Conference & Tradeshow Programme

World Sustainable Energy Days 2025

24 - 27 February 2025 Wels, Austria

2026:
ENERGY
TRANSITION =
ENERGY
INDEPENDENCE

Conferences:

- European Pellet Conference
- Energy Efficiency Policy Conference
- Industrial Energy Transition Conference
- Smart E-Mobility Conference
- Energy Communities Workshop
- Young Energy Researchers

6 Fach konferenzen

30+ Stunden für Networking

1 große Fachmesse







World Sustainable Energy Days 2026



6 dedicated conferences



Leading energy tradeshow (2025: 73.000 visitors)



30+ networking hours



650+ participants



60 countries



80 speakers

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

European Pellet Conference

The world's largest annual conference on pellets with a focus on policies, technologies, markets and financing

Energy Efficiency Policy Conference

New EU Policies • Funding & finance • Market Updates • Energy security • Energy flexibility, digitisation and Al

Industrial Energy Transition Conference

EU Clean Industrial Deal • Green hydrogen, CCUS, energy efficiency, circular economy • Case studies

Young Energy Efficiency Researchers

Conference Presenting the work of young energy researchers • Best Young Energy Efficiency Researcher Award

Smart E-Mobility Conference

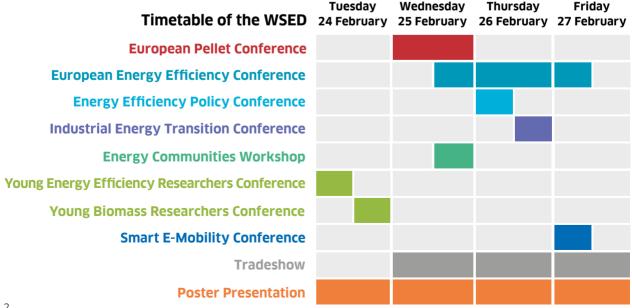
Technology, policy and market updates • Battery and charging innovations • Electric fleets and trucks

Poster Presentation

Displaying energy projects, innovations and EU project results to international experts

Tradeshow

Leading tradeshow (Energiesparmesse) on energy and buildings • Austrian & international companies present product innovations • 2025: 73,000 visitors



Energy transition = energy independence!

Geopolitical instabilities, high energy prices and growing global competition make one thing clear: Europe must urgently increase its energy independence. Energy efficiency and renewable energy are the key assets in this transformation: They decrease energy imports, reduce energy prices and make Europe more resilient.

The World Sustainable Energy Days (WSED) present policies, technologies and business models which increase competitiveness and make energy more affordable. The event is a leading annual conference on the energy transition and climate neutrality with over 650 participants from more than 60 countries.

WHO attends the event?

Over 650 experts from more than 60 countries each year!

- A wide range of business actors engaged in the energy transition: technology and equipment companies, energy companies, service providers, planners, developers, financing sector etc.
- the sustainable energy **research community**
- representatives from public bodies (e.g. EU institutions, national, regional and local governments, energy agencies)

WHEN does it take place?

24 - 27 February 2026

HOW to join?

Mark your calendar and register today! (www.wsed.at)

WHERE does it happen?

In Wels/Austria. The region of Upper Austria is an ideal location for this conference: Due to its pioneering role in energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, Upper Austria – with Wels at its center – has sharply reduced greenhouse gas emissions in the building sector and is driving a sustainable energy future.



With the
World Sustainable Energy Days,
Upper Austria – a leader in the energy
transition – is the meeting place for
sustainable energy.

Europe has set itself the ambitious target of becoming the first climate-neutral continent. We present and discuss solutions to practically implement the energy transition quickly. With energy efficiency and renewable energy, we will ensure competitiveness and decrease energy costs!

Markus Achleitner, Regional Minister for Economy and Energy, Upper Austria



European Pellet Conference 2026



25 February 2026 | 9.00

Pellet Update Session: What is new in policies and markets?

Europe must urgently reduce its dependence on fossil fuel imports. Pellets can play an expanding role in this transformation! The session presents new EU policies, provides insights into the latest market developments and offers a strategic outlook for pellets in Europe and globally.

