

The Austrian Health Care System

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President of the
Austrian Medical Chamber

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Key facts

- 9 federal provinces
- 8.9 million inhabitants
- Capital: Vienna
- Official language: German
- Austrian Medical Chamber on federal level
- 9 regional medical chambers



Demographic and socioeconomic context in Austria, 2020

Demographic factors

	Austria	EU
Population size (mid-year estimates)	8 901 064	447 319 916
Share of population over age 65 (%)	19.0	20.6
Fertility rate ¹ (2019)	1.5	1.5

Socioeconomic factors

GDP per capita (EUR PPP ²)	36 972	29 801
Relative poverty rate ³ (% , 2019)	13.3	16.5
Unemployment rate (%)	5.4	7.1

1. Number of children born per woman aged 15-49. 2. Purchasing power parity (PPP) is defined as the rate of currency conversion that equalises the purchasing power of different currencies by eliminating the differences in price levels between countries. 3. Percentage of persons living with less than 60 % of median equivalised disposable income. Source: Eurostat database.

Health Care

- based on a **social insurance model** founded on **mandatory insurance**.
- **financed by** a mix of **general tax revenues** and compulsory **insurance contributions**.
- characterised by the interaction of actors from different
 - **legislative and administrative levels** (federal government, provinces, districts, local authorities)
 - and the **self-administration sector** (social insurance)

Austrian Social Insurance

- based on the principles of **mandatory insurance, solidarity** and **self-administration**
- 99,9% of the population covered
- subdivided into **health** insurance, **accident** insurance and **pension** insurance
- **Reform** of the social insurance system in **2020**

Reform of the Social Insurance System:

- **Fusion of 21** social security institutions **into 5** as of 1 January 2020 (health, accident and pension insurance)
- **3 statutory health** insurance providers (**instead of 18**):
 - Austrian Health Insurance Fund for employees (ÖGK) covering 7.2 million inhabitants (82% of the population)
 - Social insurance fund for the self-employed (SVS)
 - Insurance fund for the public sector, employees with the federal railways and miners (BVAEB)

Divided competencies - complex structures

Federal Government

- Health care system
- Enabling law for hospitals (Federal Hospital Act)

Social Insurance System

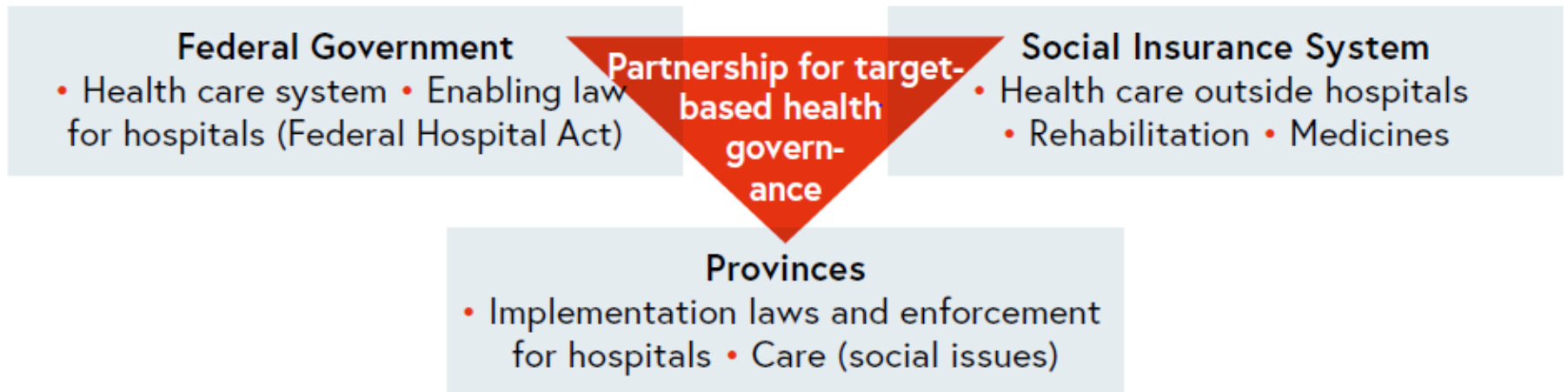
- Health care outside hospitals
- Rehabilitation
- Medicines

Provinces

- Implementation laws and enforcement for hospitals
- Care (social issues)

Source: BMASGK

Joint management of structure, organisation, financing



Source: BMASGK

The Austrian Structural Plan for Health care (ÖSG) is a joint nationwide framework, jointly adopted by federal government, provinces and social insurance funds

