



REPORT OF AUSTRIAN POPULATION AND AGRICULTURE LAND USE

Task 1.1

Antonio F. Mileti CRISP/UNA; Barbara Birli EAA; Martin Neuwirth



Preliminary report of Residential population in Austria

1. Residential population in Austria at municipality level

Land use data have been extracted from Corine Land Cover 2018 (v20b2), residential population data from Statistik Austria, data relating to the size of organic farms and farmer age and the educational level by the farmers have been derived from the Census of Agriculture 2010 (Statistik Austria).

2. Variation in residential population (for all ages) at LAU2 between 2012-2018

Austria has a territory of 83,879 km² and a population of 8.82 million people; comparison of data for the residential population of 2012 with 2018 (Statistik Austria) indicates that some areas are becoming increasingly depopulated.

In general, depopulation/population seems to be closely connected to the orography of the territory. There is a depopulation dynamic (i) in a large part of the Alpine areas (with the exception of Nordtirol), which cover about three-fifths of the Austrian territory; (ii) on the Bohemian plateaux, located to the south of the border with the Czech Republic; (iii) in the south, near the border with Slovenia and Hungary.

There is generally an increase in population (i) in Nordtirol around the city of Innsbruck, probably due to dynamics relating to winter tourism; (ii) in the alpine foreland to the north of the Alps; (iii) on the Bavarian plateaux; (iv) in the flat areas of the country (mainly on the large flood plain north of the Alps, which crosses Austria from east to west); (v) due to urbanization processes near all capitals of the 9 federal states (Vienna, St.Pölten, Eisenstadt, Graz, Klagenfurt, Linz, Salzburg, Innsbruck and Bregenz).

Austria - Changes in residential population

difference between 2018 and 2012 (percentage compared to 2012)
Statistik Austria data (LAU2 level)

