

# Austria and the 2030 Agenda

Voluntary National Review – Report on the Implementation  
of the Sustainable Development Goals





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of the Sustainable Development Goals

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## Preface

Austria's first Voluntary National Review of the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is an essential document: It shows on the one hand the achievements to date and on the other hand the need for further action to ensure the achievement of the global goals and the Paris Agreement. The review presents strategies, programmes and action plans of the Federal Ministries as well as particularly inspiring initiatives. Special attention is given to the three main topics "Digitalisation", "Women, youth and 'leaving no one behind'" as well as "Climate action and adaptation to climate change".

I would especially like to emphasise that the described achievements in Austria have not been accomplished by initiatives of the Federal Government alone, but above all through the direct commitment of citizens. Innovations, ideas and projects regarding sustainability and climate action also stem from many committed and enthusiastic individuals in our country.

Sustainable thinking and action concern us all. Our common future depends on each and every one of us; in Austria, in Europe, all over the world.

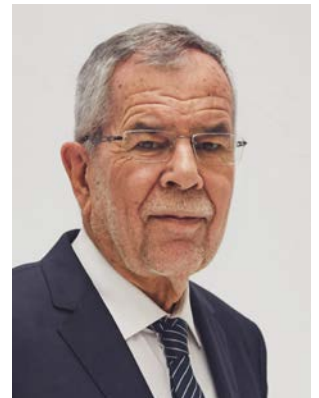
The adoption of the 2030 Agenda was a remarkable breakthrough for the entire international community. The Sustainable Development Goals give new hope to the world population and open perspectives for a responsible and socially just life. They provide a compass for a sustainable coexistence on our planet, always in consideration of the ambitious aspect of being universal, thus "leaving no one behind".

We are currently experiencing a severe global crisis, caused by COVID-19. It has been a very long time since the importance of acting in solidarity in order to overcome a crisis has become so evident.

Solidarity is the key to a good, peaceful and humane life for present and future generations. It is only together that we can successfully achieve the global goals within the next ten years.



Federal President of the Republic of Austria  
Alexander Van der Bellen

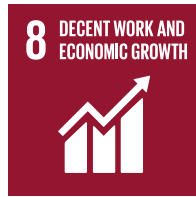


Federal President of  
the Republic of Austria  
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## Contents

<b>Executive summary</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Review compilation process</b> .....	<b>13</b>
Early start .....	13
Transparent and broad process .....	14
Peer learning and international exchange of experience .....	15
<b>Governance</b> .....	<b>16</b>
Key messages .....	16
National level .....	16
International level .....	21
EU level .....	23
Social partners .....	24
Civil society organisations .....	25
Science and education .....	26
Economy .....	27
Awareness raising and communication .....	28
Financing .....	30
Monitoring .....	31
<b>Focus Areas</b> .....	<b>33</b>
Digitalisation .....	34
Women, youth and 'leaving no one behind' .....	41
Climate action and adaptation to climate change .....	48

<b>Progress towards the goals and targets</b> .....	<b>53</b>
<b>Next Steps</b> .....	<b>102</b>
Outlook for governance .....	102
Outlook for digitalisation .....	106
Outlook for women, youth and 'leaving no one behind' .....	107
Outlook for climate action and adaptation to climate change .....	108
<b>List of abbreviations</b> .....	<b>111</b>



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



# Executive summary

Austria is committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations (UN) both nationally and on a global level. Austria has been promoting the principles of sustainable development in their environmental, social and economic dimensions for decades. In many cases, the systematic implementation of the 2030 Agenda has allowed Austrian actors to build on activities that had already been implemented or initiated before 2015. Since then, the 2030 Agenda has provided an internationally binding framework in which all dimensions of sustainable development are systematically taken into account. This framework is designed to ensure a good quality of life for all, in line with the principle of 'leaving no one behind'. Austria has already successfully implemented numerous SDGs. In accordance with the equivalence of all SDGs and their full consideration for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda, an ongoing commitment is required to address remaining challenges.

The decision of the Austrian Council of Ministers of 12 January 2016 lays the foundation for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Austria. All Federal Ministries were thus advised to incorporate the SDGs in all relevant strategies and programmes, as well as to draw up corresponding action plans and take appropriate measures. The 2030 Agenda is being implemented by all Federal Ministries within their respective sectoral competences. Under this mainstreaming approach, the SDGs are being integrated effectively at all levels and in all activities of Austrian politics and administration.

In line with a multi-stakeholder approach, the Federal States, cities, towns and municipalities are all involved in implementing the 2030 Agenda along with social partners and stakeholders from business, the scientific community and civil society. The Inter-Ministerial Working Group on the 2030 Agenda (IMAG) focuses on general coordination and on dialogue with relevant actors. This review has also been compiled on the basis of a broad, participatory and transparent stakeholder process.

In Austria, the SDGs are currently anchored not only in nationwide strategy documents such as the current version of the Climate and Energy Strategy #mission2030, the Three-Year Programme on Austrian Development Policy 2019–2021, the Austrian Foreign Trade Strategy, the Austrian Health Targets, the Austrian Federal Guidelines for Building Culture and the Austrian Youth Strategy, which incorporates the SDGs via the European Youth Goals. The Austrian Federal States also refer to the SDGs in their own strategy documents (e.g. the regional development action plan 'Raumbild Vorarlberg 2030', the 'Climate and Energy Strategy SALZBURG 2050' and the 'Smart City Wien Framework Strategy 2019–2050'). Some of the SDGs are linked to the performance targets for the public sector at federal and state level (e.g. Styria) and are also taken into account in public funding (e.g. Lower Austria).

Austria also promotes sustainable development in the framework of its role as the official seat of International Organisations. Its activities in the European Union (EU)

and in IOs promote the implementation of the SDGs, as do the projects of the Austrian Development Cooperation.

Against this background, this review focuses on three areas that are particularly relevant to Austria and require accelerated action:

- **Digitalisation**
- **Women, youth and ‘leaving no one behind’**
- **Climate action and adaptation to climate change**

With its ambitious focus on digitalisation, Austria is using **digital transformation** also as a means to implement the 2030 Agenda. In addition to developing a modern digital infrastructure with broadband and 5G, Austria is promoting the development of digital skills and citizen-centred public services in order to enable everyone’s participation in the opportunities of digital transformation as best as possible as well as to promote prosperity and sustainability. The potentials of digitalisation are to be used even more intensively in the future to reduce the use of resources and the consumption of energy across sectors, thus making a positive contribution to the environment and climate.

The principle of **‘leaving no one behind’** is institutionally safeguarded in Austria. The country’s well-developed social and health-care system is instrumental in preventing and tackling poverty and social exclusion. It ensures high-quality health care for all, including disadvantaged and highly vulnerable groups. In line with the principle of ‘leaving no one behind’, targeted measures improve the living conditions of disadvantaged people, such as persons with disabilities, older persons, young people and children, single-parent families, the long-term unemployed and people from migrant backgrounds.

The inclusion of **young people** in the implementation process is vital from Austria’s perspective and is therefore encouraged through a wide variety of participatory programmes and projects. By lowering the voting age to 16, Austria has been a frontrunner in opening up democratic participation to young people.

Although Austria has made progress in many areas of **gender equality** in recent years, existing challenges – such as eliminating gender stereotypes, reducing income disparities and breaking through the glass ceiling in politics and business – must continue to be targeted in collaboration with all relevant actors.

**Climate action and adaptation to climate change** are fundamental to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Austria. The Austrian Federal Government is committed to the target of climate neutrality by 2040 and is following a consistent decarbonisation path with its current government programme. Austria was also one of the first EU Member States to develop a strategy for adaptation to climate change in order to prevent the adverse effects of climate change on the environment, society and economy. Austria is addressing the need for action by adopting a variety of measures in areas such as public transport, housing, regional planning, phasing out fossil fuels, bio-economy and circular economy, as well as through technological innovations. One such example is the ‘Hydrogen Initiative’, which has been joined by the then 27 EU Member States and around

100 organisations and companies. Another example is the increased focus on climate change and climate action as well as sustainable development in the development of university profiles including teaching and research.

Despite making considerable progress, achieving all SDGs in Austria remains a challenge. A set of SDG indicators, which is constantly being refined by Statistics Austria, has enabled trend forecasts to be made on the domestic implementation of the SDGs since 2017. The overall picture shows that Austria has made substantial progress towards many of the goals. For instance, there is significantly less poverty in Austria compared to the EU Member State average. With regards to nutrition and food production, Austria has a high percentage of organically farmed land, making it the leader in this area in the EU. The level of education in Austria continues to rise, and Austria is well above the EU average in lifelong learning. Access to safe and affordable drinking water is ensured, as is access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services. Renewable energy already accounts for one third of the total energy consumption (as of 2018). Austria's GDP growth is consistently in the European midfield. The ratio of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by industry and gross value added declined from 2010 to 2017. As regards digitalisation, Austria ranks among the top countries in digital public services according to the eGovernment Benchmark report published by the European Commission (EC), scoring highly in availability and user-centricity. When it comes to key technologies, Austria is a frontrunner in electronic identification (eID), electronic document transfer (eDocuments) and the use of registers.

The trend analysis does however also show a concrete need for action in some areas. For instance, the analysis shows that women still perform more unpaid work than men and that the gender pay gap continues to be above the EU average, although there are positive trends to be observed. Energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions from traffic rose from 2010 to 2018, posing concrete challenges to the achievement of the climate goals. Land use for building and traffic areas as well as recreational spaces increased over the same period. Raw material consumption per capita is above the EU average. There is also room for improvement with regard to the amount of official development assistance.

The developments shown in the trend analysis are also confirmed by international rankings, such as the Sustainable Development Report 2019 published by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and the Bertelsmann Stiftung, according to which Austria ranks fifth in global comparison of countries' SDG performance.

Austria's first Voluntary National Review of the Implementation of the SDGs provides an overview of the current situation, which is designed to serve as encouragement to reflect and engage in further activities at all levels. The broad stakeholder process established for the compilation of the Voluntary National Review will be continued. Structural and procedural measures for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda will be further developed on the basis of the Government Programme 2020–2024. The area of governance, including financing and monitoring, is described in a specific chapter in the review, due to its overarching importance as an accelerator for successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In particular, the successful coordination of the implementation

process – which began with the Inter-Ministerial Working Group and systematic inclusion of Federal States, the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns, the Austrian Association of Municipalities, social partners, civil society, business and the scientific community – is to be strengthened further in accordance with the government programme in order to ensure targeted governance and policy coherence. Work done by Statistics Austria, national evaluation reports – such as this first Austrian Voluntary National Review – and the regular provision of data will ensure that implementation of the 2030 Agenda is monitored.



# Introduction

This first Voluntary National Review of the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provides a nationwide overview of the measures taken, success stories and initiatives supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Austria. It also sets out the challenges that continue to be faced in this context.

In order to provide an up-to-date report, the focus of this review was on initiatives undertaken in 2018 and 2019. The review presents the implementation status as at early March 2020. As a result, the individual thematic chapters and the analysis carried out by Statistics Austria do not reflect any impact or measures related to the COVID-19 crisis.

Austria's first Voluntary National Review provides an overview of the activities and measures adopted by Federal Ministries, Federal States, the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns, the Austrian Association of Municipalities, social partners, and stakeholders from business, the scientific community and civil society. It is the result of a broad, transparent and participatory stakeholder process. In addition to giving an overview of the current situation, the Voluntary National Review also sets forth the Federal Government's approaches to the future implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The Voluntary National Review presents many success stories and flagship initiatives to illustrate SDG implementation in Austria and provide possible solutions to existing challenges. These success stories and flagship initiatives have been included in order to recognise the commitment of the stakeholders and, at the same time, to motivate all those involved to take further action. They clearly illustrate how broad the approaches are to implementing the social, environmental and economic dimensions of the 2030 Agenda and the interlinkages between the SDGs.

In view of the variety of topics covered by the 2030 Agenda, the review explores three key issues in greater detail:

- Digitalisation
- Women, youth and 'leaving no one behind'
- Climate action and adaptation to climate change

These key issues reflect the three dimensions of the 2030 Agenda – social, environmental and economic – and are of particular relevance to Austria. The process of reporting on the key issues was coordinated by the respective ministries: the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, and the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs.

Given its importance as a strategic basis for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, governance structures are described in a stand-alone chapter. 'Governance' outlines the strategic governance approaches taken by state and non-state actors, with

concrete examples of their implementation. In line with a broad definition of governance, this chapter also includes sections on awareness raising and communication as well as financing and monitoring.

‘Methodology and processes’ provides information about the reporting process and looks at the actors involved.

Based on data and facts in Statistics Austria’s indicator report, ‘Progress towards the goals and targets’ outlines the current status of Austria’s implementation of the 17 SDGs. This chapter reveals both positive developments and areas where there is a need for action.

‘Next Steps’ focuses on the current Government Programme 2020–2024, which formulates key principles for the continued implementation process of the 2030 Agenda in the coming years.

Like the rest of the world, Europe and Austria are currently facing major challenges due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the context of crisis management, the 2030 Agenda can serve as an important compass for political decision-making in order to safeguard public health, social and economic security, and environmental sustainability. In this transformation process, it will be particularly important to develop national and global measures that consistently pursue the ‘leaving no one behind’ approach of the 2030 Agenda. In response to this crisis, it is vital to remain committed to the SDGs in order to strengthen health systems, reduce inequalities, promote responsible consumption and production patterns, and to protect the climate and the environment.

# Review compilation process

- Austria opted for a broad and transparent multi-stakeholder approach when compiling the first Voluntary National Review of the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Over 40 organisations were actively involved from the outset in all phases of the review compilation process. They also helped to determine the process design, timeline and review structure.
- The review underwent four consultation rounds, in which 320 responses with a total volume of 520 pages were collected. Progress towards achieving the 17 SDGs was analysed on the basis of independent data in the 2020 National Indicator Report produced by Statistics Austria.
- The compilation of the Voluntary National Review enabled a comprehensive information base on the implementation status of the SDGs to be created for the first time. The process played a key role in strengthening dialogue, networking and cooperation between state and non-state actors for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

## Early start

The foundations for the Voluntary National Review compilation process were laid firstly by the Council of Ministers on 4 September 2019, through the decision to acknowledge the compilation of the review, and secondly by the Inter-Ministerial Working Group convening the editorial group co-chaired by the Federal Chancellery and the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs. The editorial group included the ministries with primary responsibility for the three dimensions of sustainable development: the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, and the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs. Editorial committees were set up, composed of representatives from the Federal Ministries, Federal States, the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns, the Austrian Association of Municipalities, social partners and stakeholders from business, the scientific community and civil society. The editorial group coordinated discussions with the editorial committees.

## Transparent and broad process

The review was prepared in four phases. The stakeholders contributed text suggestions, success stories / flagship initiatives and comments in all phases. Discussions in all phases were held at regular meetings with all stakeholders, at smaller ad hoc meetings, at SDG events, and by email and phone on an ongoing basis.

### **Phase 1: Preparation and planning**

In phase 1 (May 2019 – June 2019), the editorial group developed the mandate to compile the Voluntary National Review in close consultation with the editorial committees. The process design, involvement of the editorial committees, timeline and review structure were defined in this mandate. At the same time, three key cross-cutting issues of the Voluntary National Review were jointly defined. According to current rankings, these three issues pose particular challenges to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Austria: digitalisation; women, youth and ‘leaving no one behind’; climate action and adaptation to climate change. The editorial group also collaborated closely with the editorial committees to develop a list of questions to gather all relevant input and a list of criteria to identify success stories and flagship initiatives for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. A total of 170 responses were collected in this phase.

### **Phase 2: Overview of the current situation and data collection**

In phase 2 (July 2019 – October 2019), the focus shifted to collecting information on the numerous activities related to Austria’s domestic and global implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Responding to a list of questions, members of the editorial committees provided information about 159 success stories and flagship initiatives, governance measures and the next steps in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda within their organisations. A total of 100 responses were collected in this phase. Over 415 pages of input were received.

### **Phase 3: Compiling the review**

Phase 3 (November 2019 – March 2020) was dedicated to compiling the review. The editorial group prepared drafts of individual parts of the review, which were widely agreed. Four consultation rounds were held with the editorial committees for each chapter of the Voluntary National Review. Progress in the implementation of the SDGs was demonstrated on the basis of Statistics Austria’s National Indicator Report 2020, which was compiled in connection with the Voluntary National Review. Trends and international comparisons relating to the achievement of two to three main indicators for each SDG were shown for the first time in this report.

### **Phase 4: Communication and final steps**

Phase 4 (April 2020 – July 2020) focused on coordinating communication and dissemination of the Voluntary National Review with the editorial committees. The aim was to



make the review accessible to broad target groups. This phase involved preparations for the presentation of the review at the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) with the stakeholders. A short video on implementing the SDGs was prepared, focusing on personal experiences of implementing the 2030 Agenda. Since only an online version of the Voluntary National Review is available, a brochure summarising the review was produced in English and German. This brochure contains key messages and personal statements from high-ranking decision-makers. An SDG website focusing on the success stories and flagship initiatives was published at the same time, and a social media presence featuring a short video was agreed with the editorial committees. The Council of Ministers acknowledged the Voluntary National Review on 27 May 2020.

## Peer learning and international exchange of experience

Compiling the review involved a host of activities related to sharing experiences and peer learning with other countries and organisations:

- At the Global Workshop of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) in November 2019, and at a series of webinars in March 2020, representatives of the Federal Chancellery and Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs shared their experiences with representatives of countries that will also present their Voluntary National Reviews in 2020.
- In December 2019, the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) organised a Workshop on Data and Statistics for Evidence-based Voluntary National Reviews. The Federal Chancellery and Statistics Austria took part in this workshop and actively reported on the implementation of the Voluntary National Review in Austria and the associated monitoring process.
- A cooperation between the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens and the Federal Chancellery was also launched. The results of the series of events with high-ranking political representatives and actors from civil society, the scientific community, business and young people were taken into consideration in the review.

# Governance

## Key messages

› Sustainable development is declared a national goal in the Austrian Federal Constitutional Law. All Austrian Federal Ministries are advised to implement the principles of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within their areas of competence in a strategically coordinated manner.

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› In its implementation of the SDGs, Austria takes a broad approach that involves all Federal Ministries, Federal States, cities and municipalities as well as social partners and stakeholders from business, the scientific community and civil society. Communicating the SDGs on a broad basis and implementing them are important priorities in these efforts.

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› Austria uses its position as the official seat of International Organisations to promote sustainable development on a global level. Austria's activities in the EU and in International Organisations facilitate the implementation of the SDGs, as do all projects of the Austrian Development Cooperation.

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› Based on the Government Programme 2020–2024, Austria will continue in the future to control and coordinate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda with the systematic involvement of civil society, the scientific community and business.

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## National level

Austria has been tackling the challenges of sustainable development for more than 30 years. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015 acted as an important catalyst for moving forward with implementation. The 2030 Agenda is being implemented in Austria based on an existing institutional framework and strong networks of stakeholders on all levels. A powerful and vital culture of sustainability has developed in public administration, business, the scientific community and civil society. Despite these relevant achievements, further engagement is still required for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Austria.

The national goal of sustainable development is set down in the Federal Constitutional Act on sustainability, animal protection, comprehensive environmental protection, on water and food security as well as research. Actual implementation comes about through laws, ordinances and statutes.

The decision of the Austrian Council of Ministers of 12 January 2016 lays the foundation for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Austria. All Federal Ministries were thus advised to incorporate the SDGs in the relevant strategies and programmes in their respective areas of competence and to draw up corresponding action plans and to take measures. Under this mainstreaming approach, the SDGs have been integrated in all activities of Austrian politics and administration since then in a targeted and effective way.

Based on the decision mentioned above, the Austrian Council of Ministers set up an inter-ministerial task force under the joint chairmanship of the Federal Chancellery and the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs. It coordinates reporting at the federal level on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Members of the task force are the SDG Focal Points nominated by the Federal Ministries. The Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs serving as co-chair ensures that international aspects are also covered by the task force. Within the task force, there is continuous communication between the Federal Ministries and the representatives of the Federal States, the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns, the Austrian Association of Municipalities, the social partners, business, civil society and the scientific community.

## Governance approaches taken by selected Federal Ministries

The Federal Ministries are pursuing different governance approaches to implementing the 2030 Agenda based on broad stakeholder participation. All ministries have set up their own processes, plans, bodies, initiatives and projects to achieve the SDGs and effectively tackle the specific challenges in their own areas of activity.

In 2019, the former Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism adopted the SDG Action Plan 2019+. It promotes a systematic and coherent implementation of the 2030 Agenda. For example, the Environment Agency Austria has developed scientifically based SDG checks for employees of the Federal Ministry. They include an SDG fitness check and an in-depth ex-ante SDG impact assessment for major strategies, measures and action plans in the making. The SDG Action Plan 2019+ provides an overview of these instruments and explains the internal processes and procedures for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The action plan will be updated for the areas of activity of the new Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology and adapted to future implementation activities of the new ministry.

Under its Austrian Youth Strategy, the Federal Ministry of Labour, Family and Youth shapes the framework conditions for young people in all policy areas, drawing on their input in the process. The implementation and further development of the Austrian Youth Strategy, as well as the reference to the European Youth Goals, which cover many aspects of the SDGs from a youth perspective, are anchored in the current Government Programme 2020–2024 (p. 284).

The Federal Ministry of Labour, Family and Youth supports the Austrian National Youth Council pursuant to the Federal Act regulating the representation of youth concerns (Federal Youth Representation Act) The council represents the concerns and interests of young people in Austria and has the status of a social partner in youth issues.

As part of its UN Youth Delegate Programme, the Austrian National Youth Council, supported by the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, sends a representative aged between 18 and 24 to the UN General Assembly in New York every year. The youth delegates are part of Austria's official delegation. Their

### Cross-Policy Youth Strategy

The Austrian Youth Strategy was drawn up for and with young people with a view to empowering them and is Austria's cross-policy commitment to implementing the European Youth Goals. These goals correlate many SDG concerns and youth policy. They were developed in a participatory process involving over 50,000 young people in Europe. The SDGs are therefore an integral part of the Austrian Youth Strategy and of the resulting measures taken by the entire Federal Government.

task during the General Assembly is to bring to bear their own expertise on topics relevant to young people and to advise diplomats. With these UN Youth Delegates, the Austrian National Youth Council contributes greatly to raising children and young people's awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals in Austria and to lobbying for their implementation. The initiative addresses all development goals.

The inter-ministerial task force on research, technology and innovation (RTI) chaired by the Federal Chancellery is currently preparing a new RTI strategy for Austria. Major areas are basic research, research infrastructures, human resources, internationalisation, EU missions and EU partnerships as well as applied research and impact on business and society. To ensure that these areas develop in a way that is sustainable, resource-efficient and socially just, the SDGs are integrated into the strategy. Correlations with the 2030 Agenda exist, for example, in education, gender equality, affordable and clean energy, and climate action as well as industry, innovation and infrastructure.

In the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs, a separate organisational entity was created in 2019 to improve coordination and to mainstream strategies and processes. In addition, fundamental strategic approaches were adopted to render digital transformation useful for all of society, for instance the initiative 'fit4internet' (see "*fit4internet*" – *Digitalisation of Society*", *Digitalisation*

chapter) to increase participation in digitalisation, the reform project 'Digitales Amt' (see "*Digitales Amt' – eGovernment Services Wherever I Am*", *Digitalisation chapter*) for digitalised, citizen-centred services or the new Foreign Trade Strategy 2018, which devotes one of its seven chapters to the 2030 Agenda. This strategy serves as the basis for the strategic orientation of Austrian foreign trade policy. It was devised jointly with the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs and the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber in a broad and inclusive process involving the relevant actors from the foreign trade sector. It strives to make the best possible use of SDGs, the global trend towards sustainability and the innovation potentials of sustainable development to achieve economic success. Priorities in this strategy are innovation and technology, digitalisation and new growth markets. The strategy targets leading companies and also, increasingly, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and startups (e.g. KMU.DIGITAL). With its 'SDG Business Forum' initiative, the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs is helping to guide Austrian companies to new SDG markets (see "*SDG Business Forum*").

The Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection is pursuing a health strategy comprising ten intersectoral health targets that guide action in the current health reform (see "*Austrian Health Targets*"). The strategy seeks to increase Austrians' quality of life and their healthy life years. Besides assuring sustainable, quality health care that is balanced and universally accessible, the Austrian Health Targets address numerous factors outside the traditional health-care system that influence health and well-being.

### **SDG Business Forum**

The SDG Business Forum is an effective governance initiative that the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs conducted between 2017 and 2019 to help to guide companies to SDG markets in newly industrialised and developing countries in particular. At special events, experts and companies presented best-practice examples and market potentials. Besides addressing several SDGs such as sustainable growth, decent work, affordable and clean energy, and climate action, the initiative also underscores the accomplishments of the Austrian economy in sectors in which it excels, namely renewable energy, infrastructure and environmental technology. Based on the results of the initiative, the SDG Business Forum will tackle the subject of (digital) innovations and new business models for sustainable development in 2020.

### **Austrian Health Targets**

In implementing the Austrian Health Targets, the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection and all other parties involved consider synergies with the SDGs, as well. In phase 4, the Austrian Health Targets centre on measures developed and implemented together with more than 90 stakeholders, for instance greater health literacy or a healthy diet. Priority goals are to promote the quality of life and personal well-being, to increase the number of healthy life years and to ensure fair and equal opportunities in health. This systemically relevant process addresses all SDGs.

In the social policy field, coordination, dialogue and networking among governmental and non-governmental actors are especially important in the implementation of the SDGs. That is why the Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection created the dialogue forum ‘Leaving no one behind’ (see “*Dialogue forum ‘Leaving no one behind’*”).

The social report issued every two years on the social situation in Austria and on the activities of the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection also highlighted the SDGs as a priority issue in its 2019 edition for the first time. The analysis of past ministerial activities was weighed against the corresponding SDGs.

In all areas, the active involvement of all actors at all levels is crucial in the implementation of the SDGs. Austria has a long tradition of voluntary engagement. Forty-six percent of the population aged 15 and older are engaged in voluntary activities domestically and abroad. Promoting voluntary engagement in Austria is considered vital because the country owes its high degree of social cohesion and mutual support to the great commitment of civil

#### **Dialogue forum ‘Leaving no one behind’**

To implement the SDGs, the ministry has been promoting the dialogue with civil society since the beginning of 2019 as part of its dialogue forum ‘Leaving no one behind’. At five workshops throughout Austria, more than 400 stakeholders have discussed the challenges and requirements involved in implementing the SDGs by 2030. The dialogue forum has been instrumental in promoting cooperation among all stakeholders in society. It promotes numerous SDGs, such as inclusion of persons with disabilities, decent work for young people, participation in society by older persons, the fight against poverty and inequality as well as the health and well-being of children and adolescents.

society. Since the adoption of the Law on the Promotion of Voluntary Engagement in 2012, assistance measures have been continually taken within the framework of the Austrian Voluntary Council.

In the cultural sector, the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport is pushing to anchor contemporary art in society in a sustainable way, to further develop the social safety net for individuals involved in art and culture (measures to prevent old-age poverty and unemployment) and to develop a joint strategy among the Federal Government, the Federal States and municipalities to implement fair pay as a cultural strategy. The Austrian Federal Guidelines for Building Culture and Stimulus Programme as well as the Austrian Federal Building Culture Report represent a forward-looking overall strategy of the Federal Government in the field of art and culture that serves as a model for various local authorities.

With a series of events about how art and culture can contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, stakeholders are to be sensitised on this matter (e.g. how art and culture help with the fight against climate change, with health and well-being, with sustainable cultural tourism and gender equality).

#### **Austrian Parliament**

The Austrian Parliament is committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda at the national level and also in its international communication.

One example is the Parliamentary NorthSouthDialogue. Under this project, the Austrian Parliament and the National Assembly of Zambia entered a close collaboration from the start of 2017 to the end of 2019 focused entirely on strengthening democratic institutions. Numerous activities were carried out as part of the project. Taking a peer-to-peer approach, experts from the Parliamentary Administration teamed up with their Zambian counterparts to develop a democracy education strategy called Bringing the Spirit of Democracy to Zambian Learners and tailored especially to school children. This strategy involved activities in parliament as well as an outreach programme, so pupils living far from Lusaka, the capital city, could also be reached. Another cooperation project also promoted education in democracy with a focus on the SDGs (see “*Making education in democracy tangible to everyone*”).

