

Doing Business in the European Union 2021: Austria, Belgium and the Netherlands



*Comparing Business Regulation for
Domestic Firms in 24 Cities in Austria,
Belgium and the Netherlands with
Other European Union Member States*



Doing Business in the European Union 2021: Austria, Belgium and the Netherlands

Virtual Launch – AUSTRIA

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Austria, Belgium and the Netherlands



AGENDA

- Scope of the study
- Main findings
- Findings per topic
- Potential for improvement by adopting local good practices

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“Global” and “Subnational” *Doing Business*: what are the differences?

- Demand driven
- Go beyond the largest city
- Selected indicators
- Local good practices
- City stories

*Subnational
Doing
Business*

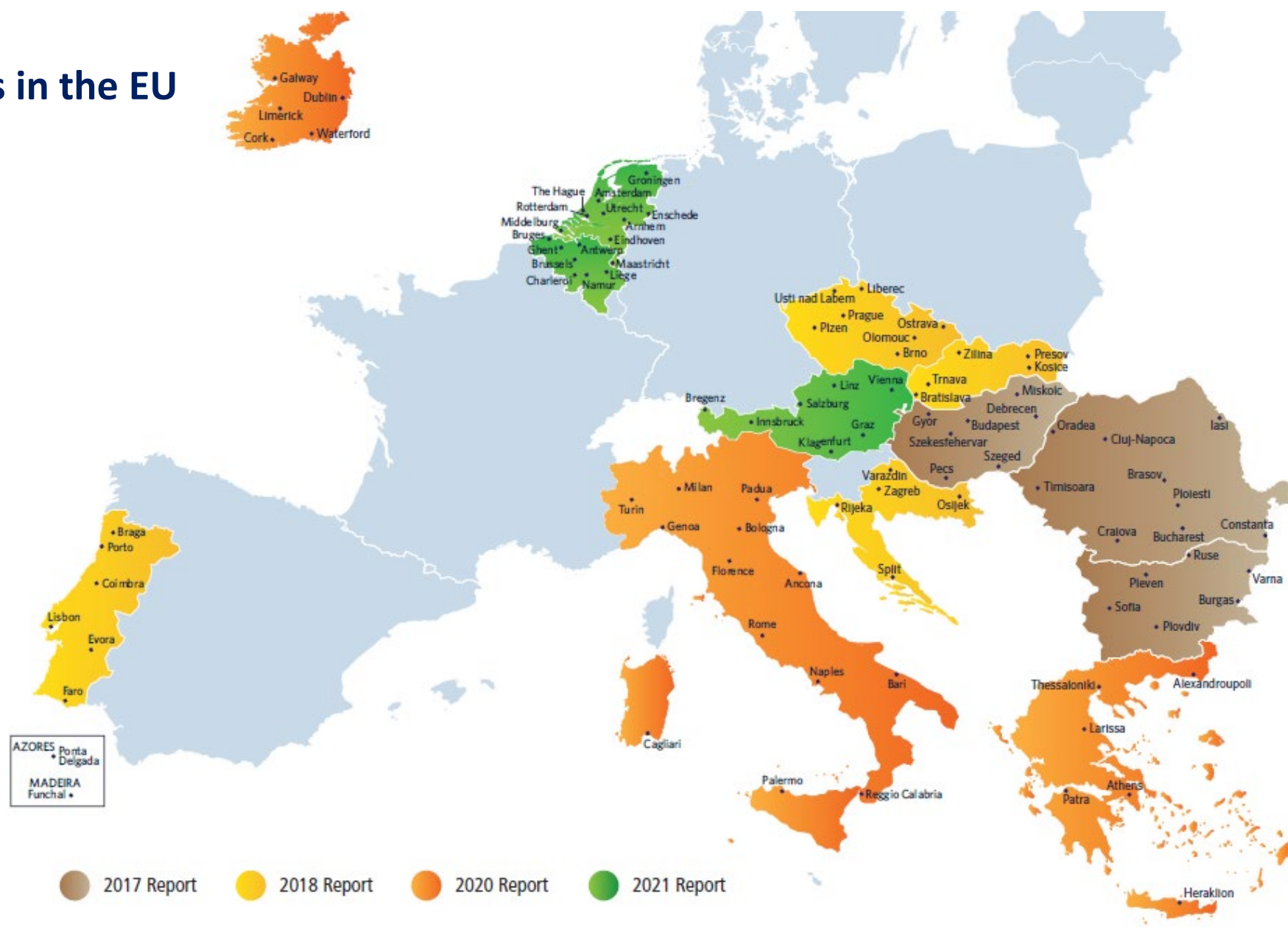


*Global
Doing
Business*

- WBG flagship
- Largest business city used as proxy
- 10 indicators
- International good practices
- Country stories

Subnational Doing Business in the EU

- Three studies published, covering 71 cities across **10 EU member states**.
- Current study includes **24 cities from 3 EU member states**.
- Next study will cover cities in **Denmark, Finland and Sweden**.



Five areas and seven cities measured across Austria



Starting a business

Procedures, time, cost and paid-in minimum capital to open a business



Dealing with construction permits

Procedures, time and cost to comply with formalities to build a warehouse + Quality of building regulation



Getting Electricity

Procedures, time and cost to obtain an electricity connection + Reliability of supply and transparency of tariffs



Registering property

Procedures, time and cost to transfer property between two local companies + Quality of land administration



