

Publizierbarer Zwischenbericht

A) Projektdaten

Allgemeines zum Projekt	
Kurztitel:	SHIFT
Langtitel:	Policy shift for the low-carbon transition in a globally embedded economy
Zitiervorschlag:	Steininger, Bednar-Friedl, Neyer, Vogel, Vollebergh, Williges (2018), Policy shift for the low-carbon transition in a globally embedded economy, Interim Report of ACRP project SHIFT, May 2018, University of Graz
Programm inkl. Jahr:	ACRP 2016
Dauer:	1.6.2017-30.11.2019
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Projekt- und KooperationspartnerIn (inkl. Bundesland):	Environment Agency Austria (Umweltbundesamt GesmbH), Wien University of Graz, Department of Philosophy, Steiermark Tilburg University, Tilburg Sustainability Center, NL ifo Institut, University of Munich, Germany
Projektgesamtkosten:	246.818 €
Fördersumme:	246.818 €
Klimafonds-Nr:	KR16AC0K13367
Zuletzt aktualisiert am:	25.06.2018

B) Projektübersicht

Details zum Projekt	
Kurzfassung:	<p>Für den Übergang zu einer klimafreundlichen Wirtschaftsweise wurden für Österreich bisher primär physische und technisch-ökonomische Transitionswege entwickelt. Auf diesen aufbauend trägt das Projekt SHIFT den nächsten Schritt bei: die Analyse und die Bewertung langfristig orientierter und umfassender nationaler Maßnahmenbündel um einen solchen Transitionsweg tatsächlich zu erreichen. Der Fokus ist dabei auf einer integrativen Analyse aller Politikfelder und der gegenseitigen Interaktion politischer Instrumente, wobei Österreich in eine globale Wirtschaft eingebettet und daher von internationalen ökonomischen und umweltbezogenen Rückwirkungen betroffen ist.</p>
Executive Summary:	<p>For Austria's transition to a low carbon society mainly physical and techno-economic transition pathways have been prepared to date. Building upon these, the project SHIFT contributes the next step: the analysis and evaluation of long-term oriented and comprehensive national instrument packages to actually achieve such a low carbon pathway. The focus is on an integrated analysis of all policy fields and mutual interaction of policy instruments, with Austria being embedded in a global economy subject to international economic and environmental feedbacks.</p>
Status:	<p>After the first project year (May 2018)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WP1 identified two scenarios for development of Austrian climate policy and carbon emissions, assuming (i) the use of existing measures and (ii) a suite of measures designed to transition the country into becoming a low-carbon society. The scenarios were compared to likely carbon budget allocations associated with Paris-compatible levels of global warming, to identify shortcomings and provide a basis for improvement via additional measures as determined in the course of SHIFT • WP1 also outlined working criteria related to assessing the optimality of an instrument

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	<p>package. In order to better assess the current and to-be-proposed instrument packages to achieve a carbon-neutral society, a consistent means of assessing the efficacy of such a package is necessary to move forward. Additionally, research gaps in the literature on how policies interact with one another were highlighted, to assist WP2 with design of stakeholder interaction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WP2 yielded already important insights into feasibility of implementation and the conditions under which policy intervention can effectively support a low-carbon pathway. Many specific examples for ideal instrument combinations and lessons-learned were gathered as output of this stakeholder outreach. Those examples for policy interactions will be further developed into policy packages to be discussed at the stakeholder workshop (scheduled for September 2018). • An evaluative framework has been developed with identifying questions to guide Austrian policy makers in the selection of standards and other instruments to foster eco-innovations. • WP4 also assessed the current status of eco-innovation in the Austrian focus sectors energy, industry, transport and buildings, using data on patent applications following the OECD ENV-TECH classification; areas of strength and weakness were identified. These will be used, together with the evaluative framework, as a starting point to identify and evaluate relevant standards to foster eco-innovation.
<p>Wesentliche (geplante) Erkenntnisse aus dem Projekt:</p>	<p>After the first year of the project, SHIFT has found that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implemented climate policies in Austria are insufficient to trigger a policy shift for the low carbon economy. While the policy measures underlying Austria’s most ambitious available emissions scenario (“Transition”) fail to show a Paris-compatible trajectory, they do provide a

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valuable blueprint for developing a policy package necessary to achieve that goal. More attention should be paid to instrument interaction and how to balance regional decisions with national policy-coordination needs.

- The evaluative framework for Austrian policymakers has identified a set of questions aiming to identify the potential of (inter)national standards to foster eco-innovations. Austria has areas of strength in technologies relating to energy generation, transmission and distribution, buildings, metal and mineral processing. Weaknesses and thus further potential for stimulating eco-innovation through new instruments remain in the field of transport and in some industrial, energy generation and storage technologies.

Within the whole project:

- SHIFT will supply core inputs on effectiveness, efficiency, justice, political feasibility and social acceptance of policy measures to ensure Austrian transition to a low-carbon society.
- SHIFT will focus on policy instruments that can be employed by an individual EU member country, while acknowledging the many feedbacks, economic and environmental, generated by its embedding in a global economy.
- For the Austrian policy makers it is essential to have a solid basis of information on what different instrument classes and their combinations can achieve, also relative to each other, and what interactions they come with. The recently started process to develop an integrated energy- and climate strategy is one that will particularly be able to benefit from and interact with the project SHIFT.

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