### **Making education in democracy tangible to everyone**

At a political level, members of the Zambian and Austrian parliaments founded a Joint Parliamentary Peer Group to tackle SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. A central instrument in these efforts was the event series called INDABA that focused, in Zambia, on professional and vocational qualifications and, in Austria, on the involvement of young people in the implementation of the SDGs.

The World Conference of Speakers of Parliament of the Inter-Parliamentary Union takes place every five years in cooperation with the United Nations. Previous venues were New York City (2000, 2005, 2015) and Geneva (2010). In August 2020 the conference is set to be held in Vienna with the national parliament as co-host. Both the venue and the co-hosting are premieres. All speakers of both chambers of parliament from all UN Member States are invited to attend, about 1,300 participants are expected. Under the title 'Parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism that delivers peace and sustainable development for the people and planet', the conference will focus on these subjects, among others: climate change, humanitarian agenda, democratic governance and inclusive economic growth, as well as parliamentary action to combat terrorism, violent extremism and hate speech.

### **Federal States**

Sustainability is a top priority at the state level. For instance, Tyrol has defined sustainable state development as its guiding principle and encased it as a state goal in its state constitution. The State Government of Styria committed itself in 2016 to implementing the 2030 Agenda, thereby taking the first step towards incorporating the 17 SDGs in the state administration.

The nine Federal States of Austria are taking varied strategic approaches to implementing the 2030 Agenda.

They range from action plans such as 'Raumbild Vorarlberg 2030' (a regional development action plan) to integrated strategies such as the 'Climate and Energy Strategy SALZBURG 2050 all the way to the 'Smart City Wien Framework Strategy 2019–2050'. With its 'Needs and Development Plan for Persons Requiring Care – 2025', Styria sets down minimum requirements for functions and task profiles for case and care management (CCM) in order to create full-coverage CCM facilities in the state. Two other strategic approaches to sustainability are 'Leben mit Zukunft' (life with future), a sustainability initiative of the Federal State of Tyrol; and 'Bioland Burgenland – 12 Punkte für ein kluges Wachstum mit Bio', a programme for smart growth based on organic farming practices. 'Zukunft durch Beteiligung' (future through contribution) is an initiative of Upper Austria to carry out priority measures and pilot projects that encourage people to get involved in their local community. Carinthia and other Federal States are preparing their municipalities to meet the challenges of climate change as part of the Climate Change Adaptation Model Regions Programme (KLAR!) funded by the Austrian Climate and Energy Fund. The Lower Austrian project '17&wir' (17&we) increases awareness of the SDGs in this Federal State and was given the Austrian SDG Award by the independent business organisation Senat der Wirtschaft.

NHK-K, the conference of sustainability coordinators for the Austrian Federal States and the Austrian Federal Government, provides a reliable framework for the vertical coordination of sustainability activities. NHK-K was merged in 2019 with the Federal States' SDG Focal Points. The NHK-K body serves as a coordinator and stimulus for policy and public administration to promote sustainable development. Its work programme covers the coordination of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda among the Federal States and the Federal Government as well as the preparation of reports from the Federal States for joint national reporting. In addition, the body promotes the exchange of information and experience with the regional and local levels.

## Cities, towns and municipalities

Cities, towns and municipalities form the strong, citizen-centred backbone of Austria. Mayors, local council members and regional associations ensure that Austria is among the countries in the world with the highest quality of life.

The 2030 Agenda is implemented at the level of the Federal States, cities, towns and municipalities in a cooperative process involving the Sectorial Departments in the Federal State Governments, social partners and stakeholders from business, the scientific community and civil society. The Federal States have put SDG Focal Points (see above) in charge of coordinating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This step enables structured communication and promotes collaboration with the Federal Ministries and the stakeholders.

The Bund-Länder-Netzwerk, a network between the Federal Government and Federal States for implementing regional and local sustainability strategies, is currently responsible for more than 500 Local Agenda 21 processes in municipalities and regions. It has helped to transform Local Agenda 21 into a practical instrument for the participatory implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The Austrian Association of Cities and Towns and the Austrian Association of Municipalities have drawn up the model resolution '2030 Agenda for Cities, Towns and Municipalities' in collaboration with the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology. In this declaration, cities, towns and municipalities commit to pursuing sustainable development, to supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to acting in accordance with SDG 11 to evolve into sustainable cities and communities. Attention is focused on awareness-raising measures and activities.

In its publication 'SDGs in Austrian Cities and Towns', the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns issued a guideline to implement the SDGs at local level. It lays out numerous examples and ideas on how the 2030 Agenda can be achieved locally.

For local authorities to collaborate effectively in carrying out this task, it is vital that cities, towns and municipalities be mobilised. To this end, the former ministry responsible for sustainability joined with the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns, the Austrian Association of Municipalities, and Upper Austria to stage

the first-ever conference for networking the local actors. The conference will be held annually to deal with specific local and municipal policy challenges associated with the 2030 Agenda. As part of this event, awards will be given out to local role models.

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions has set the objective that municipalities, cities, towns and regions should do their part in achieving the SDGs and profit from these efforts. The CEMR2020 Congress in Innsbruck would have convened under the theme 'Local Action. Global Shift. Living the Sustainable Development Goals', with a total focus on the 2030 Agenda. The event had to be called off because of the COVID-19 crisis.

For Upper Austrian municipalities, 'GemeindeNavi Agenda 2030' was developed as a tool for participatory self-evaluation and future planning to help to implement the SDGs. It raises awareness about the relevance of the worldwide 2030 Agenda in municipalities and regions while drawing connections between it and local governance and supporting concrete implementation activities. Following a pilot run in five municipalities, the tool has been available to all municipalities since the beginning of 2020.

## International level

Key foreign policy impact goals for Austria are comprehensively strengthening the rights of women, children and older persons through suitable international instruments, are achieving equality between women and men, are reducing poverty in a sustainable way, are consolidating peace and human security and are preserving the environment in partner countries as part of bilateral and multilateral development cooperation. For many years now, Austrian foreign policy has championed disarmament, the protection of human rights, the rule of law and the protection of civil society in armed conflicts.

To overcome global challenges, Austria relies on multilateral cooperation. Austria plays an active role in the EU and in International Organisations and is an official seat of the United Nations. With the Vienna International Centre, known locally as UNO City, Vienna is one of the four main headquarters of the United Nations and has a unique position in international cooperation as the official

seat of 40 International Organisations. UN Organisations such as, for example, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) as well as International Organisations such as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) and Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO) make Vienna a hub for efforts to promote peace, security and sustainable development and for the fight against crime, drug abuse and terrorism.

Moreover, Vienna has established itself as an international energy hub\* because numerous organisations in the energy sector are located in the Vienna area, e.g. the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), the UN initiative Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) as well as numerous think tanks focused on sustainable energy, such as the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). Austria joined with UNIDO to launch a pioneering initiative involving the establishment of international Centres for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, which have developed very dynamically (see “Centres for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency”).

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\* <https://www.bmlrt.gv.at/energie-bergbau/energie/europaeische-und-internationale-Energiepolitik/Multilaterale-Energiebeziehungen.html> (in German only)

In Austrian Development Cooperation, the 2030 Agenda serves as the basis for cooperation with Austria’s partner countries. With its Three-Year Programme on Austrian Development Policy 2019–2021, Austria is pursuing a strategy for implementing the 2030 Agenda in development cooperation. The strategy was jointly developed with all relevant ministries and stakeholders. It sets five thematic priorities: combating poverty is number one. Other priorities are to create a sustainable economic system, to protect and preserve the environment, to champion peace and security, to build inclusive societies and to support and assist women. As a cross-cutting issue, the empowerment of women is considered especially important. Strategic guidelines are being further developed on the environment and development.

In the city partnerships and cooperation agreements, there is intensive local communication also with cities and towns in the partner countries of Austrian Development Cooperation. Projects for strengthening the governance of local authorities are conducted in the young democracies of Europe in particular. The Federal States, too, are engaged worldwide in Austrian Development Cooperation projects, making an international contribution to sustainability in the process.

Another priority of Austrian foreign policy is to combat human trafficking. The task force for combating human trafficking within the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs coordinates the national and international efforts Austria undertakes in this area while adhering to the competences the individual actors have under law. The task force is a successful example of a whole-of-government collaboration, as the members

### Centres for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

The Federal Government is promoting global partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs in development cooperation by establishing Centres for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency. From 2009 onwards, they have been created in Africa, the Caribbean, the Pacific, in Central America and in the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region. A centre is currently being set up in Central Asia. In the meantime, the regional centres have joined to create the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres. The initiative promotes numerous SDGs, including the goal of conserving natural resources and ecosystems and of providing the population with access to modern, affordable energy services.



represent not only the federal ministries but also all the Federal States as well as civil society and social partners.

One key job of the task force is to create, carry out and monitor national action plans to combat human trafficking. The fifth National Action Plan applies to the period from 2018 to 2020 and defines concrete goals as well as the actions, responsibilities and timetables needed to achieve those goals.

For decades, Austria has been consistently committed to human rights, especially to the protection of women and children, journalists and minorities. In 2020, Austria chaired the UN Human Rights Council for the first time.

The groundbreaking Resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council calls on the UN and its Member States to integrate gender equality and women's concerns in all aspects of their work on international security policy and in their efforts to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts. Besides strengthened involvement of women in political decision-making processes and in peace operations, the resolution also firmly establishes the protection of women and girls from sexual violence and rape in armed conflicts.

Back in 2007, Austria became one of the first countries worldwide to present a national action plan to implement the resolution in the deployment of Austrian personnel on peace missions, in multilateral and bilateral activity, in development cooperation and in humanitarian aid. Targets in the action plan as revised in January 2012 are to promote the involvement of women in peace processes and strengthen preventative measures against violence towards women as well as to increase the participation of women in peace missions and advocate for more women in leadership positions at International Organisations such as the UN or the EU. The implementation of the action plan is reviewed annually.

As a member of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO), Austria has been fully engaged and active in implementing health-related SDGs since 2019. The WHO 13<sup>th</sup> General Programme of Work (2019–2023) is a guide for action with its Triple Billion Targets – one billion more people benefiting from universal health coverage, one billion more people better protected from health emergencies and one billion more people enjoying better health and well-being as well as its 'Decade for Healthy Ageing 2020–2030'. These efforts are aligned with the SDGs in increasing the number of

healthy life years. The programme is fully at the service of global, regional and local levels of action on the 2030 Agenda. As part of the worldwide WHO initiative to form regional parliamentary networks for health, the work programme is also actively communicated to national parliamentarians in view of the challenges in the global and regional implementation of the 2030 Agenda related to health issues.

Within the International Labour Organization (ILO), Austria supports the role of the ILO in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and in including ecological aspects in the goal to achieve decent work. Conventions on fundamental principles and rights at work are a set of important tools of the ILO. On 12 September 2019, Austria ratified the ILO Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention – a contribution to the implementation of SDG target 8.7.

## EU level

Austria actively participates in EU processes connected to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. As an EU Member State, Austria belongs to the most important actor in development cooperation worldwide. In this role, Austria is particularly committed to supporting sustainable economic development in the partner countries, to mainstreaming environmental protection and to advancing human rights, democracy and good governance.

During the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2018, the priority of the Council Working Group on the 2030 Agenda was to establish instruments, processes and structures that would promote the desired mainstreaming within the Council and make use of synergies. In addition to communications with external stakeholders (e.g. Multi-Stakeholder Platform on the implementation of the SDGs in the EU, SDG Watch Europe, UNECE), other Council Working Groups were also sensitised to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. For example, an informal dialogue on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was initiated on the EU level.

In 2018, the Closing Conference of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 was held in Vienna. Focal points were sustainability in cultural activities, sustainability in urban planning and 'Baukultur' (i.e. the preservation and

development of quality, sustainable and culturally relevant buildings and cities), preservation of cultural landscapes and climate-related challenges for cultural heritage.

The Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology is the initiator of the European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN). Since 2002, this network has fostered information exchange among civil servants and experts from all European countries on governance-related themes and the challenges of sustainable development. With the 2030 Agenda Learning Platform and other formats, the network has focused all its activities and resources since 2016 on the European dimension of implementing the 2030 Agenda. In addition to annual conferences and thematic workshops, it supports ongoing communication and networking on the 2030 Agenda with its annual Peer Learning Platforms and Peer Learning Visits and its European Sustainability Week.

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights is an important human rights institution located in Vienna. The agency helps to ensure protection of fundamental human rights in the EU. It also assists institutions and authorities of the EU and its Member States with the implementation of Community law on issues related to fundamental rights by providing information and expert knowledge.

## Social partners

In Austria, the social partners have a crucial part to play in achieving the social and economic dimension of the 2030 Agenda in particular. This system of cooperation on economic and social policy between the organisations representing the interests of employers and employees among themselves and with the government has been instrumental in creating prosperity and social harmony. This success rests on the social partners' ability to achieve consensus, reconcile interests and conduct coordinated procedures.

As the statutory body for representing employees, the Austrian Chamber of Labour represents its members' social, economic, occupational and cultural interests. This task also includes matters related to education, culture, environmental protection, consumer protection, health

and housing conditions. In its prosperity report, the chamber delved into factors such as quality of life and the environment as measures for prosperity-orientated economic policy. This approach supports the integrated implementation of economic, social and ecological goals (see *"Prosperity Report' of the Austrian Chamber of Labour"*).

The Austrian Federal Economic Chamber represents the interests of Austrian companies, which also play a central role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. A link to the SDGs also arise through the projects initiated by the chamber, which extend from initial and continuing education and training to consultation services and events all the way to concrete projects in Austria and developing countries. An overview of the chamber's sustainability activities is provided in its sustainability report, which adheres to the GRI Standards. The chamber also promotes sustainable business models (see *"Business & Development Forum"*).

### **'Prosperity Report' of the Austrian Chamber of Labour**

With this report, the chamber seeks to do its part in promoting sustainable social progress in Austria and in systematically implementing the SDGs. Essential factors for prosperity-oriented economic policy were present from the conception of the report, for example quality of life and an intact environment. In addition, many indicators cited in the prosperity report also match the set of national SDG indicators defined by Statistics Austria (in 2019). The broad approach is assured because a variety of SDGs are covered, such as putting an end to poverty and promoting education and equality.

### **Business & Development Forum**

At its Business & Development Forum entitled 'Business Models with Impact' in September 2019, the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber showed how to combine the challenges of sustainable development with profitable business models. Companies from different industries and of different sizes presented their approaches to tackling these challenges. The Multi-Stakeholder Initiative supported primarily the SDGs on sustainable growth and sustainable infrastructure as well as on sustainable production, climate action, and international resources for implementing sustainable development.

## **Civil society organisations**

A variety of civil society organisations lend their support in Austria and abroad to implementing the various dimensions of the SDGs. Youth has a special role to play in this context (see "*Musical 'Solve it!'*").

### **Musical 'Solve it!'**

In the musical 'Solve it!', 20 youth ambassadors aged 14 to 22 put the SDGs in the spotlight at various stages in Vorarlberg. The musical acquainted about 5,000 young people with all the SDGs in a creative way, making an important contribution to raising youth awareness of sustainability.

SDG Watch Austria is one of the largest platforms of civil society organisations in Europe aimed at the implementation of the SDGs. To promote the effective and ambitious implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the involvement of all stakeholders in Austria, civil society organisations joined together in 2017 to establish SDG Watch Austria. This platform has since grown to more than 180 members from a variety of sectors. Attention is centred on joint interdisciplinary engagement for the SDGs in the form of coordinated advocacy and networking. The first Austrian SDG Forum was held in November 2018 and attended by 200 guests. At this event, SDG Watch Austria advocated central and coherent control, clear political priorities, regular and transparent reporting to parliament and the public, structured participation processes with civil society, the scientific community and business, and a review of laws and a budget to verify their SDG compliance.

The member organisations represent, among other thematic areas, anticorruption/transparency, education, disabilities and mobility, health, global justice and development cooperation, gender equality, young people and children, culture, human rights, social concerns, sustainable business practices, sustainable agriculture, the environment, climate and animal welfare.

The steering committee is elected in a general assembly and currently consists of the umbrella organisations ÖKOBÜRO, AG Globale Verantwortung (Global Responsibility), the Coordination Office of the Austrian Bishops' Conference and EU-Umweltbüro. At periodic platform meetings of all members, the interdisciplinary platform facilitates an exchange of views on options for action, awareness-raising activities and projects to achieve the SDGs. Within SDG Watch Austria, the members discuss various aspects and themes related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at thematic initiatives on topics such as education, business, peace, local initiatives and media.

## Science and education

The scientific community has an essential role to play in the search for approaches to solving global challenges. At an institutional level, the Austrian Academy of Sciences, among others, has set up research groups and commissions on climate and ecology. Science and sustainability is a concept firmly anchored in the Development Plan of the academy.

The Austrian National Development Plan for Public Universities 2019–24 provides a framework for performance agreements between the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research and the universities, which focus also on the implementation of the SDGs. One lighthouse project is UniNEtZ, an inter-university cooperation project in which 16 Austrian universities participate. UniNEtZ strengthens cooperation among universities and establishes sustainability topics even more firmly in university areas such as research, teaching, student initiatives, management and public administration. It is based on an SDG mapping study done in 2017/2018 that identified university publications, courses, research papers and projects relevant to the SDGs. This database profiled the priorities of individual universities and was used to draw up the performance agreements for 2019–2021.

On this basis, UniNEtZ initiates and intensifies an ongoing transdisciplinary science-society-policy dialogue, making a major long-term contribution to sustainable development in Austria.

One goal of UniNEtZ is to produce an Options Paper 2021 for the Austrian Federal Government that identifies and evaluates forward-looking options for action in line with the implementation of the SDGs as adopted by the Council of Ministers.

The interface between science and politics in the climate field is handled by the Climate Change Centre Austria (CCCA). This is a network sponsored by key research institutions that, among other things, informs society and policymakers about climate topics, provides advice, and promotes a sustained dialogue about climate issues. A research and education project developed by the CCCA and the Fridays for Future initiative is currently underway. Funded by the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, the project involves universities assisting schools in establishing themselves as regional pioneers in climate research.

### University course: Global Citizenship Education

In a collaboration with partner institutions, the University of Klagenfurt is already offering its third Global Citizenship Education course (started in the academic year 2019/20). This university course empowers educators to help with the implementation of the SDGs, thereby making an important contribution to the global goal of quality education for sustainable development. Honoured with the Sustainability Award, the course delves into numerous other SDGs because of its interdisciplinary, holistic approach. These include climate action, responsible consumption and production, gender equality, reducing social inequalities in and between countries, as well as peace and justice.

Another research network that deserves special mention at the international level is Africa-UniNet (the Austrian-African Research Network). It provides a long-term stable foundation for cooperation among Austrian and African universities and other research institutions.

Besides science and research, education plays an essential part in the implementation of the SDGs and does so at all levels, from early childhood education to university studies and on to lifelong learning and well into retirement. These efforts are greatly bolstered by structural measures such as the consolidation of school autonomy, a newly created quality management system, the current development of the curriculum towards awareness raising and skills orientation as well as the anchoring of education for sustainable development in the curriculum.

Among those setting thematic priorities for the global education goals are school networks such as ÖKOLOG and UNESCO schools, many schools awarded with the Austrian Ecolabel for Educational Institutions, projects at the interface of science and education such as Citizen Science and Sparkling Science, as well as the Innovation Foundation for Education.

## Economy

Sustainability and innovative power are values Austria touts when staking out its position in international competition. The trend towards sustainability and the mounting demand for sustainable, resource-efficient products, services and business models open up big opportunities in the global market.

Many Austrian companies rank among the pioneers and market leaders in areas such as environmental technology, renewable energy and innovative urban infrastructure. The SDGs can therefore be important levers for Austrian companies in gaining access to dynamically growing markets of the future. On that same note, the Austrian foreign trade strategy focuses heavily on sustainability.

Enabling companies to orient and guide their business activities along the lines of the SDGs requires a transfer of knowledge and practical assistance. As a leading platform for responsible business practices, respACT – austrian business council for sustainable development – does its part by sharing sound knowledge about SDGs with its member companies. In working groups, lectures and seminars as well as with prepared tools and guidelines, com-

panies identify practical measures for implementing the SDGs and thereby enable them to be further developed. Through these efforts, respACT furnishes companies with a platform for sharing views and for networking, a place to transfer knowledge, and fertile ground for innovative approaches and solutions.

respACT is also a coordination point for the Global Compact Network Austria, one of the more than 70 local networks worldwide following the UN's call to push business to advance the SDGs (see *“SDG Strategy and SDG Compass”*).

Every year, companies that display special dedication in their commitment to the SDGs receive an award based on the decisions of a panel of experts. TRIGOS – the award for responsible business practices and sustainability – views itself as an engine for corporate social responsibility and sustainable innovation in the Austrian economy (see *“TRIGOS’ award for corporate social responsibility”*). TRIGOS is sponsored by six organisations: respACT, the Federation of Austrian Industries, the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, the environmental association Umweltdachverband, the Austrian Red Cross and Caritas Austria.

### **SDG Strategy and SDG Compass**

The SDG Strategy of the Global Compact Network Austria has assisted companies since 2016 in implementing the SDGs. This multi-stakeholder network raises awareness of the 2030 Agenda while giving companies helpful orientation in implementing the SDGs and devising intersectoral next-practice solutions. The SDG Compass developed within the Global Compact is available to companies as a practical implementation guide.

### **‘TRIGOS’ award for corporate social responsibility**

With the TRIGOS award, Austria makes a major contribution to sustainable economic growth and the implementation of the SDGs. Since 2018, the contribution of companies to the SDGs has received special acknowledgment from the TRIGOS panel of experts and has been integral to full participation in this award. The award was bestowed in 2019 for the sixteenth time with broad backing from business and civil society. Thus far, more than 2,200 companies have applied. The strategic integration of the SDGs at all levels of a company has already been a topic of submissions multiple times.

The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises represent one of the most vital and comprehensive international instruments for promoting responsible business conduct. The Austrian National Contact Point within the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs advocates the implementation of these guidelines and assists companies, civil society and other stakeholders in applying them.

Thanks to the partnership between the Austrian Development Agency and the private sector, the potential of these guidelines can be used for sustainable development. This cooperation with companies brings not only private investments but also crucial expertise to partner countries. In the process, engagement in development policy becomes all the more efficient since all three dimensions of sustainability are taken into account in the economic partnerships.

Excellence in initial and continuing education and training is a future insurance policy for our companies in global competition. Against this backdrop, the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber has launched a far-ranging campaign in education and training. Innovation is also a decisive factor for success in creating growth, jobs and thus prosperity for current and future generations. That is why the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber published its innovation strategy in 2019. It addresses the SDGs, among other things, by defining companies as shapers of societal innovation.

## Awareness raising and communication

The 2030 Agenda and the information about the implementation of the SDGs must be communicated transparently. The activities of the Austrian Federal Government surrounding the 2030 Agenda were therefore presented and discussed at numerous events.

The inter-ministerial information website [www.sdg.gv.at](http://www.sdg.gv.at) serves as a central platform for the information activities of the Federal Government as they relate to the 2030 Agenda. The website is updated on an ongoing basis. It provides an overview of events related to the SDGs.

As part of its public relations work, the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs stages periodic activities on the 2030 Agenda such as the SDG

Writing Competition. There were also many SDG-related events held on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vienna International Centre in 2019, which the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs organised jointly with the United Nations Office at Vienna and the City of Vienna. A travelling exhibition on UN activities focused on the SDGs. Austria plans to stage additional events again in 2020, on the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations and its own 65-year membership. In 2017, 17 trees were planted on the UN grounds in Vienna to symbolise the SDGs.

At the R20 Austria World Summit 2019, the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs collaborated with the European Commission to organise an interactive SDG Lounge on the occasion of the Climate Kirtag aimed at familiarising visitors with the SDGs and with climate action, in particular. Other relevant efforts to raise awareness of the SDGs among different target groups include 'Days of Action for Sustainability', an initiative of the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology in tandem with the Federal States (see "*Days of Action for Sustainability*"); 'Funkensprung', an initiative of the umbrella organisation Global Responsibility (see "*Funkensprung' for the 2030 Agenda*") and the Lower Austrian initiative '17&wir' (see "*17&wir' initiative*").

### Sustainability Action Days

Sustainability Action Days are nationwide events that the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology has staged jointly with the Federal States since 2013. They spotlight the dedication large numbers of actors have shown to implementing the 2030 Agenda in Austria. The goal is to make more visible and promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the local and regional level. Since its start, the initiative has staged 103 Action Days featuring 2,500 regional and local examples of forward-looking enterprises, NGOs, educational institutions and private individuals. The Sustainability Action Days take a participatory approach to governance that promotes broad mobilisation to fulfil the SDGs.

### **'Funkensprung' for the 2030 Agenda**

The umbrella organisation AG Globale Verantwortung (Global Responsibility) made a concrete contribution from 2018 to 2019 in helping to mobilise young people, in particular, for the implementation of the SDGs. In its magazine 'Funkensprung' (Jump Spark), the organisation presented 16 innovative examples of the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda from the realms of politics, business and civil society. The implementation examples and the potential offered by the 2030 Agenda were also communicated at special events. The Funkensprung initiative also trained young adults to be SDG ambassadors, who pass on their knowledge to others in peer-to-peer workshops. All SDGs are covered in this exemplary integrated communication approach.

### **'17&wir' initiative**

With the '17&wir' (17&we) network, Lower Austria has done much to raise awareness since 2018. These efforts have made the SDGs better known and conveyed how they can be lived locally. Major implementation activities of '17&wir' have included a competition involving best-practice projects as well as sustainability tours throughout Lower Austria and teacher seminars on the 2030 Agenda. The initiative integrates and mobilises a variety of stakeholders, including municipalities, schools, businesses, parishes, regions and other initiatives. It covers all SDGs, making it a relevant governance instrument.

ÖKOBÜRO and the Vienna Economic Chamber staged an event on 14 May 2019 to discuss the future of work and the environment in the context of the SDGs. The environmental business journal "Wirtschaft und Umwelt" (economy and environment) has paid special attention to the implementation of the SDGs in 2017.

The CSR Guide 2019, for example, gives extensive coverage to the implementation of the SDGs at 200 companies.

The issue of sustainability also enjoys ever-wider media coverage. The media have a key role to play in sustainable development in terms of raising awareness and setting topics.

Awards and prizes also do much to raise awareness. The Austrian Sustainability Reporting Award (ASRA) is given out annually to honour the top sustainability reports issued by Austrian companies. The prize is awarded by the Austrian Chamber of Tax Advisors and Public Accountants together with cooperation partners, including respACT.

The independent business organisation Senat der Wirtschaft bestows the Austrian SDG Award to highlight actors from the realms of business, media, youth and municipalities who have SDG-related accomplishments.

The Sustainability Award for Austrian Universities was established back in the autumn of 2007 as a joint initiative of the ministries responsible for sustainability and science. Its aim is to promote sustainability processes at Austrian universities and make these processes better known. As a national award for sustainable universities, it seeks to motivate Austrian universities, universities of applied sciences and university colleges of teacher education to integrate a mission statement of sustainable development in their institutions and processes and thereby assume responsibility for as many aspects of society and the environment as possible. The award is given out every two years (the next time in 2020) based on a national competition.

## Financing

At the federal and state level, the content of the SDGs is applied to budget decisions, especially to the impact goals within the various ministries. These decisions apply not just to projects but to fundamental issues as well. Even before adopting the Sustainable Development Goals, Austria interlinked financing issues and sustainability topics. Its goal is to take the SDGs into account not only within the country but also in cross-border measures.

The interlinking of SDGs and the budget is reflected at the federal level by impact-oriented management in public administration in particular. This system introduced in 2013 brought about a fundamental shift in the focus of managing public administration at the federal level: from personnel and budget resources to the actual impacts on society. Two closely linked tools are largely used: impact-oriented management of public administration and impact assessment.

