European and international cultural policy" of the Division IV 'Arts and Culture' of the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport.

International cultural policy is an important instrument of Austrian foreign policy. Geographically, Austrian international cultural policy is currently focusing on the neighbouring countries, the Western Balkans and Southeast Europe. The International Cultural Policy Department of the Ministry for European and International Affairs is in charge of numerous Austrian cultural facilities abroad, such as 30 Cultural fora. For a complete list of the facilities, consider the long country profile, 1.4.1. The Ministry for the Arts and Culture provides for instance foreign studios for outgoing artists, scholarship programmes as well as travel, stay and touring grants.

In the field of European and international cultural cooperation and exchange, the Department IV/10 "European and international cultural policy" of Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport is responsible for cultural affairs in the framework of the EU, the Council of Europe and the UNESCO as well as for bilateral and multilateral cultural exchange together with the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs.

International cultural exchange also takes place at provincial and city level and, alongside the promotion of events and projects, includes support for the activities of Austrian artists abroad and places for artists-in-residence. The Bundesländer maintain their own European and external relations and are represented in networks like the Assembly of European Regions.

4. Cultural Institutions

4.1 Overview

Public and private cultural institutions

The federal cultural institutions (Bundesmuseen, National Library and Bundestheater, mostly based in Vienna) play a crucial role in Austria arts and culture sector. In 2018, The House of History Austria was established as the first contemporary history museum of the federal government. Public responsibilities for cultural affairs have been re-allocated by sector to different institutions or bodies. Depending on the allocated tasks and responsibilities, different models of institutions or partnerships have been adopted. In 2002, the federal museums (as well as the Austrian National Library) were outsourced and since then managed as private law entities. They are owned by the federal state, who allocates the legally determined public subsidies. The umbrella organisation of the Austrian federal theatres is the Bundestheater-Holding, (since 1999) owned and controlled by the state. The restructuring of the Association of Austrian Federal Theatres is an example, which demonstrates moves towards greater partnership or "divestment" between the public and private sectors. The theatres are legally independent and the holding is responsible for the strategic management and the financial hedging according to the cultural policy mission.

Each Bundesland has a publicly funded regional theatre, museums and galleries, e.g. the Landestheater Niederösterreich, the Stadttheater Klagenfurt, Kunsthaus Graz or the LENTOS Kunstmuseum Linz. In the cities and towns, there is a wide range of theatre stages as well as numerous self-managed cultural institutions, partly under agreements with different levels of government. Vienna has numerous other cultural institutions, like municipal facilities (Wien Museum, Kunsthalle), concert halls (Musikverein, Konzerthaus), private theatres (Vereinigte Bühnen Wien, brut Wien, Schauspielhaus), and many galleries, art and cultural centres, stages and venues.

A trend towards outsourcing cultural institutions can also be observed in the federal provinces and municipalities. For example, the Niederösterreichische Kulturholding (NÖKU) brings together more than 30 artistic and scientific institutions under common strategic objectives. Another example is Theaterholding Graz/Steiermark GmbH, which has been responsible since 2004 for the group management of Graz theatres and the strategic management according to the long-term cultural policy and economic objectives of the companies.

According to the Official Culture Statistics 2020 (Statistic Austria 2022) the ownership structure of museums accounted to 236 museums (50 % each) which had a (majority)

public or a private sponsor. In terms of legal form, however, 65.3 % of the museums were private institutions; the difference is made up, for example, by spin-offs in the form of a limited liability company (Betriebs-GmbH).

4.2 Data on selected public and private cultural institutions

Table 1: Cultural institutions, by sector and domain

Domain	Cultural Institution	Public Sector		Private Sector	
		Number (2020)	Number (2015)	Number (2020)	Number (2015)
Cultural Heritage	<i>Cultural heritage sites (recognised)*1</i> (table BK1, Kulturstatistik)	38799	37689	N/A	N/A
	<i>Archaeological sites*</i> (table BK1, Kulturstatistik)	972	885	N/A	N/A
Museums	<i>Museum institutions*2</i> (table M01, Kulturstatistik)	236	290	236	262
Archives	<i>Archive institutions*3</i> (table Ar1, Kulturstatistik)	786	118	N/A	N/A
Visual arts	<i>Public art galleries / exhibition halls⁴</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Performing arts	<i>Scenic and stable spaces for theatre</i> (table T1, T2, T12 Kulturstatistik)	16 ⁵	16 ⁵	42 ⁶	59 ⁶
	<i>Concert houses</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	<i>Theatre companies*</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	<i>Dance and ballet companies</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	<i>Symphonic orchestras</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Libraries	<i>Libraries*8</i> (table B6, B1 Kulturstatistik)	N/A	1336	79	73
Audiovisual	<i>Cinemas</i>			140	138

