





CARINTHIA: AN ATTRACTIVE BUSINESS LOCATION

arinthia, Austria's southernmost province, is an economically attractive location, impressive with its strategic position and innovative economic structure. There are six main reasons for choosing Carinthia:

Innovative strength

Carinthia is continuously investing in research and development, particularly in trendsetting areas such as electronics, robotics and renewable energies.

Strategic location

As a central hub in the Alpine-Adriatic region, Carinthia offers excellent transport connections. The newly created Koralm Tunnel, which connects the federal provinces of Carinthia and Styria, will cut the travel time to Graz by more than half.

Quality of life

Carinthia is known for a high quality of life with its unspoiled nature, numerous lakes and mild climate.

Education and research

Carinthia has renowned educational institutions and research laboratories that are closely networked with the local economy, such as the Lakeside Science & Technology Park.

Strong medium-sized business sector

Carinthia offers a stable economic structure with a high proportion of innovative small and medium-sized enterprises that are strongly exportoriented.

Sustainability

With initiatives such as the EU Green Deal, Carinthia supports companies in developing and implementing sustainable projects.



STABILITY & COMPETITIVENESS

n 2024, Carinthia has shown stable economic development. Gross domestic product (GDP) is showing moderate growth, while the employment rate is slowly declining. Carinthia's main industries, including electronics, mechanical engineering and renewable energies, remain the strongest growth drivers. Industrial production recorded a steady increase, with the export sector making the biggest contribution. These factors underlie Carinthia's position as a competitive business location.



Excellent geographical location and infrastructure

Carinthia is located in the centre of the Alpine-Adriatic region, on the southern side of the Alps, and its geographical location offers optimal conditions for companies with an international focus. At the same time, Carinthia is also a logistics hub. The new Koralm Railway will significantly shorten the travel time between Klagenfurt and Graz and thus strengthen the connection to the entire European economic area. Carinthia also has a modern broadband infrastructure that enables fast and reliable digital communication, which is particularly advantageous for technology-oriented companies.

Work-life balance

Carinthia offers an outstanding work-life balance that combines professional opportunities with a high quality of life. The region boasts unspoiled nature, numerous lakes and mountains that provide space for recreation and leisure activities. At the same time, employees benefit from being closer to work and in a family-friendly environment. Carinthia makes it possible to optimally combine career and personal well-being, which further increases its attractiveness as a place to live and work.

Business opportunities and cooperation possibilities

The **Green & Digital Research Map Carinthia** offers a clear, concise presentation of university and non-university research institutions and companies in Carinthia that are active in the fields of smart specialisation and digitalisation on the one hand and in the circular economy and sustainable industrial areas on the other. This map serves as a valuable orientation aid in Carinthia's research ecosystem.

To the Green & Digital Research Map

What entrepreneurs say about Carinthia



Be inspired by the entrepreneurial success stories in Carinthia

A SELECTION OF KWF PROMOTION PRODUCTS AT A GLANCE

With its specialised promotion products from the Carinthian Economic Promotion Fund (KWF), such as Start.F&E, Strategie.IMPULS and the qualification programmes Innovations.TALENT, Transformations. TALENT and FIRST.green, Carinthia provides targeted support for companies that want to increase their innovative strength, implement sustainable projects and secure their long-term competitiveness. These KWF products include customised consulting, coaching, networking and financing services that accompany companies on their path to transformation and climate neutrality. Take advantage of the opportunity to benefit from this support and the strong networks in Carinthia.

Innovations.TALENT

With Innovations.TALENT, the KWF supports you in strengthening your innovative power through qualified innovation managers. The qualification programme supports your company with grants for personnel, training and further training measures, as well as external consulting.

For whom: Companies based in Carinthia that want to expand their innovative capacity.

Advantages: Access to an innovation network and targeted support in the implementation of your projects.

Find out more

Kooperations.TALENT

Kooperations.TALENT promotes the transfer of knowledge and cooperation between business, research and education. You receive support for innovation managers and the establishment of sustainable networks.

For whom: Institutions for research and knowledge enhancement in the non-economic sector based in Carinthia.

Advantages: Easier access to scientific know-how and greater innovative strength.

Find out more

Transformations.TALENT

Transformations.TALENT helps you master the challenges of the EU Green Deal. The programme supports you in the implementation of transformation and sustainability projects through targeted funding and coaching.

For whom: Companies based in Carinthia that want to realise sustainable projects and improve their strategic position.

