Republic of Austria

Austria and the 2030 Agenda

2nd Austrian Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs





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Vienna 2024

Prefaces



Federal President
Alexander Van der Bellen

In 2015, the member states of the United Nations committed themselves to working towards the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Last year, we passed the midpoint of this "2030 Agenda".

This is therefore a moment to take stock. The second Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals ("VNR") clearly shows that Austria has already achieved a lot. Austria ranks among the best when compared with international peers. This is something we can be proud of.

It is particularly positive that, building on the experiences of the first VNR, Austria has successfully continued and even intensified the systematic involvement of civil society as well as the science and business communities. The best practice examples and success stories featured in the report are wonderful illustrations of the wide range of ideas and projects that bring the 2030 Agenda to life. I would like to thank those in our country who through their commitment have made this possible.

We have however not yet reached the finish line: the many different global challenges - from the effects of the climate crisis to the COVID-19 pandemic, the weak global economy and the intensification of armed conflicts around the world – are severely impeding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Yet, we must keep on going to ensure a world worth living in, for ourselves and future generations.

This review identifies the levers we need to pull to reach our goals. It describes how we can foster social cohesion and equip stakeholders with the relevant skills for sustainability.

We know the challenges that lie ahead of us. It is in our hands now to ensure that the second half of the 2030 Agenda proves a success for us all.



Federal President Alexander Van der Bellen



Federal Minister
Karoline Edtstadler

We live in a world of many novel and long familiar uncertainties. Globally, we are looking for solutions to challenges we had not faced for generations. The global world order is shifting, not just since the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. The climate transition and the hence necessary economic transformation often require us to make painful adjustments. We must realize that we will be confronted over the long term with conflicts in Europe and instability in our societies.

Yet more than ever, there is also reason for hope. The 2015 United Nations resolution "Transforming our world – the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", for example, is an effective roadmap to a sustainable and solidary future for all people on this planet. With its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 quantitative targets, it is a clear compass in times of uncertainty and change.

The member states of the United Nations have pledged to implement the SDGs at global, national and regional level by 2030 and to conduct regular national reviews of their progress.

Austria has taken sustainable development seriously for a long time. Since 2013, it is even enshrined in our constitution. We aim for Austria to be climate-neutral by 2040 and have launched numerous initiatives to foster relevant skills for a society, fit for the future. Moreover, we are a state, which strongly supports social cohesion and healthcare for all.

We can be justifiably proud to be ranked fifth worldwide on the implementation of the SDGs, according to the "Sustainable Development Report 2023". This is a clear recognition of the efforts of Austria and all its citizens involved.

Austria's second Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, which you are holding in your hands, shows how the SDGs were implemented in and by Austria in 2020–2022 and emphasises aspects to further enable, advance and guide the desired change in the long term.

The success stories featured in this VNR illustrate the diversity and range of SDG commitment in Austria and intend to offer the dedicated people behind these ideas a spotlight. With their projects and initiatives, they put sustainability into practice. To all of them I would like express my heartfelt thanks!

This VNR provides comprehensive evidence that Austria has been driving many things forward successfully, but also clearly shows that there is still a need for action to achieve the 2030 Agenda goals. Let us work together to build a fairer and better world for all. May this review not only provide information, but also inspiration.



Federal Minister Karoline Edtstadler

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Executive Summary

Austria's second Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals/SDGs (VNR) is being compiled against the backdrop of multiple global crises and the overcoming of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the "Sustainable Development Report 2023" ranking, Austria is in a good 5th place worldwide, out of 166 countries assessed regarding implementation of all 17 SDGs. However, the report also makes clear that Austria still needs to take action and that additional efforts are required for some SDGs in order to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda. This applies particularly to the challenges of SDG 12 "Responsible Consumption and Production", SDG 13 "Climate Action" and SDG 15 "Life on Land". Despite efficiency gains in recent years (e. g. falling energy intensity measured against GDP), Austria continues to consume a high level of resources both at home and abroad.

With this in mind, Austria has decided to frame the contents of this review along the following narrative: *"What transformations towards sustainability are needed to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda?"*

Three aspects of this VNR, which should also enable/guide the desired change in the future, should be particularly emphasized:

- A transparent and participatory multi-stakeholder process is of central importance. Building on the experience of the first VNR, the systematic involvement of civil society, science and business representatives was successfully continued. The process has taken 15 months.

- A solid database from the national statistical authority was developed, data gaps identified in the first VNR were filled with the support of universities and data was deliberately positioned as a central element in the review.

- Gender equality, the youth perspective and the international dimension are taken into account as cross-cutting issues in all chapters.

The mainstreaming approach pursued by Austria in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs has proven its worth. The multi-stakeholder process established as part of the first VNR was continued through the development of various cooperation formats (e. g. through the annual SDG Dialogue Forum jointly organized by the administration and civil society). Since the last VNR, Austria has further promoted the involvement of science in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. As part of the interdisciplinary

"UniNEtZ" project, 300 scientists presented 150 options and 950 concrete measures for implementing the SDGs in Austria. The common European framework and the EU guidelines in all three dimensions of sustainability are guiding implementation in Austria.

In line with the three pillars of sustainable development and based on the current challenges of the multiple crises, the VNR focuses on three areas in which transformations have been initiated and/or where further change is still needed:

Leaving no one behind – social cohesion and solidarity in times of multiple crises:

- Anyone may experience a predicament, but people in vulnerable situations are hit harder by multiple crises than others. In Austria, people affected by poverty and social exclusion can rely on a well-developed welfare state. It encourages transformation through solidarity, inclusivity, and equal opportunities so that "no one is left behind".

- Families, children and young people are supported with the "Early Help" and "Ready for School" ("Frühe Hilfen" and "Schulstartklar!") programmes.

- The "National Action Plan on Disability II" paves the way for numerous measures implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

- "Gender budgeting" is being promoted to ensure gender equality. Additionally, measures tackling violence against women and online hate speech legislation were passed.

- To meet the increasing demand for long-term care, two comprehensive reform packages, new apprenticeships and "Community Nursing" were introduced.

- Austria is funding projects internationally, as a former member of the World Health Organization's Executive Board and through special attachés in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe.

Skills for 2030 – Competencies for sustainable development:

- Skills for sustainable development are crucial to the success of the transformations needed to implement the 2030 Agenda.
- Digital skills and media & information literacy – the foundation for sustainable, inclusive digitalisation – create opportunities for the economy and labour market.
- Companies play a key role in further training in “Skills for 2030”.
- To address the shortage of skilled workers, the dual vocational training system is strengthened by increasing the training quality and training opportunities.
- Active labour market policies are improving employment opportunities for jobseekers, providing target group-specific training opportunities, and creating employment incentives.
- People also need personal, interpersonal and interdisciplinary skills.
- Skills for corporate responsibility are an essential lever for achieving the SDGs globally.

Protecting the biosphere – sustainable development within planetary boundaries:

- Accelerated action in climate and environmental protection is a fundamental prerequisite for a transformation in line with the SDGs in Austria and internationally. In the 2020–2024 period, important steps towards sustainable development were taken in Austria by promoting climate protection and adaptation measures as well as a wide range of measures for the energy and mobility transition.

- An important basis for this is, among other things, the implementation of an eco-social tax reform, through which both the CO_2-pricing and a climate bonus were introduced.

- Ambitious targets and measures for renewable energies and the expansion of the electricity infrastructure were adopted.

- Significant steps have been taken to tackle the mobility transition, in particular the nationwide "climate ticket" for public transport and record investments in rail infrastructure.

- The protection of Austria's natural and species diversity must be guaranteed. The "Biodiversity Strategy Austria 2030+" and the establishment of the Biodiversity Fund lay important foundations for this.

- A key SDG of the 2030 Agenda and goal of the Austrian circular economy strategy is the establishment of a climate-neutral, sustainable circular economy.

Through this VNR, Austria renews its commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the goals for a better future for all. To achieve these goals, the above-mentioned transformations should be further implemented or initiated. Moreover, a rules-based multilateral system is indispensable. The partnership principle enshrined in SDG 17 is a catalyst to achieving the development goals and overcoming the challenges ahead. In this spirit of cooperation, Austria has significantly increased its funding for international climate financing and humanitarian aid.





Introduction

This second *"Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals/SDGs"* (VNR) is being produced against the backdrop of multiple global crises. In 2023, the number of people relying on humanitarian aid peaked at 363 million, 700 million people are extremely poor and 800 million are starving. This is also because the number of countries affected by armed conflicts according to the OECD is higher now than in the previous 30 years. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to be felt, particularly in the Global South, while Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and its consequences, such as the massive increase in global instability, food shortages or price increases, for example in energy prices, as well as climate change, have a direct negative impact on the implementation of the SDGs. In addition, the scope for action of many countries is limited by high levels of debt and a lack of access to finance.

The COVID-19 pandemic posed one of the greatest health, societal and economical challenges worldwide. In 2021, the Austrian federal government acted quickly and decisively to mitigate the economic and social consequences of the crisis as part of the *"Recovery and Resilience Plan 2020–2026"* and the financial resources provided by the EU. The focus of these measures was largely on promoting ecologisation and digitalisation, as demonstrated by the *"COVID-19 Investment Premium for Businesses"*. Between October 2020 and December 2021, the *"Corona Job Offensive",* the largest labour market policy initiative in the history of Austria's second republic, enabled training and further education with a focus on the areas of care/social affairs, metal industries, environment/sustainability and digitalisation. The population's mental health, especially of children and young people, has suffered as a result of the pandemic. The federal government responded to this in 2022 by introducing the "Healthy out of the crisis" *("Gesund aus der Krise")* project, in which children and young people received easy-access psychological and psychotherapeutic support free of charge.

At the United Nations (UN) SDG Summit in September 2023, the global community took stock at the halfway point in the implementation of the *2030 Agenda*. The UN Secretary-General's report, the "*Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023*", leaves no doubt that the global community will not achieve the SDGs by 2030 without substantial additional efforts. Only 15% of the SDGs are on track. For 37% of the goals, there has been no change or even regression since 2015.

Austria has always advocated for the close involvement of science in the 2030 Agenda. The "*Global Sustainable Development Report 2023*" (GSDR) presents a comprehensive analysis by independent scientists on the status of implementation of the SDGs and formulates a series of recommendations on the transformations required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Against this backdrop, Austria has decided to frame the contents of this implementation review along the following narrative: "What transformations towards sustainability are needed to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda?"

The three main chapters of this VNR deal with the three pillars of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental dimensions. The mainstreaming of gender equality, the youth perspective and the international dimension are of particular importance in all three chapters. A key strength of the first implementation review from 2020 has been retained in this review: the integration of data from the national statistical authority (Statistics Austria) on SDG indicators and their evaluation, to provide a solid and objective basis for the presentation of progress and remaining challenges.

This VNR is intended to take stock of the progress that has been made since the first review in 2020, but also contains an outlook for further steps up to 2030. The review aims to provide as comprehensive a picture as possible of the diverse initiatives of various actors who are contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda within their spheres of influence in the spirit of a whole-of-government approach. The systematic integration of concrete success stories and examples of implementation from administration, science, businesses and civil society illustrates the diversity and breadth of commitment to the SDGs in Austria. It should also serve to recognise the committed actors and give them their deserved visibility.

Where does Austria stand?

According to the ranking in the "*Sustainable Development Report 2023*", Austria holds a good 5th place worldwide out of 166 countries assessed regarding the implementation of all 17 SDGs (1st place goes to Finland, followed by Sweden, Denmark and Germany). The assessment shows that Austria is already implementing some goals of the agenda, noteably SDG 1 "No poverty" and SDG 7 "Affordable and clean energy". Austria has one of the highest levels of prosperity in the world.

However, the report also makes clear that Austria still needs to take action and that additional efforts are required for some SDGs in order to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda. This applies particularly to the challenges of SDG 12 "Responsible Consumption and Production", SDG 13 "Climate Action" and SDG 15 "Life on Land". Despite efficiency gains in recent years (e.g. falling energy intensity measured against GDP), Austria continues to consume a high level of resources both domestically and abroad.



The Sustainable Development Report also presents the positive or negative effects of individual countries' actions on the ability of other countries to implement the SDGs (i.e. spillover effects). The assessment shows that more efforts are needed to avoid making it more difficult for other countries to implement the SDGs. Both the OECD and the European Commission (EC)/Eurostat are looking at the issue of spillovers in detail and are working on a methodological approach to assessing these effects. Austria includes the relevant activities at EU and international level in its actions.

According to the *"Europe Sustainable Development Report 2023/24"*, published on January 25, 2024, Austria ranks 4th out of 34 European countries, as in the previous year – behind Finland, Sweden and Denmark and ahead of Norway and Germany. The report states that Austria has largely implemented SDG 1 "No Poverty", SDG 7 "Affordable and Clean Energy", SDG 9 "Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure" and SDG 10 "Reduced inequalities". At the same time, substantial challenges are highlighted in the areas of SDG 12 "Responsible Consumption and Production", SDG 13 "Climate Action" and SDG 15 "Life on Land".

Process for compiling the review

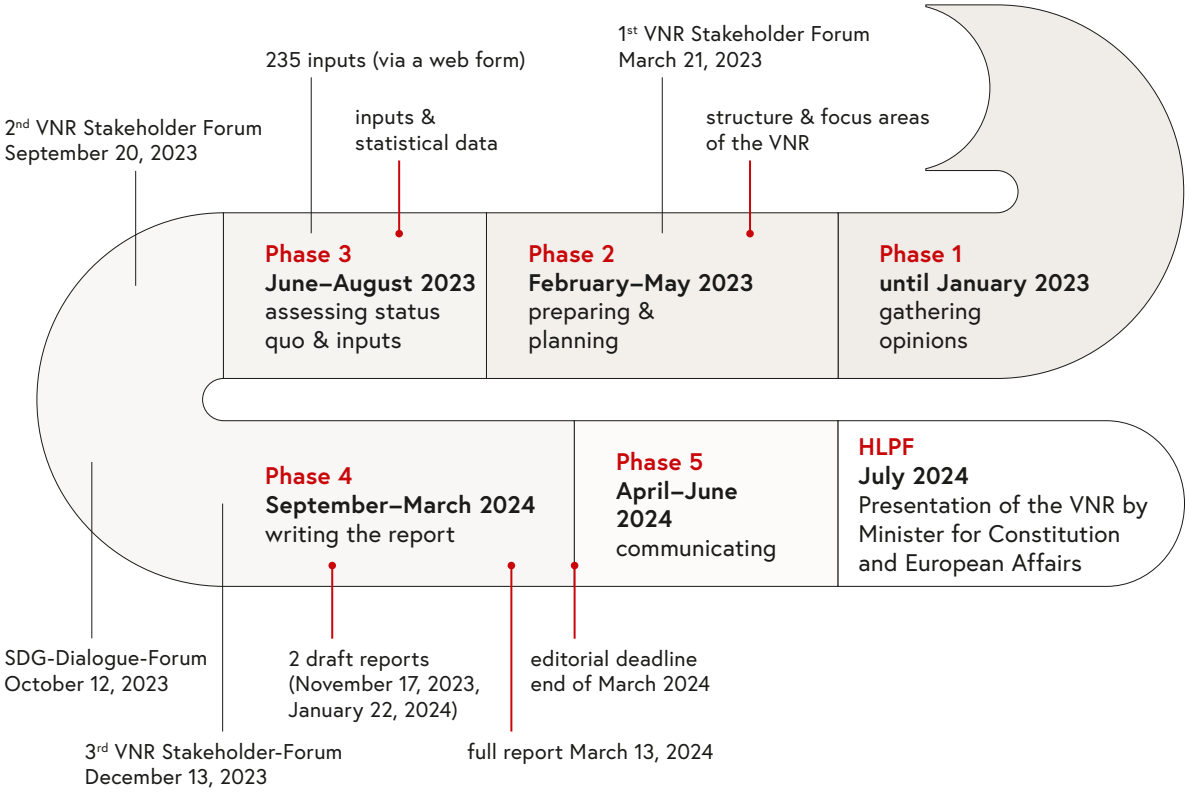
Austria has compiled its second Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in a transparent and participatory multi-stakeholder process. As with the preparation of the first VNR in 2020, over 60 organisations and stakeholders were involved in all phases of the review's preparation.

The basis of an existing institutional framework and strong stakeholder network at all levels that was created with the first VNR was retained for the development of Austria's second VNR. The relevant work was carried out under the leadership of the BKA and the BMEIA. The *"Interministerial Working Group on the 2030 Agenda"* (IMAG) acted as an exchange mechanism and coordinated reporting on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at federal level through the steering group set up in 2021. This is made up of the drafting group of the first VNR – consisting of representatives at the administrative level of the Federal Chancellery (BKA), the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (BMEIA), the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK), the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK) and the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy (BMAW), co-chaired by the BKA and BMEIA. In addition, a separate VNR Stakeholder Forum was set up as a central and broad-based coordination body in which state and non-state actors were involved: in addition to federal ministries, the federal provinces and the association of cities and municipalities, the parliamentary administration and the members of parliament dealing with the topic were also invited, as were representatives of the social partners, civil society, business and science. The platform *"SDG Watch Austria"* plays a special role in the exchange with civil society organisations.

The content of the review was coordinated in three rounds of consultations, with over 250 responses and success stories received. Austria's progress in achieving the 17 goals is illustrated on the basis of data in Statistics Austria's updated SDG Indicators Report 2024. The process of the second VNR also offered the opportunity to discuss strengths and weaknesses of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in a broad process as part of thematic coordination and thus incorporate them into the review.

Transparent and participatory process

The decision of the Council of Ministers on October 12, 2022 laid the foundation for the process and the early start of work on the second VNR, with 2023 being spent with preparatory work.



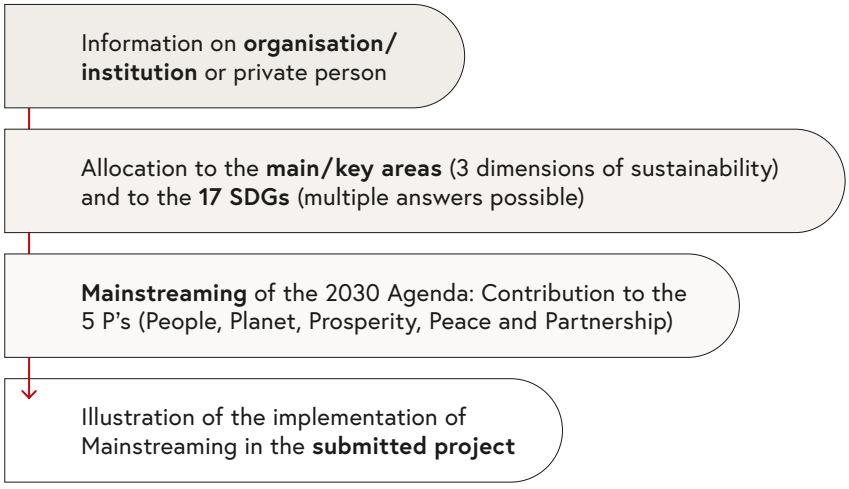
Phase 1 and 2: Obtaining opinions, preparation and planning

As early as autumn 2022, the views and ideas of important stakeholders on the process and the key points of content were obtained in a first step. These discussions at an informal level were conducted by the steering group and were helpful in guiding the best practice examples. An exchange on the experiences of best practice examples from the EU and Switzerland also took place in June 2022 at the 7th Peer Learning Platform of the European Network of Sustainability Coordinators of the *European Sustainable Development Networks* (ESDN) on the topic of "*Voluntary National Reviews: challenges, successes and lessons learned*".

The structure and thematic priorities of the second VNR were defined in spring 2023. As part of a broad and participatory process, the VNR Stakeholder Forum was set up for the compilation of the VNR, in which representatives from the federal and provincial administrations, the city and municipal level, the social partners, civil society and academia participated in equal measure. At the first virtual meeting of the VNR Stakeholder Forum on March 21, 2023, the reporting period was specified to begin with the first VNR (2020 to 2023). In terms of contents, the three key topics as well as the international aspects of the VNR were defined by the respective federal ministries in charge, together with other involved ministries and relevant stakeholders.

Phase 3: Taking stock and inputs

Stakeholders were given the opportunity to make their contribution to implementation visible with success stories and examples of good practice. To this end, the BKA developed a web form together with the steering group, in order to shine light on the most diverse approaches to implementation and to create ownership. Following an open call to register the examples, a total of three months (July to September 2023) were available.



Web form for submitting success stories

In parallel, initial drafts of the chapters were developed and jointly consulted with relevant stakeholders in various meeting formats and rounds of coordination. This enabled work to be carried out on specific texts at an early stage.

The "SDG Dialogue Forum 3.0" was held as the central stakeholder event in October 2023 to provide additional impetus and insights for the VNR.

Phase 4: Compilation September 2023 – March 2024

This phase was dedicated to the preparation of the review. A first draft of the main chapters was sent out to the broad circle of the VNR Stakeholder Forum's participants for comments in mid-November 2023. Two meetings of the VNR Stakeholder Forum were held to coordinate the content: the meeting on September 20, 2023 also provided an opportunity for an informal exchange and the virtual meeting on December 13, 2023 provided comprehensive information on the current status. A second overall draft of the review was finally sent out in mid-January 2024. The illustration of implementation progress in the "data chapter" was based on the SDG indicator report prepared by Statistics Austria. The consolidated draft was sent out on March 14, 2024.

Phase 5: Communication and final steps

Preparations for the presentation at the *UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development* (HLPF) were the main focus, and a video was produced with contributions from stakeholders who were active in the creation of the review. In addition, the German version of the second VNR will also be presented in Vienna in the summer 2024 before the official presentation at the UN, in order to introduce it to a wider audience.

The Council of Ministers took note of and approved the second VNR on June 5, 2024.

Peer learning and international exchange of experience

The Voluntary National Implementation Reviews also offer countries the opportunity to exchange ideas and learn from each other. Austria has used this opportunity in a variety of ways:

- In spring 2022, Switzerland invited Mexico and Austria to a peer exchange as part of the work on its VNR. Austria was able to derive ideas and suggestions for this second VNR (for example regarding the use of digital platforms to involve stakeholders).
- In 2023, the EU and eight other EU Member States submitted VNRs. The Council Working Group on the 2030 Agenda provided an opportunity to discuss processes, formats and thematic priorities.
- For this second VNR, Austria invited Bhutan as a partner country from the Global South and Switzerland as an immediate neighbour to participate in a peer exchange on the VNR including the compilation process.

However, peer learning does not only take place when work is being done on the VNR but is an ongoing process of exchange with other countries that accompanies the daily work. For example, the 8th ESDN peer learning platform on November 9/10, 2023, in Bern provided Austria with extremely valuable input on the topic of "Spillover effects in the context of SDG implementation". At the meeting in Bern, a policy brief on youth and spillover effects was presented, which was developed in October 2023 as part of an ESDN Youth Workshop involving both Austrian officials and Austrian youth delegates.

Sustainable Embassies Network Austria (SENA)

SENA was launched in November 2023 on the initiative of the Swiss Embassy in Vienna. The aim of this network is to exchange best practices in the field of sustainability and climate change measures and to bring together embassies of countries based in Vienna with institutions such as the BKA, BMEIA, BMK and the City of Vienna.





Governance

Key messages

→ The *"mainstreaming approach"* pursued by Austria in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs has proven its worth. The IMAG acts as an interface at the federal government level and permanently involves the federal provinces through the *"Sustainability Coordinators' Conference"* (NHK-K).

→ The multi-stakeholder process established as part of the work on the first VNR and the systematic involvement of civil society, science and business was continued. Various cooperation formats have developed from this, such as the annual *"SDG Dialogue Forum"*, the *"SDG Business Forum"* and the *"SDG Breakfast Dialogues"* as well as thematic forums and implementation partnerships on current topics.

→ As a member state of the EU, the common European framework and the EU guidelines in all three dimensions of sustainability set the direction for implementation in Austria. At UN and EU level, Austria actively promotes the SDGs, acts as a strong partner in relevant forums and sets thematic priorities, for example through side events at the HLPF meetings.

→ Monitoring progress on the basis of current and publicly accessible data using indicators is essential, also regarding further progress in implementation. Comprehensive SDG indicator reports were published by Statistics Austria in 2020 and 2023.

Framework for action at UN and EU level

Austria has been a member of the United Nations since 1955, is home to one of the four UN headquarters since 1980 and is a member state of the European Union since 1995. Austria sees itself as an active co-creator of effective multilateralism and as a mediator and continuous promoter of dialogue at international and EU level. Austria has been facing up to the challenges of sustainable development for more than 30 years, and sustainable development is included in the Austrian Federal Constitution as a national objective. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Austria is based on an existing institutional framework and strong stakeholder networks at all levels. A strong and vibrant culture of sustainability has developed in administration, businesses, science and civil society. The Austrian federal government's clear commitment to the goals of the 2030 Agenda is reaffirmed in the Government Program 2020 to 2024.

United Nations level

The 2030 Agenda was adopted by all heads of state and government at a high-level summit of the United Nations in September 2015 and has since formed the basis for cooperation between the international community in the area of sustainable development. From Austria's perspective, the United Nations have a very special role to play in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

The UN is the central multilateral platform on which states account for their efforts, their successes and their remaining challenges with regarding the goals of the 2030 Agenda. All UN Member States have committed to submitting at least two Voluntary National Reviews on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Austria presented the first of these reviews at the *UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development* (HLPF) in July 2020.

Austrian participation in UN peacekeeping missions

Since 1960, over 100,000 Austrians have been deployed to UN peacekeeping missions. As part of international crisis and conflict management, the Austrian Armed Forces are currently involved in five UN peacekeeping missions and ten other UN-mandated missions with up to 1,100 soldiers.



Vienna World Conference 30 Years On: Our Rights – Our Future

In 1993, the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights took place, the result of which, the "Vienna Plan of Action", were concrete measures to strengthen human rights. These included the creation of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. To celebrate the 30th anniversary, a symposium entitled "Vienna World Conference 30 Years On: Our Rights – Our Future" was held on June 6, 2023.

This event enabled human rights actors from different sectors and regions to discuss current and future challenges as well as best practices for the promotion of human rights. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, also organized a conference of young human rights defenders to strengthen the voice of the younger generations. On the occasion of the International Year and Day of Human Rights, the Human Rights Office of the City of Vienna organized a two-day conference. The role of cities and NGOs in human rights work was the focus of this event, and the topics of business and climate in the context of human rights were also discussed.

The HLPF is a forum to promote discussion on topics of current relevance and to give them special visibility. Austria has participated actively in the HLPF. For example, it organized a side event on "*Digital transformation, artificial intelligence and digital gender inequality – strategies and solutions*" together with Rwanda as part of the HLPF 2023.

In addition to accountability, the Voluntary National Reviews also serve the purpose of mutual learning and the exchange of experiences. In this context, the exchange taking place once a year in Geneva, within the framework of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is important for Austria, as the focus here is on dialog with countries from the geographical neighbourhood.

The UN and its specialized agencies are also irreplaceable forums and providers of great expertise for Austria in order to promote the implementation of specific SDGs. In the reporting period from 2020 to 2023, the following Austrian objectives are particularly noteworthy:

- **Human rights:** Austria is emphatically committed to the comprehensive protection of human rights, which is firmly anchored in Austrian foreign policy. During its membership (2019 to 2021) and chairmanship of the UN Human Rights Council in 2021, Austria actively contributed to the promotion of human rights. After the start of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine in February 2022, Austrian experts supported the investigation of serious human rights violations. Austria's human rights work focuses on the protection of minorities, human rights and new technologies, the safety of journalists, the abolition of the death penalty and the protection of human rights defenders.

Austrian support for Ukraine

In response to the dramatic humanitarian situation in Ukraine, the federal government has adopted several aid packages since February 2022 to support the suffering population of Ukraine. By the beginning of April 2024, bilateral state aid – in addition to the pro rata contributions to EU assistance – amounted to around EUR 234 million, of which EUR 83.46 million was accounted for by humanitarian aid contributions from the Foreign Disaster Fund. In the same period, the EU's financial, economic and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine amounted to around EUR 47.9 billion.

- **Women, Peace and Security:** The Austrian Federal Government is firmly committed to the objectives of "Resolution 1325" (2000) and the follow-up resolutions of the UN Security Council concerning "Women, Peace and Security". This first manifested in 2007 with the introduction of the "National Action Plan" (NAP 1325), which set out clear steps for the implementation of Resolution 1325. Austria's membership of the UN Commission on the Status of Women from 2021 to 2025 underlines this commitment. As part of its development cooperation and in the area of peace-building and peacekeeping, Austria supports projects to strengthen the role of women in conflict resolution, peace negotiations and prevention of violence.

- **Rule of Law:** For decades, Austria has pursued a foreign policy advocating to strengthen the UN as the centre of a world order based on international law and the rule of law (RoL) as a prerequisite for international security and world peace. For example, Austria has acted continuously since 2005 as coordinator in the "Group of Friends" for RoL in New York. RoL is also one of the priorities of Austria's candidacy for the UN Security Council (UNSC) for the period 2027 to 2028.

Support for four priority countries in drafting or updating their LT-LEDs and NDCs

The *"Africa NDC Hub"* is a cooperation platform of various stakeholders based at the African Development Bank that supports African countries in designing and implementing their long-term development strategies for low emissions (LT-LEDs) and their nationally determined contributions (NDCs). The Austrian contribution promotes the development or updating of LT-LEDs and NDCs in the development cooperation priority countries Burkina Faso, Uganda, Ethiopia and Mozambique.

- **Disarmament and non-proliferation:** In particular nuclear, chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction, as well as ensuring human control over increasingly autonomous weapons systems and the implementation of international humanitarian law with regard to the use of explosive weapons in populated areas are key concerns of Austria in the UN. A highlight of Austria's engagement was the "Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact and Risks of Nuclear Weapons" in 2022, as well as the first meeting of states parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons under the Austrian Presidency.

Since joining the United Nations, Austria has relied on multilateral cooperation to tackle global challenges. With the *"Vienna International Centre"* – the UNO City – Vienna is one of the four headquarters of the UN and is the official seat of around 50 international organisations. The presence of the UNODC, IAEA, OSCE and IACA establishes a clear focus of the location in promoting peace, security and sustainable development and combating crime, drug abuse and terrorism. Vienna has also established itself as a hub for international "energy diplomacy", as numerous organisations in the energy sector are based here (IAEA, CTBTO, SE4All, OPEC, IIASA and UNIDO).

In recent years, Austria has made substantial efforts to implement the UN goal of gradually increasing development funds towards 0.7% of gross national income as set out in SDG 17. Today, Austria provides more funds for humanitarian aid and bilateral development cooperation than ever before. In view of the multiple global crises, the budget for humanitarian aid has been massively increased – for example, the resources of the Foreign Disaster Fund have more than quintupled since 2019. Austria has also provided additional funds in the area of international climate financing to support the countries of the Global South in coping with climate change.

European Union level

Austria is actively involved in all processes aimed at implementing the 2030 Agenda at EU level and in the member states. At the level of the Council of the European Union, the Council Working Group on the 2030 Agenda was established, which represents an important negotiation and exchange platform for Austria on all topics relating to sustainable development at European level. To this end, Member States are engaged in a strategic dialog with the European Commission on key legislative projects relating to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, which Austria has worked to strengthen. The annual work program and EU strategies, such as the *"European Green Deal"*, form the basis for the strategic dialogue.

In May 2023, the European Commission published the first *EU Voluntary Review (*EUVR) on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which was presented at the HLPF in New York in July. The *"European Green Deal"* – and the goal of being the first climate-neutral continent by 2050 – as well as the recovery and resilience plans of Member States are at the heart of EU implementation. The SDGs are also mainstreamed through the *"European Semester"*, the "*Better Regulation Toolbox"* and the annual EC work program (whole of government approach).

Austria supports the EUVR as a comprehensive review of the EU's strong role in implementing the 2030 Agenda and also as a starting point for further deliberations together with Member States on how the 17 goals can be better implemented at EU level in

National strategy against anti-Semitism

The fight against anti-Semitism is a central concern of the federal government. Against the backdrop of the darkest chapter in Austrian history, the inexcusable atrocities and inhuman crimes of the Nazi terror regime, Austria has a special historical responsibility. The *"National Strategy against Anti-Semitism"* (NAS) was developed with the involvement of numerous ministries, the Jewish Community Vienna and various institutions and was presented at the Federal Chancellery on January 21, 2021. The NAS represents a comprehensive impulse and guide for concrete goals and measures, for the strengthening of existing activities and for the promotion of best practice examples. The NAS is EU-wide the first comprehensive strategy against anti-Semitism. 28 of 38 measures have already been fully implemented.

future. Austria has therefore advocated for a structured and continuous dialogue with civil society in order to institutionalise their involvement at the European level.

The SDGs are integrated into both the *European Semester* and the instruments for better regulation. For example, Austria's previous *"National Reform Programs"* 2022 and 2023 link the reforms and investments listed therein to the Sustainable Development Goals by citing specific examples of implementation and projects relating to the SDGs.

An informal exchange with sustainability experts from other European countries is also important. The ESDN was initiated by the BMK in 2002 and has since served as an exchange mechanism of information between civil servants and experts on current challenges of sustainable development with a focus on governance. With an annual conference, thematic workshops, peer learning platforms and peer learning visits, European challenges are addressed by individual countries presenting their solutions and exchanging ideas with ESDN members. In order to involve young people in decision-making processes at EU level in a structured and formal way, work began in 2020 on a dedicated ESDN youth network, which was formally established in 2023. Since then, one or two youth representatives have also been members of the ESDN Advisory Board. At the time of writing, a former Austrian UN Youth Delegate is performing this role.

The Vienna-based *"European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights"* (FRA) supports the interaction of the SDGs with the protection of fundamental rights, in particular to combat all forms of discrimination against people in the EU.

Stakeholders for sustainable development in Austria

The preamble to the 2030 Agenda from 2015 states that *"All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan "*. Austria is clearly committed to implementing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. For this reason, the Federal Government, by means of a Council of Ministers resolution dated January 12, 2016, instructed all federal ministries to incorporate the principles of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals into relevant strategies and programs and, if necessary, to draw up corresponding action plans and measures. All relevant government bodies and cooperation partners at federal, provincial, city and municipal level as well as social partners, civil society, businesses and science are to be involved in this process.

The following chapter outlines which actors are active in implementing the SDGs and which structural and procedural measures listed in the outlook chapter of the first VNR have already been implemented.

Federal level

As the sustainable transformation to achieve the 17 SDGs is a task for the entirety of government, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is assigned to all ministries, not just one. In the course of compiling the first VNR, many participatory processes have developed as part of the SDG implementation.

IMAG as a dialogue and cooperation mechanism

The "Interministerial Working Group on the 2030 Agenda" (IMAG) was set up under the joint leadership of BKA and BMEIA to ensure the continuous exchange of information and the participatory and interministerial coordination processes. The IMAG acts as a participatory exchange mechanism and coordinates reporting on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at federal level. The members of the working group are "*SDG Focal Points*" nominated by the respective federal ministries, who coordinate the implementation priorities as contact persons in the ministries. With the preparation of Austria's first Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the IMAG has taken an important step towards implementing the SDGs.

Steering group as a working and coordination mechanism

In preparation for the IMAG, a steering group was also set up to coordinate activities at working level. Since 2021, this group has drawn up an annual programme of work that lays the foundation for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The 2023 programme of work refers to specific initiatives and other cooperation formats, such as the *"SDG Business Forum"*, *"SDG Breakfast Dialogues"* and the *"Agenda 2030 Conference"* at local level. In addition, a focus was placed on the preparation of the second Austrian VNR and the *"SDG Dialogue Forum 3.0"*, as a central stakeholder event in its preparation.

Multi-stakeholder partnership for resilience in food security

The SDG Dialogue Forum 2022 resulted in an implementation partnership to promote resilience in food security. BMEIA, BOKU, AG Global Responsibility and KOO developed concrete recommendations for action in dialog with administration, businesses, science and civil society. These are to be incorporated into Austrian development policy strategies to strengthen the resilience of food and agricultural systems in the Global South in the long term.

Implementation partnerships and thematic forums

Implementation partnerships for the continuation of thematic priorities of the first VNR are entered into between individual federal ministries and civil society representatives and are a concrete result of the second SDG Dialogue Forum in 2022. Thematic forums also deal with priority topics for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. These may include cross-cutting issues, awareness-raising measures and procedural measures. The Thematic Forums are intended to provide in-depth discussion of the defined topic, with representatives from ministries, federal, provincial, city and municipal level, social partners, civil society, businesses and science invited to participate. So far, two thematic forums have already taken place in Austria on the following topics: "*Humanitarian Aid – Development – Peacebuilding Nexus*" on November 17, 2022 and a workshop on May 30/31, 2023 (Federal Ministry of Defence, BMLV, together with the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, BMEIA) and "*Impact orientation and Sustainable Development Goals in Austria*" on May 15, 2023 under the auspices of the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport (BMKÖS) together with the Federal Ministry for Finance (BMF) and BKA.

SDG progress report 2020 to 2022 as a result of successful collaboration

In 2023, the federal government presented a "*Report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in and by Austria 2020 to 2022*". The report takes up key recommendations from the Austrian Court of Auditor's 2022 report on the follow-up review of BKA and BMEIA on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda in Austria. Regarding the recommendations of regular progress reports and a systematic gap analysis, the report took stock of the progress Austria has made since the presentation of its first VNR in 2020. The focus of the report was on the exemplary presentation of new implementation examples and flagship initiatives of the federal ministries, whereby measures from all federal provinces and from cities and municipalities were also included. The report also included a data chapter based on an accompanying updated indicator report from Statistics Austria.

A follow-up to Austria's first VNR

A key element of the work to implement the 2030 Agenda in Austria were the undertakings set out in the "outlook chapter" of the first VNR and, in particular, the "governance outlook" sub-chapter. The report and thus also the "outlook chapter" were compiled in close consultation with relevant stakeholders and are based on the Government Program 2020 to 2024, which announced the strengthening of targeted coordination of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda with the systematic involvement of stakeholders, particularly from civil society, academia and the private sector.

In addition, recommendations regarding the governance structure from the Austrian Court of Auditors' current audit report ("*United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Austria; Follow-up Review*" Vienna, February 2022) were taken up. Overall, the following structural and procedural measures have been implemented:

- The IMAG assumed the liaison function with the federal provinces by permanently inviting the respective chair of the *"Sustainability Coordinators' Conference"* (NHK-K) to the regular meetings of the IMAG.
- The IMAG Steering Group was set up to prepare and coordinate the IMAG meetings.
- The broad multi-stakeholder process has proven its worth and was continued in the preparation of the second VNR.
- Cooperation between the *"Alliance of Sustainable Universities in Austria"* (as part of the *"UniNEtZ – Universities and Sustainable Development Goals"* project) and the IMAG has been strengthened, with several workshops involving individual federal ministries taking place since 2022.
- The BKA's SDG website, which was relaunched in 2020, serves as a central information platform, lists all the success stories of the first VNR and is continuously updated with new contributions and examples of best practice.
- The connections between implementation in Austria and ongoing projects at European level, such as the EUVR, were discussed in the IMAG and in an exchange with civil society representatives.
- The "Report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in and by Austria 2020 to 2022" has been submitted to Parliament as a review of progress since the first VNR and was also discussed in the plenary session of the National Council.
- The SDG indicators report by Statistics Austria from 2020 was updated in 2023 and serves as the data basis for the 2020 to 2022 progress report.
- Since the first VNR, Statistics Austria has been in an ongoing exchange with the universities organised within the framework of UniNEtZ in order to close any data gaps in the national indicator set. The SDG Indicators Report on which the Progress Report 2020 to 2022 is based, transparently identifies such data gaps from a statistical perspective. As a result of this exchange, there are proposals for eight new indicators.



