June 13th, 2005

Contrasting successful objective 1

This brochure invites you to have a close look at 8 of 9,540* objective 1 projects in Burgenland. The ideas are so different and contradictory like the projects themselves.

* Objective 1 and additional programmes as per 31.12.2004
The objective 1 programme of the European Union supports people and innovative projects. The uniqueness and diversity of these projects change the province and promote development.

Opposites attract, the proverb says and polarity gives an impetus to the flow of energy. The varying diverse objective 1 projects express opposites and unity within the European Union. They strengthen the economy and the identity of Burgenland. Objective 1 funds and co-financing by the Austrian federal government and the province of Burgenland enable not only progress, but also preserve natural resources.

In the second funding period main emphasis is given on regionally disadvantaged areas as well as on small and medium-sized enterprises. Since the beginning of the second objective 1 funding period (2000 – 2006) 11,530 projects have been recommended for funding as per April 2005. A large number of those could not have been financed without the help of objective 1 funding.

In this brochure 8 success stories in Burgenland are presented. They mirror the opposites and the diversity of life. But they also show the manifold similarities which unite people, projects and ideas. water <-> wine, forgotten <-> remembered, young <-> old, delicate <-> solid.
It’s a cold and rainy afternoon in the National Park Neusiedler See – Seewinkel. The scientists couple Dr. Rudolf Krachler and University Professor Dr. Regina Krachler lead us through the area of the small shallow salt and sodium lakes, the “Lacken”, east of Lake Neusiedl. The gloomy weather suits the matter just fine.

In the past decades about two thirds of the originally more than 100 small shallow salt and soda lakes in this unique area have disappeared. Water level indicators can be found in the middle of the meadow, on silted up area. Even during wet spring the shallow lakes have partly no water. “An irretrievable treasure is being lost”, Dr. Krachler describes the dramatic situation.

The chemist at the Department of Limnology and Hydrobotany at the University of Vienna loves this extraordinary piece of nature in today’s National Park. In 1989 he wrote his dissertation here in the same area. He has a hard time to acknowledge the fact that the lakes are disappearing completely. "The Objective 1 Project for renaturalization is supposed to show – at least on a small scale – how the shallow lakes might be saved", Krachler says and adds: "The first trials went very well."

The elixir of life - ground water

In the area of the Lange Lacke the ground water level is about 1 meter below the water level. The ground water and the potassium content make the clay layer in
between impervious. A small lake comes into being. "The deadly enemy of the shallow lakes is vegetation", the scientist describes the circle of nature in the shallow lake area. "When the lakes dry up because of rising temperatures, ground water and salt are sucked up. A white layer, the so-called salt efflorescence, covers the surface of the lake and prevents new vegetation. Water withdrawal for agricultural purposes and drainage through canals are the reason that the circle of life of the lakes is disturbed. The soil becomes leak and the lakes close up."

rescue attempt

Under the direction of the Environmental Protection Agency five scientists are researching a method to preserve the shallow lakes. "Never before has it been tried to restore a silted up soda lake to its original state.", Dr. Thomas Zechmeister, managing director of the Environmental Protection Agency Burgenland points out. Amongst others the scientists chose the dried up twin lake of the Martinshoflake to carry out the tests. "20 years ago this lake was still there, it was the habitat of numerous animals and plants", Dr. Rudolf Krachler points out. On two trial patches, each of about 9 m², we cleared away a layer of 5 centimetres of vegetation. Since there is no salt depot left in the top layer we applied sodium carbonate and sodium sulphate in autumn 2004. The objective was to make the soil impervious again. And we were successful. The lake carries water on those patches."

the future of the shallow lakes

However, the decisive question now is, if the method which has turned out successful on a small scale, will also work on larger areas. At present further research is being done on an area of several 100 square meters. "With the help of a potent sponsor it would be possible to wake some disappeared shallow lakes from their sleep", Dr. Zechmeister from the Environmental Protection Agency says optimistically. The scientist Dr. Krachler is a bit more cautious in his prognosis: "Sustainable success is only possible through the further elevation of ground water."