- Opening and welcome
 Gerhard Dell, OÖ Energiesparverband, Austria
- Update on EU bioenergy policies
 Biljana Kulišić, European Commission, DG Energy
- Bioenergy's role in the energy transition Andrew Klain, IEA Bioenergy
- Best Young Biomass Researcher Award
- Pellet markets in Europe: current developments and outlook

Gilles Gauthier, Hawkins Wright, Belgium

Bioenergy trends worldwide - opportunities and challenges

Bharadwaj Kummamuru, World Bioenergy Association

 Pellet heating: the heart of an intelligent home energy system

Stefan Ortner, ÖkoFEN, Austria

Biomass supply chains between markets and geopolitics

Magnus Schou Sørensen, CM Biomass, Denmark

Discovery Session: Pellets - energy and more!

The session explores how pellets are evolving beyond heat and power into a resource for the wider bioeconomy. It presents emerging opportunities from new applications such as biochar, BECCUS or biomaterials. It also highlights why energetic use of biomass continues to make sense also in the future.

- Biomass beyond heat and electricity Franziska Klauser, BEST, Austria
- Bioenergy with carbon capture and storage or utilisation (BECCUS): From innovation to deployment Niels Christian Bang, IEA Bioenergy/Ea Energy Analyses, Denmark
- Energy or materials? Why biomass for energy will also make sense in the future
 Hubert Röder, HSWT - University of Applied Sciences, Germany
- The European Biochar Market Report
 Hansjörg Lerchenmüller, Biochar Europe, Germany
- More than heating pellets as a carbon sink Christoph Ebetshuber, Guntamatic Heiztechnik, Austria

Chairperson:

Christiane Egger, OÖ Energiesparverband, Austria

Lunch and networking



Pellet Innovation Session

Innovation to scale up bioenergy for the energy transition! This session shows new technologies and implemented real-life projects across the pellet and bioenergy value chains, covering heating and electricity solutions, standardisation and certification as well as new business models.

- Innovative pellet solutions from Upper Austria
 - Herbert Schwarz, Hargassner, Austria
 - Werner Emhofer, Fröling, Austria
- Wood pellets in arctic communities climate, economic and social benefits

Fahimeh Yazdan Panah, Wood Pellet Association of Canada

- Pellet certification trace it, trust it!
 Carsten Huljus, Sustainable Biomass Program (SBP), UK
- Insights from 15 years ENplus for wood pellets
 Hans Martin Behr, Deutsches Pelletinstitut, Germany
- Pellet quality requirements for residential pellet stoves

Robert Mack, Technologie- und Förderzentrum (TFZ), Germany

 Safe storage of wood pellets - how to detect and prevent self-heating

John Swaan, FutureMetrics, Canada

 Small-scale carbon capture at a woodchip-fired power plant

Ivan Derkink, Bright Renewables, The Netherlands

 Helen Power Plant Salmisaari: Goodbye to coal, hello to pellets

Jouni Koskinen, Valmet Technologies, Finland

 Low-temperature dryers for pellet production Maxwell Yernaux/Georg Reis, Technic One Engineering, Belgium

Pellet Planet Session

How can pellets contribute to the energy transition? This session brings together international experts to explore pellet market trends, emerging challenges, and future opportunities. A session focus is on rapidly evolving pellet markets in Asia.

Chairperson and opening

Fahimeh Yazdan Panah, Wood Pellet Association of Canada on behalf of the European Pellet Council

Germany

Martin Bentele, Deutscher Energieholz- und Pellet-Verband (DEPV)

Czech Republic

Jan Habart, Czech Association for Biomass

Norway

Steven Morris, Nobio / Solør Bioenergi

Brazil

Jose Carlos Haas Junior, Haas Madeiras

India

Ketaki Kokil, Ecosense Appliances

Indonesia

Unggung Widhiantoro, IREEM

Vietnam

Kim Anh Luong, Forest Trends Association

Conference dinner

Energy Efficiency Policy Conference

26 February 2026

26 February | 09.00

Policy Session: Energy independence through clean and affordable energy

What is new in Europe? This session provides practical perspectives on policy and market developments that help to understand future trends. It also highlights the latest developments in financing energy efficiency. The speakers demonstrate that the energy transition is the best pathway to affordable energy and energy independence, and present narratives that build acceptance for this transformation.