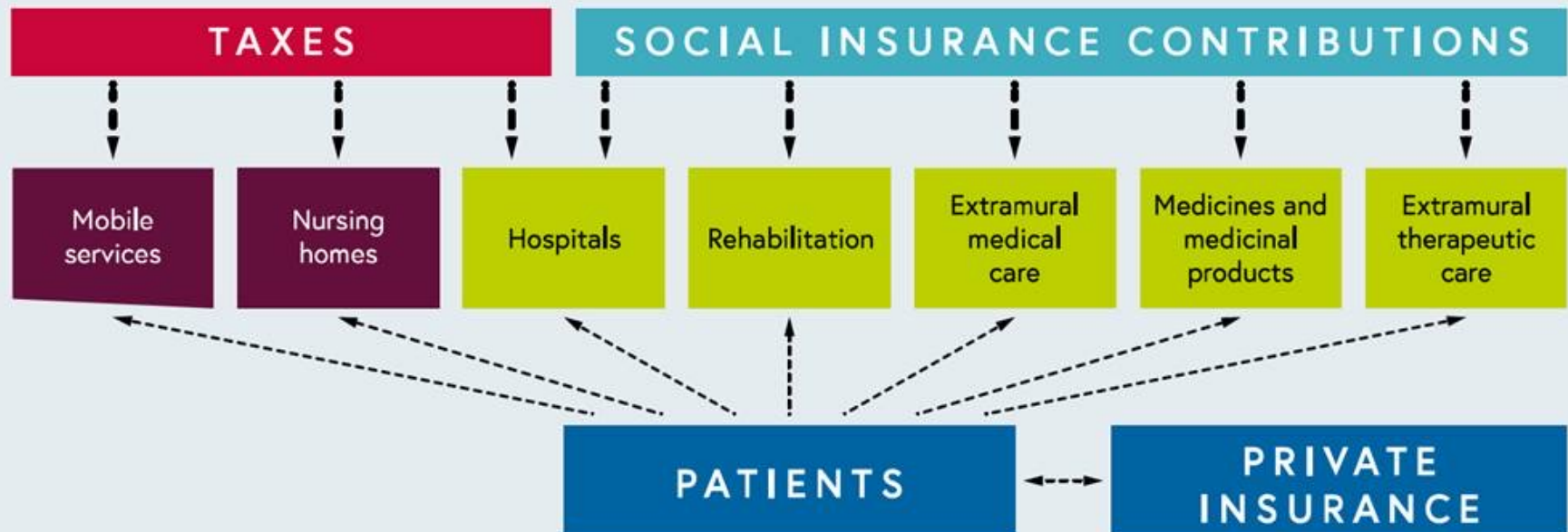


Planning statements for

- **selected areas of outpatient and acute/inpatient care**
- **Outpatient and inpatient rehabilitation**
- **Large items of medical-technical equipment**

ÖSG is framework for Regional Structural Plans for Healthcare (RSG)

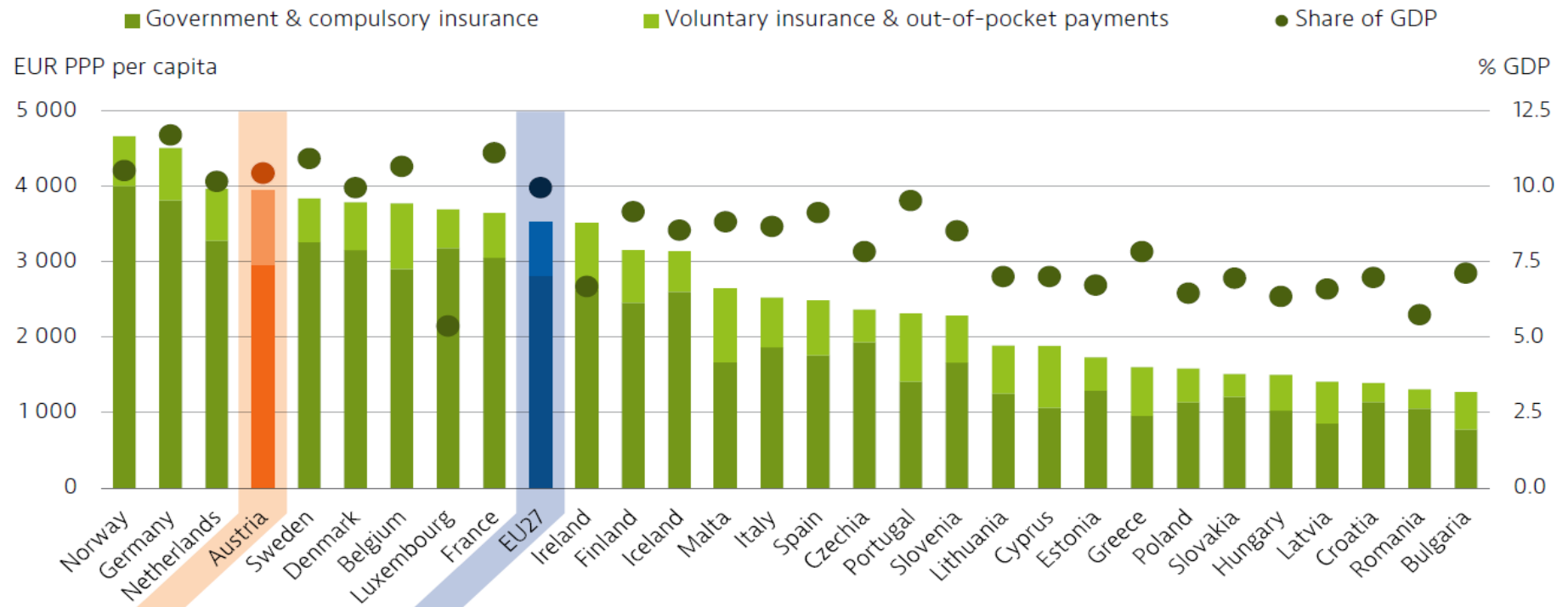
Financing of health care



Source: *The Austrian Health Care System, Key Facts, Updated Edition 2019, Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection*