SDGs in parliament

Transdisciplinary cooperation between all stakeholders is key to implementing the SDGs. On the initiative of committed members of the National Council, a cooperation between parliament and UniNEtZ began in September 2022 to involve members of parliament even more closely in this process. Under the title “SDGs in Parliament”, members of parliament from multiple parties and scientists jointly presented sustainable solutions for most of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals on a monthly plenary day.

Parliament

In its session on December 10, 2020, the Austrian National Council adopted Resolution No. 118/E XXVII. GP on the presentation and parliamentary monitoring of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Austria. It called on the Federal Government to regularly inform Parliament about the progress made in implementing the SDGs, in accordance with the structural and procedural measures listed in the "outlook chapter" of the first VNR, which are intended to strengthen the coherent implementation of the 2030 Agenda by Austria, and to address and discuss the VNR in the National Council in the first half of 2021 as a basis for it. A mechanism should also be created that involves Parliament and takes full account of the comprehensive horizontal impact of the Sustainable Development Goals. This should further strengthen the interface between government and parliament and aim to address the SDGs as a cross-cutting political issue in all committees and plenary sessions.

Non-partisan working group on SDGs as a networking mechanism

With the aim of actively participating in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Austria and fulfilling its democratic function, Parliament founded an informal, non-partisan "SDG Working Group" in 2021 on the initiative of individual members of parliament. The group aims to emphasize that national parliaments actively participate in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in their democratic function as a representative, supervisory and legislative body and has networked with various scientists and NGOs to this end. Cooperation with the steering group is also seen as effective and a regular exchange on a purely informal basis has been agreed. In cooperation with UniNEtZ, workshops for members of parliament and an exchange at specialist level on future topics that link the SDGs were planned. Parliament also appointed "SDG ambassadors" from among the members of parliament for specific SDGs and provided in-depth information on the respective SDGs on plenary session days of the National Council in 2022/23.

The sustainable renovation of the parliament building

The first construction measures for the renovation of the Austrian Parliament building began in 2018. After five years of renovation, the historic building was shining in new splendour in January 2023, equipped with modern technology, adapted to current safety standards and modernised in terms of accessibility. All of this was done with a focus on preserving what is historically valuable and meeting sustainability criteria. For example, the building's energy requirements were reduced by more than 50%. On February 14, 2023, parliament received the "climate active Gold" certificate, the highest award from the BMK for high-quality renovations, as well as "ÖGNB Gold" from the Austrian Sustainable Building Council (ÖGNB). The Austrian Parliament is also the first national parliament in Europe to receive an EMAS (*Environmental Management and Audit Scheme*) certification in accordance with the criteria for the EU's environmental management label.



“Evening of the SDGs” in Parliament

At the event on February 27, 2024 in Parliament, the scientific community (UniNEtZ) presented options for action under the motto “7 minutes 7 goals” to achieve the goals of SDGs 1, 2, 8, 10, 12, 15 and 17 on the topics of poverty, hunger, decent work and economic growth, inequalities, sustainable consumption and production, life on land and global partnerships This was followed by a panel discussion with the SDG ambassadors among the members of the National Council on the status quo and current challenges for Austria. The importance of cooperation was considered essential. “Where, if not in parliament, should the sustainability goals be discussed and communicated?” emphasized National Council President Wolfgang Sobotka.

Court of Auditors

The Austrian Court of Auditors' review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by the BKA and BMEIA, which assessed the status of implementation of recommendations from the 2018 preliminary report (Federal Government 2018/34 series) in its 2022 follow-up review (Federal Government 2022/5 series), is another important building block for the work of the IMAG. The Court's collective report on all follow-up reviews in 2023 indicates that significant progress has been made but shows a need for action from the Court's perspective: this concerns the creation of a sustainability strategy and a national implementation plan (including the consideration of the national recovery and resilience plan) and the mandatory consideration of the SDGs in the federal government's impact targets in an amendment to the *"Federal Budget Act 2013"*. The IMAG and, in particular, the steering group will subsequently address the recommendations of the Court of Auditors against the backdrop of the next steps in implementation following the presentation of the second VNR.

Federal provinces

The path to a sustainable future can only be successfully pursued if all levels – federal, provincial, city and municipal – work together.

As the first VNR already shows, the federal provinces have achieved successes in implementing the 2030 Agenda within the framework of the existing implementation structures. These range from action plans, such as the *"Spatial Vision Vorarlberg 2030"* action plan, to integrated strategies such as the *"Climate and Energy Strategy SALZBURG 2050"* and the *"Smart Climate City Strategy Vienna"*. The sustainability and climate strategy *"Living with a Future"* of the federal province of Tyrol and the *"Climate Strategy Burgenland 2030"* with its around 120 measures, each of which is linked to the Sustainable Development Goals and points the way to a climate-neutral future, are further strategic approaches

Understandable Styria

All relevant news about the province's activities are available on the easy-access news portal. Among other things, the measures and initiatives for the implementation of the Styrian Climate and Energy Strategy 2030 are presented. As part of *"Understandable Styria"*, you can report incomprehensible official documents. With the Styrian Media Centre as a green location, press conferences and events have been held sustainably since 2018.

to sustainability. With the *"Agenda.Future"* initiative, Upper Austria is implementing priority measures and pilot projects to promote local participation. In Lower Austria, the annual *"Lower Austrian Environment, Climate and Energy Report"* is linked to an innovative SDG management tool. In Styria, the SDGs are linked to the province's impact targets and two SDG reports have already been produced. In Carinthia, the 17 SDGs form the basis for the fields of action of the 2023 to 2028 government program.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda at provincial level is characterized by great diversity and high quality in terms of vertical and horizontal anchoring. This is promoted by the efficient use of existing structures and by linking them with central administrative tasks.

SDG walks in and with Lower Austrian municipalities

In order to make the SDGs and their ideas visible and tangible, SDG walks focusing on SDG 11 took place in three Lower Austrian municipalities. Current community projects on sustainable development were presented along the routes and linked to the SDGs concerned. The focus was not only on making the SDGs visible, but also on the dialog between (municipal) politics and the local population.

Volunteer partnership Tyrol

The *"Tyrol Volunteer Partnership"* was initiated to strengthen volunteering in the province of Tyrol. A province-wide network of eleven volunteer centres provides help and advice to institutions, associations and interested parties and can therefore respond well to regional needs. The *"Tyrol Volunteer Partnership"* focuses its volunteering activities on social and ecological goals – in other words, sustainability in the broadest sense. Climate change, societal changes and demographic development pose challenges for regions. Projects in the social, nature and sustainability sectors, to strengthen e. g. the circular economy, biodiversity and second-life initiatives, are intended to encourage interested parties to get involved. The range of tasks is broad. The initiative places volunteers, initiates projects, raises awareness and provides information in the form of numerous events (*"Volunteer Days"*).

Burgenland: sustainable, climate-friendly and environmentally conscious

Under the motto "Everyone can contribute!", the aim of the project, which ran from 2020 to 2022, was to raise awareness of sustainable lifestyles and the 17 SDGs and link them to a positive attitude towards life. The focus was on the young generation. Various activities were developed and carried out in cooperation with the Burgenland University of Applied Sciences and the *"Sustainable in Burgenland"* platform: Youth Climate Conference, school workshops in peer-to-peer format, SDG learning videos, climate cinema, podcast and much more.

The sustainability coordinators

The *"Sustainability Coordinators' Conference of the Federal Provinces and the Federal Government"* (NHK-K) is the central body for coordinating the sustainability activities of the federal government and the federal provinces. The regional and local level, i. e. the federal provinces, are to be given an even more important role in the IMAG through permanent involvement and the cities and municipalities through event-related involvement. For example, the respective chair of the NHK-K, representing all federal provinces, will be permanently invited to IMAG meetings, while the Association of Towns and Municipalities will continue to be invited on an ad hoc basis. The sustainability coordinators of the federal provinces and the federal level (represented by the BKA and BMK) have discussed the future vision of the NHK-K as a joint interface to further expand the scope for action with regard to the vertical and horizontal anchoring of the 2030 Agenda.

Within the framework of the NHK-K expert committee, there is a regular exchange of information on activities in the federal provinces, which also enables structured, mutual learning from one another. Successful approaches and models can thus be further developed together.

This pool of experience and knowledge, which is unique in Austria, is also used, for example, in the further work on the 2030 Agenda between Carinthia and Styria and jointly improved in terms of quality. The federal government can also benefit from this work. For example, there are more thematic forums in which the federal provinces can contribute their experience. The professional discourse between the federal government and the federal provinces as well as between the provinces themselves supports the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Austria.

Thinking urban and rural into the future

In November 2023, the Agenda 2030 conference "Thinking urban and rural into the future" took place for the fourth time. The events were previously initiated by the BMK together with the NHK-K and the Associations of Cities and Municipalities, with Vorarlberg being the implementing federal province in 2023. The conference was the continuation of an annual dialogue and cooperation format for stakeholders at local and municipal level, which was jointly organised by the federal government, the federal provinces and cities and municipalities.

Agenda 2030 conference "What strategies are needed for successful implementation of the SDGs?", November 23/24, 2023, Bregenz

The BMK, the province of Vorarlberg and the Associations of Cities and Municipalities organised the 4th conference "Thinking urban and rural into the future" as part of Austria's sustainability coordination. The focus of the conference was aimed at reflecting on and locating where society stands in the implementation of the SDGs. This took place at different levels, from theory and practice and from a variety of perspectives: Ten examples from municipal to provincial level, as well as from NGOs, made it clear that there are very different approaches. Four excursions to Egg, Hittisau, Nenzing and Rankweil showed the practice on the ground.

Cities and municipalities

The localisation of the SDGs is an objective of cities and municipalities, and these efforts are already showing concrete results. In spring 2021, for example, the Association of Cities commissioned a new survey to determine the current SDG implementation status in its member cities. A key finding of this survey is that awareness of the SDGs has increased noticeably and that the SDGs are gradually finding their way into municipal administrative practice. The focus of municipal action on the long-term effects of measures and the strengthening of ecological aspects in municipal policy decisions is a great added value of the 2030 Agenda. However, there is still a need for action if the goals are to be achieved by 2030. A lack of resources and the complex SDG target system are seen by cities as the biggest hurdles to implementation– support is still needed and wanted.

2030 Agenda Navigator

The *"2030 Agenda Navigator for Municipalities",* developed jointly by the BMK, the Associations of Municipalities and Cities and the KDZ – Centre for Public Administration Research, is a communication tool for breaking down the often very abstractly perceived SDGs into directly implementable, concrete measures. It is a hub through which the individual goals are linked to specific measures that can be implemented by the municipalities. By turning the dial accordingly, it becomes clear which specific municipal measures contribute to which SDGs. The hub can be ordered free of charge by municipalities on request from the Austrian Association of Municipalities and provides ideas for the future development of municipalities.

SDG municipal check

The SDG municipal check for investment projects offers a more specific review, enabling cities and municipalities to plan and implement their projects in line with the 17 SDGs. This is a project-related checklist that uses yes/no questions to query the implementation and integration of the goals. The SDG Municipal Check thus helps cities and municipalities to invest in an intergenerational, socially fair, ecologically and economically sustainable manner



Agenda 2030 – sustainable together in Trofaiach

The municipality of Trofaiach (Styria) has committed itself to the 2030 Agenda with a municipal council resolution. The SDGs are now to find their way into the municipality on several levels. The sustainability goals and possible fields of action for implementation in Trofaiach were communicated to the municipality's staff in a management workshop. The local population was also made aware of the sustainability goals in the form of a participation process. Eight municipalities have now signed the model resolution.

and to identify and prevent potential follow-up costs by applying the check from the start of planning.

Platform for municipal sustainability

Another example is the *"Municipal Sustainability Platform"*, a digital service of the Association of Austrian Cities and the KDZ, which offers cities and municipalities the opportunity to find out more about sustainability issues, the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, to learn from each other and to network. As part of this networking platform, questions can be asked and answered, events relevant to the topic can be collected and shared with the community and contributions and messages can be sent between members.

Digital community brunch for mayors

This was offered throughout Austria as a digital format of the federal-provincial working group on the Local Agenda 21 under the title "Thinking together into the future – the 17 goals of the 2030 Agenda for the municipal level" for mayors and decision-makers from municipalities. The content included an impulse on the "2030 Agenda at local level", reports from the field and an exchange of ideas. Applications for participation were submitted via the "Local Agenda Control Centres of the Federal Provinces". Building on this Austria-wide format, there are regional formats on key topics, such as vacancy management or community development and SDGs in Tyrol.

Social partners

In Austria, the social partners play an important role in implementing the social and economic dimension of the 2030 Agenda. The system of social partner cooperation between employers' and employees' interest groups as well as with the government makes a significant contribution to prosperity and social peace in Austria.

AK prosperity report

With the AK prosperity report, the Chamber of Labor has been making a regular contribution to the analysis of the sustainable development of prosperity and well-being in Austria since 2018. The AK is guided by the modified magic polygon of a prosperity-oriented economic policy and makes reference to the SDGs. The five overarching goals are fairly distributed material prosperity, full employment and good work, quality of life, an intact environment and economic stability.

The Chamber of Labor (AK) represents the social, economic and professional interests of its members as the legal representative body of employees. This also includes matters relating to education, environmental and consumer protection, health and housing. The "AK Prosperity Report" analyses social progress in Austria and focuses on factors such as quality of life and the environment as indicators of prosperity-oriented economic policy.

The Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKO), which represents the interests of Austrian companies, plays a key role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. There are links to the SDGs through the projects initiated by the WKO, which range from education and training, consultations and events to specific projects in Austria and developing countries. The WKO's sustainability report provides a good overview of this.

The Austrian Seniors' Council is responsible for the legally recognised representation of around 2.7 million senior citizens' interests in Austria. As the umbrella organisation of the major pensioners' and senior citizens' organisations, it serves as a non-partisan forum for discussion. In matters that may affect the interests of Austrian senior citizens, the Austrian Seniors' Council is on an equal footing with the statutory interest groups of employees, businesspeople and farmers. Not only are poverty in old age, age discrimination, loneliness in old age and a new image of age(ing) of particular concern to the Seniors' Council, but also solidarity between the generations.

Since 2001, the Federal Youth Council (BJV) has been the legally established representative body for all children and young people in Austria with social partner status. It thus represents around three million people aged 0 to 30. As an interest group and youth-led organisation, the BJV advocates for the diverse concerns of young people in politics, the media and the public. In the age range from 0 to 30 years, topics such as education, participation, health and entry into the labour market play a particularly important role. In order to adequately represent the different concerns, backgrounds and views, the BJV works together with various stakeholders, conducts studies and surveys and not only develops programs for children and young people, but also gives them the opportunity to actively shape their own future.

Civil society organisations

A large number of civil society organisations in Austria and abroad are committed to implementing the various dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals. One of the largest platforms of civil society organisations in Europe for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is the platform *"SDG Watch Austria"*. In order to promote the effective and ambitious implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the involvement of all stakeholders in Austria, 80 civil society organisations initially joined forces in 2017 to form *"SDG Watch Austria"*, a platform that now comprises more than 230 civil society and non-profit organisations from a wide range of sectors. The focus is on joint and interdisciplinary commitment to the SDGs through advocacy and networking, with a particular focus on structures and processes for SDG implementation, civil society participation and strengthening evidence-based decision-making. Within *"SDG Watch Austria"*, members deal with various aspects and cross-cutting issues relating to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in and by Austria.

Co-Creation Workshop: Business meets NGO

This workshop, organised in 2022 by the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber together with the Working Group on Global Responsibility (AGGV), worked on solutions for challenges faced by companies and NGOs in emerging and developing countries. In mixed teams with representatives from businesses, science and NGOs, creative solutions were found for sustainable development and for the expansion of partnerships.



SDG Business Forum

The "*SDG Business Forum*" initiative promotes the international contribution to the 2030 Agenda based on the strengths of Austrian companies. The "*SDG Business Forum*" platform aims to harness the innovation potential of sustainable development and enable Austrian companies to tap into new markets in emerging and developing countries. The current "*SDG Business Forum 2022–24*" focuses on the importance of local specialists as a key factor in markets in emerging and developing countries.

Economy

In the area of economic activity, sustainability and innovative strength are values with which Austria positions itself in international competition. Knowledge transfer and practical support are necessary to enable companies to align and manage their business activities in line with the SDGs.

The *"Austrian Foreign Trade Strategy"* 2018 is a strategy comprising 63 measures with the aim of strengthening the Austrian export industry through a coordinated presence of Austria in economically interesting growth regions and supporting domestic companies that want to operate abroad with targeted assistance. In implementing the 2030 Agenda, foreign trade policy focuses on Austrian companies and aims to promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda globally on the basis of the strengths of the Austrian economy.

The BMAW's flagship initiative *"SDG Business Forum – Austria's economy and the global Sustainable Development Goals"* was launched in 2017. The aim is to promote Austria's contribution to the 2030 Agenda based on the strengths of Austrian companies and at the same time to identify new market opportunities resulting from the implementation of SDGs in emerging and developing countries.

ReFocus Austria

The global economic initiative *"ReFocus Austria"* was launched as part of the federal government's comeback plan for economic recovery during and after the COVID-19 pandemic in September 2021. As part of the campaign, the more than 100 Austrian representations of the BMEIA organise tailor-made events and activities abroad as *"Team Austria"* together with the BMAW and other federal ministries, the Foreign Trade Department of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber and the Austrian National Tourist Office to strengthen the domestic export industry. In the first year of *"ReFocus Austria"* alone, over 300 events and projects were held in around 85 countries on six continents. Austria also focuses on the opportunities and potential of cooperation with the countries of the Global South, particularly in the area of sustainable business.

As the leading corporate platform for sustainable business, *"respACT – austrian business council for sustainable development"* helps to pass on in-depth knowledge of the SDGs to member companies through working groups, presentations and seminars. respACT serves companies as a platform for exchange and networking as well as a basis for innovative approaches and solutions. The TRIGOS business award, which is highly recognised in Austria, honours companies that take on a leading role and act as a special role model for responsible business and sustainability and that contribute to the future viability of the Austrian economy, society and the environment. As many SMEs are not yet sufficiently aware of the 2030 Agenda, the TRIGOS also has an information and awareness-raising effect in the Austrian economy, as does the annual Sustainability Award of the Senate of Economy. The TRIGOS sponsoring organisations are *"respACT"*, the Federation of Austrian Industries, the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, the Environmental Umbrella Association, the Austrian Red Cross and Caritas Austria.

Digitalisation as a contribution to achieving the SDGs

As part of the *"DIGI FOR SDG"* project by "respACT", the contribution of digital technologies to the respective sub-goals of the SDGs is evaluated on all three levels of sustainability. The results serve as a guide for companies to fulfil their corporate responsibility. Using concrete examples from business practice and collaborating with experts, the project will show how Austria can jointly turn the digital transformation of the economy into a green transformation.



Inclusion Advisory Board of the Federal Youth Council (BJV)

There are currently hardly any political participation opportunities for young people with disabilities in Austria. The BJV has therefore founded an Inclusion Advisory Board, which met for the first time in June 2023. Six young people with disabilities from different federal provinces came together and exchanged ideas with the BJV board. The focus was on the question of what is important to them and how political participation can work even better.

Youth perspectives

In Austria, young people play an important role in the implementation and greater public visibility of the Sustainable Development Goals. For more than ten years, the Federal Youth Council has been sending youth delegates as part of the official delegation to the UN General Assembly in New York. The youth delegates also take part in the *ECOSOC Youth Forum* in New York every year with the help of funding from the Federal Chancellery. They represent young people in the highest possible political body, advise diplomats and contribute their expertise on youth-related topics. During the two years of their mandate, they also do a great deal of translation work through workshops and events to ensure that the SDGs reach young people in their everyday lives. As part of the programs funded by the BMK, there are youth delegates in the areas of "Climate" and "Biodiversity" (COP delegates) and, since 2023, a youth delegate cooperation with the Austrian UNESCO Commission in the context of SDG 4.7 "Education for Sustainable Development".

Important reference documents regarding the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals from a youth perspective are the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, General Comment No. 26 of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Maastricht Principles on the Rights of Future Generations.

"REBELS OF CHANGE" – an independent initiative of Austrian children's, youth, environmental and development policy organisations – is committed to putting the United Nations' global sustainability goals in the spotlight and making them digitally tangible in a variety of events. The offerings range from a wide variety of creative events with hands-on activities, workshops and formats for youth participation to social media campaigns. As part of a two-day youth forum in 2023, the demands of young people were collected and presented at the *"SDG Dialogue Forum 3.0"*.

Women's Committee of the Federal Youth Council (BJV)

The Women's Committee of the BJV is a platform of young women who jointly decide how women's policy is brought into the BJV and its member organisations. In recent years, the focus has been on topics such as "Women's networks", "Action against violence against women and girls" and "Feminism today". The Women's Committee is an opportunity to actively shape politics and contribute your own ideas to the BJV – even without prior knowledge or experience.



The animal conference – art meets sustainability in Vorarlberg

In June 2024, the curtain will rise on *"The Animal Conference"*, a children's musical jointly organised by the Youth Ambassadors for UN Children's Rights & SDGs, Caritas International Aid and the dance group *"groovaloos!"*, at the "Kulturhaus Dornbirn". The musical "WAARITAANKA", Somali for 'sustainability', communicates the importance of the SDGs and biodiversity in a playful way to primary and lower secondary school pupils. This production uses the power of creativity to sensitise young people to global issues and thus contributes to the implementation of SDG 4.7 (Education for Sustainable Development). This makes *"The Animal Conference"* a living example of how art can enrich education and inspire reflection on our common future.

Fields of action for implementation in Austria

Austria has made a conscious decision to integrate the SDGs into all policy areas and at all levels of administration. This mainstreaming approach relates both to the orientation of political strategy documents (for example the three-year program of Austrian development policy or the government program of the federal province of Carinthia) and to the budget processes, especially at federal and provincial level. Since the first Austrian VNR, the involvement of science has been specifically promoted in order to strengthen the basis for fact- and data-based political decisions. Monitoring at national level plays an equally important role, as progress can be documented over time and changes in indicators can be linked to measures, initiatives and laws or external factors (such as the COVID-19 pandemic). Statistics Austria has a key role to play here. Austria assumes that the transformation towards sustainability on which the 2030 Agenda is based can only succeed, if its content is communicated as widely and transparently as possible. For this reason, communication and awareness-raising measures have been further strengthened since the first VNR. Furthermore, as part of SDG implementation and policy coherence, it is equally important to consider global interdependencies in national processes in order to take into account social, economic and environmental impacts in different regions of the world.

In Austria, for example, all relevant stakeholders, including civil society organisations, are comprehensively involved in the implementation of corporate responsibility standards, in particular risk-based due diligence in global value chains, and also in the implementation of due diligence obligations of companies with regard to sustainability. The aim is to effectively protect human rights and the environment along global value chains. To this end, companies, in particular SMEs, and relevant stakeholders are to be supported in their implementation and capacity building.

First Sustainability Day of the BMI

Climate change and the implementation of the SDGs were recognized as a task and included in the departmental strategy. The first Sustainability Day of the Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI) at the "Marokkanerkaserne" in Vienna on 25 May, 2023 kicked off with a lecture by Prof. Helga Kromp-Kolb on climate change and its challenges for police work. Mobility, buildings and sustainable procurement were defined as fields of action.

Mainstreaming the SDGs

Mainstreaming means that the principles of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs are implemented in a goal-oriented and strategically coordinated manner within a country's own area of responsibility. Austria has chosen a mainstreaming approach to implement the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in accordance with the 2016 Council of Ministers resolution. The 17 SDGs and 169 sub-goals are to be considered as targets in accordance with the UN resolution on the 2030 Agenda in an inseparable and integrated manner. The mainstreaming approach is therefore taken into account at all levels of the administration with different governance approaches involving stakeholders. Mainstreaming underpins the implementation of the SDGs as a task for the entire state.

Financing

In Austria, the SDGs are already integrated into impact orientation and impact-oriented assessment at federal level. The early integration of SDG-related measures into the system of impact-oriented administrative management is planned. On a voluntary basis, the sustainability goals are taken up in the target formulation of the federal ministries, which makes the pursuit of the goals transparent and comprehensible. The reference to the sustainability goals anchored in this way can thus be systematically incorporated into the annual planning of the federal ministries. In addition, a transparent monitoring system is also made available, which observes and compares the key SDG activities of the federal ministries and documents them in measurable indicators. Successes, measures and challenges are thus increasingly recorded and a coherent approach to target achievement is pursued. The BMKÖS and BMF are now considering the implementation of a parliamentary resolution in this regard:

On March 2, 2023, the National Council adopted a resolution (307/E) on the legally binding impact assessment of legislative proposals and the consideration of the SDGs. Accordingly, the federal government is called upon to submit a bill as soon as possible that makes the implementation of the SDGs in the legislative process – in addition to the existing impact assessment as an integral part of the bills submitted to parliament – mandatory under federal budget law.

Thematic forum on impact orientation and Sustainable Development Goals in Austria

Impact orientation and impact-oriented impact assessment are instruments that attempt to present Austria's progress on the SDGs at federal level. However, not all decision-makers are aware of this existing reference, which is why the BMKÖS, together with the BMF and considering the experiences of the federal provinces, organised a Thematic Forum as an information event for the 2023 working year in order to provide representatives of the administration and civil society with a corresponding overview.

The topic was also addressed in a separate thematic forum and discussed in the European context in an exchange with other countries. On May 15, 2023, a Thematic Forum "Outcome Orientation and Sustainable Development Goals in Austria" organised by the BMKÖS in cooperation with the BMF took place in Vienna. Austria was also able to share its experiences with regard to "*Performance Management: Outcome Orientation and the Sustainable Development Goals*" with other European countries at the 21st ESDN workshop (together with BMKÖS, BMK and BKA) on May 22/23, 2023 in Vienna.

In preparation for the discussion of the annual budget, the Parliamentary Budget Service deals with impact orientation and the implementation of the SDGs and addresses this topic in its budget analysis. As it did for the years 2020 to 2023, the Budget Service also created an SDG map for the financial year 2024 as a further basis for the parliamentary debate. The SDG targets are assigned to the corrsesponding impact targets or indicators at subdivision level based on the information provided by the federal ministries and supreme bodies and compared with the corresponding EU indicators (Eurostat). This map thus provides MPs with an overview of the connection between the impact orientation from the federal budget and the SDGs. It also includes the EU comparison for Austria, which also supports a differentiated parliamentary debate.

In the international context, the financing of core state tasks and social systems through tax revenues in countries of the Global South is proving to be an essential prerequisite for sustainable development. In these countries, tax revenues are significantly lower than in the Global North, which underlines the need for fair and progressive tax systems, the strengthening of which Austria will also support. On the other hand, a transparent international tax system is needed, particularly for the taxation of internationally active companies, and the needs of countries in the Global South should be given greater consideration in its reforms (international standards to combat tax avoidance; *"base erosion and profit shifting"* (BEPS)).

Contribution of art and culture

Art and culture are an enrichment for people and, as a cross-cutting issue, make an important contribution to all sustainable development goals. They are indispensable for social inclusion, for ensuring lasting, broad-based and sustainable economic growth and for combating climate change.

Sustainability is a central focus of Austrian cultural policy. The cultural sector continues to be shaped by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which, as in most countries around the world, has hit the arts and culture sector particularly hard. On a positive note, the public perception of the role and importance of art and culture for the common good and for resilience has been strengthened since the pandemic.

To combat the medium and long-term consequences of the crisis, the BMKÖS is focusing on three key areas: ecologisation, digitalisation and fairness. With a series of measures

- cultural institutions are to be made climate-ready, for example through targeted promotion of sustainability and climate protection in the cultural sector, eco-certification for museums, theatres, cinemas, green filming, sustainable fashion design and high-quality building culture,
- the digital transformation in the arts and culture sector will be strengthened, e. g. by creating or improving access to digitised content, developing new presentation formats, using digital technologies in cultural education and cultural mediation,
- fairness in the cultural sector will be ensured, for example by creating good working conditions for cultural workers, fair pay, social security, fair practices and respectful cooperation. For example, special funds are made available for fair pay, an office against harassment and violence in art, culture and sport (*"vera*"*) has been set up, a study on the fair pay gap has been carried out and a fairness code has been developed.

Gender mainstreaming: systematically incorporating the gender perspective

Gender equality is a key and central prerequisite for implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the SDGs at local, regional, national and international level. This is made clear by the specific targets in SDG 5 as well as the gender-specific targets in SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16 and 17. In addition, the preamble to the 2030 Agenda states that the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in implementation is crucial.

Austria therefore pursues a multi-level approach that is based on the participation of women and gender equality actors as well as on the gender mainstreaming principle, which anchors the responsibility to consider the gender perspective in all stakeholders involved. The *"Interministerial Working Group for Gender Mainstreaming and Gender Budgeting"* has been supporting and accompanying the implementation of gender mainstreaming in all ministries and at all political levels since 2000.

Science-based implementation

Since the last VNR, Austria has made further progress in integrating science into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. As part of the interdisciplinary project *"UniNEtZ"*, 300 scientists, artists and students presented 150 options and 950 concrete measures for implementing the SDGs in Austria. The so-called *"Options Report"* was presented to the federal government in March 2023. Phase II of *"UniNEtZ"* until 2024 will focus on implementing the measures identified and intensifying the dialog between science, politics and society.

The second phase of the project (*"UniNEtZ II"*) has set itself the goal of contributing to social transformation and the self-transformation of universities. This goal is set out in the declaration of principles published in 2022, which forms the starting point for work in five focus areas. These focus areas will be addressed by working groups in a scientifically supported transdisciplinary process. This process includes a "*science-society-policy dialogue*" to implement the options.

The ongoing exchange between *"UniNEtZ"* and members of the National Council and Federal Council as well as the Interministerial Working Group on the 2030 Agenda helps to ensure that the scientific work of the universities is incorporated into the work of parliament and the administration. Furthermore, as a result of the first VNR, there is an ongoing exchange between the universities organised within the framework of *"UniNEtZ"* and Statistics Austria in order to close data gaps. The SDG Indicator Report 2022, on which the Progress Report 2020 to 2022 is based, transparently identifies such data gaps from a statistical perspective. As a result of this exchange, there are proposals for eight new indicators.

Furthermore, as part of the "*Sustainability Challenge",* several Austrian universities are working to raise awareness of the importance of the SDGs for students of all disciplines in their area of responsibility and to promote rethinking processes. As part of this initiative, courses are held, but practical work on SDG-relevant projects in cooperation with corporate partners and support for students' own start-up ideas is also promoted. The "*Sustainability Challenge"* is already entering its 14th round in the 2023/24 academic year.

Austria also contributes to capacity building and capacity development for science in the Global South as set out in SDG 17. The Three-Year Program of Austrian Development Policy 2022 to 2024 defines the strengthening of scientific capacities at individual and institutional level as a priority of Austrian development cooperation.



UniNEtZ – Universities and Sustainable Development Goals

In the *"UniNEtZ"* project, around 20 scientific institutions are working together to achieve the SDGs in Austria. The *"UniNEtZ Options Report"* summarises around 950 concrete measures for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Austria into 150 options. The report was submitted to the federal government in March 2022. Since then, around 300 scientists from *"UniNEtZ"* have engaged in an intensive exchange with stakeholders to drive forward the implementation of these and other options.

Monitoring

Indicators are of central importance for monitoring progress in achieving the goals. The SDG indicators serve on the one hand to verify the status of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and on the other hand to ensure transparency towards Parliament and the public. As the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is to be understood as a task for the entire state in the sense of the mainstreaming approach, the monitoring of implementation progress is also essential for the governance of the administration at federal level.

As the national statistical authority, Statistics Austria is responsible for compiling the national SDG indicators set in Austria, which is based on the UN indicators proposals. Around 260 indicators with time series starting in 2010 are currently available for this purpose and have been published annually by Statistics Austria on its website since 2017. The data set is coordinated with all federal ministries as well as the Federal Environment Agency (UBA), Gesundheit Österreich GmbH (GÖG), the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and other data owners. Developments at UN and EU level as well as an ongoing exchange with the scientific community, such as with *"UniNEtZ"*, are considered in the further development of the indicators set. The final responsibility for selecting the indicators lies with Statistics Austria. Objective statistical criteria such as relevance (national and international), content quality, comprehensibility and interpretability are applied in the selection process. In May 2020, an initial explanatory National Indicators Report on the 2030 Agenda was presented as the basis for the first VNR. In addition, a supplementary report "2030 Agenda – SDG Indicators Report Update 2019 and COVID-19 Outlook" was published in November 2020 to supplement the May 2020 indicators report and illustrate the impact of COVID-19 on the SDGs. An updated indicators report was last published in April 2023.

In line with the 2030 Agenda and its demand that the "*UN indicators set should be supplemented by further data sets at regional level that take regional realities into account",* the SDG indicators set from Statistics Austria has been applied regionally in several federal provinces since 2023 as part of the NHK-K. This means that from 2023, SDG indicators reports based on the federal SDG indicators can also be published at provincial level. These include federal indicators, insofar as they are available at provincial level, in each case in a comparison of the data of the province commissioning the report with the Austrian average. The aim is to create a consistent nationwide monitoring, evaluation and planning basis as well as an instrument for each federal province.

Communication and raising awareness

The UN resolution with which the SDGs were adopted in 2015 is entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". For this transformation to succeed, the content and goals of the agenda must be communicated as widely and transparently as possible. Austria has therefore further intensified communication since the first VNR, focusing on the involvement of a broad spectrum of social stakeholders from politics, administration, civil society, business and science.

The BKA's SDG website (www.sdg.gv.at) plays a key role in creating broad awareness of the 2030 Agenda. It was relaunched in 2020 and supplemented with success stories, which are updated on an ongoing basis. The programmes of work of the steering group as well as summaries of the IMAG meetings are available on the SDG website. Reference is also made to the respective SDG websites of the federal ministries.

A very concrete result of the first VNR are the *"SDG Dialogue Forums"*, which serve to exchange information, network and cooperate with the ministries, relevant stakeholders and the interested public on current topics relating to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Austria. They are jointly organised by the administration in cooperation with *"SDG Watch Austria"* and the *"Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens"* and build on actors who worked closely together at the first VNR. So far, these forums have taken place three times, with members of the Federal Government always taking part in a panel discussion, thus reaffirming the Federal Government's commitment to the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

- The first *"SDG Dialogue Forum"* on September 28, 2021 on the topic of "Building forward better with the 2030 Agenda – Together for sustainable development after COVID-19" explored the key topics of the first VNR on digitalisation, climate change and climate change adaptation, women, youth and *"Leaving no one behind"* as well as Austria in a global context in four innovation pools.
- The second *"SDG Dialogue Forum"* on October 6/7, 2022 on "Current opportunities and prospects for implementing the 2030 Agenda" focused on the challenges of implementing the SDGs against the backdrop of the current multiple crises. In the innovation pools, propositions and implementation partnerships were jointly developed on the following topics: "How much energy does Austria need? Ways to a socially and environmentally compatible energy transition", "Skills for the 21st century", "Equal opportunities, well-being and social inclusion of children and young people", "Austria's development policy. Responding to multiple crises. Promoting resilience". For the first time, the provincial level was involved by bringing selected examples of best practice to the forum. There was also a statement from a youth representative during the panel discussion.



Green events – sustainable organisation of events

Key aspects are environmentally friendly mobility, material and waste management, the use of sustainable products, regional value creation, social responsibility and communication.
The federal-state network *"Green Events Austria"* was initiated to promote awareness of sustainability at events. The main aims of the network are to share experiences and strategically develop the initiative. For example, the *"SDG Dialogue Forum 3.0"* took place as a green event.

- The *"SDG Dialogue Forum 3.0."* on October 12, 2023 was the central stakeholder event in preparation for the second VNR on the following thematic priorities, for which the ground was prepared in upstream events on October 3/5/11: "Skills for 2030 – competencies for sustainable development", "Leaving no one behind – social cohesion and solidarity in times of multiple crises" and "Protecting the biosphere – sustainable development within planetary boundaries". In addition to the expert discussions in these innovation pools, a representative of a country from the Global South was invited to the reflection pool on the topic of "Resilience in food security in the Global South", who also took part in the high-level panel discussion as a speaker. As a further innovation, special emphasis was placed on the perspectives of young people, who had previously taken a critical look at the implementation of the SDGs in their own youth forum. The results of the Youth Forum were presented at the Dialogue Forum by several young people together with the UN Youth Delegate ("*UN Youth Delegate Program*" of the BJV, 2023 to 2025).

The findings from the *"SDG Dialogue Forum 3.0",* which challenges have shaped Austria's implementation in the years 2020 to 2023 and which solutions can drive Austria forward, have therefore been incorporated into the following chapters.

Focus Areas





Leaving no one behind – social cohesion and solidarity in times of multiple crises

1 Key messages

→ Welfare state: Anyone may experience a predicament, but people in vulnerable situations are hit harder by multiple crises than others. In Austria, a well-developed welfare state can prevent poverty and social exclusion, promote equal opportunities and social participation and thus create a society based on solidarity in which "no one is left behind".

→ Children and young people: The course for the future is set at a young age. This is why the *"Frühe Hilfen"*, *"Schulstartklar!"* and *"Schulstartplus!"* or *"Gesund aus der Krise"* programmes provide targeted support to families, children and young people right from the start. In addition, family benefits such as childcare allowance or family allowance are valorised since January 2023.

→ People with disabilities: To further implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the *"National Action Plan on Disability 2022–2030"* provides for a total of 375 measures.

→ People affected by poverty: The federal government has responded comprehensively on several levels to the financial challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the energy crisis and inflation, including with the *"COVID-19 Poverty Act"* and the *"Living and Housing Cost Equalisation Act"*, but also with the special directive *"COVID-19 Poverty Reduction"* or the *"WOHNSCHIRM"* program, the

latter provides support in the event of imminent eviction or housing and energy cost arrears. In addition, several other social benefits such as sick pay and student grants have been automatically adjusted for inflation since 2023.

→ Women and equality: *"Gender budgeting"* is an important instrument for achieving actual gender equality in budget management. In addition, measures against violence against women were adopted and online hate speech legislation was passed.

→ Older people: To tackle the increasing need for care and the shortage of nursing staff, two care reform packages – comprising a total of 38 measures – were launched, new "nursing assistant" and "nursing specialist assistant" apprenticeships were established and easy-access care was promoted with *"community nursing"*.