In any case, it will be a battle against time.

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facts & figures

Renaturalization of lakes

Testing of a renaturalization concept for dried up shallow lakes ("Lacken") in the National Park Neusiedler See - Seewinkel

Reason: Preservation and development of environmentally precious resources, support of regional characteristics of cultural landscapes, especially of scarce plant and animal species
EU-Programme: EAGGF, Priority: agriculture and forestry, protection of the environment
Funding: 100 %
Funding body: Regional Government Burgenland, Department 4a

is vanishing. scientists succeeded for the first time in revitalizing a dried up shallow lake on a small scale. a silver lining on the horizon for this endangered habitat.
Leisure and Fairy Tale Theme Park Neusiedlersee

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•••

when fairy tales come true

"Who is disturbing my sleep?" This is how Dragomir Schwefelstein, a dragon of two meters height welcomes the little guests at his cave at the fairy tale park. While doing so, water is coming out of his nostrils and his head is moving to and from. A variety of lights and sounds hold the visitors in their spell. On the square a pirate bear band is singing a song, the pneumatically driven life-size figurines are moving in time to the music. At the gladiator’s path, a large castle made of thick logs, a girl and her father are testing their skills. Right beside it the temple slide invites you to take a plunge on a rubber dinghy. In between all the attractions you’ll find Mario Müller, financial and creative director and owner of the amusement and family park in St. Margarethen. For about 200,000 visitors per year the 46-year old makes fairy tales and children’s dreams come true. 22 years ago he took over the business from his father and
expanded it into a large and modern adventure paradise for families.

Growing up with the business

“Already as a child I was very enthusiastic about my father’s fairy tale park with its figurines and animals. I literally grew into the business from the beginning,” Mario Müller tells us. His education at art school and in forestry prepared him well for his future job. After he finished school he took the risk, jumped into cold water and constantly expanded the fairy tale park based on the model of large theme parks in Germany “I wanted to take advantage of Austria’s accession to the EU and of EU-enlargement in time. And success has definitely come around and confirms my decision. Our amusement park attracts about 2,000 visitors per day, about a quarter of them are from nearby Hungary, despite the fact that advertising in Hungary has only just started.”, Mario Müller recounts enthusiastically. An expansion at this dimension is only possible with the help of objective 1 funds and many of my own financial investments.”

The Fairy Tale Park Neusiedlersee is an important factor for tourism in the region. At present there are 62 attractions, from the adventure castle to the nostalgic fairy tale forest to adventure island and the petting zoo. A paradise for families

The Leisure and Fairy Tale Park focuses on families and children of up to 12 years. In the peak season up to 50 employees make sure that visitors have a pleasant stay and take care that attractions run smoothly. The 1-day ticket at the price of 10 Euros enables free access to almost all activities and rides. “We have also started to offer season’s tickets, since especially families from the surrounding areas come on a regular basis.”

Making dreams come true

Mario Müller’s latest plans: “At present a restaurant and a market square with shops are being built. In 2006 the large crocodile train and the tractor train will be opened. Additionally, preparations are being made to erect a family hotel on the grounds of the fairy tale park in the near future. Thus, our guests will have the possibility to stay for some days and to also explore the whole of the region.” It is Mario Müller’s daily business to make children’s dreams come true and to stimulate their imagination. Fortunately the fairy tale park owner has not forgotten to have dreams himself, to believe in them and to work on their implementation.

Facts & figures

Leisure and Fairy Tale Park Neusiedlersee

Expansion Leisure and Fairy Tale Park Neusiedlersee

Time Period: September 2003 – August 2005

Reason: Strengthening of quality tourism, relevance for the region, function as leading company

EU-Programme: ERDF, Priority: tourism and culture

Funding: 20 %

Funding Body: Wirtschaftsservice Bgl. AG - WiBAG
... with a great past and a great future – the wellanschitz winery is the oldest winery in blaufränkischland. today the 4th generation of might well be the reason why wellanschitz wines are so extraordinary in taste.