Advantages: Professional support for transformation projects and access to a strong network.

Find out more



FIRST.green

With FIRST.green, the KWF will accompany you on the path to climate neutrality and strengthen your competitiveness. The programme offers targeted support through workshops, expert discussions and individual consultations, tailored to the needs of your company.

For whom: Companies based in Carinthia that want to implement the EU Green Deal and become climate neutral.

Advantages: Individual support, networking and a customised roadmap for your implementation projects.

Find out more

Produktion EFRE|JTF.Invest

With Produktion EFRE | JTF. Invest, the KWF promotes your investments in innovation and sustainable growth. Small and medium-sized enterprises receive grants for their projects, with a focus on the use of digital technologies and the green transformation.

For whom: Small and medium-sized enterprises based in Carinthia that are active in manufacturing, industry or production-related services.

Advantages: Promoting innovative and productive investments, investments for greater energy efficiency and investments for employment and sustainability.

Find out more

Umsetzung.F&E - Your opportunity for technological innovation

With Umsetzung.F&E, the KWF supports your R&D projects that focus on green, digital and resilient solutions to ensure qualitative and resource-conserving growth. Cooperation between companies or research institutions is desired and is actively supported by the KWF.

For whom: Companies based in Carinthia that want to expand their R&D structures or develop new, sustainable technologies.

Advantages: Companies that pursue R&D intensively develop faster, create more jobs and are more resilient to crises.

Find out more

vor.GRÜNDEN

With vor.GRÜNDEN, the KWF supports the development and implementation of product or service ideas from the scientific environment. Start-up projects are supported from the initial concept to readiness for market with comprehensive specialist and relevant advice.

For whom: Persons from universities, universities of applied sciences and non-university research institutions based in Carinthia.

Advantages: Professional advice for innovative and technology-oriented start-up projects.

Find out more

Strategie.IMPULS

With Strategie.IMPULS, you receive subsidies for consulting services in strategy and organisational processes. The programme supports SMEs in particular in their reorientation and long-term corporate development. External expertise in the field of strategy and organisational development brings additional competence to the company.

For whom: SMEs and large companies based in Carinthia that are going through strategic development phases.

Advantages: Access to external expertise, support with reorientation and the possibility of cooperative project implementation.

Find out more

Start.F&E - Your springboard for research and development

With Start.F&E, the KWF supports you in dealing with research, development and innovation whether for the first time, more intensively or in a subject area that is new to you, as well as in preparing research and development projects. Start.F&E aims to increase research and development activities in Carinthian companies.

Advantages: R&D-intensive companies are more resilient, grow faster, create more jobs and help to stabilise the economy.

Find out more

KWF - the Carinthian Economic Promotion Fund: a reliable partner for the Carinthian economy



In addition to comprehensive consulting services, Carinthia offers specific promotion products for SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) and start-ups. The most important contact points are the Carinthian Economic Promotion Fund (KWF) and the Carinthian Economic Chamber. Scan the QR code for an overview of possible grants and subsidies.



COOPERATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AREA OF R&D

Joanneum Research -Your partner for digital innovations

Joanneum Research is an important player in the Carinthian research landscape, particularly through the planned "Digital TwinLab" in Klagenfurt. This innovative laboratory will develop digital twins for various applications such as industrial production, construction, urban development and healthcare. The project strengthens research capacities in the region and offers companies the opportunity to integrate state-of-the-art technologies into their processes. Joanneum Research is centrally networked with other regional research institutions and supports companies in the implementation of digital innovations.

Silicon Austria Labs

Silicon Austria Labs (SAL) is the leading research centre for electronic based systems (EBS) in Austria with a site at the High Tech Campus Villach, Carinthia. SAL works at the forefront of technological development in areas such as microelectronics, sensor technology and power electronics. For companies in Carinthia, cooperation with SAL offers numerous opportunities to integrate innovative technologies into their products and processes and thus secure a competitive advantage.

Silicon Austria Labs conducts in-house and contract research and cooperates with industrial and scientific partners on relevant key topics with future-oriented development potential. The unique SAL cooperation model is characterised by the motto of "innovative ideas implemented quickly". With this model, SAL not only enables its partners to implement their research idea quickly and without all the red tape, but also finances 50% of the total project costs. The industrial partner contributes only 25% in cash and 25% through in-kind services. The costs are spread across all sectors and depend on the number of project partners. The IP rules for all projects are in line with European state aid law. Each cooperation project is publicly tendered anonymously for four weeks to enable other suitable partners to participate.