→ International: Austria is also involved internationally in the social and health sector through its funding of projects to mitigate the social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, most recently as a member of the WHO Executive Board and via special attachés in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe.

2 Setting the scene

Social cohesion and solidarity come under particular pressure in times of crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic has clearly highlighted the shortage of nursing staff, domestic violence has increased, and young people in particular have suffered from the psychological consequences of the lockdowns. The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and the associated energy and inflation crisis have pushed some people to their financial limits, with some facing the threat of eviction. Displaced people from Ukraine have also sought refuge in Austria, especially women and children. The climate crisis is also having a negative impact on people in vulnerable situations, such as children, the elderly and people with pre-existing medical conditions.

The 2030 Agenda is a compass for navigating safely out of these multiple crises with the vision of a future, worth living for all. It must be brought to life at national, regional and local level – with attitudes, approaches and ultimately measures on which a democratic society agrees.

At the level of society as a whole, social cohesion manifests itself in the broadest possible understanding of a crisis-proof and resilient welfare state. To prevent and reduce poverty or social exclusion, the financial security of all people living in the country is of crucial importance, just as their social, economic, political and cultural participation is. In Austria, this participation is guaranteed by a modern, comprehensive and solidarity-based social and healthcare system that provides easy-access to individualised goods and services, financial support and a high level of healthcare.

The Austrian federal government is committed to constantly strengthening social cohesion and solidarity, sustainably reducing poverty and social exclusion and promoting equal opportunities, cultural and social participation in all areas of life and society. After all, equal opportunities for all not only have a positive effect on the life satisfaction and well-being of all people. It also contributes to social cohesion and social solidarity and promotes democratic participation. With three anti-inflation packages amounting to more than EUR 49 billion, the federal government has therefore launched a plethora of anti-inflationary support measures in various areas such as the labour market, economy, tourism, gastronomy and energy to cushion the negative consequences of inflation. Milestones of the anti-inflation packages include the abolition of the bracket creep and the valorisation of family and social benefits since January 1, 2023.

Key stakeholders for implementation are the federal ministries, federal provinces, municipalities, social partners, interest groups and civil society organisations.

3 Priorities and measures

People in vulnerable situations are particularly affected by the impact of multiple crises. Over the course of a lifetime, there are many different circumstances that can put anyone in a challenging situation over a period of time or in the long term. Reacting resiliently to crises becomes more challenging and people are more dependent on the social system. Support can consist of cash, in-kind benefits and services and take the form of direct payments, advice, care, information campaigns or other types of funding and assistance. In line with the SDG principle of "leaving no one behind", the federal government is responding to the multiple crises with numerous targeted measures to strengthen social cohesion and make it tangible.

The climate crisis with extreme weather events, such as increased heatwaves, also poses a particular challenge for vulnerable groups, especially the elderly and people with pre-existing medical conditions. Gesundheit Österreich GmbH has created the *"Climate and Health Competence Centre",* a research institution that analyses synergies between health promotion and climate protection and develops strategies. In addition, the *"eco-social tax reform"* has created an incentive for environmentally friendly behaviour by means of a climate bonus and carbon dioxide (CO_2) pricing. The revenue from CO_2 pricing is reimbursed in the form of a climate bonus along a stepped regional equalisation scheme. The principle behind this: The less CO_2 is consumed, the more is left over from the climate bonus. In this way, climate protection also pays off financially and the climate bonus is an important form of support for low incomes in particular. At the same time, Austria is taking its responsibility for climate protection seriously and is implementing European guidelines.

The following section provides an overview of various groups of people in vulnerable situations and measures that provide support:

Children

Children are most worthy of protection in our society. They are the future of Austria and therefore Austria must do everything possible to guarantee them the best possible upbringing. Family policies make a key contribution to reducing family and child poverty – especially for single parents, low-income families and families with many children. In comparison, Austria is well below the EU average in terms of the risk of poverty or social exclusion. The current family report shows that Austria is among the leaders in Europe in terms of financial family benefits.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government spent an additional EUR 1 billion on additional support for families, including through the *"Corona Family Hardship Fund"*, *"Corona Family Crisis Fund"*, *"Child Bonus"*, *"Special Family Allowance"* and *"Facilitated Advance Alimony Payment"*. In addition, sustainable measures in the area of family benefits were implemented during the current legislative period, such as the valorisation of family benefits (EUR 4.7 billion in total), an increase in the family bonus to EUR 2,000, an increase in the additional child allowance to EUR 700 and the plan to invest EUR 4.5 billion in the expansion of child education and care by 2030.

Austria's "National Action Plan for the Implementation of the European Child Guarantee", which was adopted by the federal government in December 2023 and which is in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, will also make an important contribution to combating poverty and social exclusion among children. The underlying EU recommendation arranges for the provision of six key services for children at risk of poverty or social exclusion by 2030 in the areas of health, education and housing. These include effective and free access to early childhood education and care, inclusive education and school-related activities, at least one healthy meal per school day, healthcare and effective access to healthy food and adequate housing. The action plan, which is accompanied by monitoring and evaluated on an ongoing basis, formulates corresponding measures that contribute to the overarching goal of halving the number of children affected by poverty or social exclusion in Austria by 2030.

As part of the current federal-provincial agreement on elementary education, the federal government will provide annual earmarked grants of EUR 200 million in the kindergarten years from 2022/23 to 2026/27 for the expansion of elementary education, the free of charge compulsory kindergarten year and early language support. In addition, from 2024 to 2028, EUR 500 million will flow annually from the newly created Future Fund to the federal provinces and municipalities for the expansion of elementary education.

For many families, the first day of school is a particularly heavy financial burden. The *"Schulstartklar!"* project, which is co-financed by the European Social Fund, supports pupils living in households receiving minimum income or social assistance with vouchers for school supplies. In 2023, this benefitted almost 48,000 pupils, which corresponds to



Frühe Hilfen

"Frühe Hilfen" is an overall concept of health promotion measures and targeted early intervention in pregnancy and early childhood that takes into account the resources and burdens of families in specific life situations. Since summer 2023, the *"Frühe Hilfen"* service has been available nationwide and in line with demand in all districts of Austria.

a take-up rate of 95%. From 2024, the voucher will be made available twice per school year, at the start of school and at the beginning of the second semester. To contribute to equal opportunities and modern teaching, all pupils at lower secondary level will be equipped with a digital device as part of the *"Digital School"* initiative.

To empower children and protect their rights, it is essential to enable them to participate in shaping our society. At a local level, the *"family and child-friendly communities"* and children's and youth councils particularly, are working to make cities and communities more inclusive. The Austrian Committee for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) held targeted training courses for local authorities on participation and children's rights.

Raising awareness of children's rights serves to implement them and promote a child-friendly society. The brochure "The Rights of Children and Young People", published by the Family and Youth Section of the Federal Chancellery, explains the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Federal Constitutional Act on the Rights of Children in easy-to-understand and child-friendly language.

In 2023, a comprehensive package of child protection measures was implemented with the following priorities: promotion of the implementation of child protection concepts; promotion of projects to raise awareness of children's rights, which in particular promotes projects to prohibit violence and protect children from sexualised violence; a nationwide child protection campaign and the expansion of family counselling centres. In addition, numerous stricter penalties have been introduced to reflect the wrongfulness of depicting sexualised violence against children. Particularly, the penalty for possession of a large number of depictions was introduced and existing penalties have been significantly increased or doubled.

Since 2023, there has been separate funding for projects to raise awareness of children's rights, with which the Family and Youth Section of the Federal Chancellery supports projects by civil society organisations that are relevant to children's rights. In 2024, there will be an Austria-wide child protection campaign aimed at strengthening child protection and children's rights.

Youth Ambassadors for UN Children's Rights & SDGs of Caritas International Aid Vorarlberg

The youth ambassadors are 30 young people from Vorarlberg who have been campaigning for UN children's rights since 2013 and for the SDGs since 2015 as part of a Caritas Vorarlberg project. They organise workshops on the topics for schools, but also educate apprentices and companies on the SDGs. They create musicals, exhibitions, giant figures and have launched their own projects together with Ethiopian young people.

Teenagers

That Austria's schools were partially or completely closed for almost ten months during the first phase of the COVID-19 pandemic in order to maintain public health, and that many other restrictions remained in place afterwards, was particularly hard on children and young people. Educational gaps emerged and educational inequality and thus inequality of opportunity for marginalised groups was further exacerbated. In addition to losses in learning, restrictions on leisure activities and the essential cultivation of relationships with peers, there was a sharp rise in mental health problems among young people. To support troubled children and young people in coping with psychosocial problems as a result of the current multiple crises, this target group will be given free and nationwide easy-access psychotherapeutic and psychological counselling and treatment as part of the *"Gesund aus der Krise" (*2022) and *"Gesund aus der Krise II"* (2023) projects.

Schools are an important setting for promoting the psychosocial and physical health of children and young people as a social learning, living and working space. School psychology and school social work have therefore been expanded. Their fields of activity include psychological counselling for individual pupils and support for schools in the areas of violence prevention, crisis management and the prevention of school dropouts. The expansion of school social work has also been stepped up.

The amendments regarding the criminal detention in forensic therapeutic centres are intended to ensure that the deprivation of liberty of juveniles and young adults with mental disorders is designed in accordance with human rights, both in terms of the conditions of placement and the quality of care.

In order to reduce the number of early drop-outs from education, the compulsory program *"Training till 18"* has proven to be a successful instrument for supporting young people in finding training and in the transition from school to work. It enables young people to obtain a higher qualification after compulsory schooling through targeted advice and cooperation with various stakeholders. This increases individual chances of finding a good job.

In addition, young people are actively supported in the framework of other successfully implemented apprenticeship-oriented qualification offers from the Public Employment Service Austria (AMS) (e. g. supra-company training scheme, *"The Training Guarantee till 25"*). Individual employment and training opportunities for young people and young adults in prison with a focus on increasing skills, abilities and competencies are intended to reduce the likelihood of reoffending and increase their employment opportunities in the long term.

People with disabilities

At the interface between school and work, the *"Network of Vocational Assistance"* makes an important contribution to supporting people with disabilities. They are accompanied and supported by youth coaching, *"Fit for Training"*, vocational education assistance, job coaching, work assistance and the company service in their training, job search and job retention. These services give people with disabilities the opportunity to establish themselves on the labour market in the long term. People with disabilities also have access to the full range of services, measures and support provided by the AMS. The support options include needs-based training and career information as well as individual counselling taking personal challenges into account.

Furthermore, in future there will be no automatic determination of incapacity for work for adolescents and young adults with disabilities. This group of people is looked after and registered by the AMS and can take advantage of relevant services. In future, they will no longer be required to undergo a work capability assessment before reaching the age of 25. A corresponding amendment to the law came into force on January 1, 2024.

Following the first *"National Action Plan (NAP) on Disability 2012–2020/2021"*, the Austrian federal government adopted a new *"NAP on Disability II"* on July 6, 2022, to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The measures will be implemented continuously in the period from 2022 to 2030 and will be scientifically monitored and evaluated on an ongoing basis.

Art for health

The interface between art and health has been specifically strengthened by the Federal Ministry of Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport (BMKÖS) for several years, for example in the areas of well-being, destigmatisation or disease prevention. *"Arts for Health"* refers to non-clinical, evidence-based interventions that focus on the participatory, artistic process, such as dance workshops for people with visual impairments or a musical breathing program for long-term COVID-19 sufferers.

People affected by poverty

For many people in employment, the COVID-19 pandemic has meant an additional burden, massive pay cuts or even the loss of their job. The *"COVID-19 Poverty Act"* and the *"Livelihood and Housing Cost Equalisation Act"* (LWA-G) are far-reaching measures to cushion the social impact of the pandemic and inflation-related price increases on vulnerable groups of people. The LWA-G supports families with children who receive unemployment benefits, emergency assistance, social assistance or an equalisation supplement, as well as single parents on low incomes, and enables projects in the area of charitable and free food distribution to vulnerable households. For families with children, EUR 60 per month per child will be paid out automatically and without application until the end of 2024, if they are in receipt of unemployment benefits, emergency assistance, social assistance or equalisation supplement.

In 2021 and 2022, 40 projects by social organisations with a total volume of around EUR 42.8 million were also supported on the basis of the special guideline "COVID-19 Poverty Reduction" and as part of other project funding in accordance with the "*General Framework Guidelines for the Granting of Subsidies from Federal Funds*" (ARR 2014) with project durations from 2021 to 2024. One focus was on combating child and youth poverty, but projects in the areas of housing, health and the provision of basic goods were also funded. This made an important contribution to overcoming the social consequences of the pandemic. The *"Growing Effectively"* call for proposals supports seven projects that can demonstrate their impact on reducing child poverty by scaling them up to a total of EUR 4.9 million. In addition, one-off payments were granted to households receiving social assistance or minimum income benefits to help them cope with higher living costs, due particularly to price increases in heating and energy. The labour market policy instrument "short-time work" in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic secured jobs and thus also employment opportunities for apprentices and young employees.

The pandemic has highlighted the importance of cultural offerings for social cohesion and the resilience of communities. The *"Culture Pass"* gives socially disadvantaged people free entry to numerous cultural institutions. People living below the poverty threshold, people who receive minimum income or equalization allowances, people on emergency assistance or refugees have access to the Culture Pass. The *"Hunger for Art and Culture"* initiative has set up its own Culture Pass app with the support of the BMKÖS. Other incentives for cultural visits include free admission to federal museums for young people up to the age of 19, the Federal Museum Card for adults and the *"Nonstop Cinema Subscription"*. To strengthen the cultural education of children and young people and make relevant offers more visible and accessible, the BMKÖS launched the information campaign *"also different"* at the end of September 2023, which provides information about opportunities for cultural visits and highlights affordable offers. Due to rising prices, more and more people were reaching the limits of their financial capacity. An

"ombuds-service for loan repayment difficulties" set up at the BMSGPK in January 2022 helps consumers who have difficulties repaying a loan to find amicable solutions with their lenders and prevent excessive late payment costs. Through the ombuds-service, the BMSGPK also receives information on typical problems in the credit sector and can set corresponding consumer policy priorities.

Families and especially single parents are particularly challenged by the current crises. Since 2021, the BMSGPK has therefore been funding several large-scale projects to support single parents. The aim is to prevent poverty among single parents and to cushion the additional burdens caused by the COVID-19 crisis. The focus of the funding is on improving the material, social and cultural participation of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion and their families. The projects include, for example, offers of support and relief in everyday life (e. g. childcare, household help), expansion of information and advice services as well as support with court proceedings and visits to the authorities. As it is predominantly women who are single parents, this also prevents female poverty in old age.

Women

The successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its principle of "leaving no one behind" depends fundamentally on the achievement of actual gender equality. Systemic challenges such as the fact that women take on the bulk of childcare or their lower pay continue to necessitate the targeted empowerment and advancement of women. Among other things, the annual *"NGO Dialogue"* between the Federal Minister responsible for women and equality and non-governmental organisations in the field of anti-discrimination contributes to this.

To strengthen the economic independence of girls and women and dismantle gender stereotypes and traditional gender roles, the Austrian Fund for the Empowerment of Women and Girls *"LEA – Let's Empower Austria"* began its work in 2022.

In relation to their share of the unemployed, women receive disproportionately high support from the budget of labour market policies. This overfunding has been increased from 2022 to 4% above the proportion of unemployed people. *Gender mainstreaming* and *gender budgeting* are key instruments for promoting equality between women and men in all policy fields and areas of life. As part of the current federal-provincial agreement on elementary education, the federal government will provide annual earmarked grants of EUR 200 million in the kindergarten years 2022/23 to 2026/27 for the expansion of elementary education, the free of charge compulsory kindergarten year and early language support. In addition, from 2024 to 2028, EUR 500 million per year will flow from the newly created Future Fund to the federal states and municipalities for the expansion of elementary education.

To combat violence against women, a large number of measures have been implemented to strengthen the prevention of and protection from violence. Based on the Austrian federal government's package of measures to combat violence against women (Council of Ministers decision 59/16 of May 21, 2021), the violence protection centres and the *"Intervention Center for Trafficked Women"* were significantly strengthened financially and the overall budget of the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs in the area of "Prevention of male violence against women" was further increased. The priority activities concern measures such as the prevention of male violence against women as well as awareness-raising measures and the dismantling of gender stereotypes, especially at an early age with the help of violence-prevention workshops for boys. The women's and girls' counselling centres, which have an important role in the prevention of and protection from violence as a easy-access first point of contact, have been expanded to 100% coverage, thus ensuring a structurally sustainable counselling and support service for women and girls. In addition, an agreement was concluded for the first time between the federal government and the provincial governments on the expansion of places and counselling hours in shelters – especially in transitional housing. In addition, the establishment of a prevention and counselling project for girls and women with a migration or refugee background, affected by violence and forced marriage in western Austria was funded. Another focus was on public relations work and awareness-raising through various awareness and education campaigns to combat violence against women. For victims of violence, harassment and abuse of power in the arts, culture and sport, the *"vera*"* confidential advice centre was set up as a point of contact for those affected.

Measures in the area of violence prevention work for men

The focus lies on the Austria-wide expansion of violence-prevention work with men (introduction of a mandatory six-hour counselling session for people receiving a protection and mobile restraining order, funding of easy-access counselling for men in crisis, men's information helpline, online chat counselling, etc.) as well as gender-sensitive work with boys (violence prevention workshops), the implementation of the media-effective campaign *"men speak up"* and the promotion of the project "*StoP – Neighbourhoods without Partner violence*".

Numerous measures have also been taken in the area of justice to protect victims of violence, such as the strengthening of free legal and psychosocial court assistance and the possible court order for violence prevention counselling for perpetrators of violence. The legislation on comabting online hate speech makes a decisive contribution to combating digital violence with a comprehensive package of measures. Among other things, the new mandate procedure enables the rapid, easy-access issuing of a protection order, extends court support, provides for higher compensation in media law and reduces the risk of cost, even in the event of discontinued proceedings or an acquittal.

In addition, interministerial work is being carried out with regards to the nationwide establishment of more violence outpatient clinics. To this end, a jointly financed pilot project has initially been set up in eastern and southern Austria by the participating ministries, under the leadership of the Federal Ministry of Justice (BMJ) and with the involvement of the BKA, BMI and BMSGPK. The violence outpatient clinics will offer coordinated outpatient services to people affected by violence in Vienna, Lower Austria and northern Burgenland (model region East) and in Styria, Carinthia and southern Burgenland (model region South).

Socio-economic and societal factors influence health prospects and access to health information and care. The *"Women's Health Report 2022"* shows the relevance of collecting and analysing gender-specific data: Women and men are affected by illnesses differently and react to them differently. One important finding is that although women live longer than men, they live longer in poor to moderate health. The annual *"Women's Health Dialogue"* strengthens the exchange between the relevant stakeholders and is an important cornerstone in the implementation of the Women's Health Action Plan.

Older people

Austrian society is ageing. This means that issues such as poverty in old age and age discrimination, as well as health and care, are becoming increasingly relevant. People with care and support needs as well as family caregivers, including *Young Carers,* are particularly vulnerable and more affected by crises. The Austrian federal government is committed to providing these people with effective support. For this reason, two comprehensive "*care reform packages*" were launched in 2022 and 2023. As part of these, various measures were taken to support professional carers: In order to be able to guarantee professional and high-quality care in the future, their salaries were increased. In order to make training more attractive, corresponding improvements were implemented, such as the financing of a monthly training contribution for prospective nursing and care staff.

To prepare for the future demand for nursing staff, the *"nursing assistant"* and *"nursing specialist assistant"* apprenticeships have also been established. These new training pathways make it possible to begin training in healthcare and nursing as part of an

age-appropriate curriculum after completing nine years of compulsory schooling and form the basis for further professional specialist qualifications. The reform packages also include, for example, the *"relatives' bonus"*, which benefits around 80,000 family caregivers, the expansion of the option to take advantage of psychological support as part of so-called relatives' talks and an increase in the federal care allowance for people with severe mental disabilities and dementia. In addition, funding for 24-hour care has been increased to make it more affordable.

Strengthening primary care

Strengthening primary care is a focus of the "Universal Health Coverage". The project *"Attractiveness and Promotion of Primary Care"* (EU Recovery Fund 2020–2026 with EUR 100 million) promotes the expansion of multiprofessional primary care. This enables patients to receive a wide range of high-quality services and low-threshold care, as well as more attractive working conditions for those working in the social and healthcare professions.

Furthermore, as part of the active labour market policy, the *"care scholarship"* was set up in the form of a grant from the AMS to help combat the shortage of skilled workers in the health and care sectors. Since January 1, 2023, this has guaranteed an income of at least EUR 1,400 per month during training in certain professions. The amount will be valorised annually from January 1, 2024.

Health affects people of all ages, but the risk of falling ill increases with age. The Federal Health Commission has adopted the *"Austrian Health Targets"*. These address the key factors influencing health in all relevant policy and social areas *("Health in all Policies"*). The health targets also serve as an orientation framework for the health promotion strategy as part of the *"Federal Target Control Agreement"*. This involves a well-coordinated approach between the federal government, provinces and social insurance to strengthen health promotion in Austria. The Austrian Health Literacy Platform promotes this, taking into account the *"health-in-all-policies"* approach. Health literacy makes a significant contribution to health and health equity in the population.

The "*World Health Organization Action Network on Measuring Health Literacy in Populations and Organizations*", or M-POHL for short, creates a data basis for this. The first project to be carried out was the *"European Health Literacy Survey 2019–2021"* in 17 countries. Its focus was on new developments and challenges in the population's health literacy and on vulnerable groups. Recommendations were developed based on the results.

Migrants

By providing numerous offers of integration for migrants, the Department of Integration, together with the Austrian Integration Fund (ÖIF), makes a significant contribution to successful integration in Austria and the achievement of SDG targets 10.2 " Promote universal social, economic and political inclusion " and 10.7 " Responsible and well-managed migration policies". Targeted integration measures are adapted to developments and offered to the various target groups. These integration services provided by the ÖIF include integration counselling, German language courses, values and orientation courses as well as various in-depth integration services. To date, over 1.3 million migrants have taken part in integration counselling and over 167,500 in values and orientation courses. At the same time, active integration efforts on the part of this target group are essential and are also required as part of legal obligations, in particular of the Integration Act, which came into force in 2017.

In addition, measures for the integration of women with a migration background have been increasingly implemented and promoted since 2020: The central aim is to enable women with a migration background to participate equally in social life in Austria and to support them in their efforts to integrate and lead a self-determined and non-violent life. The ÖIF has set up counselling services available throughout Austria, specifically for women with a migration background, but also for men. In addition, two ÖIF women's centres bundle integration services for women under one roof and offer integration and counselling services as contact points for migrated women, especially on the topics of educational opportunities and the job market, health, self-determination and protection against violence. A close cooperation exists with women's protection facilities. These services are available to all migrant and refugee women free of charge and anonymously on request. It is also essential to improve the health of women and girls affected by female genital mutilation (FGM), which was achieved by establishing an *"FGM Coordination Office"* in 2021. This will enable the expansion of prevention by raising awareness among women and girls at risk and educating affected communities. There is also specific support for labour market integration, especially for women, for example via ÖIF career platforms and the ÖIF integration service for skilled workers.

4 International dimension

Global problems also need global solutions. Austria is actively involved in international organisations. With the various instruments of development policy, Austria contributes to creating prospects for people in an environment of social and political stability, in line with the 2030 Agenda. For sustainable economic development in our partner countries, Austrian development policy focuses on strengthening private sector development.

Sustainable social and economic development that benefits as many population groups as possible, is the basis for combating poverty. Compliance with human rights and social and environmental standards is crucial both in development policy activities and in foreign economic and trade policy. Austria therefore advocates for comprehensive and binding sustainability chapters as an integral part of EU trade agreements with third countries. At the multilateral level, Austria supports the work of the World Trade Organization (WTO) on trade and the environment, including topic-specific plurilateral initiatives, to be able to meet the global challenges in the fight against climate change with the necessary policies.

Taking European and international standards for corporate responsibility into account is an important lever for achieving the SDGs in the countries of the Global South.

In addition to development cooperation in various areas by the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, the Austrian Development Agency and the Federal Ministry of Finance, the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK) also implements projects in partner countries in the social and health sector. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the BMSGPK funded Austrian NGOs with a total value of EUR 10 million, which aided the implementation of numerous international projects to mitigate the social and health consequences of the pandemic. EUR 5 million were also made available to Austrian NGOs from the Austrian Foreign Disaster Fund to support health projects to accompany the distribution of vaccines to third countries in need.

In the area of international ageing policy, Austria is actively involved in various bodies, such as the *"Standing Working Group on Ageing"* (SWGA) and the associated bureau at the level of the United Nation's Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). As part of these activities, Austria has published its national report on the review of the World Ageing Plan for the years 2018 to 2022. Austria is also actively involved in the *Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing* (OEWGA). In November 2023, the BMSGPK organised an *"International Conference on Human Rights of Older Persons"* (ICHROP).

At a multilateral level, the World Health Organization (WHO) is the international specialist organisation for health with 194 Member States. Austria was elected to the WHO Executive Board for the years 2019 to 2022. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the new sub-committee " *Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response*" (SCHEPPR) was established at Austria's initiative. The SCHEPPR's tasks include reviewing pandemic and emergency preparedness and response measures, providing guidance to the WHO Executive Board and making recommendations as required.

As part of bilateral cooperation, the BMSGPK regularly receives delegations for study visits from abroad and is currently represented by three "*special attachés*" in Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and, since summer 2023, Ukraine. They provide advice on welfare state issues such as social insurance, the pension system, care, inclusion, health and consumer protection, share Austrian experience and support these countries in their reform efforts.

As a result of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, many Ukrainians also fled to Austria. The more than 99,000 displaced persons were given access to health insurance, the labour market, education and basic services in Austria. In addition, Austria has so far mobilised a total of around EUR 234 million in financial and humanitarian aid for Ukraine and particularly affected neighbouring countries.

JUUN – Strengthening youth participation and reducing inequalities

As part of the Federal Youth Council (BJV) project *"Strengthening Youth Participation and Reducing Inequalities"*, young people from various African Union countries and from Austria are engaging with inequalities and how to overcome them, including at a dialog conference between young people and politicians. The BJV cooperates in the context of JUUN with the "African Union Envoy on Youth".





Skills for 2030 – Competencies for sustainable development

1 Key messages

→ Skills for 2030 for all stakeholders are a decisive lever for the SDGs.

→ The strategy and the competence package for digital skills, and media and information literacy are the basis for sustainable inclusive digitalisation.

→ The transformation to sustainability creates new opportunities for the economy and the labour market, for which relevant skills and qualifications are essential.

→ Companies have an important role to play in training their employees for the Skills for 2030.

→ To address the shortage of skilled workers and future challenges, the tried and tested dual vocational training system must be strengthened by increasing the quality of training and expanding further vocational training opportunities. Active labour market policies also ensure that no one is left behind. People also need personal, interdisciplinary and interpersonal skills.

→ Skills for corporate responsibility are essential for achieving the SDGs worldwide.

2 Setting the Scene

Levers for the SDGs – Skills for 2030

Digitalisation is one of the greatest economic and social upheavals of the last century. Digitalisation as a lever for achieving the SDGs was discussed in Austria's first VNR and subsequently in various formats. The topic of competencies and knowledge ("skills") for achieving the SDGs came to the fore.

These skills for 2030 are defined by the UN as the knowledge, competencies and attitudes needed to live in, develop and support a sustainable and resource-efficient society.

In the study *"Skills for 2030 to achieve the SDGs"* published by the BMAW in September 2023, 30 Austrian skills initiatives are analysed for their relevance to the SDGs. The study underlines the importance of skills for achieving the SDGs. It identifies options for action to promote skills for the SDGs, such as a sustainability skills campaign, improving the quality of basic education, linking future skills with the SDGs and strengthening the collective skills of organisations (including businesses) for sustainability.

Priorities and measures for skills for 2030

A sustainable economy and society are crucial for achieving the SDGs. The transformation towards a sustainable economy and society and the achievement of the SDGs depends largely on the skills of all stakeholders – individuals, businesses, organisations and institutions.

To realise the labour market opportunities arising from the sustainable transformation, appropriate skills for 2030, such as green & digital skills, are required.

The shortage of skilled workers has been one of the biggest challenges for several years, especially for SMEs. According to the Skilled Workers Radar 2022, a survey of around 4,000 businesses, 73% of companies are affected by a very severe to severe shortage of skilled workers.

The Austrian Government Programme 2020 to 2024, as a strategic framework to combat the shortage of skilled workers, aims to provide well-trained, motivated skilled workers with measures such as increased education, further training, qualification and professional reorientation and additional support in areas dealing with digitalisation or the climate crisis. It is relevant to facilitate the transition to future-proof occupations and to promote attractive, sustainable jobs with good working conditions, equal opportunities and the inclusion of disadvantaged groups.

In the field of care, the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) is reacting with new types of schools – technical colleges for social professions and colleges for social care and nursing. The Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK) is addressing the increasing demand for nursing and care staff with the nursing reform packages of 2022 and 2023 with improvements to training and jobs, easier nostrification and financial support for trainees.

The reform of the *"Red-White-Red Card"* and further facilitations for the admission of skilled and key workers from third countries will counteract the shortage of skilled workers. The potential of (highly) qualified third-country nationals is to be utilised even better for the domestic economy.

The *"European Year of Skills"* began with Europe Day on May 9, 2023. Its focus is on education and training relevant to the labour market, future-oriented skills and reskilling. A stakeholder group with all relevant actors in Austria was established as a networking and information platform. On December 1, 2023, the high-level conference *"Green and Digital Skills: Opportunities and Challenges for the Future"* took place in Vienna as a central stakeholder event as part of the *"European Year of Skills"*.

Highlighting comprehensive opportunities for social procurement

The government program 2020 to 2024 focuses on sustainable public procurement. Taking social aspects into account in the procurement process can make a significant contribution to achieving social objectives, given the volume of public procurement. Contracting authorities therefore have a great responsibility to make the best possible use of their options when planning and implementing projects for the procurement of services.

3 Skills for future-proof companies and organisations

Skills for sustainable companies and organisations

To successfully address future opportunities and challenges, companies need skills for 2030 such as sustainable procurement, waste prevention, energy efficiency and environmental protection. The skills of managers for sustainability are essential. Sustainability is increasingly in demand among businesses, employees and young people in particular. Non-profit organisations can act as role models in this regard. Companies have an important role to play in the education and training of their employees in sustainability.

Public procurement can provide important incentives, for example by restricting the award of contracts to businesses whose aim is the social and professional integration of disadvantaged groups of people.

Companies and sustainable digitalisation

Digitalisation requires companies to enable their employees to use digital tools, but also to develop skills in digitalisation benefits and risks. The *"Qualification Campaign"* launched by the BMAW in 2021 will strengthen Austrian companies in their digitalisation and innovation agendas. The aim is to systematically develop and expand the skills of companies and their employees in the areas of research, technology, development, innovation and digitalisation. Knowledge transfer and cooperation between science and industry are also supported.

As part of the *"Qualification Campaign"*, the *"Digital Skills Cheque"* was available until spring 2023, which funded the costs of SMEs for professional development of their employees. The *"Innovation Camps"* provided funding for customised, cooperative training projects, while *"Digital Pro Bootcamps"* supported the upskilling of IT specialists in companies. Since spring 2023, the qualification campaign has been part of the transformation offensive and is offered in the programmes Skills Checks, Qualification Projects and Training LABs.

The *"Corona Job Initiative"*, the largest qualification initiative since 1945, focused on environmental protection, sustainability and digitalisation, among other things. The promotion of jobs in socio-economic enterprises in the circular economy offered people removed from the labour market a temporary job and the opportunity for practical learning.

The digital skills package based on the *"Digital Skills Austria"* strategy focuses on sustainable digitalisation in companies. The *"IT Experts"* funding program will support innovative implementation ideas to combat the shortage of IT specialists. The spread

of artificial intelligence in workplace is to be accompanied by interministerial measures, with experts developing recommendations.

As part of the EU "*Digital Services Act*" regulation (in conjunction with the " *Coordinator for Digital Services Act"*), measures provided for since February 17, 2024, such as the information mechanism for orders to take action against illegal content (Art. 9 DSA) and the obligation of online platform providers to provide an effective internal complaints management system for reporting illegal content (Art. 20 DSA), have been added.

Developing sustainable business models – the role of social enterprises

Companies need knowledge, skills, courage and support to develop sustainable concepts and business models. This includes approaches such as the sharing economy and sustainable development models. Social enterprises and civil society organisations play an important role in implementing the 2030 Agenda by focusing on environmental protection, social justice and meaningful jobs. Examples include *"Verified Social Enterprise"* from BMAW, SENA and WKO as well as the "*Seal of Quality for Social Enterprises"* from AMS and *"work plus"*. In the "Preseed|Seedfinancing – Innovative Solutions" programme line, projects for the pre-foundation, foundation and initial growth of (future) businesses with a high degree of innovation, high positive social added value/impact as well as realistic and high market opportunities within the framework of scalable business models are funded. Such certifications and labels support companies in reflecting on their contribution to the SDGs and making it visible.

Non-profit organisations make a relevant contribution to economic value creation (4% of GDP, 6% of employees work in non-profit organisations (NPOs), 31% of the population volunteer in an organisation). Challenges are the dependence on donations or funding and, in some cases, lower wages than in the private sector. Austria recognises the value of these organisations for society and offers funding opportunities for projects.

The BMKÖS's *"Fairness Process"* aims to sustainably improve working conditions in the cultural sector, especially for women, by implementing various measures to ensure fair pay, social security, diversification, respectful cooperation and the prevention of abuse of power.

Good and sufficient jobs – leaving no one behind

Ensuring gender equality, life models, working time models, physical and mental limitations, knowledge of systemic or institutional barriers are important for access to jobs and their attractiveness. Skills for 2030 can therefore ensure a fairer transformation. The active commitment of companies and suitable policy framework conditions are a prerequisite for leaving no one behind.

The so-called "fourth industrial revolution" is creating new jobs and business opportunities. However, the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) shows that (young) women in particular have less access to digital technologies and are underrepresented in technological universities and companies; the difference is even more pronounced in the field of artificial intelligence.

"Company apprenticeship funding" under the Vocational Training Act comprises quality-related grants and topic-related project funding. These are set out in BMAW guidelines and coordinated by the social partners. Funding is provided, among other things, for participation in training networks, further training for instructors and improving basic skills in German and English language and mathematics. The project funding is aimed at integrating young people and young adults into dual vocational training, promoting women in male-dominated professions and improving quality and innovation in training. The *"FiT – Women in Crafts and Engineering"* programme promotes the training of women in technical professions with a low proportion of women.

A balanced gender ratio in companies has a positive effect on the entire organisation. Since 2011, the Austrian federal government has been aiming to increase the proportion of women on the supervisory boards of companies held by 50% or more by the state. An annual progress report shows that the federal quota for women in these companies averaged 51.4% in 2023, compared to 50% in 2022 and 26% in 2011.

The pay increase through the care reform is a decisive step towards improving working conditions in the care sector. The federal government has made EUR 570 million available to the federal provinces for 2022 and 2023 to increase salaries for nursing and care staff, tackle the shortage of skilled workers and make the nursing profession more attractive overall. On January 1, 2024, the implementation of the pay increase was transferred to the Care Fund Act, thus ensuring the long-term financing of the measure.

Various measures are taken as part of active labour market policies to help people furthest from the labour market to regain a foothold in the labour market. For example, non-profit social enterprises throughout Austria are commissioned to support people who have been unemployed for a long time by providing temporary, subsidised employment, advice and training to help them (re-)enter the labour market.



Women in Crafts and Engineering (FiT)

The “Women in Crafts and Engineering” (FiT) programme offers women the opportunity to complete initial and further training in crafts and technical occupations with a low proportion of women up to apprenticeship or a bachelor’s degree. The aim is that more women work in future-oriented fields with higher income opportunities. Throughout the course of the programme, participants are supported by specialised women’s and girls’ advice centres. The measure is financed from the AMS funding budget.

Preparing companies for sustainability reporting obligations

Increasing transparency requirements and the associated reporting obligations require companies to improve their skills in the area of sustainability and reporting, e. g. with regard to value chains. The EU directive on sustainability reporting is becoming increasingly important for companies. Timely preparation for reporting obligations and thus the implementation of sustainability standards is a decisive competitive advantage.

Austria wants to facilitate reporting obligations for companies, for example, by making data on public procurement procedures, including those in which sustainability is a priority, available as "open data". Thus, this "open data" could also be used for reporting obligations.

Cross-company and international skills development

In the face of current and future challenges, companies and managers must continue to develop and build up knowledge. *"Communities of practice"* can help with this.

In 2017, the BMAW launched the platform *"SDG Business Forum – Austria's economy and the global goals for sustainable development"*. Its aim is to promote Austria's contribution to the 2030 Agenda based on the strengths of Austrian businesses. Qualified local workers and the need for vocational training in emerging and developing countries are decisive factors for the success of Austrian companies. The project *"Local skilled workers as a key factor for markets in emerging and developing countries"* showcases examples to discuss how Austrian companies can successfully contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and at the same time open up new market opportunities by involving well-trained local skilled workers in their business activities.

The BMAW's *"Tourism and the SDGs"* platform provides practical information and best-practice examples from Austria on tourism and the SDGs. This creates awareness of the 2030 Agenda in the industry and encourages people to take on social and ecological responsibility together. Students and school pupils can present their research work here. Young talents in tourism can thus make their findings available as a source of information and inspiration.

4 Promoting skills for 2030 among the population

In addition to job-related skills, personal, interdisciplinary and interpersonal skills are needed to prepare the population for the future demands of the labour market and everyday life.

Professional skills for 2030

Digital skills for professional life

Rapid technological developments are increasing the need for digital skills in business, the workplace and society. However, according to the European Commission's *Digital Economy and Society Index*, around 30 to 40% of the population in Austria between the ages of 16 and 74 lacked basic digital skills in 2022. The potential for improvement is particularly high in the areas of basic knowledge and IT security. According to the Digital Skills Indicator, an indicator specially developed with Statistics Austria, challenges for digital skills include educational background, generational and gender differences, an urban-rural divide, as well as health, (physical) impairments and financial resources. In addition, factors such as low formal education and origin outside of Austria influence the level of digitalisation. The majority of these factors correlate with the risk groups for disadvantage in the labour market.

The aim is to impart basic digital skills to as many people in Austria as possible by 2030. With the *"Digital Skills Offensive",* Austria is joining forces for more digital skills and has established a stakeholder initiative supported by four ministries (BMF, BMKÖS, BMAW, BMBWF). Under the European umbrella *"Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition",* Austria is aiming to become one of the European pioneers. The corresponding strategy was developed in a stakeholder process with more than 500 experts from 80 institutions.

The proportion of IT specialists, especially women, is to be increased through regional networking and innovative campaigns and digital talent is to be promoted. Areas of action include career guidance and counselling, gender-sensitive teaching, teacher training, further training and retraining, reducing dropout rates, attracting skilled workers and mobilising career changers.

