Social Infrastructure in Vienna, Austria

Social Infrastructure in Vienna, Austria – in comparison to Sofia, Bulgaria

by Stephan Plepelits, (cc) 2009
UACEG Sofia

History of Vienna

- First settlements in paleolithicum
- In roman times at place of Vienna city centre military camp "Vindobona" until 5th century
- In Middle Ages home of Babenberg dynasty and from 1440 on residence of Habsburgs and later capital of Holy Roman Empire.
- Sieges of Ottoman Empire in 1529 and 1683
- 1804- capital of Austrian Empire

Vienna, 1493

History of Vienna

- From 1850- enlargment of the city (removal of fortification walls and redevelopment of that area, integration of suburbs)
- WW1 in 1918 ends Austrian Empire
- 1939-1945 World War II "Big Vienna"
- 1945-1955 divided into four powers, gouverned by Allied Commission for Austria
- 1955 neutrality of Austria – Geographically between "West" and "East"
- Since 1980 one of seats of UNO
- 1995 Austria becomes member of EU

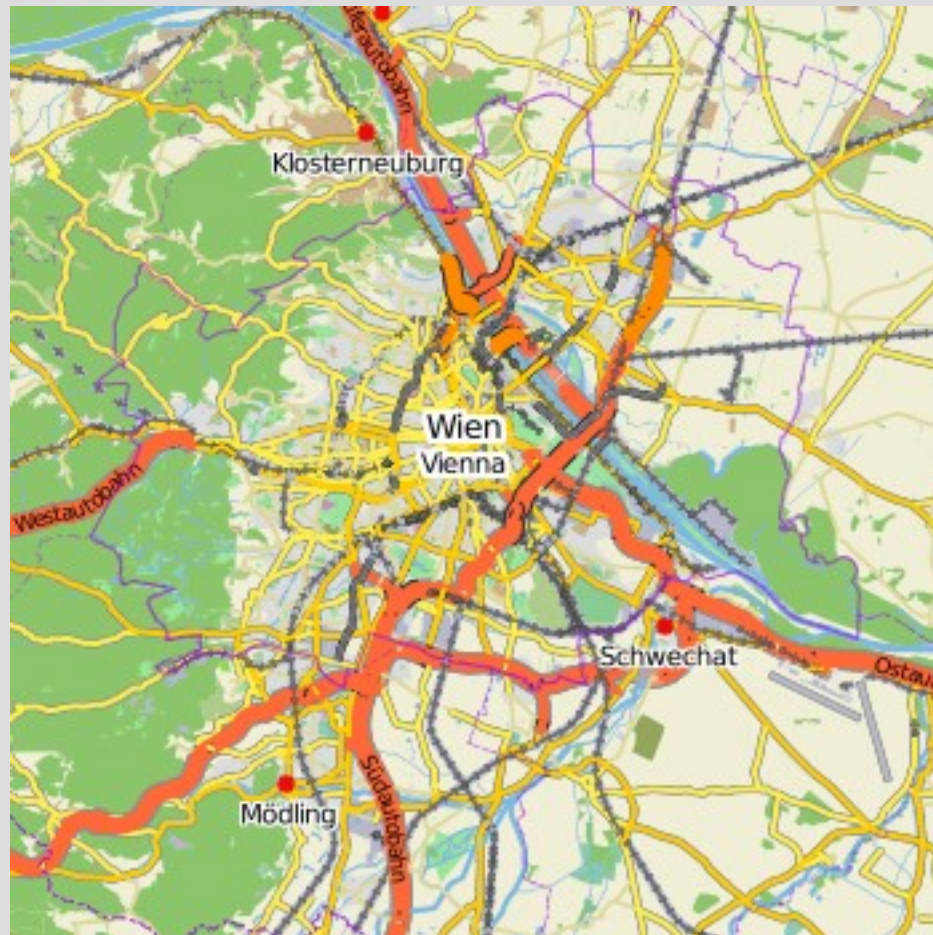# Comparison Austria - Bulgaria

- Area: 83.870 m²
- Pop: 8,210.281

- Area: 110.910 m²
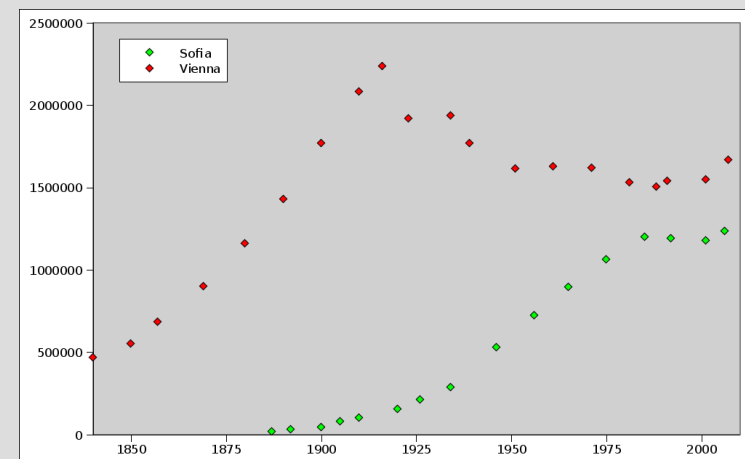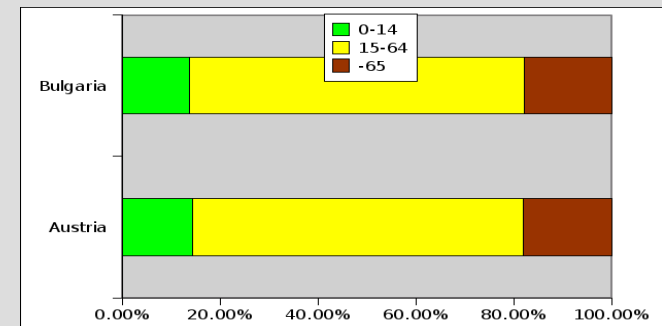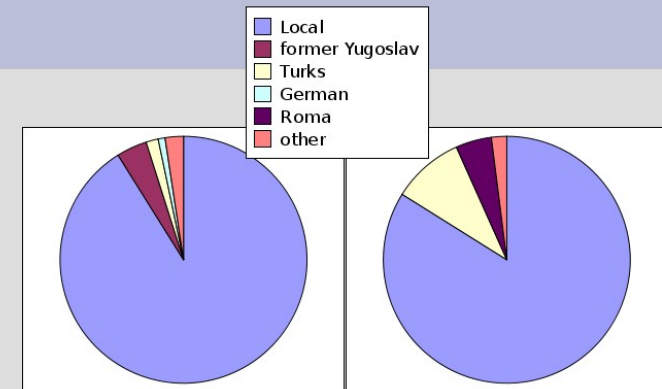- Pop: 7,204.687

Comparison Vienna - Sofia

Map of Vienna

Demography

- ## Inhabitants
  - About 1,6 Mio
  - Agglomeration: 2,3 Mio
- ## Foreigners
  - Increasing due to migration (24% not born in Austria, 20% are not Austrians)
