

# AUSTRIA'S COMMITMENT TO THE 2030 AGENDA

Initiatives and activities of the Federal Chancellery and the  
Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens between 2019 and 2023.



20  
23

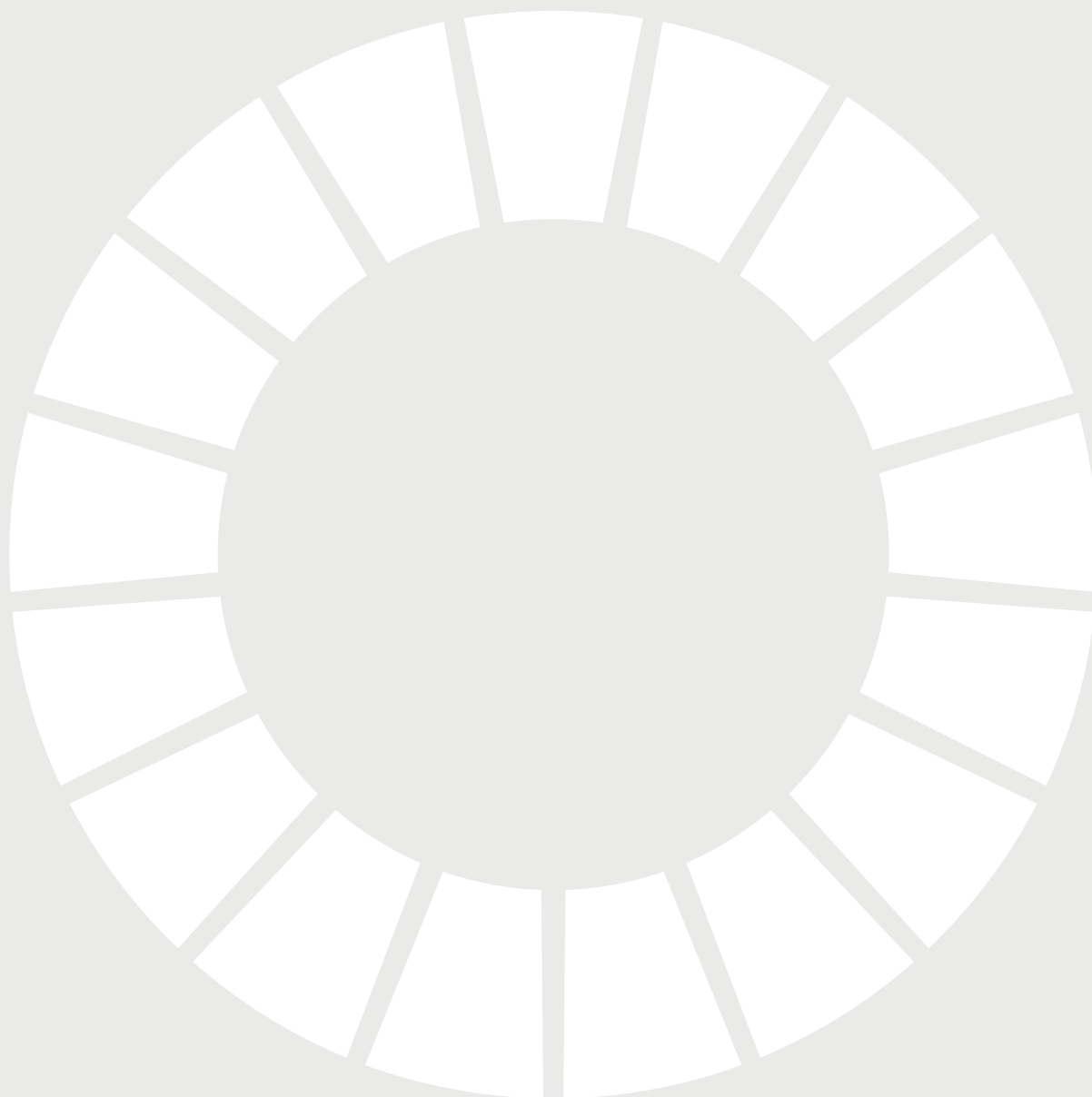
A PUBLICATION OF THE  
BAN KI-MOON CENTRE  
FOR GLOBAL CITIZENS

OUR MOTTO:  
BE A GLOBAL CITIZEN

GUIDING PRINCIPLE:  
ACT WITH PASSION  
AND COMPASSION

# WHAT WE DO?

The Ban Ki-moon Centre works  
to empower women and youth  
in the framework of the Sustain-  
able Development Goals and  
the Paris Climate Agreement.



BAN KI-MOON CENTRE  
VIENNA



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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

**ADA**

Austrian Development Agency

**AzW**

Architecture Center Vienna

**BAKA**

Austrian Federal Chancellery

**BKMC**

Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens

**BMAFJ**

Former Austrian Federal Ministry for Health, Family Affairs and Youth

**BMAW**

Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy

**BMDW**

Former Federal Ministry for Digitalisation and Economy

**BMEIA**

Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs

**BMSGPK**

Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection

**BMK**

Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology

**BMNT**

Former Austrian Federal Ministry for Sustainable Development and Tourism

**BNE**

Education for Sustainable Development

**BOKU**

University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna

**CEO**

Chief Executive Officer

**EFA**

European Forum Alpbach

**EU**

European Union

**EUVR**

EU Voluntary Review

**Eurostat**

European Statistical Office

**EYG**

European Youth Goals

**GCNA**

Global Compact Network Austria

**HLPF**

High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York

**IAEG-SDGs**

Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators



LIST OF  
ABBREVIATIONS



**ICOM Austria**

Austrian National Committee of International Council of Museums

**IGF**

Internet Governance Forum

**IMAG**

Interministerial Working Group for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development

**IUFE**

Institute for Environment, Peace and Development

**KAAIA**

Kofi Annan Award for Innovation in Africa

**KDZ**

Centre for Administration Research

**KommEnt**

Society for Communication, Development, and Dialogical Education

**NEOS**

The New Austria (political party)

**NHK-K**

Conference of Federal and State Sustainability Coordinators

**NGO**

Non-governmental Organisation

**OECD**

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

**ÖVP**

The Austrian People's Party

**RespACT**

Austrian Business Council for Sustainable Development

**SDGs**

Sustainable Development Goals

**SDSN**

Sustainable Development Solutions Network

**SPÖ**

The Social Democratic Party of Austria

**UN**

United Nations

**UN DESA**

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

**UniNEtZ**

Universities and Sustainable Development Goals

**UNSD**

United Nations Statistics Division

**VIDC**

Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation

**VNR**

Voluntary National Review

# FOREWORD

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The 2030 Agenda is a unique action plan for sustainable development with the core task to create a better future for all while leaving no one behind. Our present times are inevitably characterised by various crises: persistent conflicts and multiple global disasters unsettle our communities, intensify inequalities and increase uncertainties on a global level. So we must work together on the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its global goals more than ever, an initiative which can only succeed as we work together, through maintaining the dialogue, joining efforts, establishing common priorities and agreeing on coordinated measures.

For this very reason, I am very grateful for the long-standing and consistently fruitful cooperation between the Austrian Federal Chancellery and the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens (BKMC), which I manage together with my good colleague and dear friend Dr Heinz Fischer, 11<sup>th</sup> President of the Republic of Austria. We especially appreciate the trust which has been placed in the mission and vision of our organisation. The BKMC is looking forward to further cooperation in the future and we will strive to continue our efforts to accelerate the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in and by Austria.

Allow me to also use this opportunity to praise Ms Karoline Edtstadler, Austrian Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution, for her commitment, determination and her specific and target-oriented work to implement the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda in Austria and beyond. The world needs such a continuous commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda, since it is not only necessary to take the right decisions and establish an adequate framework on higher levels, but at the same time, these measures will inspire and motivate others to get involved and become active.



In this light, I would also like to congratulate all Austrian players in the area of sustainability, including the stakeholders from government, civil society, youth and science on a national and regional level, as well as all other committed persons who got involved in various initiatives and projects in previous years and thus contributed to the implementation of the SDGs in and by Austria. I would like to repeat what I have already emphasised at the SDG Dialogue Forum 2022: we need your contribution, your commitment and your action! We must all apply ourselves together to our goals to implement the 2030 Agenda. Let's raise awareness of the SDGs, use the present and future opportunities and create a better world which leaves no one behind.

As I look back on the previous three years, I am convinced that we are able to quickly adapt despite multiple global crises.

Now we can also build on various milestones regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for the future, which we have achieved in the past thanks to this cooperation. We are determined to use the momentum created so far to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs until 2030 and beyond.

A handwritten signature in white ink on a dark green background. The signature is cursive and reads 'Ki-moon Ban'.

**Ban Ki-moon**  
**8th Secretary-General of the United Nations**  
**& Co-chair of the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens**

# FOREWORD



Austria has been committed to sustainability for decades with sustainable development embedded in our constitution since 2013. We are thus proud that Austria is once again ranked 5th worldwide in the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Sustainable Development Report 2023). This honors our nationwide efforts and motivates us to continue to lead by example and aspire to be a role model for other countries to effectively integrate the SDGs into national agendas. Especially in times of multiple crises, such as the war in Ukraine, pandemics, and climate change, the SDGs provide stability and direction, guiding us towards a resilient and equitable world.

Austria would not have achieved such an excellent result without its strong national and international partnerships. At national level, collaboration between the government and stakeholders is essential. Here, the participatory preparation of the first voluntary national report (VNR) (2020) marked an inflection point for SDG work forming valuable partnerships. Thereupon, the successful SDG Dialogue Forums have since served as a platform for coordination, bringing stakeholders together, enabling fruitful exchanges, and aligning efforts towards achieving the SDGs.