- Opening and welcome Gerhard Dell, OÖ Energiesparverband, Austria
- New EU Policies: Affordable and clean energy for Europe
 Nikolaos Kontinakis, European Commission, DG Energy
- The European Energy Transition Outlook Seán Collins, Irena
- The 650 billion Euro EU Recovery and Resilience Facility - impacts on the energy transition Guillaume Débarbat, European Commission, Secretariat-General
- Best Young Energy Efficiency Researcher Award
- Energy independence powered by renewable energy Alexander Kirchner, Energie AG, Austria



Innovation Session: Energy flexibility, digitisation and AI for the energy transition

This innovation session shows how our energy systems can become more dynamic and intelligent. It explores how energy flexibility, digitisation and artificial intelligence can enable more energy efficiency and a better integration of renewables. Through practical examples, participants will gain insights into energy efficient data centres, demand response. VPPs, and grid flexibility.

- Europe's energy security and climate neutrality Krisztina Zálnoky, Agora Think Tank, Germany
- What's the story? Narratives for the energy transition

Christiane Egger, OÖ Energiesparverband, Austria

- How LIFE projects support the energy transition Michele Sansoni, European Commission, CINEA
- Financing solutions for energy efficient buildings Angeliki Konstantinopoulou, Sustainable Energy Finance Association
- The Vilnius One-Stop-Shop: The energy renovation of over 250 multifamily buildings
 Lina Bubulyte, Amiestas, Lithuania

- Energy-efficient data centers
 Marina Köhn, Umweltbundesamt, Germany
- Flexible homes, flexible grids
 Marisca Zweistra, ElaadNL, the Netherlands
- PowerSmart: Creating Virtual Power Plants
 Brian F. Keane, Smart Power, US
- Smart energy systems powered by AI Ramona Iske, Fraunhofer IEE, Germany
- Unlocking flexibility by removing barriers to demand response
 Felipe Gonzalez Venegas, ACER

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13.00 Conference lunch and networking



This conference is organised in the context of the LIFE project "Energy Efficiency Watch 5": www.energy-efficiency-watch.org



Industrial Energy Transition Conference

26 February 2026

26 February | 14.00

The Clean Industrial Deal for a resilient and competitive European industry

The European industry is currently faced with manifold challenges including high and volatile prices for fossil fuels, intensified global competition and shifting trade relations. The session presents how the Clean Industrial Deal and related initiatives can secure Europe's industrial future through policies, funding and innovation.

- Opening and welcome
- The EU Clean Industrial Deal Raoul Doerr, European Commission, DG Energy
- Funding the transformation of industry in Austria Urban Peyker, Austrian Climate and Energy Fund/ Mission Innovation, Austria
- Implementing the Clean Industrial Deal in Upper Austria Gerhard Dell, OÖ Energiesparverband, Austria



Pathways for industry transformation – today and tomorrow

The session looks at how industry can turn the challenge of decarbonisation into a competitive advantage. It explores key transformation pathways, such as electrification, green hydrogen, CCUS, energy efficiency, and circular economy, that are already reshaping industrial value chains and opening up new opportunities for sustainable growth.

 Technology pathways for a competitive industry transformation

Thomas Kienberger, Technical University of Leoben, Austria

Demonstrating a green, digital and social industry transformation

Àngels Orduña, A.SPIRE/Processes4Planet

- Large-scale CCUS deployment in the cement industry Johanne Bø, Holcim AG, Switzerland
- CO₂ free manufacturing in the "H₂ based factory" Andreas Kunz, INNIO Group, Austria
- H₂Glass: Decarbonising the glass and aluminum industry

Chiara Caccamo, SINTEF Energy Research, Norway

Leading technology examples from industry from Austria and Germany

The session showcases real-life projects from Austria and Germany that demonstrate how companies are already turning innovation into action. With practical examples from key sectors, this session presents resilient business models and innovative solutions that reduce emissions, improve efficiency, and strengthen competitiveness.