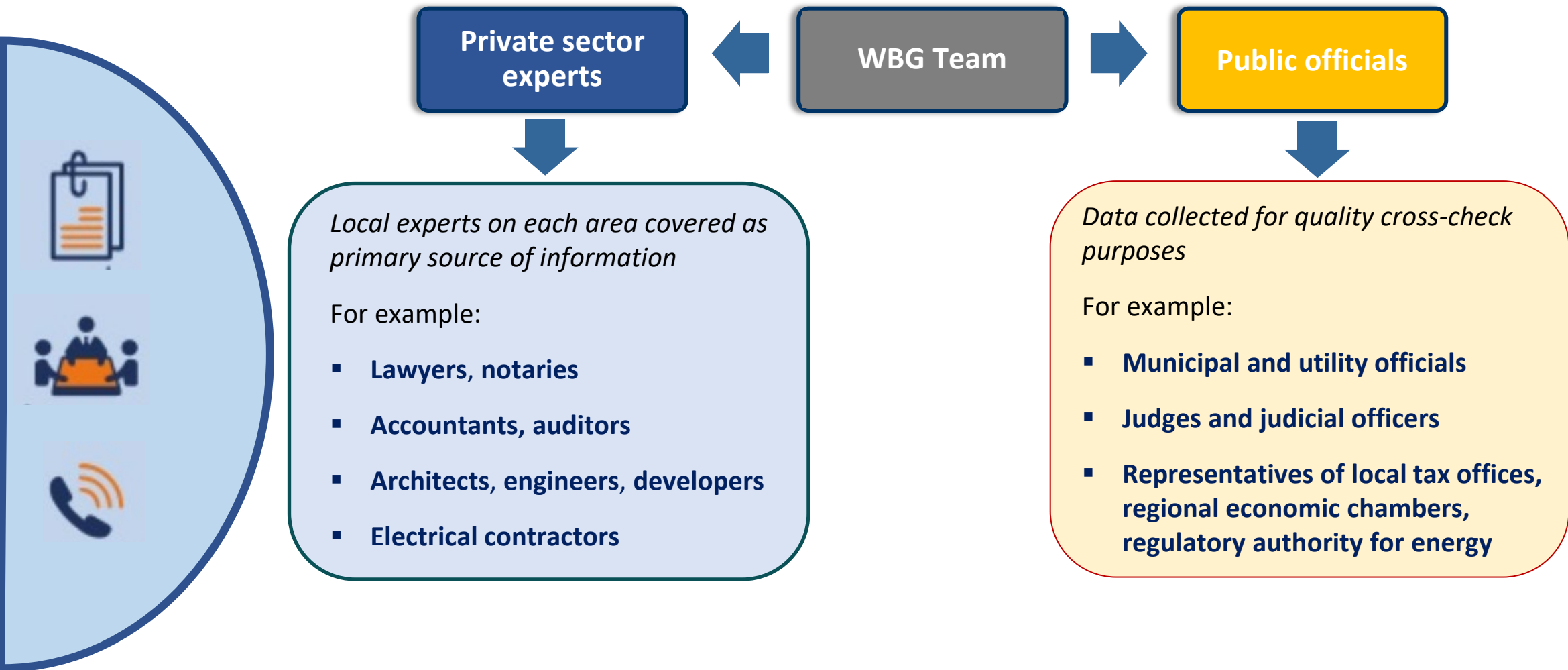
Enforcing contracts

Time and cost to resolve a commercial dispute + Quality of judicial processes

THE CITIES

- *Bregenz*
- *Graz*
- *Innsbruck*
- *Klagenfurt*
- *Linz*
- *Salzburg*
- *Vienna*

How we collected the data



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Main findings

- Four of the seven cities lead in at least one of the measured areas.
- Cities that score well in one area are at the bottom of the ranking for others.
- Austrian cities score above the EU average in most areas, but not in starting a business.
- Subnational score variations are most significant in the ease of dealing with construction permits, enforcing contracts, and getting electricity.
- Time is the dimension that varies the most across the five indicators.

Four different cities at the top in the five areas measured

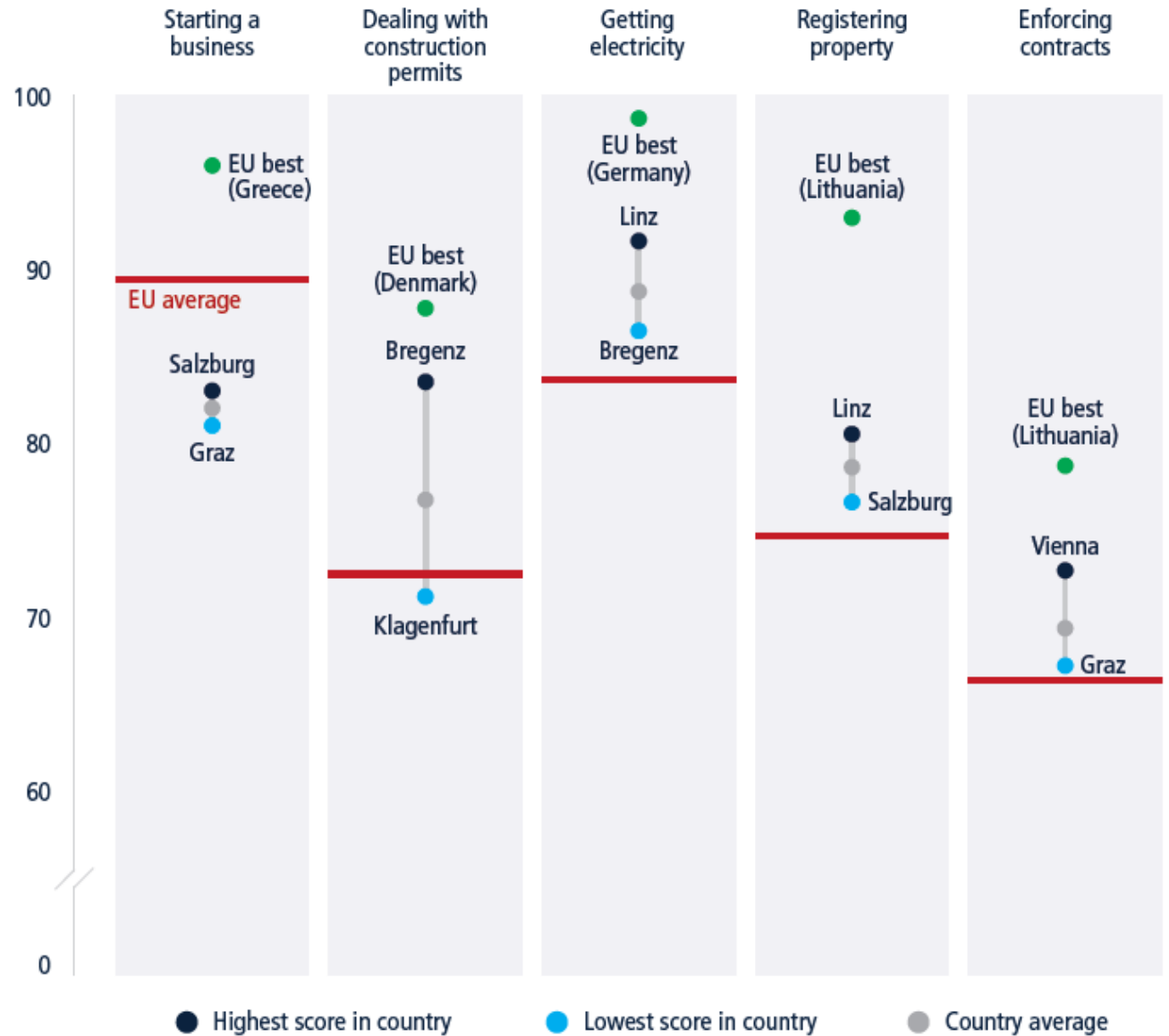
Linz is the only Austrian city that scores highest in two indicator areas