Successful implementation and lasting change require every citizen's engagement. As Federal Minister responsible for coordinating the implementation of the SDGs, I am committed to ensuring widespread awareness and understanding of the SDGs among the general public. Informed and active participation is crucial for realizing the SDGs and creating real meaningful change. Therefore, we encourage all to contribute best-practice examples for the 2<sup>nd</sup> VNR via [www.sdg.gv.at](http://www.sdg.gv.at).

FOREWORD  
KAROLINE EDTSTADLER

I express my deepest appreciation to the former UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, whose tireless efforts were instrumental in defining the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. He is an inspiration to us all, both during his tenure as Secretary General and through the projects undertaken by the Ban Ki-moon in Vienna. These projects have been invaluable in supporting SDG implementation. I also extend my gratitude to the Ban Ki-moon Centre for its dedicated SDG work.

In conclusion, I invite with this publication all citizens to join us on a transformative journey towards a sustainable future. Together, we can create positive change and build a world that thrives on the principles of the SDGs. Let us embrace multilateralism, strengthen partnerships, and inspire others through our actions to build a sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous world for present and future generations.

A handwritten signature in white ink on a dark green background. The signature is cursive and reads 'Karoline Edtstadler'.

Karoline Edtstadler  
Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution

# Executive Summary



The Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens (BKMC) focuses on the implementation of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in and by Austria and since 2018 established a close collaboration with the Austrian Federal Chancellery (BKA) to advance these goals and to further strengthen Austria's pioneer-role in the international sphere.

In line with this commitment, the following publication is aimed at the general public with the key objective of spreading knowledge and awareness about the SDGs. More than ever, we are facing multiple global challenges and it is the responsibility of all of us to work together towards a better future for all. The 2030 Agenda provides us with a valuable roadmap in this regard. Leading up to 2030, it is crucial to reflect not only on multifold past achievements in Austria, but also to look to the future: We must maintain a respectful dialogue and the engagement of all stakeholders to achieve these common goals.

The second Austrian Voluntary Review (VNR) on the SDGs, which will be presented at the UN in 2024, is being prepared since 2023 with wide spread stakeholder involvement in Austria. This publication does not claim to be a comprehensive or an official implementation report, but is intended as complementary to the VNR, offering motivational perspectives on Austria's SDG work. It is the diversity of interlocking processes that enriches the extensive SDG implementation in Austria. Thus, this publication highlights in particular milestone activities, best practice examples and initiatives from 2019 to 2023.

The publication first provides an overview of the processes and approaches to SDG implementation in Austria and outlines Austria's current implementation status by analysing relevant rankings and indices. This is followed by the main section which is divided into a national, European and international chapter.



In the national chapter, Austria's SDG engagement is presented in five areas: (1) dialogue with civil society and multi-stakeholder events, highlighting in particular the outcomes of the SDG Dialogue Forums 2021 and 2022, (2) dialogue with academia and business, with particular attention to the UniNEtZ Report and RespACT, (3) dialogue with federal states and municipalities, (4) dialogue with culture and education, and (5) dialogue with politics, presenting the Austrian parliament's engagement.

The next two chapters show best practice examples and key initiatives on European and international level, such as the "Local Councillors for Europe" initiative, the "Next Generation is Female" series, or the "Kofi Annan Award for Innovation in Africa".

Each chapter is accompanied by guest comments from experts who provide unique insights into each topic. For each SDG, guiding quotes from significant personalities are spread throughout the publication.

# INTRODUCTION – AUSTRIA'S DIVERSE COMMITMENT TO SDGS



Austria has risen in international SDG rankings. This publication shows exemplarily what projects and initiatives stand behind this achievement and reinforces that the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can only be achieved together.

The 2030 Agenda of the UNs with its 17 SDGs has provided an international roadmap for a better future since 2015. Austria is particularly active in implementing this agenda through numerous programmes, initiatives, projects and creative actions, in policymaking, economy, civil society and education. The Austrian implementation commitment covers the national, regional and local levels as well as the UN and EU context. As a result, Austria has advanced in international SDG rankings, and is now ranked fifth in the SDG report of the Bertelsmann Foundation, both in 2022 and 2023.

## **Overview of diverse initiatives**

The second Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the implementation of the SDGs will be presented at the UN in 2024. Complementary to official VNRs, this publication is intended as a perspective-based presentation of different aspects of Austria's SDG implementation commitment, focusing on activities from 2019 until 2023.

## **Cooperation with the Ban Ki-moon Centre**

This publication highlights the cooperation between administration and civil society – above all, with SDG Watch and the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens





(BKMC), which is managed by former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and former Federal President of Austria, Heinz Fischer. Since 2018, the Ban Ki-moon Centre, as a quasi-international organisation, has been involved in the implementation of the SDGs in Austria. Its programmes and projects focus on the realization of the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement.

Since its inception, it has also cooperated with the Austrian Federal Chancellery currently under Federal Minister Karoline Edtstadler as the governmental representative charged with the coordination of SDG implementation in Austria.

### **A broad approach**

The entire administration in Austria participates in the implementation of the SDGs. In line with the Austrian “mainstreaming approach”, all federal ministries are tasked by the Ministerial Council Decision of 12th January 2016 to implement the 2030 Agenda coherently, integrate the SDGs in their respective areas of competence and embed them in relevant strategies.

At the same time, the “Interministerial Working Group for the Implementation

of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development” (IMAG) was created, where all federal ministries are represented by their SDG focal points. In 2020, Austria’s first VNR was compiled and published by the IMAG under the co-chairmanship of the Austrian Federal Chancellery (BKA) and Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (BMEIA).

### **Multi-stakeholder approach on all levels**

Civil society, science and industry take a significant role in SDG implementation measures and reviews. Austria pursues a multi-stakeholder approach on all levels to involve concerned parties and widely embed the SDGs through intensive outreach and events. With this in mind, this publication was compiled with many partners representing the diverse Austrian SDG commitment landscape, both by project and by partner, as perceived by the Ban Ki-moon Centre. In view of numerous global crises, it is now more important than ever to find global solutions which are based on cooperation, partnership and sustainability. The SDGs offer an ideal compass for this, but will only be successfully implemented together.

INTRODUCTION  
AUSTRIA'S DIVERSE COMMITMENT



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# SDG implementation in Austria

# AN AGENDA FOR ALL OF AUSTRIA



The implementation of the 2030 Agenda entails an exercise on a nation-wide level in Austria. The mainstreaming approach creates the strategic framework for this purpose, with the SDGs also embedded in the current government programme.

At the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015, Austria voted in favour of the 2030 Agenda with its 17 SDGs. Since then, Austria has pursued a broad approach to the implementation of the SDGs. Apart from policy-making and administration, various stakeholder groups contribute to sustainable development.

## **SDGs are everywhere**

While implementing the SDGs in policy-making and administration, Austria uses the so-called “mainstreaming” approach: individual federal ministries implement the SDGs in their own areas of competence and activity. For this to be carried out, the best way possible, the federal government instructed all federal ministries in

its Ministerial Council Decision of 12th January 2016 to incorporate the principles of the 2030 Agenda in all relevant strategies and programmes and create the relevant measures for their implementation. Not only all state authorities have been involved in this course of action, but all cooperation partners on the federal, state and municipality level as well as social partners, civil society, business and science.

## **Diverse approaches**

The approaches of the ministries regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda have been highly diverse: For example, the former Austrian Federal Ministry for Sustainable Development and Tourism (BMNT) has introduced an SDG action plan 2019+, while the previous Ministry for



Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW) established an SDG Business Forum. The former Austrian Federal Ministry for Labour, Family Affairs and Youth (BMAFJ) developed the Austrian youth strategy in compliance with the SDGs and European Youth Goals (EYG). In turn, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK) combined Austria's ten Health Targets with the 17 SDGs, while the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (BMEIA) aligned the Austrian development cooperation with the SDGs. The Austrian Federal Chancellery (BKA) has always served as a central information platform for public relations.

### **Common management**

Pursuant to the Ministerial Council Decision, the "Interministerial Working Group for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda" (IMAG) was also created under the common leadership of the BKA and the BMEIA. It coordinates the national SDG implementation process, required progress monitoring and stakeholder exchange. Since 2021 there has been a separate management group for the SDG implementation process. It is composed of the representatives of the Austrian Federal Ministry for

Labour and Economy (BMAW), Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK) and Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK) under the co-chairmanship of BKA and BMEIA. It is the preparatory body for the IMAG, provides it with proposals, and is also responsible for raising awareness, providing and preparing information for the thematic forums, and for communication. The steering group provides significant support in the preparation of the VNR and is also involved in the planning and implementation of the SDG Dialogue Forum.

### **Communication and cooperation**

The widespread communication of the SDGs and their implementation is ultimately of great importance to the Austrian federal government. The website of the Austrian Federal Chancellery at **[www.sdg.gv.at](http://www.sdg.gv.at)** provides all interested parties with up-to-date information and further documents, success stories, events and educational materials on the 2030 Agenda. The cooperation with relevant stakeholders is also an important issue for the management of the SDG implementation work.<sup>1</sup>



Therefore, the annual SDG Dialogue Forum has been held since 2021. Most recently, the joint event of the federal administration and civil society has dealt primarily with implementation partnerships between administration, science and civil society (see also chapter “SDG Dialogue Forum: Successful and extensive exchange on SDGs” on page 33 et sqq.).

at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) (see also chapter “First Voluntary National Review on SDG implementation” on page 125 et sqq.). Pursuant to the Ministerial Council Decision of 12th October 2022, Austria will compile its Second VNR until the end of the first half of 2024, leading up to the presentation of the review in July 2024.<sup>2</sup>

### **2030 Agenda is the government's agenda**

Its embedding in the current government programme 2020-24 also testifies to the fact that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda means a nation-wide exercise in Austria. Furthermore, there is a great emphasis on the monitoring of implementation results. In 2020, Austria presented the first VNR



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The goals of the 2030 Agenda are also embedded in the up-to-date government programme.



