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Lifelong health and care  
when needed.

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L Climate Change in Health and Care  
Management: How Healthacross is trying to  
move Lower Austria forward

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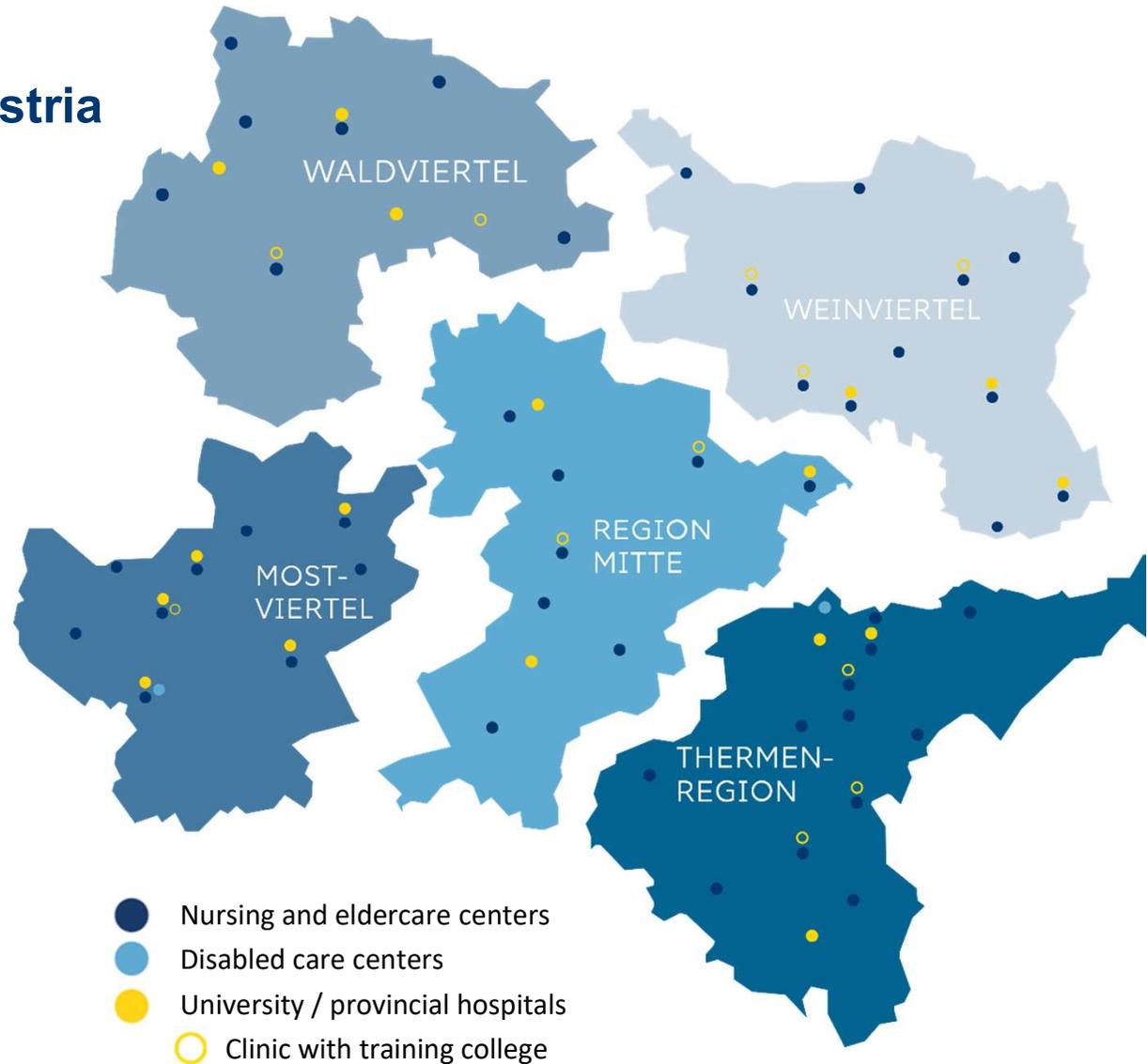
## Lower Austria: Facts and figures

- ▶ Area: 19,179 km<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ Foreign borders: 414 km, Czech Republic and Slovakia
- ▶ Population: 1.7 million
- ▶ Main economic sectors:
  - ▶ Company services, catering/tourism
  - ▶ Industry, commerce
  - ▶ Agriculture and forestry