In impact-oriented management of public administration, planning is done in the form of yearly budget targets, with performance indicators to assess the success of the measures. Attention is paid in particular to the actual equality of women and men, which plays an essential role in this process. The Federal Government, the Federal States and the municipalities must aim to achieve the equal status of women and men in budgeting (Art. 13 para. 3 Federal Constitutional Law). They mainly do so by setting impact-oriented equality goals, performance indicators and measures. Achieving actual equality of women and men is a task that can only be handled if everyone – especially governmental players – acts in concert. The process of cross-ministry cooperation established for situations of this kind therefore plays an essential part. The process has got off to a successful start and Austria will continue it in the future.

In addition, Austria applies the instrument of impact assessment to ensure that goals – including the associated indicators – and measures are defined for all regulatory or larger endeavours of the Federal Government and that the impacts on concrete policy areas are systematically assessed. In the assessments in individual policy areas (impact dimensions), there are major content overlaps with the SDGs, for instance in the equality of women and men and in measures concerning the environment and

climate action. Impact assessment is therefore a tool that increases the transparency, traceability and coherence of policy decisions in favour of sustainable development. Impact assessments are produced and evaluated by the ministerial departments responsible for the given policy area. These framework conditions are shaped by the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Finance.

In its own concrete projects, the Austrian Development Agency is fully guided by the 2030 Agenda. The agency focuses primarily on individuals furthest from achieving the SDGs, in keeping with the principle of ‘leaving no one behind’. In the future, this principle will be emphasised to an even greater extent within the agency. Pursuant to the Government Programme of January 2020, funding for the Austrian Development Cooperation must be increased to come closer to the internationally agreed target of 0.7% of gross national income being spent on development cooperation and humanitarian aid in Austria. Through these efforts, Austria is contributing to the fight against poverty and supporting its partners in achieving the SDGs.

With #mission2030, the national climate and energy strategy, Austria has set a process in motion to develop a Green Finance Agenda. The objective is to mobilise private capital in order to meet social challenges related to demography, climate action, energy and education.

Impact orientation in the management of public administration overlaps considerably with the SDGs in terms of content, not just on the subject of equality. Regulatory or other endeavours of exceptional financial significance must be examined as they are being developed to determine whether they might have major impacts on the climate and the environment (SDG 13). In the evaluation of regulatory or other endeavours of exceptional financial significance, there is also the possibility of referencing SDGs.

At the Federal State level, the Styrian State Government issued in its Annual Financial Statements a report on the results of impact controlling (impact report) that presents the results of impact orientation on the global budget level.

Styria was also the first Federal State in Austria to link the 2030 Agenda with the dealings of its own public administration. This link with impact-oriented budget management, a steering instrument in place since 2015,



ensures that the SDGs can be taken into account and jointly implemented by Styria together with budgeting and the allocation of responsibilities.

The SDGs are already used for some of the budget decisions at the federal and state level and increased SDG orientation in the budget is deemed preferable. Existing measures such as gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting offer important links to SDG budgeting, as does impact-oriented budget management. The 'SDG-Modell Steiermark' (referred to below as SDG Model Styria) is another valuable template for gearing the budget to the SDGs nationwide.

With the SDG Model Styria, an instrument is now available for continually improving strategic alignment and reconciliation with the impact goals while implementing a reporting system for the 2030 Agenda at the same time. The Federal State of Lower Austria, in turn, has subjected its subsidies to a sustainability check with an eye to further developing state subsidies in accord with the SDGs (see "*SDG Impact Analysis of State Subsidies*").

### **SDG Impact Analysis of State Subsidies**

From 2018 to 2019, the Federal State of Lower Austria examined all essential state subsidies to determine their impacts on the achievement of the sustainability goals. The results of the impact analysis devised for this purpose were compared nationally and internationally with 156 indicators of relevance to sustainability in a reality check. Based on its SDG impact analysis of state subsidies, Lower Austria systematically evaluated how subsidies should be designed so they have the best possible effect on the SDGs.

## **Monitoring**

As the national statistical office, Statistics Austria assumes responsibility for creating and coordinating the national sets of SDG indicators in accordance with international requirements. In February 2019 Statistics Austria staged an information event on the 2030 Agenda SDGs to discuss the national position on the indicators of the 2030 Agenda with stakeholders from the scientific community, research, politics and civil society. In 2017 Statistics Austria published and communicated comprehensive tables of performance indicators for the first time on its website.

Subsequent work has enabled about 200 indicators to be created. This is a comprehensive set by international standards and covers a large part of the 169 targets. The set of indicators incorporates not only data from Statistics Austria but also essential information from ministries and other institutions.

The indicators are presented in accordance with UN indicator proposals to the greatest extent possible, with account taken of data requirements set down by the European Statistical System. In addition, the key indicators from the Statistics Austria project 'How's Austria?' are also included in the set of indicators. A special in-depth chapter explicitly addressed the 2030 Agenda in 2017 in the context of 'How's Austria?'.

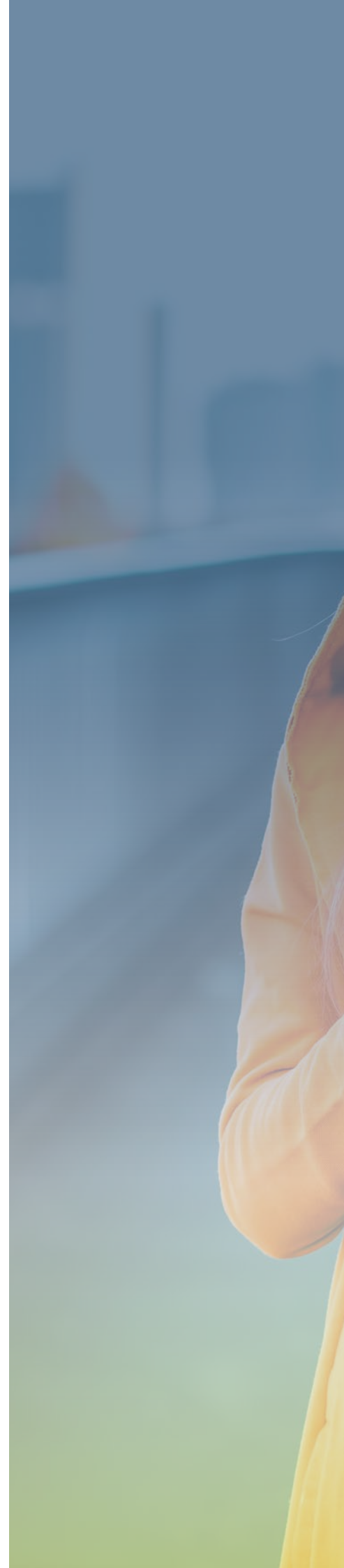
The national tables of indicators are updated and augmented annually. This work continues to be coordinated with all ministries as well as the Environment Agency Austria, the Austrian National Public Health Institute, the Austrian Development Agency and other data owners. Moreover, advances at UN and EU level are also taken into account in the further development of the sets of national indicators.

Statistics Austria bears the ultimate responsibility for the selection of the indicators. In the selection process, objective statistical criteria are applied, such as relevance (national and international), content quality as well as the degree to which the indicators can be understood and interpreted. In the spring of 2020 Statistics Austria published its first ever national report on indicators for the 2030 Agenda by order of the Federal Chancellery. Parts of this report on indicators have been incorporated into this Voluntary National Review. Statistical monitoring is also conducted in the various areas for which the Federal

Ministries bear responsibility, for instance in health and in policy areas taking a Health in All Policies approach. To identify the challenges, the Austrian National Public Health Institute is conducting a comparison study of international SDG monitoring results by order of the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection.

In the years ahead, Statistics Austria will continue to conduct indicator-based analyses on the progress being made in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Their purpose is two-fold: to examine the efficacy of the measures taken, especially in areas that are critical for Austria, and to assess transparency and the possibilities being offered for public participation.


Developing indicators and collecting data on them is not an end in itself but rather provides support in evaluating whether the measures taken were successful in helping to achieve the SDGs. For this reason, the most essential SDG indicators must be incorporated in the management of public administration.




# Focus Areas



Digitalisation



Women, youth  
and 'leaving no one  
behind'



Climate action  
and adaptation to  
climate change

# Digitalisation

## Key messages

› The Austrian Government has set digitalisation as a priority. Digital transformation is also being used as a means to implement the 2030 Agenda.

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› In addition to developing a modern digital infrastructure with broadband and 5G, Austria is particularly promoting the development of digital skills in the population and citizen-centred services. The aim is to ensure maximum participation in the opportunities offered by digital transformation to improve prosperity, health and sustainability.

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› Austria is pushing forward with holistic approaches to the sustainable use of the digital transformation. For example, Austrian smart cities are some of the most innovative and liveable places in the world.

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## Setting the scene

Technological progress and global networking are advancing at a rapid pace. Digitalisation now permeates all areas of life. It is changing communications, the world of work, education, business, industry and public administration. The task of politics is to master the resulting challenges, to actively support the digital transformation and to create social, economic, legal, technical and democratic conditions that will enable everyone to benefit.

Digital technologies are important levers for achieving the SDGs. They offer the opportunity to open up new scope for action, to reduce distances and to make communication and life easier. They also contribute to a more efficient use of scarce resources. The issue of digitalisation is explicitly addressed in SDG 9. But many of the other SDGs are inextricably linked to digitalisation, which provides a major impetus to development and drives progress, for instance in terms of economic growth, innovation, urban development, responsible consumption and production, environmental protection, energy, agriculture, health, education, peace and global partnership.

The Austrian Federal Government attaches particular importance to the issue of digitalisation. Its aim is to make Austria one of the leading digital nations within the European Union. Every Austrian citizen should be able to use the benefits of digitalisation in all areas of life as independently, transparently and effectively as possible. This is also one of the reasons why digitalisation was developed in a broadly based multi-stakeholder process as an area of focus for this review of the implementation of the SDGs.

## Priorities and measures

### Creating strong structures

Austria sent out an important signal in 2018 by creating its own Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs. With its focus on digitalisation, this laid the foundations for actively shaping the course of digitalisation in Austria and Europe together with other relevant ministries and using the available opportunities to the benefit of the economy, society and the environment. The government is grouping together digitalisation projects for a successful

### **Digitales Amt – eGovernment Services Wherever I Am**

With its 'Digitales Amt' mobile app project (*Digitales Amt – eGovernment Services Wherever I Am*), the Federal Government promotes user-oriented access to services and decision-making processes. The platform offers a range of features, including a time-saving residence registration process, a secure application process for voting cards and a digital 'Baby Point' for birth certificates. The most important official channels will be made available digitally and for mobile devices. The 'Digitales Amt' project aims to close the digital divide, improve participation opportunities for people in more remote areas of Austria and reduce traffic. The project also ensures non-discriminatory access to public services and is in line with the underlying concept of 'leaving no one behind'.

digital future in Austria under the umbrella of the Digital Austria brand.

A Chief Digital Officer (CDO) has been appointed in each ministry to coordinate innovation and digitalisation issues between the ministries and to work on a nationwide innovation and digitalisation strategy. The inter-ministerial CDO Task Force plays a key role in the realisation of major digitalisation projects. In addition, the Digitalisation Agency, which was created in 2018, supports the Federal Government in important digitalisation projects and also makes its know-how available to actors from industry and society. The development of a strategic action plan for digitalisation was started in 2019 with the aim of providing Austria with a future digital vision together with general principles and priorities.

Digitalisation is being implemented in Austria in a user-oriented manner. The role of Austrian public administration is to act as a modern, service-oriented partner. The further development from eGovernment to mGovernment (mobile government) is one of Austria's priorities. Austrian public administration is an international pioneer in the development of secure and modern public services via the Internet. The key foundations for modern public administration activities have been built in Austria with the *oesterreich.gv.at* central online platform and the 'Digitales Amt' mobile app for eGovernment services (see "*Digitales Amt – eGovernment Services Wherever I Am*"). These digital solutions also help address the digital divide in terms of its geographical and cross-generational

aspects. The systematic user-oriented approach is underpinned by measures such as the 'right to electronic communication with public administration', which came into force in 2020 and gives citizens the choice of how they wish to interact with public administration.

### **e-Inclusion – universal participation**

Austria is using digitalisation to improve the conditions for dignified and self-determined living. Each individual should be able to participate in the digital society, as well as in the use of the Internet, digital tools and technology. Each and every one of us must be in a position to operate confidently and securely in the digital world.

Participation in the digital revolution is also of central importance for the participation of older persons in all areas of society and is an essential component of active and healthy ageing. The 'fit4internet' initiative – a platform for improving digital skills in Austria – supports this approach and makes the potentials of digitalisation available to all (see "*fit4internet' – digitalisation of society*").

### **'fit4internet' – digitalisation of society**

With its 'fit4internet' initiative, launched in 2018, the Austrian Federal Government has been actively trying to implement the principle of 'leaving no one behind' in the digital transformation of the economy and society. The aim is to give all individuals the opportunity to develop their digital skills and benefit from digitalisation. 'fit4internet' pools resources, sets standards for digital skills, coordinates actors, offers skills checks and publicises training courses. It targets young people starting out on their careers, people in employment directly affected by the transformation in occupational profiles and the 60+ generation. 'fit4internet' aims to increase digital fitness, thereby helping to fight poverty, promote education and reduce inequalities.

Digitalisation can contribute to more transparent government action and to accelerated and more inclusive decision-making at all levels. With the increased availability and reusability of public sector information (open government data), Austria supports communication between politics, public administration, business, research and citizens.

The 'TiK Technology in Brief – Tablet for Everyone' project also aims to encourage the inclusion of older persons in the digital age through lifelong learning in the post-work phase with the help of young trainers.

### **Economy 4.0 – companies fit for the digital future**

Digitalisation is a vital factor for the entire national economy. A country that lacks a high-performance digital infrastructure cannot develop successfully in the competitive environment. Around 99.6% of all companies in Austria are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). They form the backbone of the Austrian economy. These enterprises must be fit for new business models and technologies. Digitalisation therefore offers great opportunities for SMEs.

The continuation of the successful KMU.DIGITAL support programme enables Austrian SMEs to comprehensively exploit the huge potential that digitalisation opens up for them. This then encourages SMEs to seek advice on the progress and possibilities of digitalisation and to quickly design and implement their own digitalisation projects.

### **Sustainable, intelligent and innovative smart cities**

Inter-municipal cooperation – for instance within the framework of the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns – enables better use of the opportunities offered by digitalisation. Numerous Austrian towns and municipalities are already smart cities. With their high quality of life, intelligent logistics and transport systems and environmental standards, they are showing that they are among the most innovative and liveable locations worldwide. Smart city strategies such as those implemented by the City of Vienna, which focus on people's actual needs, approach digitalisation as a challenge for society as a whole (see "Smart City Wien Framework Strategy").

#### **Smart City Wien Framework Strategy**

With the Smart City Wien Framework Strategy 2019–2050, the City of Vienna is implementing the goals of the 2030 Agenda in a strategically sound manner. Technological and digital innovations are key success factors, for instance in the transport and mobility sector. This framework strategy also functions as Vienna's sustainability strategy. The SDGs are anchored in all target areas at the level of the associated 169 targets. Implementation and monitoring of the smart city targets and the SDGs are closely linked. The Smart City Wien Framework Strategy addresses all SDGs, mobilises a wide range of the city's stakeholders and therefore has high systemic relevance for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

## Digital infrastructure

A modern digital infrastructure is crucial for competitiveness, education, research, health care and social cohesion. In its Government Programme 2020–2024, Austria has committed itself to the further development of the Broadband Strategy 2030 and expansion of fibre optic technology. The concrete goal for 2030 is nationwide coverage with fixed and mobile Gigabit connections. In a first step, the Federal Government has committed itself to nationwide 5G coverage. A closely knit fibre optic network combined with universal mobile coverage will give every citizen, every company and every public institution the opportunities and technical capabilities to participate actively in the process of digitalisation. Nationwide coverage with high-performance Internet connections will make life easier for people in rural areas and for people with disabilities or mobility restrictions.

## Innovation and artificial intelligence

Digitalisation plays a key role for the innovation hubs of the future and requires a holistic approach. Education, lifelong learning, science and research are of central importance in this context.

Stimulation of the economy through the targeted and responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) is an important area of activity for politics. The EU Member States and the European Commission have already developed a coordinated action plan for artificial intelligence, which aims to make Europe the world leader in the development and deployment of innovative, ethical and safe artificial intelligence. In Austria, the development of a Federal Strategy for Artificial Intelligence is a key project. Important preparatory work for this project was completed in 2019 with the AI Expert Report and the brochure entitled 'Artificial Intelligence Mission Austria 2030. Shaping the Future of Artificial Intelligence in Austria'. In 2019, the former Federal Ministry of Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs (now the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs) in cooperation with the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna also turned its focus to the international sphere with an event entitled Artificial Intelligence and Multilateral Diplomacy. This focal point is to be continued in 2020 to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations and the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Austria's UN membership.

## Cyber security

Attacks from cyberspace pose an immediate threat to the security and functioning of government, the economy, the scientific community and society. The term cyber security covers the security of the infrastructure of cyberspace, the data exchanged and, above all, the people who use cyberspace. As a fixed component of digitalisation, cyber security must be firmly rooted in all structures. Austria is therefore currently working on a new version of the Austrian Cyber Security Strategy. Furthermore, with the implementation of the European Network and Information Security (NIS) Directive, Austria will define its own national cyber security structures, which will also cover cyber crisis management.

## The world of work and eSkills in teaching, research and studies

The process of digitalisation also has fundamental implications for the world of work. New jobs are being created while others are disappearing. Many of these changes affect existing jobs, as occupations take on increasingly broad profiles that require diverse skill sets. This must be taken into account in the planning of education and training and anticipated in labour market policy. A change of a completely different nature can be seen in the possibilities of permanent accessibility and monitoring as well as the rise in platform work. In the area of digitalisation and the resulting new forms of work, e.g. platform work, it is important that existing labour and social law protection provisions are not undermined. In order to successfully master the digital transformation, Austria is relying on innovation and the development of digital skills.

Comprehensive measures are being taken to increase digital literacy in line with the principle of 'leaving no one behind'. To this end, the Digital Competence Pact initiative was launched in Austria in 2018. The initiative developed the Everyday Digital Literacy Check for the anonymous assessment of an individual's digital skills in everyday situations, which was used 11,000 times between May 2019 and January 2020. This check forms the basis for the optimal matching of training needs with training and professional development opportunities. It therefore enables the individually targeted enhancement of the digital literacy of each and every person. Digitalisation is bringing about extensive changes throughout the educa-

tional system – from elementary educational institutions to universities – which must be reflected in curricula and research and must include theoretical understanding, practical skills, social implications and ethical dimensions. The development of digitalisation in teaching, research and study is being driven forward and is part of all strategy documents in the higher education sector (see *“Dual vocational education and training’ – modern and practical education and training with a future for all”*).

School students need to be well prepared for the challenges of digitalisation. The school development network eEducation Austria supports school administrators and teachers in the sensible use of digital technologies in teaching and in the development of IT literacy among pupils. The digital higher education MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) platform iMooX under the patronage of UNESCO, is another good example of how digitalisation is being driven forward in higher education. The World in 2050 (TWI2050) knowledge initiative of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) deals with the issue of digitalisation and SDGs in its report *The Digital Revolution and Sustainable Development: Opportunities and Challenges*.

## eHealth – an opportunity for better health

Advances in digitalisation should also enable easier and improved access to medical services in the health-care sector. Because of the huge amount of information on health topics on the internet, it is important to promote digital health literacy. The Austrian Health Literacy Platform has implemented a number of measures in this respect (see *“Austrian Health Literacy Platform”*).

The Electronic Health Record (ELGA) makes essential health data available in digital form – in particular, test results, hospital discharge documents and medication information. This record therefore makes an important contribution to improved health care and equal access to health services. It increases the ability of people to participate in improving their health. Health-care providers and patients have access in actual treatment situations to basic medical information at all times and from any location.

Due to the effects of demographic change, social awareness of the possibilities of digitalisation in health care is increasing. Active and Assisted Living (AAL) and digitalisation in the care sector are therefore also of great importance in this area.

### **‘Dual vocational education and training’ – modern and practical education and training with a future for all**

In 2018/19, the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs, together with the social partner organisations, analysed the approximately 200 Austrian apprenticeship occupations in their entirety – particularly in terms of digitalisation and sustainability. Based on this study, apprenticeships will not only be further modernised and digitised, they should also address all aspects of sustainability. In addition to the contribution it makes to economic growth and employment, the modernisation of vocational training accords with the philosophy of ‘leaving no one behind’. Austria also promotes the development of vocational training in international partnerships with other countries, such as Slovakia. With this initiative, Austria is making an important contribution to sustainable digital transformation.



### **Austrian Health Literacy Platform**

The Federal Government supports the goal of healthy living for all by promoting the health literacy of the population: Since 2014, the Austrian Health Literacy Platform has been contributing to greater empowerment and to better information, communication and awareness in the areas of health care, disease prevention and health promotion. It networks relevant actors in the health sector and supports good communication in the field of health. In addition to promoting good health, the platform also supports other sustainability goals; in particular, it promotes equality and the reduction of inequalities.

## **Digitalisation and climate change, agriculture and forestry, mobility and culture**

Under the right conditions, digital technologies can make an important contribution to achieving climate targets. Digitalisation can have a variety of effects on energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Digital technologies can contribute to energy and emission savings by raising efficiency, by integrating renewable energy sources and by better matching supply and demand. However, rebound effects, which in turn lead to higher energy consumption and emissions, must be avoided. Furthermore, AI systems can be used to make precise forecasts and scenario calculations to save CO<sub>2</sub> in the future.

Digitalisation is already a reality in numerous facets of agriculture and forestry. The intelligent use of smart technologies can help to conserve resources and meet the increasing demands of society. The growing world population and the simultaneous reduction in the amount of land under cultivation pose great challenges for agricultural food production. Precision farming should help increase productivity while heeding environmental considerations. It is essential, though, to design new technologies in such a way that small and family-run farms also benefit from digital progress. In order to highlight the opportunities and also the risks of increasing digitalisation in agri-

culture, the Austrian Chambers of Agriculture offer digital knowledge transfer platforms, such as webinars and online courses, as well as advice on the use of new technologies.

Increasing digitalisation and automation will fundamentally change the mobility of tomorrow. Digitalisation must enable access to mobility for all and must give rise to more services. The increasing integration of communication technologies into the transport system is also leading to new expectations in terms of future forms of mobility. Automated mobility holds great potential, such as greater road safety, higher traffic efficiency and thus a contribution to CO<sub>2</sub> reduction, as well as attractive opportunities for the domestic economy. Against this background, 34 measures were defined in the Automated Mobility Action Package, which are to be implemented in the period 2019–2022.

New ideas are needed to combine new forms of mobility such as automated mobility, electromobility, sharing and micro-public transport in a sensible and sustainable way and to integrate them into the existing system. Experimental spaces have been set up as testing facilities for innovation and regulation in order to gain experience with innovations and technologies under real-life conditions. This makes it possible to try out and offer mobility and technology solutions in a targeted and timely manner.

Digital technologies have renewed and democratised the creation of and access to cultural assets and media content as well as the opportunities for social discourse. Access for all and the opportunity to participate are important prerequisites in this process.

The digitalisation of cultural heritage is an important issue in Austrian cultural policy and a key measure for making cultural heritage accessible. As a centralised search and service portal for Austria's digital cultural heritage with 983,000 objects, Kulturpool offers access to digital cultural heritage resources and the diversity of Austrian cultural heritage.

## International cooperation

In view of its cross-cutting nature, digitalisation requires joint action at multinational level. Austria focuses on collective and institutional cooperation at European and global level to effectively enforce essential regulations and standards. Digitalisation was also an area of focus of the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2018 (see “*High-level Forum Africa–Europe 2018 for digital cooperation*”).

### High-level Forum Africa–Europe 2018 for digital cooperation

With the High-level Africa–Europe Forum on the theme ‘Taking cooperation to the digital age’, the Federal Government made a significant contribution in 2018 to the creation of effective partnerships for sustainable development and successful digitalisation. The forum focused on tapping the potential of the digital economy for Africa and Europe in terms of jobs, skills and opportunities, particularly for young people. The forum led to the launch of the African-Austrian SME Investment Facility, which supports investment in Africa by small and medium-sized enterprises. The Africa–Europe Forum provided input for the implementation of closely linked SDGs, such as sustainable energy and sustainable growth.

# Women, youth and ‘leaving no one behind’

## Key messages

› Equality of women and men is a fundamental prerequisite for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. To bring about positive change, it is vital to systematically integrate a gender-specific perspective into the implementation of all 17 goals.

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› Youth empowerment is highly relevant in terms of increasing the involvement of young people in decision-making and participatory processes with respect to the SDGs. This means giving space to their ideas and supporting them as far as possible in becoming active participants.

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› Austria’s social welfare and health-care system contributes significantly to preventing and combating poverty and social exclusion and ensures high-quality health care. Targeted measures improve the living situation of disadvantaged persons, such as those with disabilities, older persons, young people and children. These measures aim to provide more support to children, women and, in particular, disadvantaged and socially excluded groups.

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## Setting the scene

The aim of the SDGs is to improve the lives of everyone. As a cross-cutting issue, the equality of women and men is of particular importance. Incorporating a gender-sensitive and youth policy perspective in the implementation of the SDGs is therefore fundamental to the sustainable achievement of the goals. It must be ensured that everyone, particularly socially disadvantaged and marginalised groups of people, benefit from the social transformation brought about by the SDGs.

## Women

Equality of women and men is a fundamental prerequisite for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The SDGs can only be achieved if women and girls have equal opportunities and gender equality is realised. SDG 5 Gender Equality is a concrete benchmark measure and indicator for this.

In recent years, progress in terms of gender equality has been achieved in many areas in Austria. The challenges that still exist, such as breaking gender stereotypes and ensuring equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, must be addressed jointly. At 19.6% (2018), Austria still has a high gender pay gap in comparison with other European countries. These gender-specific differences in pay also have an impact on pensions: In Austria, female pensioners receive 38.8% (2018) less pension than men.

The project ‘TRAPEZ – Transparent Pension Future’ (see “*Transparent Pension Future*”, SDG 5) aims to help secure the economic independence of women in old age. To this end, studies are being carried out, existing information services are being evaluated and ways are being developed and tested to increase women’s awareness of their future pension entitlements during their working lives. The project aims to heighten awareness of the factors / decisions that influence the gender gap in pensions and to identify possible counter-strategies.

### Competence Check for Women

With the Competence Check for Women, initiated in 2016, the Federal Government has systematically pursued the aim of supporting women entitled to asylum or subsidiary protection in their integration into the labour market. The measure, which is being implemented by ABZ\*AUSTRIA, Update Training and the BFI Vienna, supports women refugees in recognising their professional skills, developing a realistic career goal and thus leading an independent life. The rapid integration of women into the labour market helps them secure a livelihood and also facilitates the social integration of their children. The Competence Check and its measures also combat poverty and inequality. It was awarded the United Nations Public Service Award 2019.

A better reconciliation of work and family life is central to giving women in Austria equal opportunities to take up full-time or almost full-time employment. Currently, unpaid work is still mainly performed by women, and care responsibilities for children or dependent adults are a major reason for women working part-time. In order to strengthen the equal sharing of childcare among partners, a legal entitlement to a month's paternity leave (*Papamonat*) (see "*Entitlement to 'Papamonat'*", SDG 5) after the birth of the child has been introduced in Austria.

There is also still a significant under-representation of women in decision-making bodies and leadership positions in private sector companies in Austria. In order to promote equality between women and men on supervisory boards, the Act on Equality between Women and Men on Supervisory Boards (GFMA-G) requires listed companies and companies with more than 1,000 employees to have a minimum of 30% women and 30% men on their supervisory boards. Targeted measures are also being taken to promote women in leading positions in business, such as the management training course *Zukunft.Frauen* (see "*Zukunft.Frauen management training course*", SDG 5).

Specific measures to promote the advancement of women and girls make an important contribution to advancing gender equality, as these success stories illustrate. At the same time, it is vital to integrate a gender-specific perspective systematically into the implementation of all 17 goals. Women are affected by all SDG themes, from poverty and health to climate action, industry, innovation and infrastructure.

