

Survey "How the Lower Austrian Court of Audit is viewed: A survey among members of parliament and audit clients"

Executive summary of the survey among members of parliament

The survey was conducted by the Danube University Krems/ Platform Political Communication in cooperation with the polling institute *meinungsraum.at*. **The main results** are as follows:

- 29 Members of Parliament, of which 26 serving actively, responded to the questionnaire, which is a satisfactory **response rate of 41%**, since not all Members of Parliament were always and directly involved in the work of the Lower Austrian Court of Audit. **More than one third (38%) stated that they “were constantly in contact” with the Lower Austrian Court of Audit.** 55% said that they were “occasionally“ in contact with the Lower Austrian Court of Audit.
- **Not one single Members of Parliament (!) stated that the Lower Austrian Court of Audit was “rather not“ or “not at all“ politically independent.**
- **The Members of Parliament rated the work of the Lower Austrian Court of Audit as clearly positive: All (!) Members of Parliament rated it as “very good” or “rather” good – this at a ratio of 41% and 59% respectively.**
- Similarly, the work of the Lower Austrian Court of Audit was rated excellent or good by some 70% and 90% respectively on a four-grade scale regarding transparency, benefit and relevance, objectivity etc. Mathematically it is inconsistent that, while 90% of the Members of Parliament confirm that the work of the Lower Austrian Court of Audit is useful and generates added value, approximately 20% voice doubts as to the implementability of the findings.
- The **publicity of the achievements of the Lower Austrian Court of Audit is very high and mainly due to its audit reports** (known by 100% of the Members of Parliament). At 83% and 69% respectively, the reports on follow-up audits and financial audits are less well known, ahead of comments on the draft financial statements (59%).
- In line with the intensity of contact, it is quite logical that almost one half of the Members of Parliament surveyed thought that Lower Austrian Court of Audit reports were “rather” useful, sustainable, preventive etc. as well as a basis for discussion and improvements.
- **Positive features** ascribed to the Lower Austrian Court of Audit at a rate of over 85% across all categories are: competence, credibility, objectivity, economy, efficiency, effectiveness and independence. The two latter categories are mentioned somewhat less frequently than the former.
- **90% of the Members of Parliament did not voice any criticism regarding the Lower Austrian Court of Audit and its work.**

Methodology

- ★ On-line survey
- ★ Population: active and former Members of Parliament of the Lower Austrian state parliament (by list, n=70)
- ★ Responding Members of Parliament (active + former): n=29 (response rate ~41%)
- ★ Field time: 23 April to 1 June 2015
- ★ Field work conducted by meinungsraum.at