## The Health Agency of Lower Austria

- ▶ is an umbrella organization for:
  - ▶ 27 university and provincial hospitals
  - ▶ 11 locations of training colleges for healthcare and nursing
  - ▶ 47 nursing and eldercare centers
  - ▶ 2 disabled care centers
- ▶ 5 regional healthcare agencies:
  - ▶ Gesundheit Waldviertel GmbH
  - ▶ Gesundheit Weinviertel GmbH
  - ▶ Gesundheit Mostviertel GmbH
  - ▶ Gesundheit Thermenregion GmbH
  - ▶ Gesundheit Region Mitte GmbH



## Facts and figures

- ▶ 28,000 employees
- ▶ 1,400 volunteers

### Nursing, eldercare and disabled care centers

- ▶ 6,000 nursing care and residential places
- ▶ App. 10,500 residents per year

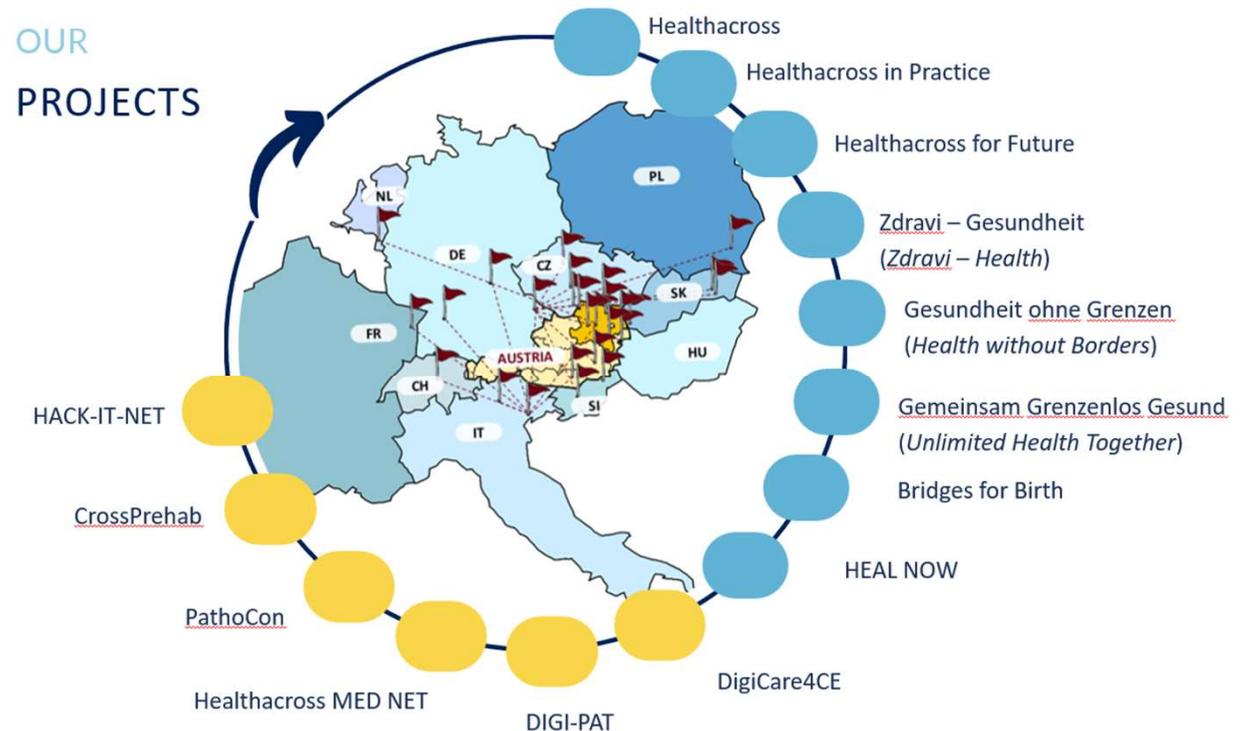
### Hospitals

- ▶ 7,000 hospital beds
- ▶ More than three million out-patient contacts per year
- ▶ App.350,000 in-patient admissions per year
- ▶ app.151,000 surgeries

