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Good practice

„G´scheit Feiern“ („Clever Feasting“)

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Background description

Problem addressed

At conventional festivals, an average of 1 kg of waste is produced per person.

The main causes are disposable packaging and disposable tableware and cups. Long transportation routes for both food and guests also contribute to a large ecological footprint.



Developing the solution

- Launched in 2001 on the occasion of the Styrian provincial exhibition in the city Weiz as
- a pioneer for environmentally conscious festivals and events throughout Austria
- Since 2017 part of the “Green Events Styria”-network

Focus / criteria for using logo and for subsidy

- Only reusable tableware, cups etc.
- Regional (preferably organic) food
- fair trade label for food that cannot be produced regionally
- Sustainable transport (recommendation)

Background description

Objective, targets and expectations

Reduce the amount of waste generated at publicly accessible festive events by 90 %.

Increased added value in the region through regional food and beverages (at least 10 € / person).

Reduction of climate-relevant emissions.

From 2015 implementation at the major event "Diagonale" - Austrian Film Festival in Graz



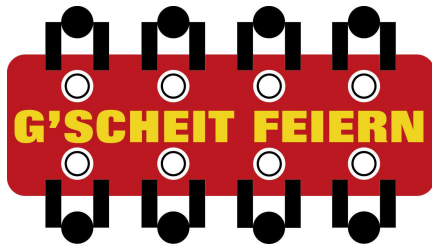
Photo (section): © Pixelmaker

Opening ceremony of a „Resource Park“ organized by the Waste Management Association Leibnitz according to G´scheit Feiern criteria

Implementation of the good practice

Timescale

- Concept development
- Pilot 2001 in the city Weiz
- Definition of subsidy criteria and funding
- Development and protection of the brand "G'scheit Feiern"
- Formation of a network of advisors in the regions (i.e. dedicated waste advisors from the 17 Styrian waste management associations)



Human and financial resources

- Concept development by the waste management team in the province of Styria together with waste advisors.
- Logo developed by third party
- Funding of subsidies: allocated from the annual budget of the Waste and Resource Management Unit at the Office of the Regional Government of Styria
- Information of regional advisors: half-yearly network meetings. Their commitment varies.

Additional costs for organizers incurred through the use of reusable tableware and cups (serving, return, cleaning) are partially covered by the subsidies.

Implementation of the good practice

Cross-sectoral and or cross-institutional cooperation

- 17 Styrian waste management associations, which are municipal associations of the
- initially 543 – since 2015 287, since 1.1.2025 285 – municipalities
- Stakeholders are the festival organisers, e.g.
 - Styrian Organic Harvest Association
 - Diagonale – Festival of Austrian Film
 - sport clubs (organizers of running events)
 - municipalities
 - voluntary fire departments
 - various associations
 - etc.

Implementation of the good practice



Photo: Diagonale/Miriam Raneburger



Photo: Land Steiermark/A14



Photo: Land Steiermark/A14



Photo: Diagonale/Sebastian Reiser



Photo: Melbinger

Evidences of success

Results achieved

From 2001 - 2024

- ca. 4,900 subsidised festivals with ca. 4.8 mio. visitors
- ca. 4,300 tons of prevented waste
- assumed benefit for regional producers: at least 48 mio. €
- range of events: from <100 to >30,000 visitors
- various events in the areas of customs, culture, sport and other festivities

Flagship project „Diagonale #denktweiter“ („Diagonale #thinks ahead“) – an initiative for sustainability and responsibility:

- G´ schein Feiern criteria
- sustainably produced printed materials and promotion articles
- sustainable mobility offers
- sustainable event locations
- organic, seasonal, regional floristry

Lessons learnt

Challenges

- Additional effort for organisers
- Right amount of subsidy
- Availability of reusable crockery and cups for hire
- Commitment of regional advisors
- Commitment of organisers
- More visibility for awareness-raising

Enabling actions

- Webpage **www.gscheitfeiern.steiermark.at**
- New subsidy guideline with higher funding rates (2024)
- Increased availability of reusable crockery (2024)
- Semi-annual meetings of the project team and regional advisors
- Modernisation of the subsidy criteria in dialogue with the regional advisors (ongoing)

www.gscheitfeiern.steiermark.at



WER SIND WIR? ABFALL UND MEHRWEG REGIONALE PRODUKTE AN- UND ABREISE MACHEN SIE MIT SERVICE



Sie sind hier: > G'scheit Feiern



Willkommen bei G´SCHEIT FEIERN - Der steirischen Festkultur!

Wer sind wir? >

Wir sind Teil des Netzwerkes GREEN EVENTS STEIERMARK und setzen Schwerpunkte in den Themenfeldern **Beschaffung & Abfall** und **Verpflegung & Catering**. Darüber hinaus versuchen wir unsere VeranstalterInnen zu motivieren ihren BesucherInnen eine **An- und Abreise** mit öffentlichen Verkehrsmitteln zu ermöglichen!

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Information >

☒ Informieren Sie sich bei unseren RegionalbetreuerInnen.

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Veranstaltung planen >

☒ Registrieren und Anmelden zur Onlineeinreichung.

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Festkalender >

☒ Wir freuen uns auf Ihren Besuch. Der Festkalender.

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Abfall und Mehrweg >

Wie klingt das? Besser als ein Wegwerfbecher? Und das Geschirr?

GLAS und KERAMIK klingen nach **LEBENSSTIL ...und vor allem nach UMWELTBEWUSSTSEIN.**

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Regionale Produkte >

Wie schmeckt das? Möchten Sie den Erzeuger kennen lernen? Vielleicht sitzt er am Nebentisch?

REGIONALE PRODUKTE schmecken nach **QUALITÄT, VERTRAUEN ...und vor allem nach LEBENSWERT.**

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An- und Abreise >

Sie sind per Bus, Taxi oder Fahrgemeinschaft gekommen? Am Ende gar per Ökibus mit Biodiesel?

ÖFFENTLICHER VERKEHR bedeutet **ENERGIEBESWUSSTSEIN, KOMFORT ...und vor allem SICHERHEIT.**

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Links zu Partnerwebseiten

- > Green Events Steiermark
- > Fairtrade Österreich
- > Steiermarkflasche
- > Abfallwirtschaft Steiermark
- > Nachhaltige Steiermark

**Time for
questions**



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