The *"European Digital Skills Certificate"* is intended to enable the mutual recognition of digital skills certificates throughout the European Union.

In the 2022/23 school year, the compulsory subject *"Digital Basic Education"* was introduced at secondary schools and lower levels of general secondary schools. The cultural digitalisation campaign includes a digitalisation strategy for cultural heritage and the multi-year funding programme *"Digital Transformation"* with a focus on digital skills.

Digitalisation, artificial intelligence and the development of a sustainable economy are creating new professions with special requirements. A lack of skills is one reason for unfilled vacancies. Lifelong learning is important to adapt to new requirements. The AMS has developed the *"Competence Matching"* tool to achieve more precise placement results and make qualifications more targeted. The *"BMAW AMS skilled workers barometer"* provides quarterly data on shortages of skilled workers at an occupational level for Austria and the individual federal provinces.

To overcome the global challenges of the digital and green transformation, there is an urgent need to attract young people, especially women, to STEM training and to teach them interdisciplinary skills and green skills. In June 2023, the BMBWF therefore presented the *"MI(N)Tmachen"* action plan as part of the STEM skills offensive. With its eight action lines, the action plan addresses the entire education chain from kindergarten entry to university graduation. By implementing the plan by 2030, the aim is to increase the proportion of STEM graduates at Austrian universities by 20% and the proportion of women graduating with a technical degree by 5%.

STEM regions: MI(N)Tmachen

As part of the BMBWF's "STEM Action Plan" under the motto "Everyone STEM together", the "STEM Regions" project encourages the establishment and expansion of regional STEM networks and at the same time strengthens the transfer of knowledge of good ideas across provincial borders. The BMBWF, together with its cooperation partners the Federation of Austrian Industries, the "MINTality Stiftung" and the Austrian Education Agency OeAD, awarded the "STEM Regions Quality Label" for the first time in December 2023. 14 regional STEM networks received awards. Around 380 stakeholders are currently involved in the 14 Austrian STEM regions – including 161 kindergartens and schools, 88 businesses, 15 universities and over 100 other partners from public or private institutions. A new round of calls for proposals started in April 2024.

Vocational training, apprenticeships and higher vocational education

Vocational training has a high priority in Austria. Young people receive training for qualified jobs up to the age of 18 according to the training obligation anchored in the law and the training guarantee up to the age of 25.

The development of new job profiles and apprenticeships is carried out with the involvement of experts from relevant sectors and the social partners and with scientific support. Training regulations are designed to be competence- and practice-oriented. Emphasis is placed on interdisciplinary skills transfer and social participation. For example, in 2022/2023, the metal technology and electrical engineering apprenticeships ,with a total of over 20,000 apprentices, were given a new job profile. Combining an apprenticeship with a school-leaving certificate strengthens permeability in vocational training. Around 10% of apprentices take advantage of this additional training option.

The introduction of *"Higher Vocational Education"* is intended to provide a legal framework to respond to the need for higher qualifications on the labour market, especially in green jobs.

The free *"Apprentice and training company coaching"* supports apprentices and trainers in all challenges relating to apprenticeship training. Up to 3,000 coaching sessions and consultations are used every year.

Active labour market policies focuse on the inclusion of people with disabilities (*"National Disability Action Plan 2022–2030 – NAP Disability"*), people with health impairments (e. g. *"fit2work"* counselling) and older people (e. g. *"Employment Initiative 50+"*) as well as long-term unemployed people (e. g. integration subsidies and social enterprises).

Green Skills

If Austria is to take the necessary step towards climate neutrality by 2040, it needs to acquire green skills. Climate protection, the energy, heating and mobility transition in particular offer enormous job and qualification potential with far-reaching effects on the labour market. Over the past three years, numerous qualifications, training and retraining courses have been initiated.

The Environmental Foundation promotes training and further education as well as extraordinary apprenticeships in green jobs for low-skilled workers and people with qualifications that are no longer applicable. One of the first European training centres for climate protection will train specialists in Lower Austria in the fields of ecology, environment and energy management. The conversion and expansion of the Waldviertel Vocational Training Centre, financed by the Lower Austrian AMS, is in operation and was officially opened in mid-April 2024. In addition to highly qualified workers, future employment sectors will also require workers with low and medium qualifications. Active

Innovations in apprenticeship training

In all new job profiles for apprenticeships (training regulations in accordance with the Vocational Training Act), green and digital skills are mapped as independent areas of competence. In addition, specific apprenticeships such as wastewater technology will be newly established.



labour market policies are already supporting social enterprises that work towards their mission of labour market integration in areas of the circular economy and provide experience in the field of waste management (e.g. collection and sorting of materials such as textiles or electrical appliances), in the ecological construction sector or in the re-use and repair sector.

The mobility research, technology and innovation sector is essential. Green skills mean, for example, training electricians in charging station infrastructure, turning driving instructors into eco-driving trainers and establishing a training course for bicycle technicians. In the RTI sector, the BMK is working with the Austrian Research Promotion Agency to get young people excited about research as a career field and to strengthen gender equality.

The *"Forum for Environmental Education"* (Fub) is a nationwide initiative of the BMK, BMBWF and the Service Agency for Educational Opportunities on topics related to the 2030 Agenda. As a focal point of the new UNESCO programme *"Education2030 Framework for Action"*, the Fub underlines the importance of Education for Sustainable Development for the implementation of the SDGs. The aim is to provide learners with skills and abilities that enable them to actively and responsibly help to shape the future. The offer includes didactic materials for teaching the SDGs, networking and participation opportunities, competitions and awards as well as digital training opportunities.

Skills for entrepreneurial thinking

Entrepreneurial skills are essential for the future of young people, such as solution-oriented action, teamwork and creative thinking. This is promoted, for example, as part of the *"Youth Entrepreneurship Week"* (YEW) initiative. YEW is supported by the BMAW, BMBWF, WKO, Austrian Startups and the Initiative for Teaching Entrepreneurship. It is aimed at young people aged 14 to 19. From autumn 2020 to the beginning of March 2024, over 236 YEWs were held in Austria with around 10,600 participants. The successful project will continue in the 2024/25 school year.

"Innovative Youth" is Austria's largest school competition for innovative ideas. Pupils and apprentices between the ages of 15 and 20 are invited to research, experiment, tinker, design and think outside the box and demonstrate their innovative potential. The project topic can be chosen freely, but must fit into one of the six categories "Design", "Engineering, Science", "Young Entrepreneurs", "Sustainability" or "Digital Education". The competition is successfully accompanied by ongoing training measures for teachers on the topics of "Teaching Innovation" and "Rights to protect work results, copyright, data security and business model development" as well as practical workshops for students.

Programs such as *"aws First Incubator – Your future. Your business"*, have set themselves the task of strengthening the entrepreneurial spirit in Austria and supporting young people in starting their first own company. In the *"aws First Start-up Lab"*, 10 teams (2 to 4 people per team) are supported for one year with a grant, training, team-specific mentoring and many opportunities to network with Austria's start-up scene. The aim of the *"Start-up Lab"* is to prepare for starting a company, build a network and, above all, develop a high-quality business model.

International exchange on vocational education and training

The international exchange on vocational education and training, especially with Austria's neighbouring countries, serves to provide mutual support to further develop dual training. These measures at a political level complement the exchange of apprentices to complete vocational internships as part of the Erasmus+ program. The *"National Implementation Plan 2022"* is the strategic framework for vocational education and training and for European cooperation.

The project *"Strategic Partnership for Dual Vocational Training in Serbia"* (2016 to 2022) by the Austrian and Serbian Chambers of Commerce together with the ADA strengthened dual vocational training in Serbia and supported local branches of Austrian companies. As a result, 67 dual vocational profiles were introduced, with over 8,000 Serbian students in 150 schools and 2,000 qualified trainers from 700 companies. It has made a significant contribution to the training of skilled workers and economic development. The project will continue until April 2027. The aim is to expand training in Serbia and reach 16,500 students by 2026.



STEM Girls Challenge

The *"STEM Girls Challenge"*, a joint initiative of the Federal Ministry for Women, Family, Integration and Media (BKA) and the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy in cooperation with the Federation of Austrian Industries, is an ideas competition for girls and women between the ages of 4 and 19. The initiative was launched in 2021 and aims to get more girls and women interested in STEM subjects. The most creative ideas for shaping a sustainable world and future-proof society with the help of STEM are awarded prizes.

Personal, interdisciplinary and interpersonal skills

Digital skills for participation in a modern society

To improve the basic digital skills of the Austrian population, the *"Digital Skills Austria"* strategy developed as part of the *"Digital Skills Offensive"* and a package of measures for implementation were presented in mid-2023.

As a scale-up of the successful pilot project *"Digital Skills for All"* 2023, the initiatives *"Digital Everywhere"* and *"Digital Everywhere Plus"* offer easy-access courses on digital skills throughout Austria, for beginners on site in municipalities and further advanced ones. The campaign will take place throughout Austria from 2024/2025.

Media and information literacy

Media and information literacy are extremely important for everyone, but especially for younger and older people in a digitalised world. The COVID-19 pandemic has made the need even clearer. In addition to technical skills, topics such as fake news, disinformation, conspiracy theories and online hate speech are relevant.

Youth work can support the early development of skills for specific target groups. Youth information offers young people orientation and promotes information literacy. In addition to school education, extracurricular youth work is crucial for acquiring informal skills. Organisations that are supported by voluntary commitment play an important role here. The Federal Youth Promotion Act 2001 strengthens youth work and supports youth organisations through funding.

Digital Everywhere and Digital Everywhere Plus

In 2024, 4,500 easy-access, free, half-day workshops will be held across Austria in cooperation with education providers. Key topics include "Living with increasing digitalisation", "Digital seniors' education", "Digital official channels", "Security on the internet" and "Artificial intelligence". With the "*Digital Everywhere Plus*" program, follow-up offers from various education providers, such as innovative settings for teaching and online content, are intended to ensure sustainability.

Education for Sustainable Development – Sustainability competence campaign

To prepare people in Austria for the effects of the current social transformation, targeted awareness-raising around sustainable development is required in addition to specialist skills. This is directly anchored in target 4.7 and manifests itself in the education and training of global citizens with a *"global citizen mindset"*. The latter contains the idea that one's own identity extends beyond geographical or political borders and that individual and collective rights and duties arise from belonging to the broader class, "humanity". A shift in awareness towards transformation and the promotion of sustainable development is needed throughout the formal and non-formal education system.

The study *"Skills for 2030 to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"* states that the launch of a sustainability skills offensive is necessary, which requires a strategy and interministerial cooperation.

The Action Plan for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) also addresses the comprehensive need to develop skills for sustainability. Based on the fields of action of the UNESCO Roadmap for ESD, it contains measures for SDG target 4.7 along the entire education chain. The ESD will be published in summer 2024.

5 Science's responsibility for skills for 2030

It is crucial that education and science continue to play an active role in solving the challenges of sustainable transformation. It requires a joint, participatory and active examination of future issues, future skills and SDGs that lead to profound changes in the way people think and act for sustainability.

SDG 4 "Quality education" is the key to achieving all other Sustainable Development Goals (UNESCO). Learner-centred, (inter-)active, action- and application-oriented, problem- and solution-based learning in authentic environments and real-life situations is particularly valuable for transformative education (for sustainable development). The BMBWF relies on cooperation to achieve this goal, e.g. through joint workshops with *"UniNEtZ"* or "ECOLOG" as well as the *"ESD Action Plan"*.

In the *"UniNEtZ"* project, Austrian universities have compiled an options report with around 150 options for moving from knowledge to action and developed 20 options for educational structures for the necessary transformation.

Sustainability as a fundamental value

Sustainability is a core value for the *Austrian Institute of Technology* (AIT) in all phases of service provision. This ranges from the content of research projects to building development, energy and mobility management and gender & diversity activities. For example, lowering the room temperature to 19 degrees in the winter of 2022/23 saved 110 tons of CO_2. AIT and BMK have entered into a strategic partnership in the area of sustainable procurement.



In the *"ECOLOGisation of Schools"* programme and network, education for sustainable development and school development is being developed in over 700 schools and 13 teacher training colleges. To support the participating schools, *"ECOLOG"* is structured as a network with regional teams in each federal province. The Institute for Teaching and School Development at the University of Klagenfurt coordinates the network in cooperation with the BMBWF.

6 Skills for International Responsibility for Sustainable Development

The ambitious scope of the SDGs requires funding on an unprecedented scale. New resources need to be tapped. Private investment is essential for long-term sustainable development. The *OECD Policy Framework for Investment* is a comprehensive and systematic approach to improving investment conditions and an ideal tool for unlocking private resources.

Under Austria's chairmanship of the OECD Investment Committee, a new approach to international investment was established that no longer focuses solely on the volume of investment, but also on its – sustainable – quality. The OECD FDI Quality Initiative, which was subsequently developed, provides governments with guidelines, data and expertise to promote sustainable, more environmentally friendly investments, promote high-quality jobs and training, improve gender equality and contribute to a more productive and innovative economy. Austria benefited from one of the first country reports on *"Closing Gender Gaps and Empowering Women"*.

With another OECD project promoted by Austria, the update of the *"OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct"* finalised in 2023, the world's most modern and comprehensive standards in corporate responsibility in international business are now available to promote sustainability along the value chains. These will also serve as a reference for planned national and regional regulations.

Austria thus supports the promotion of sustainable, inclusive international standards in the (international) economic sector, thereby contributing to the global implementation of the SDGs.

Responsible companies can make a decisive contribution to sustainable development in the countries in which they operate. The aim is to avoid or mitigate possible negative impacts of economic activities including along value chains on human rights, and environmental or social aspects.

Austria therefore recommends that companies comply with the standards of the *"OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct"*, the *"UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights"* and the *"Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy"* of the ILO. Austria has called for the OECD Guidelines to be updated in 2023 to reflect current priorities.

Implementing corporate responsibility requires knowledge and skills. To this end, the BMAW 2020/2021 project focused on human rights due diligence in the supply chain. The current 2022 to 2024 project *"With corporate responsibility – fit for the future"* supports companies in implementing corporate responsibility.

The *"Austrian National Contact Point"* for the OECD is responsible for publishing the OECD Guidelines and is available as an out-of-court dispute resolution platform for alleged violations of the OECD Guidelines.

The *"EU Directive on due diligence obligations for companies with regard to sustainability"* aims to promote corporate responsibility and obliges companies to address risks along value chains. Austria was actively involved in the negotiations and consulted extensively with all stakeholders. All relevant stakeholders, including civil society organisations, will again be fully involved in the implementation of the directive in Austria. To implement the directive's objectives of effectively protecting human rights and the environment along global value chains, companies, especially SMEs, must be supported in building up their expertise in addition to an authority to assess compliance with the obligations arising from the directive.

The Austrian National Contact Point for Responsible Business Conduct (öNKP)

The *"Austrian National Contact Point"* (öNKP) aims to support Austrian companies in implementing responsible corporate action in their activities abroad and in their supply chains. The work of the Austrian National Contact Point includes knowledge transfer, advice, stakeholder networking and presents best-practice examples of companies that have successfully integrated sustainable corporate responsibility into their business activities.

The role of governments in creating an enabling framework for corporate responsibility through a smart mix of mandatory and voluntary measures is emphasised in the OECD Guidelines, as is the role of companies in training and upskilling workers, especially regarding green and digital transformation.

Round table: For a policy that supports sustainable development worldwide

At the invitation of the Global Responsibility Working Group, participants from government, academia and civil society discussed how to ensure all policies worldwide contribute to achieving the SDGs and do not hinder them. Using tax and climate policy as an example, the participants discussed possible mechanisms for improving policy coherence for sustainable development (SDG target 17.14), e.g. reviewing the impact of laws on countries in the Global South in advance of their adoption.





Protecting the biosphere – sustainable development within planetary boundaries

1 Key messages

→ There is an urgent need for accelerated action in climate and environmental protection – both internationally and in Austria. The Austrian government program 2020 to 2024 sets the necessary course for this and enables more climate protection and adaptation measures, the energy and mobility transition and increased biodiversity protection.

→ To implement the 2030 Agenda, ambitious targets are being pursued regarding renewable energies and the expansion of the electricity infrastructure, including through the implementation of the Renewable Energy Expansion Act and the Austrian Grid Infrastructure Plan.

→ The challenges in the transport sector are addressed by initiatives such as the *"climate ticket"*. In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the increased promotion of sustainable transport and investment in public transport infrastructure are aimed at achieving fundamental changes.

→ The protection of nature and biodiversity in Austria is a key objective and is supported by the *"Biodiversity Strategy Austria 2030+"* and the Biodiversity Fund.

→ The circular economy strategy lays the foundation for establishing a climate-neutral, sustainable circular economy in Austria by 2050.

2 Setting the Scene

As part of the first Voluntary National Implementation Review (VNR 2020), the chapter on "Climate change mitigation and adaptation" emphasised that accelerated action is needed to meet international and national climate targets, protect ecosystems and initiate a socially and environmentally compatible energy and mobility transition. Building on this stocktaking, the present chapter "Protecting the biosphere" focuses on those areas of transformation that have changed significantly since 2020 and highlights particularly effective measures.

As part of the global community, Austria continues to face the growing challenge of worrying climate change. The planetary boundaries have already been exceeded in many cases, and the increasing instability of the biosphere is one of the greatest challenges of our generation – in ecological, economic and social terms. With its government program for 2020 to 2024, the Austrian federal government is committed to setting the necessary course. Be it climate protection and adaptation measures, the energy and mobility transition or the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems – they all offer the opportunity to enable greater social justice, more sustainable economic practices and jobs as well as more resilient ecosystems in Austria and around the world, thereby achieving improved social and ecological security. All levels – regional, national and international – are called upon to act with this in mind.

Green Finance Alliance

The BMK's Green Finance Alliance was launched in May 2022. The members of the initiative – from the banking, insurance, companies' pension fund, public pension fund and investment sectors – have voluntarily committed to making their core business greenhouse gas neutral and expanding green products and activities. The financial companies' voluntary commitment to the Paris climate goals is linked to the fulfilment of specific criteria of their core business.

The achievement of the European energy and climate targets by 2030, Austria's climate neutrality by 2040 and the achievement of the goals of the *"Austrian Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change"*, together with Austria's commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, provide the framework for resolutely tackling the climate crisis, protecting nature, halting the loss of biodiversity and thus securing our livelihoods.

3 Climate protection and climate change adaptation

The effects of the climate crisis are clearly noticeable in Austria. The increase in heat waves and droughts, heavy rainfall events and melting glaciers and permafrost are scientifically proven consequences of the rapidly advancing climate crisis. Nature, air, water and soil in Austria are being used to the limits of their capacity, and often already beyond. Climate change, which according to recent studies is occurring faster than expected, has an impact on many areas of life. Women and vulnerable groups are particularly affected by these negative developments.

To counteract these developments and as a precautionary measure for society and to preserve the natural foundations of life, the Government Program 2020 to 2024 contains numerous measures to achieve the climate targets and to adapt to the unavoidable consequences of climate change. Measures that have already been implemented include the Renewable Energy Expansion Act, the creation of a low-cost *"climate ticket"* for all public transport in Austria, increased budgets for the promotion of climate protection measures and the eco-social tax reform introduced in 2022, including CO_2 pricing and a climate bonus. In its *"Recovery and Resilience Plan 2020–2026"*, Austria also places a clear focus on energy and climate measures: 46% of the total EUR 4.5 billion – significantly more than the minimum share of 37% targeted by the EU – will be spent on these measures.

Corresponding measures are also prescribed in the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP), which must be finalised by the end of June 2024 in accordance with the EU Governance Regulation.

The third, further developed, version of the Austrian Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change was adopted by the Council of Ministers at the beginning of April 2024 and subsequently also noted and approved by the Conference of Provincial Climate Protection Officers. It will be presented to the Conference of Provincial Governors in the next step.

The regional level is of great importance for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Austria. Provinces and municipalities have been dealing with the climate crisis for years and are equipped with climate and energy strategies that adopt targets from federal regulations or contain additional targets. Climate change adaptation has also become increasingly important here. It has now increasingly found its way into climate protection strategies at provincial and municipal level and is sometimes also dealt with in separate strategy papers. In terms of an integrated climate policy, the federal and provincial governments are in regular contact, for example via the *"National Climate Protection Committee"*, the *"Conferences of Energy and Climate Protection Officers"* and the sustainability coordinators of the federal provinces. To support vertical policy

coherence, domestic environmental funding (UFI) with EUR 600 million until 2027 is one of the central funding instruments, which supports companies with energy efficiency projects or the switch to renewable energies. The Climate and Energy Fund's *"Climate and Energy Model Regions"* (KEM) programme is one of the successful UFI models for strengthening cooperation between municipalities and institutions. The federal government is also very successfully promoting long-term transformations at regional level through the *"Climate Change Adaptation Model Regions – KLAR!"* programme. With the *"Climate Neutral City"* mission, which is linked to the EU's "*Climate Neutral and Smart Cities*" initiative, the federal government is providing EUR 28 million per year to make Austrian cities climate-neutral and more climate-resilient even faster through research and innovation. With the drinking water security plan drawn up jointly with the federal provinces in 2023, a total of EUR 3 million will flow into research of efficient water use, in order to respond to changes in groundwater availability caused by climate change.

Efforts to contribute to climate protection through environmentally friendly energy and resource management also include the arts and cultural sector, for example. The federal government pays particular attention to sustainability when funding projects in the cultural sector and offers incentives for ecological innovation and transformation through targeted calls for proposals. For example, the *"Climate-fit Cultural Enterprises"* programme provides funding from the recovery and resilience facility of the EU recovery fund *"NextGenerationEU"* and provides EUR 15 million. In addition, EUR 35 million is being invested in the ecological refurbishment of selected cultural institutions.

Innovation labs – city of the future

With the *"innovation labs"* funding instrument, the BMK supports the systematic and long-term development of innovation-promoting creative spaces for new ideas and concepts to increase the practical effectiveness of research. With *"Digital finds City"* and *"RENOWAVE.AT"*, two innovation labs exemplify how digital solutions in the construction and real estate industry or simple, cost-effective and quickly implementable renovations for climate-neutral buildings are possible.

Electricity and energy transition

Austria is already well on track to achieving SDG 7: over a third of energy consumption is covered by renewable energy sources, gross domestic consumption has been stabilised in the long term and CO_2 emissions from industry per gross value added have been falling since 2010. The federal government has also set itself the goal of further reducing dependence on fossil fuels to reduce supply, price and other geopolitical risks.

The *"Renewable Energy Expansion Act"* (EAG 2021) sets important framework conditions for the electricity transition in Austria, for example for financing electricity generation from renewable sources. From 2030, 100% of total national electricity consumption is to be covered by renewable energy sources. According to the EAG, an integrated Austrian *"Grid Infrastructure Plan"* will also be drawn up for the first time, which, as an overarching strategic planning instrument, will enable a comprehensive consideration of the infrastructure requirements of the future energy system.

The federal government has also initiated a number of measures to counter the burden on households and industry in connection with the energy crisis triggered by the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. The *"Renewable Heat Package"*, which provides for the gradual replacement of heating systems powered by fossil fuels by 2040, aims to decarbonise the heating supply for buildings. A new Energy Efficiency Act, which was passed in June 2023, intends to improve energy efficiency in Austria and reduce final energy consumption. The promotion of thermal home renovations and the replacement of oil and gas heating systems with climate-friendly ones in existing buildings will be supported with national funds, as will the fight against energy poverty. For example, a total of EUR 3.645 billion is available for the *"Get out of oil and gas"* funding campaign and the refurbishment campaign for private individuals and businesses in the period from 2023 to 2027. In addition, programmes for climate-friendly buildings for people in need of protection, energy saving in the home and the *"Wohnschirm Energy"*, which covers payment arrears for low-income households, have been initiated. The *"Coordination Office for Combating Energy Poverty"* in the Climate and Energy Fund will pool expertise in the area of energy poverty in future. The BMK's *"climateactive"* initiative also

Mission 11 – Together we save 11% energy!

In the 2022/23 and 2023/24 heating seasons, the Climate Protection Ministry's energy saving campaign called on households to save energy in the areas of heating, hot water, electricity and mobility with eleven tips that can be implemented immediately and without investment. The initiative was disseminated together with a broad network of partners from local authorities, business and interest groups. Every kilowatt hour of energy saved contributed to our independence and climate protection.

Around 15% less energy was consumed in Austrian households in 2022 compared to 2021.

climateactive 2020 to 2030

"climateactive" started its 3rd programme period until 2030 in 2020. At the core of *"climateactive"* are topic- and target group-oriented programmes to increase market penetration with climate-friendly products and services of high quality. It thus makes part of the path to a fossil-free society easier for municipalities, companies and households. Since 2020, there have been additional priorities around climate communication and *"Just Transition"*.

provides free training for social energy advisors, among other things.

Innovation and technology for the energy transition have been specifically promoted since 2021. Approximately EUR 30 million per year is available for this from BMK funds and EUR 19 million from the Climate and Energy Fund. For example, real-world laboratories for the regional energy transition were funded to demonstrate in practice that the energy transition can succeed at regional level. Furthermore, transnational programmes such as the *"Clean Energy Transition Partnership"* or the *"International Energy Agency Research Cooperation"* are supported.

Transport and mobility transition

Achieving the climate targets in the transport sector is particularly challenging. Greenhouse gas emissions from transport in Austria, which as a landlocked country in the centre of Europe is heavily burdened by transit traffic – especially on the Brenner axis – have increased by almost 57% since 1990 to 2021 and account for around a third of total emissions. The mobility transition is therefore essential to achieving climate neutrality by 2040. At the same time, a sustainable location needs innovative, efficient and well-functioning mobility and transport systems that enable more sufficiency in the transport sector through a high level of public provision of mobility services. According to the government's 2020 to 2024 programme, the transport system should therefore meet these requirements in line with the Paris climate targets through digitalisation, energy efficiency and decarbonisation.

The "Mobility Master Plan 2030 for Austria" drawn up by the BMK in 2021 forms the strategic framework for aligning Austria's mobility sector with ecological, economic and social goals. It follows the principle of "Avoid – Shift – Improve" and contains detailed measures in specialised strategies, such as the *"Renewable Energy in Mobility"* immediate action programme, the *"Freight Transport Master Plan 2030"*, the *"Sharing Strategy"*, the *"Cycling Master Plan"* and the *"Mobility RTI Strategy"*: Firstly, traffic is to be reduced through sustainable location and spatial planning, followed by a shift in traffic to eco-mobility and finally an improvement in the remaining traffic (switch to e-mobility). Better spatial, development and settlement planning should reduce urban sprawl, strengthen town centres and increase the accessibility of active mobility and public, barrier-free transport. The design of the toll system in terms of sustainable mobility is to be driven forward and further measures are to be developed based on the successful example of the *"climate ticket"*. At the same time, funds are to be made

available to finance the infrastructure for passenger and freight transport, for transport services and for the expansion of the infrastructure for active mobility by the federal government, federal provinces and municipalities.

With the introduction of *"climate tickets"*, it is now possible for the first time to use all public transport operated by participating transport companies with one affordable annual ticket: regionally, inter-regionally or throughout all of Austria. Since April 2022 and from fall 2023, people doing military or civic service and participants in a voluntary social year or environmental year will receive a climate ticket free of charge. In addition, a climate ticket for 18-year-olds will be made available in 2024, on the occasion of their 18th birthday. They can then use all public transport throughout Austria free of charge for one year. The public sector is making record investments in the ÖBB rail network for passenger and freight transport (transport service contracts, *"ÖBB framework plan 2024–2029"* EUR 21.1 billion), as well as funding for regional rail systems and a significant increase in funding for the expansion of private railways. The BMK initiative *"climateactive mobile"* also addresses the promotion of cycling, walking and mobility management. The e-mobility campaign was expanded to include new funding programs for emission-free commercial vehicles (ENIN) and buses (EBIN), including charging infrastructure (LADIN).

Innovation and technology for the mobility transition is also being funded since 2021. Around EUR 30 million per year is available for this, as well as EUR 10 million in the Climate and Energy Fund. The aim is to (further) develop technologies and innovations for the mobility transition and to facilitate their implementation in practice, e.g. through mobility laboratories. The *"Driving Urban Transitions"* partnership also enables research, innovation and capacity building at a transnational level to support emission reductions outside Austria, among other things.

E-mobility funding from the federal government

The BMK's e-mobility offensive is having an impact – as can be seen, among other things, from the continuing steady rise in the proportion of new electric car registrations. In addition to subsidies for e-mobility for private individuals, the federal government is also providing funding for emission-free buses (EBIN) and commercial vehicles (ENIN). The LADIN programme was also launched to promote the ramp-up of the e-charging infrastructure. A total of around EUR 1.33 billion will be available between 2024 and 2027.

Biodiversity protection

Good air, clean drinking water, fertile soil and biodiversity are the basis for human well-being, health and the economy. Especially in the area of livestock farming, animal welfare is also an important factor for the preservation of biodiversity and human health. In 2022, the federal government agreed on a comprehensive *"animal welfare package"*. Through targeted measures and in line with existing European strategies, the federal government is addressing challenges such as land use, intensive agriculture and forestry, changes to the water cycle, the climate crisis, pollutants and invasive species that are causing losses to Austria's diverse natural landscapes as well as natural and semi-natural habitats and species. The government programme sets an important course, such as the recording and evaluation of ecosystem services as well as the promotion and expansion of biological corridors (habitat networks). The *"National Water Management Plan"* (NGP 2021) provides a comprehensive framework for the protection of aquatic ecosystems. Biodiversity is an essential criterion for the NGP 2021 to assess a water body's status. EUR 200 million (2020 to 2027) is available for the implementation of the NGP 2021 programme of measures.

The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 provides the framework for the protection of biodiversity and contains a comprehensive plan for the protection of biodiversity and the restoration of ecosystems. The *"Fit for 55"* package defines the protection and restoration of habitats as carbon reservoirs and the expansion of nature-friendly, renewable energy sources. In line with European requirements, the *"Biodiversity Strategy Austria 2030+"* was drawn up by the BMK together with affected stakeholders and published in December 2022. It sets out a 10-point programme with goals and measures for the conservation of biodiversity in Austria, shows the way to implement international biodiversity goals, covers all sectors and aims to make a significant contribution to achieving the SDGs. An established biodiversity fund, currently endowed with EUR 80 million (2021 to 2026), supports various projects for the protection and restoration of natural diversity, endangered species and habitats, the restoration of damaged ecosystems, especially moors and dry grasslands, and the raising of awareness about biodiversity. Around 110 projects are currently supported by this fund.

Maintaining soil fertility, targeted humus build-up and efficient use of resources are key contributions to achieving Austria's climate, energy and biodiversity goals. Accordingly, the reduction of land use from the current 11.3 to 2.5 hectares per day is an important target of the government program 2020 to 2024. A nationwide monitoring system will therefore measure progress in the future. As a basis for this, the status of land use and land sealing in Austria for 2022 was published by *the Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning* in December 2023. In addition, initiatives and opportunities for implementation are made visible as part of the *"ErdReich-Preis"* award ceremony. The amendment to the Environmental Impact Assessment Act 2023 is also increasingly dedicated to the topic of soil protection: Infrastructure projects such as shopping centres will be subject to

stricter scrutiny with regard to their impact on the environment and on soil in particular. A guideline for project applicants and authorities was also published to accompany this. Since 2021, the Environmental Funding Act has also supported unsealing measures by municipalities as part of urban water management funding.

Sustainable production and consumption

Austria has taken effective measures regarding SDG 12 to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns and environmentally oriented production, but there is still a need for action, particularly in the areas of material consumption and food waste. The long-term goal of the Austrian federal government is to transform the economy and society into a climate-neutral, sustainable circular economy by 2050. This is to be made possible, among other things, by implementing the Austrian *"Circular Economy Strategy"*, which is intended to ensure both the preservation of ecosystems and a high quality of life and material prosperity. The circular economy strategy was developed in a comprehensive participatory process and adopted in 2022. It describes specific measures for the transformation priorities of consumption, the construction industry, mobility, packaging, electrical appliances, biomass, textiles, plastics and waste management along the entire value chain – from product design to use and waste management. The strategy sets concrete and verifiable targets: Among other things, the material footprint is to be reduced from the current 33 tons per capita per year to 7 tons per capita per year by 2050. An initial progress report on the implementation status of the strategy will be published in 2024.

As 80% of the environmentally relevant properties of products are already defined in the product design and it is of great importance to avoid hazardous chemicals as far as possible to obtain high-quality secondary raw materials at the end of the use phase, the *"Green Chemistry Platform"* was launched on the initiative of the BMK. Its aim is to establish green chemistry as an essential component of sustainable production and to ensure the necessary training in the university sector.

An additional measure to increase resource efficiency and promote waste prevention in Austria is the amendment to the *Austrian Waste Management Act* 2021,

AGES Service Centre: Cooperation for sustainable food and nutrition systems

Since fall 2022, the BMK, BML and BMSGPK have been working together to prepare Austria for the new EU legal framework for sustainable food systems. The *"AGES Service Centre for Sustainable Food and Nutrition Systems"* supports the ministries in the preparation and subsequent implementation of the planned legal framework. This will create structures for cross-sectoral decision-making and management for sustainable development in Austria.

which includes the introduction of a deposit system for disposable drinks packaging from 2025 and the return of mandatory reusable quotas from 2024. In addition, since April 2022, the *"repair bonus"* has promoted the repair of electrical and electronic appliances with the aim of supporting the domestic repair industry and reducing waste volumes. The bonus is financed as part of the EU recovery and resilience plan with a total of EUR 130 million until 2026.

In 2021, an important step was taken with the update of the *"National Action Plan for Sustainable Public Procurement"* to promote environmental and climate protection, contribute to achieving the national health targets and strengthen regional value creation. Its criteria are binding for public procurement processes of the federal ministries, their subordinate departments and certain public entities.

Further measures are based on the *"Research, Technology and Innovation Strategy 2030"* (RTI) adopted in 2020 and the *"RTI Pact"*, which emphasise the importance of innovation for the sustainable transformation of the economy and society. A total of EUR 1.777 billion is available to the BMK via the RTI Pact from 2024 to 2026. These funds will be used, among other things, for RTI funding with a focus on the circular economy and production technologies, amounting to around EUR 30 million per year. In addition, annual *"green budgeting"* has been carried out for the innovation and technology budgets in the BMK since 2022. As part of the climate and transformation offensive, the transformation of industry has been supported and promoted since 2022. To this end, a total of EUR 2.975 billion (EUR 175 million in 2023, EUR 400 million annually thereafter) will be made available in the years 2023 to 2030 for investment funding for the transformation of industry in accordance with the Environmental Support Act, as well as RTI funding for the transformation of industry in the amount of EUR 210 million (2023 to 2026).

In the cultural sector, grants are awarded specifically for projects that deal with sustainable production and consumption, for example in the fields of fine arts, architecture and design, photography, media art and sustainable fashion design. High-quality building culture also plays a role in this context. The preservation of buildings, the use of sustainable building materials and building culture support are given priority by the federal government in the cultural sector in order to save space and thus enable more sustainable transport infrastructure, for example.

4 Education, culture, youth, gender equality

To achieve the climate and environmental goals, a change in awareness is necessary throughout society. For this reason, the federal government supports educational measures on current challenges and options for action in kindergartens, schools, national parks, cultural institutions, youth centres, companies and municipalities. Specific measures can be found as recurring cross-cutting issues in the strategy documents of the federal ministries, the biodiversity strategy, Austria's circular economy strategy, the bioeconomy strategy and the various RTI initiatives.

Formal and non-formal educational institutions are of great importance for this awareness-raising process and together have an impact far beyond SDG 4 "quality education". The successful implementation of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) as an interdisciplinary principle in the Austrian curricula for primary and lower secondary level in 2022 is an example of the diverse measures that contribute to the structural anchoring of ESD in the education system as part of the BMBWF action plan. To promote the education of children and young people on the topic of the climate and biodiversity crisis outside of schools, the *"FORUM Environmental Education"* initiative provides topic-specific educational offers and the *"Education2030"* platform is funded by the BMK and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) as a civil society cooperation project. In addition, the Climate and Energy Fund and the *"climateactive"* and *" climateactive mobile"* initiatives offer a wide range of advisory, information and qualification measures in cooperation with companies, provinces and municipalities.

The participatory involvement and participation of young people in the climate and environmental sector is strengthened by a series of concrete packages of measures. Representatives of youth organisations are therefore members of the National Biodiversity Commission. There are federally funded youth delegate programmes in the areas of climate, biodiversity and education for sustainable development, which enable participation in international conferences, among other things. In the years 2022 to 2024, federal funds will also enable the Federal Youth Council to hold climate youth councils in which young people and politicians from all parties represented in parliament will engage in dialogue on an equal footing. Young people are supported structurally by, among other things various projects of the *"CliMates"*, the Voluntary Environmental Year, the *"Youth Environment Platform"* and the *"Changemaker #Nature"* project, which provides EUR 300,000 for biodiversity projects between 2022 and 2024.

A long-term, just transition to climate neutrality also requires labour market policy measures, particularly in light of the shortage of skilled workers in key areas (see chapter Skills for 2030). Since 2022, the Federal Government has therefore been promoting training and further education in the fields of renewable energies and environmental



Citizens' Climate Council

With Resolution 160/E XXVII.GP of March 26, 2021, the National Council requested the federal government to set up a Citizens' Climate Council. Between January and June 2022, randomly selected citizens from all regions of Austria and all parts of society worked on developing recommendations for a climate-neutral Austria in 2040.

technology, among others, as part of the Environmental Foundation. The *"Just Transition Action Plan for Training and Further Education"* drawn up by the BMK in 2023 sets out specific training and further education measures in the energy and heating sector with a particular emphasis on gender and diversity aspects.

Gender equality is an integral part of the fight against the climate crisis. Accordingly, the strengthening of the role of women in environmental and climate protection as well as in the areas of energy, transport and mobility is also supported in cooperation with the Austrian Research Promotion Agency. In the RTI sector in particular, young people are encouraged to engage in research and development (R&D) and researchers are networked with industry. A range of funding programs such as internships for school-girls or "FEMtech" internships for female students are available. R&D companies and non-university research institutions are supported in putting equal opportunities into practice. RTI research projects with a gender focus are also supported.

5 International dimension

The global challenges associated with the climate crisis require coordinated international cooperation to analyse negative cross-border spillover effects and take effective measures. The use of raw materials for the consumption and production of goods in industrialised countries such as Austria is currently and historically often associated with the extraction of raw materials in countries of the Global South and can be linked to human rights violations and negative ecological consequences such as contaminated groundwater and deforestation. These risks require increased attention from companies. To this end, Austria is implementing broad-based initiatives based on the principle of the circular economy, promoting resource-saving, recyclable, repair-friendly and innovative product design and contributing to innovative usage concepts and transparent supply chains that meet social and ecological standards. This encourages Austrian companies to align themselves with the principles of the circular economy and thus reduce negative cross-border effects.