# AUSTRIA ON THE SDG TEST BENCH



The implementation of the SDGs is measured by comprehensive indicator sets. Up-to-date reports and rankings show: When compared on an international level, Austria achieves favorable or excellent outcomes regarding the 2030 Agenda. Admittedly, there is still a need for action in some areas.

The monitoring of progress on the way to achieving the SDGs is an important part of the 2030 Agenda process. Only accurate monitoring can verify SDG implementation and ensure continuous adaptation. On the UN level, a set of 231 indicators is available for monitoring. At the national level, Statistics Austria has developed a set of around 200 indicators based on the UN indicators and Eurostat specifications, which are continuously adapted. In the meantime, various institutions work on the SDG progress measurement by countries and world regions.

Federal Minister Karoline Edtstadler also addressed the question “Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals - Where does Austria stand?” in an article

published in the journal “Nachhaltigkeitsrecht” 2022.<sup>3</sup>

## **SDG Indicators Report of Statistics Austria**

Statistics Austria's approximately 200 indicators examine Austria's situation and show where our country stands in an international SDG comparison.<sup>4</sup>

In the current report (“Agenda 2030 SDG Indicators Report 2021”), Austria performs well.<sup>5</sup> Moreover, already in the November 2020 report (“Agenda 2030 SDG Indicator Report Update 2019 and COVID-19 Outlook”) prepared for the FNU, Austria enjoyed a largely positive report card on the achievement of individual SDGs.<sup>6</sup> Examples of this. Some examples:



- **SDG 1:** According to the current international definition, there is no extreme poverty in Austria.



- **SDG 2:** The goal of putting a stop to hunger can be mostly rated as achieved.



- **SDG 3:** Rate of premature death due to non-infectious diseases has seriously decreased.



- **SDG 5:** The gender pay gap decreased. However, it is still at a high level compared with other EU countries.



- **SDG 6:** Access to clean and affordable drinking water can be considered as mostly achieved.



- **SDG 7:** Access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services is considered largely achieved.



- **SDG 9:** Industry CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per gross value added were 243.4 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per million euros in 2010 and decreased to 196.9 metric tons in 2018.



- **SDG 11:** The land consumption for building, traffic, leisure and quarrying areas as well as municipal waste increased by 9.8 percent from 2010 to 2019.



- **SDG 12:** The sales of environmental products and services increased from 31.6 billion euros in the year 2010 to 36.9 billion euros in the year 2019.



- **SDG 13:** The greenhouse gas emissions decreased from 84.6 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents in the year 2010 to 80.4 million tonnes in the year 2019, however, they are still on a high level.



- **SDG 16:** The risk of death due to murder, manslaughter or deliberate injury is on a constantly low level.



### Sustainable Development Report 2023

The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and the Bertelsmann Foundation publish the “Sustainable Development Report” every year, which represents a ranking of the individual states in terms of target achievement. In the current SDG report 2023, Austria is placed fifth among the total of 166 compared countries.<sup>7</sup> The four places ahead of Austria are occupied in descending order by Finland (1st place), Sweden, Denmark and Germany (4th place). The report also shows the status quo and trends in the achievement

of the SDG targets (Figure I). For example, in Austria, as for the majority of all industrialised countries, SDG 1 “No Poverty” and SDG 7 “Clean Energy” are considered achieved. In addition, positive trends are observed for the achievement of SDG 5 “Gender equality” in particular, as well as SDGs 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16 and 17. In many SDG areas of action, a partly higher need for action is recognised, in particular in the case of SDG 12 “Responsible consumption and production”, SDG 13 “Climate action” and SDG 17 “Partnerships for the goals”.



Fig. I: For more information please visit: Representation of Austria in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda according to the Sustainable Development Report 2023.<sup>8</sup>



## European Sustainable Development Report 2022

The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) published the “Europe Sustainable Development Report 2022” in December 2022. This report analyses and compares the SDGs achieved by the EU countries and selected EU third countries. Austria ranks fourth on its SDG index. Again, however, the status quo and trends are shown specifically for Europe in terms of SDG target achievement (Figure 2).

## Sustainable development in the European Union 2022

Eurostat published the up-to-date monitoring report in May 2023: “Sustainable development in the European Union – 2023 edition”. It is based on the SDG indicators set of the EU, which consists of about 100 performance indicators. According to the SDG targets, the EU countries and individual third countries are compared to one another and it is shown how the individual EUR countries perform in terms of SDG target achievement (Figure 3).

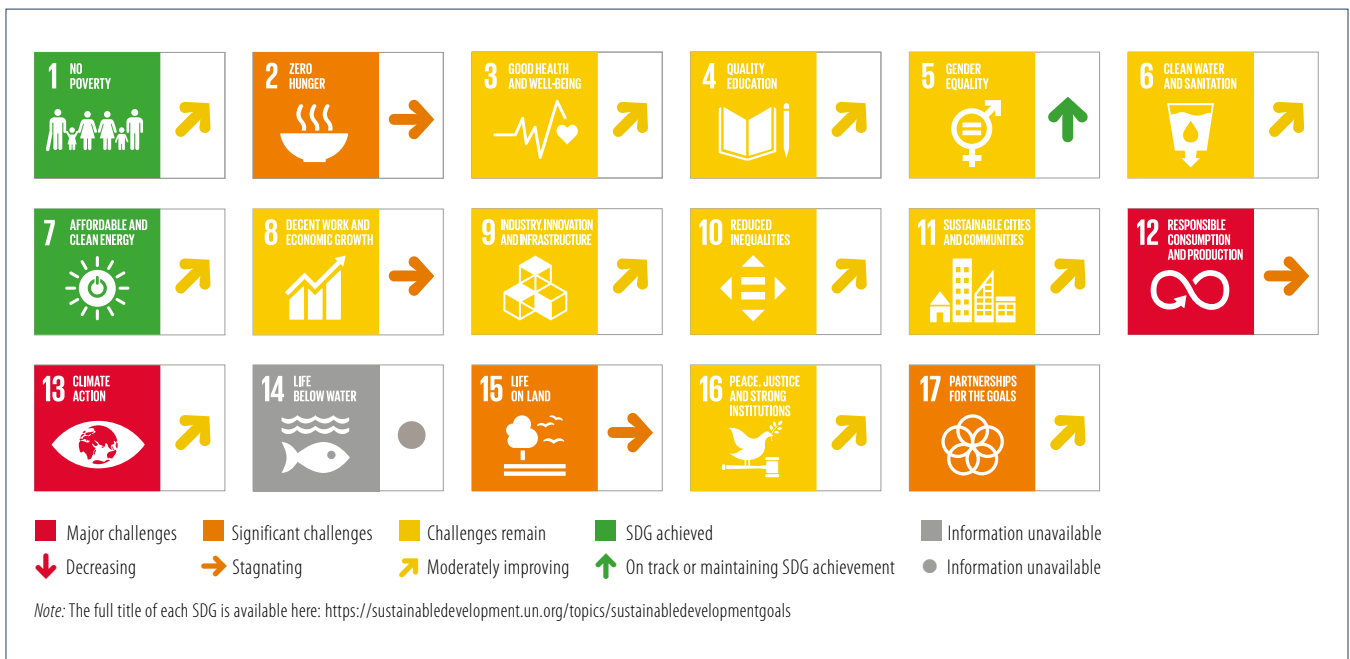


Fig. 2: Representation of Austria in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda according to the „Europe Sustainable Development Report 2023“<sup>9</sup>



This EU report also serves as the statistical basis for the first EU Voluntary Implementation Report (EUVR), which will be presented at the HLPF in 2023. It notes positive developments at EU level, for example for SDGs 1, 7, 8. Challenging needs for action exist, for example for SDGs 6, 15, 17.<sup>10</sup>

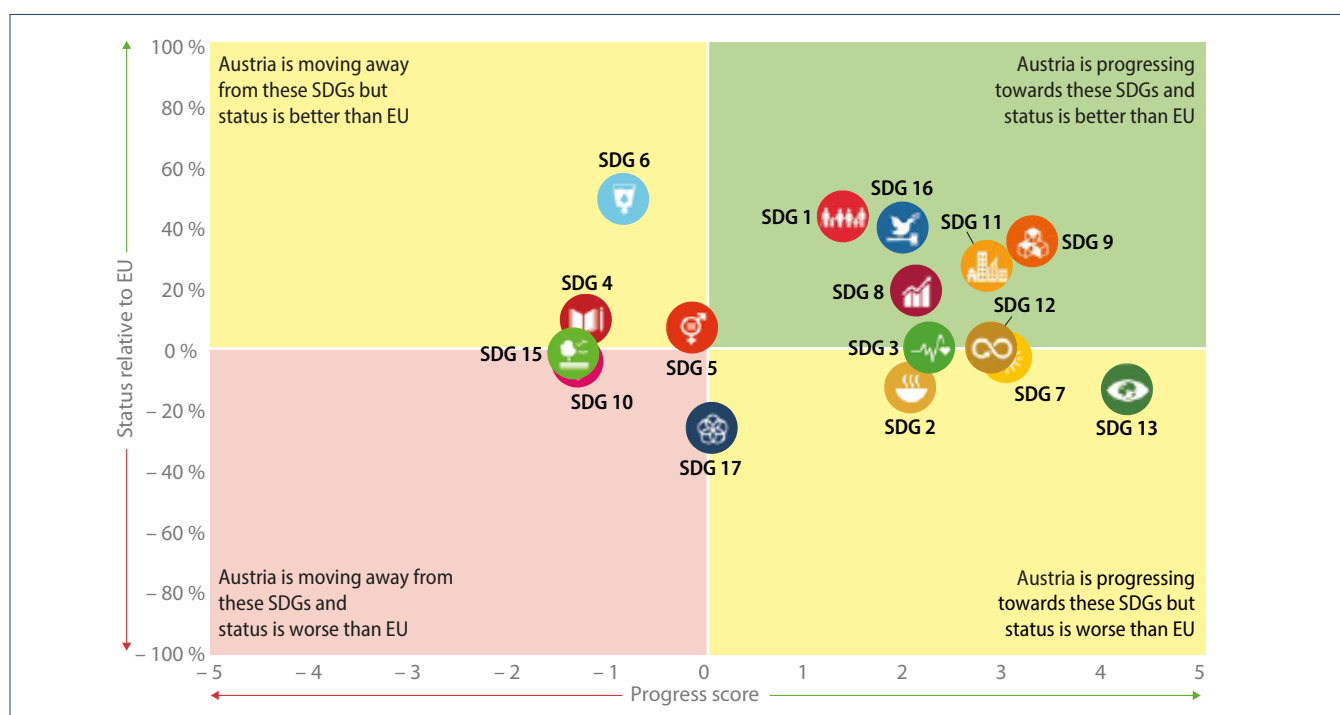
of the 2030 Agenda in different world regions<sup>11</sup>. It provides trends and interpretations in the global context. In addition, it offers the UN Statistical Commission a platform with country profiles of the individual UN member states, including Austria, and their forthcoming regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.<sup>12</sup>