  - Largest minorities: Turkey, ex-Yugoslav, Poland, Germany, Czech, Hungary, Romania
  - Some districts have >30% foreigners

Administration

- Mayor and Governor: Dr. Michael Häupl (SPÖ)
- Seats in Senate: SPÖ 55, ÖVP 18, Gr 14, FPÖ 13
- Magistrate has many departements, e.g.:
    - MA 7 – Culture
    - MA 11 – Youth and Family
    - MA 18 – City development and planning
    - MA 48 – Waste collection "48er"
- Magistrate offices for:
    - Registration of residence
    - Passport, ID Card
    - Applications, Licenses
    - Vaccinations

Mayor Dr. Michael Häupl

© http://wien.at
Logo of 48er's

Townhall

Online Services

© http://wien.at

- **Information portal**
  - Social infrastructure
  - Forms for official channels
- **News, History, Publications**
- **City Map**
  - ortho photos
  - Cadastral
  - road works
  - cultural assets
  - and more
- **Languages**
  - german, english, serbian, turkish

Social Insurance & Health

- Four types of insurance
  - Health insurance
  - Accident insurance
  - Retirement pension insurance
  - Unemployment insurance
- Insurance Companys for each federal state and for some state concerns (e.g. clerks)
- Everybody has to have insurance (usually with parents or from employment)
- Total Budget (2006): 41 Bill. Euro
- Many public and private hospitals
  - AKH (Common Hospital)

Logo of Social Insurance
WP
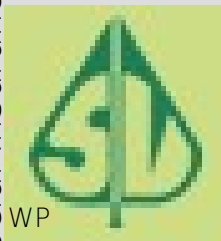
WP
Model of AKH