Health care expenditure EU overview

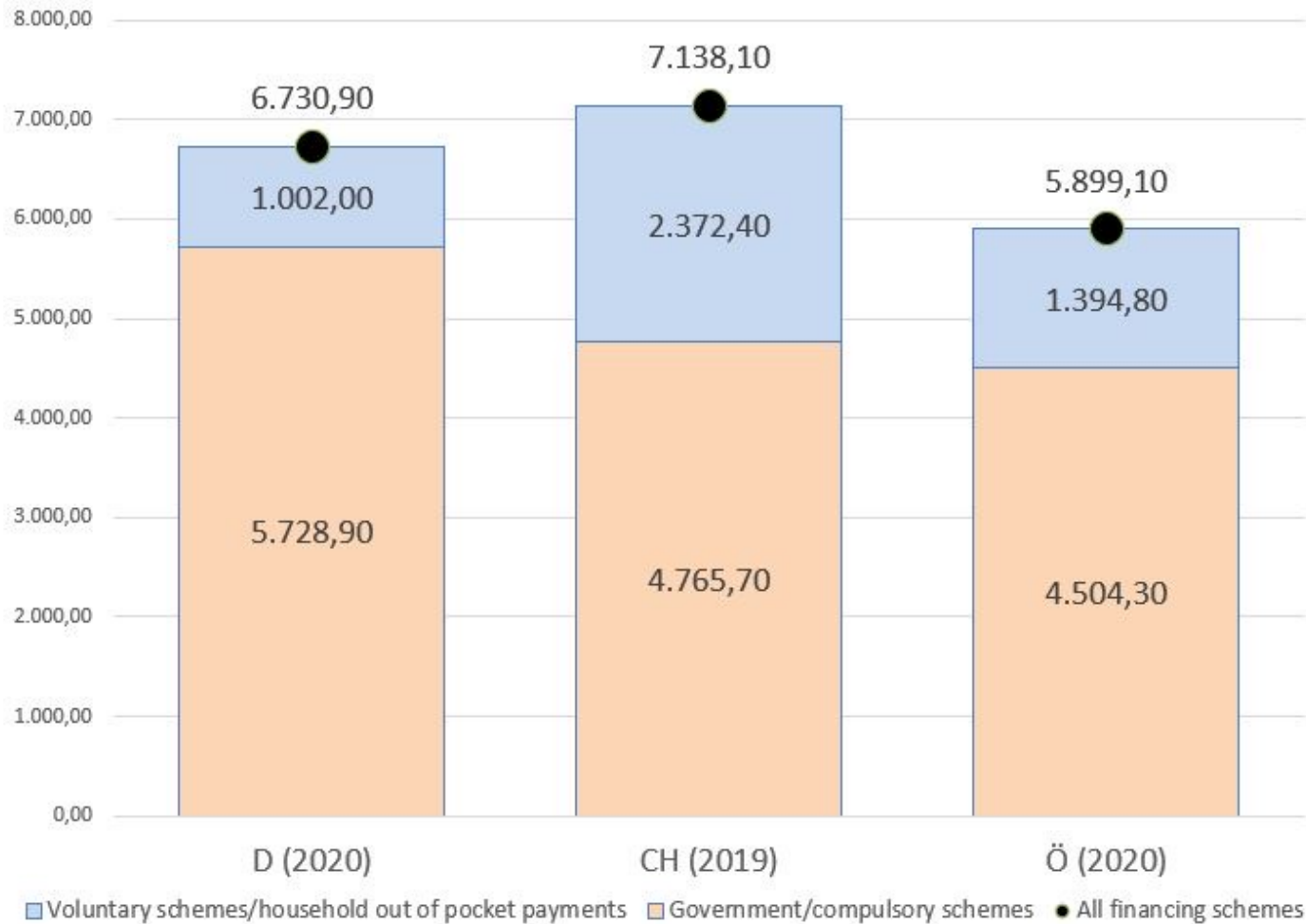
Figure 7. Health spending in Austria is higher than the EU average, but the share of public spending is lower



Note: The EU average is weighted.
Source: OECD Health Statistics 2021 (data refer to 2019, except for Malta 2018).