In addition, SAL offers numerous measurement and testing services along the value chain. The service portfolio includes tailor-made solutions for partners – from design and simulation to characterisation, measurements and testing all the way through to production in the field of micro and nano technology.

More about the <u>cooperation model</u>
More about <u>R&D services</u>
More about <u>contract research</u>

Cooperation at the Drone Hub Klagenfurt

The Drone Hub at the University of Klagenfurt offers you central access to cutting-edge research and development in the field of drone technology. In close cooperation with the University of Klagenfurt and its partners, work is done on joint projects to develop advanced drone solutions for use in robotics, transportation and production. By cooperating in the Drone Hub, you and your institution can also directly access state-of-the-art technologies and the latest research results and use them for your company.

Lakeside Labs

Lakeside Labs is a research centre with the aim of improving complex networked technical systems using self-organisation methods. ICT and robotic systems, Industry 4.0, Logistics 4.0 and mobility are considered as areas of application. Research is being conducted on the topics of swarm intelligence in cyber-physical systems and their cooperation and communication, with a focus on properties such as resilience, scalability and adaptivity. Lakeside Labs offers a dynamic research environment and numerous collaborations with companies, in particular through close partnerships with both the University of Klagenfurt and Lakeside Science & Technology Park. Companies benefit from interdisciplinary projects that promote innovation and practical solutions.

- Agent-based modelling in robotics, Industry 4.0, cloud edge computing
- Engineering of swarms of cyber-physical systems
- Simulation of swarm behaviour and implementation/tests on real hardware platforms (including drone swarms)
- Optimisation of production, logistics and mobility systems using self-organisation and swarm intelligence
- Process, condition and environmental monitoring using intelligent, robust and ultra-reliable sensor networks
- Machine-to-machine communication solutions based on modern technologies (5G and beyond 5G, LoRa, UWB, etc.), e.g. for flying and ground-based robots
- Swarms of drones for applications in monitoring, inspection and support in disaster scenarios

Fraunhofer KI4LIFE – Use artificial intelligence for your success

The Carinthian Fraunhofer Innovation Centre for Digitalisation and Artificial Intelligence – KI4LIFE for short – is one of four locations of the practice-oriented research institution Fraunhofer Austria and focuses on data-based solutions for companies. The scientists at KI4LIFE support companies, especially SMEs from a wide range of sectors, in the areas of digitalisation, visualisation and the use of artificial intelligence.

Analyses and forecasts can be used to minimise the risk of wrong decisions, while digitalisation tools can be used to make the company's expert knowledge accessible to employees and managers.

The Fraunhofer Austria team offers Carinthian companies low-threshold access to research and development in order to remain competitive and gain a competitive edge through innovation.

Our offer for companies:



KI4LIFE digitalisation cheque: Voucher for 10 days of research and development



KI4LIFE training courses and innovation workshops for entrepreneurs



Dr. Eva Eggeling
Centre Director Data Driven Design
Head of Innovation Centre KI4LIFE

We see ourselves as bridge builders and problem solvers in order to make research usable for companies and convert innovation into calculable returns. SMEs in particular are the engine of the economy, but they face a particularly wide range of challenges. As a research service provider, we want to be a supportive partner for this target group in particular.

University of Klagenfurt - Working together on pioneering projects

Researchers from the fields of technical sciences, law and economics, social sciences and cultural studies work at the University of Klagenfurt. Approximately 12,000 students, including around 2,000 international students, study 50 courses in these subjects. The two research strengths of the University of Klagenfurt are "Networked and Embedded Systems" and "Multiple Perspectives in Optimisation".

Knowledge transfer in the form of patents is primarily attributable to the following two fields of research:

In drone and robotics research, scientists are working on the development of autonomous multi-drone systems in which several drones navigate autonomously, coordinate themselves and exchange data. The researchers at the Drone Hub Klagenfurt have Europe's largest drone hall at their disposal as infrastructure. Research at the Christian Doppler Laboratory ATHENA, where a team is working on new technologies to ensure that video transmission is smooth and energy-efficient despite high data volumes, is also internationally outstanding. The laboratory is jointly funded by Bitmovin and the Christian Doppler Research Association.

In addition to these specialist areas, the University of Klagenfurt covers a wide range of interdisciplinary aspects with its high-ranking third-party funded projects. The interdisciplinary focus areas at the University of Klagenfurt are "Humans in the Digital Age", "Energy Management and Technology", "Sustainability", "Self-Organising Systems" and "Visual Culture".

