

AUSTRIA

Decision-Making

Stakeholders: National Vaccination Committee (NITAG), the Ministry of Health (MoH) and Finance (MoF) and social insurance.

Introducing a new vaccine: The national government recommends vaccination for the regional states that manage the delivery. The organisation may, therefore, vary from state to state. Extensions and adaptations to the immunisation schedule decisions are based on evaluating the cost/benefit ratio, with scientific recommendations influencing but not solely determining inclusion in the vaccination program.

Ministry of Finance Involvement: Yes. In most cases, the MoF has already been involved, as it often requires funds for vaccination programmes.

Financing

Funding: The federal government covers 2/3 of the cost of vaccination, and the federal provinces and social insurance finance 1/3. Financing decisions are often influenced by politics and determined by what coalition the government is in. Budget increases to accommodate public health needs have been continuous but still need to be increased.

If immunisation takes place in the hospital, the federal states are usually responsible as hospital operators. If the vaccination is administered by a general practitioner, family doctor, or paediatrician, social insurance is generally accountable and financed differently.

Critical Financing Challenges: Budget limitations

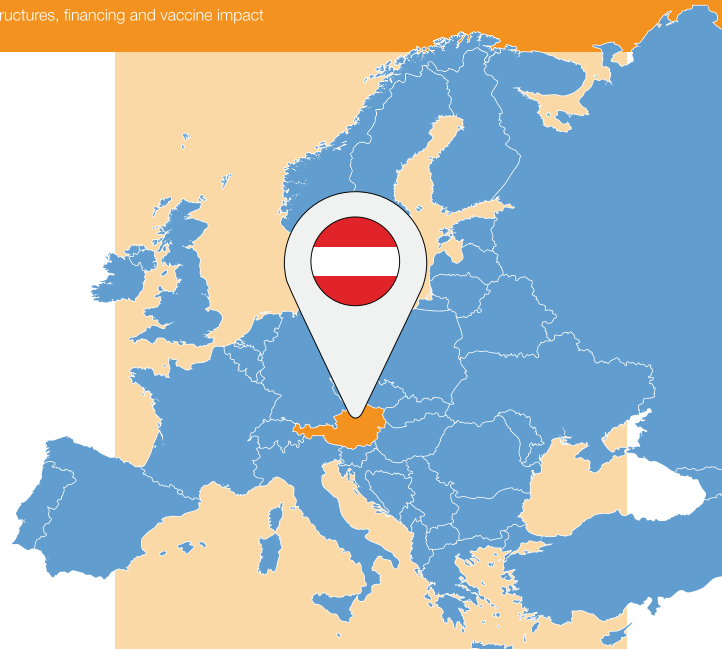
	Yes	No
Ministry of Finance Involvement	✓	
Ringfencing		✓
Financial Mechanisms for Sustainability		✓
External Funding Sources		✓
Influence of Public-Private Partnerships		✓

Landscape

History of Vaccination: Austria's vaccination program began in 1997 and has expanded incrementally based on vaccine availability and public health needs.

Most Funded Campaign: Pneumococcal and hexavalent vaccines due to their broad public health impact.

Looking ahead: During the 2023/24 season, influenza vaccinations were introduced with a deductible of 7 euros, alongside free access for specific demographics. Looking ahead to the 2024/2025 season, Austria is set to embark on a trial offering free influenza vaccines to all under a novel funding approach. This approach entails the MoH, individual states, and social insurance, each contributing one-third of the total cost.



Decentralised Health System



11.4%
of GDP spent
on healthcare



10.3%
of healthcare
budget is spent
on prevention



18.3%
Over-65 influenza
vaccination
coverage (2019)

Adult vaccination (18+) recommendation against 10 diseases:

COVID-19 *
RSV
Diphtheria
Tetanus
Pertussis
Pneumococcal disease
Influenza
Herpes Zoster
Tick-borne encephalitis

*1/10 are government funded

