

Austria

Facts

Population of 8,95 Mio.

EU-membership since 1995

Coalition Government of nationalists and ecologists

Austria's strategy regarding AI regulation

“The central element here is that the design, development and use of AI is embedded in the framework of our democratic value construct and that there is a clear legal framework that provides legal certainty and also drives innovation (...) It is essential that we promote Austria's and the EU's competitiveness, also by creating a uniform legal and technical framework for domestic companies throughout Europe so that they can develop and test AI solutions in a secure environment. The use of AI for innovative digital services will also play an increasingly important role in public administration, for example in the form of new digital administrative services. However, it is clear that decisions in administration that have a direct impact on people can be supported by machines, but must always be made by people. When dealing with artificial intelligence, it is particularly important that the focus is always on security and benefits for people as well as the protection of fundamental and human rights, while at the same time enabling innovation and thus economic growth.”

Margarete Schramböck,
Minister of Interior.

Goal regarding the AI Act

- Regulate AI as quickly as possible.
- Consumers should always know when they are confronted with AI.
- Prohibit social scoring.
- Prohibit biometric real time monitoring.
- The use of AI in the workplace should not take place without the involvement of trade unions and staff representatives.
- Stronger protection against misuses of AI.
- Facial recognition technology should only be used by federal criminal police.



Austria's stance to the European AI Act

Article 3 - Definitions



"Precise, but not noxious."

- Create more transparency by defining AI more precisely.

Article 5 - Prohibited artificial intelligences practices



"When AI is being used, we must reconcile basic rights with the public benefit."

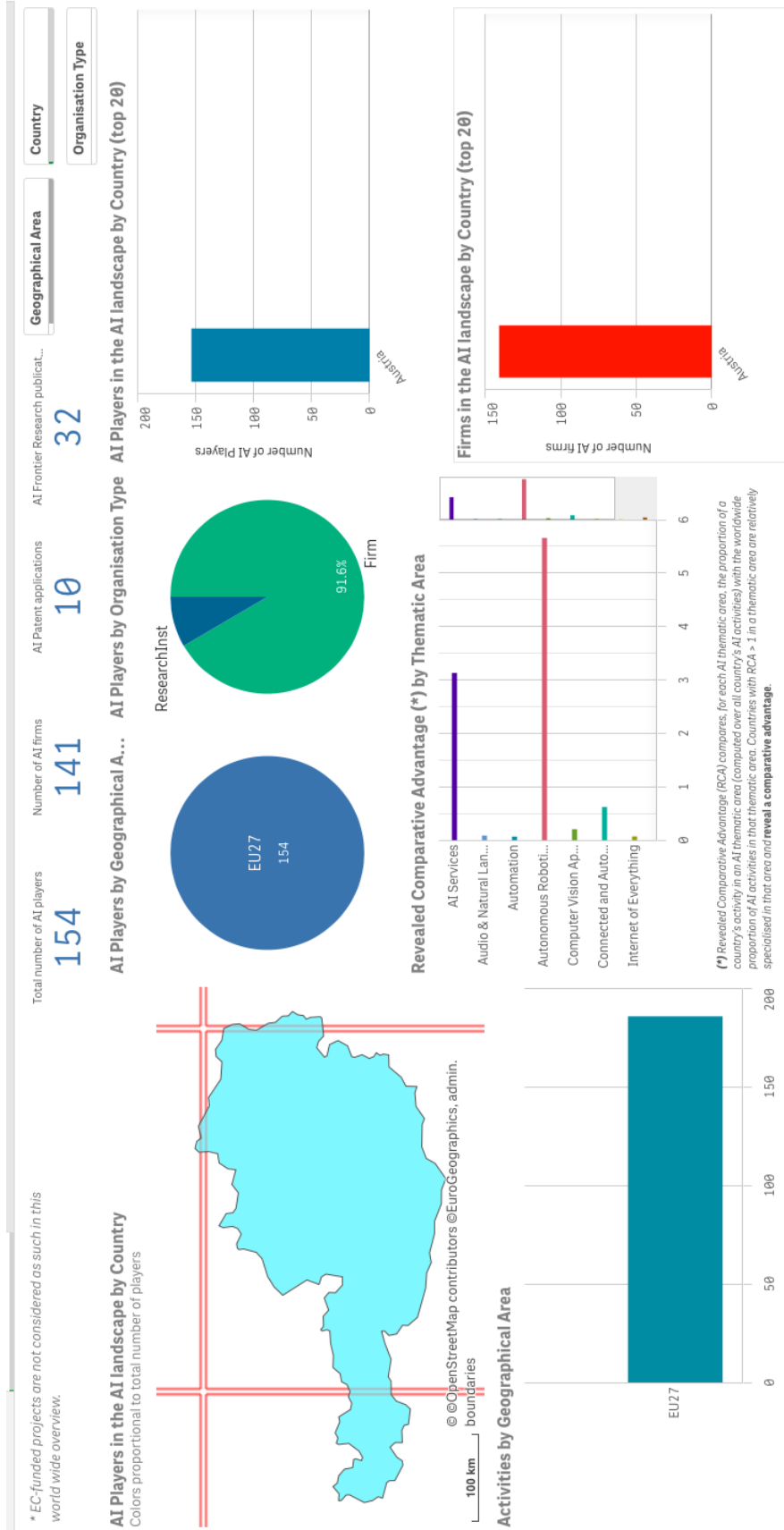
- Decisions that have direct impact on people should not be only made by AI, but at least controlled by humans.
- Protection of people by prohibiting critical uses of AI.
- Allow the use of facial recognition technology in criminal investigations by the police.
- Prohibit social scoring.
- Prohibit biometric real time monitoring.

Article 6 - Classification rules for high-risk AI-systems



"We must create a multi-level risk-based approach on AI."

- Create more transparency: Consumers should always know when they are confronted with AI.
- Develop regulations that make the use of AI secure.



source: AI Watch, https://web.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dashboard/AI_WATCH_LANDSCAPE/index.html?bookmark=overview&sel-Country=Austria