The University of Klagenfurt cooperates closely with companies in many research projects. With the career service, fundraising and alumni network, there are also optimal interfaces between students, graduates and the economy. In this way, the university can support companies in recruiting, talent marketing and image campaigns. With a lecture hall or seminar room sponsorship, companies can also become visible on campus. Through scholarships, such as the Klagenfurt Scholarship, companies support outstanding Master's students who contribute their potential in the form of internships, Master's theses or project work.

Wood K plus – Your partner for sustainable solutions

In the Wood Competence Centre (Wood K plus), we develop advanced solutions based on wood and other renewable raw materials. The aim is to implement new materials, technologies and processes in small businesses and industry. By working with us and our international research network, you can drive forward sustainable developments and better position your company in an environmentally aware market.

Carinthia University of Applied Sciences – Practical research for your success

Cooperation with the economy and industry is a major key to success for education and research at Carinthia University of Applied Sciences (CUAS). Our aim is to be an important cooperation partner for companies in the region and beyond.

The diverse opportunities for cooperation for companies range from strategic partnerships in **research**, **development** and **teaching** to **employer branding** and **recruiting measures** through to **sponsorship opportunities** for an attractive target group.

As a university, Carinthia University of Applied Sciences also provides support in personnel development and further training, as well as in the development of continuing education programmes. Become part of the CUAS Community and take advantage of our offers:

Study courses & further education at CUAS for your employees

- Study courses
- Further education
- Micro credentials/micro degrees

Job Service & Employer Branding

Job Portal & company profile
 Jobs/internships/trainee programmes/graduation
 topics can be published free of charge on our
 CUAS Job Portal.

Find out more

- Job newsletter & job e-mail
 - All jobs and internships are automatically sent out weekly via the Job Portal in the form of a newsletter. Current job offers are sent monthly by e-mail to students and graduates.
- CUAS internships must be completed in the 6th semester (February to April) of the Bachelor's programme! Please feel free to send us offers or place them online.
- Study & Work with over 100 corporate partners

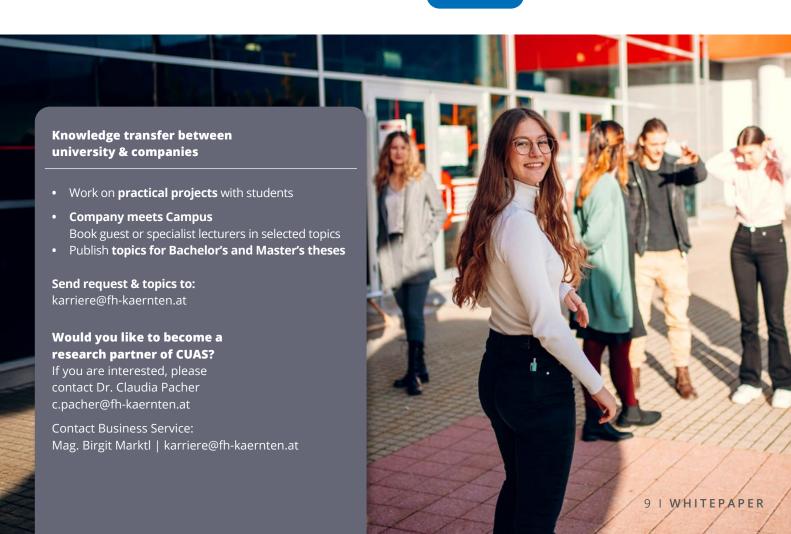
Find out more

• "Meet & Match" job fair at Campus Villach

Find out more

Community & partnership packages

Find out more



TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION HUBS FOR YOUR COMPANY

tpv Technologiepark Villach

Focus on microelectronics | EBS (electronic based systems) | hardware

With over 40 companies, more than 1,100 students at Carinthia University of Applied Sciences, over 850 employees and 70 to 100 apprentices at the GPS training centre, **tpv Technologiepark Villach** is a high-tech location with a **clear focus** on EBS (electronic based systems) with microelectronics, electronics, mechatronics, mechanical engineering and the **three-pillar model** with education and training, research and development and business all at one location.

With around 40,000 m² of space, the tpv offers numerous opportunities for cooperation and synergy between business, science and education, especially through resident companies such as the European top level research centre SAL (Silicon Austria Labs), Carinthia University of Applied Sciences, the GPS training centre "Campo", build! Gründungszentrum and Wifi. Companies can benefit from a dynamic network here to drive forward innovative projects in research and development.