The ruby colored wine has had a fundamental role in the life of the winemaking Wellanschitz family for almost a century now. The oldest winery in the region of the so-called “Blaufränkischland” (Land of the Blaufränkisch) has been growing slowly but constantly. Their long tradition of wine-making not interfering at all with their openness for new ideas and their striving to make wines with passion and love.

Around 1990 when many wineries gave up their vineyards the Wellanschitz vineyards grew by a threefold from 8 to 25 hectare. All vineyards are still cultivated by the family themselves, not a single grape is bought from other wineries. “We are followers of a constant path, away from short lived fashion trends.” This is how Christine Wellanschitz describes the winery’s philosophy and their recipe for success on a tour through the winery “We are growing on the solid foundation of tradition. In the end it always showed that the constant way is the better option in the long term. Our main red wine is still the Blaufränkisch, which is deeply rooted in our vineyards and which finds ideal conditions to grow and ripe in Blaufränkischland.”

The family business in Neckenmarkt is made up of Stefan Wellanschitz, his wife Christine and his younger brother Georg, who, after finishing training in wine making, returned home in 1997. In the honour of his return the first and only Cuvée of the well chosen name Fraternitas was made.

red wine – ruby colored

The dark red colour of wine can be found in all areas of life at the Wellanschitz winery. Even during our visit where a wall in the courtyard of the house was in the process of being painted wine red ruby colored. The family produces solely red wine – a 120,000 bottles per year. In 1995 Christine Wellanschitz, the marketing expert in the family, designed the well known narrow bottle label of ruby colored. “The color of red wine is our trademark colour and makes it easier for customers to recognize our wines” Christine Wellanschitz points out. “Every box, folder
and label is ruby colored. The colour can also be found now and then in the modern extension of our cellar.

**Investing in the future**

In 1997 Stefan, Christine and Georg Wellanschitz started to enlarge the cellar, the heart of which being 200 French oak barrels. 11 steps lead the way to the modern tasting room and to a large vault. “In this room our guests have the chance to not only get to know our wines under a special wine light, but to also have a close look at the vines and grape varieties.”, Christine Wellanschitz tells us.

For practical reasons the press house, the modern fermentation tanks and the production hall are situated on the ground floor. “The financial resources from Objective 1 helped us to quickly expand and modernize our business.” Christine Wellanschitz points out. “Now we look into the future with no worries.”

**From the old vineyard hills**

Up to 30 meters deep lie the roots of the oldest vines on the distinctive vineyards of the Wellanschitz family. On sunny slopes in heavy clay the Blaufränkisch grapes thrive in an extraordinary quality. A number of wines, like the “Blaufrankisch vom Hochberg”, the “Blaufrankisch vom alten Weingebirge”, or the “Blaufrankisch Classic” have received numerous international awards in the past.

“But awards aren’t that important to us.”, Christine Wellanschitz points out. “The important thing is that our clients enjoy our wines.” As the perfect completion to this attitude the Wellanschitz wines not made in the classical tradition will be named “well” – and in every sense of the word it seems rightly so.

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**Facts & Figures**

Weingut Wellanschitz Ges.m.b.R.  
Enlargement of the cellar at the Wellanschitz Winery in Neckenmarkt  
**Time Period:** October 2000 – November 2002  
**Reason:** Rural development  
**EU-Programme:** EAGGF, Priority: agriculture  
**Funding:** 25%  
**Funding Body:** ERP-Fund, Vienna

Winemakers is committed to target-oriented advancement and change without denying the deep roots of their tradition.
... this is the motto of 20 women and men who are currently retrained in Oberwart to become nursing assistants. At the age of 30 to 40 they find a job after moving to Burgenland. At 44 she is sometimes considered too old for a job. But in nursing and care people of her age are first choice. Until today she has never regretted her job change. "The target group of the nursing assistant training programme are people over 30."

Eveline Weinhofer from BFI, the institute for career advancement in Oberwart points out. They are able to relate to the situation of life of older people, often they are already experienced in caring for relatives. It is this group which tends to stay in this profession.