	Starting a business		Dealing with construction permits		Getting electricity		Registering property		Enforcing contracts	
City	Rank (1–7)	Score (0–100)	Rank (1–7)	Score (0–100)	Rank (1–7)	Score (0–100)	Rank (1–7)	Score (0–100)	Rank (1–7)	Score (0–100)
Bregenz	2	82.21	1	83.64	7	86.38	5	77.74	2	71.00
Graz	7	80.95	3	77.16	6	86.62	3	80.18	7	67.04
Innsbruck	2	82.21	2	80.52	2	90.38	4	77.98	4	68.48
Klagenfurt	4	81.96	7	71.09	3	89.34	6	77.38	6	68.18
Linz	4	81.96	6	73.02	1	91.68	1	80.54	3	69.36
Salzburg	1	82.96	4	77.10	4	88.83	7	76.66	5	68.23
Vienna	6	81.71	5	75.31	5	88.43	2	80.30	1	72.73

Variation in regulatory performance shows that Austrian cities have opportunities to learn from each other

Austrian cities outperform their EU peers in most areas, but not in starting a business

Doing Business score (0–100)



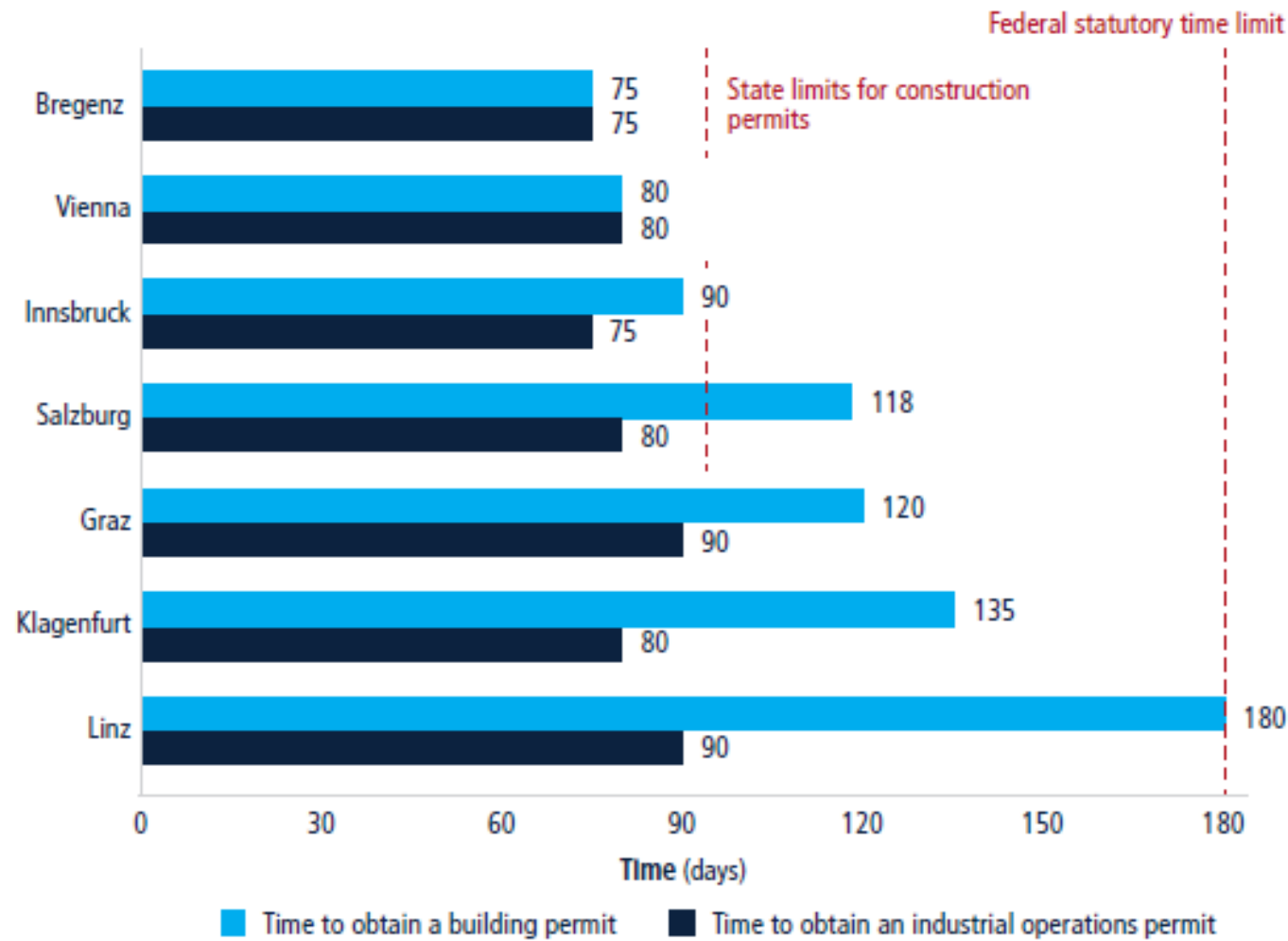
Bregenz registers the fastest turnaround times overall