High Tech Campus Villach

Under the slogan of "research on the river", High Tech Campus Villach (HTCV) is a leading innovation centre that focuses on the key areas of microelectronics and sensor technology. High Tech Campus Villach is located **within tpv Technologiepark Villach** and therefore benefits from an ideal environment.

HTCV and its tenants – Silicon Austria Labs, build! Gründerzentrum, Silicon Alps Cluster and ph-instruments – provide first-class research and educational infrastructures. This includes state-of-the-art laboratories, clean rooms, measuring and testing facilities, as well as seminar rooms and offices.

This infrastructure helps to facilitate research and development at the highest level, which in turn increases the research activities and competitiveness of companies at the location and beyond.

Technologiepark Lavanttal

A knowledge and innovation quarter with a focus on sustainable technologies is being created around the Green Deal directly along the Koralm Railway.

In the knowledge triangle of research, business and education, innovative research initiatives, companies and educational programmes are created that address current challenges and the future needs of relevant economic sectors in particular. The technology park will provide space for potential trial productions and test units, as well as divisible infrastructure. These facilities are intended to enable the practical application and further development of products and services.

Lakeside Science & Technology Park Klagenfurt
Focus on ICT | software

Lakeside Science & Technology Park is located just a few hundred metres from Lake Wörthersee in the immediate vicinity of the University of Klagenfurt. With around 42,000 m² of space, it offers room for cooperation between companies and research institutions in the field of information and communication technologies (ICT). Innovative solutions are being worked on and researched together through selected R&D projects, as the park offers first-class infrastructure for research and development. Companies and start-ups benefit from a dynamic network and diverse opportunities for cooperation that promote the development of future-oriented technologies.

Lakeside Park is also a preferred and **attractive educational location** for people of all ages; a campus where teachers and students meet, a place where what has been learnt can be put directly into practice.

In addition to catering facilities and childcare, Lakeside Park also offers sports and leisure facilities for company employees to make the technology park an **attractive place to work and live**.

Overall, Lakeside Park sees itself as a catalyst for economic growth and technological progress.

lakeside-scitec.com

educational-lab.at



"START-UP IN RESIDENCE" PROGRAMME

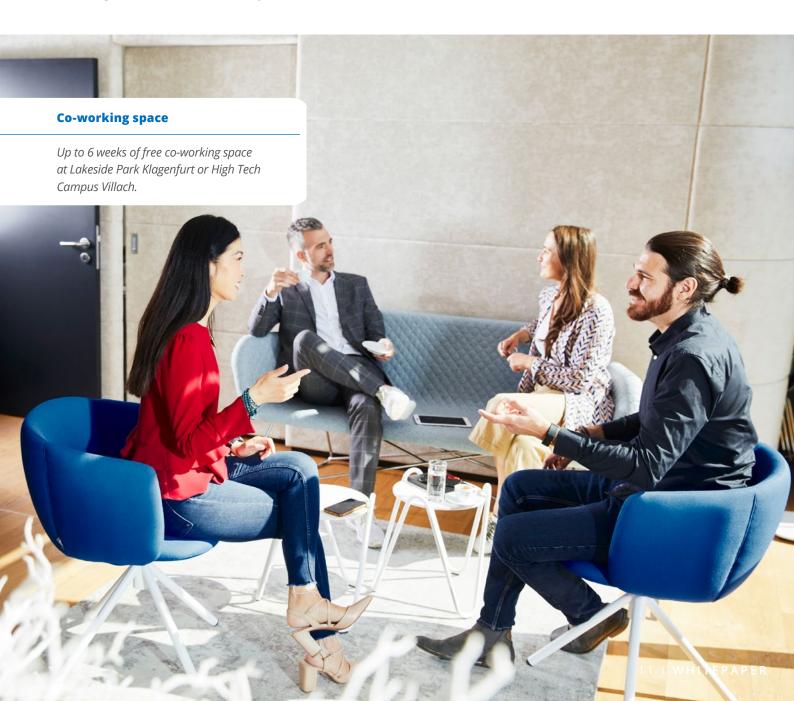
The "Start-Up in Residence" programme in Carinthia is an initiative that aims to connect innovative start-ups with public administration and other key players in the region. The aim of the programme is to support start-ups in developing and implementing innovative solutions for specific challenges in the region.