"It's the little things that mean a lot to the elderly and you get so much back from them." Gabriela Rechberger from Pinkafeld speaks enthusiastically about her new occupation as nursing assistant. The mother of two is married and with 33 she is back at school. It is the first profession in which she is properly trained. After child care and a period of unemployment it is her chance to enter working life. For Marina Herist from Rechnitz it is the second formal training she receives. The former kindergarten teacher could not
The training programme for nursing assistants is intensive and on a tight schedule. Within a year, 800 hours in theory and 800 hours of practical training have to be completed. Currently, three training programmes are being held simultaneously in Oberwart, Eisenstadt and Neusiedl. "It is impressive to see how highly motivated and how ambitious all participants are," Liane Baldauf, director of the training programme, says. "Their motto is: We can make it! If you like people, you can achieve anything. In working life, our students show that they are able to implement what they learnt in class. Almost all participants find a job immediately after finishing the training programme." Main emphasis in training is given on provision of care for the elderly, patient hygiene, mobility and observation of patients. Special attention is also paid to the social skills of future nursing assistants.

"We managed to offer the programmes locally in the regions," Eveline Weinhofer from BFI is pleased to say. It enables unemployed women and single mothers to take part in the programme. Participants receive course costs as well as an amount to cover the cost of living from the Employment Service. Success is the approval of our concept. There is a large demand for our students in home care, nursing homes and hospitals. Almost all of our students find a job," Evelin Weinhofer from BFI Oberwart points out.

At present there are about 1.8 million people over 60 years in Austria. As life expectancy is continuously on the rise, in 2050 every third man or woman will be over 60. A large majority of them will be able to live by themselves. But the constantly growing group of over 86-year-olds will be disproportionately in need of permanent care. Well trained skilled workers with a heart for the elderly are needed. Skilled workers like Sybille Kunz from Oberwart. The mother of four explains enthusiastically: "I like to be in contact with people. This is why I enjoy working in nursing and care. It is great. I can’t even imagine anything else."

### Local training

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### Dreamjob nursing assistant

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### Facts & figures

**Nursing Assistant Programme SOUTH**

Training in nursing assistance for adults

**Time Period:** January 2004 – December 2004

**Reason:** Promotion of equal opportunities on the labour market

**EU-Programme:** ESF, Priority: human resources and qualification

**Funding:** 100%

**Funding Body:** AMS – Arbeitsmarktservice Burgenland (Austrian Employment Service Burgenland)
Galantamine – against forgetfulness

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FORGOTTEN

May 4th, 2005

... against forgetfulness

... and for the quality of life of Alzheimer’s patients is what Sanochemia in Neufeld and their active substance galantamine are fighting

The roots of success

“Of course you won’t find a single snowdrop in our plant today,” DI Anton Gerdentisch, divisional director, points out while showing us around at Sanochemia.

“Nevertheless the chemical composition of its roots forms the foundation for our active substance against Alzheimer’s disease.” Sanochemia Pharmaceuticals AG is a very successful company situated on a historical site in Neufeld. Already at the beginning of the 20th century in the golden age of brown coal mining research and production took place here. Today state-of-the-art facilities enable the synthetic production of the active substance galantamine.

“It effectively slows down the progressing of the Alzheimer’s disease. Galantamine is the basis for one of the three big Alzheimer drugs and helps worldwide millions of people.”

In the 1950s a ton of snowdrop roots had to be processed in order to receive 8 grams of the substance. “There were huge snowdrop plantations in Bulgaria and Scotland. At that time a kilogram of galantamine cost up to 30,000 $,” DI Gerdentisch describes the history of this substance. “In 2005 here in Neufeld about 5 tons of galantamine will be chemically generated, enabling the production of effective and affordable Alzheimer drugs.”