## Healthacross initiative

### Our Objectives:

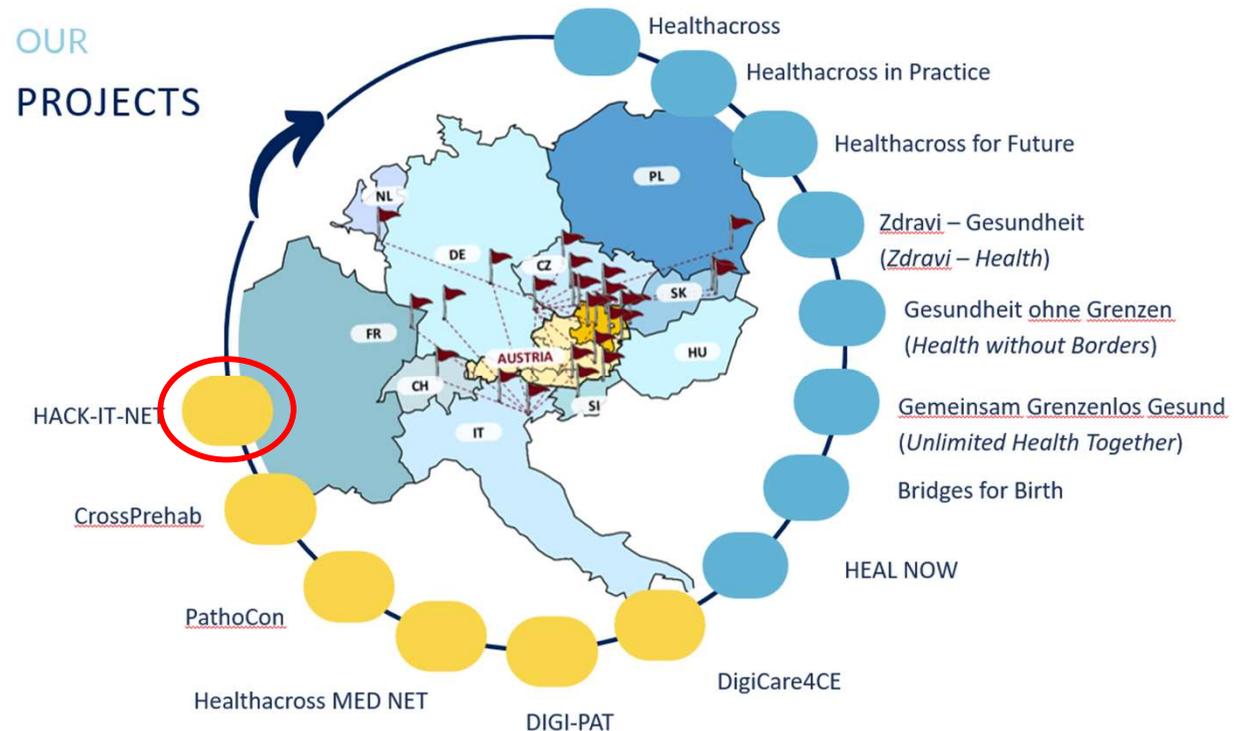
- ▶ Equal access to quality healthcare services close to home
- ▶ Simplification of cross-border healthcare and patient mobility
- ▶ Establishing and securing long-term international cooperation in the healthcare sector
- ▶ Initiation and implementation of innovative cross-border EU projects in the healthcare sector



## Healthacross initiative

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## About the Governance structure in health and care in (Lower) Austria – beneficial or limiting?

- ▶ All hospitals and most of the care homes in Lower Austria belong to the Health Agency of Lower Austria → yet stand-alone solutions / initiatives in the field of sustainability
- ▶ (Lower) Austria is known for a strong federalism
  - ▶ Ministries at the top level, only little power
  - ▶ 9 Regional departments for legislation
  - ▶ 9 Health and Social funds
  - ▶ 1 Austrian health structure plan, including 9 regional health structure plans
  - ▶ 1 Austrian National Public Health institute
  - ▶ Several insurance companies
  - ▶ Various other interest groups with significant influence
- ▶ *Nevertheless, a lot of sustainable initiatives / projects started in recent years but, more or less, on the basis of personal initiatives.*