Health care expenditure

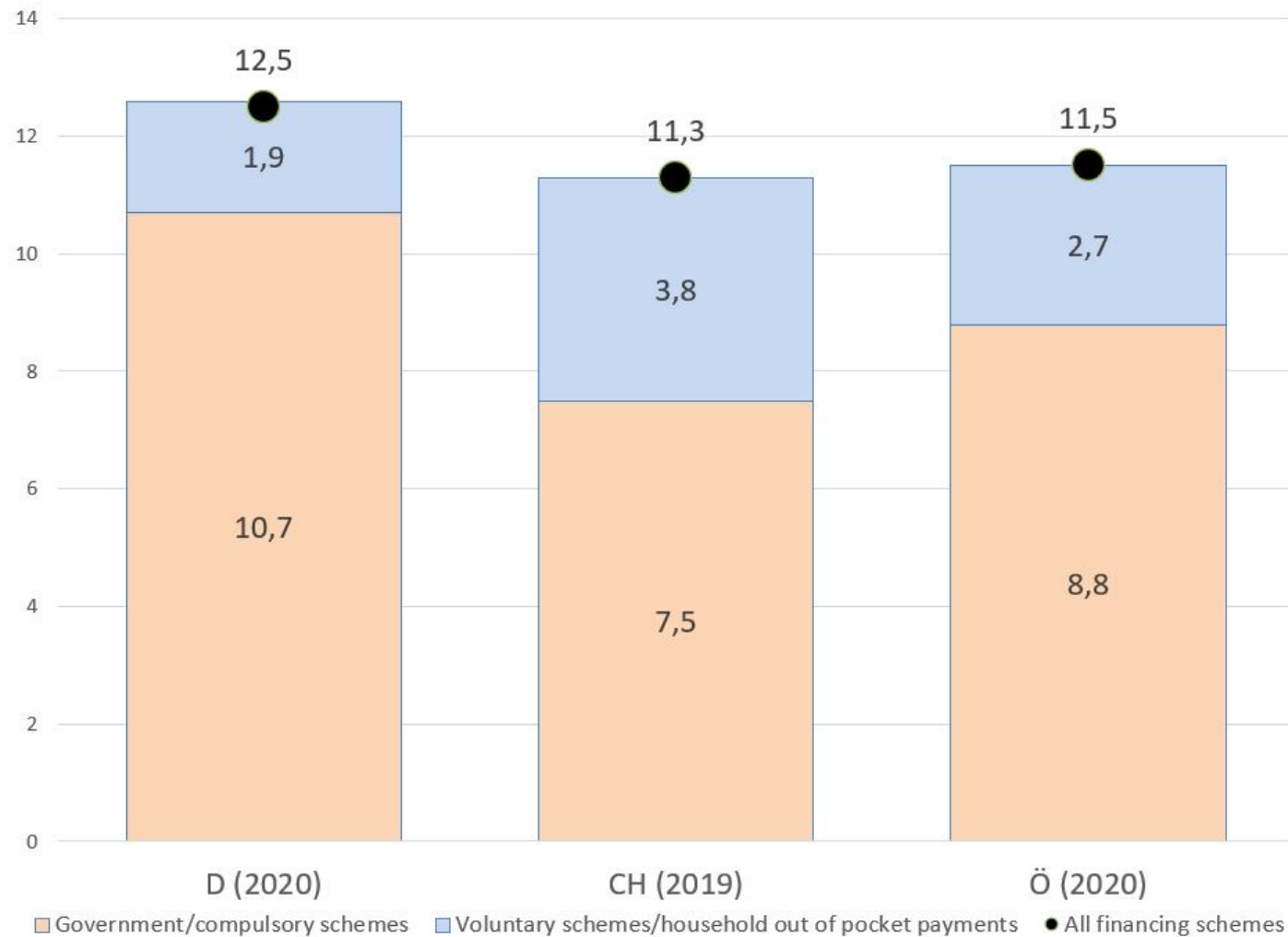
Current expenditure on health - Per capita, current prices, current PPPs -
US\$