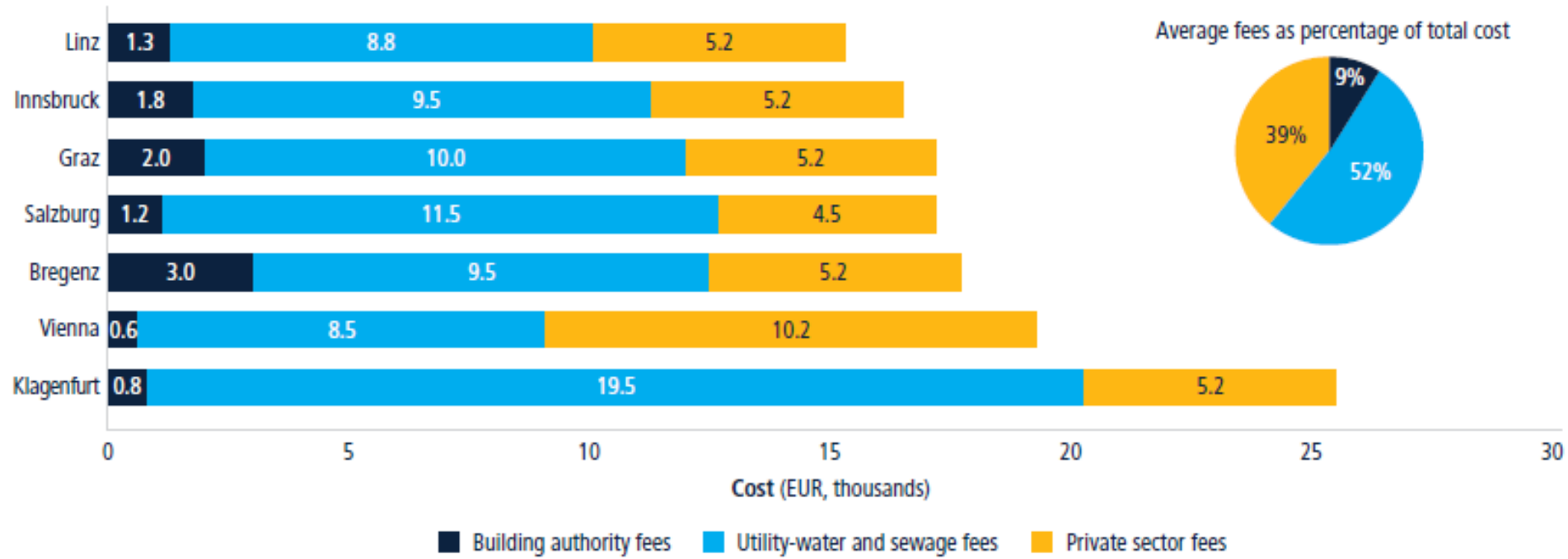
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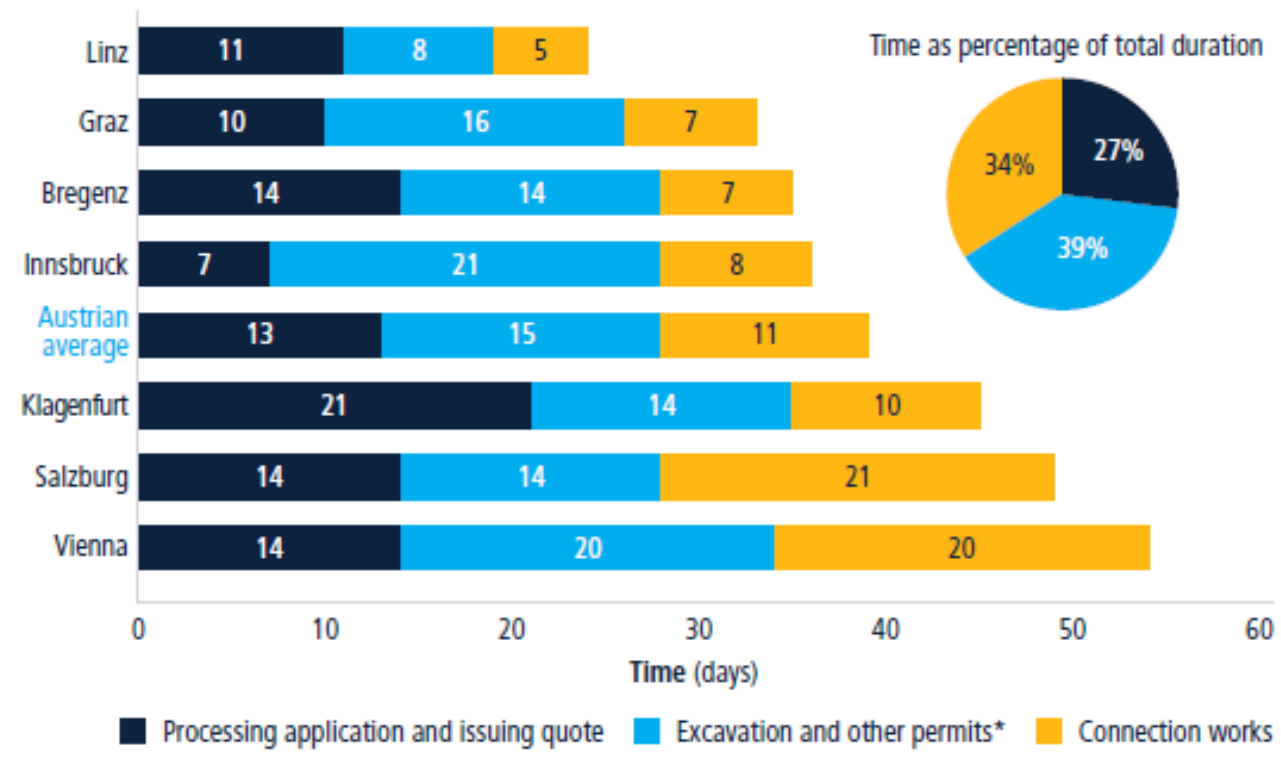
Bregenz has the best performance on construction permitting among 95 EU cities...