A family business goes public

The foundation of today’s company which is listed on the stock exchange was laid in the 1970s. At that time the industrialist DI Dr Werner Frantsits bought Waldheim Pharmaceuticals in Neufeld. Later on it became Sanochemia. It was also his idea to do research on substances against Alzheimer’s disease. Since 1996 the patent...
The industrial synthesis of galantamine secures the international reputation as a research driven pharmaceutical company, the field of synthesis accounting for 60% of the turnover. Since 1999 Sanochemia Pharmaceuticals is listed on the Frankfurt stock exchange, 70% still remain in the hands of Dr Frantsits.

**research for the people**

Due to increasing life expectancy more and more people suffer from degenerative diseases of the central nervous system like dementia. About 60% of over 90-year olds are Alzheimer’s patients making research and development in this field especially important. The site in Neufeld accommodates the complete research, production, technology and logistics for the industrial production of galantamine. “In our plants the white powder is produced on a chemical basis, later it is processed into pills and sold worldwide by our partners Johnson & Johanson and Shire Pharmaceuticals”, DI Gerdenitsch says. “With the help of Objective 1 funds further research can be done. If the basic molecule of galantamine is chemically changed, new fields of use and therapy could be explored. And this could help a great many sick people.”

**innovation secures jobs**

The industrial synthesis of galantamine secures about 100 jobs at Sanochemia in Neufeld. They are mainly skilled workers in the fields of chemistry, process engineering, pharmacistics and mechanical engineering. About a third of employees is from Burgenland. Their extraordinary innovation and research potential is crucial for Sanochemia Pharmaceuticals to persist as company on the market also in the future.

**facts & figures**

**Sanochemia Pharmazeutika AG**

A chemical synthesis for substances hitherto extracted from plants with the basic structure of galantamine is developed and tested

- **Time Period:** December 2003 – November 2004
- **Reason:** Innovation content, entailing technology leap for the company, regional importance
- **EU-Programme:** ERDF, Priority: research, technology, innovation
- **Funding:** 19.07 %
- **Funding body:** FFG – Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft

for. the listed company has managed successfully to chemically produce galantamine, thus, the large demand for this substance can be met worldwide and millions of patients can be helped.
... framed with long slender leaves, the spring snowflake is one of the first to bloom in March. Since it is such a beauty people plucked

they are growing again

In the woodland around the Großer Hirschenstein near the village of Rechnitz, the second highest elevation in Burgenland, one feels closer to heaven. Everything grows and blossoms, birds fly by, bees are buzzing around. It is a truly idyllic site in the midst of Naturpark Geschriebenstein where Joseph Binder, Elfriede Gossi and Eva Ritter from Rechnitz recount enthusiastically their newest project: The replanting of the spring snowflake. The first delicate plants have already fought their way up through the wood's soil. The planting which was done in autumn has turned out successful. “It is such a pleasure to look at them.”, Elfriede Gossi, from the information office Natur Park Geschriebenstein, says again and again on her tour in the woods. “They are growing again.” Josef Binder, honorary committee member of the Nature Park Association and initiator of many projects, tells us. “We simply want to preserve nature for the next generation. We are idealists and we strongly believe in the nature park idea.

heralding spring

The spring snowflake, also known as St. Agnes’ Flower or St. Joseph’s Bells, is a very delicate plant, easy to be overlooked would it not be one of the first to unfold its leaves and flower in pre-spring. In past times the wild flower was to be found abundantly in the woods surrounding the Großer Hirschenstein at an altitude of 862 meters. “I remember quite well that families from the surrounding area used to come here frequently when the spring snowflake bloomed.”, Josef Binder recounts. “During this excursions the flower was plucked in large quantities and dug out with the bulb...
to plant it in the own garden. This is why now it can only be found very seldom around here.”

**of nature lovers and idealists**

The trained locksmith Josef Binder has dedicated his love for flowers and plants entirely to serve the nature park association. On the Austrian side the cross-border Naturpark Geschriebenstein – Irottkő comprises an area of 8,500 hectare with numerous trails including educational trails. Many projects can only be put into practice with the help of volunteers. This is also true for the new spring snowflake biotope. “EU-funds and the support of about 20 ladies from the gymnastics association in Rechnitz have made this project possible.”, Josef Binder points out.