By ratifying the Istanbul Convention, Austria has committed itself to protecting victims from violence. Austria is striving, in particular, to make continuous improvements in the area of victim protection: For example, the Protection against Violence Act 2019 has further improved the rights of victims. In the chapter on women, the Government Programme 2020–2024 focuses on protection against violence and provides for the expansion of victim protection facilities, women's counselling centres and violence prevention programmes for perpetrators.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women also form an integral part of development cooperation. The fight against violence towards women, especially the fight against female genital mutilation (FGM), as well as economic empowerment and the promotion of participation in public life play an important role in this context.

Including the different life realities of women and men in all aspects of the 2030 Agenda is essential for sustainable achievement of the goals. Austria has longstanding experience with the strategy of gender mainstreaming. One example of its practical implementation is the Gender Mainstreaming Initiative undertaken during the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2018 (see "*Gender mainstreaming during the EU Presidency*").

### Gender mainstreaming during the EU Presidency

The Federal Government also pushed forward the aim of equality for women during the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2018. Austria has longstanding experience with the strategy of gender mainstreaming and actively used this know-how to include gender-related perspectives in activities and events on digitalisation, social affairs, culture, education and transport. In addition, a gender perspective was included in Council conclusions. Austria also promoted European cooperation in the implementation of the SDGs.

In preparation for the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the EU in the second half of 2018, a wide range of possibilities for the use of gender mainstreaming were presented to the Federal Ministries.

For Austria, the Presidency of the Council of the EU was also an opportunity to reaffirm gender equality as a political priority. During the informal meeting of EU gender equality ministers, the “Joint Declaration – Gender Equality as a Priority of the European Union Today and in the Future” was signed, which is supported by 27 Member States. Among other things, the signatories call for a strong network and continuous dialogue between all relevant actors in the area of gender equality and for systematic and effective cooperation between the Member States and the European institutions (see “Gender equality as a priority of the EU”, SDG 5).

As a cross-cutting issue, gender equality depends on the commitment of actors from all fields of expertise. Positive changes to implement gender equality – and therefore SDG 5 – can only be achieved nationally and internationally in collaboration with all stakeholders and in cooperation with NGOs and civil society.

### Dialogue on gender equality

The Federal Chancellery provided an important impetus for gender equality with the participatory conference Gender Equality and YOU in Vienna in October 2018. The event focused on the promotion of gender equality in the European Union with an open and future-oriented dialogue with young people, EU gender equality ministers and experts from public administration and NGOs. More than 250 young people from many EU Member States were involved in developing the agenda and topics of the conference. This multi-stakeholder initiative also addresses closely linked goals in the areas of education, employment and the reduction of inequality.

With its Action Plan for Women’s Health (see “Action Plan for Women’s Health”, SDG 3), Austria is focusing on the well-being of women across all policy areas. Medium-term priorities have been set to promote the implementation of measures for mental health, for a positive self-image among women and for equal opportunities. Gender equality is also given special consideration in the promotion of cultural activities and the arts. For example, a comprehensive package of measures by the federal film funding bodies for support, mentoring, training and film production help promote equality for women and close the pay gap (see “Equality in the film sector”).

### Gender equality in the film sector

A further comprehensive package of measures was implemented in 2015 by the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport to further the aim of equality for women: Various studies, funding and public relations work are strengthening gender equality in the film sector. The many and varied activities are aimed, among other things, at training, film production, closing the pay gap and equal allocation of resources to women and men.

## Youth

In terms of young people, the SDGs play a crucial role as a cross-cutting and interdisciplinary area of focus. Participation by young people is essential for sustainable empowerment based on the realities of young people's lives and not on the views and wishes of adults. Youth empowerment means taking young people seriously, opening up opportunities for development for them and giving them space to take responsibility for themselves, others and society, as well as to learn with and from each other. Real participation of young people in political decision-making processes can only be achieved if adequate opportunities for participation are created (see *“Dialogue on gender equality”, Women chapter*) and the effect is also evident to participants. It is essential to support young people in these processes and, in particular, to involve them in the process of implementing the SDGs. Education is a basic prerequisite here. Interdisciplinary learning and transformative educational concepts – for instance, in the areas of education for sustainable development, citizenship education, global learning and global citizenship education, media literacy, gender sensitivity and gender equality – are crucial in enabling young people to critically reflect on and actively participate in society.

In conjunction with the European Youth Goals, the Austrian Youth Strategy (see *“Cross-policy youth strategy”, Governance chapter*) makes an important contribution to promoting the participation of young people. Each Federal Ministry has formulated one or more youth objectives at national level in its area of responsibility and specific measures for implementing these objectives are being developed. Young people can subsequently give feedback and discuss issues with officials from the individual Federal Ministries in ‘reality check workshops’. This enables the relevance and significance of the youth objectives and measures to be considered from the point of view of young people. The Austrian Youth Strategy is linked to the European Youth Goals, which also cover many of the SDGs. As well as being included in the Youth Goals, the themes of health and well-being are also addressed in the Health Strategy for Children and Adolescents (Kinder- und Jugendgesundheitsstrategie) and in the corresponding health target with integrated measures for the healthy upbringing of children and adolescents.

### Team SDG at the Austrian National Youth Council

With its Team SDG initiative launched in 2019, the Austrian National Youth Council supports young people in their engagement with the 2030 Agenda. This informal network of engaged young people offers an exchange platform for information, knowledge and materials, an opportunity for networking with like-minded people and support in implementing projects. Through the Austrian National Youth Council, members of Team SDG can become involved in political processes at national and international level and participate in international training courses and conferences.

In addition to the provision of proper health care for children and adolescents, aspects of health promotion and disease prevention also play an essential role. Particular attention is paid here to the general conditions that can be influenced on a meta-level by the relevant actors in order to create health-promoting conditions for children and adolescents.

Furthermore, Austria was and is a pioneer in the field of participatory democracy for young people and has lowered the voting age to 16. Allowing voting at 16 has been an important and successful step in ensuring the political participation and political engagement of young people. However, it also requires information literacy. The political education of young people provides them with the fundamentals so they have the tools they need to form carefully considered opinions. Studies have shown that early involvement in institutionalised participation systems, such as elections, leads to a greater desire to become involved in political decision-making processes.

There are also best-practice examples of participation by young people at EU level. With its EU Youth Dialogue, the European Union has created an instrument to develop ideas for a common Europe together with young people. Important outcomes and achievements of this EU Youth Dialogue have included the European Youth Guarantee and the cross-sectoral European Youth Goals, which were inspired by the SDGs. At UN level, the UN Secretary-General appointed the first UN Envoy on Youth in 2012 to raise the profile of youth policy issues. The office is financed by voluntary contributions from UN Member States. Since 2013, Austria has supported the activities of the UN Envoy on Youth with a voluntary annual contribution.

In the field of children's rights, the SDGs make a significant contribution to the protection and participation of children and young people. All rights contained in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child are reflected in the SDGs (see *"Mapping the rights of the child in the SDGs"*, SDG 1). To give a clearly visible sign of Austria's commitment to combating violence against children, the two-day international conference in Vienna in 2016 on the rights of the child was entitled 'Towards childhoods free from corporal punishment'. The comparative study 'Recht auf eine gewaltfreie Erziehung: 1977–2014–2019' (Right to a non-violent upbringing: 1977–2014–2019) and the 2020–2021 project 'Violence-free Zone Europe' (see *"Non-violent upbringing of children and young people"*) aim to make a significant contribution to the non-violent upbringing of children and young people (SDG 16.2).

### **Non-violent upbringing of children and young people**

The Violence-free Zone Europe project initiated by the Federal Ministry of Labour, Family and Youth and carried out with several European partners has been implementing the SDG to end all forms of violence against children since January 2020. The project involves children and young people with their experiences and perspectives in the fight against violence. It aims to sensitise parents, guardians and professional groups working with children in selected municipalities to the issues of violence and non-violence. The results of the project will be made available to other municipalities in the form of a guideline. A stakeholder approach was chosen in which affected individuals are turned into participants.

## ‘Leaving no one behind’

In implementing the SDGs, particularly SDGs 1 and 10, Austria is taking the approach of promoting the participation in society of all individuals so that no one is left behind. Austria is taking targeted measures to improve the living conditions of disadvantaged people, such as persons with disabilities, older persons, disadvantaged young people and children, and socially marginalised groups, and to promote equality between women and men. Current initiatives to strengthen social inclusion include an annual adjustment in line with inflation of the long-term care allowance, the introduction of a bonus for people with long insurance records and the above-average increase of low pensions in the 2020 pension adjustment. The development of the new National Action Plan on Disability (2022–2030) is also intended to strengthen the participation in all areas of life of persons with disabilities. To meet the demographic challenge and ensure the quality of life of older persons, a federal plan for senior citizens entitled Ageing and the Future commissioned by the Federal

### Education until 18 for all

The Federal Government has consistently implemented the SDG principle of ‘leaving no one behind’ for young people with compulsory education and training up to the age of 18. The Education until 18 initiative offers young people who have completed compulsory schooling the opportunity to obtain a higher qualification on an individual basis by giving targeted advice and through cooperation with various stakeholders. This increases the individual’s chances of finding a good job and the overall educational and employment level of the Austrian population. The measure also aims to achieve equality between women and men.

Senior Citizens Advisory Council is being implemented as an interdisciplinary guide in a total of 14 policy areas at federal, state, municipal and NGO level.\* The federal plan “Ageing and the Future” integrates the SDGs with the UNECE strategy for implementing the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

The best protection against poverty is decent employment and access to education and training. One focus of Austria’s active labour market policy is to support the integration into the labour market of women, young people, persons with disabilities and older persons. To reduce the number of young people not in employment, education or training (NEET rate), the ‘Education until 18’ initiative has proved to be a successful instrument in helping young people find a training place and handle the transition from school to work. The aim of the initiative is to enable young people who have completed compulsory schooling to obtain the highest possible individual qualification (see “Education until 18 for all”).

The inclusion package is designed to improve the occupational inclusion of persons with disabilities, for example by using the inclusion bonus to encourage companies to take on apprentices with disabilities. The inclusion package is also designed to help promote the employment of women with disabilities (see “Inclusion package”).

The Austrian Health Targets (see “Austrian Health Targets”, Governance chapter) also represent a strategy aimed at all sections of the population, but with a specific focus on vulnerable groups. The ten intersectoral health targets are actively used as guiding principles for the current process of health reform in Austria. In addition to increasing the number of healthy life years, the aim here is to ensure sustainable, high-quality, balanced and generally accessible health care for everyone living in Austria, regardless of their educational status, income or life circumstances in accordance with SDG 3. Measures implemented within the framework of the interdisciplinary dialogue on healthy and active ageing through social participation aim to strengthen health promotion and social cohesion. The new primary

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\* [https://www.sozialministerium.at/dam/jcr:9ff6832d-bef5-4acc-93ac-b4ad90033b09/Bundesseniorenplan-4.-Auflage-September-2013-0\(1\).pdf](https://www.sozialministerium.at/dam/jcr:9ff6832d-bef5-4acc-93ac-b4ad90033b09/Bundesseniorenplan-4.-Auflage-September-2013-0(1).pdf) [05.02.2020] (in German only)



### Inclusion package

With its 'Full participation for all' inclusion package, the Federal Government is implementing important measures to ensure decent work for persons with disabilities and for their social and economic inclusion. The package includes an expansion of legal protection and massively increased budgets to improve occupational inclusion. The package of labour market policy measures developed jointly with disability organisations and partners also takes gender aspects into account. A multi-stakeholder approach and the principle of 'leaving no one behind' are particular features of this measure and its implementation.

care provision (see *Multi-professional care provided by primary care units, SDG 3*) is centred around multi-professional people-centred health care. The new team-based, multi-professional primary care units are oriented towards the needs of patients and offer broad-based local health care and longer opening times.

Measures are also being taken in education (see *"Leaving no one behind" in education", SDG 4*) and vocational training in line with the principle of 'leaving no one behind'. To ensure that all children and young people have the best possible educational and career opportunities, the Federal Government places strong emphasis on the acquisition of basic skills. Particularly in the area of apprenticeships, funding is provided for projects that support young adults in choosing their training so that it is more strongly geared to individual interests and strengths and less to gender-specific role models. In addition, companies are supported in their transformation towards a gender-neutral corporate culture. In higher

education, the aim of the National Strategy for the Social Dimension in Higher Education is to enable as diverse a group of students as possible to enter, remain and succeed in the tertiary education system and to bring the makeup of students closer to that of the population as a whole. It is being implemented through social dimension mainstreaming, for instance in performance agreements with universities, and through an increase in funding for study support.

'Leaving no one behind' is also the guiding principle of Austria's development cooperation policy. Together with the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber and the Western Balkan Six Chamber Investment Forum (business chambers of the six western Balkan states of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia), it supports practical vocational training programmes to meet the needs of the labour market and the private sector in the region and to create better labour market prospects for the younger generation.

# Climate action and adaptation to climate change

## Key messages

› Austria is committed under European law to a 36% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in sectors outside the emissions trading system by 2030 compared to 2005 levels (targets according to the EU Effort Sharing Regulation). In addition, a target was set to increase the share of energy from renewables to 46–50% of total energy consumption.

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› In 2012, Austria was one of the first EU Member States to draw up a Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change including a comprehensive action plan with concrete recommendations for action. In 2017, the Council of Ministers adopted an update of this strategy. The second progress report on the strategy is currently in preparation and should be available at the end of 2020.

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› By the end of 2019, Austria finalised a National Energy and Climate Plan and a National Long-term Climate Strategy for Climate Neutrality 2050. In accordance with the Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union, public consultations were held on these issues.

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› As part of its Green Deal, the European Commission announced a process for the adaptation of climate and energy targets for 2030, which will have a direct impact on Austria's climate and energy policy.

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## Setting the scene

The impacts of climate change on the environment, the economy and society are already clearly noticeable today and must be seen as an increasing threat. Achieving the climate targets – as well as implementing policies to promote health – requires the efforts of all sectors. Since environmental factors are a major determinant of health, it is important to maintain and strengthen the foundations for healthy living through responsible and sustainable management of resources and through the design of living spaces. For this reason, there is a health target addressing the interdependence of the environment and health.

Austria is pursuing the vision of developing into an economy with an energy, mobility and economic system that is competitive and also as efficient and climate-neutral as possible along the entire value chain of the energy system (production, transport, conversion and consumption). This vision draws a clear picture of how the economy and society will make the best possible use of the opportunities stemming from the 2030 Agenda and how environmental, economic and social concerns will be linked.

Austria is committed to the European goal of climate neutrality (net zero emissions) by 2050 in Europe and with the current government programme is pursuing a consistent path towards becoming carbon-neutral by 2040. To avoid adverse impacts of climate change on the environment, society and the economy, the Austrian Federal Government has made systematic adaptation to the potential consequences of climate change a central objective through the adoption of the Austrian Adaptation Strategy.

Austria is committed to the objective of climate-neutral public administration, with binding climate protection guidelines for all federal institutions and sustainable and innovation-friendly procurement becoming the new standard. Austria will use rules on public contracts as an important instrument for climate change adaptation.

## Priorities and measures

In a first step, Austria has committed itself under EU law to a 36% reduction in its greenhouse gas emissions in sectors outside the European emissions trading system by 2030 compared to 2005 levels. The share of energy from renewables in gross final energy consumption is to be increased from currently just under 34% to 46–50% (National Climate and Energy Plan 2019). With a current high baseline of over 70%, the aim is to cover 100% of electricity consumption with renewables by 2030. This requires a coordinated climate and energy policy that is harmonised at all levels and ensures a balance between environmental sustainability, competitiveness and affordability, as well as security of supply now and in the future.

### Strong climate action partners

Austria's Federal States, towns and municipalities are important partners in the transformation of the energy system, climate action and adaptation to climate change. They have developed their own energy, mobility and/or climate change adaptation strategies together with concrete objectives.

A particularly successful programme in the area of adaptation is the Climate Change Adaptation Model Regions Programme (KLAR!) launched by the former Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism. Since 2012, Austria has had a comprehensive strategy for adaptation to climate change to which the Federal Government and the Federal States have subscribed. In 2017, an updated version of the strategy was adopted by the Federal Government and the Federal States. The strategy contains concrete recommendations for action for all sectors affected by climate change in Austria. Work is already underway to prepare the second progress report on climate change adaptation, which will provide information on the implementation of adaptation measures in Austria. The review should be available at the end of 2020.

At municipal and regional level, the Climate and Energy Fund has initiated the Climate and Energy Model Regions Programme, which supports regions in making best use of their local renewable energy resources, exploiting energy-saving potentials and operating sustainably. A key success factor here is that the regions are able to drive forward process and structural change thanks to the

### Regional programmes and environmental funding initiatives of the Federal Government

The regional programmes of the Austrian Federal States make a concrete contribution to climate action in the regions by funding consultancy services for businesses and public institutions. These support the planning and implementation of concrete investment measures in the improvement of energy and resource efficiency, the use of renewable energy sources, waste avoidance and sustainable mobility. The regional programmes are co-financed by the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology with funds from the Federal Environmental Subsidies Scheme. Support was given to 2,932 companies that received 5,938 consultations between 2013 and 2015, and 5,038 measures were implemented throughout Austria. Since its launch in 1993, the Federal Environmental Subsidies Scheme has initiated investments of EUR 9.4 billion with more than 52,000 projects and the creation of 62,500 jobs. These measures save a total of over 9 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> each year.

direct proximity between decision-makers and citizens and thereby initiate a bundle of measures. Tailored investment grants are available for the Climate and Energy Model Regions from the Environmental Support Programme (Umweltförderung im Inland) and the Climate and Energy Fund. So far, more than 4,000 successful projects have been supported in different areas, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable mobility and awareness raising. There are currently 91 Climate and Energy Model Regions in Austria. In addition, there is intensive funding coordination with the corresponding regional programmes of the Federal States (see "Regional programmes and environmental funding initiatives of the Federal Government").

## Challenges and potentials for a climate-neutral Austria

Access to sustainable, clean, affordable and modern energy services must be ensured for everyone. The use of nuclear energy must definitely be ruled out. Austria has a very high security of supply due to the existing grid infrastructure consisting of power plant capacities and domestic energy resources. In the transformation of the energy system, the key priority is to maintain this high level of security of energy supply at all times. It is important to strengthen the security of energy supply and to become less dependent on energy imports, especially fossil fuels. To achieve this, it is necessary to increase production of renewable domestic energy and to use energy more efficiently and intelligently. Flexibly available capacities from manufacturing industry that contribute to grid stability need to be integrated more extensively into grid management. New developments in the electricity market, decentralised generation, new storage technologies and digitalisation must also be taken into account with regard to infrastructure. To this end, the grid infrastructure is to be expanded and modernised in a socially and environmentally compatible manner. This expansion is necessary to integrate renewable capacities into the electricity grid as effectively as possible and thus ensure security of supply.

Over the coming years, more emphasis will also have to be given to transport and space heating in particular as these two sectors offer the biggest potential for savings and reductions. Investment in the railway infrastructure in recent years has made Austria a pioneer in passenger rail transport in the European Union. Nevertheless, in terms of future mobility, there must continue to be a focus on the development of efficient public transport systems, and human settlement development must be improved together with the Federal States and municipalities. With regard to freight transport, the shift from road to rail must be advanced through improved services and incentives, and combined transport (rail, water, road) must be strengthened. The transition to ultra-low-emission and zero-emission vehicles will involve a change in the mix by 2030 in favour of alternative drive systems and fuels based on renewable energies (electromobility, hydrogen mobility, bio-CNG / bio-LNG and biofuels).

In addition, the Federal Government wishes to promote energy efficiency measures in companies and households in an unbureaucratic and socially acceptable manner. Energy efficiency potentials can be realised at all levels, especially in buildings, transport and industry and at small and medium-sized enterprises. The public sector must set an example here. Numerous Austrian RTI (research, technology and innovation) programmes that contribute to the achievement of energy and climate targets, such as the City of the Future technology programme and the Innovation Labs funding programme, are also pointing the way ahead. Innovative solutions will significantly enhance the competitiveness of the domestic energy and environmental technology industry. Increased investment in research and innovation can lead to new solutions to support companies in the energy-intensive industrial sector in the international marketplace.

### Bioeconomy Strategy

The Austrian Bioeconomy Strategy passed by the Council of Ministers in March 2019 is a flagship project of the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism. The core idea of the bioeconomy is to replace fossil resources (raw materials and energy) with renewable ones and thus make an important contribution to the decarbonisation of the economic system. In addition to having positive effects on the environment and climate, it also addresses responsible consumption and production. Guidelines have been drawn up to coordinate this initiative with the SDGs in order to counteract any potential conflicts and exploit synergies with other policy areas. Based on the strategy, a Bioeconomy Action Plan is being formulated, which will outline specific measures for the identified fields of action.

Austria will increasingly use its innovative strength and change processes, such as digitalisation and decentralisation, to employ new technologies to modernise the energy system and to focus on sector coupling. The Federal Government aims to make best use of the opportunities for industry (e.g. with hydrogen), for the building sector (e.g. through innovative construction and renovation and a switch to renewable energy sources), for the mobility sector (e.g. through smart, intermodal mobility services and alternative drive systems) and for rural areas (e.g. through bio-economy). In September 2018, the Austrian EU Presidency proposed a Hydrogen Initiative that 27 Member States and around 100 organisations and companies have since joined. The initiative identifies multiple possibilities for the use of renewable hydrogen and great potential for the efficient supply of safe and clean energy. Austria aims to become an innovation leader in this technology sector.

The agriculture and forestry sector in Austria is also a strong partner in climate action. Greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural production are to be further reduced through the greening of agriculture and rural development measures. Carbon storage in agricultural and forestry soils, in sustainably managed, multifunctional and resilient forests, and in durable products made from renewable raw materials also plays a major role on the path to long-term climate targets.

The most important pathway towards a climate-neutral future is the consistent restructuring of the energy system and the economy away from climate-damaging fossil fuels and towards a sustainable and circular bio-economy with renewable forms of energy and renewable raw materials (see *“Bioeconomy Strategy”*). By providing agricultural and forestry biomass for use as materials and energy, the sector makes an important contribution to climate action.

To address the climate change that has taken place in recent decades and is expected to continue into the future, the Austrian Labour Inspectorate is working on the further development of measures for temperature reduction and their adaptation as technology progresses, as well as on a maximum temperature for workplaces, above which level work would no longer be permitted. Existing statutory occupational health and safety regulations are

### Renewable hydrogen

By promoting renewable hydrogen as the energy of the future, the Federal Government is making an internationally significant contribution to climate action and the sustainable restructuring of energy systems. Based on its National Hydrogen Strategy, which has been in preparation since March 2019, Austria aims to become an innovation leader in the field of renewable hydrogen. Broad-based stakeholder groups from industry, business and the scientific community are involved in the development of the strategy.

to be amended and formulated based on the state of the art in technology, occupational medicine and occupational hygiene, as well as on established findings of ergonomic science.

### Incentives for greater climate action

Education, lifelong learning, science and research also play an essential role in the context of climate action. Initiatives such as the UniNEtZ inter-university network and the ÖKOLOG school network anchor climate and sustainability issues in universities, research institutions and schools. Competence networks such as the Alliance of Sustainable Universities and the Climate Change Centre Austria (CCCA) contribute significantly to social and economic transformation processes through the coordination and provision of practically oriented, evidence-based services. Education for sustainable development will be a guiding principle in future curricula for school grades 1–8. Partnerships involved in climate action can be supported by the action lines of the Innovation Foundation for Education. The Climate Change Information Portal run by the Austrian Central Institute for Meteorology and Geodynamics offers users the chance to make an independent assessment of its content on the issue of climate change and thus better understand the uncertainties of scientific findings and the rational handling of them in public and political discussion.

From the perspective of civil society, citizens should in future be able to participate actively in the energy system as consumers, as well as to invest in renewable energy sources as producers of energy ('prosumers'). Awareness raising and information campaigns (see *"Collecting Climate Miles"*) have been initiated to increase the demand for climate-friendly and energy-efficient products, services and technologies and to stimulate related investment. In addition, an increase in private investment is required to successfully drive forward the move towards sustainable energy. Public funding should aim to stimulate private funding and should focus more on innovation, technology development and research. This is where the Green Finance Agenda within the framework of the Climate and Energy Strategy 2018 (#mission2030) comes in by creating suitable conditions for mobilising private capital in order to solve social challenges, such as climate protection in particular (see *"'Green Finance Agenda' for achieving climate targets"*). Austria is also engaged in international projects to combat the consequences of climate change (see *"Resilience programme for people and cultural landscapes"*).

Austria also makes its climate action know-how available to partner countries through development partnerships in jointly designed projects.

### **Collecting Climate Miles**

The Climate Miles campaign, organised by Climate Alliance Austria and supported by the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, is an initiative encouraging climate-friendly mobility at kindergartens and primary schools. This collection campaign, which has been running since 2003, is aimed at children, parents and teachers: For each environmentally friendly journey to school or kindergarten travelled without a car, the child puts a Climate Mile sticker in his or her personal collector passport. The campaign has been taking place throughout Europe and the results have been presented at the UN Climate Change Conferences.

### **'Green Finance Agenda' for achieving climate targets**

With the development of a Green Finance Agenda coordinated by the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology together with the Federal Ministry of Finance, Austria is creating a valuable basis for the funding of urgently needed climate action measures. Private capital is to be mobilised for energy, transport and climate action projects and should make an important contribution in the transition to a low-emission, climate-neutral and energy-efficient economy. The Green Finance Agenda contains proposals for measures and recommendations for action to redirect funds to achieve the climate targets. By developing a Green Finance Agenda, Austria supports the aim of sustainable growth.

### **Resilience programme for people and cultural landscapes**

With its Resilience for People and Landscapes Programme, the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs has been supporting measures to combat climate change in severely affected areas since 2019: In the Aswa and Agago river basin in Uganda and the lower reaches of the Tana in Kenya, flooding and extensive droughts are increasingly threatening agriculture and the livelihoods of the local population. The programme promotes forward planning and land use that conserves water and the soil. Around 400,000 people benefit from the initiative. The Resilience Programme also supports food security and sustainable water management.

# Progress towards the goals and targets













This chapter objectively documents Austria’s implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), based on data from Statistics Austria. Since 2017, Statistics Austria has produced national indicator tables every year. These are closely aligned with the United Nations list of indicators, supplemented by national and regional aspects. Since the EU SDG indicator report – assessing EU policies – was largely prepared independently of the UN list of indicators, differences can be observed between national sets of indicators. This obviously also applies to the Austrian set of indicators.

The Austrian collection of around 200 indicators incorporated not just data from Statistics Austria, but also information from Federal Ministries, the Environment Agency Austria, the Austrian Development Agency, the Austrian National Public Health Institute, the Federal States, the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns, and the Austrian Association of Municipalities. The final

decision on inclusion and assessment was always taken by Statistics Austria, which applied solely technical criteria. This chapter is an extract from the independent indicator report produced by Statistics Austria. As a result, it was not coordinated with the editorial committee for the overall review. Success stories and flagship initiatives illustrate specific approaches to the implementation of the SDGs, but do not necessarily refer to individual indicators.

Trends for indicators are calculated on the basis of time series: the extent to which the particular indicators are progressing towards or moving away from the targets is shown by four different arrows (*see table below*). Indicators that could not be clearly interpreted were not included in the calculations. Trends for the relevant main indicators were calculated for the whole 2010–2018 time series. One year of deviation was possible. Key indicators were also compared with data at EU-28 level.

Classification without quantitative target	Symbol		Classification with quantitative target
Significant progress towards sustainable development objectives			Significant progress towards the defined target
Moderate progress towards sustainable development objectives			Moderate progress towards the defined target
Moderate movement away from sustainable development objectives			Insufficient progress towards the defined target
Significant movement away from sustainable development objectives			Movement away from the defined target
 Calculation of trend not possible (e.g. time series too short, no clear objective)			
 (Part of the) target largely achieved			





## Goal 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

› In Austria, extreme poverty has been eradicated.

› Austria is successfully tackling poverty: The rate of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion fell from 18.9% in 2010 to 17.5% in 2018.

› As an annual average for 2018, 2.5% of the population received minimum income benefit (Mindestsicherung). The figure has recently decreased.

› There is significantly less poverty in Austria compared to the EU Member State average.

