

A modern interior space with a stone wall, a wooden bench, and a white panel with red text. The room has a concrete floor and a white wall on the right. A large window is on the left, and a wooden bench is in the foreground. A white panel with red text is mounted on the stone wall.

# The Austrian and my Personal Experience

Professors Emeriti Network, June 2nd, 2021  
[eregion.eu/slovenia-professors-emeriti/](http://eregion.eu/slovenia-professors-emeriti/)

# Agenda

1. The legal situation in Austria
2. The Directive of the Rectorate of Universität Klagenfurt
3. Emeritus @ Universität Klagenfurt



# The Austrian Situation

- Emeritus status with legal entitlement
  - granted to for persons who were appointed as full university professors before March 1, 1998
  - valid at the end of the academic year in which the emeritus reaches the age of 68 (exceptions of earlier emeritation possible)
- Emeritus status without legal entitlement
  - Other civil servant university professors are retired as of that October 1 following their 65th birthday
  - In certain cases, however, the service authority may grant them emeritus status one, two, or a maximum of three years later

Professors who are employees rather than civil servants are not eligible for emeritus status but may retire (all Professors employed since 2004 are University employees)

# The Austrian University Law

## § 94

The members of the University include:

1. The students;
2. The research fellows;
3. The academic and artistic university staff;
4. The general university staff;
5. the private lecturers ( § 102);
6. The emeritus university professors;
7. the retired university professors.

# The Austrian University Law

## § 104

- (1) Emeritus university professors and retired university professors are not in active employment with the federal government or the university.
- (2) They have the right to continue to exercise their teaching authority (*venia docendi*) at the university at which they were in active employment prior to their emeritation or retirement and to hold courses and examinations within the scope of their teaching authority.

*in particular: supervision of PhD and Master Students*

# The original idea behind the awarding of emeritus status

- Release from duties - but the expectation or hope that the professor will continue to contribute to research and teaching to the best of his or her ability.
- Granting of all rights in research and teaching - so that the university/society can benefit from the professor's competences even after her/his regular period of service has ended
- "emeritus pay" rather than pension

# Directive of the Universität Klagenfurt rectorate

- University members not on active duty are generally excluded from applying for and managing projects within the scope of § § 26 and 27 UG.
- Should the listed groups of persons:
  - Emeritus university professors
  - Retired university professors
  - Retired research and teaching staff with habilitation



nevertheless plan to submit a project application for FWF projects, OeNB projects and EU Horizon 2020 projects, the project application must in any case be submitted to the Rectorate for approval prior to submission.

This positive exemption is limited to the mentioned funding bodies/instruments.

The Rectorate reserves the right to prohibit the submission of project applications.

## Consequence: On the periphery and rarely actively involved!

- Hidden in small rooms or behind desks in open-plan offices, but still: right to lifelong email account; access to library
- data space at the institute and technical support by goodwill of the staff without legal basis
- no involvement in university decisions - neither on university nor on institute level
- appreciation by former employees and university administrative staff
- little perceived appreciation by colleagues, no perceived appreciation by university management
- **Exception:** Inclusion of the output in the research documentation ....