Austria is committed to international climate financing, especially for those communities in the Global South that need the most support in overcoming the climate crisis. Austria's contributions to international financial institutions and international climate funds, such as the *Green Climate Fund*, the *Global Environment Facility* and the *Adaptation Fund*, support adaptation measures that strengthen resilience to the consequences of the climate crisis. Regarding averting and minimising losses, there is also an increased focus on prevention-oriented initiatives, such as early warning systems or anticipatory disaster relief. Austria has already taken on a pioneering role at the UN Climate Change

Conference 2022 (COP27) and has shown solidarity by significantly increasing funding for international climate financing. In the years 2023 to 2027, the BMK will make a total of around EUR 340 million available for this purpose, of which at least EUR 50 million will be used to repair, prevent and minimise damage. Austria is also the first country in the world to decide to replenish the *Green Climate Fund* for the period from 2024. EUR 160 million will be available for this purpose until 2027. In addition, Austria will provide EUR 10 million for the recently operationalised fund for loss and damage.

To preserve forest ecosystems and support sustainable agriculture, Austria promotes around 25 projects in countries of the Global South in close cooperation with local and indigenous communities. These projects promote sustainable cultivation, food sovereignty and the participation of women in rural areas and are in line with the resolutions of the conventions on climate (UNFCCC) and biodiversity (CBD). The funded projects take place in the least developed countries or support particularly vulnerable communities in countries of the Global South. These include Argentina, Brazil, Burundi, Costa Rica, Ghana, Guatemala, Kenya, Laos, Mali, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Rwanda, Uganda and Vietnam.

Progress towards goals and targets

Using data from Statistics Austria, this chapter objectively documents Austria's implementation of the 17 SDGs for the years 2010 to 2022. Since 2017, Statistics Austria has been compiling national indicator tables every year, which are closely linked to the UN indicator set and complement it with national and regional aspects. Since the EU SDG Indicator Report – for the evaluation of EU policies – was largely independent of the UN list of indicators, there are differences to the national indicator sets. Of course, this also applies to the Austrian set of indicators.

In addition to data from Statistics Austria, the Austrian set of about 260 indicators includes information from federal ministries, the Federal Environment Agency ("Umweltbundesamt", UBA), the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the Austrian National Public Health Institute ("Gesundheit Österreich GmbH", GÖG), the federal provinces, the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns, and international data sources. The final decision for inclusion and evaluation was made by Statistics Austria, based solely on technical criteria.

This chapter is an excerpt from the independent indicator report 2023/2024 by Statistics Austria. It was therefore not coordinated with the editorial board of the review. Success stories and flagship initiatives illustrate concrete approaches to implementing the SDGs, but do not necessarily relate to individual indicators.

The evaluation of indicator development is a trend evaluation based on time series: The extent to which each indicator is approaching or diverging from the targets is presented in four stages (see overview). No assessment was made for indicators that could not be conclusively

Statistics Austria: Monitoring the 17 Goals via the SDG Overview Platform

In 2017, Statistics Austria compiled a comprehensive dataset making it possible to monitor the effectiveness of measures taken to achieve the SDGs. Since 2022, the approximately 260 indicators have been presented in an SDG Overview Platform on the Statistics Austria website. The indicators are presented graphically and, where possible, an assessment of the development is made using 4 levels. Overview tables and background information are also provided.

interpreted. Where available, the development of each core indicator was assessed over the entire time series from 2010 to 2022. At least a 10-year trend had to be available as well as the years 2021 or 2022.

The success stories outlined below demonstrate not only implementation in Austria, but also the contribution of Austrian stakeholders to international cooperation, especially with countries in the Global South.

Evaluation mode

Code	Classification
↑	Significant progress towards sustainable development goals
↗	Moderate progress towards sustainable development goals
↘	Moderate movement away from sustainable development goals
↓	Significant movement away from sustainable development goals
=	End year is exactly the same as start year
:(short)	No assessment possible: time series too short
:(no)	No assessment possible: cannot be interpreted normatively
:(break)	No assessment possible: relevant break in time series
:(nonstat)	No assessment possible: no statistically interpretable data
✓	(Part of) target largely achieved
?	Data gap

S: Statistics Austria.

Goal 1

End poverty in all its forms everywhere



→ The goal of eradicating extreme poverty can be considered largely achieved in Austria.

→ In 2021, the European Union's poverty indicators were redefined. Following the new definition, the data series (from 2015 on) are too short for a trend assessment.

→ The share of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion has slightly decreased in the long term according to the old definition, from 18.9% in 2010 to 18.4% in 2021; according to the new definition the figure is 17.5% in 2022 (17.3% in 2021). Under both definitions, there is an increase since 2020.

→ Severe material deprivation (old definition) fell from 4.3% (2010) to 3.0% (2022 estimate); according to the new definition, there was a decline from 2.9% (2015) to 2.3% (2022).

→ According to all poverty indicators considered, Austria has proportionally fewer people living in poverty than the EU-27 average.

Extreme poverty – according to the World Bank's international definition valid since September 2022 – is defined as the number of people living on less than USD 2.15 per day. The goal of **eradicating extreme poverty** is largely considered to have been achieved at European level and therefore also in Austria.

In the EU, poverty is measured using three main poverty indicators, which together determine the risk of poverty or social exclusion. In 2021, the indicators have been redefined at EU level. In order to fully reflect this change, the poverty indicators are presented according to both the old and the new definition. Data series under the new definition (from 2015) are too short to assess trends.

The proportion of **people at risk of poverty or social exclusion** according to the old definition (Europe 2020) decreased in the long term from 18.9% in 2010 to 18.4% in 2021, which represents a slightly positive trend. The time series according to the new definition (Europe 2030) starts in 2015 and shows an increase in people at risk of poverty or social exclusion from 16.9% (2015) to 17.5% (2022). The indicator values according to the new definition are consistently lower than those according to the old definition, mainly due to the new method of calculating employment intensity. The lowest values for both time series are recorded for 2019, when the risk of poverty or social exclusion was 16.9% according to the old definition and 16.5% according to the new definition, both

Target	Target National Indicators (selected)	Trend
1.1	TARGET: Eradicate extreme	✓
1.2	People at risk of poverty or social exclusion (old definition)	↗
	People at risk of poverty or social exclusion (new definition)	:(short)
	At risk of poverty (60% of the median)	↘
	Low work intensity (old definition)	↘
	Low work intensity (new definition)	:(short)
1.3	Minimum income share	:(short)
1.4	Severe material deprivation (old definition)	↑
	Severe material and social deprivation (new definition)	:(short)
1.5	Deaths attributed to disasters	↑
	TARGET: Reduce direct economic loss attributed to disasters	?
	Strategy for disaster risk reduction	✓

S: Statistics Austria
Trend according to 4 levels (↑↗↘↓), for abbreviations see overview of evaluation mode.

of which have since increased. In an EU comparison (new definition), Austria was consistently well below the EU-27 average of 21.6%. With a risk rate of 18%, women aged 18 and over are more likely to be at risk of poverty or social exclusion than men (16%). However, gender differences are only discernible to a limited extent when looking at the household situation and are eliminated by definition as soon as women and men live together.

The at-risk-of-poverty rate (defined as household income below 60% of the median income, no change in definition) was at 14.7% in 2010, then fell slightly (2019: 13.3%) before rising to 14.8% by 2022 (EU-27: 16.5%). According to the methodology used, this marginal increase since 2010 leads to a slightly negative trend assessment, which should not be overstated (see also Goal 10). Regarding the at-risk-of-poverty rate, it should be noted that the income data used refer to the respective previous year.

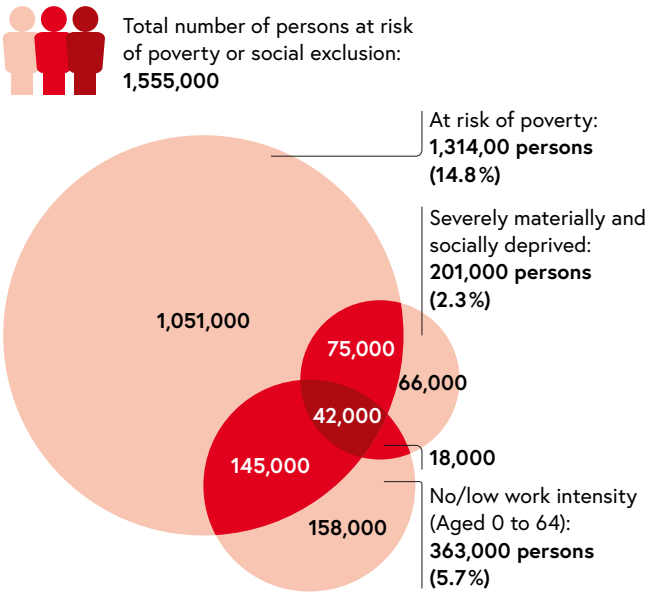
The **low work intensity** according to the old definition shows an increase from 7.8% (2010) to 8.5% (2021) and thus a slightly negative trend. According to the new definition, the time series is consistently lower than according to the old definition; in 2022, 5.7% (only people under 65, not in education or retired) lived in households with no or very low work intensity (2015: 6.3%, 2021: 7.4%); the average value for the EU-27 in 2022 was 8.3%. There is a time lag for this indicator as well; the 2022 observation refers to the labour market situation in 2021.

For evaluation purposes, an estimate of the proportion of people experiencing severe material deprivation in 2022 was calculated according to the old definition (4 out of 9 deprivation items). It shows that the proportion fell

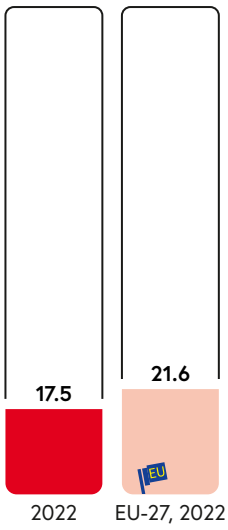
The WOHNSCHIRM protects against loss of housing and high energy costs, BMSGPK

The BMSGPK's "*WOHNSCHIRM*" protects tenants with rent arrears due to the COVID-19 pandemic or the inflation crisis from losing their homes and being evicted. It can also help with the payment of energy cost arrears. The "*WOHNSCHIRM Rent*" offers advice and support with applications as well as assistance with rent arrears or moving house. The "*WOHNSCHIRM Energy*" offers advice on switching providers and saving energy and provides support with applications and energy cost arrears in order to prevent energy poverty.

Risk of poverty or social exclusion 2022



Rate of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion, in percent



from 4.3% (2010) to 3.0% (2022), indicating a distinctly positive trend, despite an increase of 0.6 percentage points last year. According to the new definition, people who meet at least seven of the 13 defined poverty criteria are considered to be severely **materially and socially disadvantaged**. This most recently affected 2.3% of the population (2015: 2.9%); the reference value for the EU-27 in 2022 was 6.7%.

The share of the population enrolled in the **minimum income scheme or** receiving **social assistance** averaged 2.1% in 2022 (2017: 2.7%). There were no differences in the share by gender in 2022. The average number of **unemployment benefit and unemployment assistance** recipients as a proportion of the average number of unemployed people was around 90% throughout the entire observation period; in 2022 it was 88.6%.

The indicator for **deaths attributed to disasters** also showed a decline over the time series under review from 0.8 in 2010 (age-standardised rate per 100,000 inhabitants) to 0.5 in 2022 (see also Goals 11 and 13). The value is generally in a very low range, small annual fluctuations should not be overstated.

Work Plus: GESA – how to get closer to the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of labour market policy

"GESA" helps the long-term unemployed re-enter the labour market and provides access to dignified work. At the same time, environmentally and socially sustainable services and products are created. Several SDGs are addressed: Education, Poverty Reduction, Sustainable Consumption and Production. As a socially inclusive enterprise, *"GESA"* addresses participants' multiple problems, picks up on the interconnected understanding inherent to the SDGs, and engages at different points.

Access to basic services and **secure tenure rights to land** with legally recognized documentation (entry in the land register) can be considered a given in Austria. A **national strategy for disaster risk reduction** ("*Austrian Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction*") has been introduced in Austria. The strategy's aim is to implement the United Nations' "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030" in Austria.

ASBÖ: Combating poverty through education

By creating a healthy and conducive school and learning environment at the Khodarania Girls' School in Iraq, the rights of girls to a good education are strengthened, thus contributing to the achievement of SDG 1. The rehabilitation of the school improves access to secondary education, which eliminates gender inequality. Equal access to education for all is essential in combatting poverty in all its forms and improving living conditions.

Goal 2

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture



→ The goal of ending hunger can be considered largely achieved in Austria.

→ 2.9% of 8-year-old girls and 3.1% of 8-year-old boys were underweight in 2022. In contrast, the proportion of obese 8-year-old girls (6.3%) and boys (12.7%) was significantly higher.

→ The proportion of area under organic farming rose sharply from 18.6% (2010) to 26.4% (2022).

→ Austria is the EU leader in terms of the proportion of area under organic farming (EU-27: 9.1% for 2020).

→ The index of common farmland bird species (1998 = 100) fell significantly from 70.3% (2010) to 60.5% (2021).

Some of the targets can already be considered largely achieved in Austria, such as **ending hunger** or the target of **secure and equal access to land, other production resources and supplies, knowledge, financial services and markets**, which is regulated in Austria by several laws, including the General Land Register Act 1955.

Indicators for the targets relate to the aspect of malnutrition. Data according to the WHO definition are available for the years 2017, 2019 and 2022 from the COSI reports (*"Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative"*). The proportion of 8-year-old **children who are underweight and** the proportion of **children who are obese** are examined separately by gender. A small proportion of 8-year-old girls (2.2%) and boys (1.8%) were underweight in 2017; in 2022, the figures were slightly higher at 2.9% of girls and 3.1% of boys. In 2022, the proportion of 8-year-old girls (6.3%) and boys (12.7%) with obesity was significantly higher than those who were underweight. The small differences between the years should not be overstated. In 2019, the proportion of **underweight women** aged 15 or over was 3.6% (2014: 4.4%).

Bread for the World: "WeltTeller-Feld" – understanding our global food system

The "WeltTellerFeld" cooperation project vividly illustrates the global food system and its effects. The current focus is on training young people to pass this knowledge on to their friends. The young people were able to score points within their peer group with creative ideas! *"Today's introduction was really different. It was very varied when we got the introduction from Narges and not really from the project manager,"* wrote Dalae, one of the participants.

Target	National Indicators (selected)	Trend
2.1	TARGET: End hunger	✓
2.2	Underweight in 8-year olds	: (short)
	Obesity in 8-year olds	: (short)
2.3	TARGET: Equal access to agricultural production	✓
2.4	Proportion of area under organic farming on total agricultural area (excluding alpine pastures)	↑
2.5	Crop varieties secured for agricultural use	↗
	Livestock breeds secured for agricultural use	↑
	Common Farmland Bird Index	↓

S: Statistics Austria
Trend according to 4 levels (↑↗↘↓), for abbreviations see overview of evaluation mode.



Kofi Annan Award for Innovation in Africa (KAAIA)

The prize, which the Federal Chancellery is implementing in cooperation with the Kofi Annan Foundation, ADA and the WFP Innovation Accelerator, makes an important contribution to a partnership of equals between Austria and Africa. The aim of this initiative is to support African social entrepreneurs in scaling up their digital solutions to achieve the SDGs. The prize is awarded every two years and focuses on one SDG per edition. The second edition is looking for agri-tech solutions to achieve SDG 2. Three teams will each receive EUR 250,000 as well as support as part of a 12-month accelerator program.

Proportion of 8-year-old children who are underweight in 2022, in percent



Proportion of 8-year-old children who are obese in 2022, in percent



Organic agriculture as a share of total agricultural land, excluding alpine pastures, in percent



The indicator on **organic agriculture** as a share of total agricultural land shows that the area under organic farming in Austria has expanded significantly in recent years. The share increased from 18.6% in 2010 to 26.4% in 2022 (excluding alpine pastures). Around 90% of organically farmed land in Austria is supported by the "*Agri-environmental Programme ÖPUL*" (Österreichisches Programm für umweltgerechte Landwirtschaft, ÖPUL). In an EU comparison, Austria's share of over 25% in 2020 (latest available international figure) is far above the EU-27 average of 9.1% and in 2020 it again had by far the largest share of organically farmed land in the EU.

The **number of crop varieties** and **livestock breeds** that are secured for agricultural use (through a gene bank and breeding programs) is also considered. Overall, there is an increasing and therefore positive trend. The number of livestock breeds protected by a gene bank and breeding programs increased from 36 (2010) to 57 (2022). This represents an increase of almost 60% and thus a strongly increasing, positive trend.

WAM Produkt GmbH

WAM Produkt GmbH specializes in the cultivation of Austrian noble mushrooms, in particular organic king oyster mushrooms. The company uses the unique, abandoned tunnel system in the Erzberg as a production area. The natural climate in the tunnel is used to optimally mature the mushrooms, which saves energy and dedicates the existing infrastructure to new added value in an environmentally friendly way. By using vertical farming and other innovative techniques, the company optimizes the use of space and enables efficient food production even in urban areas or where space is limited.

Target 2.5 aims to preserve the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants, farm and domestic animals and their wild relatives. To measure wild species, the **Farmland Bird Index** by BirdLife Austria is used as an approximation, which shows a significant decline from an index value of 70.3% in 2010 to 60.5% in 2021 (1998 = 100). The lowest value was reached in 2018 at 55.2%, since then there has been a slight stabilisation to just over 60%. Despite this stabilization from 2019 to 2021, the long-term trend is clearly negative (see also Goal 15).

ADA: Semien Gonder Resilience Project in Ethiopia

The project aims to strengthen the resilience of households and communities to climate change. Adaptation, absorption and transformation capacities are being developed in three districts in the Amhara region. Smart climate-technologies enable sustainable management and better water retention in 18 micro-watersheds. Further aims are the distribution of improved seeds (for approx. 1,800 households), training on agricultural practices, pest control, access to financial services (approx. 500 people – mainly women – in savings groups) and establish a link between research, advice and farmers.

Goal 3

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



→ Maternal mortality and the mortality of newborns and under 5-year-olds are at a very low level.

→ While new diagnoses of HIV and tuberculosis fell between 2010 and 2022, the incidence of hepatitis B increased.

→ Premature mortality from non-communicable diseases fell by 23% between 2010 and 2022.

→ Alcohol-related deaths and suicides reached a low in 2019, have since risen again and were 7% above the 2010 baseline in 2022.

→ Deaths from lung cancer fell from 47.1 (2010) to 44.2 cases per 100,000 inhabitants (2022), although there was an increase among women.

Over the entire time series, **maternal mortality** in Austria ranges from 1.3 to 8.6 deaths per 100,000 live births (3.6 for 2022), well below the global UN target of 70 per 100,000 live births. **Neonatal mortality** (1.9 per 1,000 live births in 2022) and **mortality of children under 5 years of age** (3.0 per 1,000 live births in 2022) are also well below the global UN targets of 12 and 25 per 1,000 live births, respectively.

Looking at communicable diseases, **new HIV diagnoses** fell by 14% over the entire period from 2010 to 2022, albeit with an increase in 2022. The **incidence of tuberculosis** fell by over 50%. There was a negative trend in the **incidence of hepatitis B,** with an increase from 8.2 cases (2010) per 100,000 uninfected people to 9.6 cases in 2022 (2021: 11.0). The target to eliminate

Work-place health promotion at BMI

In order to create sustainable health-promoting structures to maintain individual and organisational resilience, BMI has more than 400 sub-projects that deal with the behavioural and relationship-oriented implementation of measures. The aim is to strengthen employees' individual health awareness.

Target	National Indicators (selected)	Trend
3.1	TARGET: Low maternal mortality	✓
3.2	TARGET: Low infant mortality	✓
3.3	HIV infections-incidence	↑
	Hepatitis B-incidence	↓
3.4	Premature mortality from non-communicable diseases	↑
	Suicide mortality rate	↗
3.5	Average alcohol consumption	↗
	Alcohol-related deaths and suicides	↘
3.6	Death rate due to road traffic accidents	↑
3.7	Adolescent birth rate	↑
3.8	TARGET: Access to essential health care	✓
3.9	Deaths attributable to $PM_{2,5}$ (particulate matter)	↑
3.a	Average daily consumption of cigarettes by persons aged 15+ years	↑
	Lung cancer mortality/including bronchial carcinomas	↗

S: Statistics Austria
Trend according to 4 levels (↑↗↘↓), for abbreviations see overview of evaluation mode.

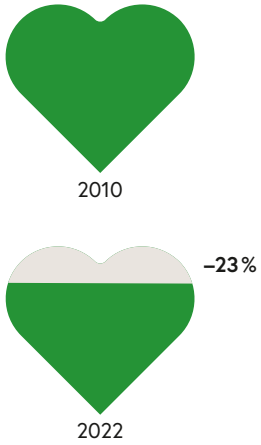
Seniors' Council/ Journalists' Club: Presentation of the a.g.e Awards

By presenting the *"a.g.e Awards"*, the Austrian Seniors' Council and the Austrian Journalists' Club aim to raise public awareness of the topic of age(ing). Additionally, the aim is to qualify the media landscape and provide an impetus for the world of work and society. Experiencing old age together – against the backdrop of demographic changes in Austria and Europe.

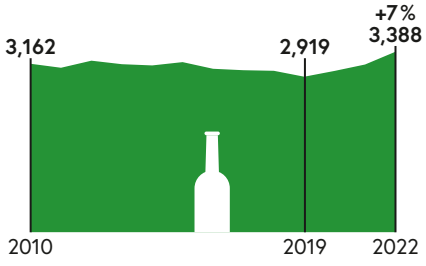
malaria and **neglected tropical diseases** (e. g. dengue fever) is considered to have been largely achieved at European level.

Premature mortality from non-communicable diseases among 30 to 69-year-olds (cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases) fell by just under 23% from 2010 (293.1 per 100,000 people) to 2022 (226.6 per 100,000 people, age-standardized). Men have a significantly higher premature mortality rate from these diseases than women, with mortality among men falling more sharply (25%) than among women (–19%) over the entire period. The **suicide rate** showed a positive trend over the entire period from 15.3 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants (2010) to 13.6 cases in 2022 (2021: 11.9, age-standardized). With a mean value of 7.9 (scale of 0–10), the indicator for **subjective life satisfaction** in Austria in 2022 was at a high level in international comparison: the most recent comparative value for the EU-27 from 2018 was 7.3.

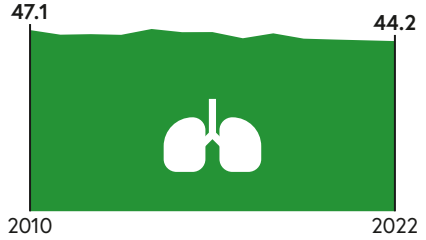
Premature mortality from non-communicable diseases among 30 to 69-year-olds (cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases),
in percent



Alcohol-related deaths and suicides,
total numbers



Lung cancer mortality,
per 100,000 persons



The number of **alcohol-related deaths** was 3,162 in 2010 and reached a low of 2,919 cases in 2019, but has risen again since 2020. In 2022, there were 3,388 cases, which represents an increase of 7% compared to 2010 and thus a negative trend at a generally high level (see also Health Austria, Handbook Alcohol, 2022). The **average alcohol consumption** of the population aged 15 to 99 years between 2010 and 2022 was around 12 litres of pure alcohol per person per year, with a slight downward development: in 2022, the value was 11.9 litres, lower than in 2010 (12.5 litres) and thus a positive trend over the entire time series. **Alcohol addiction diagnoses in hospitals** (main and secondary diagnoses) fell sharply between 2010 and 2022 (–28%).

The **death rate due to road traffic accidents** fell significantly from 66 mortalities per million inhabitants in 2010 to 40.9 mortalities (2022). The number of **traffic accidents resulting in personal injury** also fell.

Live births by (very) young mothers (younger than 15 years or 15 to 19 years old, catchword teenage births) fell significantly from 2010 to 2022. The proportion of **the population covered by social health insurance has been** 99.9% in recent years, according to social insurance. **Deaths attributable to $PM_{2,5}$ (particulate matter)** have fallen sharply in recent years, from 91 cases per 100,000 inhabitants (2010) to 36 cases in 2022.

Community Nursing – For health and well-being at any age, BMSGPK

The EU-funded *"Community Nursing"* project has been running in Austria since 2022, in which caregivers support elderly people and their relatives close to home, free of charge and with easy-access. As central contact points for care and health issues, they provide advice, coordination and referrals to other stakeholders. They also carry out home calls. A particular focus is on reaching people who have not sought support previously, promoting health literacy and strengthening cohesion in the community.

Burgenland: Employment of family carers

In Burgenland, a new, unique employment model has been created for family carers: People who care for and look after their relatives at home can be employed by a non-profit subsidiary of the state in return for fair pay at the Burgenland minimum wage and social security cover. A total of over 400 people have been employed since the program began in 2019. The number of hours per week is linked to the care level.

Regarding **lung cancer mortality** (including bronchial carcinomas), a decrease from 47.1 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants to 44.2 deaths (lowest value in the time series) can be observed between 2010 and 2022. By gender, however, the trends are diverging: while the death rate from lung cancer among men fell sharply in the same period (–20%), there was a significant increase among women (+18%). This is (partly) due to the trend in smoking prevalence, which showed a decrease in the number of men who smoked daily and an increase in the number of women who smoked daily. It should be noted that changes in the prevalence of smoking among women and men have an impact on the cause of death statistics only in the very long term.

The number of **cigarettes consumed daily** in the population (persons aged 15+ years) was 5.3 in 2010 and fell to 4.2 cigarettes per day by 2022. It is also positive to note that the proportion of **schoolchildren** aged 15 **who smoke daily** has fallen sharply from 19% (2010) to just 4.0% in 2022.

Goal 4

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



→ The proportion of young adults (aged 20 to 24) with at least upper secondary education recently fell slightly and, at 85.4% (2022), was marginally below the initial value of 85.5% (2010, EU-27: 83.6% for 2022).

→ 99.1% of 5-year-old children attended a day-care centre or started school early in 2022.

→ The rate of tertiary education for 25 to 34-year-olds rose significantly from 33.9% (2010) to 43.1% (2022, EU-27: 42.0%). The rate for women is significantly higher than for men.

→ 15.8% of 25 to 64-year-olds took part in vocational and general education or training in 2022 (2010: 13.8%).

→ The employability index (employment rate of graduates who have recently passed their final examination) was 88.4% in 2022 (2010: 88.0%).

Education begins with pre-school education and school education pathways, but lifelong learning is also a key indicator for this goal. The **child-care rate for 3 to 5-year-olds** increased from 90.7% (2010) to 94.4% in 2022. The proportion of **5-year-olds in child-care** (including children starting school early) remained at an almost consistently high level of between 97.2% and 98.8% between 2010 and 2019. In 2022, the childcare rate for 5-year-olds peaked at 99.1%. In addition, around 2,500 children aged three to five were cared for in non-institutional forms (childminders, playgroups, etc.) in 2022. The target of giving **5-year-olds access to early childhood education, child-care and pre-school education** so that children are prepared for elementary school can therefore be considered largely achieved.

For 15- to 16-year-old students, the **non-risk group for reading was 75%** in 2022 (OECD average 74%) according to the current OECD PISA test, while the **non-risk group for mathematics** also had a share of 75% (OECD average 69%). In 2012, the proportion of the non-risk group was higher than in 2022 for both reading and mathematics at 80.5% and 81.3% respectively. According to the latest available

UNESCO: IKE goes ASPnet

"IKE goes ASPnet" is a project of the Austrian UNESCO Commission that integrates intangible cultural heritage (IKE) into school education. Teachers at UNESCO schools in Austria, which are part of the international *"UNESCO-ASPnet"*, use elements of IKE to stimulate discussion of SDG-relevant topics in the classroom. The topics range from issues relating to biodiversity, health and well-being to gender equality.

Target	National Indicators (selected)	Trend
4.1	Young people (20–24 year-olds) with at least upper secondary education	↘
4.2	Child-care rate for 3–5 year-olds	↗
	TARGET: Access to quality early childhood education	✓
4.3	Lifelong learning	↑
	Tertiary education (ISCED 5–8)	↑
4.4	Employability Index	↗
4.5	Parity indices for education	:(no)
4.6	Level 1 proficiency in reading	:(short)
	Level 1 proficiency in mathematics	:(short)
4.7	TARGET: Knowledge of sustainable development for all learners	?

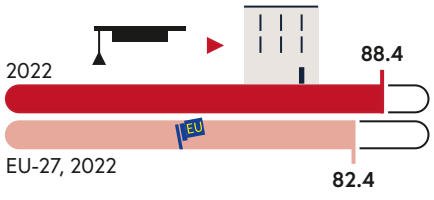
S: Statistics Austria
Trend according to 4 levels (↑↗↘↓), for abbreviations see overview of evaluation mode.

data, the proportion of 16- to 65-year-olds in Austria with **level 1 proficiency in reading** was 97.5% in 2012. The percentage for **level 1 proficiency in mathematics** was similarly high at 96.5% (also in 2012).

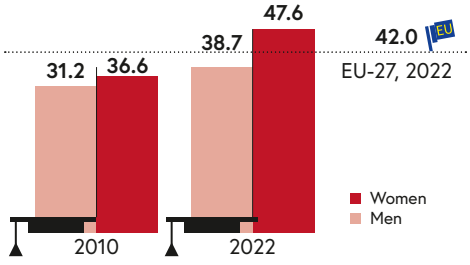
In recent decades, there has been a general increase in the educational level of the Austrian population. For example, the proportion of the population with only compulsory education fell significantly from 46.0% in 1981 to just 17.3% in2021. The **level of education of young adults** (20 to 24 years), measured by the proportion of this age group with **at least upper secondary education**, rose significantly from 85.5% (2010) to 89.6% (2014) and 89.5% (2016). However, the proportion has fallen again slightly in recent years and, at 85.4% in 2022, was marginally below the initial value of the time series, which represents a slightly negative trend. In the EU-27, the comparative figure was 79.1% in 2010 and grew slightly more strongly over the years to 83.6% in 2022. In Austria, upper secondary level includes apprenticeship qualifications, qualifications from vocational secondary schools and the school-leaving examination at general secondary schools.

The rate of tertiary education is used to analyse the tertiary education sector. In addition to academic degrees (Bachelor's, Master's, etc.), this includes degrees from higher vocational schools (including teacher training) as well as master craftsmen and foremen qualifications. In 2022, 43.1% of 25- to 34-year-olds had a tertiary qualification, compared to 33.9% in 2010. In the EU-27, 42.0% of the comparable age group had a

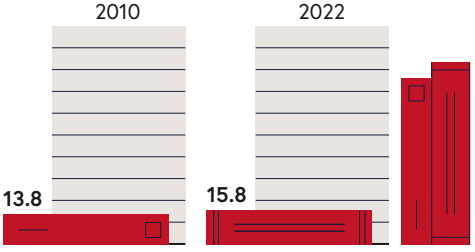
Employability index, employment rate of graduates who have recently passed their final examination



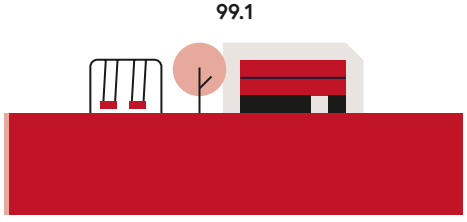
Tertiary education rate for 25 to 34-year-olds, in percent



Proportion of 25 to 64-year-olds participating in vocational and general education and training, in percent



Proportion of 5-year-olds in child-care or starting school early, in percent





Beteiligung.st: Good morning future! Let's tackle it together!

The Children's Summit 2023 in Styria was all about the SDGs. The focus of the Summit was on children's rights and on the exchange between children themselves. The SDGs are about sustainable development worldwide, which is why they are directly linked to children's rights. In nine workshops, children considered what they themselves and their communities can do for a more sustainable world. The children's messages will remain visible on large flags in the town of Fernitz-Mellach and are intended to inspire reflection.



Agenda 2030 in the STUWER-VIERTEL-ZWEI educational district

The *"Bildungsgrätzl STUWER-VIERTEL-ZWEI"* in Vienna works with the 2030 Agenda, communicates it and makes the connections between the SDGs and the living environment of children, adolescents, young adults and all those involved in the "education borough" (educators, social workers, etc.) visible and tangible. Options for action are jointly developed and presented in cross-institutional projects. Every individual is encouraged and experiences self-efficacy, which ultimately benefits everyone.

tertiary qualification in 2022. At 47.6%, the tertiary rate for women in 2022 was significantly higher than that for men at 38.7%.

A positive long-term trend is observable regarding the data on **lifelong learning**. The proportion of 25 to 64-year-olds who reported participation in vocational and general education and training rose from 13.8% (2010) to 15.8% (2022). Austria's figure of 15.8% is significantly higher than that of the EU-27 at 11.9% for 2022. At 17.2%, women were more likely to report participation in vocational and general education or training than men, at 14.4%. Eurostat's "Digital Skills Indicator" measures the level of **digital skills** of individuals. 63% of the population have at least basic digital skills, e.g. regarding the creation of digital content or data security. The average for the EU-27 is 54%.

The **Employability Index** describes the employment rates of graduates who have recently passed their final examinations. Overall, the national Employability Index remained at a relatively constant, high level of 88.4% over the period under review – partly due to the vocational school system in Austria. At 89.8% for 2022, the index value for men was 3.2 percentage points higher than that of women at 86.6%.

Styria: FairStyria education catalogue for global responsibility

The education catalogue is part of the education offensive for global responsibility and is unique in Austria in its form. It offers all educational institutions in Styria (elementary education to upper secondary level, as well as extracurricular youth work) easy access to global learning topics. The province of Styria covers the costs for a certain number of workshops. This workshop offer was designed together with 14 Styrian educational partners.

Goal 5

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



→ The gender pay gap decreased from 24.0% (2010) to 18.4% (2022), but is still high compared to the EU-27 (12.7%). The gender pension gap amounted to 41.1% in 2022.

→ In 2021, 26.6% of surveyed women (aged 18 to 74) stated that they had experienced physical and/or sexual violence outside of partnerships from the age of 15, and 1.3% had experienced this within the last 12 months.

→ In 2021/2022, women and girls spent significantly more time doing care work in the household and family with 3 hours and 37 minutes a day than men and boys, who spent 2 hours and 6 minutes.

→ The proportion of female managers (salaried employees) increased from 28.4% (2011) to 34.5% (2022). The proportion of women in the National Council chamber of parliament grew significantly, from 27.3% (2011) to 39.9% in 2022.

→ At 8.3%, the part-time rate for men with children under the age of 15 is lower than the part-time rate for men overall at 11.3% (2022).

In Austria, the Federal Constitution (Article 7) contains a **legal framework for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls**. The goal of ensuring **universal access to sexual and reproductive health** and reproductive rights can be considered largely achieved at national level.

The **gender pay gap** refers to employees in the private sector and measures the proportion of women earning less gross per hour than men. The gender pay gap decreased from 24.0% (2010) to 18.4% in 2022, showing a clearly positive trend. In an EU comparison, however, Austria is still one of the countries with the largest wage and salary differences, with the EU-27 average at 12.7% in 2022. The **gender pension gap** shows that women's monthly retirement pensions in 2022 were on average 41.1% lower than those of men (2010: 44.7%).

gleich.wandeln – women's power for climate and SDGs

"gleich.wandeln", a program of the province of Lower Austria, combines climate and women's issues and brings people together to work creatively and in-depth on solutions for sustainable development. *"Women in the Places of the Future"* were sought out and presented as part of the programme in 2023. The examples showed that places only become places of the future when women play a key role in shaping them.

Target	National Indicators (selected)	Trend
5.1	Gender Pay Gap	↑
	Gender Pension Gap	↗
5.2	Physical and/or sexual violence against women	:(short)
	Restraining orders by police to enter the home	:(break)
5.3	Marriages of 16 to 19-year-old women	↑
	TARGET: Eliminate harmful practices such as female genital mutilation/cutting	?
5.4	Time spent on household and family care	:(short)
5.5	Proportion of women in National Council of parliament	↑
	Proportion of women in management	↑
	"Federal Quota for women"	↑
5.6	TARGET: Universal access to sexual and reproductive health	✓

S: Statistics Austria
Trend according to 4 levels (↑↗↘↓), for abbreviations see overview of evaluation mode.

In 2022, 14,589 **restraining orders** were issued throughout Austria, a significant increase on the previous year (13,546 bans).

The new study on violence against women (VIOLA) provides information on **physical and/or sexual violence** within and outside of partnerships. A distinction can also be made between **lifetime prevalence** (violence experienced from the age of 15) and **recently experienced violence** (within the last twelve months). In terms of lifetime prevalence, 16.4% of women between the age of 18 and 74 surveyed in Austria had experienced some form of **physical and/or sexual violence in an intimate relationship** from the age of 15, while 26.6% had experienced such **violence outside of intimate partnerships**. Overall, 34.5% of women reported having experienced physical and/or sexual violence within or outside of intimate relationships since the age of 15. Looking at **recently experienced violence,** just under 1% of women stated that they had experienced physical and/or sexual partner violence within the last twelve months, while 1.3% had recently experienced it outside of intimate relationships (see also Goal 16).

Marriages of 16 to 19-year-old women fell significantly from 798 cases in 2010 to 386 cases in 2022. Marriages of 16 to 19-year-old men also fell from 217 cases (2010) to 104 cases (2022).

The 2021/2022 Time Use Survey provides an up-to-date indicator of the **time spent on household chores and childcare** (care work). At 3 hours and 37 minutes, women and girls spend significantly more time per day on household and family care work than men and boys at 2 hours and 6 minutes. A comparison of the **active part-time rate** of men and women (15- to 64-year-olds) with children under the age of 15 shows that 8.3% of men and 73% of women with care responsibilities worked part-time in 2022. In comparison, the overall active part-time rate for women in 2022 was 50% and for men 11.3%.

Measures for equality and the advancement of women, BKA and BMAW

The *"equalitA"* seal of approval recognizes companies for promoting women within the company. The *"STEM Girls Challenge"* aims to get more girls interested in STEM. The screenplay competition *"Heldinnen in Serie – Let's Change The Picture"* is looking for stories with a female STEM protagonist over the age of 55 with the aim of conveying positive role models. *"Zukunft.Frauen"* aims to establish more women in management and supervisory board positions. In 2022, the Austrian Fund for the Empowerment and Advancement of Women and Girls *"LEA – Let's Empower Austria"* began its work.



Girls in Politics, BKA

Around the International Day of the Girl Child on October 11, mayoresses and mayors throughout Austria are accompanied by girls and young women for a day. The aim is to give the girls an insight into the everyday life and tasks of a mayoress and to get them interested in politics. *"Girls in Politics"* has been taking place since 2022 in cooperation with the Directorate General for Women and Equality in the Federal Chancellery and the Austrian Association of Municipalities.

