

Introduction

WieNeu+

About the report "Three years of WieNeu+ in Grätzl 20+2"

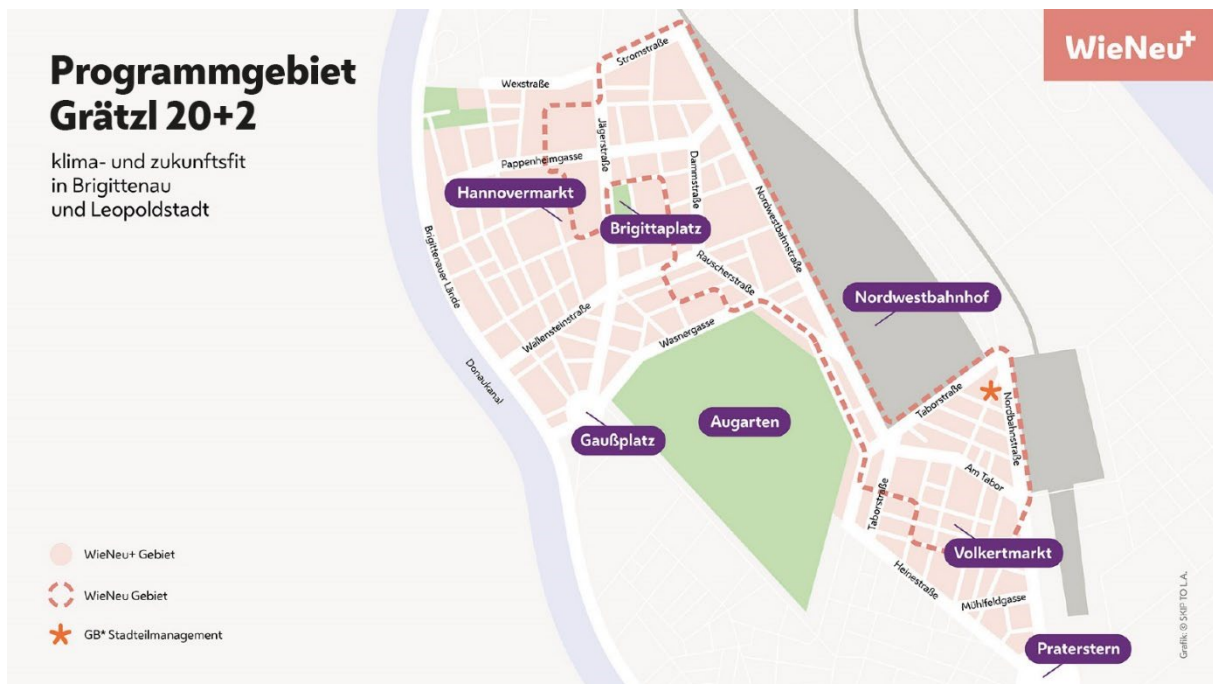


Figure 1: The Grätzl 20+2 programme area © City of Vienna/MA 25

The report "Three years of WieNeu+ in Grätzl 20+2: Integrated urban renewal in Leopoldstadt and Brigittenau, 2023–2025" showcases projects and activities implemented as part of the WieNeu+ urban renewal programme in the municipal districts of Leopoldstadt and Brigittenau. The Grätzl 20+2 neighbourhoods are the second to see the roll-out of the

WieNeu+ urban renewal programme, following Innerfavoriten in the 10th district (2021 to 2023).

WieNeu+ generates important impulses for climate- and future-proof neighbourhoods, which immediately benefit local residents as well as making a long-term contribution to the positive development of the city as a whole. The programme focuses on the following key fields of activity:

- Buildings & energy,
- Community-building, and
- Neighbourhood development.

The above are backed up by a cross-cutting knowledge and innovation management segment to embed the resulting lessons and insights within the municipal administration and develop solutions for long-term implementation.

WieNeu+ is a roll-out programme involving numerous stakeholders from the municipal administration and its associated enterprises as well as businesses, local initiatives and residents, who all work together to develop, pilot and implement forward-looking ideas for urban renewal.

The Grätzl 20+2 programme area comprises the part of the 20th district bordered by the Danube Canal and Stromstraße together with the Volkertviertel and Alliertenviertel neighbourhoods in the 2nd district, with Nordwestbahnstraße linking the two areas.