It offers start-ups a unique opportunity to work intensively on their projects, receive support from experienced mentors and come into direct contact with potential customers and investors from the public sector and industry. It creates a platform for start-ups to test their solutions in a real environment and at the same time gain valuable insights into the needs and requirements of public and private partners.

In Carinthia, the programme is supported by institutions such as build! Gründerzentrum and Lakeside Science & Technology Park, which serve as a central hub for start-ups in the region. These facilities not only offer infrastructural

support such as co-working spaces and laboratories, but also an extensive network of mentors, investors and other start-ups that promote the exchange of knowledge and resources.

The programme is an important part of Carinthia's strategy to position the region as an attractive location for start-ups and innovative companies and thus strengthen the region's economic development and innovative power.



BABEG – BUSINESS AND INNOVATION AGENCY

ABEG, the Carinthian Agency for Investment Promotion and Public Shareholding, offers comprehensive support for companies wishing to settle in Carinthia or develop new projects there. This support includes various services aimed at making it easier for companies to enter Carinthia as a business location and successfully implement their projects. These services are particularly valuable for companies that are setting up in a new region and need to familiarise themselves with local conditions, as well as for innovative projects that require specific locational advantages or support in their developmental phase.

Support in the search for a location

BABEG helps companies to find the optimal location for their investment in Carinthia. This includes:

- Advice on potential locations: BABEG provides information on available commercial and industrial sites, existing infrastructure and local benefits.
- Arranging contacts: The organisation can connect companies with relevant local authorities, real estate developers and other key stakeholders.
- Viewings and analysis: BABEG organises site inspections and provides support in analysing the various options in order to make the best choice for the company.

Support with project development

If a company is planning a project in Carinthia, BABEG offers support in the following areas:

- Project management: BABEG can accompany and support companies throughout the entire project development process, from concept development to realisation.
- **Funding advice:** Companies receive help in identifying and applying for funding and subsidies that could be relevant to the project.
- Network access: Thanks to its extensive network, BABEG offers access to potential partners, investors and consultants who can be vital for the successful implementation of the project.
- **In addition:** BABEG provides industrial site plots and halls at moderate prices, support in the search for suitable sites and project development.

Your success programme in Carinthia

Explore Carinthia Programme

- Co-working space
- Sector-specific research and development project
- R&D expertise of BABEG with great R&D funding opportunities
- Networking opportunities with potential customers and suppliers
- "Go Austria" support for your travel expenses

BABEG is Carinthia's first and official point of contact for foreign companies interested in settling in Carinthia or planning to expand in the south of Austria. Cross-border networking and information exchange are indispensable, with communication and cooperation between businesses, research institutions, strategic partnerships and educational facilities as key elements in the overall approach.



A comprehensive overview of your business settlement in Carinthia can be found here:



START-UP SERVICE OF THE CARINTHIAN ECONOMIC CHAMBER

The start-up service of the Carinthian Economic Chamber offers comprehensive support for company founders and successors, with a special focus on personal and individual advice. In addition to brainstorming, planning, trade law, business registration and tax issues, information is also provided on social insurance, business plans and business model development. For succession planning, subsidised experts are available to help with handover concepts, while the Succession Portal supports entrepreneurs in their search for a suitable business or successor. Tools such as the entrepreneur test, the legal form guide and Plan4You as well as free workshops round off the offered services.

Of course, the same offering is available for prospective entrepreneurs who want to take over a business. If required, subsidised experts are also available here to help with a handover concept. In addition, the **Economic Chamber's Succession Portal** supports entrepreneurs in their search for a suitable business to take over or for a suitable successor.

Find out more

Support for the start of self-employment

The start-up service of the Carinthian Economic Chamber offers comprehensive support for founders and start-ups, especially those with innovative business ideas. In addition to general advice, the start-up service provides support in the form of a personal feedback meeting in which the business idea is examined for innovation, feasibility and challenges. Moreover, recommendations for action and support options are presented to pave the way for a successful entrepreneurial future.



Lucija Wahounig

Team Leader Carinthian Economic Chamber Start-up Service Centre

The first points of contact for start-ups are the start-up service and the district offices. Personal and individual advice is particularly important to us. We offer all the information you need on trade law, business registration, social insurance, taxes, succession, business plans and business model development.

STRONG SUPPORT FOR COMPANIES

Carinthia offers comprehensive support in the search for locations, project development and financing. This allows companies a smooth entry into and sustainable growth in the region. The close cooperation between business, research institutions and educational establishments further strengthens the location.

Your point of contact BABEG

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