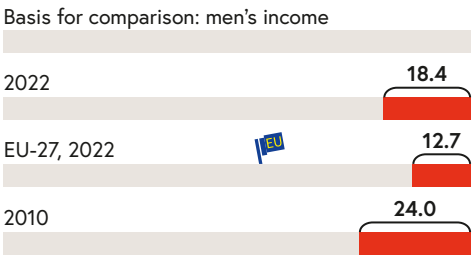
Percentage of women on supervisory boards

Based on resolution 93/23 (March 2011) by the council of ministers, the federal quota for women was gradually increased to at least 25% by 2013 and at least 35% by 2019. The resolution of June 3, 2020 raised the women's quota to 40%. An annual progress report shows the ongoing development. In 2023, the federal quota for women was 51.4% compared to 26% in 2011.

Child-care allowance (all variants) was received by 98,177 women in 2022, but only by 3,439 men, which means a female share of 96.6%. Regardless of the duration of receipt, the share of fathers receiving childcare allowance was 16.3% for the 2019 birth year.

The **federal quota for women** (the proportion of women on all supervisory boards appointed by the federal government to state-affiliated companies) increased from 26.0% in 2011 to 50.0% in 2022. Between 2011 and 2022, the proportion of **women in the National Council** chamber of parliament also increased significantly (from 27.3% to 39.9%). The proportion of female mayors doubled from 4.7% in 2010 to 10.3% in 2022, though the figures are still at a low level. The **proportion of female managers** among salaried employees also increased from 28.4% (2011) to 34.5% (2022).

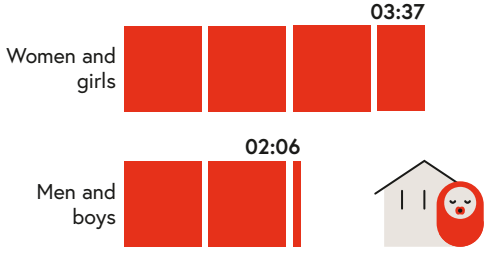
Gender Pay Gap, in percent



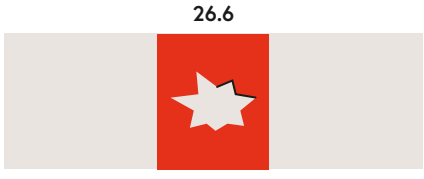
Proportion of female managers among salaried employees, in percent



Time spent on household and family care 2021/2022 in hh:mm/day



Lifetime prevalence: physical and/or sexual violence outside of intimate partnerships experienced by women from the age of 15, in 2021 in percent





Gender equality in the cultural sector, BMKÖS

To counteract gender-specific inequalities, the BMKÖS pays attention to gender budgeting, balanced funding and fair pay. Gender incentives are offered in the film sector. The regular collection of gender-specific data and figures enables an evidence-based equal treatment policy *(“Film Gender Report”, “1st Gender Report Kunst und Kultur”)*. In 2022, the *“vera*”* confidential advice centre was set up as a point of contact for victims of power abuse and gender-specific violence in the arts, culture and sport.



UNSCR 1325 Twenty Years down the Road: A regional view on Participation, Protection, Prevention, Relief and Recovery, BMLV

To mark the 20th anniversary of United Nations' Security Council Resolution 1325, a two-day regional workshop was initiated in Austria in 2021 to promote dialogue on the *Women, Peace and Security* (WPS) agenda in the Middle East (ME) and to intensify national efforts and international cooperation on the agenda. To this end, members of the armed forces of six countries in the ME, experts from international organizations, political decision-makers, activists and academics from the field of the WPS agenda were invited. The thematic focus was based on the four pillars of the agenda: participation – protection – prevention – assistance and reconstruction, as well as the role of women in armed forces.

Goal 6

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



→ Access to safe and affordable drinking water can be considered largely achieved in Austria.

→ Adequate sanitation and hygiene can also be considered largely achieved: Only just under 1% of households did not have a bath, shower or toilet in their home in 2022 (EU-27: just under 2% for 2020).

→ Connection to municipal wastewater treatment plants can be considered largely achieved at 99.1% (2022).

→ The water indicators generally show a good status for water bodies and good water resource management.

→ Austria is a water-rich country that uses around 3% of its available water resources.

General **access to safe and affordable drinking water** can be considered largely achieved in Austria. Around 93% of the population is supplied with drinking water by central water supply systems; around 5,500 water supply companies supply the population with high-quality drinking water. The remaining 7% of the population obtain their drinking water from their own domestic wells and springs. **Access to adequate, equitable sanitation and hygiene** can also be considered as largely achieved: Only just under 1% of the Austrian population reported having no toilet and/or no shower or bathtub in their home in 2022. The comparative figure for the EU-27 in 2020 (last available year) was just under 2% of the population.

Styrian Artesian Action Program 2.0

Groundwater protection projects are being implemented in order to guarantee the population's drinking water supply. The central aim of the *"Artesian Action Program 2.0"* is to ensure water reserves are regenerated as quickly as possible in priority municipalities with the greatest water losses due to artesian wells that are not state of the art. This can be achieved either by adapting to the current state of the art or by professionally dismantling artesian wells which are no longer in use. A funding programme developed for this purpose is intended to minimize the financial burden on individuals.

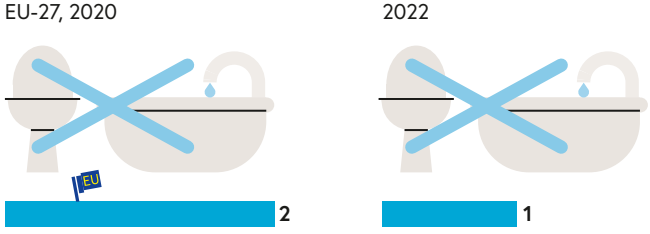
Target	National Indicators (selected)	Trend
6.1	TARGET: Universal access to safe drinking water	✓
6.2	TARGET: Access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene	✓
6.3	Connection to municipal wastewater treatment plants (at least secondary treatment)	✓
	Biochemical oxygen demand in rivers	↑
	Biological status regarding material pollution in rivers	↗
6.4	Water stress	:(short)
	Water use	=
6.5	TARGET: Cooperation in transboundary river basins	✓
6.6	Area of lakes and rivers	↗

S: Statistics Austria
Trend according to 4 levels (↑↗↘↓), for abbreviations see overview of evaluation mode.

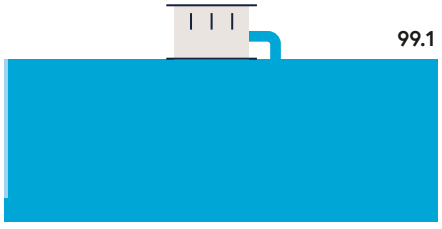
Wastewater treatment makes a significant contribution to water quality. All residential areas with 2,000 or more inhabitants are connected to wastewater treatment plants via a sewer system. The **connection rate to municipal wastewater treatment plants** with at least secondary treatment can be considered largely achieved, with a value of 99.1% in 2022 (2010: 93.9%, excluding small wastewater treatment plants). The entire inflowing wastewater load is treated biologically. The remaining 0.9% of wastewater (2022) is properly disposed of through treatment in small and domestic sewage treatment plants or through collection in cesspools.

In Austria, the EU indicator for **biochemical oxygen demand (BOD_5) in rivers shows** a value of 1.13 mg O_2/l for 2021. In 2010, the value was 2.4 mg O_2/l, which represents a clearly positive trend. The cleanest rivers have a BOD5 of less than 1 mg O_2/l. Moderately and heavily polluted rivers have values of 2 to 8 mg O_2/l. The EU-27 average value for 2021 was 2.77 mg O_2/l, which is significantly higher than Austria's. A **water quality indicator** shows a good quality for 80.4% of **ground and surface waters** on average for the period 2013 to 2015, 81.8% in 2019 and 82.3% in 2022. In 2010, the measurement of the **biological status regarding material pollution in rivers** showed a "good" or "very good" status for 69.8%; in 2021 and 2022, this value reached 78.3% (based on the length of the water body), which shows a positive trend.

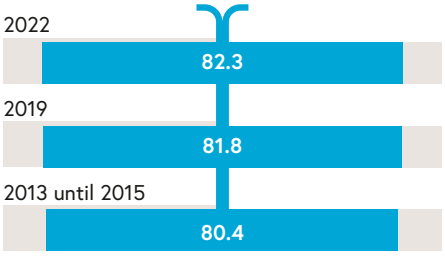
Proportion of households without a bath, shower or toilet in their home in 2022, in percent



Connection rate to municipal wastewater treatment plants in 2022, in percent



Good water quality
ground and surface waters, in percent





Drinking water security plan for Austria, BML

Like many European countries, Austria is also being hit by increasingly long periods of drought and heat. In order to ensure sufficient drinking water for the population in the future, the BML, together with the federal provinces, has drawn up a drinking water security plan with a concrete 5-point-program. The plan also contains options for action in emergency scenarios, for example in the event of a drinking water shortage.



VRVis: Personalised risk communication for raising awareness of flood prevention

The flood simulation *"Visdom"* from *"VRVis"* forms the basis of the HORA 3D project, the world's first interactive 3D map of an entire country that simulates flood hazards in seconds and visualises them in three dimensions. *"HORA 3D"* communicates the personalised hazard situation to the population so that they can take steps to protect themselves against flooding. A prime example of a human-centric visual computing solution that supports risk communication and awareness-raising.

Öklo

Going to the toilet is the most important pastime in the world. Everyone needs sanitary facilities, whether at events, in public places or in places where there are no sanitary facilities or no water supply at all. Clean water, especially drinking water from the tap, as in Austria, is increasingly becoming a luxury good. Approximately five litres of drinking water are wasted per toilet flush – this of course also applies to water collected on the move – as it has to be diluted before it can be purified, which requires a great deal of energy. What remains is sedimented waste. With its innovative toilet system, *"Öklo"* offers a sustainable and, above all, ecologically sound solution that is indispensable in today's world.

With an average annual precipitation of approx. 1,100 mm, Austria is one of the most water-rich countries in Europe, although it should be noted that the amount of precipitation varies greatly between regions. On average, the **annual use of water** for municipal supply, agriculture, industry and commerce in Austria is a consistently low 3% of the available water resources. However, when considered at regional level, higher values can occur in particularly dry years. A newly, at UN level developed **"water stress"** indicator calculates how much freshwater is withdrawn by all economic activities compared to the total available renewable freshwater resources. The Federal Environment Agency calculated a value of 9.6% for Austria in 2018.

The implementation of **integrated water resources management** in Austria in 2022 stood at 91%, while cooperation in transboundary river basins is at 100% and has thus been implemented. According to an estimate from the UNSDG database, **the area of lakes and rivers** (permanent and seasonal) amounted to 654 km^2 (0.8% of the country's surface area) in 2022, with a slight increase since 2010 (616 km^2).

Goal 7

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



→ Access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services can be regarded as largely achieved in Austria.

→ The share of renewable energy rose from 31.2% (2010) to 33.8% (2022), although there was a slight decrease of 0.8 percentage points compared to the previous year.

→ At 33.8%, the national share of renewable energy in 2022 was well above the EU-27 average of 23.0%.

→ The energy intensity of gross domestic consumption showed a significant decline from 4.9 megajoules per euro of GDP (2010) to 3.9 megajoules per euro of GDP (2022).

→ At 1,066 petajoules, final energy consumption in 2022 was significantly lower than the 2010 figure of 1,116 petajoules, and consumption fell by 5.5% compared to the previous year.

General access to affordable, reliable and modern **energy services** can be considered largely achieved in Austria.

The share of **attributable renewable energy** in gross final energy consumption in Austria shows an increasing and therefore positive trend from 31.2% in 2010 to 33.8% in 2022. Until 2014 (33.6%), there was a significant increase in the share of renewable energy sources, after which the share fell slightly for several years. In 2020, the share of renewable energy reached the highest value in the time series at 36.5%, primarily due to the decline in energy consumption overall. In 2021, the share fell to 34.6%, while energy consumption increased at the same time. In the year 2022, the share of renewable energy sources fell again by 0.8 percentage points to 33.8%. This decline is primarily due to the changes in the calculation of the share of renewables in accordance with the new Directive 2023/2413 of the European Parliament and of the Council. According to this directive, essentially, only certified biomass quantities are eligible for heat and electricity generation. In an international comparison, Austria's share of 33.8% in 2022 was significantly higher than the EU-27 average of 23.02%, which is largely due to the use of hydropower.

OurPower

As an electricity cooperative oriented towards the common good, *"OurPower"* supports citizens in the formation of energy communities. It helps to set up the community in the initial phase. Once the energy community is up and running, it takes care of energy management and billing as required. It also shows people how they can participate in the energy transition through photovoltaic investments. Together with its customers, *"OurPower"* is creating new financing models for community power plants and accelerating the energy transition.

Target	National Indicators (selected)	Trend
7.1	TARGET: Universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services	✓
7.2	Share of renewable energy in gross final consumption of energy	↗
7.3	Energy intensity: Gross domestic consumption per real GDP	↑
	Final energy consumption	↗

S: Statistics Austria
Trend according to 4 levels (↑↗↘↓), for abbreviations see overview of evaluation mode.

Energy intensity can be used as a measure of the efficient use of energy. Energy intensity describes the development of gross domestic consumption in relation to real gross domestic product (GDP). Austria's energy intensity had a downward and therefore positive trend from 4.9 megajoules per euro (2010) to 4.3 megajoules per euro (2021), which decreased significantly further in 2022 (3.9 megajoules per euro). This means that energy has been used more efficiently in recent years.

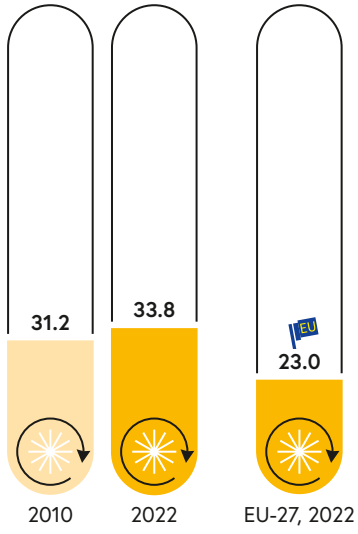
Another key indicator in the energy sector is **final energy consumption**. This is the amount of energy available to end consumers as petrol or diesel for cars, electrical energy for appliances, gas and district heating for space heating, etc. Final energy consumption is largely made up of fossil and therefore non-renewable energy sources. In 2022, there was a sharp drop in final energy consumption to 1,066 petajoules (PJ), a reduction of 5.5% compared to the previous year.

eFriends

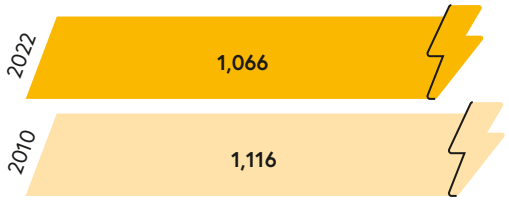
„eFriends" share regionally generated green electricity from photovoltaics, wind and hydropower in real time and independently of large electricity providers. *"eFriends"* are either electricity producers (e. g. because they operate a solar panel on their roof) or electricity consumers. The innovative *"eFriends"* technology is installed in the meter boxes of their houses and apartments. They use the *"eFriends"* app to find and connect with each other and decide from whom they want to purchase electricity or to whom they want to supply surplus electricity – and at what price. *"eFriends"* has developed a process that measures high-resolution energy data (10 seconds) in real time using specially installed hardware and can therefore allocate surplus electricity to other households using a trading algorithm.

The warmer weather and the massive rise in energy and fuel prices at the start of the war in Ukraine in February 2022 pushed energy consumption in Austria almost back to the pandemic-related low level of 2020. Private households in particular reduced their energy consumption significantly (by 15%), mainly due to the reduced use of heating energy sources. Final energy consumption in 2022 was therefore just under 5% below the 2010 figure of 1,116 PJ. In addition to the development over time, the absolute level of final energy consumption is a key factor in assessing the indicator in terms of sustainability: the federal government's "*Energy Efficiency Package*" target (Federal Law Gazette No. 72/2014) can be used as a benchmark here. Among other things, this includes the goal of stabilizing final energy consumption at 1,050 PJ. Over the entire time series 2010 to 2022 considered here, final energy consumption was constantly above the limit of 1,050 PJ, but only just above it in 2022 at 1,066 PJ.

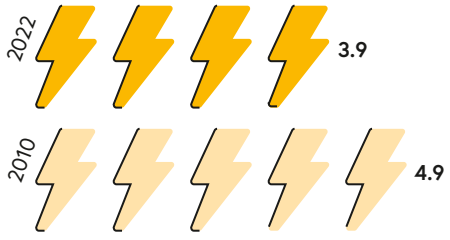
Share of renewable energy,
in percent



Final energy consumption,
in petajoules



Energy intensity of gross domestic consumption, in megajoules



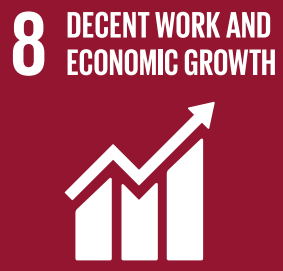


ADA: Regional sustainable energy centres

ADA and BMEIA promote regional sustainable energy centres and their network, the *"Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres"* (GN-SEC). The aim of this network – initiated by the Vienna-based UNIDO – is to help member states strengthen their industrial enterprises in transitioning to sustainable energy sources and energy efficiency. Not only is the regulatory framework being developed. Technical assistance, capacity building and knowledge transfer are also key outcomes of the cooperation. The focus is on combining ecological sustainability, economic strengthening and raising public awareness. The GN-SEC network facilitates the exchange of experience, cooperation and technology transfer between regional centres.

Goal 8

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



→ Following the sharp decline in the COVID-19 crisis year 2020 (7.1%), real (GDP) per capita grew again in the following years (2021 +3.8%, 2022 +3.6%).

→ The unemployment rate fell to 4.8% in 2022, slightly below the 2010 rate of 5.2% (EU-27: 6.2% for 2022).

→ The employment rate for 20- to 64-year-olds was 77.3% in 2022, exceeding the pre-crisis level of 76.8% (2019). The rate for women was significantly lower than for men.

→ The proportion of NEETs (Young people neither in employment nor in education and training) rose from 7.4% (2010) to 8.1% (2022) (EU-27: 9.6%).

→ At 8.4%, the proportion of early leavers from education and training in 2022 was marginally higher than the 2010 figure of 8.3% (EU-27: 9.6% for 2022).

The targets of **promoting productive activities** and creating **decent jobs**, **eradicating forced labour** and **promoting access to banking, insurance and financial services** for all can be considered largely achieved in Austria.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) serves as a key metric of the market-based production. Compared to the COVID-19 crisis year 2020, which saw a sharp decline of 7.1%, real GDP per capita grew by 3.8% in 2021 and 3.6% in 2022. Over the entire period from 2010 to 2022, real GDP per capita in Austria grew by 7.6%, which is weaker than the EU-27 growth of 16.3%.

The flip side of rising economic output is **domestic material consumption,** which fell by 1.4 million tons over the entire time series from 2010 to 2022 and thus shows a positive trend. **Domestic material consumption per capita** in 2022 was 17.1 tons and thus, despite the sharp decline last year, at a significantly higher level than the EU-27 average of 14.4 tons per capita (see also Goal 12). The long-term development of the national per capita values (2010: 18.6 t per capita) showed a clear decline until 2022 (17.1 t per capita), partly due to the increase in the population, and thus a positive trend. **Raw material consumption per capita** also includes upstream inputs. In 2022, the national

Target	National Indicators (selected)	Trend
8.1	Real GDP per capita	↗
8.2	Growth rate of real GDP per working hour	:(no)
8.3	TARGET: Decent jobs	✓
8.4	Raw material consumption per capita	↑
	Total domestic material consumption	↗
8.5	Unemployment rate	↗
	Employment rate	↗
8.6	*"NEET"* Young people Neither in Employment nor in Education and Training	↘
	Early leavers from education and training	↘
8.7	TARGET: No forced labour	✓
8.8	Accidents at work: fatal injuries	↑
8.9	Tourism value added as share of GDP	:(no)
8.10	TARGET: Access to financial institutions	✓

S: Statistics Austria
Trend according to 4 levels (↑↗↘↓), for abbreviations see overview of evaluation mode.

COVID-19 investment premium, BMAW

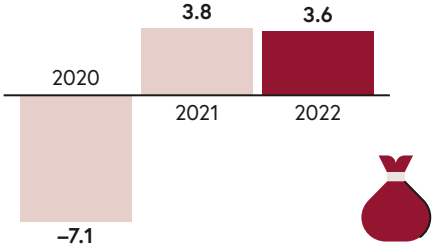
The COVID-19 investment premium motivates companies whose propensity to invest has decreased during the COVID-19 pandemic. This support measure has been very well received by companies, especially regarding digitalisation and ecologisation. The investment premium is 7% or for new investments in the priority areas of digitalisation, ecologisation and health/life science, 14%. Climate-damaging investments are explicitly excluded.

value was 20.8 tons (preliminary estimate by Eurostat) and was therefore significantly higher than domestic material consumption at 17.1 tons.

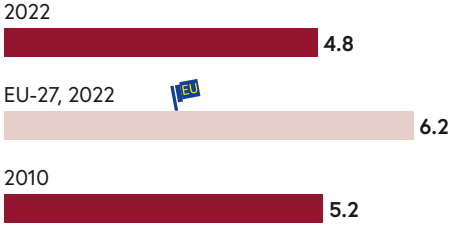
A look at **income difference between the gross annual incomes** of men and women in full-time, year-round employment shows that the differences have decreased significantly since 2010, from 19.1% to 12.5% for 2021.

The **unemployment rate (international definition according to the ILO)** for 15- to 74-year-olds in the labour force was 5.2% in 2010. The lowest value (4.8%) was reached both in 2019 and 2022. This results in a positive trend for the time series under review. The unemployment rate was consistently lower than in the EU-27 (2022: 6.2%). At 4.5% (2022), the unemployment rate for women was slightly lower than that of men at 4.9%. The **employment rate** for 20- to 64-year-olds was 73.9% in 2010 and increased to 76.8% in 2019. After a decline in the crisis

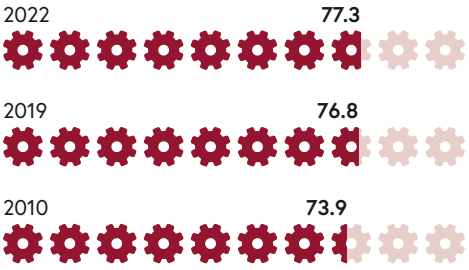
Real Gross Domestic Product per capita, change on previous year, in percent



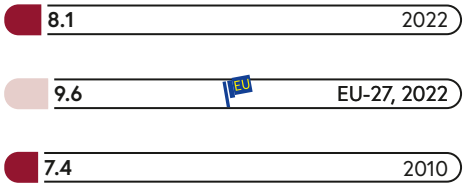
Unemployment rate (international definition), in percent



Employment rate, in percent



Rate of young people neither in employment nor in education and training, in percent





OeEB: African-Austrian SME Investment Facility (AAIF+)

The Austrian Development Bank (OeEB) has been successfully implementing projects under the *"African-Austrian SME Investment Facility"* since 2019. The aim of the instrument is to support small and medium-sized enterprises from Austria or the EU in setting up companies or developing projects in Africa or the least developed countries in order to create local jobs and enable sustainable development.



Business Upper Austria – Upper Austrian Business Agency: Technology Roadmap Plastics Solutions

The roadmap for Upper Austria as a plastics site aims to develop sustainable plastics solutions by 2030. The focus is on the yellow bag, 100% of which is to be recycled. In order to be a model region for the circular economy, the industrial state of Upper Austria wants to exceed the recycling quotas set by the EU. The signs are good, as Upper Austria can cover the entire value-added cycle for plastic packaging.

year 2020 (75.5%), the figure rose again noticeably in 2022 (77.3%). At 73.4%, the employment rate for women aged 20 to 64 was significantly lower than the rate for men at 81.2%. The EU-27 figure (2022: 74.6%) was below the national figure over the entire time series under review.

Young people who are neither in employment nor in education and training (15 to 24-year-olds) are referred to as **"NEETs" (Neither in Employment nor Education and Training).** In 2010, the proportion of NEETs was 7.4%, falling slightly to 7.1% in 2019. In recent years, however, there has been an increase to 8.1%, which represents a negative trend overall. The number of NEETs in Austria was well below the EU average over the entire period. In 2022, the comparative figure for the EU-27 was 9.6%. The indicator on **early leavers from education and training** refers to people between the ages of 18 and 24 who have only finished lower secondary education – possibly without successfully completing it – and are not participating in any education or training. In 2010, 8.3% of young adults in Austria were early school leavers and early apprenticeship leavers, the indicator reached a low of 6.9% in 2016 and rose marginally until 2022 (8.4%), resulting in a slightly negative trend. The comparative value in the EU-27 was 9.6% for 2022.

go-international Ukraine Focus, BMAW

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine has led to destruction on an unprecedented scale. Reconstruction is to take place under the motto "Build Back Better". The internationalisation offensive *"go-international"* includes a special focus on Ukraine in its programme, which supports the participation of Austrian companies in the reconstruction. To this end, *"go-international"* events with an information and B2B character in Austria and abroad are supplemented by the offer of direct funding.

The number of **accidents at work** shows a clearly positive trend: in 2010, there were still 2,538 accidents at work **with non-fatal injuries** per 100,000 people with accident insurance; this figure fell to 1,764 cases in 2022. **Fatal injuries caused by accidents at work** fell from 4 per 100,000 people with accident insurance in 2010 to 2.5 cases in 2022.

Corona Job Initiative – largest labour market policy initiative in the history of the Second Republic, BMAW

In the framework of the *"Corona Job Initiative"*, implemented between October 2020 and December 2021, as the largest qualification initiative in the Second Republic, the focus was on training and further education in the areas of care/social affairs, metal, environment/sustainability and digitalisation. EUR 700 million were made available for the *"Corona Job Initiative"* as additional funding from the Austrian federal government and through the EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility for the Public Employment Service Austria (AMS), of which by the end of 2022 EUR 538 million were used for training programmes for over 171,000 people.

Goal 9

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive, sustainable industrialization and foster innovation



→ The transport performance of truck traffic fell by around 1% in 2022 but remained above the 2019 level due to the strong increase in 2021.

→ In the period from 2015 to 2022, the transport capacity of truck traffic increased by 24.2%, which is more than the 6.3% capacity increase in rail traffic.

→ Passenger transport by rail increased very strongly by 35% in 2022, but remained below the 2019 level.

→ Energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions from transport were recently below the 2010 baseline values after significant decreases in 2020 and 2022.

→ The Austrian expenditure rate on R&D rose from 2.73% (2010) to 3.20% (2022).

The fundamental target of ensuring the rural population's access to an **all-season road** within 2 km of their homes can be considered largely achieved in Austria.

All traffic indicators showed a significant decline in the COVID-19 crisis year 2020. However, at 80.1 billion tonne-kilometres, **total freight transport** in 2021 was already well above the pre-crisis level of 2019 and showed only a slight decline to 79.6 billion tonne-kilometres (tkm) in 2022. The indicator for **freight transport by trucks** reflects all road freight transport in Austria. Due to a break in the time series, data is only available from 2015 onwards, which is why the trend assessment is not available. Since 2015, the transport performance of truck traffic has grown significantly, from 45.2 billion tkm to 56.2 billion tkm most recently (2020: 52.5 billion tkm), which corresponds to an increase of 24.2% over the entire period. In the same period from 2015 to 2022, **rail freight transport performance** increased by 6.3%, which is less than road transport. Data has been available for rail freight transport since 2010; rail transport performance was 19.8 billion tkm in 2010 and 22.1 billion tkm in 2022 (+11.4%), which is a positive trend in terms of sustainable mobility.

Investments and strategic developments in the Austrian rail infrastructure

The Austrian railway network is being improved, modernised and expanded continuously. The continuation of the BMK's path towards green mobility was secured by its approval of investments amounting to EUR 21.1 billion towards the goals of the *"ÖBB Framework Plan 2024–29"*. The long-term strategy of the federal state to expand the rail network, the *"Target network 2040"*, comprises concrete measures totalling around EUR 26 billion. The aim is to enhance the capacity of the rail network by 65%.

Target	National Indicators (selected)	Trend
9.1	All-season roads	✓
	Transport performance by truck traffic	:(short)
	Transport performance by rail	↗
	Passenger transport by rail	↑
	Energy consumption of transport	↗
	Greenhouse gas emissions from transport	↗
9.2	Share of employees in high-tech and medium-high-tech manufacturing	↗
9.3	Share of small-scale industries in total industry value added	:(no)
9.4	CO_2-emissions of industry per gross value added	↑
9.5	Gross domestic Expenditure on R&D (GERD) as a proportion of	↑

S: Statistics Austria
Trend according to 4 levels (↑↗↘↓), for abbreviations see overview of evaluation mode.

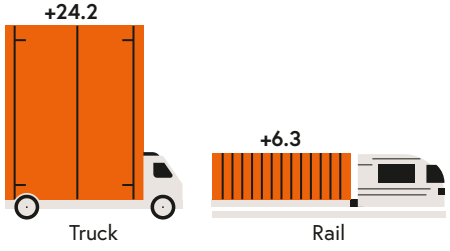
“Die Pflanzerei“

The Viennese start-up *“Die Pflanzerei”* has set itself the task of transforming traditional Austrian dishes – all “classics” made with meat and sausage – into tasty, high-quality plant-based meals. In collaboration with regional butchers and farmers, “Gustl – Der pflanzliche Leverkas” was developed as the first product; further plant-based delicacies are to follow. *“Die Pflanzerei”* focuses on building regional value chains for vegan and plant-based products and combines the plant-based product range with raising awareness among farmers, meat processors, butchers and consumers. Compared to animal products, *“Die Pflanzerei”* reduces the CO_2 footprint of its products by up to 89%.

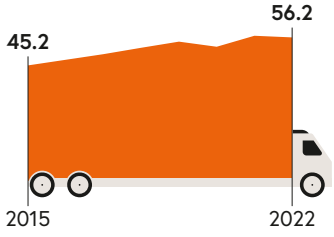
Passenger transport by rail rose continuously from 2010 to 2019, only to suffer a very sharp slump of almost 40% in 2020, the year of the COVID-19 crisis. In 2022, however, there was a significant increase of 35%, with 296 million passengers transported, a figure only just below the pre-crisis year 2019 (317 million passengers). Over the entire time series from 2010 to 2022, this resulted in a 22.1% increase in passenger transport by rail.

The **final energy consumption of transport increased** significantly by 11% from 2010 to 2019, but experienced a sharp drop of 18% in 2020, the year of the COVID-19 crisis, which was not fully offset in 2021. In 2022, energy consumption in transport fell again by 2%. Over the entire time series from 2010 to 2022, this resulted in a decrease of 7.4%. **Greenhouse gas emissions from transport** (+8.1% until 2019) also fell by 7.2% over the entire period from 2010 to 2022 due to the sharp decline during the COVID-19 crisis and the decline in 2022. In 2022, there was a decrease of 4.6% compared to the previous year.

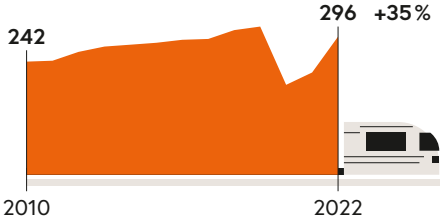
Change of transport performance by truck and rail from 2015 to 2022, in percent



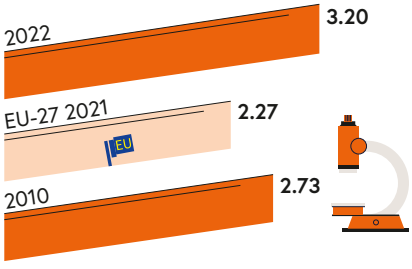
Transport performance by truck traffic from 2015 to 2022,
in billion tonne-kilometres



Passenger transport by rail from 2010 to 2022,
transported passengers in millions



Expenditure rate on research and development, in percent





WSA: Digital innovations with a social impact to achieve the UN SDGs

For more than 20 years, the WSA has been an Austrian initiative demonstrating how digital solutions contribute to achieving the UN SDGs. 180 countries are involved and share local best practice examples to learn from each other and support those entrepreneurs who put impact before profit. WSA is the global platform to find solutions in the areas of democratization, gender equality, climate protection, education, health and inclusion and to learn from each other.

Value added in high-tech and medium-high-tech manufacturing reached a share of 7.9% of total value added in 2022; taking the second decimal place into account, the value was marginally higher than in 2010. A look at **employees in high-tech** and medium-high tech manufacturing shows an increase, with the share rising from 4.6% in 2010 to 5.2% in 2022.

While the industry sector still emitted 240.4 tons (t) of **CO_2 per million euros of gross value-added** in 2010, emissions fell to 198.8 t per million euros by 2021.

Domestic expenditure on research and development has risen significantly since 2010: in 2010, the **expenditure rate on R&D (research and development)** was 2.73%, in 2020 and 2022 it peaked at 3.20%, and in 2021 it was 3.17%. In 2021 (the latest year for which international data is available), the expenditure rate on R&D was the third highest in the EU-27 after Belgium (3.43%) and Sweden (3.40%), with the EU-27 as a whole reaching 2.27%. The research intensity is calculated as gross domestic expenditure on research and development as a percentage of GDP.

Total **scientific staff in the area of R&D** amounted to 6,315 people (in full-time equivalents) per million inhabitants in 2021 (last available year) (comparative figure for 2011: 4,424 people).

Greenpass

The Austrian climate-tech start-up *"Greenpass"* is the first in the world to offer an all-in-one Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) solution for assessing, optimizing and certifying the environmental impact of real estate and open spaces, and shows what climate-resilient urban planning and architecture can look like with the help of digital technologies. With the help of its software, the impact of buildings, urban structures and green and blue infrastructure on the urban environment can be mapped visibly, comparably and comprehensibly. The data generated by the software goes beyond the traditional CO_2 footprint and enables the collection and calculation of the only valid data currently available to developers, real estate and investment companies, banks and companies in relation to regulatory requirements (EU taxonomy; environmental targets).

Goal 10

Reduce inequality within and among countries



→ In 2021, the net annual income of employees' 1st income quartile's was 8.1% higher than in 2010, while the 3rd quartile's was 3% higher.

→ The S80/S20 income quintile share ratio shows that in 2022 the household income of the highest income quintile was 4.3 times higher than that of the lowest quintile.

→ In the EU-27, the S80/S20 ratio was 1 to 4.7 in 2022.

→ The at risk of poverty rate according to three thresholds (50%/60%/70% of the median) was slightly higher in 2022 (9.4%/14.8%/22.6%) than in 2010.

→ The wage share rose from 66.7% (2010) to 69.3% (2022).

An objective description of income distribution requires a consideration of **income before and after state (but also private) transfers**. If the inflation-adjusted development of **high and low net annual incomes of employees** is looked at, a significant decline for the 1st income quartile is observable, particularly in the years 2011 to 2015, which was somewhat sharper than for the upper incomes. In recent years, however, the 1st quartile's income has risen again and in 2021 was around 8% above the initial value from 2010. The upper incomes in 2021 were around 3% above the initial value in 2010 and thus rose less than the 1st quartile overall. The first income quartile indicates the threshold below which the incomes of 25% of employees lie, while the top income quartile indicates the threshold below which 75% of incomes lie.

Prevention of extremism in sport, BMKÖS

The BMKÖS supports extremism prevention projects in three priority areas:

1. Creation of an Austria-wide contact point for the prevention of extremism (Prevention Center for Extremism in Sport – fairplay prevention, VIDC)
2. Promotion in organised sport (prevention of extremism in cooperation with the Austrian Bundesliga – ÖFB)
3. Promoting sports projects outside of organised sport which already have experience in preventing extremism (e.g. *„Kicken ohne Grenzen"*)

Target	National Indicators (selected)	Trend
10.1	Trend for net annual income adjusted for inflation, 1st income quartile	↗
	Income quintile share ratio (S80/S20)	=
10.2	At risk of poverty (50% of the median)	↘
	At risk of poverty (60% of the median)	↘
	At risk of poverty (70% of the median)	↘
10.3	TARGET: Ensure equal opportunity	?
10.4	Wage share	↗
	Gini coefficient of equivalised disposable income	↗
10.5	Non-performing loans to total gross loans	↑
10.6	TARGET: Increase the voice of developing countries in global economic and financial institutions	: (nonstat)
10.7	TARGET: Orderly, safe migration and mobility	?

S: Statistics Austria
Trend according to 4 levels (↑↗↘↓), for abbreviations see overview of evaluation mode.

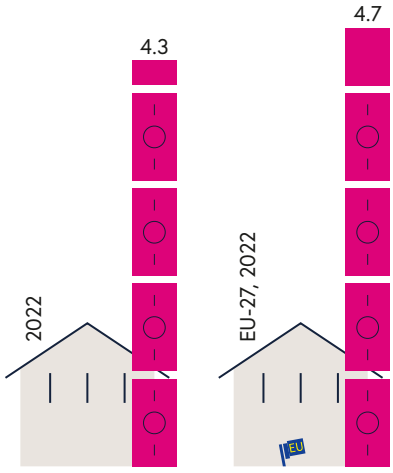
MoneyHeroines: Finances under control – a woman's life long

The Lower Austrian project "Money Heroines" *("GeldHeldinnen")* creates tailor-made offers for women to improve their financial literacy. The aim is to enable women in strained and precarious life situations to work independently and confidently on their financial life planning and build up their livelihood. Increasing women's financial literacy helps them to lead an independent, self-determined life. The project also serves to prevent violence, as independent women do not have to remain in violent relationships.

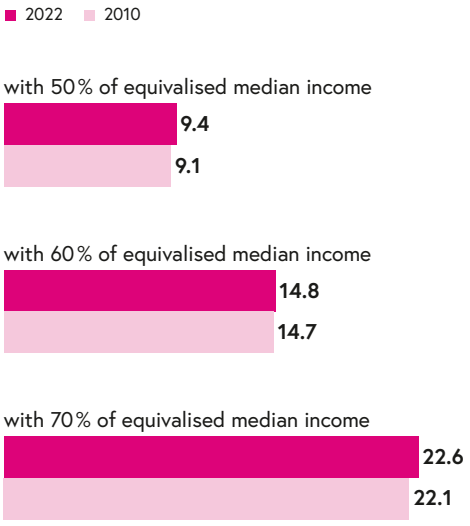
The **S80/S20 income quintile share ratio** compares the income share of the "richest" 20% (top fifth/quintile of income) with that of the "poorest" 20% (bottom fifth of income) in terms of **equivalent net disposable household income** (including monetary social transfers, but excluding transfers in kind). The more the ratio deviates from 1, the more unevenly household income is distributed between these two population groups. Between 2010 and 2022, no widening of the income gap can be seen from the data, even if the ratio was slightly higher in 2022 at 4.3 than in 2021 at 4.0. In 2022, the disposable household income of the highest income quintile was 4.3 times higher than that of the lowest. Taking the second decimal place into account, this value was marginally below that of 2010 (but both values rounded to 4.3), which results in a slightly positive trend value according to Eurostat's evaluation method. With a ratio of 4.3, Austria was below the EU-27 value of 4.7 in 2022, which means a slightly more equal distribution at national level.