### Sustainable Development Goals Report

The “Sustainable Development Goals Report” of the United Nations shows the global developments in the implementation

**You can find more information about this at:**

[country-profiles.unstatshub.org/aut](https://country-profiles.unstatshub.org/aut).



**Fig. 3:** Representation of Austria in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda according to the monitoring report “Sustainable development in the European Union”.<sup>13</sup>



## Alexandra Wegscheider-Pichler

Senior Expert in the area of social affairs & living conditions of Statistics Austria

### **Monitoring of the 2030 Agenda in Austria: Supervision of the Sustainable Development Goals on a statistical level**

Independent monitoring of reliable statistical performance indicators is necessary to indicate which goals of the 2030 Agenda have already been successfully implemented or which areas need particular action. In Austria, Statistics Austria with its national SDG indicators set issued since 2017 guarantees<sup>14</sup>, that the performance indicators are calculated according to international standards or comply with the highest quality standards. Currently, about 200 indicators which are annually updated and developed are included. The creation of these comprehensive sets, also as compared internationally, requires broad cooperation and coordination activities with other data owners and stakeholders. The third indicators report<sup>15</sup> of April 2023 allows us to catch a glimpse of the progress Austria has made until the data year 2021 in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and

achievement of the SDGs. At the same time, the report focuses on 126 content-related targets of which 29 are already considered as partly or entirely reached in 2021. For the majority of these targets, there are indicators available whose development trends are evaluated according to the Eurostat methods: if there is a time sequence and clear normative target course, a positive or negative development is marked according to the total of 4 characteristics. It was possible to evaluate 83 indicators, no trend evaluation was possible for 37 other indicators. The development from 2010 to 2021 was approx. 80% positive, almost one fifth (19.3%) of the indicators were evaluated as moderately or significantly negative. The report also disclosed important data gaps where no monitoring of goal achievement was possible.





## Sustainable Development Goal I **No poverty**

“The elimination of rising poverty in Austria, in Europe and worldwide is not a utopia, but our moral and human responsibility. In order to realise the first one of the Sustainable Development Goals - ‚No Poverty‘ - step by step, social and international solidarity is required.”

**Michael Landau**

President of Caritas Austria and Caritas Europa





## Sustainable Development Goal 2 **No hunger**

“When consumers understand how our food is produced and how valuable it is, they will use it responsibly and with appreciation.”

**Josef Moosbrugger**

President of the Austrian Chamber of Agriculture



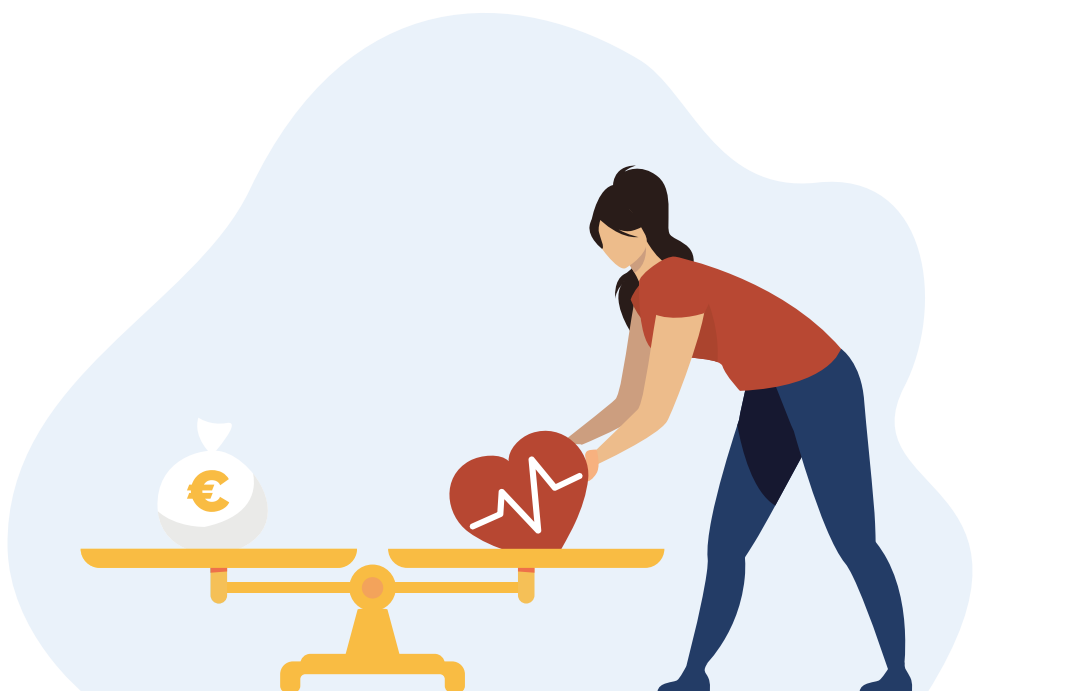


## Sustainable Development Goal 3 **Health and well-being**

“One important characteristic of the quality of the Austrian health care system is the equal and simple access to basic healthcare services for all, irrespective of their age, place of residence, origin and social status.”

**Johannes Meran**

Prim.Univ.Prof. Dr. at Barmherzige Brüder Vienna





Sustainable  
Development Goal 6

# Clean water and sanitation

“Water is our most precious resource. We are aware of the responsibility coming along with this and are committed to using this resource carefully and in a sustainable manner.”

**Birgit Aichinger**  
Chief Executive Officer Vöslauer



# Active on National Level

Dialogue  
with  
civil  
society



# SDG DIALOGUE FORUM: SUCCESSFUL AND EXTENSIVE EXCHANGE ON SDGS



At the main SDG stakeholder event of the year - the SDG Dialogue Forum - Austria brought together experts from business, academia, civil society, government, states and municipalities to jointly develop concrete and innovative approaches to SDG implementation.

The aim of the SDG Dialogue Forums is to promote the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its sustainable development goals. Therefore, experts from a wide range of fields address current issues in an organized setting, seeking to develop solutions together. The reputation of the SDG Dialogue Forums as a place for exchange and increased commitment to SDG implementation is underscored by the participation of numerous decision-makers, including several members of the federal government. Because the

SDG Dialogue Forums bring stakeholders together and provide space for discourse and coordination on various topics before and after the actual event, they make a particularly valuable contribution to the implementation of the SDGs in and by Austria.

## **First SDG Dialogue Forum: Innovative ideas and high-profile involvement**

On 28th September 2021, the first SDG Dialogue Forum on the issue of “Building forward better with the 2030 Agenda:



together for sustainable development after COVID-19” was held in a hybrid format at the Museum of Natural History in Vienna. The event was characterised by innovative formats and a great diversity of the stakeholders involved. With a total of more than 548 registered participants and more than 20,000 additional clicks on the streaming services, the first SDG Dialogue Forum also seriously contributed to raising awareness of the SDGs in Austria.

The event was kicked off by four virtual breakout sessions, the so-called “Innovation Pools” (IP), run in parallel. During these closed meetings, the experts from different areas discussed the main issues of the first VNR

- ♦ “Digitalisation”
- ♦ “Climate protection and climate change adaptation” as well as
- ♦ “Women, Youth and Leaving No One Behind”

The Innovation Pools were curated by the representatives of various ministries and civil society with the support of SDG Watch Austria. Employees of the BKMC took care of the technical matters. Among other things, the individual groups were

responsible for drafting key questions.

After the expert discussions, the forum was officially opened by Karoline Edtstadler (Austrian Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution), Margarete Schramböck (Austrian Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs), Peter Launskey Tieffenthal (Secretary General at the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs), Ban Ki-moon (8th UN Secretary General and Co-chair of the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens), Katrin Vohland (Scientific Director of the Museum of Natural History in Vienna) and Thomas Alge (Head of the ÖKOBÜRO/Steering Committee of SDG Watch Austria).

### High-profile discussion

The rapporteurs from each of the Innovation Pools presented the respective results and formulated relevant questions in this regard to the decision-makers. Apart from Karoline Edtstadler, also Leonore Gewessler (Austrian Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology), Wolfgang Mückstein (former Austrian Federal Minister of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection), Antonella Mei-Pochtler (Think Austria, Former BKA



Strategy Staff Office from 2018-2022) as well as Nicola Brandt (Head of the OECD Berlin Centre) participated in the discussion. The focal issues were soil sealing, CO2 tax, digitalisation measures, COVID-19 measures, involvement of business, development cooperation, humanitarian aid, climate change, family burden, gender inequalities,

violence against women, working times, inclusion and intersectionality as well as access to the digital world.