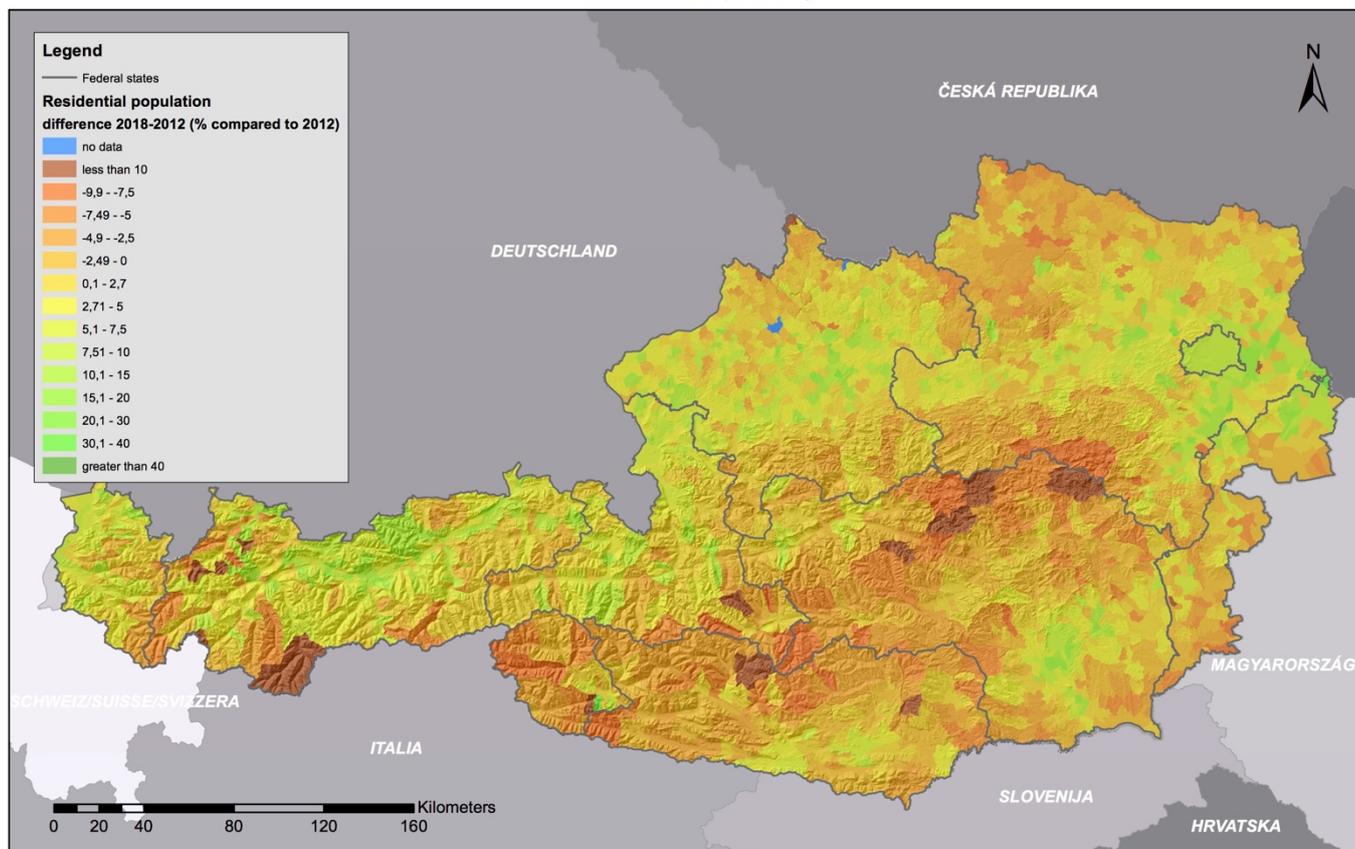


Figure 1 –Variation (difference) in residential population between 2012 and 2018 (percentage compared to 2012) in Austria at LAU2 level

3. Land use and agriculture

61% of Austrian territory is occupied by forests and semi-natural areas (5,125,933 ha), located mainly in the Alps; 32% by agricultural areas (2,679,935 ha); 6% by urban areas (495,986 ha); the remaining 1% is comprised of bodies of water and wetlands.