S80/S20 income quintile share ratio at household level

Secundary income of the highest income quintile



At-risk-of-poverty rate of households, in percent



The at-risk-of-poverty rate (defined as household income below 60% of the median) was at 14.7% in 2010, then fell slightly (lowest value in 2019: 13.3%) before rising to 14.8% in 2022. In line with international discussions, the current target considers other definitions (below 50% or below 70% of the median) in addition to the risk of poverty with a **household income below 60% of the median.** At 9.4%, the group of people with a household income **below 50% of the median** in 2022 was also just above the 2010 baseline (9.1%). The values for a **household income below 70% of the median** also increased in the same period, from 22.1% for 2010 to 22.6% for 2022. According to Eurostat's method, this results in a slightly negative trend value in each case (see also Goal 1).

The **wage share**, which relates wages and salaries to gross domestic product, was 69.3% in 2022, compared to 66.7% in 2010. The wage share reached its highest value in the time series under review in 2019 at 69.6%. Another key indicator of income concentration is the Gini coefficient. It assumes the value 0 in case of total equal distribution of income and 100 in case of total concentration at an individual point. The **Gini coefficient of equivalised disposable income** in Austria has remained relatively stable at around the same level since the beginning of the observation period in 2010, with values between 26.7 and 28.3. With a value of 27.8 in 2022, it was most recently slightly below the 2010 value of 28.3.

The International Monetary Fund has developed a set of indicators for the stability and control of the financial sector (**Financial Soundness Indicators**), which the Austrian National Bank has been compiling for Austria since 2011. The set aims to strengthen the supervision of financial systems, increase transparency and identify strengths and weaknesses of financial systems. One of the indicators relates to **nonperforming loans** to total gross loans. The proportion of non-performing loans fell from 2.7% (2011) to 1.4% in 2022.

For more fairness in art and culture in Austria, BMKÖS

The federal government, federal provinces and interest groups have been in intensive exchange on the topic of fairness in art and culture since September 2020. This includes not only fair pay, but also topics such as transparency and cooperation, adjustments in the funding system as well as respectful cooperation, prevention of abuse of power and diversification. This has created a new kind of climate of partnership-based cooperation between the federal government, the provinces and interest groups. One of the concrete results is the *"Fairness Codex"* and a joint *"Fair Pay"* strategy for all regional authorities.

Goal 11

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable



→ In 2022, 1.7% of the total Austrian population lived in housing of a very poor standard (2010: 3.5%).

→ The proportion of people with housing cost overburden increased slightly from 6.5% (2010) to 7.4% (2022, EU-27: 9.1%).

→ Land use for settlement and transportation increased by 11.3% from 2010 to 2021.

→ The collection rate for municipal waste in Austria is 100%.

→ From 2010 to 2022, the population-weighted exposure to particulate matter ($PM_{2,5}$) in the six largest cities decreased significantly from 20.1 µg/m^3 to 10.8 µg/m^3, reaching the lowest value in the time series.

In 2022, 1.7% of the total Austrian population lived in housing of a **very poor standard** (2010: 3.5%). The long term trend is clearly decreasing and therefore positive. In 2022, the **housing cost overburden** (housing costs > 40% of household income) rose to 7.4% and was thus above the 2010 baseline (6.5%), which represents a negative trend. Households with a female main earner had a higher overburden in 2022 (12%) than households with a male main earner (5%). In the EU-27, the proportion of people with housing cost overburden was 9.1% in 2022.

Fallowland dialogue

The "Fallowland Dialogue" *("Brachflächen-Dialog")* is an initiative by the Federal Ministry for Climate Action with the aim of bringing vacant and underused sites (fallow for short) back into use. This makes a valuable contribution to reducing land consumption and preserving biologically productive soils. The associated land recycling funding has so far supported 52 projects with a funding volume of around EUR 2.5 million since 2022.

Target	National Indicators (selected)	Trend
11.1	Very poor housing standard	↑
	Housing cost overburden	↓
11.2	Access to public transport	:(short)
11.3	Total land consumption	↘
	Land consumption per inhabitant	↘
	Sealed surface area	↘
	Agenda 21 processes – municipalities	:(short)
11.4	Public spending on cultural and natural heritage	↗
11.5	Deaths attributed to disasters	↑
	TARGET: Reduce economic loss attributed to disasters	?
11.6	Total municipal waste	:(break)
	TARGET: Collection of municipal waste	✓
	$PM_{2.5}$ exposure (population-weighted)	↑
11.7	Prevalence of sexual harassment of women in the workplace	:(short)

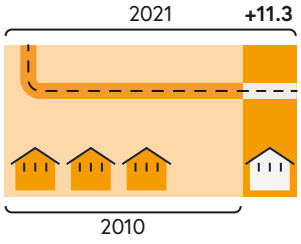
S: Statistics Austria
Trend according to 4 levels (↑↗↘↓), for abbreviations see overview of evaluation mode.



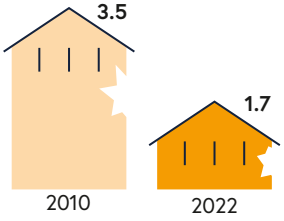
Supergrätzl Favoriten, Vienna

Greening, cooling, more open spaces and traffic calming – Vienna's first so-called "*Supergrätzl*" is being built in Vienna's 10th district, Favoriten, based on Barcelona's *"Superblock"* concept. The area is densely populated and heavily affected by heat. It therefore needs more open spaces in the immediate living environment, as well as measures for cooling and unsealing. Therefore, a pilot project was carried out in 2022 with broad participation of local residents to improve the quality of life in the neighbourhood ("*Grätzl*").

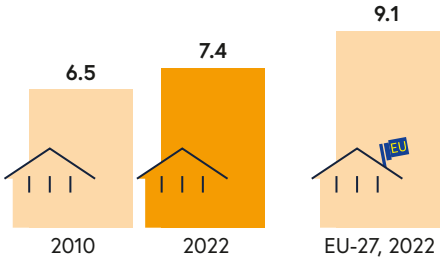
Land consumption for construction and transportation, in percent



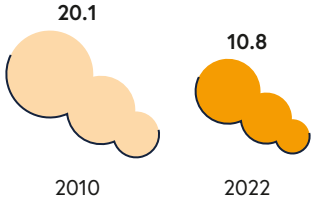
Share of the population living in housing of very poor standard, in percent



Share of the population living with housing cost overburden, in percent



Population-weighted exposure to particulate matter in the six largest cities, in µg/m³



Registered homelessness shows a marginal decline over the entire time series: around 19,500 people were affected in 2010, while 19,450 people were reported as homeless in 2021 (last available year). In the COVID-19 crisis year 2020, there was a decrease of around 2,100 people, and in the following year 2021 a decrease of around 700 people.

According to data from 2012, almost 80% of the population reported to have easy or very easy **access to public transport**.

Land consumption reflects the development of land use for construction, transportation and other purposes. According to an improved, new calculation method, 5,648 km² of land was used in Austria in 2022. As data is currently only available for 2022 according to the new calculations, the old values, which show an increasing and therefore negative trend, had to be used to present and evaluate the development up to 2021. Land use (old methodology) grew by 11.3% from 2010 to 2021, which means an overall increase of 588 km² of utilized land for the entire period. The Austrian population increased by 7.1% in the same period, meaning that per capita land use developed somewhat more slowly, rising by 3.9% from 2010 to 2021. The **sealed area** (old methodology) increased by 11.1% from 2010 to 2021 (see also Goal 15).

One target deals with the protection and **preservation of world cultural and natural heritage**. Public spending on cultural and natural heritage amounted to EUR 82 per capita in 2010 and rose slightly to EUR 89 per capita by 2021.

The Economy for the Common Good Austria: The Common Good Balance Sheet as an effective tool for implementing the SDGs in companies and communities

The "Economy for the Common Good" (*"Gemeinwohl-Ökonomie", GWÖ*), founded in Austria in 2010, is now represented in 30 countries worldwide and has its own chair at the University of Valencia. This form of reorientation of the market economy towards fundamental social values was welcomed by the EU's Social and Economic Committee in 2015 with 86% of votes in favour. At the UN's invitation, representatives of the GWÖ presented the common good balance sheet as a best case at the UN SDG Forum in Geneva in March 2019.

In recent years, the indicator for **deaths attributed to disasters**, generally at a low level in Austria, has shown a decline from 0.8 (age-standardized rate per 100,000 inhabitants) to 0.5 in 2022 (see also Goals 1 and 13).

From 2020, **municipal waste** also includes waste from other sources (e. g. trade and industry), provided that this waste is similar in type and composition to waste from households, which is why no comparison with previous years is possible. In 2021, the volume calculated using the new methodology was 835 kilograms per capita. Also included is biogenic waste from green spaces, kitchen and canteen waste and street sweepings. The **collection rate for municipal waste** in Austria is 100%.

The indicator for **population-weighted exposure to $PM_{2,5}$ (particulate matter)** in the six largest cities shows that pollution decreased significantly from 20.1 µg/m³ to 10.8 µg/m³ between 2010 and 2022. The annual changes are strongly determined by the different meteorological conditions. **PM_{10} exposure** also shows a clearly positive trend, with a decrease from 27.2 µg/m³ (2010) to 16.3 µg/m³ (2022).

Information on the prevalence of **sexual harassment of women in the workplace is** now available thanks to the Violence against Women (VIOLA) study conducted between 2020 and 2021. 2.9% of women surveyed between the ages of 18 and 74 who were already employed stated that they had experienced sexual harassment in the last twelve months.

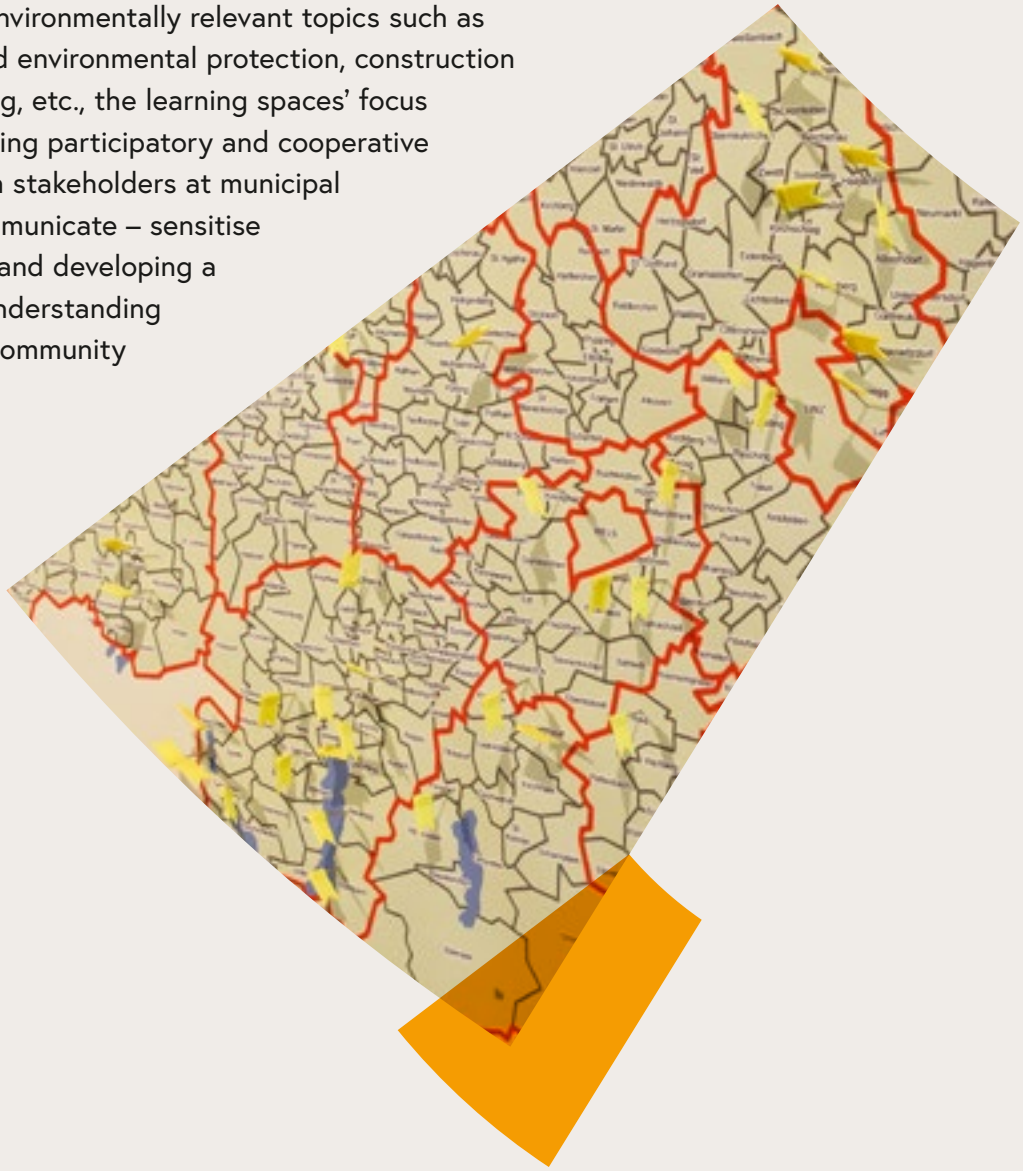


UNICEF additional certificate – “Child-friendly communities and regions”

The “Child-friendly communities and regions” contribute to ensuring that every child can grow up in a safe environment, develop their abilities and have their opinions heard and taken seriously, in line with the goal of “leaving no one behind”. The UNICEF additional certificate has been implemented together with “Familie und Beruf Management GmbH” since 2014. It has already been awarded to over 360 municipalities for their commitment to children’s rights at local level.

Certificate course for environmental officers as multipliers and contact partners for Upper Austria's municipalities, Upper Austria

„No impact without participation“: 398 functionaries in municipalities have been certified as environmental officers since 2017. In addition to teaching environmentally relevant topics such as climate and environmental protection, construction and housing, etc., the learning spaces' focus is on enabling participatory and cooperative action with stakeholders at municipal level („communicate – sensitise – inspire“) and developing a common understanding of roles („community building“).



Goal 12

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



→ The production value of the environmental goods and services sector rose significantly from EUR 31.8 billion (2010) to EUR 46.2 billion (2021).

→ Between 2010 and 2022 domestic material consumption per capita fell by 8% to 17.1 t, although this does not include upstream inputs (EU-27: 14.4 t per capita for 2022).

→ Including all materials used at home and abroad, 20.8 tonnes of raw materials were consumed per capita in 2022 (EU-27: 14.8 tonnes per capita).

→ The volume of hazardous waste per inhabitant fell by 18.2% from 2010 to 2020. The recycling rate for waste excluding major mineral waste was 67% in 2021 (EU-27: 53% for 2020).

→ In 2022, 276 organisations were registered with EMAS (2010: 259 organizations).

When considering aspects of sustainable consumption and production patterns, an indicator for **environmental production value** from the environmental goods and services sector (EGSS) is used. The environmental production value from EGSS increased significantly from EUR 31.8 billion (2010) to EUR 46.2 billion in 2021.

Total domestic material consumption increased by 9.4 million tonnes (t) between 2010 and 2021 and amounted to around 165 million t in 2021. In 2022, there was a sharp decline in material consumption of just under 11 million tons. At a total of 154 million tonnes, domestic material consumption was recently below the level of the starting year 2010 (156 million tonnes), which represents a moderately positive trend development. **Domestic material consumption per capita** was with 17.1 t in 2022 significantly higher than the EU-27 average of 14.4 t per capita (see also Goal 8). The long-term development of per capita values (2010: 18.6 t per capita) shows a clear decline by 2022 (17.1 t per capita), partly due to the increase in the population.

In contrast to domestic material consumption, the indicator for **raw material consumption** considers upstream inputs of imports and exports and therefore also includes outsourcing effects. If material inputs are considered, material consumption in 2022 increases from 17.1 tonnes per capita (domestic material consumption) to 20.8 tons of **raw material consumption per capita**. The comparative figure for the EU-27 was significantly lower at 14.8 tonnes per capita in 2022. Also due to the increase in

Target	National Indicators (selected)	Trend
12.1	Total production value in EGSS	↑
12.2	Raw material consumption per capita	↑
	Domestic material consumption per capita	↗
	Total domestic material consumption	↗
12.3	TARGET: Reduction of food losses	?
12.4	Generation of hazardous waste	:(short)
12.5	Recycling rate of waste excluding major mineral waste	↑
12.6	EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit scheme) registered organisations	↗
	Companies with an Ecolabel licence	↑
12.7	Sustainable public procurement action plan	✓
12.8	TARGET: Awareness of sustainable development for all	?

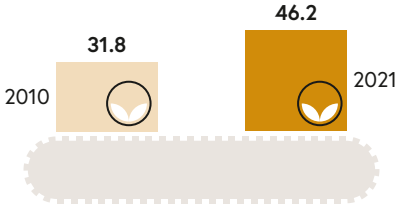
S: Statistics Austria
Trend according to 4 levels (↑↗↘↓), for abbreviations see overview of evaluation mode.

population, raw material consumption per capita fell from 2010 to 2022, resulting in a positive trend development.

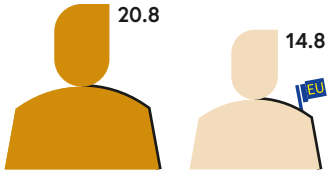
The **generation of hazardous waste** fell by 18.2% from 176 kg per capita (2010) to 144 kg per capita (2020); the time series is too short for a trend assessment. The **collection rate for municipal waste** reported in target 11.6 is 100%. According to Eurostat and the Federal Environment Agency, the **recycling rate of waste** excluding major mineral waste shown here was 67% in 2021, a significant increase since 2010 (60%). The data also shows fluctuating values over the years (2017: 66%, 2020: 63%).

At 276 cases (2022), the number of **organisations with EMAS registration** was slightly higher than in 2010 with 259 cases. The number of **sites with EMAS registration** increased significantly from 647 sites (2010) to 1,309 sites (2022). The number of **businesses with an ecolabel licence** almost tripled from 479 businesses (2010) to 1,324 businesses (2022). **Products and services with an ecolabel licence** almost quadrupled from 1,293 products and services (2010) to 4,807 (2022).

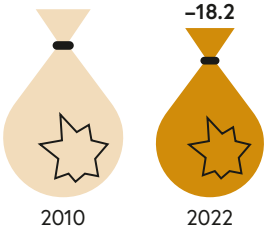
Production value from the environmental goods and services sectors,
in billion euros



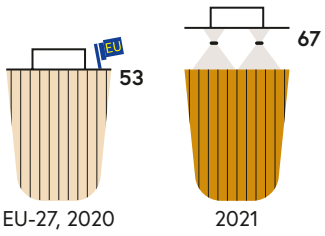
Raw material consumption per capita (including foreign and domestic material inputs), in tonnes



Generation of hazardous waste per capita,
in percent



Recycling rate of waste excluding major mineral waste, in percent





AIT: Environmentally friendly and safe batteries of the future

The Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT) is one of the few research institutions in the world that can cover the entire value chain from battery research to production under one roof. A strong focus in the ultra-modern “Battery Lab” is on the environmentally friendly production of (cobalt-free) batteries and the development of new battery types. This research facility is now being expanded to include a laboratory for promising solid-state batteries.



UN Global Compact Network Austria: Sector-specific SDG guides for companies

In November 2022, the “UN Global Compact Network Austria” published practical guidelines for the construction and manufacturing sectors on the gradual integration of the SDGs into the core business. The SDG Guidelines were created with selected organisations participating in the network. They support companies with sector-specific key performance indicators (KPIs) in prioritising along the value chain and systemically embedding the SDGs across all levels of the business.

Goal 13

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by regulating emissions and promoting developments in renewable energy



→ Deaths attributed to disasters are generally at a very low level, with a downward trend.

→ In 2022, 231 deaths were attributed to heat-related excess mortality.

→ A strategy for adapting to climate change, one for reducing emissions as well as a national crisis and disaster management are in place.

→ National greenhouse gas emissions are generally at a high level, with a clear downward trend from 84.8 million tonnes of CO_2-equivalent (2010) to 72.8 million tonnes (2022).

→ Greenhouse gas emissions per capita also fell from 10.1 t CO_2-equivalent (2010) to 8.0 t (2022) (EU-27: 7.4 t for 2021).

Deaths attributed to disasters fell from a value of 0.8 (age-standardized rate per 100,000 inhabitants) to 0.5 in 2022 (see also Goals 1 and 11). It should be noted here that this figure is generally very low and small annual fluctuations should not be overstated.

The Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) has been using heat mortality monitoring since 2016 to model whether the number of observed deaths in Austria is higher than the statistically expected number. The corresponding data showed a **heat-related excess mortality rate** of 227 deaths for the 2021 summer period, while the figure for the 2022 summer period was 231 deaths.

In order to strengthen resilience and adaptability to natural disasters (including climate-related ones), an Austrian strategy for disaster risk reduction was introduced as part of the "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction". In 2016, almost 16,000 **soldiers were deployed in Austria for domestic disaster relief operations**; in 2022, 12,500 soldiers were deployed.

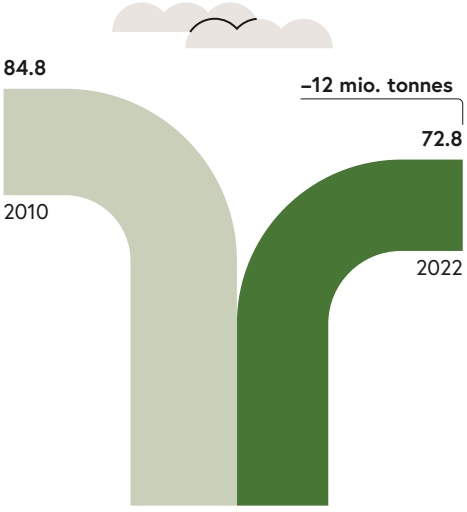
In 2012, Austria developed a "**Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change**", which was fundamentally updated and further developed in 2016. In 2020, the "**Long-term Strategy 2050 for Emissions Reduction**" was also drawn up. The 2050 strategy in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council contains the blueprint for a comprehensive change in energy supply and consumer behaviour as well as for a corresponding economic system. Austria is currently working on the implementation of the "**National Energy and Climate Plan**" (NEKP).

Target	National Indicators (selected)	Trend
13.1	Deaths attributed to disasters	↑
	Heat-related excess mortality	:(short)
	Austrian Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction	✓
	Soldiers deployed for disaster relief operations in Austria	:(short)
13.2	Austrian Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change	✓
	Long-term Strategy 2050 for reducing emissions	✓
	Total greenhouse gas emissions	↑
	Greenhouse gas emission per capita	↑
13.3	TARGET: Improve education and human capacity concerning climate change	?

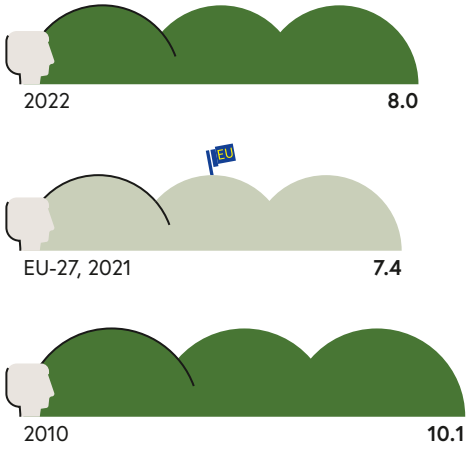
S: Statistics Austria
Trend according to 4 levels (↑↗↘↓), for abbreviations see overview of evaluation mode.

Greenhouse gas emissions are the most important indicator for Goal 13. These are generally at a high level, but have fallen significantly in recent years, from 84.8 million tonnes of CO_2-equiv. (2010) to 72.8 million tonnes of CO_2-equiv. in 2022. This represents a decrease of 14.2% over the entire period. The absolute level of emissions is not considered in the pure trend assessment in accordance with Eurostat specifications as long as no corresponding target value is available. The decrease of 12 million tons of CO_2-equiv. in the period from 2010 to 2022 thus represents a clearly positive trend overall. In 2022 in particular, emissions fell by 5.9% compared to the previous year. According to the Federal Environment Agency, the decline occurred in all areas, i. e. in buildings, transport, agriculture and industry, despite economic growth in 2022.

National greenhouse gas emissions,
in million tonnes of CO_2-equivalent



Greenhouse gas emissions per capita,
in tonnes of CO_2-equivalent





Federal Youth Representation (BJV): Climate Youth Council

The Climate Youth Council, which takes place annually in parliament, enables an eye-to-eye dialogue between 100 young participants and 10 members of all parties represented in parliament. After an initial collection of ideas and an exchange with experts, the young participants focus on specific questions and concerns for the dialogue with politicians. This way, young people become involved in climate policy and politicians gain a valuable insight into the lives of young people.



ADA: Climate Learning and Advocacy for Resilience

Climate change threatens the livelihoods of the poorest. Together with the Danish development agency DANIDA, ADA supported the CARE programme “Climate Learning & Advocacy for Resilience” in eight African countries. The aim was to make vulnerable communities more resilient to the effects of climate change. Experiences from the various countries were recorded so everyone could learn from them. A forum was set up to connect civil society actors from Africa and Asia.

If the development of **greenhouse gas emissions per capita** is observed, the decline over the entire period under review is even more pronounced at 20.7% due to the simultaneous increase in population (+8.3%). The values fell from 10.1 t CO_2-equiv. per capita in 2010 to 8.0 t per capita in 2022. This also leads to a very positive assessment of the development in the trend assessment, again without taking the level into account. An EU comparison shows that the national values per capita were above those of the EU-27 over the entire period from 2010 to 2022, but only by 0.2 t CO_2-equiv. per capita in 2022.

Climate and Energy Fund: Austrian Climate Research Programme

The focus is on research into the national characteristics and effects of climate change and the resulting adaptation requirements, as well as inter- and transdisciplinary vulnerability studies, risk management approaches and policy analyses. Furthermore, both the development of research expertise and the networking of stakeholders are supported through cooperation with the "Climate Change Centre Austria" (CCCA).



Umwelt-Bildungs-Zentrum Steiermark: Climate competence in nursing care

Speakers from climate and health sectors were invited to give input presentations on the topics covered, including future developments, health burdens as a consequence of climate change and climate change adaptation measures in the care sector. Participation was open to people from all over Austria and was free of charge. All presentations can be viewed online. A new workshop format on the topic of climate/ health crisis and resilience was tested.

Goal 14

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



→ The UN indicator proposals for Goal 14 “Life below water” all relate to oceans, seas and marine resources.

→ Inland freshwater and land ecosystems are listed under Goal 15 “Life on land”.

→ As a landlocked country, Austria has an impact on the oceans and seas through the use of marine resources and the discharge of pollutants via its rivers, among other things.

→ However, there is currently no national data available on this Goal.

→ Goal 14 is not currently reflected in international reports for landlocked countries.

Goal 14 “Life below water” relates to the oceans, seas and marine resources. The indicators specifically target life in seawater and not in inland seas or rivers. Accordingly, monitoring of SDG 14 in the EU context focuses on progress made in marine conservation, promoting sustainable fisheries and ensuring healthy oceans.

As a landlocked country, Austria does not have direct access to oceans and seas, but does use marine resources, for example through the consumption of corresponding fishery products. In addition, 96% of Austria’s territory is in the Danube watershed and therefore connected to the Black Sea, 4% in the Rhine and Elbe watershed, connected to the North Sea. The introduction of pollutants such as microplastics or nutrients such as nitrogen into marine ecosystems via the river systems creates a responsibility for a landlocked country to adopt sustainable behaviours that affect the targets. However, international studies on the 2030 Agenda do not currently address the corresponding impacts of landlocked countries on oceans and seas, and Goal 14 in its entirety is not considered for landlocked countries.

No indicator is currently **available for Goal 14** in Austria. In particular, target 14.1, which aims to prevent and significantly reduce all forms of marine pollution by 2025, especially from land-based activities, namely marine litter and nutrient pollution, also affects a landlocked country like Austria in a broader sense. This is especially true when one considers that, as mentioned above, any pollution that occurs is transported into the oceans via the rivers. Switzerland – as another landlocked country – considers the exported nitrogen load via the Rhine for this target. A corresponding national indicator

Target	UN Indicator proposals (short)	Trend
14.1	a) Index of coastal eutrophication b) Concentration of floating plastic debris in the sea	Not applicable to Austria
14.2	National exclusive economic zones of the marine and coastal ecosystems managed using ecosystembased approaches	Not applicable to Austria
14.3	Ocean acidification	Not applicable to Austria
14.4	Fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels	Not applicable to Austria
14.5	Protected marine areas	Not applicable to Austria
14.6	Implementation of international measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	UN level
14.7	Sustainable fisheries	Inter-regional development assistance

S: Statistics Austria

could be discussed for the coming years and used if necessary. The input of microplastics into the oceans via waterways is also increasingly coming into national and international focus, for example via the EU's "Action Plan for the Pollution – Free Air, Water and Soil" or the "National Action Plan on Microplastics".

As a landlocked country, Austria has an impact on the oceans and seas through the use of marine resources and the discharge of pollutants via its rivers, among other things.



Impact of landlocked Austria on life in the oceans and seas

96% of Austria's territory is in the Danube watershed and therefore connected to the Black Sea.



4% of its territory are in the Rhine and Elbe watershed, connected to the North Sea.

Currently, there are no data available on Austria's impact on the oceans and seas.



Goal 15

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



→ The proportion of land areas designated as part of *"Natura 2000"* increased slightly from 15% (2011) to 15.6% (2022).

→ Around 21% of forest areas in Austria were in legally binding protected areas in 2022 (2010: 18.2%).

→ The certified forest areas increased sharply by 71% from 2010 to 2022.

→ The sealed area increased by 11.1% from 2010 to 2021.

→ The index of common farmland bird species (1998 = 100) fell significantly from 70.3% (2010) to 60.5% (2021).

The Natura 2000 network currently comprises 350 areas in Austria, 284 of which are legally designated as European protected areas. The proportion of **national land areas designated under Natura 2000** increased slightly from 15% (2011) to 15.6% (2022).

The **share of forest area** in the total land area rose slightly from 46.8% (2010) to 47.2% (2022). The increase in Austria is due to, among other things, the steady growth of wasteland or uncultivated pastures and fallow land. The **net rate of change in forest area** has recorded an annual increase of just under 0.1% since 2010. The **total stock of above-ground biomass** in forests grew from 162.9 tonnes per hectare (t/ha) in 2010 to 169.7 t/ha in 2022. Above-ground biomass in forests refers to all wood, bark, branches, twigs and needles. 20.9% of **forest areas** (including other forested areas) in Austria were located **in legally protected areas** in 2022, whereas this proportion was

Austrian Forest Fund, BML

The Forest Fund's measures are aimed at developing climate-friendly forests, promoting biodiversity in forests and increasing the use of wood as a raw material to actively contribute to climate protection. Among other things, reforestation, maintenance measures, the construction of wet and dry storage facilities for damaged wood and mechanical debarking as a forest protection measure, forest fire prevention and research measures on the topics of green gases and biofuels, climate-friendly forests and the use of wood are supported.

Target	National Indicators (selected)	Trend
15.1	Forest area as a proportion of total land area	↗
	Land areas designated as part of "Natura 2000"	↗
15.2	Forest area with a long-term management plan	↗
	Certified forest area	↑
15.3	Sealed surface area	↘
15.4	Protected areas in high mountains	:(short)
15.5	Common Farmland Bird Index	↓
15.6	Nagoya Protocol adopted	✓
15.7	TARGET: End poaching	?
15.8	Legal framework for neobiota	✓
15.9	TARGET: Comprehensive biodiversity planning	✓

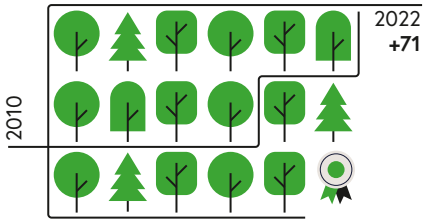
S: Statistics Austria
Trend according to 4 levels (↑↗↘↓), for abbreviations see overview of evaluation mode.

18.2% in 2010. The proportion of **forest areas with a long-term management plan** or forest management plan, which is a multi-year plan with a 10-year planning period, increased slightly by 0.9 percentage points between 2010 and 2022, from 49.8% to 50.7%. In 2022, there were around 3.3 million hectares of **certified forests** in Austria under two forest certification schemes, the "Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes" (PEFC) and the "Forest Stewardship Council" (FSC).

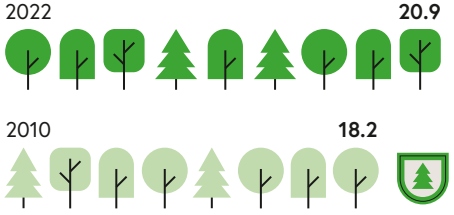
According to an improved, new calculation methodology, 2,964 km² were sealed in Austria in 2022. The old values had to be used for the presentation and evaluation of the development up to 2021: The **sealed area** (old methodology) increased by 11.1% from 2010 to 2021, which means an increasing and therefore negative trend (see also Goal 11). The values of the old and new methods are not comparable.

A new indicator calculated by the Federal Environment Agency for **protected areas in high mountain regions** shows that 52% of the corresponding areas were in protected areas in 2020. High mountain regions include areas above the tree line. According to the Biodiversity Strategy 2030, Austria's high mountain regions cover around 12% of the country's surface area.

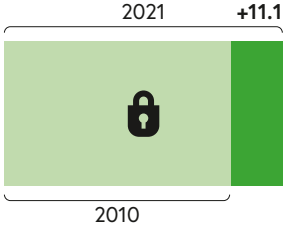
Certified forest area (PEFC, FSC),
change in percent



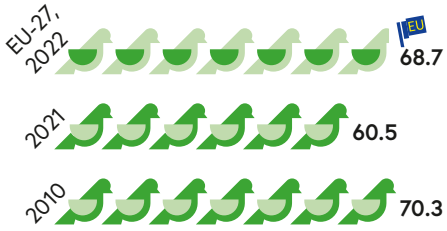
Forest areas in legally protected areas,
in percent



Sealed area,
change in percent



Farmland Bird Index
(1998 = 100)





LIFE Austrian Moor Restoration to implement the Austrian Moor Strategy 2030+, BMK and BML

Moors play an important role in climate protection and in regulating the water balance. The SNAP-LIFE project submitted to the European Union by all nine federal provinces, two federal ministries (BMK, BML) and two universities (Vienna and Kiel) on the topic of moor restoration, called LIFE *"Austrian Moor Restoration"* (AMooRe) started on January 1, 2024. Around EUR 44 million will be made available for moor protection over a project period of ten years in order to counteract the qualitative and quantitative decline of moors in Austria. The renaturation of these wetlands makes a valuable contribution to carbon storage, water protection and the preservation of biodiversity.



Innsbruck Nature Film Festival (INFF)

Founded in 2001, the Nature Film Festival is one of the most important nature and climate film festivals in Europe, inviting filmmakers and producers from all over the world to present the latest films and reports on nature, sustainability and the environment in a competition. The INFF has developed a clear image over the past 23 years: Presenting hand-picked films on topics that stimulate, excite and provide impetus – accompanied by scientists and attending filmmakers who make going to the cinema an interactive experience. Numerous outdoor programmes, workshops and exhibitions provide the audience with additional easy-access to current environmental topics and scientific insights. “Our mission is to inspire people to treat the planet with care and respect!”

The **Farmland Bird Index** is used to illustrate the development of biodiversity. It experienced a significant decline from an index value of 70.3% in 2010 to 60.5% in 2021 (1998 = 100). The lowest value was reached in 2018 at 55.2%, since then there has been a slight stabilisation to an index value of just over 60%. Despite this stabilisation from 2019 to 2021, the long-term trend is clearly negative (see also Goal 2). The methodologically slightly different value for the EU-27 is 68.7% in 2022.

Organic Action Programme 2023+, BML

The Organic Action Programme 2023+ serves as a guideline for the support of organic agriculture in Austria. The aim is to promote and further develop organic farming by focusing on specific measures. In 2022, 27% of agricultural land in Austria was already farmed organically. Organic farming is particularly resource and environmentally friendly and contributes to a large number of the SDGs.

In 2019, Austria created the legal basis for **implementing the Nagoya Protocol** and the corresponding EU Regulation No. 511/2014; the Federal Law came into force on May 22, 2019 (Federal Law Gazette No. 36/2019). The Nagoya Protocol's aim is the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources, through appropriate access to genetic resources and appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights to these resources and technologies, and through appropriate funding, in order to contribute to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components.

EU Regulation No. 1143/2014 on invasive alien species (neophytes) has been in force since January 1, 2015 and is directly applicable in Austria. Various measures are intended to prevent or mitigate the adverse effects of **invasive alien species** on biodiversity and the associated ecosystem services as well as on human health. The new "Biodiversity Strategy Austria 2030+" takes up objectives and measures formulated by the European Union and at international level for the **conservation of biodiversity.**

ARCHE NOAH's Fruit Inventory Austria

From 2022 to 2024, the *"ARCHE NOAH"* ("Noah's Ark") organisation, together with 14 other private Austrian fruit collections, carried out an overall inventory of the old fruit varieties still existing in Austria. The project was funded by the Austrian Biodiversity Fund. A total of around 5,800 fruit trees were genetically analysed in order to clearly assign them to the respective varieties. It transpired that around 1,000 old fruit varieties now only exist in a single Austrian collection. In the course of another major follow-up project (*"Fruit Monitoring Austria"*), greater attention is now being paid to preserving and better safeguarding these varieties. An annual *"Status report on Austria's old fruit varieties"* is planned.





BirdLife Austria's Breeding Bird Atlas

In January 2024, the bird conservation organisation *"BirdLife Austria"* presented the most up-to-date and comprehensive source of information on the occurrence of breeding birds in Austria and changes in their distribution in the form of the Breeding Bird Atlas. This standard work of ornithology was created with the help of 2,300 volunteer mappers ("Citizen Scientists") and in cooperation with the Austrian Federal Forests and the Ministry of Climate Action. It contains 2.1 million data records, detailed maps and illustrations and information on 235 domestic breeding bird species.

Goal 16

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



→ The risk of death due to intentional homicide, manslaughter or physical assault is at a consistently low level (2022: 0.4 per 100,000 people).

→ In 2021, 1.2% of women surveyed stated that they had experienced physical violence in the last 12 months.

→ 5.6% of the population reported problems caused by crime, violence or vandalism in their neighbourhood in 2022 (2010: 13.4%, EU-27: 11.4% for 2021).

→ Trust in the political system was at an average of 4.0 in 2022 (2013: 4.4; EU-27: 3.5 for 2013; scale from 0 to 10).

→ In 2022, Austrian soldiers were once again deployed in UN-mandated peacekeeping missions to an above-average extent.