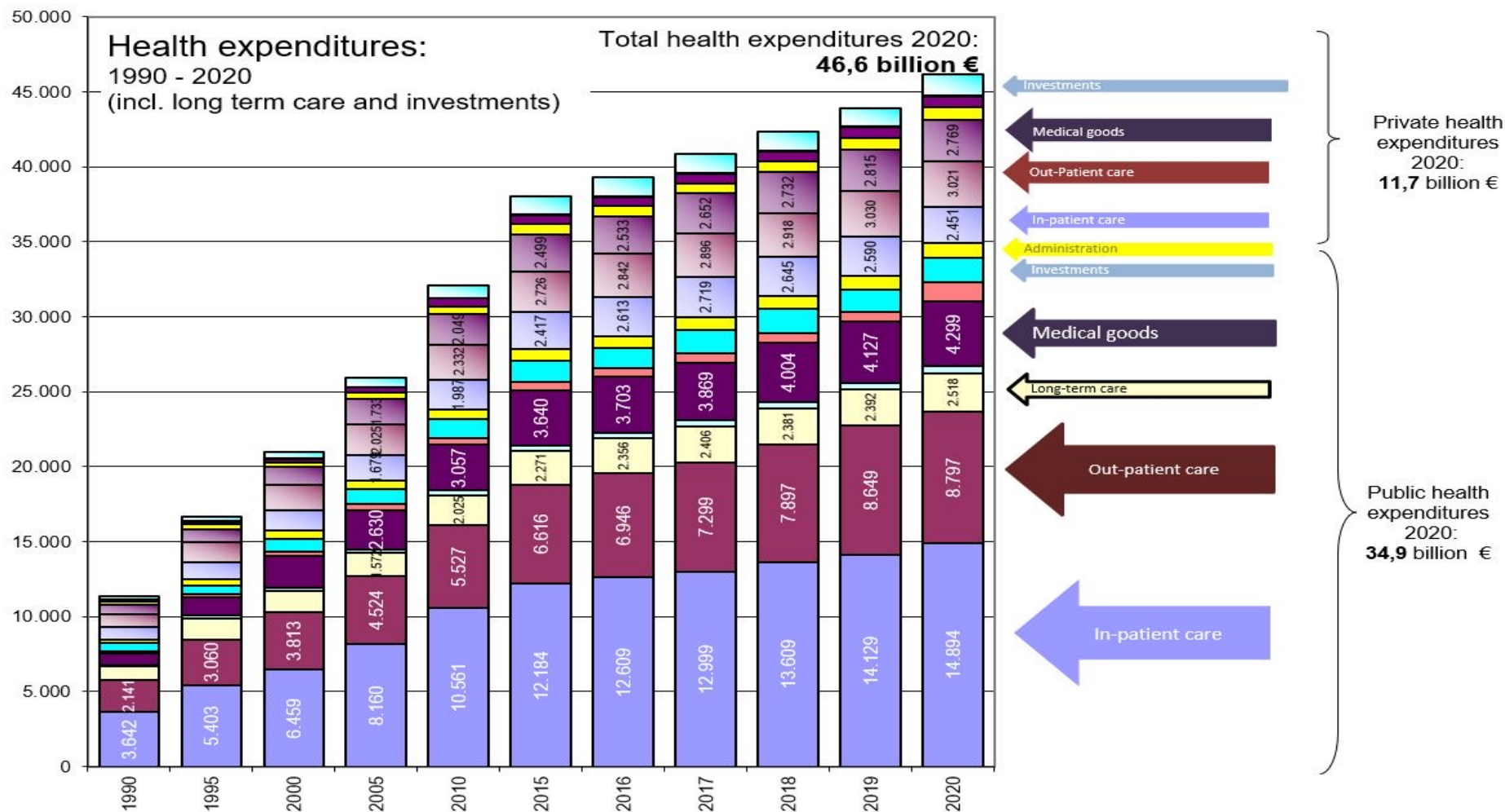
Source: OECD.Stat - 09.05.2022

Health care expenditure

Current expenditure on health - Share of gross domestic product

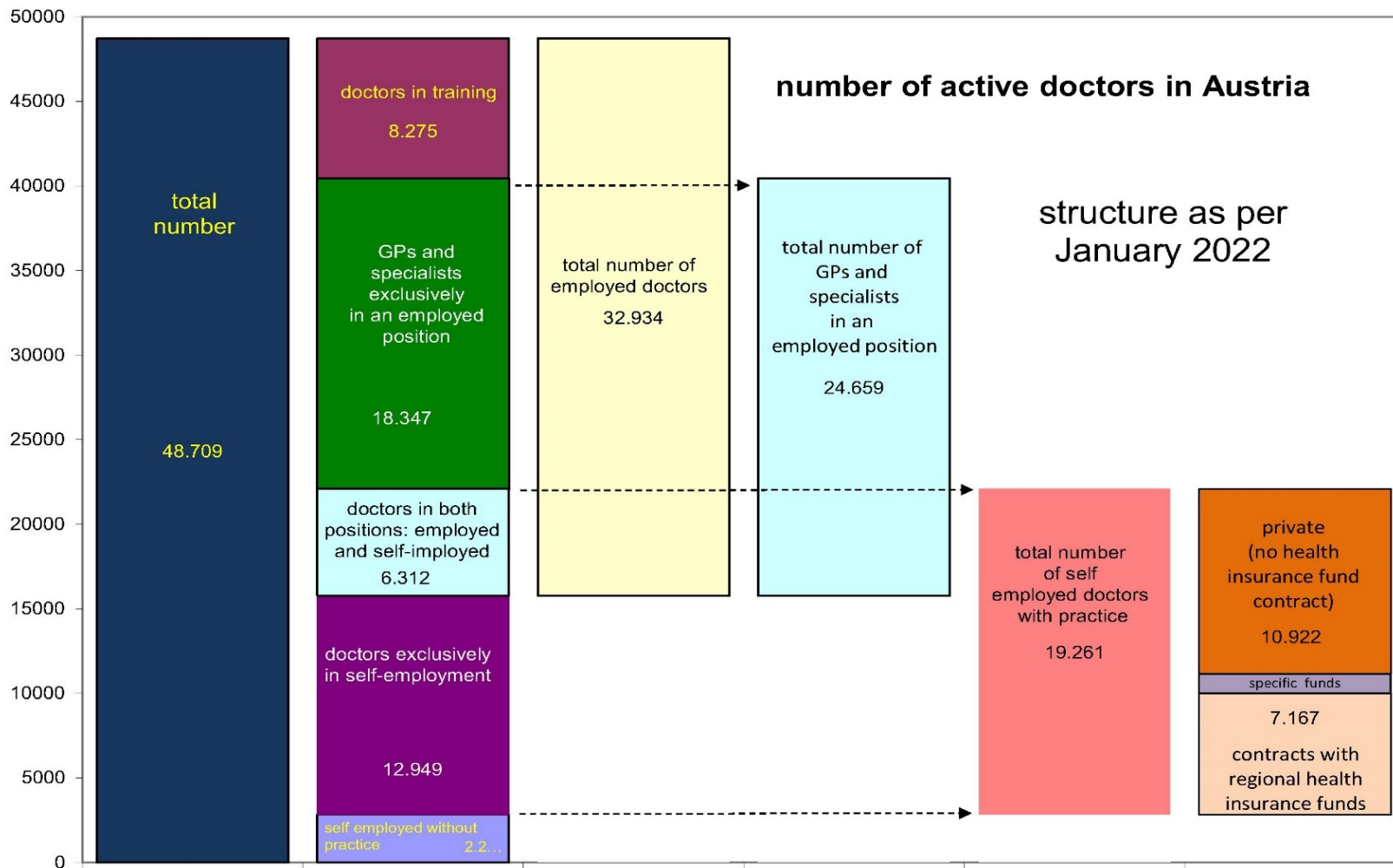


Health care expenditure



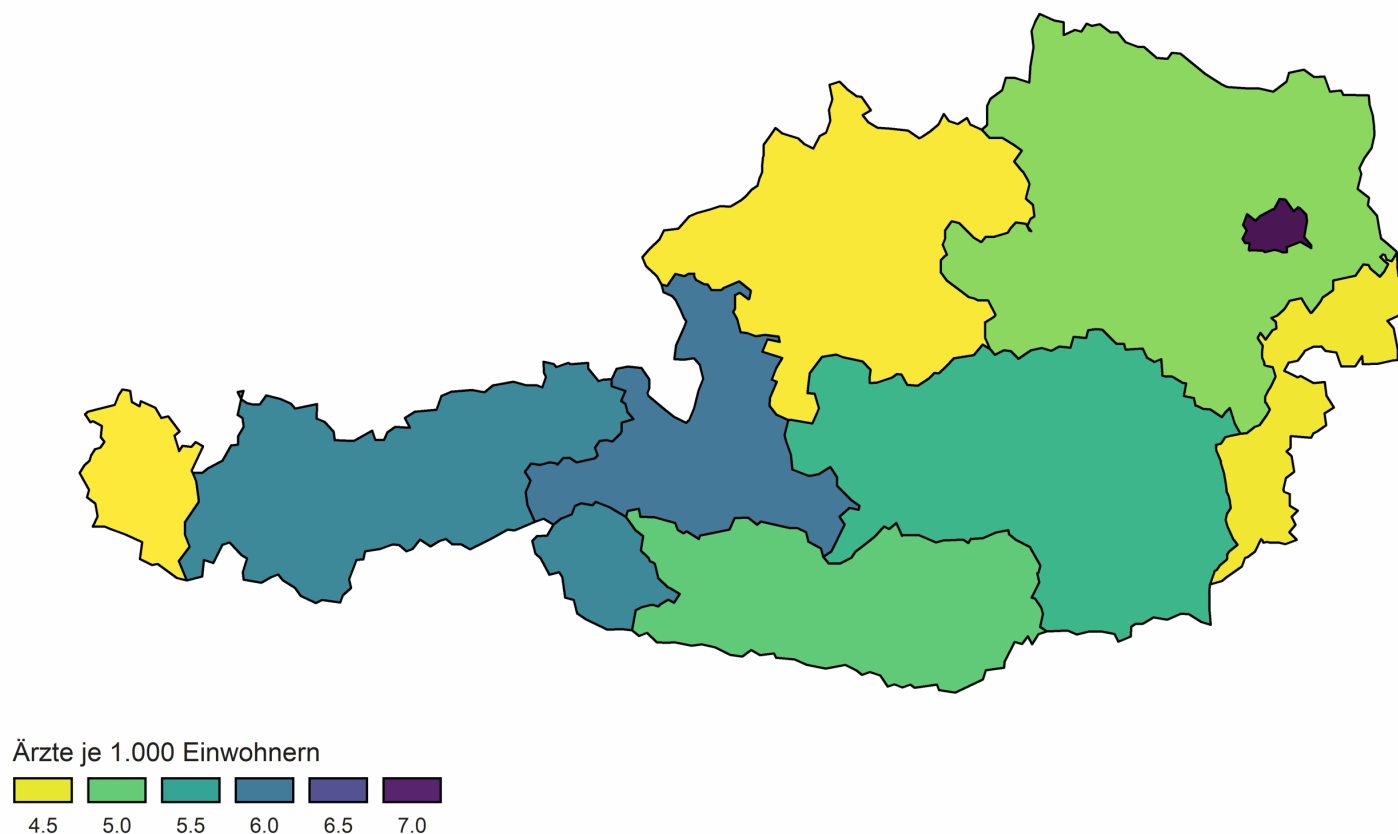
Quelle: Statistik Austria - April 2022

Overview doctors



Number of doctors/ 1.000 inhabitants

Ärztedichte nach Bundesländern 2021



Daten: ÖÄK und Statistik Austria

Overview Medical Training Regulations

Zeit	GP	Internal Medicine Specialties		Surgical Specialties	Other specialties
72		36 Mo Specialty Cardiology, Gastro- enterology Respiratory Medicine etc	36 Mo Internal Medicine	48 Mo in one of these specialties * General- and Vascular Surgery * Cardiac Surgery * Child Surgery * Thoracic Surgery * General- and Visceral surgery	27 Mo in Modules Specialty Training
42	6 Mo Teaching practice				
36	27 Mo Hospital- training	27 Mo Basic Specialty Training Internal Medicine		15 Mo Basic Specialty training Surgery	36 Mo Basic Specialty Training
9	Basic training				

Medical graduates Evaluation 2008/2009 – 2018/2019



- Every 3rd graduate does not start medical training in Austria
- Only 79% of graduates were registered with the Austrian Medical Chamber
- In the course of evaluation period only 69% of graduates were professionally active
- Partial compensation through foreign medical graduates
- Costs for each graduate from med school: up to 542.000 €