“We had to get the 2,500 flower bulbs from Holland. And last autumn at the day we planted the bulbs, it was freezing and very stormy at the Großer Hirschenstein. Nevertheless all ladies of the gymnastics association turned up. Together with Eva Ritter and Elfriede Gossi from the nature park’s office we succeeded in planting the spring snowflakes on an area of about half a hectare.”, the 56-year old native of Rechnitz describes the successful renaturalisation of the spring snowflake at Hirschenstein. This year a further 1,500 bulbs will be planted.

**the nature park idea**

“This place is so lovely.” Elfried Gossi from the nature park’s office goes almost into raptures. “The landscape is varied and fascinating.” And her colleague Eva Ritter adds: “Also children are enthusiastic when we organise adventure tours for them.”

Every year the Naturpark Geschriebenstein – Irottkő draws more and more visitors to the region. The replanted spring snowflakes are a further “quiet and delicate” attraction in the nature park.

Soon information boards and specific trail marking will point out this peculiarity of nature to visitors – together with the plea to let them survive in their natural environment for the sake of the generations to come.

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**facts & figures**

Renaturalisation of the spring snowflake

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<th>Renaturalisation of the spring snowflake, planting of bulbs, trail marking, information boards, information material, web presentation</th>
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and dug it out threatening it with extinction. At present it is being replanted by committed nature lovers – carefully planting bulb for bulb by hand.
a house with a long tradition

The Austrian Jewish Museum, the so-called Wertheimer house, is situated in the former Jewish quarter of Eisenstadt. The house was built at the end of the 17th century by the prominent Court Jew Samson Wertheimer. The façade of the historic building is badly in need of renovation. Objective 1 funds make the long needed renovation and an authentic rebuilding of the façade finally possible. This is a very important project for our museum even if a building alone may by far not be considered as monument”, Mag. Johannes Reiss, museum director of many years points out at the beginning of the guided tour: “It will only be a monument if one starts thinking about what can be done in and what can be done with this house. And this has happened here – long before large official Holocaust commemoration ceremonies were held in Austria. And we are very proud of this fact.” Established in 1972 the Austrian Jewish Museum in Eisenstadt was the first Jewish Museum in Austria after the end of the Second World War. The Wertheimer house with its own synagogue is not only the perfect setting for the museum, but also an integral part of it.

wertheimersche schul

About 8,000 visitors per year come to the Austrian Jewish Museum in Eisenstadt. Among them are Jews, non-Jews, school classes and tourists. They are all particularly impressed by the “Wertheimersche Schule”, the private synagogue at the mansion. “The synagogue is the heart of our museum.” It is one of the few synagogues in the German-speaking world which totally escaped damage during the November pogrom in 1938 and in the following years,”, museum director Johannes Reiss describes its significance. “It is a sanctified synagogue with
a Torah shrine and kosher Torah scrolls. If 10 Jewish men gather here, they can hold a Jewish service, and once or twice a year this is still the case."

**experiencing culture**

Visitors are often touched emotionally by the 755 Yahrzeit plaques on display in the synagogue on a 7 meter high wall. The plaques were found by mere coincidence more than 10 years ago in CARE-boxes in the attic of the Wertheimer mansion. "These little black metal plaques, which commemorate the deceased are my favourites object”, Mag. Johannes Reiss says. "They date back to the beginning of the 18th century and were originally hung in the synagogue at Yahrzeit, the anniversary of the deceased’s passing. Visitors are very much impressed by them, many even find the names of relatives on these historic plaques. "Living history and culture which can be felt is experienced here." “Nevertheless the museum always has to struggle for financial resources”, Reiss, director of the museum, points out. At present the main proportion of cost is borne by the province of Burgenland.

**Jewish festivals**

In the middle of the 19th century about 900 Jews lived in Eisenstadt. In the area of today’s Burgenland the Jewish community numbered about 8,000 persons. In the first part of the Wertheimer mansion the current permanent exhibition offers an insight into Jewish festivities. A voluminous reference library and a book store act as knowledge base for those wishing to pursue further studies. A further reason why today Eisenstadt can not be imagined without the Austrian Jewish Museum - a place of remembrance and a place where cultural heritage is preserved.