Social Housing

Karl-Marx-Hof, 1927-1930

Another Gemeindebau

- Population increase
  - in second half of 19th century caused severe problems
  - Result: lack of housing, diseases, social problems
- "Red Vienna"
  - After WW1 construction of "Gemeindebauten" (Housing built by municipality)
  - "High" standard
  - 1925-1934: 60.000 flats
- System
  - People have to apply for housing, very cheap
  - Currently: 220.000 flats, 500.000 inhabitants

Drug Addicts, Homeless

- … present at many public places
  - Opernpassage near TU Wien
- Discrimination by "protected zone"
- Support: many organisations
  - 'Gruft' (food&sleep)
  - 'Ganslwirt' (advice)
  - 'Streetwork' (advice, syringe exchange)
  - 'Ute Bock' (support for asylum)
- Self organisation
  - Augustin (newspaper)

"Augustin"

Opernpassage

Education

- Literacy
  - 98% can read/write
- Current Topics:
  - Migrants
  - PISA
  - Restructuring
- Schools
  - 283 ground schools
  - 120 main schools
  - 95 AHS
  - 28 profession schools

WP
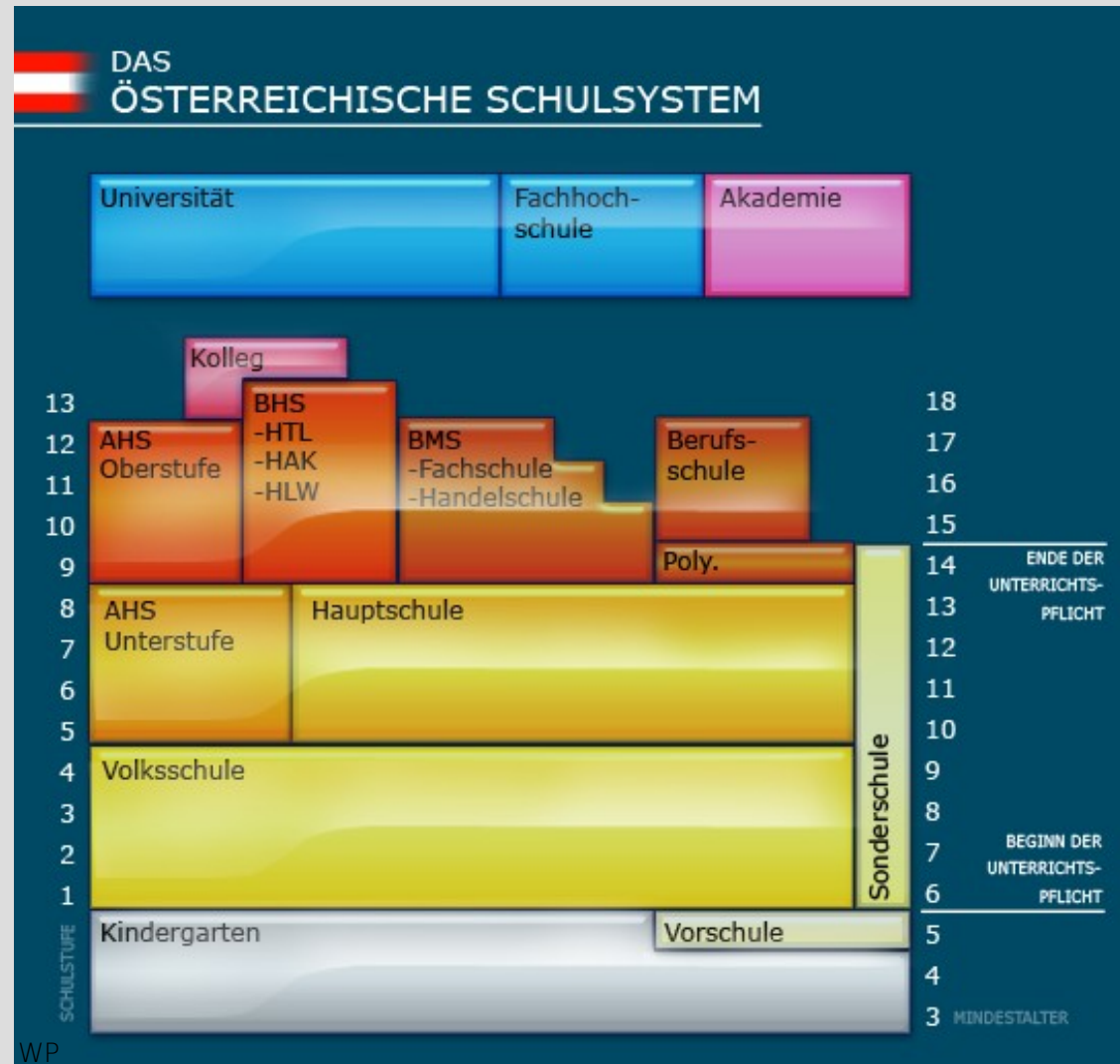
Education

- 9 public universities
  - Oldest: University of Vienna, 1365
  - Planning: University of Technology (TU), University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences (BOKU)
  - Free of charge?
- Private secondary education
  - 5 private universities
  - Several colleges
- Libraries
  - City libraries
  - National library

Library of TU-Wien

Uni Wien

National Library

Main Library

Sport & Recreation

- Cages for playing football or basket ball - healthy?
- Citybike
- Parks
- Danube Island

Sports Cage

Burggarten, Butterfly House

Citybike Vienna

Danube Island

Shopping

Shopping Centre

- Shopping Streets
  - Vienna famous for Shopping Streets
  - Many got desolated in last 40 years
  - Mariahilfer Straße