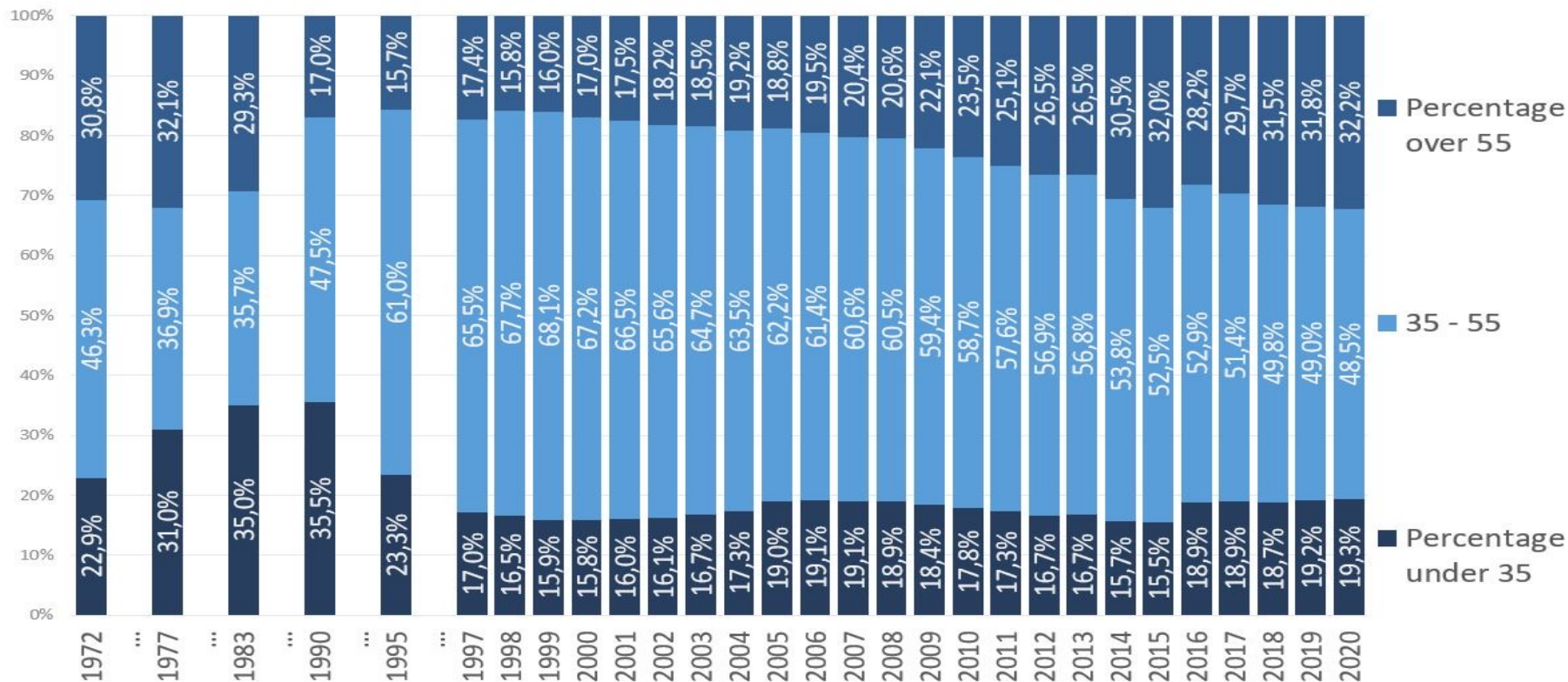
Ageing workforce

Average age of GPs: 50 y

Average age of specialists: 52 y

About 45% of contracted GPs are expected to reach retirement age within 10 y

Percentage of physicians under 35 and over 55 from 1972 to 2020



Medical Chambers negotiate contracts and tariffs for self-employed doctors with health insurance funds

- Patients freely choose their GP and have direct access to specialists
→ no gate-keeper system
- **No prior consent** needed from health insurance institution to consult a GP or a specialist

Contracted doctors: **7.167** vs Elective doctors: **10.922**

- Increasing tendency to not contract with social health insurance (bureaucratic issues, payment, hospital employment etc.)
- Difficulties to find successors for contracted practices
- Patients: out-of-pocket payment - reimbursement of max of 80% of the fund's tariff from health insurance funds if an elective doctor is consulted

Total number of hospitals in Austria: 264 (2020)