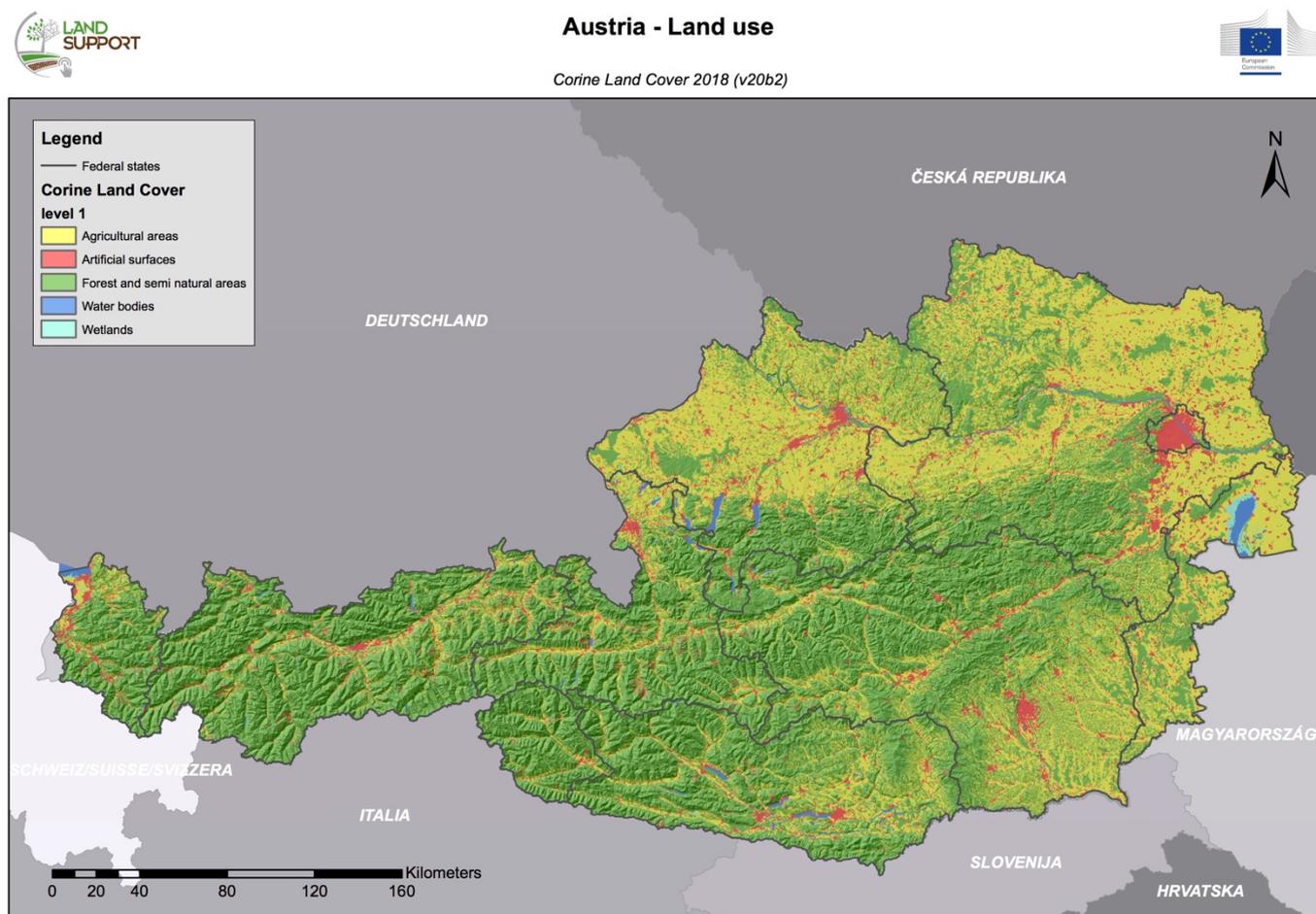
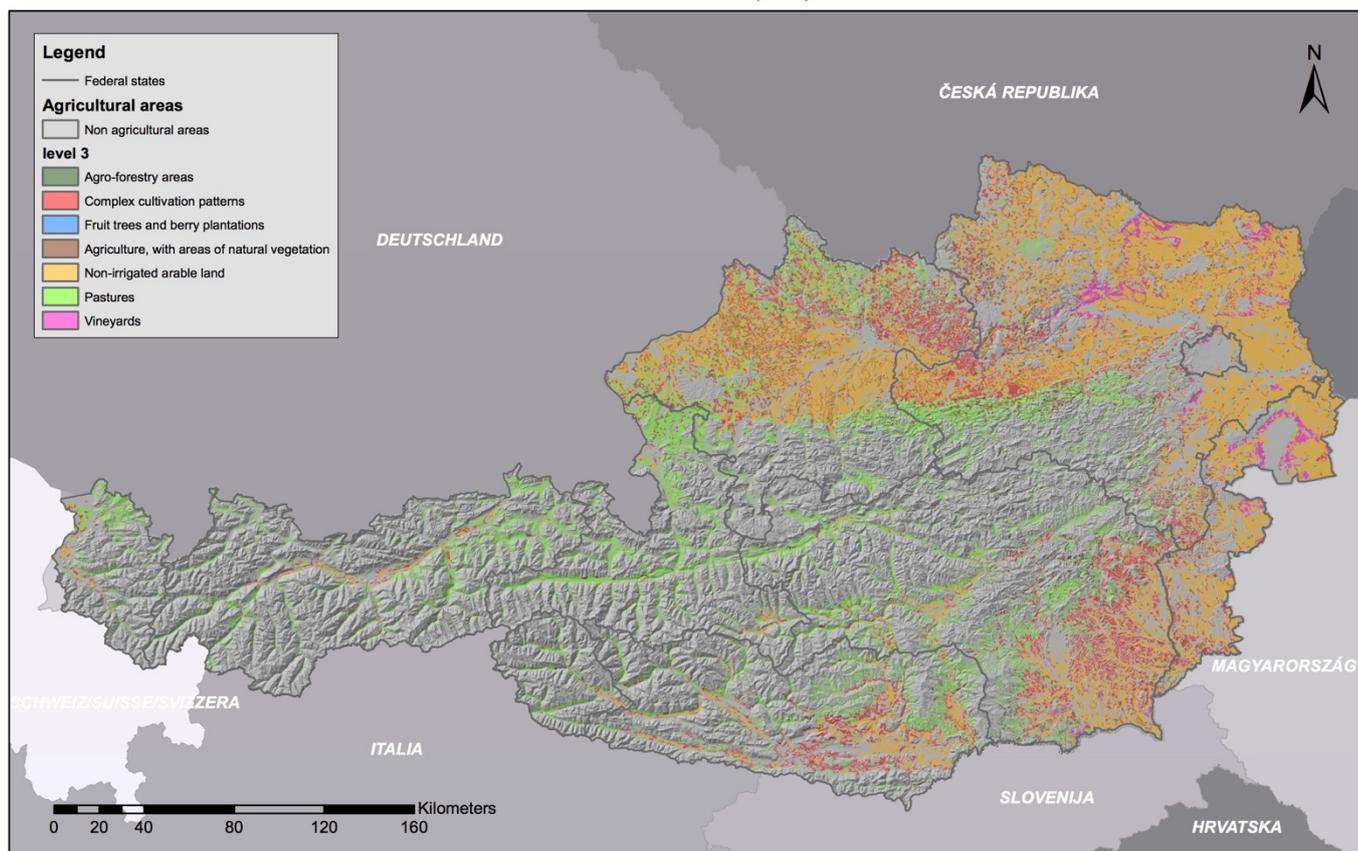