 A holistic approach to green brewing with efficiency and renewables

Harald Raidl, Brau Union, Austria

- Greentec steel: aiming for net zero CO₂ emissions
 Thomas Moser, voestalpine Stahl, Austria
- Bioenergy for decarbonising one of Europe's biggest car production sites
 Bastian Alt, eta Energieberatung, Germany
- Flexibility and procurement for industry Robert Zoufal, Inercomp, Austria

19.00 Conference dinner



Smart E-Mobility Conference

27 February 2026

27 February | 08.45

The latest on EV markets, policies and technologies

This session focuses on the key issues of electric mobility. It highlights market developments in Europe and globally, presents the latest advances in battery technologies, and offers insights into successful electric mobility policies from different countries

Opening and welcome

Markus Achleitner, Regional Minister for Economy and Energy, Upper Austria

The Global EV Outlook 2025: new records in global EV sales

Giovanni Andrean, International Energy Agency

Next generation battery technologies

Maitane Berecibar, VUB Battery Innovation Center, Belgium

Best Practices: EV charging and energy system integration policies

Nadejda Khamrakulova, UNECE – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe





Innovation Session: Scaling up EV charging

This session presents existing and future approaches to scaling EV charging. Speakers explore how existing electrical infrastructure and grids can be adapted for growing EV demand, and how new solutions can enable charging at scale. They offer insights into how smart infrastructure planning and innovation accelerates the transition to electric mobility.

 Using existing idle electrical infrastructures for EV charging

Jose Ramón López, Basque Energy Agency, Spain

- Electrical grids for e-mobility
 Christine Kühnel, Reiner Lemoine Institut, Germany
- A megacharger made in Austria
 Markus Makoschitz, Technical University of Leoben, Austria

Electric trucks on the rise - examples from Austria

This session showcases real-life examples for fleet conversion, presented by logistics companies at the forefront of the transition. It highlights key lessons learned and success factors and demonstrates that green logistics are already delivering a clear competitive advantage.

 Electric trucks, large-scale batteries, renewables and more!

Nikolaus Skarabela, Schachinger Logistik Holding, Austria

 Innovative charging solutions - sustainable and profitable

Elisabeth Andrieux, Hofmann & Neffe, Austria

 How can the switch to electric trucks in heavy transport succeed?

Michael Schwarz, Schwarz Transporte, Austria

Sustainability in logistics
 Markus Höller, DHL Global Forwarding, Austria

13.00 Conference end



Workshop Energy Communities

25 February 2026

25 February 2026 | 14.00

Energy Communities: a driving force for the energy transition

Putting citizens at the centre of the energy transition is no longer an empty slogan: Thousands of Energy Communities across Europe are already demonstrating how collective action can accelerate the deployment of renewables, increase acceptance, and deliver local benefits. This session offers insights into enabling policies, support programmes, innovative financing, the interaction with grids and the use of digital innovation for Energy Communities.

- EU policies on Energy Communities
 Alejandro Ulzurrun De Asanza Y Munoz, European Commission, DG Energy
- Energy Communities are here to stay!
 Christiane Egger, OÖ Energiesparverband, Austria
- Highlights and lessons from EU-funded Energy Community projects
 Talía Brun Marcen, European Commission, CINEA
- Unlocking finance for energy communities
 Felix Kriedemann, REScoop.eu
- Interacting with DSOs
 Harald Proidl, e-control, Austria
- Blockchain for Energy Communities
 Francisco Puente, ESCAN, Spain



Beyond Theory: Success stories from Energy Communities across Europe

This session presents successful real-world examples from different countries, showcasing how energy sharing and other related community-based approaches are implemented on the ground. Speakers will highlight key success factors, common challenges, and practical lessons learned that can support replication and scaling in other regions and contribute to long-term success of community action.

- The "Weekend Energy Community" Vlasta Krmelj, ENERGAP, Slovenia
- Pioneering Energy Communities in Emilia-Romagna and the key role of energy agencies
 Marco Costa, AESS, Italy
- First green energy community in Romania Olimpia Nicolae, Coaliţia Energie Comunitară, Romania
- Five remote villages one Energy Community Savvas Vlacchos, Cyprus Energy Agency, Cyprus
- Energy belongs in the hands of the community Christian Straßer, Energiewende Feldkirchen, Austria

- Integrating electricity, heat production and renovation
 Noémie Zambeaux, Auvergne Rhône Alpes Énergie
 - Environnement, France
- Energy sharing in social housing social responsibility meets community energy Benjamin Wilkin, Energie Commune, Belgium
- Bulgaria's Energy Communities in Gabrovo, Burgas and Sofia

Diana Paunova-Galeva, Sofia Energy Agency, Bulgaria

 Energy Communities as a new market force in Greece Chris Vrettos, Electra Energy, Greece

19.00 Conference dinner

The workshop is held in the context of the ManagEnergy Initiative and the LIFE Project Power-E-com.