Target	National indicators (selected)	Trend
1.1	TARGET: Eradicate extreme poverty	✓
1.2	Risk of poverty (60% of the median)	↗
	Risk of poverty or social exclusion	↗
1.3	Minimum income benefit rate	:
1.4	Significant material deprivation	↑
1.5	Deaths attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	↑
	National crisis and disaster management	✓

Source: Statistics Austria. 8-year trend 2010–2018 (if figures missing, at least 7-year trend) in 4 categories (↑↗↘↓) if there is a clear target (quantitative/normative); ✓ (part of the) indicator target achieved; : calculation of trend not possible. More information about methodological questions can be found in the National Indicator Report 2020.

### Extreme poverty eradicated

According to the current international definition, extreme poverty refers to the proportion of people living on less than USD 1.90 per day. The number of people affected in Austria is below the statistical detection limit. Austria has thus achieved the target of **eradicating extreme poverty**.

#### Mapping the rights of the child in the SDGs

By mapping the rights of the child in the SDGs, UNICEF Austria and its partner institutions are helping to deliver all SDGs – and to tackle child poverty in particular. The mapping highlights the numerous links between the SDGs and the rights of the child at a glance. This enables government, business and civil society initiatives to be reviewed and managed accordingly. Mapping the rights of the child in the SDGs is a particularly effective way to fulfil the commitment to ‘leave no one behind’.





Austria is successfully tackling poverty: The rate of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion fell from 18.9% in 2010 to **17.5%** in 2018.

### Risk of poverty decreasing

The Europe 2020 strategy measures poverty using the indicator of people **at risk of poverty or social exclusion** (cf. the European Commission's Europe 2020 strategy). Austria made a commitment to reduce the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by 235,000 between 2008 and 2018 (cf. Federal Chancellery 2019). 80% of this target was achieved: The proportion of the population at risk of poverty or social exclusion fell from 20.6% in 2008 to 17.5% in 2018. In absolute terms, this represents a reduction of around 187,000 people. Compared with the proportion of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in other EU countries, Austria was well below the EU-28 average of 21.9%.

The 'at risk of poverty or social exclusion' indicator, which has a binding EU-wide definition, covers risk situations relating to work ('people living in households with very low work intensity'), income ('at risk of poverty') or constraints on consumption ('severe material deprivation'). Analysis for Austria shows that there was a particularly

significant reduction in the proportion of **severely materially deprived** people, from 4.3% (2010) to 2.8% (2018). This represents a decrease of 110,000 people, which indicates a strong positive trend.

### Well-developed social benefits

As an annual average for 2018, the proportion of the population **receiving minimum income benefit** was 2.5% (2017: 2.7%). Receipt of minimum income benefit, which had been increasing annually since it was introduced, fell for the first time recently. Overall, there were more female (51%) than male (49%) recipients.

The number of people **receiving unemployment benefit and emergency assistance** (Notstandshilfe) as a percentage of the average total number of unemployed people was 90% over the whole observation period, compared to 87.9% in 2018.

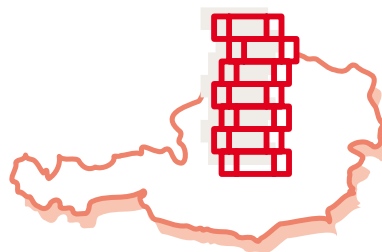
Austria is continuing to refine its well-developed range of instruments to combat poverty among specific target groups, increasing pension transparency to ensure eco-

conomic independence in old age, for example, and supporting women affected by violence to improve their integration in the labour market (see *'Empowerment of women affected by violence'*).

Austria is also effectively implementing systems to tackle poverty at an international level, for example by providing training programmes and business development loans to strengthen rural municipalities in Kosovo (see *'Strengthening rural municipalities in Kosovo'*).

### Fewer deaths attributed to disasters

The indicator for **deaths attributed to disasters** also showed a decline in recent years from 0.8 (age-standardised rate per 100,000 population) to 0.2 in 2018 (also see SDGs 11 and 13). In Austria, a **national crisis and disaster management** system is in place. Required access to basic services and **control over land** with the relevant legal documents (entry in the land register) are also guaranteed in Austria.



#### Strengthening rural municipalities in Kosovo

The Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs is making an effective and sustainable contribution to tackling poverty through its support of the Integrated Territorial Development Project – Kosovo. Launched in 2017, the project supports farmers by offering specialised training and learning programmes. It helps around 300 micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and individuals to develop their business by providing loans and expertise. The project aims to create around 700 new jobs in total and to improve the living conditions of around 3,800 people. The goal of gender equality is also being systematically pursued during the implementation of the project.

There is significantly **less poverty** in Austria compared to the EU Member State average.



## Goal 2

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

› Austria has successfully implemented the goal to end hunger.

› The proportion of organically farmed land in Austria increased significantly from 18.4% (2010) to 23.2% (2018).

› Austria is the frontrunner in the European Union with its proportion of land used for organic farming.

› There was a clear increase in the number of livestock breeds and cultivated plant varieties secured for agricultural use between 2010 and 2018.

Target	National indicators (selected)	Trend
2.1	TARGET: End hunger	✓
2.2	Underweight in 8-year-olds	:
	Obesity in 8-year-olds	:
2.3	TARGET: Equal access to agricultural production	✓
2.4	Proportion of total agricultural area under organic agriculture (excluding Alpine pasture)	↑
2.5	Cultivated plant varieties secured for agricultural use	↑
	Farm animal breeds secured for agricultural use	↑

Source: Statistics Austria. 8-year trend 2010–2018 (if figures missing, at least 7-year trend) in 4 categories (↑↗↘↓) if there is a clear target (quantitative/normative); ✓ (part of the) indicator target achieved; : calculation of trend not possible. More information about methodological questions can be found in the National Indicator Report 2020.

### Good nutrition ensured

Relevant targets under SDG 2 have already been achieved in Austria. This applies, for instance, to the objectives of **ending hunger** and ensuring **secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs**. In the European context, achieving this goal means ensuring good nutrition, in other words eliminating malnutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture, even if there are still certain challenges in these areas. Austria's Agri-environmental Programme (see 'Austrian programme for the promotion of environmentally friendly agriculture') successfully supports organic farming through a nature-based extensive production system, reduced fertilisation, an absence of synthetic chemical pesticides and diversified crop rotations. Protecting soil and water encourages biodiversity and food security. The **Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety** also plays a key role here (see *Soil and climate protection, SDG 12*). The innovative Plant Protection Warning Service enables farmers to react in a timely manner to pest infestation or diseases (see 'Plant Protection Warning Service').

## Leading the way in organic land

The indicator for the proportion of total agricultural area under **organic agriculture** shows a significant increase in organic land in Austria in recent years. Compared with other EU countries, the proportion of organically farmed land in Austria (approx. 23%) is several times higher than the EU-28 average of 7.5%. Communicating not just the importance of organic agricultural products but the value of food as a whole, the **'Food Is Precious'** (Lebensmittel sind kostbar) initiative has had a very broad and successful impact throughout Austria (see *'Food Is Precious initiative'*).

## Underweight and obesity

Additional indicators for the targets relate to malnutrition. In 2017, only a small proportion of 8-year-old girls (2.2%) and boys (1.8%) were underweight; however, the proportion of obese 8-year-old girls (7.4%) and boys (12%) was significantly higher in the same year. In 2014, the proportion of underweight women aged 15 and over was 4.4% and the proportion of obese women was 13%; the comparable figures for men were 1.3% and 16% respectively (Austrian Health Survey 2014, Statistics Austria).\*



The proportion of organically farmed land in Austria increased significantly from 18.4% (2010) to **23.2%** (2018).

\* Klimont, Jeannette; Baldaszti, Erika (2015): Austrian Health Survey 2014, key findings of the Austrian Health Interview Survey (ATHIS) and methodological documentation. Federal Ministry of Health, Federal Health Agency, Vienna

## Plant Protection Warning Service

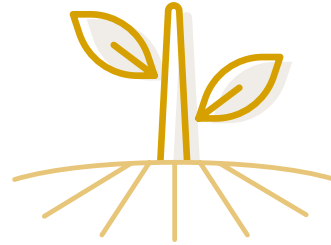
The Chambers of Agriculture play an essential role in food security with their Plant Protection Warning Service online platform ([www.warndienst.at](http://www.warndienst.at), in German only), developed in partnership with stakeholders from the scientific community and education. Based on national and regional monitoring and forecasting systems, the platform informs farmers at an early stage about the occurrence of diseases and pests that can affect farmland, vegetables, fruit, wine and bees. This allows farmers to take timely action to protect their harvest. In addition, the platform promotes sustainable, environmentally friendly agricultural production since its data helps to minimise the use of chemical and biological pesticides and to optimise their effect.

## 'Food Is Precious' initiative

The Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology is pursuing the goal of drastically reducing avoidable food waste at the retail and consumer level through the series of measures contained in the 'Food Is Precious' action programme. The programme – comprising 60 measures, from agriculture and catering to households – was launched by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism in 2013 and was recently updated in partnership with the relevant stakeholders. As retailers donate an increasing amount of food to social institutions, the initiative also contributes to the goal of tackling poverty.

## Securing cultivated plants and farm animal breeds

There has been a clear upward trend in the **number of cultivated plant varieties** and **livestock breeds** for agricultural use in Austria. Between 2010 and 2018, the number of cultivated plant varieties increased from just under 12,250 to 13,799. The number of livestock breeds (cattle, sheep, goats and pigs) that are secured by a gene bank and breeding programmes grew from 36 in 2010 to 57 in 2018. This represents an increase of almost 60%.



### Austrian programme for the promotion of environmentally friendly agriculture

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism has been supporting environmentally friendly farming and animal welfare since 2015 with the '5<sup>th</sup> Austrian programme for the promotion of environmentally friendly and extensive agriculture that protects natural habitats (ÖPUL)'. The programme addresses a large number of SDGs and targets, including food security, sustainable management of water, sustainable production patterns and protection of terrestrial ecosystems.

Austria is the **frontrunner** in the European Union with its proportion of land used for organic farming.



## Goal 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

› Maternal, neonatal and under-5 mortality is extremely low in Austria.

› Austria reduced premature mortality from non-communicable diseases by 15% between 2010 and 2018.

› There is a downward trend in the suicide rate.

› Deaths from lung cancer have decreased slightly.

› There is a high level of alcohol-related deaths and suicides (3,030 in 2018).

Target	National indicators (selected)	Trend
3.1	TARGET: Low maternal mortality	✓
3.3	New HIV infections	↑
	Hepatitis B incidence	↓
3.4	Premature mortality	↑
	Suicide rate	↑
3.5	Alcohol-related deaths and suicides	↗
3.6	Deaths from road traffic accidents	↑
3.8	TARGET: Access to essential health care	✓
3.a	Average daily consumption of cigarettes in persons aged 15+ years	↑
	Deaths due to lung cancer/bronchial carcinoma	↗

Source: Statistics Austria. 8-year trend 2010–2018 (if figures missing, at least 7-year trend) in 4 categories (↑↗↘↓) if there is a clear target (quantitative/normative); ✓ (part of the) indicator target achieved; : calculation of trend not possible. More information about methodological questions can be found in the National Indicator Report 2020.

### Good health care

According to a meta-analysis conducted by the Austrian National Public Health Institute on SDG 3, Austria scores well overall in the health-care sector (Austrian National Public Health Institute 2019)\*. In addition to universal health coverage and the density of medical, nursing and midwifery staff, Austria also has a relatively low rate of neonatal and maternal mortality. During the observation period, **maternal mortality** ranges from 1.3 to 8.6 women per 100,000 live births – well below the global UN target of less than 70 per 100,000 live births. The **neonatal mortality rate** (2.0 per 1,000 live births in 2018) and **under-5 mortality rate** (3.2 per 1,000 live births in 2018) are both well below the global UN targets of 12 and 25 per 1,000 live births respectively. According to the Austrian National Public Health Institute, there is potential

\* Griebler, Robert; Delcour, Jennifer; Antony, Gabriele (2019): Meta-analysis based on established SDG indices and rankings on the challenges of SDG implementation in Austria – focusing on the health sector. Updated 2019. Vienna, Austrian National Public Health Institute

### Expansion of the Early Childhood Interventions Programme in Austria

To promote healthy lives and well-being from the outset, the implementation partners have been setting up and expanding regional networks for early childhood interventions since 2015. These networks are based on a standardised Austrian model. The early childhood interventions are part of the measures of the Austrian Health Targets and serve as an overall health promotion and intervention concept for families in difficult situations. At the end of 2019, networks for early childhood interventions existed in 64 of Austria's 116 political districts and there is a national early childhood intervention centre for coordination and quality assurance at national level. The number of families supported by the regional networks for early childhood interventions is increasing considerably. In line with the principle of 'leaving no one behind', the support is particularly aimed at disadvantaged families and families experiencing stressful situations.

### Action plan for women's health

The Federal Government is addressing the WHO goals set out in the 'Strategy on women's health and well-being in the WHO European Region' with its action plan for women's health. As the first European country to develop an action plan in this area, Austria is particularly committed to achieving the goals of women's health and well-being and gender equality. The plan comprises 40 measures to improve equal health opportunities for women, and the implementation of these measures has been promoted at federal and state level since 2017. The multi-stakeholder approach influences not just the development of the action plan, but also its implementation: The Women's Health Dialogue (FrauenGesundheitsDialog) brings together stakeholders and NGOs to discuss the implementation of measures and the priorities.

for improvement in the mortality of children under five compared to other EU countries. The nationwide expansion of the Early Childhood Interventions Programme (Frühe Hilfen) makes a particularly significant difference to the health of children in families experiencing stressful situations (see 'Expansion of the Early Childhood Interventions Programme in Austria'). According to the most recent figures, the percentage of the population covered by **social health insurance** was 99.9%.

With regard to the **incidence of communicable diseases** (target 3.4: HIV, malaria, hepatitis B and neglected tropical diseases), Austria also scores highly for achieving the targets in the meta-analysis referred to above. However, it should also be mentioned that the **incidence of hepatitis B** increased from 8.2 cases (2010) per 1,000 uninfected persons to 12.8 cases in 2018, with a peak of 16.6 cases in 2014.

### Multi-professional care provided by primary health care units

The Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection is strengthening multi-professional and interdisciplinary primary health care in Austria to achieve the goal of ensuring health for all at all ages. The new team-based primary care units provide a broad range of health care close to patients' homes, with longer opening hours. General practitioners work in a team with other health and social care providers, enabling patients to benefit from health and social care providers being concentrated in one place. The aim is to establish 75 primary care units in Austria by 2021. To support the implementation and ensure successful results, the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection has launched a comprehensive start-up initiative and has started a collaboration with the European Investment Bank. Strengthening primary care is a key priority under the target of universal health coverage. In keeping with the approach of 'leaving no one behind', the initiative also prevents inequalities in access to health care.





Austria reduced premature mortality from non-communicable diseases by **15%** between 2010 and 2018.

### Lower premature mortality from non-communicable diseases

A key international indicator for the health of the population is **premature mortality from non-communicable diseases** (cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and chronic respiratory disease) among 30- to 69-year-olds. The figure has fallen by 15% – a considerable amount – since 2010: In 2018, there were 250 mortalities from non-communicable diseases per 100,000 people aged between 30 and 69; the comparable figure in 2010 was 293.1 per 100,000 population. Mortality has decreased more in men than in women. In the case of disease, especially among older persons, the question arises as to the best care options that also fulfil the patient's health requirements. Austria has developed a new service to meet this need: the 'care hub' (Pflegedrehscheibe) (see 'Styrian Care Hub').

#### Styrian 'Care Hub' (Pflegedrehscheibe)

The Federal State of Styria is helping to achieve the SDG of promoting the well-being and health of people of all ages with its 'care hub'. Implemented as a pilot project from 2018 and rolled out throughout Styria from 2020, the care hub is a contact centre and service point that enables those in need of care to receive the help they require at the right time. In line with the one-stop shop principle, the care hub offices are located in rooms at district administration offices (Bezirkshauptmannschaften). The effectiveness of the care hub can be attributed to its comprehensive multi-stakeholder approach. It links a large number of organisations and state institutions for the benefit of those in need of care. With its services for people who need care, the care hub helps to fulfil the commitment to 'leave no one behind'.

### Suicides, alcohol-related deaths and lung cancer

The Austrian National Public Health Institute sees potential for improvement in the reduction of suicides and in the consumption of tobacco and alcohol (meta-analysis, Austrian National Public Health Institute 2019). The **suicide rate** decreased from 15.3 deaths per 100,000 population to 13.5 deaths (-12%) between 2010 and 2018 but remains slightly higher than the European average.

In 2010, the **number of alcohol-related deaths** was estimated to be 3,162. The figure was 3,030 in 2018. This represents a fall of 4%, although the level is generally high (*Handbuch Alkohol* [Alcohol Handbook], Austrian National Public Health Institute 2019). Average **alcohol consumption** among 15- to 99-year-olds remained relatively constant between 2010 and 2018, at around 12 litres of pure alcohol per person per year.

The number of **people killed in road traffic accidents** decreased significantly, from 66 deaths per million population in 2010 to 46.3 deaths in 2018.

Live births to **mothers under 15 years old and mothers aged between 15 and 19** (known as teenage births) declined considerably between 2010 and 2018.

From 2010 to 2018, the **death rate due to lung cancer** (including bronchial carcinoma) decreased just slightly from 47.1 deaths per 100,000 population to 46.2 deaths (-2%). While the death rate among men dropped sharply (-11%), it rose significantly among women (+12%). Trends in smoking prevalence are (partly) responsible: The number of men who smoke every day has declined, whereas the number of female daily smokers has increased. In addition, it should be noted that the impact of changes in smoking prevalence figures on cause-of-death statistics will only become apparent in the very long term. From 2010 to 2018, the number of **cigarettes consumed daily** in the population (over 15 years of age) fell from 5.3 to 4.3. The proportion of 15-year-old school pupils who smoked daily actually fell from 19% (2010) to 7.0% (2018).



## Goal 4

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

› Austria has increased the proportion of 3- to 5-year-olds in childcare.

› Around 98% of 5-year-olds attended childcare in 2018.

› The educational level in Austria is continuing to rise: The tertiary rate increased to 40.7% (2018).

› Austria lies well above the EU average of 11.1% in lifelong learning: 15.1% of adults aged between 25 and 64 participated in education and training in 2018.

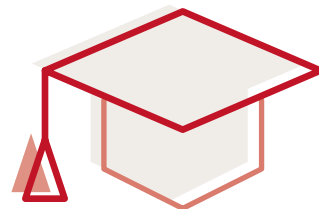
› At 88.6%, the Employability Index in Austria in 2018 was above the EU-28 figure of 81.7%.

Target	Nationale Indikatoren (Auswahl)	Trend
4.2	Childcare rate for 3- to 5-year-olds	↗
	Childcare rate for 5-year-olds, including early school starters	✓
4.3	Lifelong learning – participation in vocational and general education and training	↑
	Tertiary educational qualifications (ISCED 5–8)	↑ TARGET
4.4	Employment rates of recent graduates (Employability Index)	↗
4.6	Level 1 proficiency in reading	⋮
	Level 1 proficiency in mathematics	⋮

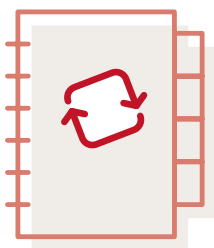
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### Early childhood education secured

Education starts before school: The **childcare rate for 3- to 5-year-olds** increased from 90.7% in 2010 to 93.4% in 2018. The proportion of **5-year-olds** (including children who started school early) was 98.2% in 2018. In 2010, compulsory kindergarten attendance was introduced for 5-year-olds throughout Austria. Austria thus largely achieved the target of ensuring that 5-year-olds have access to early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary school. Strengthening basic education in line with the SDGs is one of the key objectives of Neustart Schule (Fresh Start in School), a civil society initiative (see 'Neustart Schule').



The educational level in Austria is continuing to rise: The tertiary rate increased to **40.7%** (2018).



Austria lies well above the EU average of 11.1% in lifelong learning: **15.1%** of 25- to 64-year-olds participated in education and training in 2018.

### **‘Neustart Schule’**

The Federation of Austrian Industries and its partners have been implementing the goal of inclusive, equitable and quality education with the ‘Neustart Schule’ initiative, which was launched in 2014. The aim is to improve the quality of basic education in Austria in the long term, to secure political support and to raise awareness of the future of education in society. Broadly anchored in civil society, the multi-stakeholder initiative also supports the principle of ‘leaving no one behind’.

### **Digital textbooks**

The Federal Government has been implementing the Sustainable Development Goal of quality education since 2016/2017 with its initiative School 2.0 – Learning with Digital Textbooks. Digital textbooks have been developed in partnership with the textbook industry as part of the school textbook programme, a free service financed by the Family Equalisation Fund. Since the 2019/20 academic year, all upper and lower secondary schools have also been able to order the most important textbooks as e-books. In addition, interactive e-books – known as E-Books Plus – are available to schools. Austria is thus systematically harnessing the potential of digitalisation for the education sector.

### **Reading, writing and mathematics**

According to the OECD’s latest PISA test results, the **non-risk group for reading** among 15- to 16-year-old school pupils is 76% for 2018 (OECD average 77%), while the **non-risk group for mathematics** is 79% (OECD average 76%). In 2012, the last year for which data is available, the proportion of 16- to 65-year-olds in Austria who achieve **Level 1 proficiency in reading** is 97.5%. The corresponding figure for the **everyday mathematics proficiency level** is similarly high, at 96.5%. Practical education for sustainable development is a key education issue in Austria, as delivered at around 600 schools by the ÖKOLOG Network, for instance (see ‘ÖKOLOG Network’).

### **Tertiary rate success**

The educational level of the Austrian population has continued to rise. This is also reflected by the **tertiary rate**: The target defined in the Europe 2020 strategy is for at least 40% of 30- to 34-year-olds to have completed tertiary education by 2020. Austria set a national target of 38%. While 34.9% of 30- to 34-year-olds had completed tertiary education in 2010, the figure had increased to 40.7% by 2018.

### **ÖKOLOG Network**

The Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research is making an important contribution to education for sustainable development with its ‘ÖKOLOGisierung von Schulen’ (ECOLOGisation of Schools) programme: Pupils at around 600 ÖKOLOG schools are working together to devise sustainable solutions and putting these ideas into practice in everyday life inside and outside school. Topics include saving resources, reducing emissions, healthy eating, mobility and transport, school climate, participation and nature around the school. The ÖKOLOG programme covers all 17 SDGs.

### **‘Leaving no one behind’ in education**

The commitment to ‘leave no one behind’ is being fulfilled in Austria by equality policies along the entire education chain and by diversity management in the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research’s strategy and management tools. This ensures that SDGs 4 and 5, Quality Education and Gender Equality, are implemented in a targeted manner, improving labour market opportunities and social inclusion. The aim of the National Strategy for the Social Dimension in Higher Education is to enable as diverse a group of students as possible to enter higher education and to bring the makeup of students closer to that of the population as a whole. A quota has been set for women to make up 50% of collegial bodies at universities. The basic decree on reflective gender education and equality applies to the school sector. Gender competence is taught in teacher and headteacher training courses. Awareness raising is also being promoted by projects and awards (e.g. Diversitas and Gabriele Possaner awards, GENDERACTION project, 3-IN-AT Erasmus+ project).

### **Developing capacities together**

World University Service (WUS) Austria is participating in the EU InterCap project, which brings together around 13 organisations from 12 countries. The project aims to provide learners with the necessary skills and qualifications to promote sustainable development in the context of the SDGs. In the process, European NGO-university networks develop capacities for global learning on migration, security and sustainable development in an interdependent world. The involvement of civil society organisations (CSOs) in this cross-border project effectively facilitates a multi-stakeholder approach.



At **88.6%**, the Employability Index in Austria in 2018 was above the EU-28 figure of 81.7%.

### **Lifelong learning and employability**

The proportion of 25- to 64-year-olds in Austria who participated in vocational and general education and training increased from 13.8% in 2010 to 15.1% in 2018. Austria is thus above the EU-28 figure for 2018 (11.1%). For instance, the Austrian Academy of Sciences works with top researchers to provide education and training on the SDGs that is backed up by scientific research (see ‘SDG mainstreaming’).

Austria ranks consistently highly in the **Employability Index**, which documents the employment rates of recent graduates. According to the most recent figures, the proportion of recent graduates in employment in Austria was 88.6% – well above the EU-28 figure of 81.7%. This can also be attributed to the success of the vocational education system in Austria.

### **SDG mainstreaming**

The Austrian Academy of Sciences researches topics that affect all 17 SDGs and communicates relevant research results to the public. In 2018, top researchers identified specific challenges that the SDGs represent for Austria. The high-ranking international symposium Global Sustainable Development Goals in a Mediatized World brought together over 300 SDG experts in 2019. The stakeholder approach is implemented in a particularly impressive way in this initiative in the scientific sector.



## Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

› The gender pay gap in Austria decreased from 24.0% in 2010 to 19.6% in 2018 (EU-28: 15.7%).

› Women perform significantly more unpaid work than men.

› The proportion of women in leading positions increased from 28.4% (2011) to 31.8% (2018).

› The proportion of female supervisory board members appointed by the Federal Government rose from 26.0% in 2011 to 43.6% in 2018.

› The proportion of women in parliament has grown by a third since 2011.

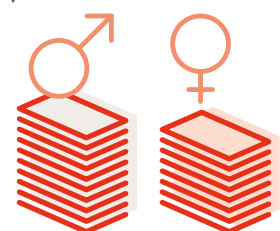
Target	National indicators (selected)	Trend
5.1	Gender pay gap	↑
5.3	Child / early marriage: marriages of 15- to 19-year-olds; women	↑
	Child / early marriage: marriages of 15- to 19-year-olds; men	↑
5.4	Time spent on domestic work and childcare; women	⋮
	Time spent on domestic work and childcare; men	⋮
5.5	Proportion of women in parliament	↑
	Proportion of women in managerial roles	↑
	“Federal quota for women”	↑
5.6	TARGET: Universal access to sexual and reproductive health	✓
5.b	Use of mobile phone for Internet access while out; women	↑

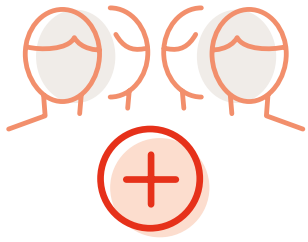
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### Gender pay gap decreasing

The **gender pay gap** is an important indicator for measuring gender equality. The EU indicator measures the difference between average gross hourly earnings of men and women. In Austria, the gender pay gap decreased from 24.0% (2010) to 19.6% (2018). The EU-28 average in 2018 was 15.7%. The ‘Equal Pension Day’ brought to public attention in Austria that lower earnings also mean a lower pension (see ‘Equal Pension Day’).

The gender pay gap decreased in Austria from 24.0% (2010) to **19.6%** (2018).





The proportion of female supervisory board members appointed by the Federal Government rose from 26.0% in 2011 to **43.6%** in 2018.

### Transparent Pension Future

The Federal Chancellery and Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection have been making an important contribution to ensuring the socio-economic equality of women since February 2019 with their project 'TRAPEZ – Transparent Pension Future'. Underpinned by studies and collaborations with businesses, the project seeks to develop approaches to reduce the gender gap in pensions. The aim is to show which factors contribute to the difference in pension income, how businesses can help their female employees to secure their pension entitlements and how people of working age can be better informed. TRAPEZ develops approaches to reducing inequalities during people's working lives and in retirement.

### 'Equal Pension Day'

An initiative of the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns, 'Equal Pension Day' is the day on which men have already received as much pension as women will have received by the end of the year. Held annually since 2017, 'Equal Pension Day' raises public awareness of gender equality through leaflet distribution and street events against the pension pay gap. In 2019, 'Equal Pension Day' was on 29 July throughout Austria – a day later than in the previous year. The initiative also addresses the goal of reducing inequality and effectively implements the principle of 'leaving no one behind'.

### Women perform more unpaid work

The most recent data available on the indicator for **time spent on unpaid work** (domestic work, childcare, voluntary work) is for 2008/2009. At the time, women carried out more unpaid work (an average of 4 hours 53 minutes per day) than men (an average of 2 hours 41 minutes per day). The participation rate of fathers in receipt of **child-care allowance** (Kinderbetreuungsgeld) was 19% in 2018. The participation rate signifies how many men took up a share of childcare allowance; according to the figures, one father in five takes up childcare allowance.

