

Austrian Court of Audit audited the Lower Lafnitz Valley Water Association

02.12.2022 - The water supply facilities were in a good structural condition, rules of procedure were missing

The ACA audited the **Lower Lafnitz Valley Water Association** from October to December 2021. The association, based in Heiligenkreuz im Lafnitztal, was established in 1972 on the basis of the 1959 Water Rights Act. At the time of the audit, 18 municipalities in southern Burgenland were members of the association.

The objectives of the audit were to survey and assess the organisation, staff deployment, economic situation and task fulfilment of the association as well as the distribution of costs among the association members. The period audited covered the years 2016 to 2020. In individual cases, the ACA also referred to facts outside this period.

Key recommendations

1. Rules of procedure should be adopted without delay to regulate the principles, tasks and responsibilities of the management, the confidentiality obligations, the procedure for urgent business, the demarcation of the management's tasks from those of the executive board and the operational management.
2. Within the framework of the structural reform, a step-by-step approach should be taken; individual agreements should be concluded with those member municipalities that are willing to transfer water supply tasks and the services rendered by the association should be invoiced according to expenditure.
3. For economic reasons, an agreement with the Lower Raab Valley Water Association on the amount of the water price should be sought.