

Austria

Supporting elections with geodata in Austria

The Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying (BEV) has developed a Central-Constituency-Tool based on the Austrian Address Register, the Austrian Central Residents Register and the Austrian Electoral Register.

The Austrian Address Register authentically displays all the addresses and buildings as allocated by the 2,095 Austrian municipalities. BEV is responsible for the administration of the data of the Austrian Address Register. Federal laws apply to nationwide elections such as to National Council, President and to the European Parliament, while the federal provinces act under their relevant voting legislation for elections to the provincial parliaments, municipal councils and for mayors. Depending on the type of election, different groups of residents are entitled to vote.

The Electoral Register Law 2018 provides the legal basis for the Austrian municipalities to integrate their data in a centrally managed application.

Created jointly by the Federal Ministry of the Interior, the Austrian Association of Municipalities, the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns and the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying (BEV), the Central-Constituency-Tool links together the data of the Central Electoral Register, the Austrian Address Register and the Central Residents Register and thus standardises and simplifies the core process of elections.

The Central Residence Register already connects the attributions of permanent residents in Austria with the building data in the Austrian Address Register, a central database of all addresses and buildings administered by BEV and used as a reference for mailing, spelling, serial numbers and spatial location.

The connection of all three registers via the Central-Constituency-Tool enables the referencing of buildings where people who are entitled to vote are registered to constituencies and polling stations in the appropriate municipality. The central application gives an overview of the progress of this process – every record is comprehensive.

Quality assurance procedures improve the reliability of correct allocation. For example, a multi-level process ensures that the municipalities evaluate, complete and release the data before any election. The data is then checked and released, first by the districts and then by the provinces who then forward them to the Federal Ministry of the Interior.