In the end, Ghada Waly (Director General of the UN Office in Vienna and Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime - UNODC), delivered a closing statement about the overall





importance of the SDGs. Austria's first SDG Dialogue Forum made a positive impression not only thanks to its innovative topics, but also its accessibility and freedom from barriers – this was ensured by the sign language interpreters and image-based summary in simple language.

### **Second SDG Dialogue Forum: Priorities, partnerships and federal states**

What steps need to be taken to promote sustainable developments in Austria and worldwide? What are the necessary priorities? These questions were the focus of the second SDG Dialogue Forum, featuring four interdisciplinary and cross-cutting expert groups as well as high-profile panel discussion. The event was held in a hybrid format on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022 with the title “Current opportunities and perspectives for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda”. It was organised together by the Austrian Federal Administration, the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens and SDG Watch Austria.

In addition to the discussion and solutions, it also focused on the “eye-level” partnerships between the government, private sector and civil society. Furthermore, the second SDG Dialogue Forum presented

valuable insights into the good practice examples and acted as a platform for exchange between almost 650 participants. The results of the Innovation Pools were shown in the form of concise key messages and proposals for specific implementation partnerships. The range of topics at the second SDG Dialogue Forum spanned the sustainable energy transition and skills for the 21st century, equal opportunities and social inclusion of the youth and development policy and resilience.

In the introductory segment of the forum, following a brief opening statement by Monika Froehler, Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal and Ban Ki-moon emphasised the importance of coordinated, multilateral action. They made it clear that, especially in times of crisis, the 2030 Agenda is important as an action plan for adequate sustainable practices.



© BKMC/Martin Krachler



## ACTIVE ON NATIONAL LEVEL DIALOGUE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY





### Contributions of federal states to SDGs

During the second SDG Dialogue Forum, the focus was also on the role of federal states of Austria as a player for sustainable development. Christopher Drexler, Governor of Styria, highlighted that the implementation of the SDGs must be carried out on all levels.

Against this background, practical examples regarding the SDG implementation from the federal states were presented. Markus Graggaber, former Director of NHK-K, also

introduced three award-winning flagship projects: the “SDG Go-getter Award” (OÖ SDG-Anpacker\*innenpreis”) 2022 of the Upper Austrian Future Academy (OÖ Zukunftsakademie) at the Upper Austrian Provincial Government, the “First Lower Austrian SDG Review” 2021 of Lower Austria and the contributions to the fulfilment of the “sustainLabel” of the scouts group “Graz 12”.

At the press conference for the second SDG Dialogue Forum, Austrian Federal



© BKA/Florian Schrötter

Picture Press conference SDG Dialogue Forum 2022, Karoline Edtstadler, Austrian Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution at Austria's second SDG Dialogue Forum with Leonore Gewessler, Austrian Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, Gerd Müller, Director General of UNIDO and Thomas Alge, Head of the Ökobüro/ Steering Committee of SDG Watch Austria. Caption: „Austria will submit its second Voluntary National Review in 2024“, Minister Edtstadler announced.



Minister Karoline Edtstadler announced that the Austrian federal government will prepare the second Voluntary National Review until 2024. This will be done on the basis of comprehensive consultations with all relevant stakeholders, including the government, civil society, science, private sector and youth.

### **Nothing without the youth**

The high-level panel discussion on the perspectives and next steps for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was moderated by Corinna Milborn (Puls4), featuring Austrian Federal Ministers Karoline Edtstadler, Leonore Gewessler, and Johannes Rauch, Director General of UNIDO Gerd Mller and Secretary General at the BMEIA, Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal. The focus of the discussion was placed on binding and socially acceptable measures for energy transition and climate protection, fair supply chains, the importance of the development cooperation for the prevention of and fight against crises as well as developing equal opportunities for children and youth.

Against the backdrop of current crises as well as preventing new ones, it would be necessary to work on a long-term strategy

for sustainable development, said Austrian Federal Minister Karoline Edtstadler. In order to get all people on board, we would need the discourse with all stakeholder, including civil society, science and media. The latter play an essential role in getting the message accross to the population on how political measures promote sustainable development and why it is important.

A focal point of the second SDGs Dialogue Forum was also the involvement of the youth in the discourse and decision-making processes. “Nothing about us without us” was the core message in this regard. Entirely in keeping with this motto, many youth representatives held discussions together in the Innovation Pool “Equal opportunities, well-being and social inclusion of children and youth”. In his statement, Rafael Haigermoser from the Austrian National Youth Council (Bundesjugendvertretung) suggested, among other things, an effective climate protection act with binding targets. This would also be important as regards the generational equity aspect.



ACTIVE ON NATIONAL LEVEL  
DIALOGUE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY



During the second SDG Dialogue Forum, the sign language interpreters and image-based summaries ensured the event was

free from any barriers. Major communication activities in social media also contributed to raising awareness.<sup>16</sup>



The second SDG Dialogue Forum stirred up considerable interest also on social media.



A portrait of Karoline Edtstadler, Austrian Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution, smiling. She is wearing a dark blazer over a white top. The background is the European Union flag. The portrait is framed by a white border and is part of a larger graphic consisting of several red, curved, overlapping shapes.

© BKA/Dragon Tatic

“Especially now it is important to continue to pursue a long-term strategy for sustainable development, because all 17 goals were created to prevent crisis development and face them in advance. But we need more than just words to do this! Apart from the discourse with civil society and science, more media attention would be desirable.”

## Karoline Edtstadler

Austrian Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution





“For the urgent energy and raw materials turnaround on our planet, we must actively advance climate protection, adapt technologies, services and consumer behaviour, and in doing so we will also create many new jobs.”

## Leonore Gewessler

Austrian Federal Minister for Climate Protection,  
Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology



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“Despite all crises which we are currently confronted with, we have the knowledge and technology to create a better and fairer world and to fight the problems of our time – however, we need a worldwide political will for this purpose.”

## Gerd Müller

Director General United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

“Young people should be perceived by politicians as experts in the reality of their own lives. Thus, the task of the UN Youth Delegates in Austria is to bring the SDGs closer to the children and youth and give their visions a stronger voice at the United Nations.”

You can find more information on the Austrian National Youth Council (Bundesjugendvertretung) at [www.bjv.at](http://www.bjv.at) or the BJC Instagram Account: [@at\\_unyd](https://www.instagram.com/at_unyd)

## Marvin Huber

Austrian UN Youth Delegate - Federal Youth Representation



A portrait of Judith Zimmermann-Lackner, a woman with shoulder-length brown hair, wearing a dark top and a necklace. The photo is set against a background of red geometric shapes.

© Rupert Pessl

“The implementation of the 2030 Agenda in and by Austria can only be carried out by networking with all the responsible parties. The last two SDG Dialogue Forums, jointly organized by the government, Ban Ki-moon Centre and SDG Watch Austria, have shown how imperative it is to put those issues at the center of the political debate and make them more public.”

## Judith Zimmermann-Lackner

Policy officer, Coordination Office of the Austrian Bishops' Conference for International Development and Mission (KOO)

“In those sensitive and dangerous times, I continue to see the 2030 Agenda as the best action plan we have internationally to address multiple crises.”

## Thomas Alge

CEO ÖKOBÜRO – Alliance of the Environmental Movement, SDG Watch Austria Steering Group





## Annelies Vilim

Special Representative of the Austrian Federal Government for Humanitarian Aid and former Managing Director of AG Globale Verantwortung

### The time of thinking and acting with a silo mentality is finally over

#### **Austria's second SDG Dialogue Forum: Use different approaches to implement the 2030 Agenda together**

The 2030 Agenda and its 17 goals for sustainable development show us the way out of diverse crises which we are confronted with worldwide. For the people in the countries of the Global South there is a potential for various crises: climate crisis, hunger crisis, conflicts, health crises up to life-threatening spirals and increased poverty and hunger. Therefore it is more important to drive this future-oriented action plan of the UN, so that we do not stumble from one crisis to the other. And many reports do show that the ambitions of most countries are recently not sufficient to implement the 2030 Agenda. Even Austria could do better in the case of

many goals, for example climate protection measures (SDG 13) or partnerships for the achievement of the goals (SDG 17).

Austria's second SDG Dialogue Forum in the autumn of 2022, and above all, the process leading to it have shown the potential of partnerships for the achievement of the goals: representatives from the world of politics, administration, civil society, science and business used their different approaches to develop the solutions for social, ecological and economic challenges together. The result of the forum is a cross-sector implementation partnership on resilience in the area of food security. Since multiple global crises have a direct impact on the food supply for people in the Global South, resilient food systems are essential for survival for those nearly 830 million people who are starving now. The aim of the partnership is to develop the courses of action for Austrian development

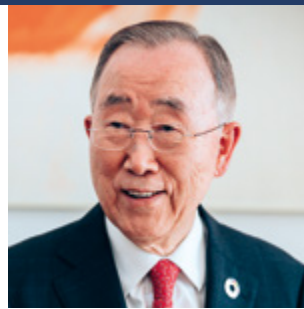


policy, which help more people having enough to eat.

There is a need for more partnerships like that. Multiple crises are a wake-up call for more international and national cooperation to make the world crisis-resistant. To

pull together is more important now than ever. All sectors: business, science, civil society and first of all, the policy-makers are called to merge their knowledge and efforts. Then we could not only overcome crises, but would be able to ensure life under humane conditions for all people.<sup>17</sup>





Sustainable  
Development Goal 17

# Partnerships for the achievement of the goals

“We use resources as if we had two planets, not just one. There can be no plan B, because we do not have a planet B. We have a plan A and these are the SDGs.”