Figure 2 – Land use in Austria (Corine Land Cover 2018 -v20b2)



The utilised Agricultural Areas (UAA) measures 2,679,935 hectares, almost half of which is "Non-irrigated arable land" (1,313,137 ha) and a quarter pastures (704,506 ha). 2.5% (66,654 ha) is occupied by viticulture, concentrated almost entirely in the eastern part of the country, on slopes with a modest gradient in the triangle between the Bohemian plateaux, the border with Hungary and the most easterly branch of the Austrian Alps.

Figure 3 – Agriculture land use in Austria (Corine Land Cover 2018 - v20b2)

3.1 Organic farms (total per municipality)

With 23.4% of the agricultural area (620,656 ha) given over to biological cultivation, Austria is a leader in Europe (Eurostat 2017). The Census of Agriculture (Statistik Austria 2010) details about 58,000 organic farms, distributed as follows: Carinthia (Kärnten) has about 3,700 organic farms; the Vienna region (Wien) about 160; the Lower Austria region (Niederösterreich), which has a UAA of about 1 million ha, is home to about 20% of Austrian organic farms (about 10,000); in the Tyrol (Tirol), there are about 7,200; in Salzburg, there are more than 10,000; about 1,200 are found in Vorarlberg region; about 10,000 in the Upper Austria region (Oberösterreich); about 9,300 in Styria region (Steiermark).



Austria - Organic farms

number of farms

Statistik Austria 2010 - Agricultural Census (LAU2 level)