### More supervisory board members

The **federal quota for women** – the proportion of women appointed by the Federal Government to the supervisory boards of state-affiliated companies – increased from 26.0% in 2011 to 43.6% in 2018. The aim was to increase the proportion of women on the supervisory boards of companies in which the Federal Government holds 50% or more of the shares, setting the original target of 35% by 31 December 2018. The Federal Government also uses the range of instruments of impact-oriented management to achieve actual gender equality (see 'Cross-ministry coordination of actual gender equality').

The proportion of **women in parliament** also increased significantly between 2011 and 2018 – from 27.3% to 36.6%. Data from the Labour Force Survey (microcensus) also shows that among **employees**, the proportion of **women in leading positions** also increased slightly from 2011 (28.4%) to 2018 (31.8%).

### Health and protection against violence

The goal of ensuring **universal access to sexual and reproductive health** and reproductive rights has largely been achieved in Austria. Protection against violence is visible: The number of **police restraining orders** rose from 6,759 in 2010 to 8,076 in 2018.

### Internet and mobile phones

Gender equality is also of major importance regarding digital transformation. In 2018, 70% of women and 74% of men used a mobile phone to access the Internet. The difference in use between men and women has declined slightly.



The proportion of women in leading positions increased from 28.4% (2011) to **31.8%** (2018).

### Cross-ministry coordination of actual gender equality

The focus of management in public administration underwent a major shift with the introduction of impact orientation. The commitment to actual gender equality – which is enshrined in the constitution – was also taken into consideration in this process. As a result, at least one gender equality target must be specified for each subdivision during the budgeting process – including associated figures and measures. The coordination of this process includes both the compilation and evaluation of the gender equality impact data. The aim is to promote cross-ministerial cooperation, increase the relevance to governance, improve the underlying data and consolidate quality at a high level.

### Entitlement to 'Papamonat'

To promote the goal of gender equality, the Federal Government introduced a month's paternity leave – known as the 'Papamonat' – in 2019. This entitles fathers in Austria, including fathers employed in the private sector, to take one month's leave from work upon the birth of their child. Previously, only public sector employees had been entitled to (unpaid) leave of absence of this kind. To be eligible for the Papamonat, fathers must live in the same household as the child. Financial security is provided by the family leave bonus (Familienzeitbonus) from the Family Equalisation Fund (FLAF).

### Gender equality as an EU priority

The Federal Government used the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2018 to strengthen the UN goal of gender equality as a priority of the EU. An informal meeting of the EU gender equality ministers was held to this end on 12 October 2018. A joint declaration on gender equality as a priority of the European Union was signed and is supported by 27 EU Member States. The signatories call for a broad stakeholder approach. Austria's initiative also makes a tangible contribution to strengthening European partnerships and collaborations and to achieving the SDGs.

### 'Zukunft.Frauen' management training course

Designed to put more women on supervisory boards, the 'Zukunft.Frauen' (Future.Women) management training course was initiated by the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs. The Ministry is thus supporting the target of ensuring women's full participation in leading positions, especially in the business sector. A total of 357 women had successfully completed the course by early March 2020, and 736 women were registered in the database of supervisory board members in the same month. The 'Zukunft.Frauen' programme also focuses on improving female representation on executive boards. Austria is strengthening both gender equality and sustainable growth with this stakeholder initiative.

The proportion of women in parliament has grown **by a third** since 2011.





## Goal 6

### Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

› Austria provides secure access to safe and affordable drinking water.

› Only just under 1% of Austrian households do not have a bath, shower or toilet in the home.

› The connection rate to municipal wastewater treatment plants increased from 93.9% (2010) to 95.2% (2018); 4.8% is disposed of via septic tanks or similar.

› Water quality indicators demonstrate the good status of surface water bodies.

› Austria uses only 3% of its available water resources.

Target	National indicators (selected)	Trend
6.1	TARGET: Universal access to safe drinking water	✓
6.2	Proportion of population having neither a bath, nor a shower, nor a toilet in their household	✓
6.3	Population connected to a municipal wastewater treatment plant with at least secondary treatment	↗
	Biochemical oxygen demand in rivers	⋮
	Good water quality in all bodies of water	⋮
	Biological status in terms of the pollutant load in rivers	⋮
6.4	Water stress	⋮
	Water use	⋮

Source: Statistics Austria. 8-year trend 2010–2018 (if figures missing, at least 7-year trend) in 4 categories (↑↗↘↓) if there is a clear target (quantitative/normative); ✓ (part of the) indicator target achieved; ⋮ calculation of trend not possible. More information about methodological questions can be found in the National Indicator Report 2020.

### Safe and affordable drinking water for all

Drinking water in Austria is obtained entirely from groundwater (springs and wells). **Universal access** to safe and affordable **drinking water** is ensured. In Austria, about 90% of the population are supplied with drinking water by centralised water supply facilities. Some 5,500 water suppliers provide the population with high-quality drinking water. The remaining 10% of the population obtain their drinking water from their own domestic wells and springs. In addition, access to sanitation and hygiene is almost completely achieved: Less than 1% of the Austrian population stated that they **did not have a toilet and/or shower or bath** in their home in 2018. The corresponding figure in the EU-28 in 2017 was 2% of the population.



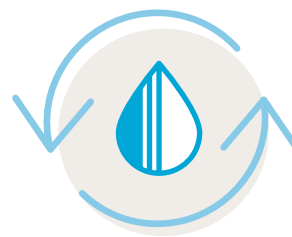
## High water quality

Austria is a country rich in high-quality water (also see the 12<sup>th</sup> State of the Environment Report, Environment Agency Austria 2019, in German only). 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 was 95.2% in 2018 (93.9% in 2010). The entire incoming wastewater load is biologically treated. The remaining 4.8% is properly disposed of by treatment in septic tanks and domestic wastewater treatment systems or by collection in cesspits. Solid environmental education plays an important role for sustainable water management, as implemented for instance in the 'Wasserland Steiermark' (Waterland Styria) project (see 'Wasserland Steiermark').

A **water quality** indicator shows that 80.4% of groundwater and surface water is of good quality over the average of the 2013–2015 period. Measuring the **biological status in terms of the pollutant load in rivers** results in a 'good' or 'very good' status in 76.7% of cases. The target of the EU Water Framework Directive to achieve a good ecological and chemical status in all surface water bodies by 2027 at the latest has thus not yet been achieved.

### 'Wasserland Steiermark'

Known for its water resources, the Federal State of Styria is implementing the goals of sustainable water management and environmental education with its 'Wasserland Steiermark' project. The project raises young people's awareness of water as a vital resource and the associated ecosystems by means of activity days, practical workshops and teaching materials for schools throughout Styria. To date, the project has reached over 21,000 school pupils at school events and around 1,800 teachers in training courses. Every year, around 35 activity days are held in Styrian schools to teach pupils all about water.



The connection rate to municipal wastewater treatment plants increased from 93.9% (2010) to **95.2%** (2018); 4.8% is disposed of via septic tanks or similar.

## River water quality in an EU comparison

The indicator for the **biochemical oxygen demand in rivers** gives a value of 1.34 mg O<sub>2</sub>/L for Austria in 2015 (2010: 1.5 mg O<sub>2</sub>/L). This indicator measures the amount of oxygen required by aerobic microorganisms to decompose organic substances in a water sample over a period of five days in the dark at 20°C. High values are a sign of organic pollution. Moderately and heavily polluted rivers show values ranging from 2 to 8 mg O<sub>2</sub>/L. In the EU-28, the value for 2015 is 2.0 mg O<sub>2</sub>/L.



Water quality indicators demonstrate the **good status** of surface water bodies.

## Abundance of water, little 'water stress'

Austria is a country rich in water. The **total area of open waters** is around 630 km<sup>2</sup>. Overall, the proportion of **water used** annually for municipal supply, agriculture, industry and trade is constantly low, at 3% of available water resources. When the data is viewed at regional level, however, figures may be higher in particularly dry years. An indicator that is calculated in a similar way at EU level sets a warning threshold of 20%, above which a country is defined as water-scarce. The UN has developed a new **water stress** indicator, which documents how much freshwater is withdrawn by all economic activities in comparison with total renewable freshwater resources. The Environment Agency Austria has calculated a figure of 8.2% for Austria. One of the ways in which Austria promotes the sustainable management of water is by balancing water use against water availability (see '*Protecting Austria's valuable water resources*').



Austria uses only **3%** of its available water resources.

### Protecting Austria's valuable water resources

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism is implementing the goal of sustainable management of water resources by means of the standardised nationwide balancing of water use against water resources available. By the end of 2020, scenarios for 2050 will also be developed in collaboration with the Federal States and partners. Austria is laying the foundations to continue supplying its population nationwide with sufficient clean water in the future with this multi-stakeholder initiative. Balancing water use against the water resources available systemically supports two more SDG targets: food security from agricultural production and responsible production patterns.



## Goal 7

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

› Austria ensures access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.

› The share of renewable energy rose from 31.2% (2010) to 33.4% (2018).

› The national share of renewables was 33.4% in 2018, well above the EU-28 average of 18.0%.

› Energy efficiency in Austria increased slightly between 2010 and 2017.

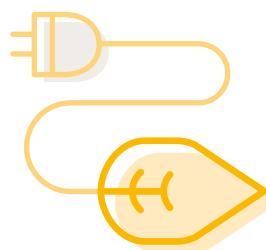
› Final energy consumption (2018: 1,126 petajoules) is constantly above the energy efficiency target of 1,050 petajoules by 2020.

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 energy consumption	↑ TARGET
7.3	Energy intensity: share of final energy consumption (temperature-adjusted) per real GDP	↑
	Final energy consumption	↓ TARGET

Source: Statistics Austria. 8-year trend 2010–2018 (if figures missing, at least 7-year trend) in 4 categories (↑↗↘↓) if there is a clear target (quantitative/normative); ✓ (part of the) indicator target achieved; : calculation of trend not possible. More information about methodological questions can be found in the National Indicator Report 2020.

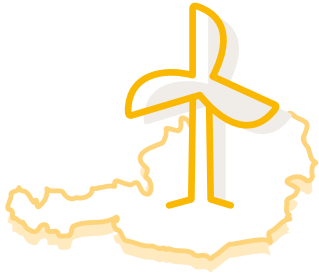
### More renewable energy sources

**Universal access** to affordable, reliable and modern **energy services** has largely been achieved in Austria. The national target set by Europe 2020 for renewable energy sources is a share of 34% by 2020. The **share of renewable energy** in gross final energy consumption in Austria rose from 31.2% in 2010 to 33.4% in 2018. The current figure is therefore only 0.6% below the target. When compared internationally, Austria was well above the EU-28 average of 18.0% with its share of 33.4% in 2018. Austria intends to use its pioneering role in this area to become an innovation leader in sustainable energy and environmental technology. The Master Plan for Environmental Technology and the Export Initiative for Environmental Technologies were initiated to this end (see 'Master Plan for Environmental Technology and Export Initiative for Environmental Technologies').



The share of renewable energy rose from 31.2% (2010) to **33.4%** (2018).





The national share of renewables was **33.4%** in 2018, well above the EU-28 average of 18.0%.

### More energy efficiency

**Energy intensity** measures the efficient use of energy. It describes the development of temperature-adjusted final energy consumption in relation to real gross domestic product. Austria recorded a slight downward trend in energy intensity from 2010 (3.7 megajoules per EUR) to 2017 (3.5 megajoules per EUR), meaning that energy was used more efficiently.

### Higher final energy consumption

**Final energy consumption** is another important indicator in the energy sector. It refers to the amount of energy available to consumers (households, trade and industry, transport, services, agriculture) as petrol / diesel for cars, electrical energy for electrical appliances, gas and district heating for space heating, etc. In 2010, final energy consumption amounted to 1,116 petajoules (PJ). The energy balance for 2018 was 1,126 PJ, representing an increase of 1%. The energy efficiency target for 2020 is 1,050 PJ.

In Austria, a host of initiatives implement the goal of affordable and clean energy in a strategically sound way. One example is Salzburg's Climate and Energy Strategy, which is aimed at making the Federal State climate-neutral and self-sufficient in energy by 2050 (see 'Salzburg's Climate and Energy Strategy').

### Master Plan for Environmental Technology and Export Initiative for Environmental Technologies

The second Master Plan for Environmental Technology and the Export Initiative for Environmental Technologies are two of the means by which the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology is implementing the SDGs of ensuring sustainable energy and clean water and air for all. The new master plan is the result of a comprehensive stakeholder process. Austria intends to strengthen its international position as an innovation leader in environmental technologies with these initiatives. Sustainable infrastructures, cities and settlements are supported by both initiatives, as are sustainable production and consumption patterns.

### Salzburg's Climate and Energy Strategy

The Federal State of Salzburg is implementing the SDG of affordable and clean energy with its integrated Climate and Energy Strategy, which was adopted in 2012. The aim is for Salzburg to have a climate-neutral balance and to be self-sufficient in energy by 2050. The strategy's current implementation plan is entitled 'Masterplan Klima+Energie 2030' (Climate+Energy Master Plan 2030). A comprehensive range of advisory and funding services help municipalities, businesses, institutions and individuals to implement concrete measures. The strategy and its implementation programme also promote other SDGs, such as sustainable cities and communities as well as sustainable consumption and production.



Final energy consumption (2018: 1,126 petajoules) is constantly above the energy efficiency target of **1,050** petajoules by 2020.

## Goal 8

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

› Austria's GDP growth is consistently in the European midfield. In 2018, it was 1.9% per capita in real terms.

› The gap between the gross annual incomes of female and male employees decreased significantly from 19.1% (2010) to 15.2% (2018).

› The employment rate in 2018 was 76.2%, only just below the national Europe 2020 target of 77%.

› The unemployment rate fell to 4.9% in 2018.

› The proportion of young adults not in education, employment or training was 6.8% in 2018, well below the EU-28 figure of 10.5%.

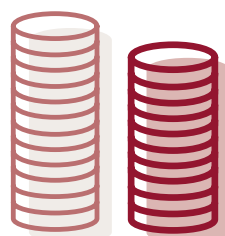


Target	National indicators (selected)	Trend
8.3	TARGET: Decent jobs	✓
8.5	Gross annual income of employees in year-round full employment – gap between women and men	↑
	Unemployment rate	↘
	Employment rate	↑ TARGET
8.6	Young adults not in education, employment or training (NEET)	↑
	Early leavers from education and training	↑ TARGET
8.7	TARGET: No forced / child labour	✓
8.8	Accidents at work: not fatal	↑
	Accidents at work: fatal injuries	↑
8.10	TARGET: Access to financial institutions	✓

Source: Statistics Austria. 8-year trend 2010–2018 (if figures missing, at least 7-year trend) in 4 categories (↑↗↘↓) if there is a clear target (quantitative/normative); ✓ (part of the) indicator target achieved; : calculation of trend not possible. More information about methodological questions can be found in the National Indicator Report 2020.

### Positive growth

Austria has achieved the targets of **promoting productive employment** and creating decent jobs, **eradicating forced labour** – Austria also ratified the ILO protocol on forced labour – and facilitating **access to banking, insurance and financial services for all**.



The gap between the average gross annual incomes of female and male employees in full-time employment decreased significantly from 19.1% (2010) to **15.2%** (2018).

### Social Entrepreneurship Forum and Social Entrepreneurship Venture Capital Fund

Since 2013, the independent business organisation “Senat der Wirtschaft” (business senate) has been implementing the SDG of promoting sustainable growth with its support for social entrepreneurship. The Social Entrepreneurship Forum (SEF) and the Social Entrepreneurship Venture Capital Fund provide entrepreneurs not just with expertise but also with growth capital. Developed in collaboration with Fair Finance, the Social Entrepreneurship Venture Capital Fund is the first fund of this kind in Austria. The initiative addresses a number of SDGs, including tackling poverty, promoting good health and well-being, quality education and gender equality.

Compared to the previous year, the Austrian economy grew by 2.4%, the population by 0.5% and real, price-adjusted GDP per capita by 1.9% in 2018. Thus, for the third consecutive year, Austria recorded positive economic growth per capita. In 2018, Austria once again ranked fourth behind Luxembourg, Ireland and the Netherlands in terms of its GDP per capita expressed in purchasing power standards (PPS). Measures to reduce the high material consumption associated with this growth are promoted by a variety of initiatives, including OekoBusiness Vienna, Vienna’s environmental service package for local companies. This initiative helps companies to optimise their resource and energy consumption (see ‘OekoBusiness Vienna’).

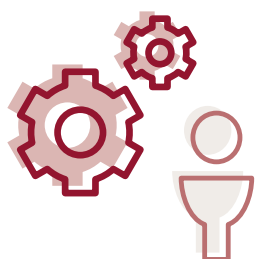
### Lower income gap, rising employment rate

The income gap between the average gross annual incomes of female and male employees in full year-round employment fell significantly from 2010 (19.1%) to 2018 (15.2%).

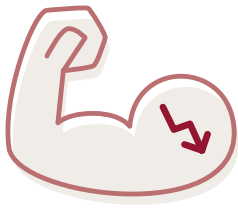
The Europe 2020 strategy sets a target to have at least 75% of 20- to 64-year-olds in the EU-28 in employment by 2020. Austria’s target is 77% and was almost reached in 2018 with 76.2%. The average EU-28 rate was 73.2% in 2018. The trend towards increased participation of women in the labour market is continuing: The employment rate of women in 2018 was 71.7% (men: 80.7%). This increase is largely due to more part-time work.

### OekoBusiness Vienna

The City of Vienna promotes sustainable economic growth and climate action with its initiative OekoBusiness Vienna – Doing Business for the Greater Good. On the basis of an OekoBusiness check, the environmental service programme advises businesses of all sizes and in all sectors on how to make more efficient use of resources and energy and what measures to take. A total of 1,278 Viennese businesses have taken part in OekoBusiness Vienna since 1998 and have achieved significant savings, including 655,991 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. The project helps other SDGs to be achieved, including clean water, sustainable energy, industry and cities, and responsible production.



The employment rate in 2018 was **76.2%**, only just below the national Europe 2020 target of 77%.



The unemployment rate fell to **4.9%** in 2018.

### Unemployment rate falls again

The **unemployment rate** for the 15- to 74-year-old working population in 2010 was 4.8%. It increased considerably in subsequent years, reaching a record high of 6.0% in 2016. It then fell again significantly, amounting to 5.5% in 2017 and 4.9% in 2018. In the EU-28, unemployment reached a peak of 10.8% in 2013, falling to 6.8% in 2018. The youth unemployment rate in Austria was 9.4% in 2018.

### NEET and early leavers

**NEET refers to 15- to 24-year-olds who are not in employment, education or training.** The NEET rate in Austria was well below the EU average between 2010 and 2018. The proportion in 2018 was 6.8%. The average NEET rate in the EU-28 in 2018 was 10.5%.

The indicator for **early leavers from education and training** records 18- to 24-year-olds who have completed at most a lower secondary education and who are not in further education or training. The Austrian target of a maximum rate of 9.5% was achieved back in 2009; in 2018, the proportion was 7.3% (5.7% for women and 8.9% for men). The comparable figure for the EU-28 in 2018 was 10.6%.



The proportion of young adults not in education, employment or training was **6.8%** in 2018, well below the EU-28 figure of 10.5%.

### Fewer accidents at work

A clear downward trend can be observed in the number of accidents at work. In 2010, there were 2,538 **accidents at work with non-fatal injuries** per 100,000 people with accident insurance. This figure fell to 2,235 in 2018. Austria promotes safe working conditions with initiatives such as occupational cancer prevention measures (see 'Fight Against Occupational Cancer'). **Fatal injuries caused by accidents at work** fell from 4 per 100,000 people with accident insurance in 2010 to 3 in 2018.

#### 'Fight Against Occupational Cancer'

The Federal Ministry of Labour, Family and Youth is implementing the goal of decent work and safe working conditions with its 'Fight Against Occupational Cancer' initiative. In recent years the Austrian Labour Inspectorate has focused on carcinogenic substances, visiting over 600 businesses between 2017 and 2019 to provide information and guidance on this issue. The Labour Inspectorate worked in partnership with the Austrian Workers' Compensation Board (AUVA) to raise awareness of how to handle carcinogenic substances in the workplace by providing advice, industry-specific information and training courses. At EU level, Austria is involved in the Roadmap on Carcinogens.

## 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



### Goal 9

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

From 2015 to 2018, the transport performance by heavy goods vehicle traffic rose by 14.8% while that by rail was up by 5.8%.

Transport-related energy consumption (+8.6%) and greenhouse gas emissions (+7.9%) rose from 2010 to 2018.

The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of industry per unit gross value added dropped from 2010 (232.7 t CO<sub>2</sub> per million EUR) to 2017 (197.2 t CO<sub>2</sub> per million EUR).

The Austrian investment in R&D amounted to 3.17% for 2018, a figure under the target of 3.76%. The share of employees in high-tech and medium-high-tech rose from 2010 to 2018 from 5.3% to 5.8%.

Target	National indicators (selected)	Trend
9.1	All-season roads	✓
	Transport performance by HGV	:
	Transport performance by rail	↑
	Passenger transport by rail	↑
	Energy consumption in transport	↓
	Greenhouse gas emissions in transport	↘
9.2	Share of employees in high-tech and medium-high-tech goods manufacturing	↑
9.4	CO <sub>2</sub> emissions of industry per unit gross added value	↑
9.5	Gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) as a percent of GDP (research intensity)	↘ TARGET

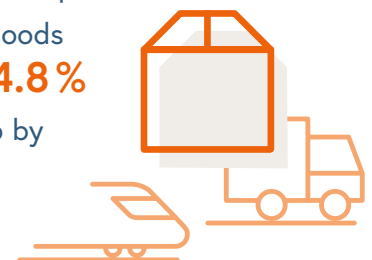
Source: Statistics Austria. 8-year trend 2010–2018 (if figures missing, at least 7-year trend) in 4 categories (↑↗↘↓) if there is a clear target (quantitative/normative); ✓ (part of the) indicator target achieved; : calculation of trend not possible. More information about methodological questions can be found in the National Indicator Report 2020.

### More traffic

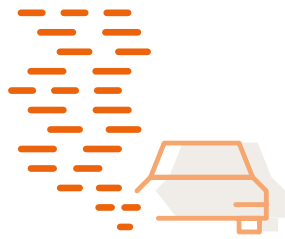
Mobility is a basic prerequisite for social interactions and economic activities. The general target that the rural population live **within 2 km of an all-season road** has been achieved in Austria.

Since 2015 (the year from which data was first available), transport performance by heavy goods vehicle traffic in tonne-kilometres has risen from 45.2 billion to 51.9 billion (in 2018), a marked increase of 14.8%. In that same period, **transport performance by rail** grew by 5.8% to reach 22.0 billion tonne-kilometres in 2018.

From 2015 to 2018, the transport performance by heavy goods vehicle traffic rose by **14.8%** while that by rail was up by **5.8%**.







Transport-related energy consumption (+ 8.6%) and greenhouse gas emissions (+ 7.9%) rose from 2010 to 2018.

**Final energy consumption attributable to traffic and transport** saw a major rise of +8.6% from 2010 to 2018. Final energy consumption covers the energy consumed in transport by railway, road, long-distance pipeline, waterway and air. **Greenhouse gas emissions** in transport also showed an increase during this period (+7.9%).

#### 'Zero Emission Mobility'

The Climate and Energy Fund has been promoting high quality infrastructure in the mobility sector since 2018 with its 'Zero Emission Mobility' programme, which is funded by the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology. The programme supports the goal of full electrification of vehicles and of developing and testing intelligent charging infrastructure as well as zero-emission logistics and mobility solutions. In Austria, eMobility has the potential of generating EUR 3.1 billion in added value and 33,900 jobs by 2030. The programme initiative therefore promotes not only health through lower emissions but also sustainable economic growth and employment.

#### Broadband Strategy 2030

In its Government Programme 2020–2024, the Austrian Federal Government has committed itself to the further development of the Broadband Strategy 2030 and the expansion of fibre-optic infrastructure. In doing so, it is making a significant contribution to quality, sustainable infrastructure as envisaged by the SDGs. The concrete goal for 2030 is to provide nationwide coverage with fixed-line and cellular gigabit connections. A dense fibre-optic network combined with universal mobile coverage will enable every citizen, every business and all public institutions to use the opportunities and technical possibilities of actively participating in digitalisation.

#### More added value and employment in high-tech and medium-high-tech manufacturing

Value added from **high-tech and medium-high-tech goods manufacturing** accounted for 8.5% of total value added in 2018, up from 7.9% in 2010. **Employment in the high-tech and medium-high-tech goods manufacturing sectors** as a proportion of total employment also rose from 5.3% in 2010 to 5.8% in 2018. New dynamism in technological development is bringing about digital transformation, which Austria is aggressively supporting with a full-coverage broadband infrastructure, among other things (see 'Broadband Strategy 2030').



The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of industry per unit gross added value dropped from 2010 (232.7 t CO<sub>2</sub> per million EUR) to 2017 (**197.2 t** CO<sub>2</sub> per million EUR).

### Lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by industry

One indicator for higher resource-efficiency is **CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by industry per unit of gross value added**. In 2010, Austria was still seeing 232.7 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted per million EUR gross value added. By 2017, this figure had fallen to 197.2 tonnes per million EUR. Austria is promoting pioneering advances in industry. An Upper Austrian initiative for sustainable industry and manufacturing is pushing the use of hydrogen in steel production, among other goals (see 'Sustainable industry and manufacturing').

### Increase investment in research and development (R&D)

One of the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy of the European Union is to increase combined public and private **investment in R&D** to 3% of GDP. The national target for Austria is to increase research intensity to 3.76% of GDP. In 2010, research intensity still stood at 2.73%. Since 2014, research intensity in Austria has been higher than the target of 3% by 2020 that the EU is striving to achieve. With a research intensity of 3.17% for 2018, Austria ranks second in this category within the EU-28 but still falls far short of its own national target of 3.76%.

#### Sustainable industry and manufacturing

With its #upperVISION2030 business and research strategy, the Federal State of Upper Austria is pursuing the goal of efficient and sustainable industry and manufacturing. The strategy includes internationally significant pilot projects to boost efficiency and sustainability in manufacturing. One key project involves the use of hydrogen in steel production. This initiative stands out for its mobilisation of stakeholders from industry and research and for its systemic approach. It also implements further goals of the 2030 Agenda, such as climate action, sustainable growth or clean and affordable energy.



The Austrian investment in R&D amounted to **3.17%** for 2018, still considerably below the national Europe 2020 target of 3.76%.



## Goal 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

Declines in income have had a greater effect on lower incomes than on higher ones. However, the income gap recently narrowed again.

The income gap between the richest 20% of households and the poorest 20% did not widen in Austria from 2010 to 2018. The incomes of the richest 20% of households in Austria were about four times higher in 2018 than those of the poorest households (EU-28: 1 to 5).

The risk of poverty (household income less than 60% of the median) dropped by 0.4% from 2010 to 2018.

The wage share rose from 66.7% (in 2010) to 68.5% (in 2018).

Target	National indicators (selected)	Trend
10.1	Trend for gross annual income adjusted for inflation, 1 <sup>st</sup> income quartile	↘
	S80 to S20 income quintile ratio Net annual household income	↗
10.2	Risk of poverty (50% of median)	↗
	Risk of poverty (60% of median)	↗
	Risk of poverty (70% of median)	:
10.4	Wage share	↗
10.5	Non-performing loans in relation to total gross loans	↑

Source: Statistics Austria. 8-year trend 2010–2018 (if figures missing, at least 7-year trend) in 4 categories (↑↗↘↓) if there is a clear target (quantitative/normative); ✓ (part of the) indicator target achieved; : calculation of trend not possible. More information about methodological questions can be found in the National Indicator Report 2020.

### Income gap is not widening

There has been a downward trend for the high and low gross annual incomes of the employed for the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> income quartile since 2010. The decline was much steeper for the lower incomes than for the upper ones, especially in the period 2013 to 2016. In recent years, the incomes in the 1<sup>st</sup> income quartile saw a greater relative rise than those in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quartile.