Ban Ki-moon,  
8th Secretary General of the United Nations  
and Co-chair of the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens



# SDG FORUM IN ALPBACH: IN THE NOWHERE FOR EVERYWHERE



The implementation of the SDGs in Austria and Europe was the subject matter of the high-profile event at the European Forum Alpbach. Its results were integrated into the recommendation report of the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens (BKMC) on promoting the SDGs in Austria.

Year after year, the European Forum Alpbach (EFA) gathers the leading figures from science, economy, politics and civil society to discuss future issues together. In 2019, the SDGs of the United Nations and their implementation were also an important topic. In line with this the high-level event was organised, featuring former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Austrian Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg. Their discussion partners were, among other persons, Jeffrey Sachs (Director of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network), Günther Bachmann

(German Council for Sustainable Development), Klaus Bergsmann (Head of Group Environmental Management at Erste Group Bank), Heinz Nusser (Partner Decision Advisory Group GmbH) and Mirjam Sick (Head of Technology & Project Management at Energiedienst Holding AG). Already before the event, the Austrian Federal Chancellery and the BKMC had collected contributions and inputs from the representatives of the youth and civil society in many discussion rounds under the title of "Promoting the SDGs in Europe with a Global Mindset".





### Recommendations for the Austrian federal government

Thematic proposals for Austria's first VNR were mentioned during the consultations in Alpbach. The topics were, among other things, how to increase the share of women in higher management positions or raise the industry awareness of the SDGs achievement through innovations.

The collected results were swiftly integrated into a recommendation report compiled by the BKMC to promote the SDGs in Austria. The report was provided to the Austrian federal government at that time to improve the implementation of the SDGs.

International SDG Experts at the European Forum Alpbach: The results of consultations to implement the SDGs in Austria were provided to the Austrian federal government.



© BKA/Andy Wenzel



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“Austria is aware of its responsibility in the world and has budgeted for bilateral development cooperation and humanitarian help on an unprecedented scale in the year 2022. Only if no one is left behind, we can achieve the sustainable development goals by 2030.”

## Alexander Schallenberg

Austrian Federal Minister for European and International Affairs



# ACCELERATING SDG IMPLEMENTATION



The online event “Accelerating Action for the SDGs in Austria” on 12th November 2020 addressed the current status and plans for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Austria. Political decision-makers and experts in the field discussed novel ideas to increase the pace with regard to the SDG implementation.

At the event organised by the Austrian Federal Chancellery (BKA) and the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens (BKMC), Karoline Edtstadler, Austrian Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution, underlined the importance of accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the next ten years in front of more than 2,300 participants. Statistics Austria expert Alexandra Wegscheider-Pichler took stock of the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on SDG implementation: the negative effects on health, the economy, education, gender equality and the environment were in any case offset by improved public attitudes towards sustainably produced food and products.

## **Ideas for acceleration**

The question of how the accelerated implementation of the SDGs should be continued despite COVID-19, was discussed during a panel discussion attended by top level participants. One suggestion in this regard was the introduction of competitions for municipalities, companies and schools. This would support the broad impact of and motivation for the implementation, said Antonella Mei-Pochtler (Think Austria, Former BKA Strategy Staff Office from 2018-2022). Expert Christian Kroll (Bertelsmann Stiftung) advocated for the creation of incentives for mutual learning on the European level, since a lot of European countries had similar weak points in the implementation of individual SDGs.



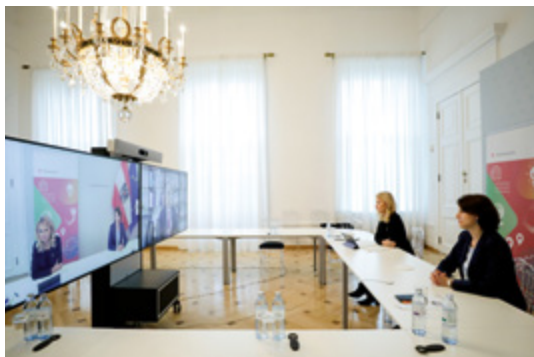
Four best practice projects finally showed concrete ways to implementing SDGs: The “17 voices for 17 goals” project of the “Global Responsibility” initiative (video campaign in which prominent Austrians each present one of the 17 SDGs and explain why achieving the goals is the key to a future worth living for all), the sustainability focus in Westfield Donauzentrum (shopping centre with sustainability focus), the SDG project of the Boutiquehotel Stadthalle (Viennese hotel with sustainability focus) and “Education 2030” project of the “Global Learning” initiative (see chapter “Make way for the Rebels of Change” on page 84 et sqq.).

The opportunities of the 2030 Agenda in the light of COVID-19 were discussed by Austrian Members of Parliament Astrid Rössler (The Greens Party), and Carmen

Jeitler-Cincelli (The Austrian People’s Party), as well as Antonella Mei-Pochtler (Think Austria, Former BKA Strategy Staff Office from 2018-2022), Klaus Heidinger (Siemens Advanta) and Christian Kroll (Bertelsmann Stiftung).

**For more information please visit:**

- ♦ [www.globaleverantwortung.at/globaleverantwortungat17simmenfuer17ziele](http://www.globaleverantwortung.at/globaleverantwortungat17simmenfuer17ziele)
- ♦ [www.donauzentrum.at/nachhaltigkeit](http://www.donauzentrum.at/nachhaltigkeit)
- ♦ [www.hotelstadthalle.at/en/boutiquehotel/sdgs.html](http://www.hotelstadthalle.at/en/boutiquehotel/sdgs.html)
- ♦ [www.bildung2030.at](http://www.bildung2030.at)



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During the event “Accelerating Action for the SDGs in Austria”, Karoline Edtstadler, Austrian Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution emphasised the importance of accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the next ten years.





BANKI-MOON CENTRE  
for Global Citizens

## ACCELERATING ACTION FOR THE SDGs IN AUSTRIA

#Austria4sdgs

GRAPHIC RECORDING BY LANA LAUREN

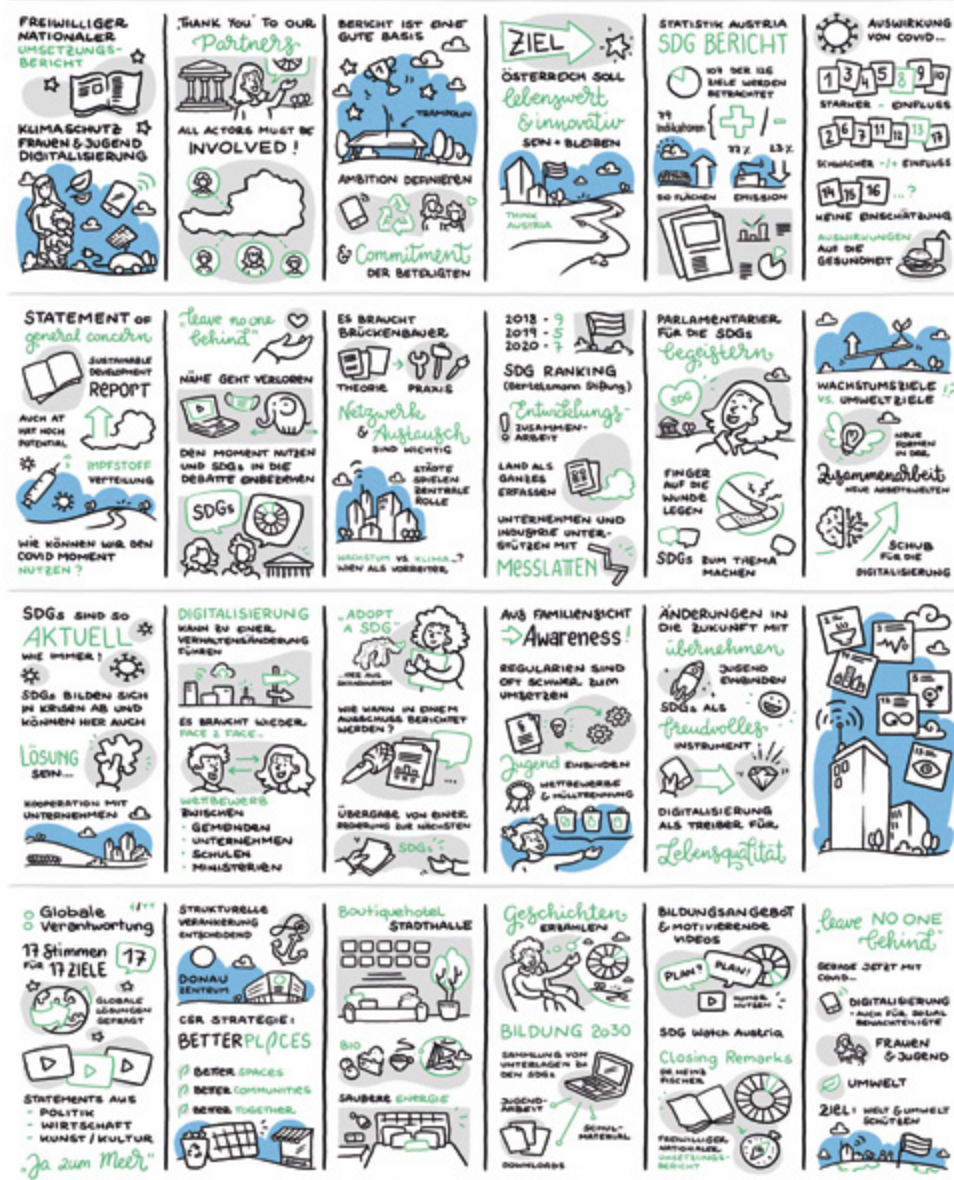


Fig. 4: Graphic recording by Lana Lauren of the event "Accelerating Action for the SDGs in Austria"



## Michaela Reitterer

Owner and Manager of the Boutiquehotel Stadthalle

**Mere visions are not enough: In view of the Paris Climate Agreement, we must all take action, not just talk.**

I was appalled and astonished at the same time how few people have been aware of the SDGs so far, although they are easy to understand and demonstrated in an appealing way. This also motivated me to transform the Boutiquehotel Stadthalle in Vienna into the first SDG hotel worldwide in 2020.