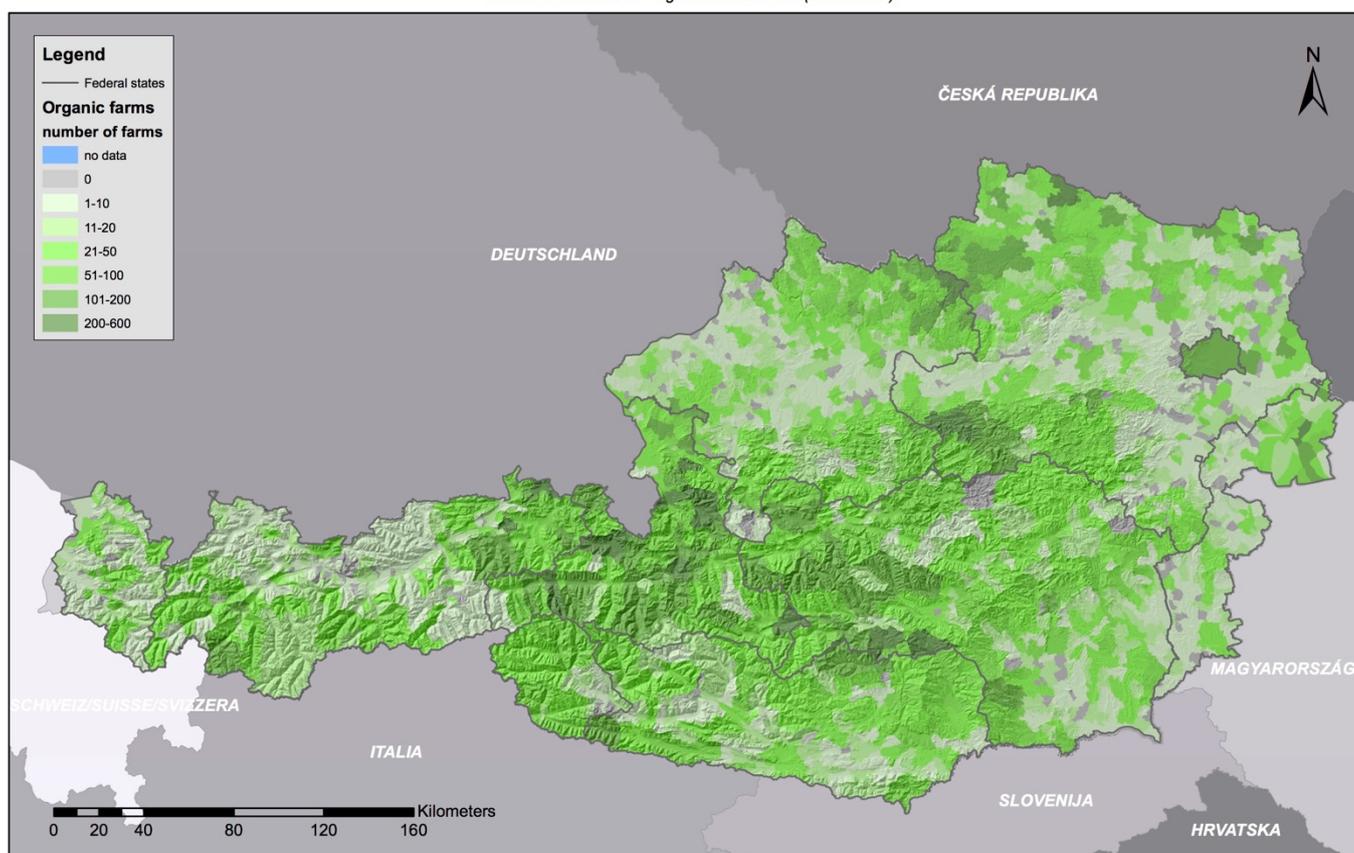


Figure 4 – Organic farms in Austria – number of farms at LAU2 level

3.2 Age of farmers (% of farmers over the age of 65)

Land owner age follows a different distribution trend from that of organic farms; agriculture is, on average, in younger hands on the flood plain and on the Bavarian plains; here we find that fewer than 5% of land owners are over sixty-five in most of the 450 municipalities. On the other hand, apart from the region of Tyrol, there is no rule for delimiting the municipalities with high percentages of people over sixty-five, which are scattered throughout the whole of Austria.