Acute care/short term care total: 153

General care: 114

Specialised care: 39

Non-acute care total: 111

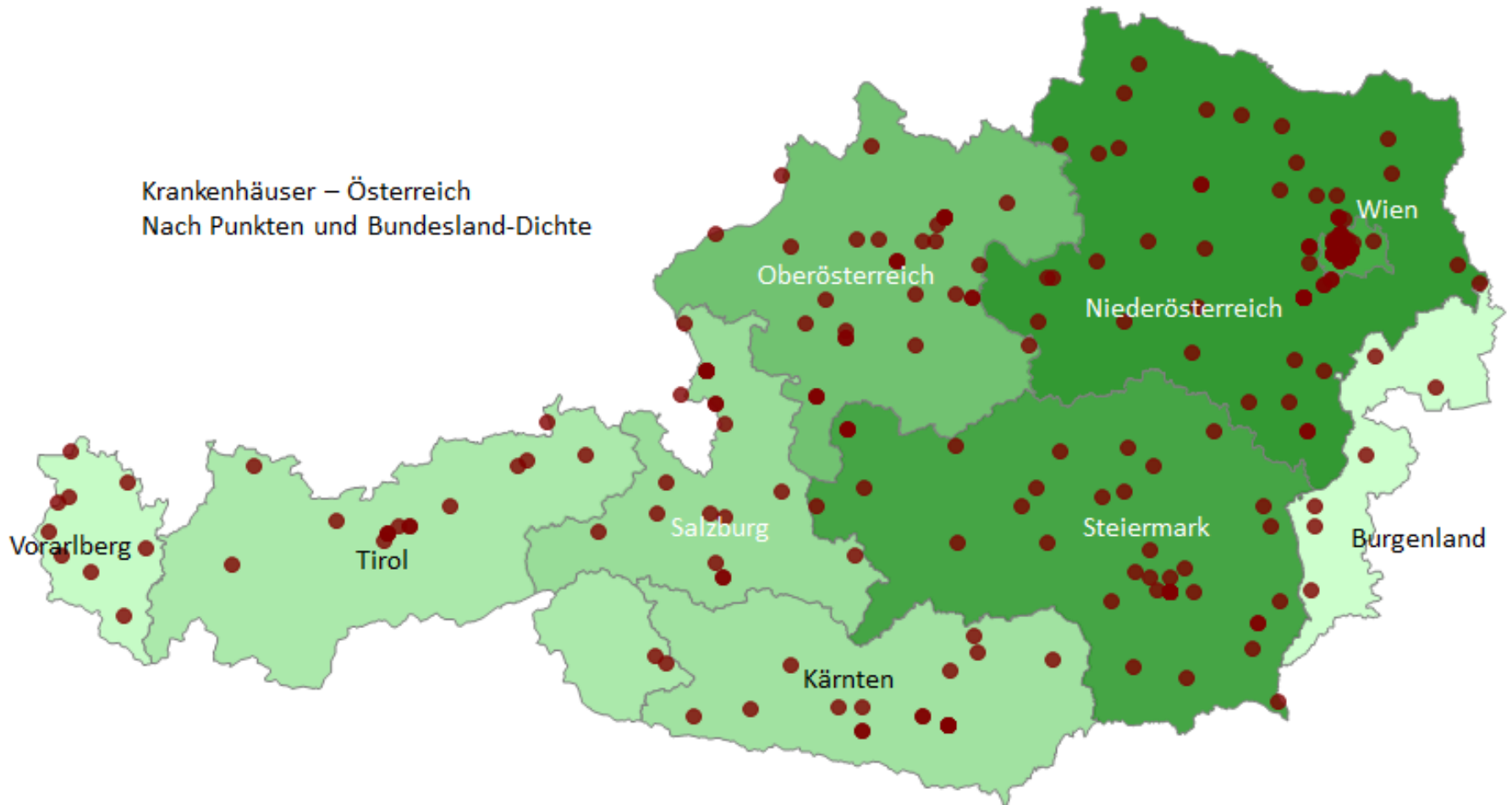
Rehabilitation: 84

Long term care: 27

Source: Krankenanstalten in Zahlen, www.kaz.bmg.gv.at

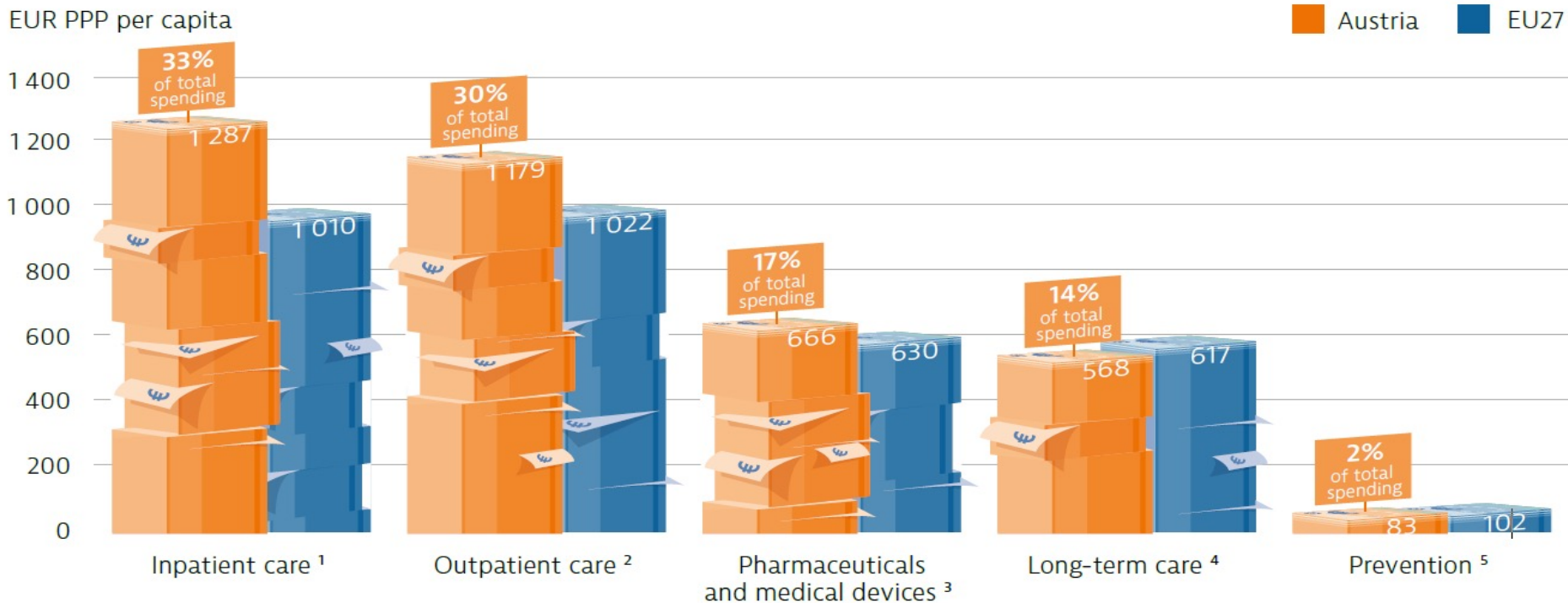
Overview Hospitals

Krankenhäuser – Österreich
Nach Punkten und Bundesland-Dichte



Expenditures Hospitals

Figure 8. Austria spends more than the EU average on inpatient care, but less in other areas



Note: The costs of health system administration are not included. 1. Includes curative-rehabilitative care in hospital and other settings; 2. Includes home care and ancillary services (e.g. patient transportation); 3. Includes only the outpatient market; 4. Includes only the health component; 5. Includes only spending for organised prevention programmes. The EU average is weighted.

Challenges – from the viewpoint of the medical profession

- Ageing workforce
- Improve attractiveness of the medical profession in general
- Improve attractiveness of self-employment and contracts with health insurance funds
 - ➔ more flexibility in employing colleagues
 - ➔ co-operation models needed
 - ➔ higher fees for services
- Improvement of working conditions at hospitals (overwhelming documentation and administration, lack of staff (medical and non-medical), lack of flexible working time models....

THANK YOU

FOR YOUR ATTENTION