So that people would take the ideas about sustainability home during their best time of the year, their holiday. By means of a consistent upcycling concept we communicate serious issues such as climate change, clean energy production, careful handling of foodstuffs and social justice in lovely ways which can stimulate thinking.

Therefore, we decorated the hotel rooms with unusual furnishing items, such as a ping-pong table, teapots as ceiling lamps or an old-school blackboard. They all awaken the curiosity of the travellers and make them aware of the SDGs in their personal everyday life, even a long time after their vacation has finished.

# CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE



With the “Conference on the Future of Europe” initiative, the EU facilitated a wide participation process for future issues. In Austria, the conference process was implemented in a particularly proactive manner.

On Europe Day, 9th May 2021, one of the greatest and most innovative citizens’ involvement processes in European history started across the whole of Europe. For the entire year, all citizens of Europe were called up to participate in many formats of the “Conference on the Future of Europe” and to develop proposals. Topics of the conference were, among other things, climate change, environment, health, economy, social equality, work, education, culture and youth.

Austria implemented the future process very ambitiously. Already one year before the official start of the “Conference on the Future of Europe”, Karoline Edtstadler, Austrian Federal Minister for the EU and

Constitution, launched the dialogue process across Austria for the further development of the European Union under the motto “Our future: rethinking the EU” on 9th June 2020. A tour across Austrian federal states – the “Austria Dialogues” – picked up sentiments, experiences and expectations of citizens on the regional and local level. The participants could prioritise the most important future issues of the EU from their point of view by means of a questionnaire: the first place was occupied by the issue of environment and climate change, followed by the economy, work and foreign policy.



### Active involvement

The website “Our Europe. Our Future” ([eu-zukunftskonferenz.at](http://eu-zukunftskonferenz.at)), conceptualised by the Austrian Federal Chancellery, provided in-depth information on the “Conference on the Future of Europe” on 9th May 2021. With 1,505 contributions on the multilingual digital platform of the conference at: [futureu.europa.eu](http://futureu.europa.eu) (Time frame: 19th April 2021 until 9th May 2022) Austria belonged to the most active countries and placed seventh among 27 EU member states.\* Most of the ideas brought up on the digital platform focused on the areas: EU in the world, democracy, migration and climate change.

\* This is measured in terms of population size (per capita). Source: EU Zukunftskonferenz | Aktuelles ([eu-zukunftskonferenz.at](http://eu-zukunftskonferenz.at))

### Expertise in “future labs”

In Austria, events regarding the “Conference on the Future of Europe” were held on average every two days from 9th May 2021 to 9th May 2022. About one third of the events and activities were addressed to young people. For example, the “Future labs” are particularly relevant to the implementation of the SDGs: The aim of the format launched by Federal Minister Karoline Edtstadler, was to actively involve the high-level experts from the areas, such as industry and economy, arts and culture, research and science in the debate on the future development of the EU and generate specific proposals. You can find a detailed overview of the events at

[www.eu-zukunftskonferenz.at](http://www.eu-zukunftskonferenz.at)

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**Promote innovation rather than retrain it**

Austrian Federal Minister Karoline Edtstadler submitted the summary of the “Conference on the Future of Europe” for Austria on 9th May 2022, on Europe Day: In the context of a discussion round with students, she presented an “activities report”. Europe must become a “continent of opportunities”, no matter if it is about

climate change, digital space or new technologies. “Promoting innovation instead of restraining it” is therefore required, summarised the Austrian Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution. Also on 9th May 2022, the entire final report with 49 proposals and more than 300 measures for reforms in the EU was presented on on EU level.

**Conference on the Future of Europe: EU results report and Austrian activities report**



- ♦ European Union (2022): Conference on the Future of Europe: Review of the final result. German version, not barrier-free, May 2022.



- ♦ Austrian Federal Chancellery (2022): Future of Europe conference in Austria – Activities report 2020-2022. German version, April 2022.



© European Union/European Parliament



The “Conference on the Future of Europe” was a unique participatory project where the sustainable development of Europe was also an important topic.



## Valentina Gutkas

Student at the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU) and representative of the Austrian citizens at the “Conference on the Future of Europe”

“The future” is a strong expression. It concerns all of us, and especially us young people. I am currently studying in Vienna, but originally I come from Raabs an der Thaya, a region located in Lower Austria, so I know urban and rural life. Measures for more sustainability in our lives as well as broadband expansion are important concerns for me.

A few years ago, Europe was mainly a geographical concept for me. Later on, I could feel the “Europe-feeling” during my school days when I could benefit from financial support through the “Erasmus+” program during an internship in Ireland.

The “Conference on the Future of Europe” made it possible, especially for young people, to participate in the political process and a variety of topics - be it via social media, websites or in personal conversations. I was impressed by the desire of all participants to work together on solutions in the face of differing positions - in line with the motto “Together we are stronger.”

My vision for the European Union (EU) is to expand hands-on environmental and climate education, especially to show the basic understanding of agriculture and forestry with their multiple functions. It,



too, faces the challenges of climate change. At European and international level, research, science and cooperation can play an essential role in bringing solutions for the future. Transparency about the origin of our food is also of great importance in order to make consumers more aware of sustainability. Young people should also

be actively involved in decision-making processes at the EU level, for example to demonstrate the effects of laws for future generations. In this way, the quality of life can be preserved and future challenges can be mastered, which in turn enables the European Union to fulfil its tasks as a community project in the 21st century.

Dialogue  
with  
science  
and  
industry

# UNINETZ REPORT: 150 OPTIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



Under the initiative „UniNEtZ - Universities and Sustainable Development Goals“, cutting across universities, a options report was handed over to the Austrian Federal Government in March 2022. It provides scientifically-based opportunities for action to implement the 2030 Agenda in Austria and illustrates the involvement of science and research in the implementation of the SDGs.

The UniNEtZ project was launched by the “Alliance of Sustainable Universities” (Allianz Nachhaltige Universitäten) in Austria and supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (BMWFW). In the first project phase from 2019 to 2021, a total of 15 universities as well as four partner institutes in science and research cooperated in this regard.\* In addition to the implementation of the SDGs in research, teaching and management, those 19 partner organisations focused, in particular, on creating

the options report (UniNEtZ Optionenbericht) for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Austria. This report follows a “bottom-up” approach and identifies and evaluates options or future-oriented solution pathways with their respective consequences, which aim to show transformative ways of implementation to society in a transdisciplinary manner.

\* Partner institutes: the Federal Geological Survey (Geologische Bundesanstalt), the Central Institute for Meteorology and Geodyna



With the UniNEtZ project, science and research aims to assume social responsibility and make valuable contribution towards a sustainable transformation. As centres of innovation and educational institutions for future decision-makers, universities play a key role in the implementation of the SDGs.

## Project partners of UniNEtZ II

- Vienna Academy of Fine Arts
- Alpen-Adria University Klagenfurt
- Salzburg University of Applied Sciences
- Karl Franzens University Graz
- Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts Graz
- Leopold Franzens University Innsbruck
- Medical University of Innsbruck
- Montanuniversität Leoben
- Graz University of Technology
- University of Applied Arts Vienna
- University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences Vienna
- University of Music and Performing Arts
- University for Continuing Education Krems
- University Mozarteum Salzburg
- University of Salzburg
- University of Vienna
- University College of Teacher Education Tyrol
- University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna
- Climate Change Centre Austria
- forum n Association
- Geological Survey of Austria
- Central Institution for Meteorology and Geodynamics

### More information at:

Link to website: [www.uninetz.at](http://www.uninetz.at)

Link to report: UniNEtZ Optionenbericht

[http://www.uninetz.at/optionenbericht\\_downloads/  
Das\\_Projekt\\_UniNEtZ.pdf](http://www.uninetz.at/optionenbericht_downloads/Das_Projekt_UniNEtZ.pdf)

Link to policy statement: Grundsatzentscheidung  
[https://www.uninetz.at/optionenbericht\\_downloads/  
Grundsatzerklaerung\\_deutsch\\_A4\\_I4II.pdf](https://www.uninetz.at/optionenbericht_downloads/Grundsatzerklaerung_deutsch_A4_I4II.pdf)



## Issues of the options reports

### First project phase: 2019 - 2021

Almost 300 participating researchers formulated a total of 150 options and 1,000 measures to implement sixteen SDGs (excluding SDG 14 "Life below water"). The report addresses legal, technical, social, economic, environmental and psychological aspects of sustainable development. Six so-called transformation fields are examined in detail:

-  **Well-being of man and society**
-  **Global environmental commons\***
-  **Sustainable and fair economy**
-  **Energy systems and circular carbon economy**
-  **Nutrition and food-production**
-  **Urban and rural space development**

\*Global Environmental Commons are global environmental resources such as oceans, forests, or the atmosphere that perform functions that stabilise the entire Earth system.

### Second project phase: 2022 - 2024

After a successful completion of the first phase of the project, the second phase which will last until 2024, started. The latter started with the publication of a policy statement in September 2022, defining the goals of UniNEtZ. 22 partner organisations will contribute according to their competences, areas of responsibility and available resources.