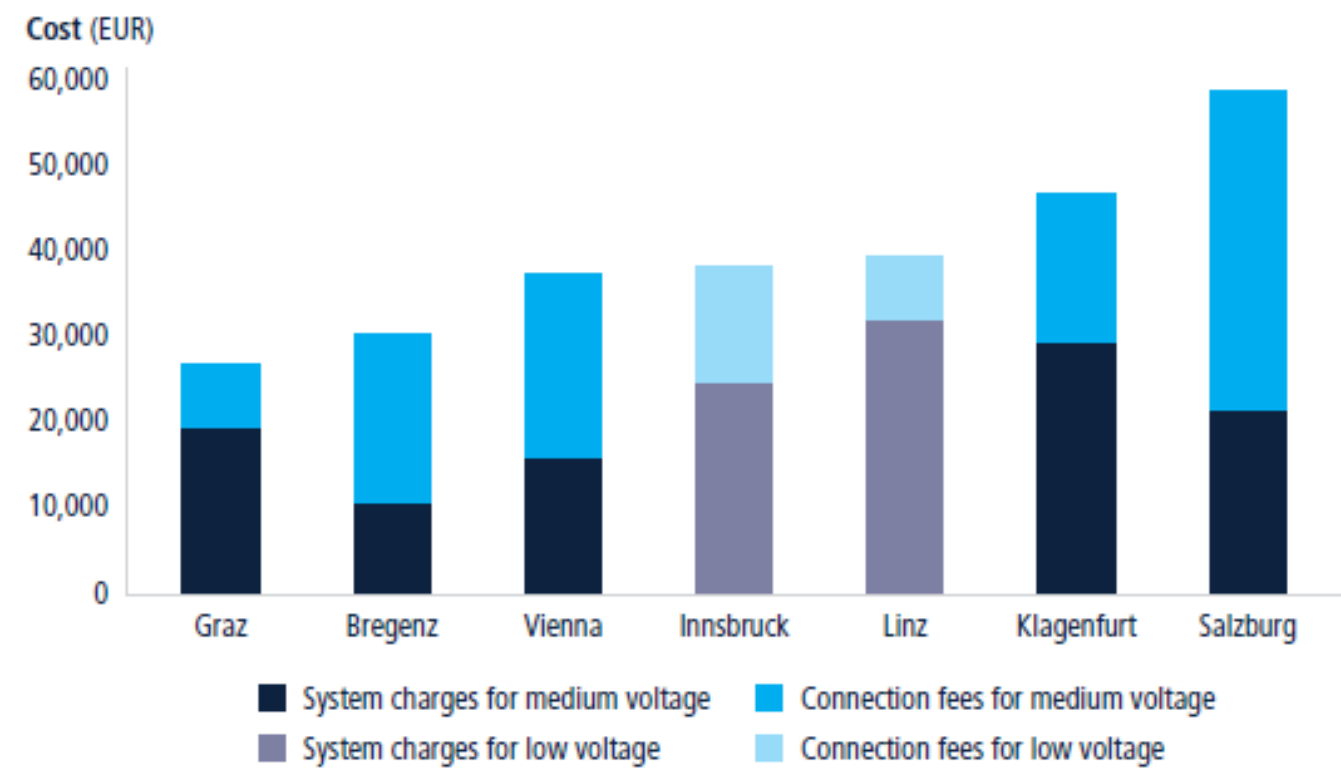
...but Linz is the city where construction permitting is cheapest