Young Energy Efficiency Researchers Conference

24 February 2026

24 February | 9.00

This conference presents the work and achievements of young energy efficiency researchers from all over the world.

- Opening and welcome
 - Volker Schaffler, Federal Ministry of Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure, Austria
 - Christiane Egger, OÖ Energiesparverband, Austria
- Using real-world data to improve predictions of building energy modelling
 Mojtaba Khastar, University of Ottawa, Canada
- Neighbourhood-scale decarbonisation in the United States
 Zoë Cina-Sklar, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA
- Embodied carbon versus operational carbon: Have we gone too far insulating buildings?
 Ben Taylor, AECOM / University of Sheffield, UK
- Robust buildings: optimising energy efficiency, reducing performance gaps
 Lukas Lauss, TU Munich, Germany
- Machine Learning with knowledge discovery in databases for retrofit decisions
 Rafael Oliveira Rodrigues, D4P, Portugal



 Energy efficient construction with green PCMenhanced mortars

Fatemeh Rabiei, University of Genova, Italy

 Carbon fibers for enhancing shape stability and efficiency of PEG PCMs

Golnoosh Abdeali / Sahel Saberi, Technological University of the Shannon, Ireland

Corncob ash for sustainable cementitious applications

Francis Okeke, Canterbury Christ Church University, UK

Optimising of amorphous carbon films for renewable energy technologies

Manuel Schachinger, University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria

- Western Balkan: automated approach to costoptimality and the definition of notional buildings Arvjola Myrtaj, Fraunhofer IBP, Germany
- Assessing 5th generation district heating and cooling with CATHeaPS

Orestis Angelidis, University of Glasgow, UK

 Feedstock in energy system model: defossilisation of the chemical industry

Md Anik Islam, University of Stuttgart, Germany

 Inequalities in housing energy efficiency in Estonian cities

Kirils Gončarovs, University of Tartu, Estonia

Weather routing based on a multi-energy ship microgrid

Zhineng Fei / Zhengmao Li, Aalto University, Finland

Cost allocation systems in energy efficiency: tenant preferences in Germany

Linus Hübner, University of Kassel, Germany

 Digital twin for efficient waste handling in waste-tochemical facilities

Camilla Cordero di Montezemolo / Gianluca Espositom, MyRechemical, Italy

A decision-support dashboard for energy community optimisation

Diogo Couceiro / João Victor Costa, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal

 Bivalent heating with a hybrid heat pump supported by a biomass boiler

Jaka Bizjak, Jožef Stefan Institute, Slovenia

Chairperson: Gerald Steinmaurer, University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria

Conference lunch and networking



Young **Biomass** Researchers **Conference**

24 February 2026

24 February | 14.00

This conference presents the work and achievements of young biomass researchers from all over the world.

- Opening and welcome Gerhard Dell / Christiane Egger, OÖ Energiesparverband
- Optimising a pellet-based cookstove Akshansh Kataria, EcoSense Appliances, India
- The contribution of bioenergy to defossilising the Austrian energy system

Doris Matschegg, BEST, Austria

 Environmental preferences for HVO: a discrete choice experiment in Italy

Davide Ricci Focaia / Luca Mariani, IUSS Pavia / Università degli Studi di Perugia, Italy

 Climate impact of bioenergy and wood: new emission factors

Stefan Füchsl, TU Munich, Germany

- Biomass characterisation using physics-informed neural networks
- Investigation of process routes for biomass utilisation

Stefanie Mörth / Christoph Markowitsch, Technical

Trade-offs between hydrogen demand, carbon and

Ebru Işık, Utrecht University, The Netherlands



 Exploring a potential power to methane plant in the northeast of Austria

Helena Katzenberger, BOKU University, Austria

 Biogas upgrading experiment from a CH₄ + CO₂ gas mixture via clathrate hydrate
 Meku Maruyama, Keio University, Japan

 AAIL as catalyst for direct transesterification: RSM, kinetics and thermodynamics
 Jivana Parameswaran, University of Petronas, Malaysia