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**facts & figures**

**Association „Austrian Jewish Museum“**

Complete renovation of the outer façade of the Austrian Jewish Museum

**Time Period:** 2005 – 2006

**Reason:** Preservation of cultural heritage, improvement of structure of cultural offers

**EU-Programme:** EFRD, Priority: Tourism and culture

**Funding:** 100 %

**Funding Body:** Regional Government Burgenland, Department 7

and a symbol against prejudice and intolerance. Objective 1 funds enable the authentic renovation of the historically valuable outer façade.
Neutal Museum for Building Culture

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... the museum for building culture in Neutal shows brick by brick the interesting story of building workers and bricklayers of Burgenland. It is being of the “house Burgenland”

The members of the Association “Stein auf Stern” (Brick by Brick) in Neutal initiated the project and determinedly put it into practice within a very short period of time. “The MUBA is also a model project of village revitalization.” Robert Dominkovits, chairman of the association, senator h.c. is pleased to say. “We carefully renovated a house in the middle of Neutal integrating the population in the whole process, we motivated many building companies to join us, found numerous supporters and sponsors, thus creating a living museum.”

Building - culture - history

Already in the entrance area of the new museum building history can be felt. Large photographs of building workers are displayed on the walls. There are walls made of different building materials, right beside them there is the typical cement mixer, and a modern building crane looking down on them. In the centre an original furnace

... the foundations

“In the beginning there were great ideas and only very little financial resources. Then everybody helped together, thus making the creation of the museum possible.”, Erich Trummer, mayor of Neutal points out. “Our museum is a typical Burgenland project, it came into being like many homes in Burgenland do, with the help of friends and family.” This is why the new museum for building culture has a strong backing from the community of Neutal. The museum tells authentically the history of many men of Neutal who mainly used to work as furnace bricklayers in industrial centres. Many exhibition pieces originate from private households in Neutal. These personal memorabilia and the accounts of historical witnesses are the solid foundations of the MUBA, the museum for building culture in Neutal.

Already in the entrance area of the new museum building history can be felt. Large photographs of building workers are displayed on the walls. There are walls made of different building materials, right beside them there is the typical cement mixer, and a modern building crane looking down on them. In the centre an original furnace
originating from the brick works in the neighbouring community of St. Martin can be found. The MUBA is creating a bridge between past and present. In the large interior, on 220 m² a fictional building worker leads you through history. On walls depicting the various periods of history the construction of the fictional "House Burgenland" and its inhabitants is told. Additionally, economic, political and social developments from the 18th century until today are displayed. Film sequences and accounts of historical witnesses authentically show working conditions and life stories of builders. Dr. Susanne Steiger-Moser, museum curator, successfully managed to tell history, and made building culture with the help of numerous pictures, photos, objects and texts comprehensible. "Work shapes people, it changes them and it shapes culture, too\," Dr. Steiger-Moser highlights at the opening ceremony of the museum. "Many men of Neutal were building workers. The changes here are exemplary for the whole of Burgenland."

The museum for building culture appeals to people of all ages. In many visitors it awakens memories of their own life and their own history. The museum also offers special guided tours for children. In these tours the circumstances of life and working conditions of the children of building workers are shown. This aspect of the museum is also very important to Robert Dominkovits, chairman of the association "Stein auf Stein": "With this museum we wanted to show our children what their grand parents and great grand parents achieved."

**facts & figures**

**Neutal Museum for Building Culture**

Erection of the museum for building culture in Neutal

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period:</th>
<th>2003 – 2005</th>
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<td>Reason:</td>
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<td>EU-Programme:</td>
<td>ERDF, Priority: tourism and culture</td>
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<td>Funding:</td>
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<td>Funding body:</td>
<td>Authority of the Province of Burgenland, Department 7</td>
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