Some of the UN targets can already be considered largely achieved, such as the goal of **officially registering all births** or **public access to information**.

The risk of **death by intentional homicide, manslaughter or physical assoult** has remained at a consistently low level in Austria since 2010. In 2010, an average of 0.6 and in 2022, 0.4 out of 100,000 people died of these causes. The slight fluctuations in individual years should not be overstated due to the generally low level.

In 2022, 5.6% of the population stated that they had **problems with crime, violence or vandalism** in their neighbourhood, which is the lowest figure in the time

Online Hate Legislation, BMJ

The legislative package which came into force on January 1, 2021 provides more effective protection against hate postings on the internet. Not only have civil and media law claims and criminal offences been expanded, but legal enforcement for those affected by hate postings has also been made much easier. The measures include the deletion of hate postings by court order as well as the expansion of legal support and the elimination of the cost risk for victims in criminal proceedings.

Target	National Indicators (selected)	Trend
16.1	Intentional homicide/physical assault	↑
	Physical and sexual violence against women	:(short)
	Reported problems with crime, violence or vandalism in the neighbourhood	↑
16.2	Victims of human trafficking	:(short)
	Sexual violence on women (before age of 15)	:(short)
16.3	Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization	?
16.4	TARGET: reduce illicit financial and arms flows, reduce organized crime	?
16.5	TARGET: Reduce corruption and eliminate bribery of public officials by private persons	✓
16.6	Trust in the political system	↘
16.7	Inclusive, participatory decision-making	?
16.8	Participation of developing countries	:(nonstat)
16.9	TARGET: Birth registration	✓
16.10	TARGET: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms	✓
16.a	Number of Austrian Armed Forces soldiers deployed in UN missions	:(short)

S: Statistics Austria
Trend according to 4 levels (↑↗↘↓), for abbreviations see overview of evaluation mode.

series. Compared to 2010 (13.4%), the figure has fallen significantly. On average, Austrians feel somewhat safer in their neighbourhood than EU citizens (EU-27: 11.4% for 2021). The proportion of **non-convicts among all imprisoned persons** has been around 20% over the years, with the figure for 2010 being 22.9% and 19.5% in 2022. Data on human trafficking is available from Eurostat's "Trafficking in Human Beings" survey. For 2022, 450 people are listed as **registered victims of human trafficking** in Austria, a figure that has risen slightly over the years. Of registered victims, 85% are women and 15% are men.

According to the survey on **violence against women** conducted between 2020 and 2021, 1.2% of women between the ages of 18 and 74 in Austria experienced some form of **physical violence** within or outside of intimate partnerships in the **last 12 months.** 1.1% of women stated that they had been subjected to some form of **sexual violence** in the last 12 months, again within or outside of intimate partnerships (see also Goal 5). The survey also asked whether women had experienced sexual violence before the age of 15. 5.5% of 18- to 29-year-old women reported that they had experienced **sexual violence before the age of 15.** Looking at the total group of surveyed women, aged between 18 and 74, 7.1% stated that they had experienced sexual violence before the age of 15.

N-Check-Strat – Scientific, participatory sustainability analyses for strategies, programmes, concepts and goals as a service of the Lower Austrian SDG Advisory Board

„N-Check-Strat" is a process tool of the province of Lower Austria. It offers a broad content framework for a scientifically supported, participatory SDG assessment that describes all relevant topics and fields of action of the public administration at state level in connection with SDG implementation in a simple and clear structure. It serves as a process tool for the Lower Austrian SDG Advisory Board to effectively and efficiently assess the sustainable impact of provincial strategies, larger plans and specific projects and to present and communicate solutions in a simple, comprehensible form for further political decision-making.

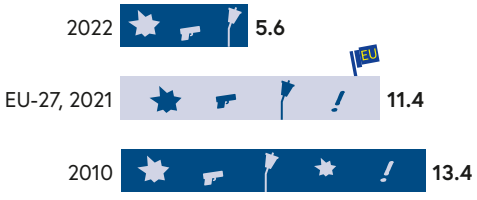
One target deals with the **reduction of corruption and bribery**. For Austria, it is assumed that this target can be regarded as largely achieved in the private sector (including experiences of bribery with public authorities). In order to raise awareness of corruption and integrity throughout Austria, the Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK) has developed and promoted a comprehensive range of training courses and events in recent years.

Information on **trust in the political system** is available from the EU-SILC survey for 2013 and annually from 2019 onwards according to an 11-point scale from 0 (do not trust at all) to 10 (trust completely). In 2013, the average value (mean) of the Austrian population was 4.4 and therefore slightly higher than the comparative value for the EU-27 of 3.5 (only available in 2013). In 2022,

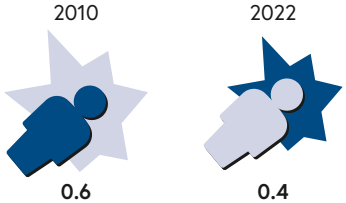
fairplay initiative, BMKÖS

As part of the *"fairplay initiative"*, the BMKÖS works closely with the "Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation". In 2021, the handbook *"International sporting events and human rights – a handbook for implementation in Austria"* was published. This is intended to support stakeholders in sport (in particular, associations and event organisers) in organising international sporting events in such a way that human rights are respected. The handbook is also available in English.

Share of the population who reported problems related to crime, violence or vandalism in their neighbourhood,
in percent



Risk of death by intentional homicide, manslaughter or physical assault

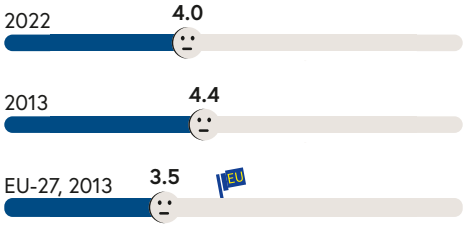


out of 100,000 persons

In 2022, Austrian soldiers were again deployed to an above-average extend in UN-mandated peacekeeping missions.



Trust in the political system,
mean on a scale of 0 to 10



Participation strategy, Vorarlberg

Since 2013, Vorarlberg has been strengthening elements of participatory democracy and thereby giving citizens a greater say. With the new impulse, the aim is now to proceed in a more targeted and focused manner, as social challenges are becoming even more complex and participation of citizens in future issues is becoming increasingly important. When drawing up the strategy, external scientific input was also obtained.

the average scale value for trust in the political system was 4.0, which represents a decrease of one scale point compared to 2021 (5.0). The data shows the situation in the first half of the year. This results in a negative trend for the period 2013 to 2022.

In 2022, an annual average of 0.91% of soldiers deployed in UN-mandated missions as part of UN, EU and NATO **peacekeeping** were **members of the Austrian Armed Forces**. In 2015, this proportion was 0.79%. According to the World Bank, Austria's share of the global population was 0.11% in 2021, meaning that Austrian soldiers were increasingly deployed in

ADA: Capacity Development for Humanitarian Assistance in West Africa

The project strengthens the skills of West African civilian, police and military forces in the area of crisis response. It is the first whole-of-government project to follow the "Triple Nexus Approach" for more effective cooperation between humanitarian aid, development cooperation and peace/security. It is being implemented by the Federal Ministry of Defence (BMLV) together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (BMEIA), ADA, the Austrian Centre for Peace and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre as implementation partners. As lecturers and trainers on humanitarian aid and civil-military cooperation, members of the Austrian Armed Forces and civilian experts contribute to strengthening regional cooperation in West Africa.



ACP: Peace Weeks

During the *"Peace Weeks"*, young people experience what it feels like to be part of the solution – on both a small and large scale. They learn peace and conflict skills, take responsibility for themselves and each other and learn that every change in behaviour and attitude has an impact on their social and ecological environment. Together they practise shaping a respectful, solidary and sustainable world for all, locally and globally.

such missions to an above-average extent. The Federal Ministry of Defence's eligible contributions in the area of **capacity building for development aid** also increased by 58% from 2016 to 2022. This represents a clearly positive trend in each case, although it is not yet illustrated due to the time series being too short according to the evaluation method (at least ten years of data must be available).

Justice-wide compliance management system, BMJ

The justice-wide "Compliance Management System" comprises, among others, the following measures:

- Publication of compliance guidelines
- Establishment of compliance officers (annual network meetings, specific training courses)
- Compliance register on the judiciary's intranet
- Justice-wide eLearning programs "Compliance" and "ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Usage Directive"
- Internal reporting office for compliance violations or discrimination, (sexual) harassment/violence in the working environment

ADA: Contribution to the Legal Sector Program 2019–2023, Bhutan

The project gives women, children and people with disabilities in particular better access to judicial services. Judges and judicial officials have been trained in children's and women's rights, the rights of people with disabilities, ethics and integrity, and ten courts and a forensic laboratory have been set up. This enables DNA analysis in cases of sexual violence. The courts are barrier-free and equipped with child-friendly rooms for the examination of underage witnesses and victims.

Goal 17

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development



→ Public spending on official development assistance (as share of gross national income) increased in Austria from 0.31% (2021) to 0.39% (2022, grant equivalent basis), but was below the EU-27 at 0.49% (2021).

→ Public spending on development assistance to the least developed countries decreased.

→ In 2022, the proportion of 16- to 74-year-olds who had used the internet in the last three months was already at 93.6% (2010: 74.2%).

→ In development cooperation, the commitments for public-private partnerships in the area of infrastructure have increased significantly in recent years.

→ Following a significant increase to 83% of GDP (2020), the public debt ratio recently fell back to 78% (2022).

According to OECD data, 0.39% of gross national income was spent on **official development assistance (ODA)** in Austria in the reporting year 2022; since 2020, the calculation has been based on grant equivalents. In 2010, the comparable figure was 0.32%, which represents a significant increase for the first time after years of decline and thus a clearly positive trend for the entire time series. The increase in ODA from 2021 to 2022 is due, among other things, to increased contributions in the area of refugee costs in donor countries, concessional loans, COVID-19 vaccine donations, contributions from the Foreign Disaster Relief Fund and multilateral contributions. Austria's proportionate expenditure is below that of the EU-27, as on average 0.49% of gross national income was spent on development cooperation across the EU in 2021. As Austria is in the top quarter of EU countries in terms of gross national income, spending on development cooperation is often lower in relative terms than in other EU countries.

Impact Hub: Validate.global

By empowering SDG innovators, "validate.global" promotes transnational cooperation between the Global North and South. In partnership with the "Impact Hub Vienna" and "INITS", the programme is funded by the Austrian Development Agency. The programme drives start-ups into emerging markets and catalyses business growth and co-creation. The programme supports 40 innovators who are validating solutions in emerging African markets.

Target	National Indicators (selected)	Trend
17.1	Government revenue as a proportion of GDP	:(no)
17.2	Official development assistance as a percentage of gross national income	↑
	Official development assistance to least developed countries	↓
17.3	Additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources	:(short)
17.4	Debt relief measures in bilateral ODA	:(no)
17.6	Number of broadband connections >= 10 Mbit/s	↑
17.8	Number of individuals (16–74 year-olds) using the internet	↑
17.9	ODA-Flows: Disbursements for development cooperation	↑
17.13	Government debt ratio	↗
17.17	Commitments to public-private partnerships for infrastructure	↑
17.18	TARGET: Quality statistics	✓
17.19	TARGET: Measurement of sustainable development	✓

Targets 17.5, 17.7, 17.10–12, 17.14–16 are not shown for reasons of space.
S: Statistics Austria
Trend according to 4 levels (↑↗↘↓), for abbreviations see overview of evaluation mode.

Official development assistance for the **least developed countries** fell from 0.06% of gross national income (2010) to 0.03% in 2022, resulting in a negative trend. The comparative figure for the EU-27 in 2021 was 0.1%. Only bilateral transactions are used for this calculation. In 2022, the **additional financial resources** mobilised from various sources **for developing countries** (donor perspective) could be calculated for the first time. These amount to EUR 764 million and include grants and loans for sustainable development as well as mobilised private funds. The new national indicator on **debt relief measures** in bilateral official development cooperation shows strongly fluctuating values over the years from EUR 0.03 million (2022) to EUR 117 million (2010). **ODA flows in the area of capacity development** in developing countries (gross disbursements) increased significantly from 2010 (EUR 160 million) to 2022 (EUR 254 million).

Goal 17 also includes targets to promote the exchange of knowledge, technologies and innovation. The total number of **broadband connections** in Austria rose from 25.3 per 100 inhabitants in 2012 to 29.3 in 2022. The increase relates to **broadband connections with ≥ 10 Mbit/s**, which rose from 9.7 per 100 inhabitants in 2012 to 26.6 connections in 2022, while connections < 10 Mbit/s fell significantly. The proportion of people who stated that they had **used the internet in the last three months** increased significantly from 74.2% (2010) to 93.6% in 2022.

Survey of the contribution of public funds in support of the SDGs, BMEIA

In 2023, ADA statistics conducted a survey on "Total Official Support for Sustainable Development" (TOSSD) for the fourth time and extended this to all federal donors based on a recommendation from the *"Statistical Peer Review of Austria 2023"*. TOSSD records the contribution of public funds in support of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda and includes other public flows, publicly supported export credits, mobilised private funds and additional contributions in connection with international public goods for sustainable development in addition to public development cooperation services.

Based on the expanded survey, Austria reported a total TOSSD volume of EUR 2.24 billion to the OECD/DAC for the reporting year 2022. Additional contributions recorded include activities in the areas of peace and security, research and development, environmental and climate protection, health and the support and integration of refugees.

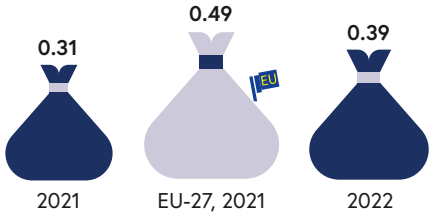
In order to identify potentially harmful imbalances and loss of competitiveness at an early stage, a scoreboard for the **macroeconomic imbalance procedure** was set up in the European Union in 2011, which has also been available in Austria since then. The **public debt ratio** amounted to 83% of gross domestic product in 2010, fell significantly until 2019 (71%) and then rose sharply again in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis (2020: 83%). In recent years, the debt ratio has fallen to currently 78% of gross domestic product (2022), which represents a generally positive trend compared to 2010. The average for the EU-27 was 83.5% in 2022.

The **amounts committed for public-private partnerships** in the area of infrastructure showed a clearly positive trend from 2010 to 2022. In Austria, a **legal framework** is in place in accordance with the basic **principles of official statistics** (see Statistics Austria, Federal Statistics Act). In addition, a **census** is carried out every ten years. Furthermore, 100% **birth and death registration** has been achieved in Austria.

CARE: Western Balkans: Youth creates a future

CARE works in schools, universities and juvenile detention centres to break down toxic role models (SDG 5), protect young people from radicalisation and give them opportunities for education and participation (SDGs 3, 4). CARE engages educators, organisations and officials to embed gender-responsive and life-skills oriented education in education systems, contributing to peaceful, non-violent post-conflict societies in the Balkans (SDG 16).

Official development assistance,
in percent of GDP



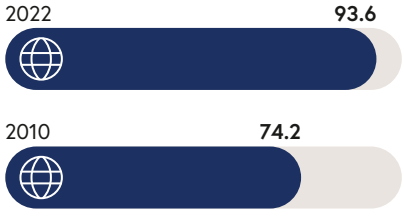
Austria has access to high-quality data and statistics thanks to the appropriate (legal) framework.



Official development assistance for the least developed countries,
in percent of GDP



Proportion of 16 to 74-year-olds who had used the internet in the last three months, in percent





Outlook

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda are the guiding framework for ensuring social security, jobs, prosperity, sustainable growth and a liveable environment in Austria. The goals help all stakeholders to address the challenges and realise the opportunities arising from the green and digital transformation.

In the near future, all countries in the world will face massive challenges in achieving these goals. In addition to the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, the armed conflicts in the Middle East and Africa are a particular cause for concern and will require additional efforts including from Austria to overcome them.

Austria's efforts in response to these and other multiple crises show that their management and a transformation to achieve the goals by 2030 must be reconciled. Even though poverty and social inequalities have increased worldwide, the crises have also had an impact in Austria, especially for those people who were previously particularly affected by poverty and inequalities. Implementing the 2030 Agenda collaboratively in accordance with the principle of "leaving no one behind" is important for Austria, to create prospects in the countries of the Global South, prevent and overcome crises, and end wars.

Important levers for implementation in Austria include promoting social cohesion, equipping all stakeholders with the relevant skills for sustainability and ensuring a good life for all within planetary boundaries. A particular focus is placed on involving young people in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, especially as children and young people are among the most vulnerable groups and can also make a significant contribution as agents of change.

Key measures for the targeted implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the 17 SDGs in and by Austria are listed below.

Governance

- Dialogue and exchange between governmental and non-governmental actors involved in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda will continue to be promoted. Representatives of civil society, science and businesses are to be involved in an advisory capacity in matters relating to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular through established and possible new formats of structured dialogue.

- Based on existing working structures, communication and coordination between the federal level and the provinces is to be further developed, to better integrate the steering processes at federal and provincial level, in line with the resolution of the Conference of Provincial Governors of November 3, 2023. The aim is to identify those topics and areas of cooperation that are particularly suitable for implementing the 2030 Agenda across the federal and provincial levels.

- The implementation of the 2030 Agenda in and by Austria should continue to be evidence-based and in exchange with the scientific community, which is why cooperation with *"UniNEtZ"* and other scientific stakeholders must be further developed.

- The 2030 Agenda will be increasingly and systematically integrated into the federal government's impact orientation and impact assessment. The relevant findings from other countries will also be drawn upon.

- In the coming years, Austria will address the global spillover effects, taking its lead from the relevant work within the EU and the OECD. The findings from the *"SDG Dialogue Forums"* from 2021 to 2023 will continue to be addressed within the IMAG and integrated into its work programme.

- To ensure comprehensive and coherent implementation of the 2030 Agenda over the next six years, the IMAG will regularly update and concretise its work programme, with progress communicated in meeting minutes or periodic summary reports.

Leaving no one behind – social cohesion and solidarity in times of multiple crises

- Combating poverty: The federal government is committed to combating poverty. Following the anti-poverty packages with key milestones such as the abolition of the bracket creep or the valorisation of family and social benefits, targeted support for groups of people in vulnerable situations will continue to be pursued. For 2024, an additional EUR 15 million from the BMSGPK budget has been earmarked to combat poverty in third countries.

- Children and adolescents: The COVID-19 pandemic has had serious consequences for the mental health of children and young people. To strengthen their mental health, easy-access services for children and young people with mental illness are being further expanded.

- Women and gender equality: The federal government is committed to further promoting the economic independence of women and closing the gender pay gap, for example by expanding childcare in rural areas and reducing gender stereotypes.

- Women's health: Intensive work will continue on the implementation of the Women's Health Action Plan and, building on the data collected in 2023, attention will be paid to the focus areas of menstrual health and contraception, among others.

- Childcare: The establishment of a future fund was decided as part of the financial equalisation scheme, in which EUR 1.1 billion are to be made available annually for elementary education, climate protection and housing. Childcare is of central importance. EUR 500 million have been earmarked for elementary education. The federal government has agreed with the federal provinces that the focus will be on expanding the number of places for under-threes, opening hours and quality.

- Social innovations to combat poverty: Further measures will be developed for 2024 to make use of social innovations to achieve the SDGs, for example in the area of child poverty in Austria.

- Labour market: Demographic trends will further exacerbate the existing shortage of skilled workers. It is therefore particularly important to continue to increase the employment rate of women, older people, people with health-related limitations and people with disabilities. To promote the inclusion of young people with disabilities

in the labour market, a corresponding amendment to the law came into force on January 1, 2024. In addition, a nationwide strategy for the immigration of skilled workers is being implemented under the leadership of the BMAW. An initial contribution to the climate-friendly transformation process of the economy was made with the Environmental Foundation set up in April 2022 to promote qualifications in the area of green jobs.

- Healthcare reform: In line with the principle of "digital before outpatient before inpatient", digital services for patients are to be expanded, the private practice sector strengthened, and structural reforms implemented to relieve the burden on hospitals.

- Health and digitalisation: In order to create a consolidated, nationwide strategy for digitalisation in health and care, the development of an Austrian *"eHealth"* strategy was decided as part of the health target management, which is now to be finalised in a participatory process.

- Mental health and health literacy: An action plan to promote the psychosocial health of young people will be developed in 2023 and 2024. Austria is pushing to improve prevention, mental health literacy and access to needs-based care for all population groups, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups such as children and young people.

- Health and climate: The "*Climate-neutral healthcare strategy*" adopted by the BMSGPK in fall 2023 is a comprehensive compilation of what needs to be addressed in the future so that the healthcare sector can make the necessary contribution to achieving national and international climate targets.

- Nursing: The nursing care fund will be increased to EUR 1.1 billion in 2024, with this amount rising by an average of 4.5% per year until 2028. This should enable the long-term financing of higher salaries, training and community nurses. Due to demographic change, securing skilled workers for the healthcare and nursing professions is a particular challenge. Compliance with relevant international standards is essential for the fair and ethical recruitment of such professionals from third countries.

- Culture: Young people and socially disadvantaged groups in particular should be given easy-access to a wide range of cultural activities.

Skills for 2030 – Competencies for sustainable development

- Achieving the SDGs by 2030 can only succeed with appropriate educational concepts. Existing patterns of thought and action, which currently often stand in the way of achieving the SDGs, must be changed in the long term.

- Austria is promoting skills for 2030 on the basis of existing or upcoming strategies and initiatives in order to address the current polycrisis and implementation of the SDGs.

- The focus is on increasing digital skills for society as a whole through the "digital skills offensive", supplemented by the promotion of media and information skills.

- The green and digital transformation and demographic change have direct and long-term effects on society, the labour market and education systems. Measures such as the qualification drive as part of the federal government's climate and transformation offensive strengthen the resilience, independence and competitiveness of domestic companies.

- Future-oriented skills, qualifications, new job profiles, changing labour market requirements of companies and employees as well as instruments that take into account the needs of all generations are the challenges of the future. Programmes for young people to think in a solution-oriented and networked way are of crucial importance.

- The globally recognised Austrian model of dual vocational training is being further developed with the updating of job profiles and apprenticeships as well as a wide range of support measures. Active labour market policies and an age-appropriate working environments should ensure that no one is left behind. Skills for 2030 aim to address one of the key challenges, the shortage of skilled workers. Companies play a decisive role in the further training of their employees for sustainable development.

- Competencies regarding the impact of Austrian actors' actions on the achievement of the SDGs in other countries should be strengthened, in particular for the implementation of corporate due diligence for sustainability.

- In addition to technical skills, a targeted awareness of sustainability is needed. Social enterprises and civil society organisations play an important role in this.

- It is crucial for education and science to continue playing an active role and take responsibility in solving the challenges of sustainable transformation. Future issues and skills for 2030 should be addressed jointly to initiate corresponding changes in people's thinking and actions for sustainability.

- Concrete options for action include improving the basic training and collective skills of organisations for sustainable development and launching a sustainability skills campaign.

Protecting the biosphere – sustainable development within planetary boundaries

- Energy transition and climate neutrality by 2040: In order to largely reduce the existing dependence on fossil fuels, ambitious targets in the area of renewable energies and climate neutrality will continue to be pursued and measures based for example on the *"Renewable Energies Expansion Act"* and the "*Renewable Heat Package*" will be implemented.

- Mobility transition as the key to climate neutrality: In view of the challenges in the transport sector, such as transit traffic or the creation of more climate and environmentally friendly settlement structures, Austria is focusing on a comprehensive mobility transition. To this end, greenhouse gas emissions are to be further reduced, innovative and efficient mobility solutions promoted, and sustainable mobility options created.

- Protection of biodiversity and ecosystems: The continuing loss of Austria's diverse natural landscapes as well as natural and near-natural habitats and species, which is also caused by a high degree of sealing, requires the implementation of existing and further measures, such as those outlined in the "*EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030*" and the *"Biodiversity Strategy-Austria-2030+"* of the BMK, but also an appropriate approach to reduce land consumption in Austria.

- Circular economy and resource efficiency: In order to achieve greater cost transparency with regard to biodiversity loss and climate damage and at the same time assume international responsibility, Austria is aiming for a climate-neutral, sustainable circular economy by 2050. The circular economy strategy stipulates that the material footprint should be reduced to a maximum of seven tons per capita per year by 2050, which will require increased resource efficiency, waste avoidance and recycling as well as sufficiency approaches.

- Research, technological development and innovation: Mastering the energy and mobility transition, ensuring a circular production system and liveable, climate-neutral cities and communities is and remains one of the key challenges for the future. This is why Austria is focusing on transformation-oriented RTI funding programs in the areas of climate-neutral cities, energy transition, mobility transition and circular economy, which are being further developed in close coordination with implementation measures in other policy areas.

Austrian development policy

- Austria is focusing its development policy on implementing the 2030 Agenda in partnerships, with the aim of creating prospects in the countries of the Global South and preventing and overcoming crises in line with the SDGs' guiding principle of "Leaving no one behind".

- Austria has substantially increased its ODA contributions in recent years. For example, the resources of the Foreign Disaster Fund have increased more than fivefold since 2019.

- In the coming years, Austrian development policy will continue to focus on combating poverty, promoting the private sector in partner countries, gender equality, the advancement of women and girls and the rights of people with disabilities, children and young people, older people, the indigenous populations and minorities.

- In the context of the drastic increase in the number of refugees and internally displaced persons worldwide, Austria continues to focus on migration and assistance on the ground, particularly in the neighbouring countries of crisis regions, and on combating the causes of displacement. Based on the new humanitarian aid strategy, Austria's humanitarian commitment is also increasingly aimed at ensuring the protection and adequate care of refugees and internally displaced persons on the ground.

- Sustainable economic development that involves as many people as possible is the basis for poverty reduction. Austria will therefore strongly support the development of the local private sector and social entrepreneurship, particularly with regard to quality vocational education and training and access to financing. By creating prospects for the future, we are also helping to prevent irregular migration. At the same time, cooperation with the Austrian private sector will be further expanded. With its innovative strength, expertise and investment opportunities, it is an indispensable implementation partner.

- In view of the rising numbers of people suffering from hunger and food insecurity since 2015, Austria will further expand its commitment to global food security in the coming years. A key step in this direction is the strategic partnership with the World Food Programme for the years 2023 to 2025.

- Other topics that will be given special consideration are education and training, the rule of law and the commitment to fair, transparent and progressive tax systems that take greater account of the needs of the countries of the Global South.

- Austria is committed to promoting the "Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus", which aims to achieve greater coordination between actors in humanitarian aid, development cooperation and the peace sector. The aim is to improve the coordination and complementarity of humanitarian, development and peacebuilding measures in countries and regions where Austria is involved. Through bilateral and multilateral projects within the framework of the Nexus, Austria will increase the coherence and effectiveness of the measures implemented and thus make a sustainable contribution to human security.

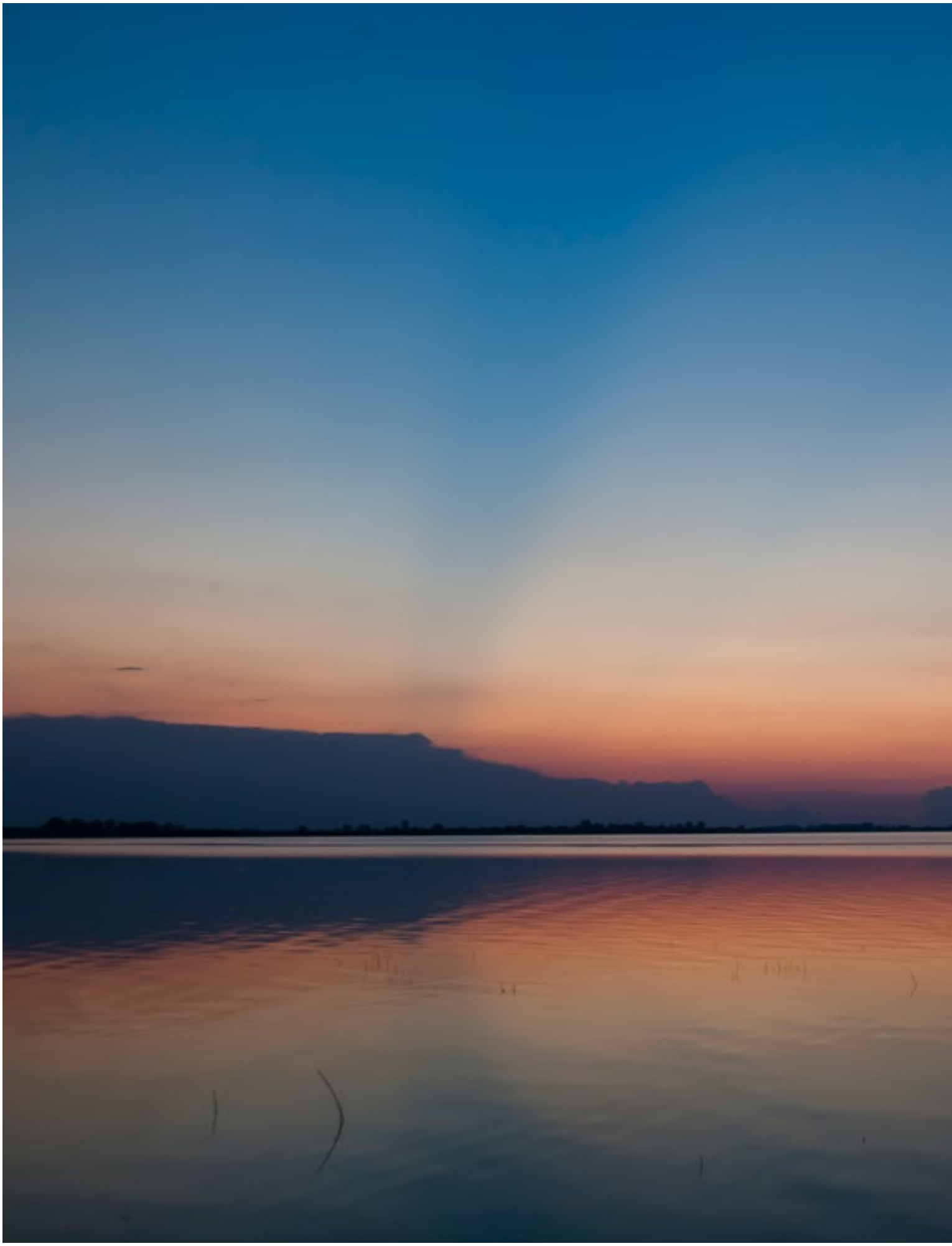
- As announced in the first VNR, Austria has adopted a "Humanitarian Aid Strategy". By promoting and using innovative forms of humanitarian aid, investing in disaster preparedness and ensuring the appropriate quality of measures that are needs-oriented and based on humanitarian principles, Austria is responding adequately to increased needs and future challenges in humanitarian aid. Austria is actively committed to ensuring compliance with international humanitarian law and to improving the protection of the civilian population.

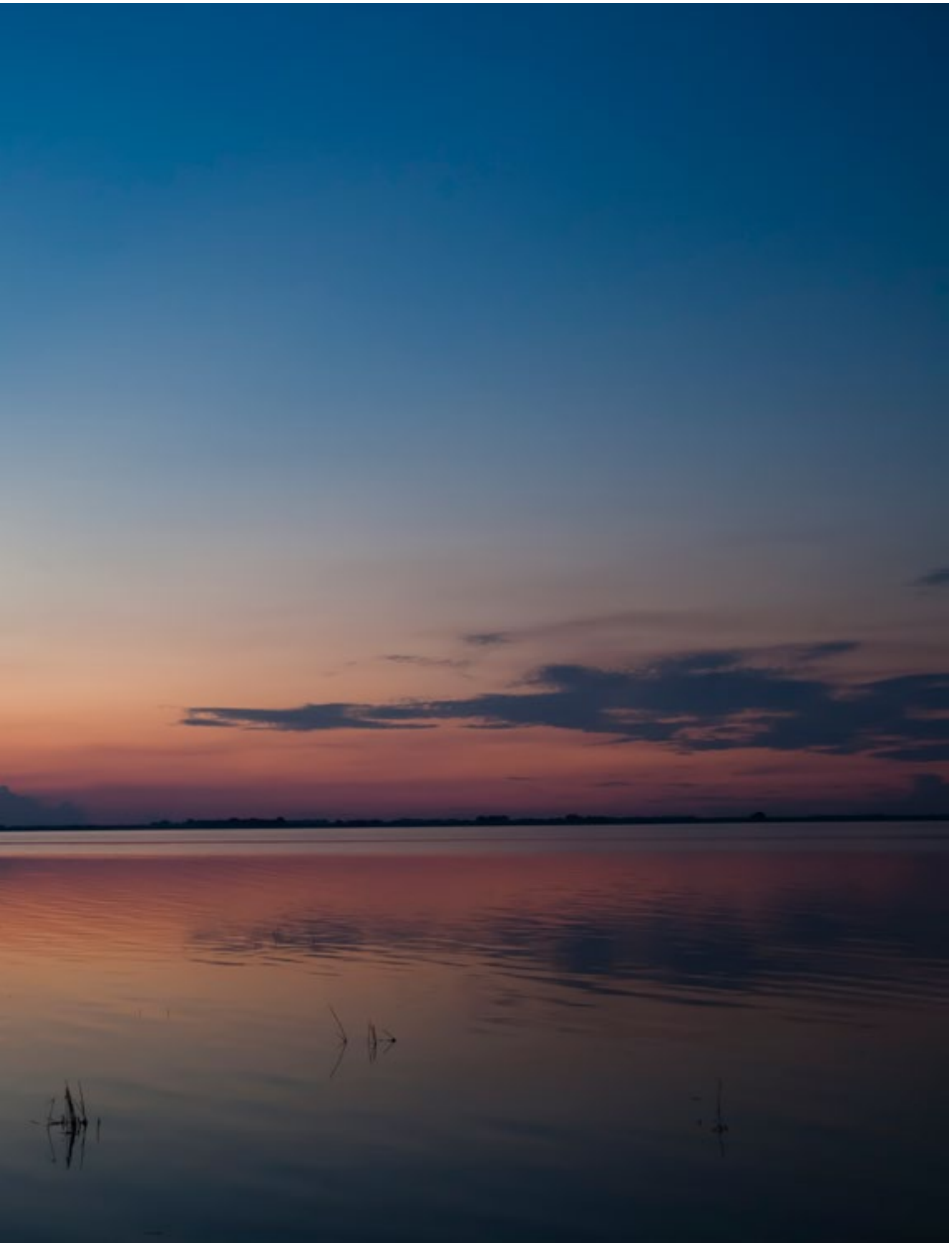
- Improved policy coherence in terms of sustainable development with a strengthened whole-of-government approach should ensure that all policy areas contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. As part of SDG implementation and policy coherence, it is therefore important to consider global interdependencies in national processes to take account of social, economic and environmental impacts in different regions of the world. Austria will therefore work with the OECD to promote policy coherence for sustainable development in the administration (PCSD).

- SDG target 4.7 emphasises the importance of a deeper understanding of global contexts and sustainable development. Austria will therefore develop a national concept for the promotion of development education and information work in Austria.

- The federal government supports the Global South in climate change mitigation and adaptation activities, including in the context of development cooperation and humanitarian aid. Austria also contributes significantly to the *"Green Climate Fund"* and the *"Adaptation Fund"*, as well as to the recently operationalised *"Loss and Damage Fund"*. In addition, the UN's Systematic Observation Financing Facility, the World Food Programme – Anticipatory Action and CREWS Early Warning Systems are supported to strengthen resilience in particularly vulnerable countries and thus minimise or avoid losses and damage. Austria also makes a significant contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation through its contributions to international financial institutions, which are increasingly dedicated to climate finance. Austria is working to align international financial flows with the Paris Agreement and is promoting renewable municipal energy solutions to combat energy poverty in the Global South.

- In the coming years, Austria will continue to support the efforts of the UN and the OECD to provide comprehensive and transparent data on the international financing of the SDGs. The collection of data on the contribution of all public funds to support the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (*"Total Official Support for Sustainable Development"*, TOSSD) will continue to be supported and mapped under SDG indicator 17.3.1 in the national SDG reporting.





List of abbreviations

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
AGES	Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety GmbH
AIT	Austrian Institute of Technology
AMS	Public Employment Service
ASBÖ	Workers' Samaritan Federation Austria
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
BJV	Federal Youth Council
BKA	Federal Chancellery
BMAW	Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy
BMBWF	Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research
BMEIA	Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs
BMF	Federal Ministry of Finance
BMI	Federal Ministry of the Interior
BMJ	Federal Ministry of Justice
BMK	Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology
BMKÖS	Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport
BML	Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management
BMLV	Federal Ministry of Defence
BMSGPK	Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
BOKU	University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (Vienna)
BOD_5	biochemical oxygen demand in 5 days
approx.	approximately
CARE	Association for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid
CBD	UN Convention on Biological Diversity
CCCA	Climate Change Centre Austria
CO_2	Carbon dioxide
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease-2019
CTBTO	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation
EMAS	EU environmental management system
ESDN	European Sustainable Development Network
EU	European Union
Eurostat	Statistical Office of the EU
EUVR	EU Voluntary Review
R&D	Research and development
FiT	Women in crafts and engineering
VNR	Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals / SDGs
RTI	Research, Technology and Innovation

GESA	Gemeinnützige Sanierungs- und Beschäftigungs GmbH
GÖG	Gesundheit Österreich GmbH
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HLPF	UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
IACA	International Anti-Corruption Academy
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICHROP	International Conference on Human Rights of Older Persons
IIASA	International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
IKG	Jewish Community (Vienna)
ICT	Information and communication technology
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMAG	Interministerial Working Group on the 2030 Agenda
IT	Information Technology
KDZ	Centre for Public Administration Research
SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises
KOO	Coordination Office of the Austrian Bishops' Conference
LIFE	EU financial instrument for the promotion of environmental, nature and climate protection projects
MINT	Mathematics, Informatics, Natural Sciences and Technology
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NAP	National Action Plan
NEET	young adults who are neither employed nor in education nor training
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NHK-K	Sustainability Coordinator Conference consisting of experts from the federal government and the federal provinces
NMO	Near and Middle East
NÖ	Lower Austria
NPO	Non-Profit Organisation
ODA	official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPEC	Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe
ÖBB	Austrian Federal Railways
ÖROK	Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning
PISA	Programme for International Student Assessment
$PM_{2,5/10}$	airborne particulate matter
PV	Photovoltaics
RoL	Rule of Law
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal of the UN
SE4ALL	Sustainable Energy for All
SENA	Sustainable Embassies Network Austria
STEM	Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics

TOSSD	Contribution of all public funds to support the Sustainable Development Goals ("Total Official Support for Sustainable Development")
UFI	domestic environmental promotion
UNECE	UN Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
UniNEtZ	Alliance of Sustainable Universities in Austria
UNODC	UN Office on Drugs and Crime
UN	United Nations
WHO	World Health Organisation
WKO	Austrian Federal Economic Chamber

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