	Broadcasting organisations ⁹	1 (ORF) with: 12 Radio channels and 3 TV-channels (and regional channels)		72 (radio) 157 (TV)	
Interdisciplinary	Socio-cultural centres / cultural houses ¹⁰			928	364

Sources: *Statistic Austria, Kulturstatistik 2020 and 2017.*

Notes: *N/A: not available / * no distinction between public and private*

1) immovable objects under protection 2) Kulturstatistik 2020 accounts 472 museums (236 public, 236 private) – these are the institutions which participated in the annual survey of STATISTIK AUSTRIA; 762 are all registered museums including public art galleries and exhibition halls; the internet portal museen-in-oesterreich by ICOM counts 804 museums 3) 2015 only 118 archives were identified; were as 2020 338 archives were identified. This does not constitute a growth in numbers but results from the method of evaluation (voluntary survey) 4) available up to 2013, since then included in the statistics on museums 5) federal theatres, regional and municipal theatres including Vereinigte Bühnen Wien 6) Wiener Privattheater and other theatres, only the institutions which participated in the annual survey 7) public libraries vs. academic and special libraries 8) RTR <https://www.rtr.at/de/m/Verzeichnisse> 9) members of IG Kultur Österreich

5. Cultural Funding

5.1 Overview

The **Federal Arts Promotion Act**, adopted in 1988, includes the provision that the federal budget must include the requisite funds for public arts promotion and that the social situation of artists and the framework for private sponsoring need to be improved. For more information see section “cultural legislation” below. **Funding** is provided in accordance with the funds available at the time. There is no individual entitlement to funding. The Ministry for Arts and Culture gives direct subsidies and grants on a continuous basis. The objectives are, first, to ensure a stable and sustainable framework for contemporary artistic creation and its dissemination, and, second, to safeguard cultural heritage and state cultural institutions and ensure broad public access to art and cultural assets. With the exception of Vienna, every Bundesland has its own cultural promotion act, most of which were implemented during the 1980s. The Bundeslaender are active in promoting culture in all relevant

fields, based on elements of private law. In 2020, public expenditure lay at 36.9 % federal, 36.1 % municipal level and 26.9 % local level.

According to fundraising report 2022 of the Austrian Fundraising Association, 2021 2.9 million Euros were donated to culture (donations with tax deductibility). Overall donations with tax deductibility account to 55 per cent of Austrian donations. Numbers on total private sponsorship are not available. Tax deductibility of donations was introduced in 2009; with the non-profit extension in 2016 cultural organisations (exceeding the exceptions already mentioned directly in the law) were included; the conditions are regulated in §§ 4a iVm 18 of the Income Tax Act 1988. Specific requirements for arts and cultural organisations: institutions that carry out generally accessible artistic activities serving Austrian art and culture and that present generally accessible works of art; that receive federal or state cultural funding for this purpose at least every two years, whereby this funding must be reported in the transparency database. In 2022 a guideline on the handling of sponsorship and other third-party funds was presented by the federal ministry.

[Figures by Statistic Austria] The combined public spending on culture by local authorities amounted to about 2.93 billion euros or 0.77% of GDP in 2020, which includes aid to cope with the consequences of the Covid 19 pandemic. Compared to 2019, cultural spending increased nominally by an average of 6.2%. An above-average increase (+24.1%) was recorded in federal government spending. Expenditure by the federal states rose by 3.4%, while that of the municipalities (excluding Vienna) fell by 8.5%.

[Central Government Figures] Expenditures by the Federal Ministry for Arts and Culture increased from EUR 447.014 million in 2020 to EUR 472.475 million in 2021, an increase of EUR 25.461 million, or 5.7%. In 2019 it was EUR 439.317 million; in 2018 EUR 437.547 million. The majority of the additional funding was spent in the arts funding area, which accounted for approximately EUR 117.665 million in 2021. Funds in this area were thus EUR 19.481 million or 19.8% higher than in 2020, with the additional expenditure resulting from priority areas such as the Fair Pay measures, support for the Theater in der Josefstadt and the general renovation of the Bregenz Festival, as well as the nationwide digitalization campaign. Additional funds also went to federal exhibitions and projects such as the Venice Biennale, and to funding increases for publishing houses, cinemas, the visual arts and cultural initiatives.

