

Photo: T. Wrbka

Where and how best invest into Green Infrastructure?

Presentation of Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy & Action Plans

## Eastern Waldviertel & Western Weinviertel (Lower Austria)

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA**

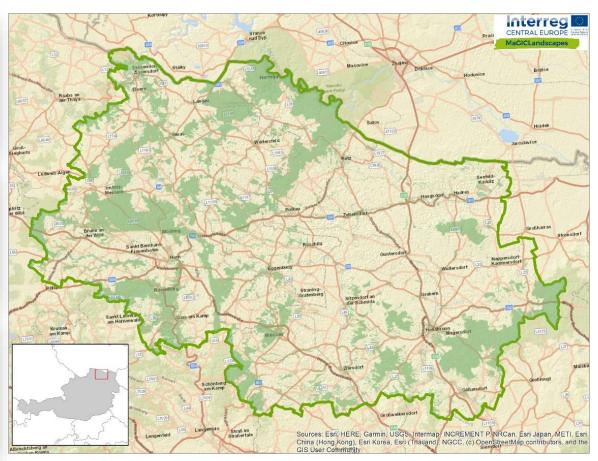








Photos: F. Danzinger, T. Wrbka, M. Gross

















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#### **DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA**



Eastern Wald- & Western Weinviertel

# Major GI elements

- Dry and xeric grassland
- Meadows and wetlands
- Extensively cultivated vineyards
- Species-rich broadleaved forests
- Field margins, hedgerows and woodlots
- Orchard meadows
- Streams and ponds

## Main needs for GI

- Agricultural landscape
- Fruit and wine growing landscape
- Wetlands and channelled rivers
- Rural and urban settlements
- Forests damaged by bark beetle



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### **GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY**



Eastern Wald- & Western Weinviertel

## Key issues identified in the case study area

- Increasing intensification of agriculture
- Cleared and featureless landscapes
- Abandonment of agriculture on marginal land and in remote locations
- Invasive spreading of Robinia (Robinia pseudoacacia)
- Monotone spruce "plantations"
- Channeled river sections
- Disconnectedness of GI elements







### **GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY**

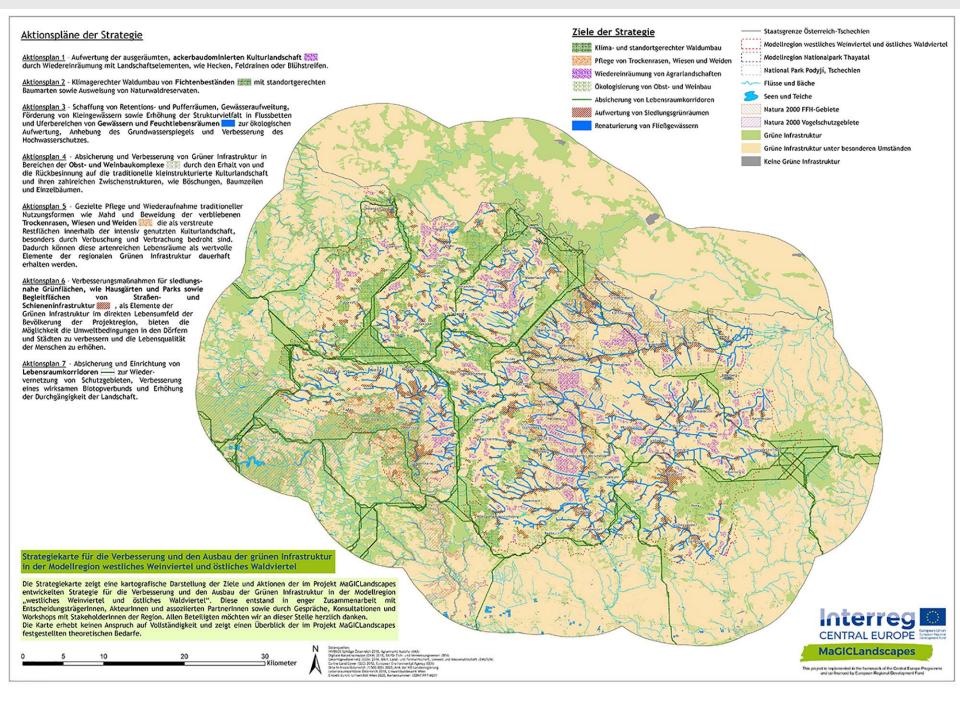


- Strategic aims of the strategy
  - Improvement and preservation of the diversity of species and habitats in the agricultural and wine-growing landscape
  - Promotion of GI as a leisure and educational resource
  - Improving the resilience and sustainability of natural resources
  - Increase the welfare function of GI along transport networks
  - Reduction of flood events through GI alongside bodies of water
  - Improvement of land use as well as land and soil management
  - Adaptation to climate change and long periods of drought









### **ACTIONS TO MEET THE STRATEGIC AIMS**

Eastern Wald- & Western Weinviertel

Enhancement of the featureless, agricultural landscape by introducing landscape elements,

such as hedges, field margins or flower strips

- Action Plan 2 Conversion of spruce plantations to climateadapted tree species appropriate to local conditions as well as the designation of natural forest reserves
- Action Plan 3 Creation of retention and buffer areas, widening and promotion of small water bodies as well as an increase of structural diversity of river beds and bank areas of water bodies and wetland habitats









### **ACTIONS TO MEET THE STRATEGIC AIMS**



- Action Plan 4 Preserving and returning to traditional small-scale fruit and wine growing complex landscapes and their numerous structures, such as slopes, rows of trees and individual trees
- Action Plan 5 Targeted maintenance and resumption of traditional forms of use, such as mowing and grazing, of dry grasslands, meadows and pastures







Photos: T. Wrbka, F. Danzinger

### **ACTIONS TO MEET THE STRATEGIC AIMS**



- Action Plan 6 Promotion of green areas in urban and rural settlements, such as home gardens and parks as well as associated land of road and rail network
- Action Plan 7 Securing and establishing habitat corridors to re-connect protected areas, improve an effective biotope network and increase the connectivity of the landscape



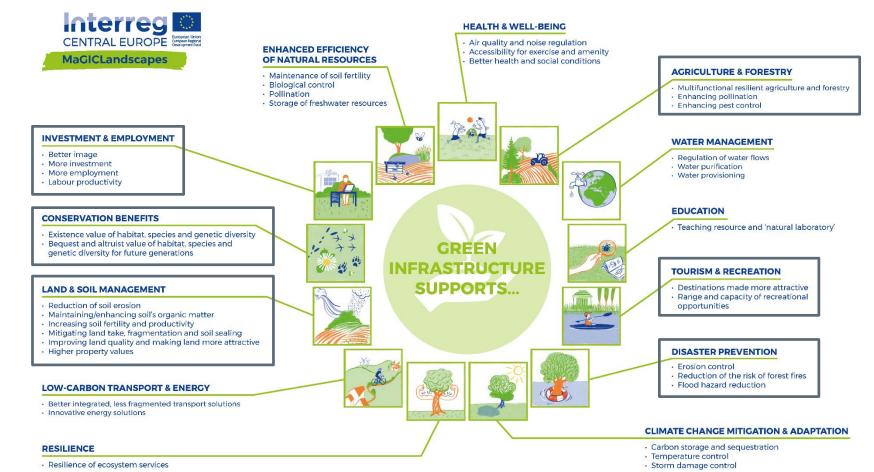




#### **BENEFITS & ACTORS**



#### Eastern Wald- & Western Weinviertel



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Building a green infrastructure for Europe (European Commission, 2013)

### **CONTACTS**





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