

ÖVConnect: New governance structures for aggregating data from public-transit-supporting mobility services in Austria — a recommendation

In Austria, despite existing technical standards, there is still no unified governance for aggregating, processing, and providing mobility data to inform multimodal mobility services that complement public transit. The data landscape is fragmented: traditional public transit data is well structured, while shared mobility lacks clear legal frameworks, defined responsibilities, and reliable processes. As a result, relevant services are not adequately reflected in mobility information systems, on the National Access Point (NAP), or in end-user services—severely limiting the potential of multimodal options and seamless intermodal travel chains.

The “ÖVConnect” project examines these structural gaps and develops practical, scalable governance solutions. The analysis- and action-oriented project objectives are:

1. Assess existing governance gaps: Review of the legal, organizational, technical, and economic conditions, as well as existing structures and identified gaps related to nationwide use of mobility data in information and journey-planning systems, supported by desk research, expert interviews, and workshops.

2. Developing a two-tier governance framework: Meta-governance (institutional level): defining processes, responsibilities, and legal requirements and Data governance (operational level): standardized data definitions, quality standards, metadata concepts, and clearly defined data stewardship roles.

3. Real-world validation: prototype pilot deployments in selected use cases (on-demand transit, bike sharing, car sharing, and ride sharing), with iterative evaluation.

The innovation lies not in new technical interfaces, but in systematically linking institutional and operational governance. Unlike previous projects that typically focus on individual modes or technical standards, ÖVConnect delivers an integrated model that clearly defines roles, responsibilities, and quality management—creating the foundation for nationwide, scalable data integration.

The results establish a new **governance culture** and a **reliable data foundation** for integration into traveler information and trip-planning systems, strengthen the links between shared-mobility services and scheduled public transit, and thereby make multimodal travel easier, **increase user satisfaction, and promote sustainable mobility.**

Key project data:

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Contact FH OÖ Logistikum: Dr. Wolfgang Schildorfer

ÖVConnect is expected to deliver the following **results**:

- **Governance-Framework:** a documented, two-tier concept with clearly defined roles, processes, and legal requirements
- **Pilot Implementations:** working prototypes across multiple mobility modes that demonstrate data quality, process workflows, and stakeholder acceptance
- **Implementation and Rollout Plan:** Roadmap for nationwide deployment in Austria, including cost and resource estimates.