5.2 Public cultural expenditure by level of government

Table 2: Public cultural expenditure by level of government, in EUR, 2020 and 2015

Level of government	2020		2015	
	Total expenditure in EUR	% share of total	Total expenditure in EUR*	% share of total
State (central, federal)	1 081 660 000	36.9	824 420 000	32.2
Regional (provincial, Länder, etc.)	1 058 220 000	36.1	908 100 000	36.6
Local (municipal, incl. counties)	788 510 000	26.9	747 990 000	30.2
TOTAL	2 928 380 000	100	2 480 510 000	100

Source: (Statistic Austria: Kulturstatistik 2020/2015, excluding intergovernmental transfer payments)

Note: * At the date of expenditure

5.3. Public cultural expenditure per sector

Table 3: Public cultural expenditure*: by sector, in EUR, 2020 and 2015

Field / Domain	2020		2015	
	Total expenditure in EUR	% share of total	Total expenditure in EUR*	% share of total
Cultural Heritage				
Building Cultural Heritage	183 310 000	6.3	173 510 000	7.0
Folk Culture	25 120 000	0.9	35 970 000	1.5

Museums	395 040 000	13.5	322 260 000	13.0
Archives	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Visual Arts	33 420 000	1.1	31 720 000	1.3
Performing Arts	507 990 000	17.3	443 070 000	17.9
Audiovisual and Multimedia	71 610 000	2.4	42 190 000	1.7
Cultural Initiatives and Centres	153 040 000	5.2	171 030 000	6.9
Cultural Relations	27 180 000	0.9	27 050 000	1.1
Cultural Education	839 900 000	28.7	716 670 000	28.9
Adult Learning	280 000	0.0	110 000	0.0
Literature	18 720 000	0.6	16 630 000	0.7
Libraries	105 300 000	3.6	92 930 000	3.7
Press	28 860 000	1.0	10 220 000	0.4
Music	113 760 000	3.9	110 760 000	4.5
Broadcasting	180 000	0.0	210 000	0.0
Big events	52 970 000	1.8	58 090 000	2.3
Other	371 700 000	12.7	228 090 000	9.2
TOTAL	2 928 380 000	100	2 480 510 000	100

Source: Statistic Austria: Kulturstatistik 2020/2015.

6. Legislation on Culture

6.1 Overview national cultural legislation

Federal Constitutional Act (1930) + Basic Law on Civil Rights (1982)

The Austrian federal constitution does not explicitly mention arts and culture. Statutory provisions regulating the cultural sector have not been laid down in a comprehensive cultural act, nor have they been systematically collected. Therefore, the statutes referring to the cultural sector are found throughout the legal system. Article 15, para. 1 of the Federal Constitution Act states that all matters not assigned to the national government are to be paid by the Bundeslaender, including culture. In Article 10, responsibility over 'sovereign' matters such as scientific and technical archives and libraries, artistic and scientific collections and federal facilities (federal museums, the National Library), federal theatres, historic monuments, religious denominations, foundations and funds are assigned to the national government.

Federal Arts Promotion Act (1988)

The Federal Arts Promotion Act, adopted in 1988, includes the provision that the federal budget must include the requisite funds for public arts promotion and that the social situation of artists and the framework for private sponsoring need to be improved. The law stipulates that promotion has to be directed mainly at "contemporary art, its spiritual changes and its variety" and lists the fields to be supported by way of production, presentation, dissemination and preservation of works and documents. Facilities that serve this purpose have to be similarly supported. The law also lists individual measures that may be taken (e.g. funds, grants, acquisitions, loans, commissions and prizes awarded

Promotion Acts by the Bundeslaender (1980)

With the exception of Vienna, every Bundesland has its own cultural promotion act, most of which were implemented during the 1980s. The legal basis for the promotion of arts and culture are the respective Cultural Promotion Acts (except Vienna), most of them were implemented during the 1980s. They stipulate the establishment of advisory boards and the publication of a report on the expenditures on the arts and culture. The Bundeslaender are active in promoting culture in all relevant fields, based on elements of private law. All Bundeslaender governments have at least one department that deals with cultural affairs, in some cases they are associated with science, education or sports. A member of the provincial government generally

assumes the political responsibility for this department. Occasionally, some cultural competence is reserved for the governor.

Arts Support Act (1981)

The Arts Support Act (1981) states that in addition to the monthly radio and television fees, an appropriate contribution to support contemporary arts is to be raised and distributed between the state and the Bundeslaender on a 70:30 basis.

Künstler-Sozialversicherungsfonds (KSVF)

Due to the amendment of the social security law with the Labour and Social Law Amendment Act (Arbeits- und Sozialrechts-Änderungsgesetz ASRÄG) in 1997, all self-employed workers – and thus also the artists – were included in a statutory social insurance system. Therefore, in December 2000 the Künstler-Sozialversicherungsfonds (KSVF) has been established in order to support the artists, which are now insured under the Industrial Social Security Act (Gewerbliche Sozialversicherungsgesetz GSVG) at the Sozialversicherungsanstalt der Selbständigen (SVS).

6.2 Overview international cultural legislation

Austria has ratified numerous key cultural conventions and treaties. Austria has ratified all major UNESCO's cultural-related conventions except for the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. It has further signed or ratified most of the Council of Europe's conventions related to cultural matters, including the Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.