 Boosting biohydrogen production via coupled dark fermentation and MEC
 Soumvailt Chandra, Sharda Haiyorgity, India

Soumyajit Chandra, Sharda University, India

 Activated carbon and improved energy efficiency in biomass gasification

David Gurtner, MCI Innsbruck, Austria

 H₂ production via biological CO shift reaction in a reactor and H₂ separation
 Muhammad Maaz / Jonas Vogl / Maximilian Hettler, Hochschule Landshut, Germany

Akshay Bagde, University of Glasgow, UK

Hydrogen production from biomass/MSW via BECCS

 Enhancing biohydrogen production from agricultural waste in dark fermentation
 Jayen Aris Kriswantoro, Institut Teknologi Bandung, Co-digestion of brewer's spent grain pulp and duckweed

Jessica Di Mario / Alberto Maria Gambelli, University of Perugia, Italy

Tapping into rice straw's biomethane potential with hydrothermal pretreatment

Parliai Carloti IIT Parabay India

Pankaj Garkoti, IIT Bombay, India

 Softwood lignin via GVL: high-purity recovery, ß-O-4 retention & trade-offs

Medya Hatun Tanis, Lund University, Sweden

 Hydroponics effluent to biochemical-rich biomass via microalgal photogranules

Harshit Tiwari, Indian Institute of Technology, India

Biomass influence on fast pyrolysis products at 900° C for bio-based chemical looping

Alica Wittmann / Guillauma Corpordi, Universitá o

Alice Wittmann / Guillaume Gerandi, Université de Haute-Alsace, France

Chairperson:

Elisabeth Wopienka, BEST, Austria

Conference dinner



Tradeshow

25 February - 1 March 2026



Product innovations in real life!

Visit a major tradeshow on renewable energy and energy efficiency ("Energiesparmesse")! The tradeshow (73,000 visitors in 2025) is held in parallel to the conference.

Austrian and international companies present their latest product innovations. Seize the opportunity to network in-person, on the tradeshow floor!

Practical information

- Wednesday, 25 February 1 March 2026 opening hours: 9.00 - 17.00
- located next to the conference venue
- free entry for conference participants



Conference Information

Conference venue

Stadthalle Wels, Pollheimerstrasse 1, 4600 Wels, Austria

Conference fees

- 420 Euro for all WSED conferences (24 -27 February)
- 375 Euro for the European Energy Efficiency Conference (25 27 February)
- 245 Euro for the European Pellet Conference (25 February)
- 125 Euro each for the conferences: Industry (26 February); E-Mobility (27 February)
- 65 Euro each for the conferences: Policy (26 February); Young Energy Researchers (24 February) Energy Communities (25 February)
- for student fees see www.wsed.at

All fees include entrance to the tradeshow, lunches $\!\!\!/$ dinners and conference documentation. All fees plus 10 $\!\!\!/$ VAT.

Conference languages

Simultaneous translation in English and German

Conference Organiser OÖ Energiesparverband

The OÖ Energiesparverband (ESV) is the energy agency of Upper Austria. It was established by the regiona government and drives the energy transition by promoting energy efficiency, renewables and e-mobility. It provides comprehensive services to households, businesses of all sizes and municipalities. It also supports energy technology companies in the context of the Cleantech-Cluster.

Upper Austria – a leader in the clean energy transition

Upper Austria, one of Austria's nine regions (population 1.5 million), is a leader in the clean energy transition.

- 37 % of the primary energy is supplied by renewables
- 72 % of space heating from renewables and waste heat
- 57 % reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the buildings sector
- 4.6 billion Euro invested annually in renewable energy and energy efficiency





World Sustainable Energy Days 2025

Date

24 - 27 Februar 2026

Venue

Stadthalle Wels, Pollheimerstrasse 1 4600 Wels, Austria

Conference office

OÖ Energiesparverband Landstrasse 45, 4020 Linz, Austria Tel. +43/732/7720-14386, office@esv.or.at, www. esv-en.at, www.wsed.at

Registration

Online at www.wsed.at

How to reach Wels?

- by railway: direct connections from Vienna and Vienna airport, Linz, Salzburg, Munich, Paris, Brussels, etc.
- by road: A1 and A25 motorways
- by air: airports in Vienna (222 km from Wels) Salzburg (110 km), Munich (247 km)