## HACK-IT-NET

- ▶ EU-funded project (80% co-financing) to promote sustainability in healthcare
- ▶ International partnership in the Alpine region: Austria, Germany, France, Switzerland, Slovenia, Italy
- ▶ We started the “implementing a sustainable measure-journey” from the scratch
  - ▶ Definition of sustainability and identification of relevant stakeholders together with the partners
  - ▶ Development of guidelines and handbooks for active stakeholder involvement
  - ▶ Town Hall events for idea generation, feedback collection, and active stakeholder participation
- ▶ Next and main step of the project: Implementation of a concrete sustainable measure in a healthcare institution

## Practical examples in Lower Austria I

### Implementation of **interdisciplinary „climate teams“**

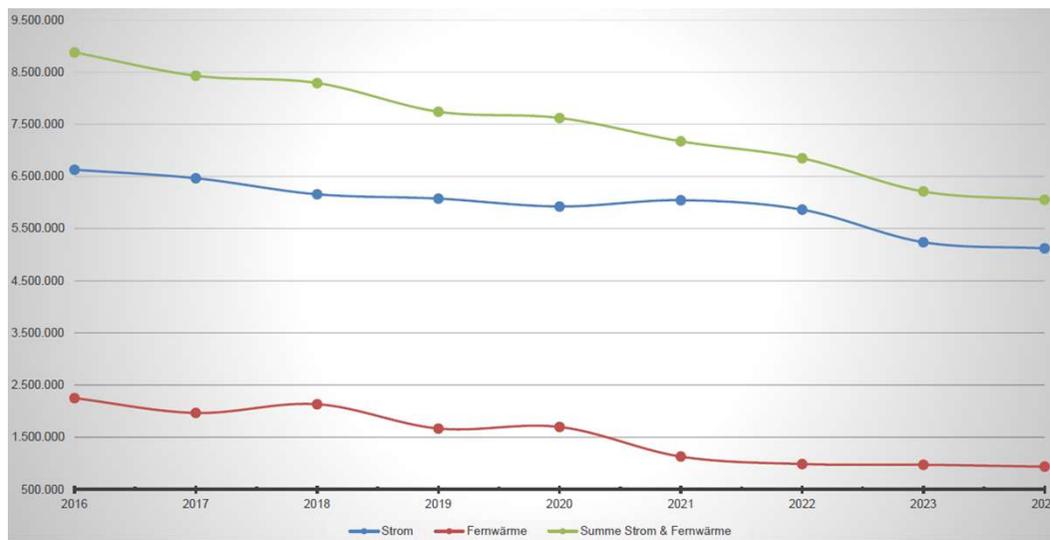
- ▶ Team members from all professions, e.g.
  - ▶ Doctors
  - ▶ Nurses
  - ▶ IT
  - ▶ Administration
  - ▶ Etc.
- ▶ The team acts as
  - ▶ Ambassadors
  - ▶ First point of contact for new ideas
  - ▶ Supporters
  - ▶ Trainers
  - ▶ Supervisors



## Practical examples in Lower Austria II

Implementation of energy management measures, such as

- ▶ Usage of renewable energy
- ▶ Switching to LED lamps
- ▶ Motion detection
- ▶ Optimization of room temperatures
- ▶ Passive heating / cooling
- ▶ Switching off large medical devices outside core hours  
(e.g. CT/MR devices – up to 20% energy saving compared to 24/7)



## Practical examples in Lower Austria III

- ▶ Implementation of waste management measures, such as
  - ▶ Waste separation and cooperation with waste companies
  - ▶ Implementation of “waste managers”
  - ▶ Trying to reduce organic waste (including monitoring systems)
  - ▶ Recycling of anaesthetic gases
  - ▶ Usage of reusable products instead of single-use (common business in Lower Austria, as we own two logistics centres for reprocessing)
  
- ▶ Infrastructure measures, such as
  - ▶ Avoiding large window areas
  - ▶ Promotion of green spaces on the site
  - ▶ Integration into existing infrastructure

## Conclusion

- ▶ Many ways to achieve something – it's not a question of “which one is the best one”, it's a question of “do I try to do something?”
  
- ▶ Success factors:
  - ▶ Participation of employees, including the establishment of a transparent monitoring system usable for everyone
  - ▶ Act, don't just talk!
    - ▶ Even if the measure seems insignificant, every step forward counts and is better than stagnation. → think global, act local – everybody can do something
  
- ▶ Measurable objectives:
  - ▶ Consumption of resources (e.g. energy, waste, etc.) including the monetary savings through measures (linked to a transparent monitoring system as mentioned above)

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THANK  
YOU  
for your attention