  - Neubaugasse
  - Kärtnerstraße
- Shopping Centres
  - Shopping City South

Mariahilfer Straße

Neubaugasse, Installation "Delete!"

Tourism

- 2008: >10 Mio overnight stays
- Main reasons: Culture, Architecture, Music
- Facilities
  - Vienna Sightseeing Buses
  - Vienna Ring Tram
  - Fiaker
  - Special Tickets for Public Transportation

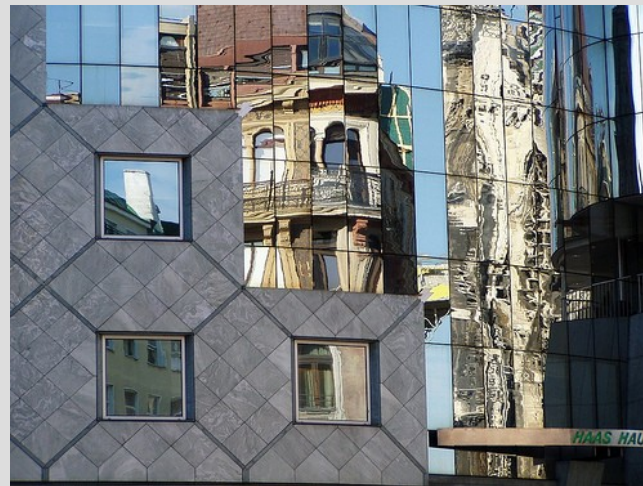Castle "Schönbrunn"

Vienna Ferris Wheel

Fiaker

Cultural Life "traditional"

- "Capital of Music"
- Operas, Theaters, Concerts, Musicals
  - State Opera (Opera Ball)
  - Musikverein (New Year Concert)
- Coffee Shops
- Many festivals and events
  - Danube Island Fest, Dance Festival, Film Festival, …

Danube Island Fest

State Opera

Haashaus

Coffee Shop "Hawelka"

Cultural Life "modern"

- Museumsquarter (MQ)
  - New place for museums in Vienna, especially modern and digital art
  - Favorite hang-out for young people
- 7th district, Spittelberg
  - Good example for "Gentrification"
  - restaurants, bars, little shops, galleries
- Regenbogenparade (Gay Pride)
- Streetart

Street Art "Space Invader"

Regenbogenparade

Gallery in 7th district

Museumsquarter, MUMOK

Seats in MQ

Cultural life "alternative"

- political "alternative" scene
- different ways of living together
  - Ernst-Kirchweger-Haus EKH (squat)
  - Freiraum (Free Space) (not yet squat)
  - Critical Mass / Ghostbikes (cyclists)
  - I:DA (self organised event space)
- paradigms
  - antisexist, antifascist, antihomophobic, antiracist, anticapitalistic, feminist, ...

Streetart

Activism

© http://www.criticalmass.at

Critical Mass, Ghostbike

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- 100% Free Software (Ubuntu Linux, Mozilla Firefox, OpenOffice.org, Gnumeric, The Gimp, Fonts: DejaVu)