Austria - Age of farmers
 percentage of highly qualified farm owners
 Statistik Austria 2010 - Agricultural Census (LAU2 level)

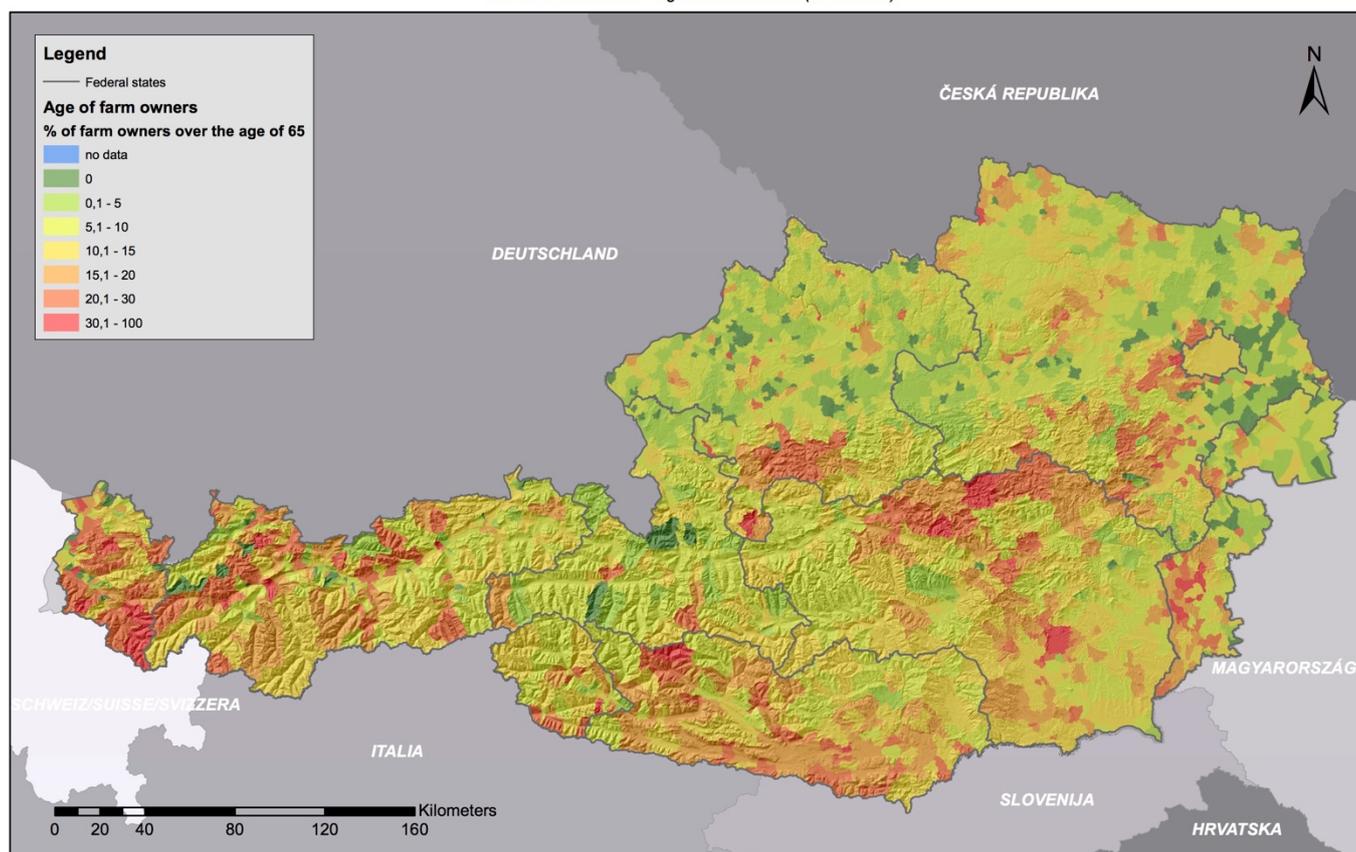


Figure 5 – Age of farmer in Austria - percentage of farmers over the age of 65 at LAU2 level

3.3 – Farmer education level (% of highly qualified farmers)

Land owner educational level follows the same distribution trend as that of land owner age; the most virtuous municipalities (with a percentage of highly qualified owners of between 50 and 100%) are found almost entirely on the floodplain. The educational level of Austrian farm managers is higher than the European average (Eurostat 2013); according to the 2013 FSS Report (Farm structure survey), 50% have an education level between "basic agricultural training" and "full agricultural training", while the remaining 50% have "practical experience only".