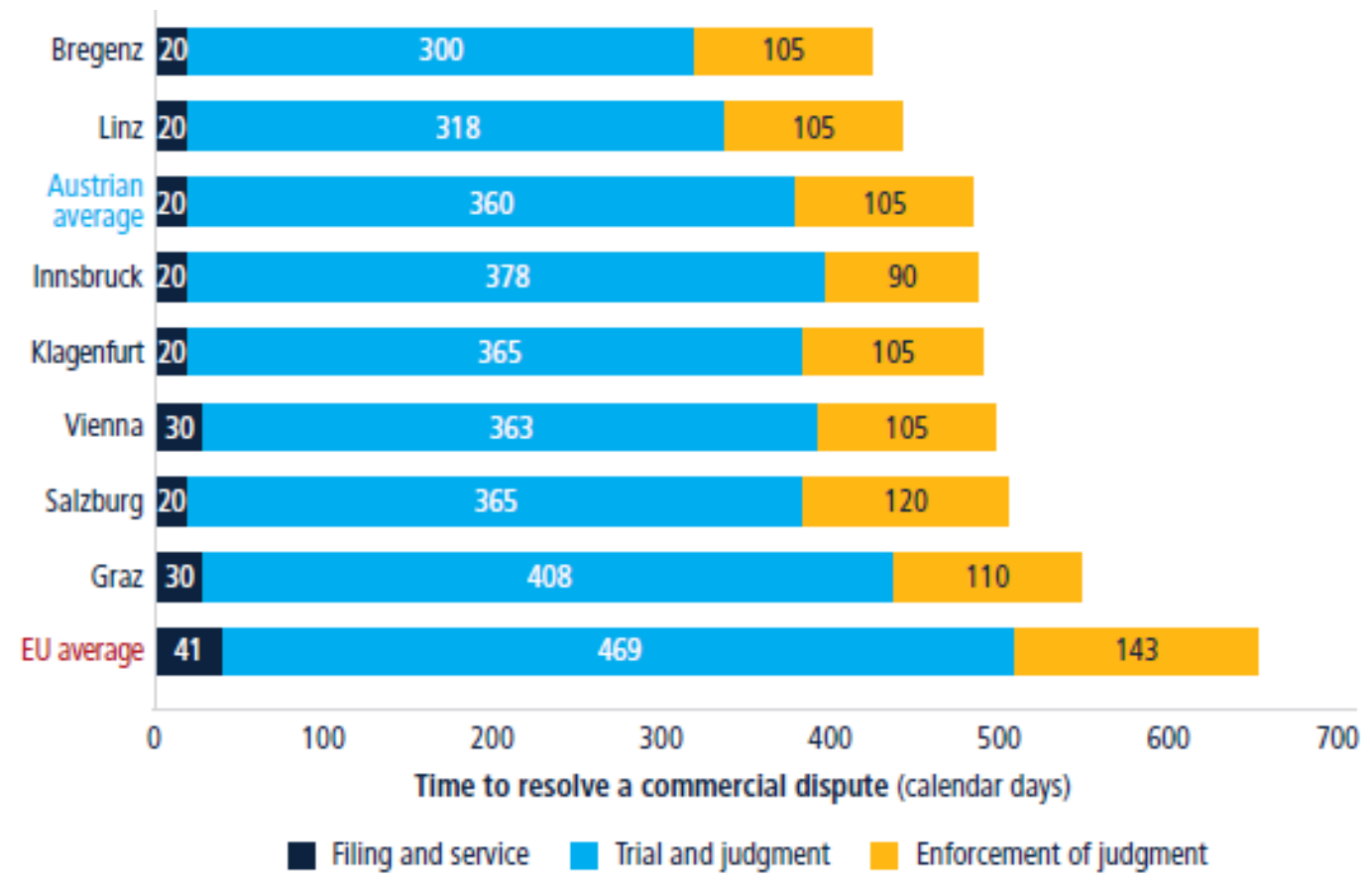
Getting electricity takes 25 days in Linz, less than half the time needed in Vienna



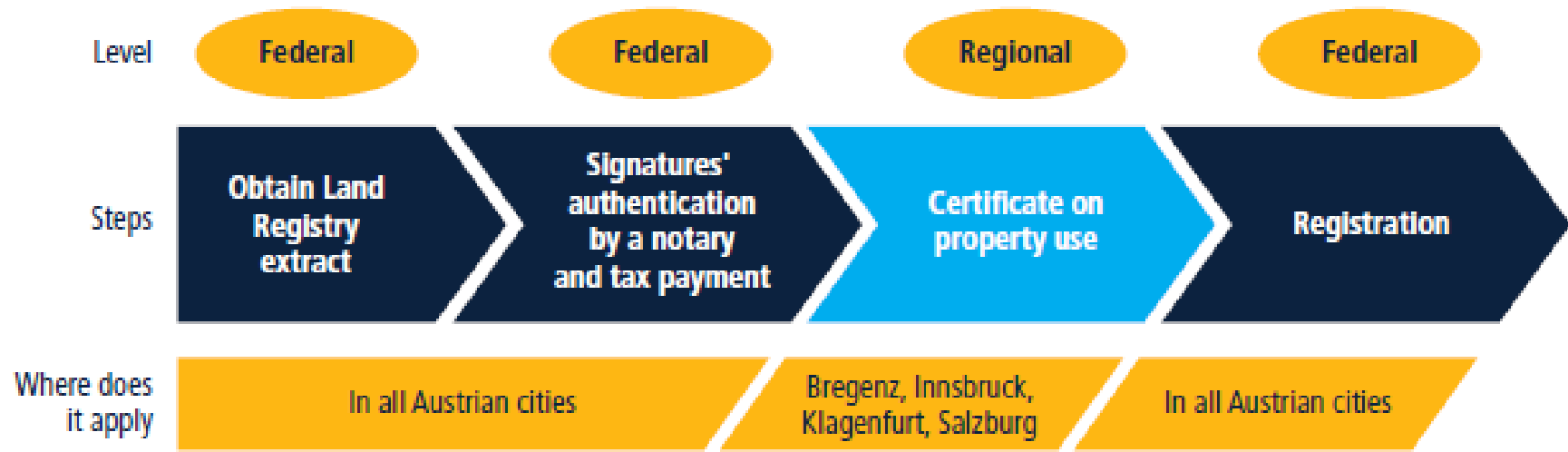
Connecting to the electrical grid costs half as much in Graz than in Salzburg