The Volkertviertel, Alliertenviertel and Wallensteinviertel neighbourhoods have a combined population of 44,000 (as of 2021). The programme area is very densely built up, with a high population density, a characteristic late-19th-century built structure and a large number of municipal housing complexes from different periods.

The existing building stock is in great need of refurbishment — particularly with regard to energy efficiency and climate change adaptation — and there are a number of challenges arising from the state of the buildings and their ownership structure.

The WieNeu+ programme area Grätzl 20+2 (as of 2021)

- **Area:** 1.41 km²
- **Population:** 44,000 residents
- **Population density:** 30,496 residents/km²

Introductory remarks by Kathrin Gaál



Figure 2: Kathrin Gaál, Deputy Mayor and ECC for Housing, Urban Renewal and Women's Issues © WSW/David Bohmann

Dear citizens of Vienna,

For more than a century — since the interwar "Red Vienna" era — Vienna's focus has been on people and humanism. Affordable, high-quality housing remains the centrepiece of our vision of a liveable city to this very day. All international comparisons attest to the success of this policy, which has also delivered economic prosperity and climate-friendly development.

For over 50 years now the City of Vienna has been committed to "gentle urban renewal", an approach that has earned it an internationally respected reputation. Here too, the focus is on people and local residents. The result is superlative quality of life and attractive living environments in a city that transforms and evolves, yet always remains liveable — and, above all, affordable. Thanks to this policy, dilapidated 19th-century apartment blocks now exude the feel-good factor and entire urban neighbourhoods have been transformed into vibrant places where communities come together.

With WieNeu+, we're building on this successful trajectory — with innovative, climate-proof measures for the future. We're bringing people together, promoting new ideas and showcasing exemplary projects so that their reach and impact can extend far beyond the individual neighbourhood. Because climate change doesn't stop at the city boundaries. It has a huge impact on all spheres of life — and all of us can do our bit to make Vienna strong and resilient for generations to come.

Every WieNeu+ urban renewal project is a step in this direction: enhancing home comfort, creating greener courtyards and facades, improving the microclimate, and frequently also fostering social interaction — because attractive new shared spaces are places where people enjoy coming together.

None of this happens by itself. That's why I'd again like to take this opportunity to say a special thank-you to everyone involved: to the WieNeu+ team, the Urban Renewal Office, the many stakeholders who roll out measures at neighbourhood level, and to the large numbers of local residents participating in "Grätzlmarie" projects to enhance quality of life in their neighbourhood for the benefit of the local community.

This report on three years of WieNeu+ in the Grätzl 20+2 programme area in Vienna's municipal districts of Brigittenau and Leopoldstadt vividly illustrates how local dedication and drive bring about exemplary changes — and how they can provide impetus for the city as a whole.

I hope you'll all find this report an inspiring read.

Yours,

Kathrin Gaál

Deputy Mayor and Executive City Councillor for Housing, Urban Renewal and Women's Issues

Introductory remarks by Alexander Nikolai



Figure 3: Alexander Nikolai, Chair of Leopoldstadt Municipal District Council (2nd district) © Astrid Knie

Dear residents of Leopoldstadt,

Dear residents of the neighbourhoods covered by the WieNeu+ 20+2 urban renewal programme,

Since the launch of WieNeu+ in our district we've been placing an even stronger focus on community projects to make our neighbourhood climate-proof, attractive to live in and fit for the future. The programme area, which encompasses parts of both Leopoldstadt and Brigittenau, is a special place — not only on account of its history, but above all thanks to the people who live and work here.

It's important to emphasise that urban renewal programmes only succeed if they actively bring local people on board. And that's precisely what WieNeu+ does. The "Grätzlmarie" scheme has already funded the implementation of lots of great ideas direct from the neighbourhood – from small-scale greening projects to community-building initiatives. And every single contribution shows just how much commitment and creativity there is here in our district. I'm especially pleased that the programme isn't just about building and energy-related issues, but also covers shared spaces. Greened inner courtyards, cool zones for hot summer days or new opportunities for local shops – they all make our neighbourhood a more pleasant place to live.

Another special focus is the Alliiertenviertel climate pioneer neighbourhood. Another special focus is the Alliiertenviertel "climate pioneer neighbourhood", where measures are piloted to show how we can actively prepare our urban districts to meet the challenges ahead. The Alliiertenviertel neighbourhood thus serves as a model for climate- and future-proof urban design.