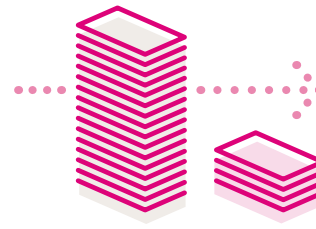
A comparison of the share in total income of the richest 20% of households (income above the 4<sup>th</sup> quintile) with that of the poorest 20% (1<sup>st</sup> quintile) of households (S80 to S20 income quintile ratio including cash social transfers, without transfers in kind) reveals that the income gap did not widen between 2010 and 2018. In 2018, the secondary incomes in the highest income quintile were four times as high as those in the lowest quintile. This value has remained virtually unchanged since the observation series began in 2010, when it stood at 4.3. In 2018 Austria was significantly below the EU-28 value of 5.17.

### Risk of poverty declining, wage share increasing

The **risk of poverty** (household incomes less than 60% of the median) declined in Austria by 0.4% from 2010 to 2018. The **wage share**, namely wages and salaries as a percentage of the gross domestic product, amounted to

68.5% in 2018 and to 66.7% in 2010. To reduce inequalities in the wage trends for men and women, Austria is taking a variety of measures.

To stabilise and monitor the financial sector, the International Monetary Fund developed the Financial Soundness Indicators. The Austrian National Bank has been compiling these indicators for Austria since 2011. One indicator pertains to **non-performing loans in relation to total gross loans**. The share of non-performing loans decreased from 2.7% in 2011 to 1.9% in 2018.



The income gap between the richest 20% of households and the poorest 20% did not widen in Austria from 2010 to 2018.

The incomes of the richest 20% of households in Austria were about **four times** higher in 2018 than those of the poorest households. In the EU, this ratio is 1 to 5.

### Expanded rights for the accused in administrative penal proceedings

In 2018, the Federal Ministry of Justice adopted an expansion of rights for the accused in administrative penal proceedings, thereby implementing the goal of reducing inequalities in access to law. The new regulation ensures understandable legal information and the translation of penal orders. Moreover, detained accused parties in need of protection can contact a standby counsel free of charge.

### 'Demenz.Aktivgemeinde'

To promote self-determination and inclusion, the Federal Ministry of the Interior has been providing expertise since the spring of 2019 in dealing with people who have dementia. 'Demenz.Aktivgemeinde' is a project to activate the community response to this disease. It provides digital learning programmes that enable various professional groups to deal competently in public with persons suffering from dementia. The programme is based, among other things, on experience gained in a project that has already been used for training 10,500 police officers. The initiative makes the principle of 'leaving no one' behind a reality in a special way while promoting health and well-being for people of all ages.



## Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

› Land consumption for buildings, traffic infrastructure and purposes of recreation and mining rose by 8.9% from 2010 to 2018.

› Per capita municipal waste generation increased slightly, from 562 kg (in 2010) to 579 kg (in 2018). The national collection rate is 100%.

› The Austrian population's exposure to particulate matter has declined in recent years but saw an increase in 2018.

Target	National indicators (selected)	Trend
11.1	Very substandard housing	↑
	High housing costs	↘
11.2	Access to public transport	⋮
11.3	Area consumption per inhabitant	↘
	Total area consumption	↓
	Agenda 21 processes – municipalities	⋮
11.4	Public expenditures on culture – Baukultur heritage	↘
11.5	Deaths attributed to disasters	↑
11.6	Total municipal waste	↘
	Collection rate for municipal waste	✓
	PM <sub>2.5</sub> exposure (population-weighted)	↑
	PM <sub>10</sub> exposure (population-weighted)	↑

Source: Statistics Austria. 8-year trend 2010–2018 (if figures missing, at least 7-year trend) in 4 categories (↑↗↘↓) if there is a clear target (quantitative/normative); ✓ (part of the) indicator target achieved; ⋮ calculation of trend not possible. More information about methodological questions can be found in the National Indicator Report 2020.

### Steady reduction in substandard housing

In 2018, 2.2% of the total Austrian population lived in very substandard housing (e.g. a flat with no bathroom or toilet). This percentage has fallen since 2010 (3.5%). **The housing cost overburden rate** is an indicator that measures the proportion of the population spending more than 40% of their household income on housing. This figure rose just slightly between 2010 (6.5%) and 2018 (6.8%), with an intermittent decline from 2017 (7.1%) to 2018 (6.8%). In addition, 464 municipalities took part in local Agenda 21 processes in 2018, nearly one quarter of all Austrian municipalities. Austria continues to support the SDGs for cities, towns and municipalities with additional successful initiatives, which in turn promote other SDGs.



Land consumption for buildings, traffic infrastructure and purposes of recreation and mining rose by **8.9%** from 2010 to 2018.

### Access to public transport

Data from 2012 shows that nearly 80% of the population has convenient or highly convenient access to **public transport**. Mikrozensus Umwelt, a microcensus for 2015 on environmental conditions, revealed that in densely populated areas 37.1% of those asked said they use public transport daily (19.3%, multiple times a week), whereas in sparsely populated areas, only 6.1% said they did (4.8%, multiple times a week). Eco-friendly public mobility goes hand in hand with sustainable human settlement development. Austria offers fresh impetus to these efforts with a programme called Climate Change Adaptation Model Regions (see 'Climate Change Adaptation Model Regions in Carinthia').

### Land use, surface sealing and land consumption

The land in use has risen since 2010 by 8.9% or 464 km<sup>2</sup>. In 2018, 5,681 km<sup>2</sup> of the Austrian federal territory were used for buildings, traffic infrastructure and other purposes. This represents 18.2% of the area of permanent human settlement, which comprises land usable for agriculture, human settlement and traffic infrastructure. In 2018, the percentage of sealed land in areas used for human settlement and traffic infrastructure in Austria was 41.2%. The Austrian population grew in that same period by 5.7%. Consequently, **land consumption per capita** rose somewhat more slowly, increasing by 3% from 2010 to 2018.

**Per capita municipal waste** grew from 562 kg (in 2010) to 579 kg (in 2018), a rise of 3%. The **collection rate for municipal waste** in Austria is 100%.

#### Climate Change Adaptation Model Regions in Carinthia

To achieve sustainable cities, towns and municipalities, the Federal State of Carinthia has been teaming up with partner institutions since 2018 to implement the Climate Change Adaptation Model Regions Programme (KLAR!). Seven Carinthian regions with nearly 140,000 inhabitants are already involved. This funding programme of the Climate and Energy Fund enables cities, towns and municipalities to join with relevant stakeholders to rise to the challenges of climate change, seize opportunities and reduce damage in a timely way. Adaptation concepts pertain to issues such as zoning, water supply, municipal streets or aid and emergency services. The adaptation measures promote the health and well-being of the population and climate action goals, which are factors also linked to sustainable human settlements.

#### 'Geschirrmobil' for hire

Regionalverband Salzburger Seenland is a regional association for the Salzburg Lake District. To promote waste avoidance in the region, it purchased a 'Geschirrmobil' – a walk-in car trailer containing dishwasher equipment and a full set of tableware – to rent out to clubs and party or festival organisers. This service contributes in a very practical manner to the SDG on sustainable human settlements. The trailer is rented out to event organisers in the region. This approach eliminates the use of disposable tableware, thereby conserving resources and protecting the climate.



Per capita municipal waste generation increased slightly, from 562 kg (in 2010) to 579 kg (in 2018). The national collection rate is **100%**.

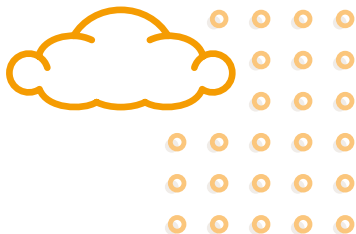
Regarding the population's exposure to fine particulate matter, a distinction is made by particle size between  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_{10}$ . The indicator for population-weighted **exposure to  $PM_{2.5}$**  in Austria saw a considerable decline from 2010 to 2018, falling from  $16.8 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  to  $13.1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . However, the population-weighted exposure to  $PM_{2.5}$  in 2018 of  $13.1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  was higher than the 2017 figure of  $11.4 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . The differences in meteorological conditions are major determinants of the annual changes. The  **$PM_{10}$  exposure** also exhibits a clearly declining trend, having dropped from  $22.1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  in 2010 to  $17.7 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  in 2018.

### Safeguarding the Baukultur heritage

One target is to strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage. Baukultur is an approach to the built environment that aims to preserve and develop quality, sustainable and culturally relevant buildings and cities. **Public expenditure on the Baukultur heritage** amounted to EUR 207 million in 2010 and EUR 199 million in 2017. Austria champions Baukultur to enhance the quality of life and promote sustainable cities and human settlements, also with an eye to keeping town and city centres vibrant and alive (see '*Baukultur improves the quality of life*').

### Baukultur improves the quality of life

From 2017 to 2019, the Federal Chancellery did much to promote sustainable cities, towns and municipalities by prioritising the task of strengthening town and city centres. It is a key issue with respect to sustainable spatial development and to the provision of fundamental public services. To this end, concrete implementation recommendations were drawn up for the Federal Government, for Federal States and for cities, towns and municipalities. The initiative became all the more effective thanks to its broad stakeholder base and its educational character.



The Austrian population's exposure to particulate matter has declined in recent years but saw an **increase** in 2018.

## 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



### Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

› The output of environmental goods and services grew considerably between 2010 and 2017, increasing from EUR 32 billion in 2010 to EUR 36 billion.

› The number of companies with an Ecolabel licence in 2018 was more than double the figure for 2010.

› Austria's domestic material consumption increased by around 4.2% between 2010 and 2018. The country's per capita raw material consumption is considerably higher than the EU average.

› Hazardous waste generation declined by 18.2% between 2010 and 2016.

› The recycling rate of waste excluding major mineral wastes was 66% in 2017 (EU-28: 57% for 2016).

Target	National indicators (selected)	Trend
12.1	Total green turnover from EGSS	↑
12.2	Total raw material consumption	:
	Total domestic material consumption	↘
	Domestic material consumption per capita	↗
12.4	Hazardous waste generation	:
12.5	Recycling rate of waste excluding major mineral waste	↑
12.6	EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) registered organisations and sites	↗
	Companies with an Ecolabel licence	↑
	Products and services with an Ecolabel licence	↑

Source: Statistics Austria. 8-year trend 2010–2018 (if figures missing, at least 7-year trend) in 4 categories (↑↗↘↓) if there is a clear target (quantitative/normative); ✓ (part of the) indicator target achieved; : calculation of trend not possible. More information about methodological questions can be found in the National Indicator Report 2020.

#### More sales of environmental products

**Green output** from the environmental goods and services sector increased significantly from EUR 32 billion in 2010 to EUR 36 billion in 2017. As a tourist destination, Austria is promoting sustainable tourism services with its own masterplan.

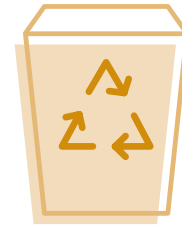
#### High material consumption

Austria's **domestic material consumption** (biomass, metallic ores, non-metallic minerals and fossil fuels) grew by 4.2% between 2010 and 2018 (provisional estimate from Eurostat). With an increase of 2.2% in 2018, Austria's **domestic material consumption per capita** stood at around 19 tonnes according to national data (Eurostat reports 20 tonnes per capita based on a different calculation) and was therefore considerably higher than the EU-28 average of 13.8 tonnes per capita. The performance indicator for **raw material consumption** also takes into account the effects of the growing trend for heavily industrialised countries like Austria to outsource material-intensive production processes to other countries. In 2015, Austria's **raw material consumption per capita** stood at 24 tonnes (EU-28: 14.2 tonnes).



### 'Bewusst kaufen' – Austria's responsible shopping initiative

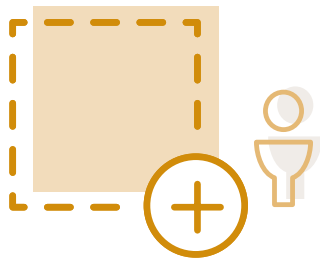
The Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology is making significant contributions to implementing the UN goal of ensuring responsible consumption and production with its responsible shopping initiative, 'Bewusst kaufen' ([www.bewusst-kaufen.at](http://www.bewusst-kaufen.at)). Supported by a broad variety of stakeholders, the platform provides detailed information on conscious, responsible consumption. The Label-Kompass online database is the centrepiece of the initiative and describes over 250 quality labels used in the Austrian retail sector. The availability of local fruit and vegetables is shown in a seasonal calendar. The initiative promotes sustainable consumption patterns in the food and non-food sectors and is contributing considerably towards an education for sustainable development, responsible economic growth and climate action.



The recycling rate of waste excluding major mineral waste-extraction material was **66%** in 2017 (EU-28: 57% for 2016).

### High recycling rate

Austria reduced its **hazardous waste generation** by 18.2% from 2010 (176 kg per capita) to 2016 (144 kg per capita). The current collection rate for municipal waste is 100%. The **recycling rate of waste** excluding excavation material was 66% in 2017, considerably higher than in 2010 (60%). Austria is also successfully focussing on preventing waste from products such as single-use plastic goods (see 'The way out of the throwaway society').



Domestic material consumption increased by around **4.2%** between 2010 and 2018. Austria's per capita raw material consumption is considerably higher than the European average.

### The way out of the throwaway society

The Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology has been promoting the prevention of disposable plastics since 2016 in a bid to intensify efforts to combat wasteful consumption. Thanks to the 'Pfiat di Sackerl' (Bye Plastic Bags) initiative, plastic carrier bag consumption declined by around 28% in just a few years. With a few exceptions, plastic carrier bags have been banned since January 2020. Other measures are currently being devised as part of a multi-stakeholder process to reduce the consumption of single-use plastic. These activities are of direct relevance to climate action and are helping to reduce water pollution.

## More companies and products with an Ecolabel licence

The number of **companies with an Ecolabel licence** in Austria more than doubled between 2010 (479 companies) and 2018 (1,042 companies). The number of **products and services with an Ecolabel licence** more than tripled over the same period, increasing from 1,293 in 2010 to 4,393 in 2018. Austria is raising awareness of sustainable consumption in schools with a raft of initiatives geared towards young people and their realities (see 'Conscious Consumers Laboratory').



Hazardous waste generation fell by **18.2%** between 2010 and 2016.

### Conscious Consumers Laboratory

The Austrian Museum for Social and Economic Affairs is implementing the SDG of promoting sustainable consumption patterns in a future-oriented way in its permanent interactive exhibition 'Conscious Consumers Laboratory – CoCoLab'. From September 2018 to June 2019 alone, more than 8,000 young people visiting the CoCoLab were given the opportunity to reflect on their own consumer behaviour, getting to grips with data protection and fair production, food and energy consumption at the interactive stations for collaborative research, experiments, role plays, debates and voting. The CoCoLab exhibition is making a valuable contribution towards ensuring education for sustainability.

### The 'Mein Essen – meine Zukunft' (my food – my future) programme

'Mein Essen – Meine Zukunft' is a wide and varied programme that teaches pupils about sustainable nutrition and conscious food choices. Specially trained instructors with a background in farming pass on their knowledge in varied workshops combining theory with practice, where seasonal produce is turned into nourishing dishes. The programme makes a valuable contribution to the goal of promoting sustainable consumption patterns. This multi-stakeholder climate action project promotes the closely related goals of food security, health and an education for sustainability in a hands-on approach.



## Goal 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

› Austria has in place a strategy for adaptation to climate change and a national crisis and disaster management system.

› National greenhouse gas emissions declined from 84.7 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (2010) to 79.0 million tonnes (2018).

› Emissions from non-ETS sectors were above the national target of 48.9 million tonnes in 2018.

› Per capita emissions in Austria were around 8% higher than the EU-28 average in 2017.



Target	National indicators (selected)	Trend
13.1	Deaths attributed to natural disasters per 100,000 population	↑
	Heat-related excess mortality	:
	National crisis and disaster management	✓
	Soldiers deployed for disaster relief operations in Austria	:
13.2	Austrian strategy for adaptation to climate change	✓
	Greenhouse gas emissions	↗
	Non-ETS greenhouse gas emissions (= effort sharing)	↘ TARGET

Source: Statistics Austria. 8-year trend 2010–2018 (if figures missing, at least 7-year trend) in 4 categories (↑↗↘↓) if there is a clear target (quantitative/normative); ✓ (part of the) indicator target achieved; : calculation of trend not possible. More information about methodological questions can be found in the National Indicator Report 2020.

### Greater cost transparency for climate-related risks

Since 2019, the Federal Ministry of Finance has been taking important steps towards implementing the 2030 Agenda objective of integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning with cost transparency for climate risks. The foundations for this action were laid by the Regulatory Impact Assessment, which was initiated in 2013 and has since allowed experts to assess how greenhouse gas emissions will change due to the effects of new regulatory initiatives. Plans to distinguish between emissions by sector in the future would enable more accurate connections to be made between impacts in the field of environment and climate and the resulting expenses for public households, allowing climate risks to be assessed from different perspectives in the medium term. The planned improvement proposed in the impact assessment would be of major systemic importance.

### **‘Bioland Burgenland’ (a programme for smart growth based on organic farming practices)**

The state government of Burgenland has been promoting responsible production and consumption patterns since 2019 with its 12-step programme ‘Bioland Burgenland – 12 Punkte für ein kluges Wachstum mit Bio’. By supporting the move towards organic farming in this targeted manner, the government aims to increase Burgenland’s organic quota from the current 31% to 50% by 2027. To create new economic prospects for farmers, there are plans to significantly increase the proportion of organic food in public kitchens, as well as in nurseries and state schools. The wide-reaching, systemic approach of the programme is also evident from its commitment to the goals of public health and well-being, clean water and climate action measures.



Emissions from non-ETS sectors were above the national target of **48.9 million tonnes** in 2018.

### **Strategy for adaptation to climate change**

Austria devised a strategic climate change policy already in 2012, before overhauling and updating this concept in 2016. The **strategy for adaptation to climate change** is accompanied by an comprehensive action plan for putting specific recommendations into practice (see *the chapter on climate action in this review*). An important area of activity is the mobility sector, where Austria has been successfully investing in expanding the rail infrastructure (see *‘Investing in expanding the rail network’*). The Federal States are also active in this area; Tyrol, for example, has launched its own sustainable mobility campaign (see *‘Campaign for sustainable mobility in Tyrol’*).

### **Heat-related deaths**

The Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety is using a heat mortality monitoring system to ascertain whether the number of deaths noted in Austria is above the statistically anticipated level. Extreme temperatures combined with high humidity levels pose significant risks to human health. According to the relevant data, Austria experienced an **above-average rate of heat-related mortality** in 2018, when the death toll from heatwaves stood at 766. The peak of the 2013–2018 observation period was during 2015, when there were an estimated 1,122 deaths.

### **Crisis and disaster management**

Austria has established a **national crisis and disaster management system** to strengthen its resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters. Austria deployed 17,971 **soldiers for disaster relief operations** in the country in 2018.

### **‘Raumbild Vorarlberg 2030’**

#### **(Vorarlberg regional development action plan)**

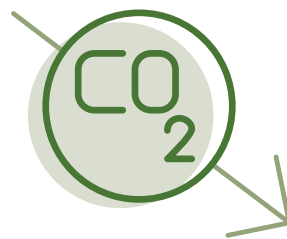
The Federal State of Vorarlberg is working towards the goal of taking swift, coordinated climate action measures with its regional development action plan ‘Raumbild Vorarlberg 2030’. This all-encompassing strategic mission statement for the holistic development of the living environment is closely aligned with the 2030 Agenda. As the binding operational framework for spatial development, the action plan focuses on preserving the region’s open spaces and landscape, as well as promoting the coordinated development of human settlements and mobility. The aim is to make Vorarlberg an innovative economic region with a high level of social and ecological responsibility. Action plans help to improve regional cooperation by involving various stakeholders in implementation partnerships, fostering a sustainable infrastructure and human settlements while protecting the terrestrial ecosystems.

### Soil and climate protection

The Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety plays an important role in promoting food security in soil and climate protection projects. The purpose of the 'BEAT – Bodenbedarf für die Ernährungssicherung in Österreich' project is to assess the soil requirements for food security in Austria, looking at the impacts of climate change and soil consumption on the level of productivity and self-sufficiency from locally farmed foods. Austria's most valuable and resilient agricultural land has been mapped for the first time, using a concept based on soil quality to provide an important tool for land use planning. As part of the 'Teabag Index' project (a Citizen Science Award-winning initiative), amateur scientists used teabags and a smartphone app to collect data about the decay rate of organic materials in various Austrian soils. This data about soil activity helps experts to assess the condition of soils all over the world.

### 'Klimareporter.in' (climate reporter initiative)

Austria has been inviting young adults to participate in UN climate conference negotiations as 'climate reporters' since 2013. These climate reporters share content, background information and details of climate negotiations and climate action measures with young target groups in videos, online posts and editorial texts. As well as encouraging young people to get involved in climate action, this initiative of the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology also promotes important SDGs such as taking swift climate action measures, ensuring sustainable consumption patterns, and protecting terrestrial ecosystems.



National greenhouse gas emissions declined from 84.7 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (2010) to **79.0 million tonnes** (2018).

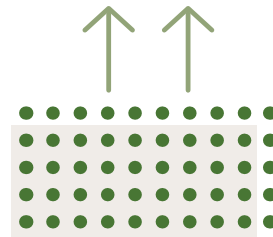
### Development of greenhouse gas emissions

**Greenhouse gas emissions** decreased slightly between 2010 and 2014 before increasing by 3.3% from 2016 to 2017. The main reasons for this included the sharp increase in sales of transport fuel and the increased use of fossil fuels in industrial and energy companies (Environment Agency Austria 2019). According to the latest figures, Austria's greenhouse gas emissions amounted to around 79 million tonnes in 2018. This equates to a fall of 3.8% or 3.1 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent as compared to 2017. One reason for that was mild weather. At 9.4 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per resident, Austria's greenhouse gas emissions were slightly higher than the EU-28 average of 8.8 tonnes per capita.

### Campaign for sustainable mobility in Tyrol

The Tyrolean government has been taking effective action to combat climate change and its impacts since 2017. As part of its sustainable mobility campaign, the government incentivised the use of public transport – for instance, in terms of pricing. With discounts of up to 75% available on new annual travel passes, the number of regular customers has increased by over 60%. A fifth of all Tyroleans now have an annual ticket. The campaign is reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the transport sectors, while also helping to promote the health and well-being of citizens and to ensure sustainable municipalities.

The Europe 2020 strategy set out a target for the EU-28 to reduce emissions by 20% compared to 1990. By 2020, Austria aims to achieve a reduction of 16% in non-ETS sectors (transport, domestic heating, agriculture, parts of industry). Greenhouse gas emissions in these sectors fell from 51.9 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in 2010 to 50.5 tonnes in 2018. This was 1.6 million tonnes higher than the national target (according to the Climate Change Act) of 48.9 million tonnes for 2018.



Per capita emissions in Austria were around **8%** higher than the EU-28 average in 2017.

### Investing in the rail network expansion

The Federal Government effectively contributes to swift climate action through the continuous expansion of Austria's rail network. Intensive investment in the rail infrastructure has brought about a considerable increase in passenger transport services on railways in recent years. Austrians are the most frequent users of rail services compared to other EU states. Investments in the country's rail network have a wide-reaching impact on the upgrading of the transport system as a whole, helping to achieve the goal of sustainable cities and communities.



## Goal 14

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

› Even landlocked countries like Austria have an influence on oceans and seas through the use of marine resources and pollutant inputs via rivers.

› Austria is in the process of implementing an ambitious set of measures to phase out microplastics in products.

› At present, there is no national data available on this SDG. International reviews do not currently account for this issue in landlocked countries.

Target	National indicators (selected)	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 ecosystem-based approaches	Not applicable to Austria
14.3	Ocean acidification	Not applicable to Austria
14.4	Fish stocks within 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 fishing practices	Inter-regional development assistance

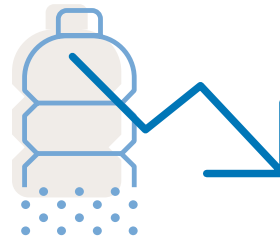
Source: Statistics Austria. 8-year trend 2010–2018 (if figures missing, at least 7-year trend) in 4 categories (↑↗↘↓) if there is a clear target (quantitative/normative); ✓ (part of the) indicator target achieved; : calculation of trend not possible. More information about methodological questions can be found in the National Indicator Report 2020.

### Focus on marine protection

SDG 14 'Life below water' concerns the oceans, seas and marine resources. The indicators are geared specifically towards life below seawater, not life in inland lakes or rivers. Accordingly, the emphasis when monitoring SDG 14 in the EU context is on tracking the progress in marine protection and sustainable fishing practices as well as on ensuring healthy and productive oceans. The various international studies on the 2030 Agenda do not take into account the influences of landlocked countries on oceans and seas. Accordingly, **no indicators** for goal 14 are being monitored at present.

## Shared responsibility of landlocked countries

Austria is a landlocked country with no direct access to oceans and seas; however, it does use marine resources, for instance through the consumption of fishery products. In addition, due to 96% of Austria's territory being connected to the drainage basin of the Danube river and 4% being connected to that of the Rhine and the Elbe, Austria is directly linked to the Black Sea and the North Sea respectively. With pollutants such as microplastics and nutrients like nitrogen entering the marine ecosystems via river systems, every landlocked country shares the responsibility for ensuring sustainable consumption patterns. Austria is meeting this responsibility in various ways, for example with its ambitious plan to phase out microplastics in products (see '*Phasing out microplastics in products*').



Austria is in the process of implementing an ambitious package of measures to **phase out** microplastics in products.

### Phasing out microplastics in products

Since 2018, the Federal Government has been committed to the goals of sustainable consumption and production patterns and protecting water bodies and seas, introducing an ambitious package of measures to reduce plastic waste by 2025. These measures include plans for a nationwide ban on microplastic particles in cosmetics and cleaning products from 2020 onwards – unless a better European solution has been found by that time. The Austrian Ecolabel already sets out stricter requirements than the EU Ecolabel, including a ban on the use of microplastic particles.





## 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

› Forest area as a proportion of total land mass in Austria increased slightly from 46.8% (2010) to 47.2% (2018).

› In 2018, around 22.6% of Austria's woodlands were located in protected areas. This share has increased considerably since 2010 (18.8%).

› In 2019, Austria implemented the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization.

Target	National indicators (selected)	Trend
15.1	Forest area as a proportion of total land area	↗
15.2	Total amount of above-ground biomass in forest	↗
	Woodland in protected areas	↑
	Proportion of forest area with a long-term management plan	↗
	Certified forest area	↑
15.6	Nagoya Protocol – access to genetic resources and equitable sharing of benefits	✓

Source: Statistics Austria. 8-year trend 2010–2018 (if figures missing, at least 7-year trend) in 4 categories (↑↗↘↓) if there is a clear target (quantitative/normative); ✓ (part of the) indicator target achieved; : calculation of trend not possible. More information about methodological questions can be found in the National Indicator Report 2020.

### Master plan for sustainable tourism

'Plan T – Master Plan for Tourism', an initiative of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism, serves as the basis for the Federal Government's tourism policy and provides guidelines for the sustainable further development of tourism in Austria. For the first time, this plan focuses on sustainability as the basic principle for future tourism policies. Tourism is used in a targeted way to drive the energy revolution, for instance by promoting renewable energy communities and through action in the mobility sector. The implementation measures are firmly rooted in an annual action plan.

Forest area as a proportion of total land mass in Austria increased slightly from 46.8% (2010) to **47.2%** (2018).



## Austria is a country rich in forests

The future is bright for forests in Austria: The **share of forest cover** increased slightly from 2010, from 46.8% to 47.2% (2018) of the total land area.

The positive impacts of sustainable forest management are evident in several respects: For instance, the **annual forest area net change rate** has increased by almost 0.1% per year since 2010. The total amount of **above-ground biomass** (wood, bark, branches, twigs, needles, leaves) in forests increased from 164.5 tonnes per hectare in 2010 to 170.7 tonnes per hectare in 2018.

## More woodland in protected areas

Around 22.6% of Austria's woodland was located in **protected areas** in 2018, compared to 18.8% in 2010. Forests in protected areas are classified as land categories I–IV according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The protection of biodiversity and threatened species is an important issue for Austria, and one that is being pursued in a raft of measures (see '*Biodiversity initiative*'). Austria is also working to protect and restore ecosystems by means of sustainable river basin development (see '*Sustainable river basin development*').



In 2018, around **22.6%** of Austria's woodlands were in protected areas. This share is considerably higher than in 2010 (18.8%).