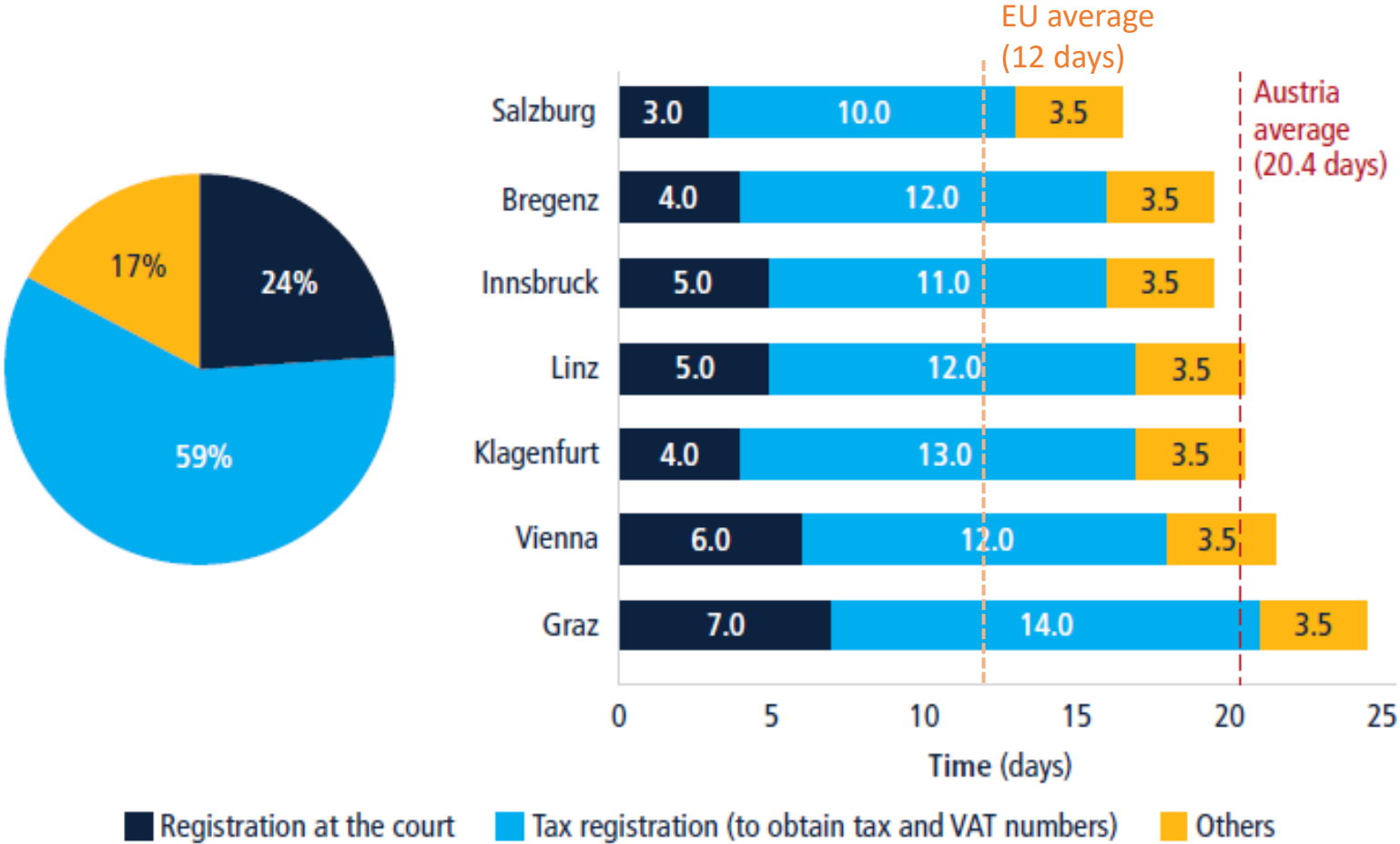
Resolving a commercial dispute takes 18 months in Graz, 4 months longer than in Bregenz



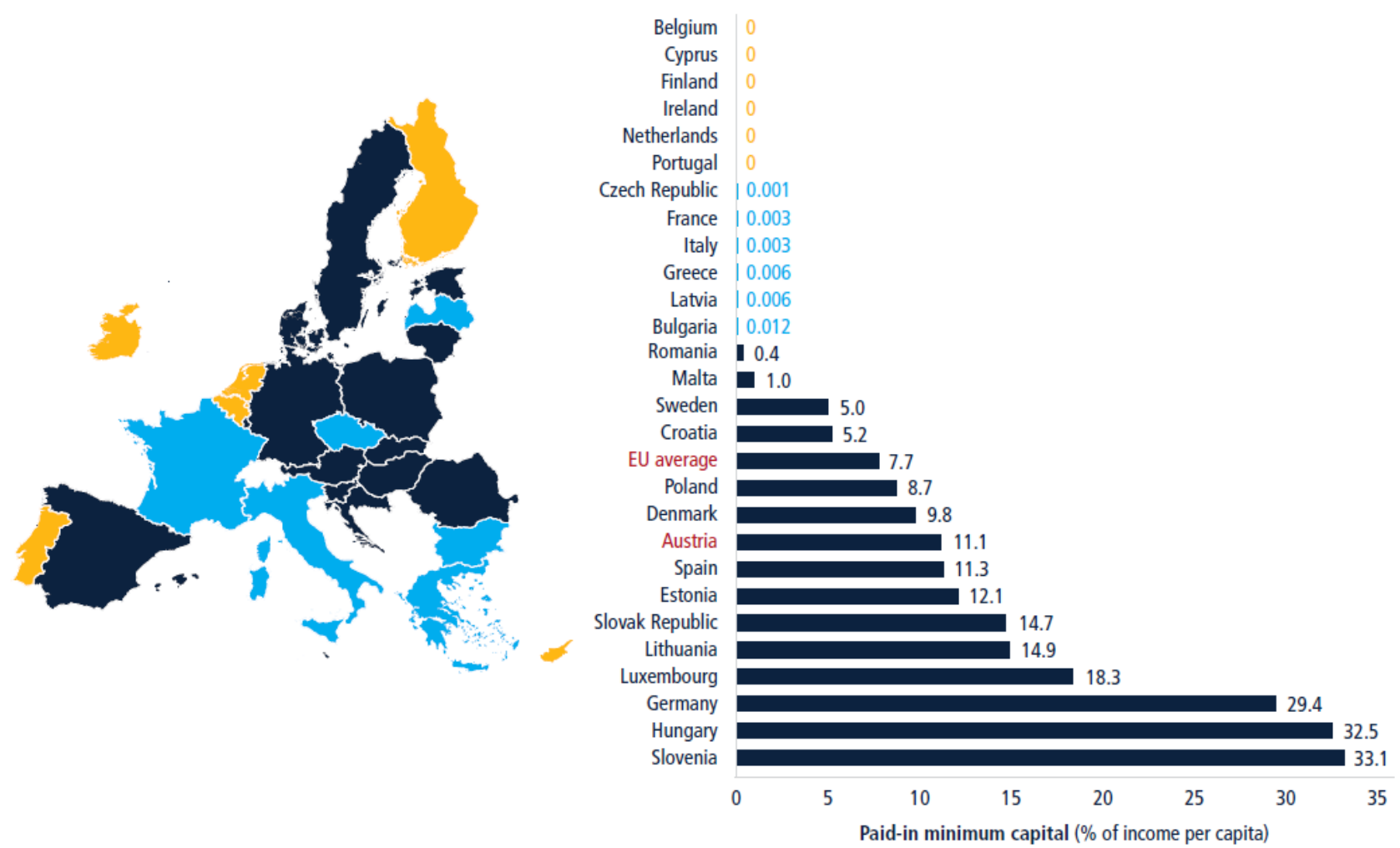
Registering property in Austria is mainly centrally regulated, but regional requirements apply