The Grätzl 20+2 programme area is an impressive demonstration of what is possible when the municipal administration, experts and — first and foremost — local residents, all act in unison. Together we're making life in our district even pleasanter, which in turn will bring joy for generations to come.

With best regards,

Alexander Nikolai

Chair of Leopoldstadt Municipal District Council (2nd district)

Introductory remarks by Christine Dubravac-Widholm



Figure 4: Christine Dubravac-Widholm, Chair of Brigittenau Municipal District Council (20th district)

Dear residents of Brigittenau,

Dear neighbours in the area covered by the WieNeu+ 20+2 urban renewal programme,

Brigittenau is a diverse, lively district — and that's exactly what makes it so special. WieNeu+ gives us the chance to work together to make our neighbourhood even greener, more climate-proof and attractive to live in.

What's especially important to me is that urban renewal here isn't a top-down exercise, but starts at grassroots level with you, the people living in the district. Lots of great ideas have already been implemented under the "Grätzlmarie" scheme: small-scale greening projects, community-building measures and shared public spaces. Every single initiative shows just how much commitment and creativity there is in our neighbourhood.

A particular focal point is the neighbourhood between the Danube Canal and Stromstraße, where we're piloting ways of making our urban districts fit for the future. In the long term, the experience gained there will benefit us all.

One practical example are the "Cool Zones" we've created, starting at the Senior Citizens' Club in Greiseneckergasse and successfully continued with another at the Brigittenau Municipal Offices.

I'm delighted that here in Brigittenau we're pulling together as a team, working with experts and above all with local residents. In doing so we're creating a neighbourhood where we all feel good today — and one that will likewise be appreciated by generations to come.

Warmest regards,

Christine Dubravac-Widholm

Chair of Brigittenau Municipal District Council (20th district)

Foreword: Otto Eckl and Stephan Hartmann



Figure 5: (l. to r.) Stephan Hartmann (DH MA 25, WieNeu+ Programme Manager), Otto Eckl (Head of MA 25) © City of Vienna/Markus Wache

Urban renewal as a key future endeavour

The WieNeu+ urban renewal programme is implemented under the auspices of the Municipal Department for Technical Urban Renewal (MA 25), which for many years now has been overseeing numerous innovative, exemplary projects that have significantly shaped the ongoing development of Vienna's policy of gentle urban renewal.

In the WieNeu+ programme the City of Vienna purposely cooperates with a large number of private stakeholders, including on projects and issues that we can't always roll out alone or have 100% control over. This allows the municipal administration to take a highly proactive approach to many developments in our city, establishing a strong presence in local neighbourhoods and collaborating intensively with large numbers of people. This is one of the reasons behind Vienna's existing high quality of life, the quality of our historic building stock that has evolved over the years, and — last but not least — the community cohesion and interaction in our city.

The Grätzl 20+2 programme area in the districts of Brigittenau and Leopoldstadt is another impressive demonstration of how WieNeu+ generates momentum on multiple levels, in housing refurbishment projects focussed on clean energy and climate-proofing as well as in active engagement and involvement of local residents. It's not just about joining in, but about co-shaping developments. To date, feedback from stakeholders has allowed us to identify the following value-added factors derived from the WieNeu+ programme:

- Support for municipal and private measures, and paving the way for additional measures that wouldn't have happened otherwise
- Additional resources for the local neighbourhood thanks to federal subsidies and municipal funds
- Direct contact with local residents and an interface to/between local stakeholders
- Opportunity to pilot measures associated with various departments and remits of the City of Vienna (see Phasing Out Gas "pioneer neighbourhoods", Cool Zones, Grätzlinitiative 20+2 — Call for Projects)

We'd like to express our thanks to everyone involved in this success story, whether their contribution is large or small. This report summarises the past three years of intensive activity by the WieNeu+ team in the "Grätzl 20+2" programme area — we hope you'll find it interesting reading!

At the end of the day, WieNeu+ is about something of essential importance to us all: our home and our living environment. Frequently, the key is to find smart ways of combining technical and social aspects:

WieNeu+ is an impressive demonstration of how this can be done.

Otto Eckl

Head of Department

City of Vienna – Municipal Department for Technical Urban Renewal (MA 25)

Stephan Hartmann

Deputy Head of Department

Programme Manager WieNeu+ and Special Projects