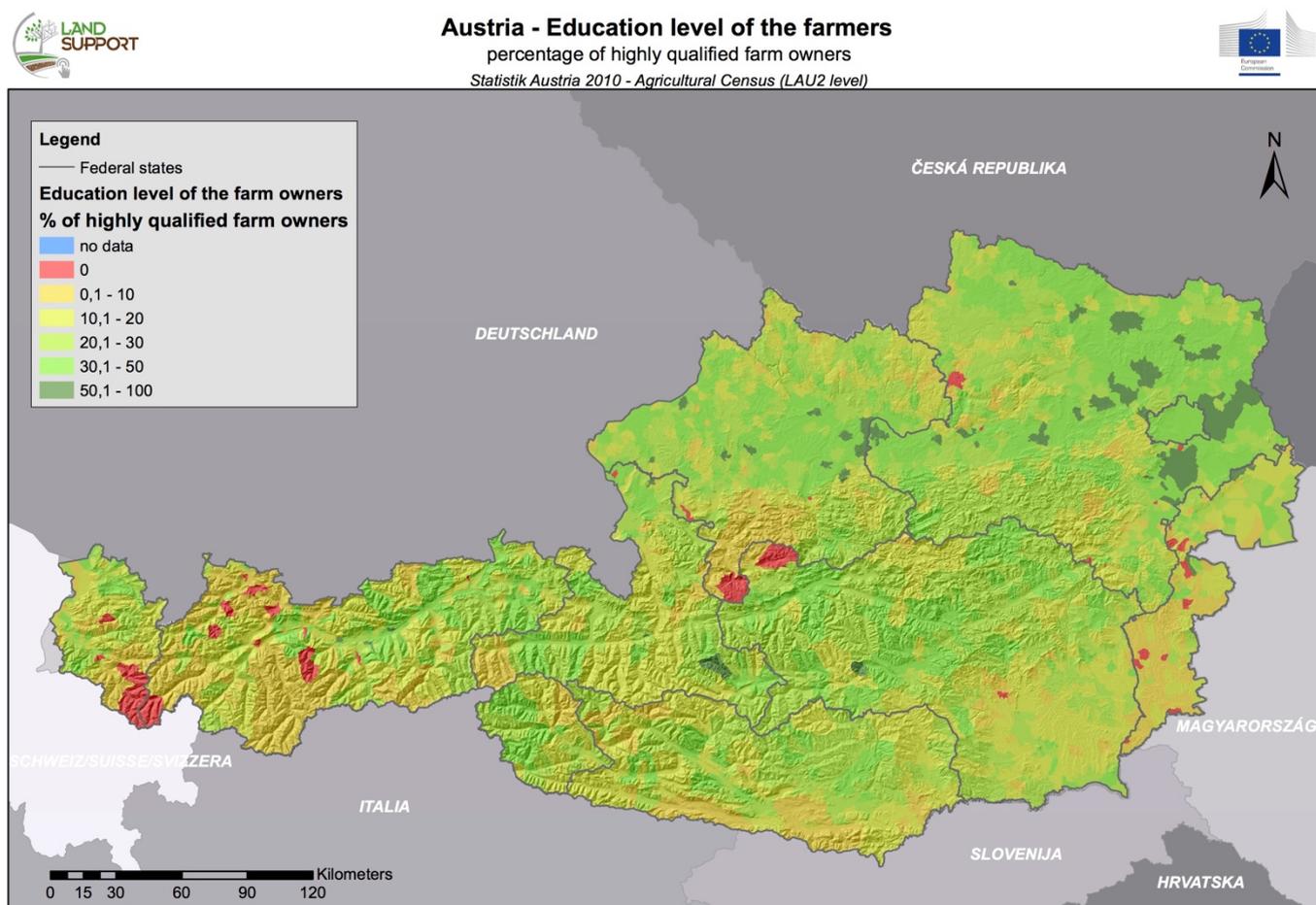


Figure 6 – Education level of the farmer in Austria – percentage of highly qualified farmers at LAU2 level