Starting a business in Austria is relatively cumbersome and time consuming



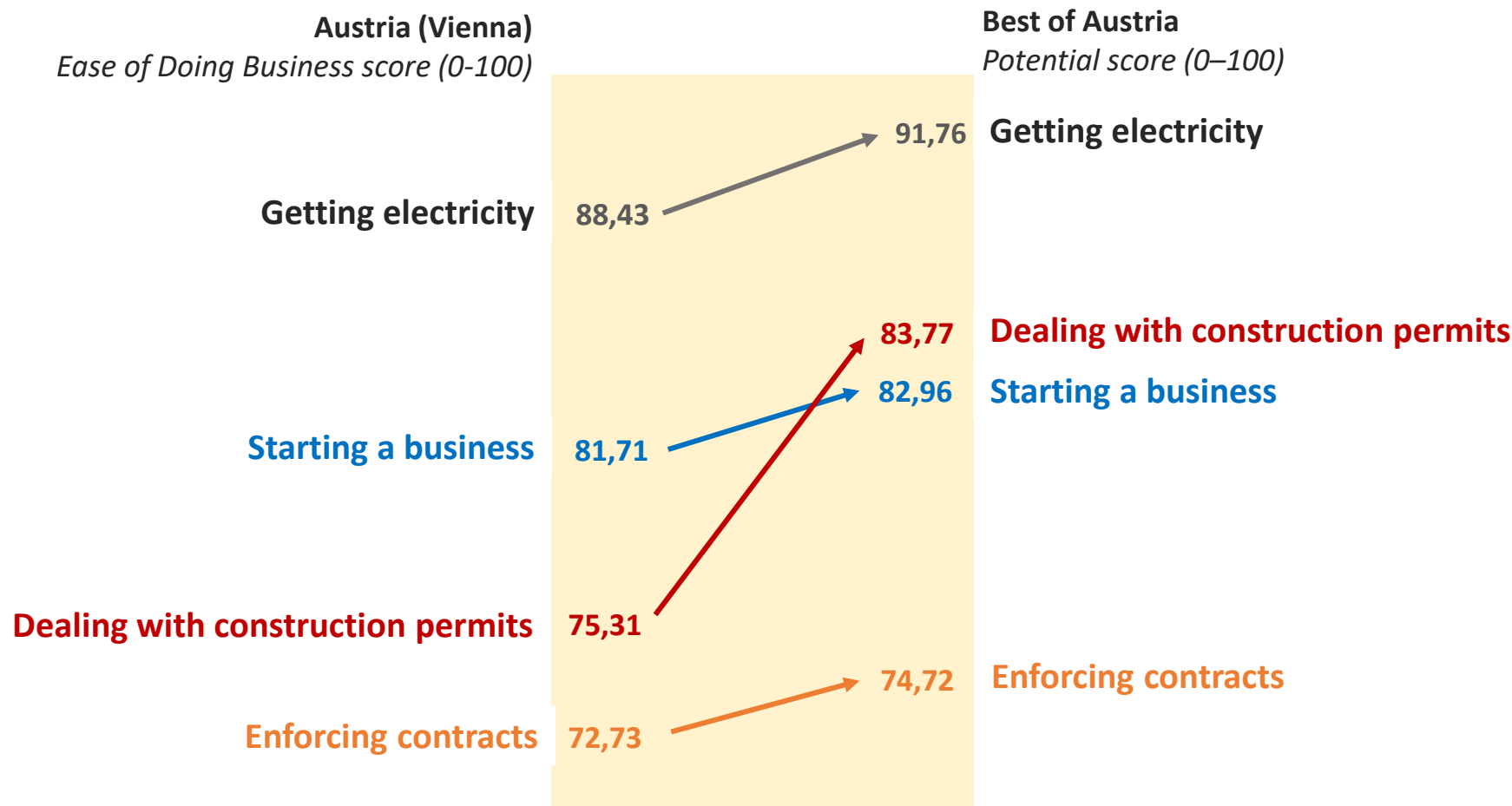
Austrians face a higher paid-in minimum capital requirement to open a business than the EU average



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Improving the *Doing Business* score by learning from each other



Note: Data for Vienna are not considered official until published in the *Doing Business 2021* report.

THANK YOU!

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Doing Business in the European Union

Doing Business in the European Union is a series of reports being produced by the World Bank Group at the request of and funded by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy.

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