

## LEADER Region Niederösterreich Süd

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The LEADER-Region Niederösterreich Süd is one of 18 LEADER-Regions in Lower Austria, of which four are located in the 'Industrieviertel'. The LEADER-Region Niederösterreich Süd lies in the southwest of 'Wiener Neustadt', about 50 kilometers south of Vienna.

The LEADER-Region Niederösterreich Süd comprises of three smaller regions. 1<sup>st</sup> the "Weltkulturerbe Region Semmering Rax", 2<sup>nd</sup> the "Kleinregion Schwarztal" and 3<sup>rd</sup> the "Gemeinsame Region Schneebergland". The region consists of 34 villages and towns, altogether representing about 77.000 inhabitants. In general the region shows of a rural character but nevertheless an industrial town, namely 'Ternitz', lies directly in the heart of the region. 'Ternitz' (15.000 inhabitants) and 'Neunkirchen' (12.000 inhabitants) are the biggest towns along the 'Südbahn'-railways in the 'Schwarztal'.

The large forests of the villages 'Gutenstein', 'Rohr im Gebirge' and 'Schwarzau im Gebirge' are typical for our region, as well as the destinations highly frequented by our Viennese visitors e.g. 'Schneeberg' (the highest mountain of Lower Austria), 'Rax', 'Semmering' and 'Hohe Wand'.

The most prosperous time of the region was 120-150 years ago. A blooming industry and summer tourism improved the overall economic and living conditions. The character of the LEADER-Region Niederösterreich Süd has significantly changed due to a growing individual mobility. Being in close proximity to Vienna does not only count as an advantage. On the one hand Viennese guests are most welcome and still increase income from tourism, on the other hand the region's money is spent in the North, e.g. in Wiener Neustadt or even Vienna.

Therefore many innovative projects of the smaller regions and the LEADER-Region Niederösterreich Süd aim to keep the purchasing power within the region. Examples are cooperations from rural producers and processing companies.

Specifically noteworthy is the 'Weltkulturerbe Semmeringbahn' from 'Gloggnitz' to 'Semmering'.