## Forest management and certification

The percentage of woodlands cultivated with a forest management plan increased by 0.3 percentage points between 2010 and 2018 (from 49.8% to 50.1%). Austria was home to around 3,126,000 hectares of **certified forest area** in 2018, up 59% from 2010.

## Nagoya Protocol implementation

Austria laid the legal foundations for the **implementation of the Nagoya Protocol** and the relevant EU regulation in 2019. The aim of the Nagoya Protocol is the access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization.

### Integrated River Solutions in Austria

The Integrated River Solutions in Austria initiative is making an important contribution towards the objective of protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems. River engineering work is being carried out along six Austrian rivers, covering a combined distance of almost 600 km. The impact of these ecological, flood defence and climate change adaptation measures is being documented as part of an extensive monitoring programme. Organised by the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism, the project also supports the SDGs addressing sustainable water management and communities.

### Biodiversity initiative

The Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology is committed to halting the loss of biodiversity and protecting and preventing the extinction of threatened species, targeting these SDGs in its '*vielfaltleben*' (living diversity) initiative. The Ministry is working with partners to roll out various projects, establish a biodiversity municipality network and implement a range of awareness-raising measures. By doing so, it is awakening an interest among young target groups and firmly rooting the subject of biodiversity in the economy. It is also raising awareness of biodiversity and health as well as enlightening citizens about the diversity of insect life. Over 50 conservation projects have been carried out since 2009, helping to improve the habitats of more than 500 endangered plant and animal species.



## Ziel 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 remains at a constantly low level in Austria (2018: 0.6 in 100,000 people).

› In 2012, 5% of women aged between 15 and 74 said they had experienced sexual and/or physical violence in the previous 12 months.

› In 2018, 9.7% of the population said they were experiencing problems due to crime, violence or vandalism in their neighbourhood. In 2010 the figure was 13.4% (EU-28: 11.9%).

› Austrian soldiers were deployed in UN peacekeeping missions to an above average extent in 2018.

Target	National indicators (selected)	Trend
16.1	Deaths attributed to intentional homicide / aggravated assault per 100,000 population	⋮
	Conflict-related deaths	✓
	Physical and sexual violence against women	⋮
	Perceived problems with neighbourhood crime, vandalism or violence	↑
16.5	TARGET: Reduce corruption and eliminate bribery of public officials	✓
16.6	Trust in the political system	⋮
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	⋮

Source: Statistics Austria. 8-year trend 2010–2018 (if figures missing, at least 7-year trend) in 4 categories (↑↗↘↓) if there is a clear target (quantitative/normative); ✓ (part of the) indicator target achieved; ⋮ calculation of trend not possible. More information about methodological questions can be found in the National Indicator Report 2020.

### 'GovLabAustria': innovation laboratory for the public sector

'GovLabAustria' targets challenges relating to the public sector, devising cross-organisational approaches while integrating relevant stakeholders in an open and interdisciplinary experimental space. An intersectoral panel was set up as a sounding board to facilitate innovative, effective work on projects and initiatives by representatives from public administration, civil society, the economy and the scientific community. 'GovLabAustria' also acts as an international hub, facilitating networking between innovation labs and initiatives in the field of governance to promote knowledge transfer, collaborative learning and cross-border collaboration.



The risk of death due to intentional homicide, manslaughter or physical assault remains at a constantly low level in Austria (2018: **0.6** in 100,000 people).

## Achievements

Austria has achieved and widely implemented several SDG targets. In particular, it has succeeded in **officially registering all births** and **guaranteeing public access to information**.

## Deaths and violence in total and against women

The risk of death due to intentional homicide, manslaughter or physical assault has remained at a constantly low level in Austria since 2010. On average, 0.6 in 100,000 people were affected by this issue in 2010 and in 2018. According to the European Fundamental Rights Agency, 5% of **women** aged between 15 and 74 said they had experienced **physical and sexual violence** in the previous 12 months in 2012. The EU average was 8% of women surveyed.

## Decline in feelings of insecurity

In 2018, 9.7% of the population said they were experiencing **problems due to crime, violence or vandalism** in their neighbourhood. In 2010 this figure was 13.4%. Compared to the figures for the perceived physical threat in the EU as a whole, the statistics show that Austrian people feel slightly safer in their neighbourhoods (EU-28 for 2018: 11.9%).

## Combatting corruption

It is safe to say that Austria has largely achieved its target for **reducing corruption and bribery** in the private sphere (measured at UN level as the number of people who report experiences of bribery with the authorities). As part of efforts to increase awareness of corruption and integrity throughout Austria, the Federal Bureau of

Anti-Corruption has been developing and funding a wide range of training courses and events aimed at drawing the attention of school students to these issues.

## Trust in the political system

**Trust in the political system** was the focus of an EU-SILC survey in 2013. When asked to rate their trust in the political system on an 11-point scale ranging from 0 (no trust at all) to 10 (complete trust), 21% of respondents in 2013 (last available year) chose values at the higher end of the spectrum (7–10) whereas 44% chose low values (0–4) and 12% said they had zero trust in the political system. The mean average in Austria was 4.4, compared with the EU-28 average of just 3.5.

### 'Austrian Network of Integrity Officers'

The 'Austrian Network of Integrity Officers' project was launched by the Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption and is taking concrete steps to implement the SDGs, reduce corruption and ensure transparent institutions based on the National Anti-Corruption Strategy. The network consists of 151 integrity officers from around 70 public sector organisations, all of whom have been trained for the role in seven basic training courses. Two professional workshops are also held annually, as well as an annual conference on knowledge transfer. The multi-stakeholder approach aids broad-based implementation. The first Integrity Award for innovative pro-integrity projects was awarded in 2018.

### **‘Erwachsenenschutz Neu’ (new adult protection programme)**

With its new adult protection programme, Austria’s justice department is making an important contribution towards the goal of safeguarding autonomy, self-determination and freedom of choice for people suffering from mental illness or similar disorders. Austria’s Second Protection of Adults Act promotes the principle of ‘support before legal representation’ and widens the options for representation. Self-determination has also been strengthened considerably in the fields of personal and family law, where there are particularly sensitive decisions to be made (e.g. regarding medical treatment and marriage). In the interests of encouraging a participatory approach, all the groups affected by the legislation were intensively involved in the process of drafting the law over more than two years.

### **International contributions**

Austria is playing an important role in supporting developing countries to increase their capacity to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime: In 2018, the **Austrian Armed Forces** accounted for an average of 0.88% of all soldiers deployed by the UN, the EU and NATO as part of UN-mandated peacekeeping missions. This figure is higher than Austria’s share of the global population, which stands at 0.12%. Austria’s command of the European Union Training Mission in Mali is just one example in this regard.

The Federal Ministry of Defence also increased its spending commitments for **capacity-building for development assistance** by more than half from 2015.



In 2018, **9.7%** of the population said they were experiencing problems due to crime, violence or vandalism in their neighbourhood. In 2010, the figure was 13.4% (EU-28: 11.9%).

### **Austria’s command of the European Union Training Mission in Mali**

The Austrian Armed Forces have made an important contribution towards the goal of peace, justice and strong institutions with their command of the European Union Training Mission in Mali, where they fostered the creation of responsible and trustworthy armed forces. In keeping with the Austrian tradition of promoting human rights, the 50-strong contingent focused on training in the areas of international humanitarian law, human rights, women’s rights, peace and security. The deployment of the Austrian Armed Forces also contributes to gender equality and to the goal of global partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs. It took place in the context of a nationwide approach in cooperation with the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs and the Austrian Development Cooperation.



## Goal 17

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

› Official development assistance (ODA) spending (expressed as a percentage of the gross national income) fell from 0.32% (2010) to 0.26% (2018).

› In 2018, the percentage of people who used the Internet in the previous three months stood at 87.5% (2010: 74.2%).

› The number of broadband connections in Austria also increased.

Target	National indicators (selected)	Trend
17.2	Official development assistance as a percentage of gross national income	↓
	Official development assistance to least developed countries	↓
17.6	International agreements on science and /or technology cooperation	↑
	Total number of broadband connections	:
17.8	Number of individuals (aged 16–74) using the Internet in the last 3 months	↑
17.13	TARGET: Macroeconomic stability	✓
17.18	TARGET: Quality statistics	✓
17.19	TARGET: Measurement of sustainable development	✓

Source: Statistics Austria. 8-year trend 2010–2018 (if figures missing, at least 7-year trend) in 4 categories (↑↗↘↓) if there is a clear target (quantitative/normative); ✓ (part of the) indicator target achieved; : calculation of trend not possible. More information about methodological questions can be found in the National Indicator Report 2020.

### Official development assistance resources

The UN targets for development assistance are to allocate 0.7% of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA / GNI) and between 0.15–0.2% of (ODA / GNI) to least developed countries. According to data from the Austrian Development Agency, 0.26% of Austrian GNI was allocated to **official development assistance** in 2018. In 2010 this figure was 0.32%.

The highest percentage of spending was in 2016 (0.42%), partly due to expenditure for refugee support in the country. Austria's proportional expenditure is lower than the EU-28 average (2018: 0.48% of GNI).

Contributions to **ODA for least developed countries** declined from 0.06% of GNI to 0.02% in 2018.

### More cooperation

By contrast, the number of **agreements for scientific and technological cooperation** has increased considerably in recent years: there were 15 of these agreements in 2010, and 19 agreements have been signed since 2017. Austria supports developing countries in a raft of cooperative projects aimed at improving the economic potential of these countries. In Burkina Faso, for example, Austria is



In 2018, the percentage of people who used the Internet in the previous three months stood at **87.5%** (2010: 74.2%).

helping to improve the educational and career prospects of women and young people (see *“TUUMA: Greater economic and employment opportunities”*).

Partnerships are also committed to improving state capacities such as expert training for guard dogs (see *‘Dog training in Ghana’*).

### Internet and broadband

Since 2010, the proportion of people in Austria who have **used the Internet in the previous three months** increased considerably from 74.2% to 87.5%. There was also a rise in the total number of broadband connections, from 25.3 per 100 residents in 2012 to 27.7 in 2018. The percentage of households with a broadband connection was 88% in 2018.

### Dog training in Ghana

Since September 2018, the Austrian Armed Forces have been supporting the goal of promoting partnerships with developing countries as part of a special project, assisting the Ghanaian armed forces with the training of dog handlers for the military, police force and border control. Once trained, these guard dogs are used in the fight against human trafficking and the smuggling of illegal goods such as drugs. Inclusive training for male and female dog handlers is also helping to strengthen women in the armed forces. The training programme places importance on equal opportunities for women and men. It also promotes compliance with human rights in dealings with the civil population, thus increasing trust in the state institutions.

### Statistics and registration

Austria uses the **macroeconomic imbalance procedure** scoreboard introduced by the EU in 2011 to detect potentially harmful imbalances and loss of competition at an early stage. Austria has a **legal framework** in place for **official statistics** and conducts a **population census** every 10 years. Austria has also achieved a **100% birth and death registration rate**.

### **‘TUUMA’: Greater economic and employment opportunities**

Since 2018, the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs has been committed to the goal of achieving decent work as part of the ‘TUUMA’ project in Burkina Faso. In line with the principle of ‘leaving no one behind’, the project aims to improve the economic prospects of women and young people in rural regions by investing in the production, processing and marketing of local products. It aims to create 13,000 new jobs and 5,500 initiatives to generate income, with further training opportunities to benefit 4,500 young people and women. Education and work opportunities also promote the goal of improving nutrition and preventing hunger. Direct financial support has already been provided in the form of 69 grants for carefully selected local organisations, initiatives and municipalities.

# Next Steps

Although the end of the COVID-19 pandemic is not yet in sight, this crisis will leave its mark on our societies and our economy. That much is certain. We are currently confronted with changes in our way of life and will continue having to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath in the future. What final lessons we might learn from this experience is still largely unpredictable. One thing is clear, however: Its impacts must also be considered in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

## Outlook for governance

By the decision of the Council of Ministers, Austria has since January 2016 been committed to a targeted implementation of the 2030 Agenda by all Federal Ministries in their areas of competence. The task of integrating the SDGs into all activities of Austrian policy-making and public administration in an efficient, targeted and autonomous way must therefore be carried out at all levels. This first Austrian Voluntary National Review of the Implementation of the SDGs is a stocktaking and also a point of reflection to spur further activities on all levels. The compilation of this review has initiated greater cooperation between all levels of government and the relevant stakeholders, which should be further expanded. The object is two-fold: to forge even stronger networks and to make more extensive use of the newly created knowledge base on progress in the implementation of the SDGs in Austria.

The structural and procedural measures below should improve Austria's coherent implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the future:

- In line with the Government Programme 2020–2024, the implementation measures are coordinated and prioritised at the federal level within the framework of the existing Inter-Ministerial Working Group on the 2030 Agenda. A steering group will be put in place to strengthen these efforts and will draw on experiences gained thus far.
- The broad multi-stakeholder process improved networking among actors and enabled them to learn from each other. As such, it was instrumental in compiling this review. The process also initiated a strengthening of the interfaces with the Federal States, the cities, towns and municipalities, the social partners, business, the scientific community and civil society. These efforts should be intensified. To this end, the working group should systematically supplement the SDG Focal Points of the Federal States and representatives of the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns, the Austrian Association of Municipalities, the social partners, the scientific community, business and civil society.



- The working group should also discuss the analyses of Austria's implementation of the 2030 Agenda conducted inter alia by the Alliance of Sustainable Universities in Austria (as part of the UniNEtZ – Universities and Sustainable Development Goals project). In addition, consideration should be given to creating a scientific advisory board or some other type of structured dialogue with the scientific community.
- The public should be provided with more information on specific issues concerning Austria's implementation of the 2030 Agenda in a cross-ministerial effort. This should be done at dialogue events in the Federal States and in other ways. Moreover, broader efforts should be made to raise awareness among all relevant actors and mobilise them, building on existing initiatives such as Action Days for Sustainability to try to make sure that no one is left behind.
- In communication activities, reference should be made to the interconnections between the 2030 Agenda and other national and European policies and processes, such as the European Green Deal, for instance. The SDGs and the global trend towards sustainability must be increasingly understood and communicated as market opportunities.
- The Federal Government will regularly inform parliament about the progress being made in the implementation of the SDGs.
- It is essential that all actors at all levels be involved in the implementation of the SDGs in Austria. Civil society has a special role in this context. People in Austria are traditionally heavily engaged in NGOs and associations focusing on topics like environmental protection, education, social issues, and health and disaster management. Organisations of this type are vital to the implementation of the SDGs. The Federal Government will therefore continue special support to ensure that conditions conducive to engagement by volunteers and civil society are in place.
- This stocktaking of successes and challenges in the Voluntary National Review 2020 and the National Indicator Report of Statistics Austria should serve as a foundation for future target setting at the federal level. Measures to achieve progress in areas where further efforts are needed, such as climate change, gender equality and sustainable consumption and production should be made more concrete.
- To implement the 2030 Agenda successfully and coherently and to plan structural implementation measures at the federal level, consideration must be given to further developing effective tools such as the SDG Fitness Check (in the SDG Action Plan 2019+ carried out by the former Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism) and an ex-ante SDG-impact assessment for all planned strategies, measures and action plans.

- Consideration must also be given to developing mechanisms to incorporate the SDGs in budget decisions at the Federal Government and Federal State levels in the future. Existing measures such as gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting can serve as best-practice examples in SDG budgeting, as can impact-oriented budget management. The SDG Model Styria is another good-practice example that can be applied to gearing budget decisions nationwide to the SDGs.
- The 2030 Agenda should be interconnected with finance issues through corresponding budgetary policy measures such as linking the instruments of impact-oriented management in public administration more closely with the SDGs. In this way, the SDGs could be already considered in the planning of laws and regulations and in major projects in the annual budgetary proposals. Subsequently, the SDGs could be discussed based on evaluation reports on impact orientation or impact assessment.
- Austria presented its first explanatory national report on SDG indicators in March 2020. Progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda will continue to be assessed periodically at national and EU level based on indicators. This is a way of examining the effectiveness of the measures taken and the transparency involved.
- The set of national indicators for the 2030 Agenda numbers around 200 and is to be further optimised with special attention to areas requiring improvement. National data is available for 83% of the specified UN indicators. Various national groups of experts are working on closing any data gaps still existing and on further breaking down the existing data sets. The data should also be made available to the public in an accessible form.
- At EU level, Austria supports the idea of Eurostat harmonising the national indicator sets.

### **Focus of Austrian Development Cooperation**

- The Federal Government also emphasizes the importance of implementing the 2030 Agenda in the field of development cooperation. The focus is on creating brighter prospects in life for people in regions of the world that are particularly threatened by armed conflicts, natural disasters, epidemics and poverty. Sustainable development in accordance with the 2030 Agenda should be enabled in an environment of social and political stability, following the SDG's guiding principle of 'leaving no one behind'.
- Austrian development policy measures promote gender equality while considering the needs of children, persons with disabilities and older persons.

- Resources for local assistance should be increased and the possibility of using additional resources in the countries of origin and transit of migrants should be examined.
- A separate new strategy will be drawn up for humanitarian aid.
- The orientation of the current Three-Year Programme on Austrian Development Policy 2019–2021 towards the 2030 Agenda will be pursued in the future programme. As before, all relevant ministries will be actively involved in the production of future programmes alongside business, the scientific community and civil society. Development policy organisations in civil society are long-standing and reliable partners in the implementation of the corresponding programmes and projects. Their active involvement and cooperation is vital to further improving the efforts of Austrian Development Cooperation in fostering inclusion and 'leaving no one behind'.
- The strategies of the Federal States and regions will also be geared to the SDGs. A whole-of-government strategy is to be devised specifically for Africa. In the interest of active climate diplomacy, Austrian Development Cooperation will continue to focus on promoting renewables and energy efficiency. Environmental protection, climate action and gender equality will continue to be taken into account, from planning to evaluation.
- The intention is to make Green Diplomacy a key component of Austria's diplomatic activities in development cooperation and beyond. To this end, the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs will establish the post of climate ambassador.
- Other topics to receive special attention include the strengthening of economic cooperation and collaboration with companies, initial and continuing education and training, the empowerment of women and the rule of law in less developed regions.
- In the future, the Federal Government also wants to enhance its work in Austria on development policy to promote greater understanding of global interconnections and the 2030 Agenda.
- Support is also to be given to the establishment of private funds to secure the financing of the SDGs for small and medium-sized enterprises in economically less developed countries.

## Outlook for digitalisation

To achieve the sustainability goals, it will be crucial in the future to combine digital governance with stakeholder knowledge. Digital technologies should be used for sustainable development in all SDG areas. Societal, social, economic and environmental challenges need to be taken into account in shaping the digital transformation. It is essential that all actors comply with stringent European data protection standards and handle personal data responsibly. Further important implementation measures in this context include:

- Austria's key objective in terms of its digital infrastructure is to achieve nationwide coverage with fixed and mobile Gigabit connections by 2030. This should also enable numerous new applications and areas of business activity in rural areas.
- The creation of regulatory and physical experimental spaces (sandboxes), for example for the improved integration of SMEs and start-ups in research and development, encourages economic, environmental and social innovation.
- To prevent a digital divide, existing successful programmes such as 'fit4internet' will be further expanded. The aim here will be to enable socially disadvantaged people, persons with disabilities, older persons and individuals with insufficient digital skills to participate in the digital transformation.
- Austria plans to expand digital applications also in the health-care sector. For example, the Electronic Health Record (ELGA) and telemedical treatments are to be further developed and digitalisation will be driven forward in medical research, diagnosis and treatment.
- In 2019, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research invited submissions for projects on digital transformation in higher education, covering both digital and social transformation. The resulting flagship projects will help shape the further development of digitalisation at institutions of higher education.
- Attacks from cyberspace pose an immediate threat to the security and functioning of government, the economy, the scientific community and society. Austria is therefore working on a new version of the Austrian Cyber Security Strategy.
- The potentials of digitalisation are to be used more intensively in future to reduce use of resources and consumption of energy through the intelligent, cross-sector networking of applications and objects, thus making a positive contribution to the environment and climate.

- Citizens should have the opportunity to contact public administration bodies digitally. Accordingly, a further expansion of digital administrative channels is needed to ensure they remain available even in times of crisis. This includes eGovernment applications as well as mGovernment services.
- Politics, public administration, business, research and citizens themselves should be able to benefit from the improved availability and reusability of public sector information (open government data).
- Austria is also promoting digital transformation in areas such as art and culture in order to make history and cultural offerings accessible to all, to generate enthusiasm in these areas among new target groups and to create new tourism offerings.

## Outlook for women, youth and 'leaving no one behind'

The key challenges in implementing the SDGs in this area are diverse and can be met only if all social institutions work together.

- **Women:** Despite progress in recent years, joint efforts must continue to achieve the goal of de facto equality between women and men. In addition to eliminating gender stereotypes and closing the gender pay gap, the challenges for the future include promoting women in leadership positions, further expanding childcare services, especially in rural areas, fighting violence against women and promoting integration.
- **Youth:** In the area of youth policy, the focus is on the continuation of the Austrian Youth Strategy, implementation and realisation of the Youth Goals in the Austrian Youth Strategy and the strengthening of youth empowerment. In the fields of education and employment, in particular, there are numerous interfaces with the SDGs (especially 5, 8.5 and 8.6) and the European Youth Goals (especially 2, 3, 7, 8 and 10). Challenges arise in connection with the ongoing process of digitalisation in all areas of life. Young people must be supported in the acquisition of information and media literacy. They also need to be listened to more and their views on digital living environments must be included in the political discussion. Only in this way can we ensure that everyone equally understands digitalisation as an opportunity and benefits from it, and that no one is left behind.

- **‘Leaving no one behind’:** Austria’s social welfare and health-care system contributes significantly to preventing and combating poverty and social exclusion and to ensuring high-quality health care. To continue to be able to meet future social and demographic challenges, it will be necessary to strengthen these systems through targeted measures. In keeping with the SDG principle of ‘leaving no one behind’, it is essential to ensure that all people, especially disadvantaged social groups, are included in the process of sustainable development. The aim is to support access to sustainable, high-quality, balanced and generally accessible health care (universal health coverage) and ensure social inclusion. In addition to a focus on the further development of a sustainable health-care system, including the expansion of primary care, the promotion of women’s health and the provision of high-quality care, special emphasis will also be placed in future on combating poverty among children, women and older persons. For this reason, a National Action Plan on Poverty Prevention is being drawn up in 2020, which will serve as an overarching strategy for pooling existing activities and for pursuing the targeted development of new measures to reduce poverty. At the international level, too, it will be important to further develop the principle of ‘leaving no one behind’ in Austrian Development Cooperation and its measures so that no one in Austria’s partner countries is left behind either.

## Outlook for climate action and adaptation to climate change

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed unprecedented demands on politics, the economic development and society of individual countries. Preserving and restoring the health of citizens and maintaining the proper functioning of economic activity are the current focus of global attention and determine the realignment of goals, policies and behaviours. Climate change, the drastic loss of biodiversity and social imbalances are similarly dramatic global developments but have a greater time lag than the virus in terms of their effects.

The current efforts to kick-start economic recovery and overcome the health crisis must therefore be aligned towards the goals of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and be guided by the aims of sustainable development and future-oriented technological innovation. This includes, in particular, the transformation of the economy and society based on phasing out fossil fuels and on more resource efficiency.

Austria will achieve its goal of being climate-neutral by 2040 at the latest on the basis of an amended Climate Protection Act laying down binding reduction paths up until 2040 and interim targets for 2030, as well as clear responsibilities and timetables.

A mandatory, independent climate check as part of the impact assessment for all legal provisions and regulations is making climate protection a central decision-making criterion. The impact assessment has to be based on an independent report prepared by a suitable accredited body.

In order to achieve these goals, numerous measures are to be initiated over the coming years:

- An eco-social tax reform that relieves the burden on the people in Austria and at the same time creates environmental true-cost pricing in the tax system will be defined and implemented in stages in the coming years.
- A Mobility Master Plan 2030 will be developed for the transport sector. Austria is committed to the further expansion of public transport and to flexible, demand-oriented mobility solutions for the 'last mile'. The introduction of a 1-2-3 Austria ticket offers an affordable annual public transport and rail pass that provides a climate-friendly alternative to motorised private transport. In the case of road transport, in addition to traffic avoidance and the achievement of a modal shift, the focus is increasingly on the expansion of electromobility and other alternative energy sources, such as hydrogen and synthetic fuels.
- District and local heating are being further expanded to make buildings more environmentally sustainable. The burning of coal, oil and fossil gas for space heating is to be largely eliminated by 2040. A phase-out plan for oil and coal sets out the steps to achieve this, with the banning of new oil and coal-fired boilers in newly constructed building projects from 2020. The mandatory replacement of already installed boilers more than 25 years old will begin in 2025 and all boilers must be replaced by 2035 at the latest.
- In the energy sector, renewable energy sources are being massively expanded while taking due consideration of any associated environmental impact. The Renewable Energy Expansion Act (Erneuerbaren-Ausbau-Gesetz, EAG) will provide the framework for the phasing out of fossil fuels in electricity generation by 2030. Together with expanding the use of renewables, the government also wants to increase energy efficiency and is intending to modify the Energy Efficiency Act to this end.
- Private investment in climate-friendly technologies and adaptation to the impacts of climate change is to be encouraged and mobilised. Environmentally responsible action is to be promoted in education and the private sector.

In the context of climate change adaptation, the Federal Government adopted an updated version of the 2012 Austrian Adaptation Strategy in 2017. The second progress report on the strategy, which will be available in 2020/2021, is currently being prepared and will form the basis for a further update of the adaptation strategy.

Austria wishes to promote an ambitious and progress-oriented climate and energy policy in Europe and the world. This entails a consistent commitment at EU level to adapt the existing 2030 targets in line with the Paris targets. Austria advocates the

earliest possible phasing out of funding and subsidies for fossil fuel infrastructures, an effective emissions trading system, a minimum CO<sub>2</sub> price at European level and border carbon adjustments at European level. From the Austrian perspective, the European Green Deal and the associated investment plan are a sound basis for funding relevant measures. Austria takes its international responsibilities seriously and contributes to international climate action funding, including replenishment of the Green Climate Fund, with a particular focus on the importance of adaptation measures.

Nuclear energy does not represent a viable option for Austria in efforts to combat climate change. Austria is convinced that the decarbonisation of energy systems is possible without nuclear energy and is therefore pursuing a three-part strategy that has protection of the Austrian population and protection of the environment as its main priorities:

- Firstly, Austria has for many years raised sound arguments at political level against the use of nuclear energy. These include the call for the internalisation of all external costs in accordance with the polluter-pays principle, e.g. nuclear liability, decommissioning and disposal, as well as the rejection of any kind of subsidies for nuclear energy.
- Secondly, Austria is pressing for the continuous improvement of nuclear safety by identifying weaknesses in an objective and well-founded manner.
- Thirdly, Austria supports all initiatives and measures to improve transparency and participation in the nuclear sector and has also taken such initiatives itself.



## List of abbreviations

AAL	Active and Assisted Living
AI	Artificial intelligence
ASRA	Austrian Sustainability Reporting Award
AUVA	Allgemeine Unfallversicherungsanstalt (Austrian Workers' Compensation Board)
CCCA	Climate Change Centre Austria
CCM	Case and Care Management
CDO	Chief Digital Officer
CEMR	Council of European Municipalities and Regions
CoNGO	Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations
CSO	Civil society organisation
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CTBTO	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization
EC	European Commission
EGSS	Environmental goods and services sector
ETS	Emissions Trading System
EU	European Union
EYGs	European Youth Goals
FGM	Female genital mutilation
FLAF	Familienlastenausgleichsfonds (Family Compensation Fund)
GNP	Gross national product
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative
HLPF	High-level Political Forum
IACA	International Anti-Corruption Academy
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IIASA	International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMAG	Inter-Ministerial Working Group on the 2030 Agenda
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
mGovernment	Mobile government
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
PJ	Petajoule
PPS	Purchasing power standards
RTI	Research, technology and innovation
R&D	Research and development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises
UN	United Nations
UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

<b>UNECE</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>UNOOSA</b>	United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs
<b>UNPSA</b>	United Nations Public Service Award
<b>UNSD</b>	United Nations Statistics Division
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization



