

ReaGtSion – Resilience assessment of goods and services of Austrian key industries

Early detection of supply disruptions and bottlenecks is essential to ensure that economic supply networks are resilient. In addition to the critical infrastructure, other key companies are equally important to maintain the supply. The project aims is to identify these and derive recommendations for action so that resilience can be ensured in future crises.

The COVID 19 crisis has clearly shown selective weaknesses in the economic supply networks. Concerning a resilient society and national continuity management, supply interruptions and bottlenecks must be recognised at an early stage to be able to actively counteract them. In this context, it is not enough to consider only the usual critical infrastructures, but it is also necessary to broaden the focus to include key industries. For example, they can act as suppliers of important preliminary or intermediate products, support services (e.g. repair services), or know-how.

For a comprehensive resilience assessment, it is essential to consider the essential value chains of these key industries (including orthogonal aspects such as skilled personnel, logistics, and policies) in the sense of an overall view, which results in a complex value creation network.

Therefore, criteria must be developed for the identification of those supply-relevant companies that are not currently classified as critical infrastructure (e.g. by APCIP, NISG, or InvKG), but whose economic vitality is crucial for the overall economic structure in Austria. A detailed analysis of the value chains of these key industries allows the determination of the specific components (means of production, consumables, intermediate products, packaging, transport, and logistics) for the provision of critical goods and services.

The analyses provide an overview of possible vulnerabilities and risks in the respective value chains, such as single-source procurement ("mono-chains"), dependencies on dominant supply partners, supply routes, orthogonal influencing factors - such as the availability of skilled personnel or legal framework conditions - but also temporal aspects. Based on the results of the analysis, potential measures will be evaluated together with the stakeholders and central options for action at the level of economic policy and security policy will be developed.

The primary goal of the project is to improve the elements for effective crisis support for the systemically important organisations under consideration using a holistic approach and thus to increase their resilience to future crises. The project results also enable the stakeholders to shed light on the political framework for action for Austria's economy and supply security on several levels.

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