The aim of the UniNEtZ II are solution-oriented contributions to a sustainable transformation of society. In the process, five focus areas are developed in addition to the SDGs<sup>18</sup>:

-  **Trans-disciplinary dialogue with the society**
-  **Scientific support and monitoring of the societal transformation**
-  **Transformation in area of action: research**
-  **Transformation in area of action: teaching**
-  **Transformation in area of action: governance**



© BKA/Florian Schrötter

Representatives of all collaborating research partners: Hans Stötter, Reinhold Lang, Helga Kromp-Kolb and Franziska Allerberger handed over the UniNEtZ options report to Austrian Federal Minister Karoline Edtstadler and Vice-Chancellor of Austria, Werner Kogler.<sup>19</sup>





## Helga Kromp-Kolb

Emeritus University Professor of Meteorology and Climatology at the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences Vienna and Founder and Director of the Centre for Global Change and Sustainability

### Like ripples around the stone...

In the UniNEtZ project, professional and personal links were established within and across the universities, interactions were identified, horizons broadened, methodology was discussed, teaching quality improved, and students were responsibly involved: a palpable gain for the scientists involved and their universities.

The outward-facing options are limited in their transformative value due to the structurally driven, “SDG by SDG” negotiating approach. However, the projects aimed at transformation must start under the given framework conditions, because the actual required, integrated and disruptive system change cannot be expected in the short term. Smaller and bigger steps of the transformation can produce its own dynamics which leads to changes on the systemic levels. Like ripples around the stone which is thrown into the water, forming wider and wider circles, each transformative step will create the next ones.

UniNEtZ has left its mark on policy-making already in its first phase, as it has sent the clear signal that science is willing to take up the dialogue, in order to contribute to overcoming pressing and highly complex political challenges. In the second phase of the project, the aim is to prove that science is also capable of dialog and also has constructive things to offer in terms of implementation.

Those wanting to contribute to a transformation of society would do well to start with themselves. As a contribution to an overdue discussion, a policy statement on the “Transformation of Universities into Pioneers of Social Sustainability” has been prepared.

It is intended to be an impulse-giving stone whose ripples can no longer be stopped inside and outside universities. With the prototypical transformation of its own house, UniNEtZ II hopes to gain legitimacy and persuasiveness in order to be able to encourage and carry others along.



**Thinking and doing science in a new way**  
**In the UniNEtZ project, scientists leave universities and lecture halls to actively shape the world. What should our world look like in 2030? And what do we have to do today in Austria to achieve this?**

These questions of the 2030 Agenda are the motivating goal for hundreds of scientists throughout Austria who have come together in the UniNEtZ project. They are breaking new ground in terms of transformative research, teaching and the understanding of science, and have caused a sensation in Austria and internationally.

In the UniNEtZ project, experts from a wide range of disciplines such as technology, natural sciences, economics, social sciences and the humanities, as well as music and art, work together on creative solutions for our future, bringing in a variety of perspectives. In this way, proposals for measures to achieve the SDGs were developed across disciplines and together with people from the real world.

In the first phase of the UniNEtZ I project (2019 - 2021), a site analysis was first conducted on the significance of sub-goals and indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Austria, and published in the UniNEtZ Perspectives Report in 2020. Based on

this, proposals for measures to implement the SDGs in Austria were developed, published in the UniNEtZ Options Report and submitted to the federal government. In the second project phase UniNEtZ II (2022 - 2024), the focus lies on helping to implement the options. The central guiding principle is the transformation of our society towards sustainability. The transdisciplinary dialogue with responsible persons of our society is of particular importance. For example, workshops are organised with officials from federal and state governments. Or, as in the current cooperation of UniNEtZ with the Austrian Parliament, scientific findings on the individual SDGs are explained in expert teams with members of the National Council and presented in the course of plenary days in parliament.<sup>20</sup>

## Franz Fehr

Council Chair UniNEtZ  
and BOKU-SDG Coordinator



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## Sustainable Development Goal 13

# Measures for climate protection

“New methods are needed that make it possible to capture the actual “costs” of services, products, but also of economic policy decisions. A conventional cost-benefit calculation paints a very simplified picture of the costs for a society, because up to now all effects have been calculated in monetary units. However, environmental damage or species extinction cannot be measured entirely in monetary terms - for sustainable economic activity, we therefore need an integrated perspective.”

Sigrid Stagl

Founder of the Institute for Ecological Economics  
of the University of Vienna



## Life below water



“The condition of the oceans is extremely worrying due to climate change, plastic waste and over-fishing. “The point of no return” in the Arctic? Only through research can we collect and evaluate valuable data to better understand the state of this ecosystem, essential for the world’s climate.”

**Gerhard Herndl**

Professor of marine biology  
at the Faculty of Natural Sciences

## Life on land

“Apart from the climate crisis, the parallel existing biodiversity crisis or “biodiversity emergency” is often overlooked. More biodiversity-promoting measures must be taken in spatial planning and land use. In particular, however, a socio-ecological tax reform is needed, because only in this way can biodiversity protection be implemented with equal priority.”

**Franz Fehr**

UniNEtZ Council Chairman and BOKU-SDG Coordinator



Guest author Daniela Knieling, CEO respACT

# RESPACT & GLOBAL COMPACT: ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER



During the implementation of the SDGs in the business world, Austria relies on intelligent cooperation. The networks of “re-spACT – Austrian Business Council for Sustainable Development” and “Global Compact Network Austria” support the companies in implementing the SDGs, using different formats in the process.

RespACT considers itself to be Austria's leading business platform for a sustainable economy. The initiative can refer to an almost 25-years long success story. With the TRIGOS Award, for example, it has created Austria's most renowned prize for responsible business. Since 2006 respACT has been the a host organisation of the “Global Compact Network Austria” (GCNA), which is part of the world's largest initiative for responsible business, the UN Global Compact. With the launch of the SDGs in 2015, respACT and the GCNA have established themselves as a contact for corporate SDG implementation in Austria.

## **Platform for exchange - an instrument for implementation**

ResPACT an the GCNA support companies in different formats in implementing the SDGs. For this purpose, they offer a platform for exchange as well as tools for strategic SDG implementation of the SDGs. The GCNA relies, for example, on the self-organised SDG teams to create innovative “Next Practice” solutions. Here is a sampling of initiatives from both platforms over the past three years:



With the “circle17” initiative ([www.circle17.at](http://www.circle17.at)), respACT has supported start-ups and companies since 2019 to develop joint solutions for urgent sustainability challenges. In this regard, in a collaborative process, a main topic is defined each year (2022: circular economy) and concrete challenges from companies are worked on (so-called “challenge leads”).



Since 2019, the GCNA has primarily focused on the issue of “sustainable finance” to achieve the SDGs. During business meetings, opportunities for sustainable and eco-efficient investing for companies were presented and various guidelines were published (“Principles of Responsible Investment”, “Action Platform on Financial Innovation”, “Principles on Responsible Banking”).



The TRIGOS Award and SDG Strategy of the GCNA were included in Austria’s first VNR as best practice example in 2020. The status quo of the 2030 Agenda in Austria was discussed together with Austrian Federal Minister Karoline Edtstadler during the CEO Business Talk.



In 2021, respACT developed guidelines for companies to implement the SDGs by means

of digital technology (“DIGI FOR SDG”: [www.respect.at/portal/de/themen/digitalisierung/digiprojekte/article/7910.html](http://www.respect.at/portal/de/themen/digitalisierung/digiprojekte/article/7910.html)).



On the occasion of the GCNA’s 15th anniversary, titled “Making the SDGs happen - United for a Decade of Action,” the focus was on solutions to the question of how the SDGs can be achieved with the help of Covid-19’s private sector recovery, among others. This celebration focused on the 10 principles of the UN Global Compact in the areas of human rights, labor, environment and anti-corruption.

**For further information please visit:**

[www.globalcompact.at/project/15-jahre-global-compact-network-austria-und-general-assembly](http://www.globalcompact.at/project/15-jahre-global-compact-network-austria-und-general-assembly)



In 2022, the respACT Academy was developed as a learning and information platform for knowledge transfer and knowledge development in the area of responsible economies.



The GCNA addressed the opportunities of circular economy at an event with CEOs. In addition, “SDG guides” for the construction sector and the manufacturing industry were published.

**For more information, please visit:**

[www.respect.at](http://www.respect.at) and [globalcompact.at](http://globalcompact.at)





“The SDGs help to identify transition risks at an early stage. They support companies in structuring the interests of stakeholders and in taking action. In order to address the risks, especially those related to climate change, we are strengthening our commitment to product development and innovation and evaluating our entire value chain. Because we are convinced that in the future, companies will be measured not only by their environmental footprint, but by the full range of their contribution to society.”

## Andreas Klauser

CEO PALFINGER AG





# Dialogue with federal states and municipalities

# NHK-K: COORDINATING SUSTAINABILITY ON ALL LEVELS



With its Sustainability Coordinators Conference (DE: Nachhaltigkeitskoordinatoren-Konferenz), Austria has a panel which also plays an important role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as an interface between the federal government and Austria's federal states.

Sustainable action requires coordinated procedures and processes, mutually consulted with each other on all levels: EU, national, federal state and municipality level. This was the reason why the “Expert Conference of the Sustainability Coordinators of the Federation and Federal States”, in short, “Sustainability Coordinators Conference” (NHK-K) had already been established in Austria in the year 2000. Since then, among other things, the NHK-K has been preparing resolutions for the State Environmental Officers’ Conference (Landesumweltreferentenkonferenz)

or provincial office directorates (Landesamtsdirektionen), and serves to align the sustainability activities of the federal government and the federal states. In 2016, explicitly designated SDG Focal Points were added as part of the Austrian Sustainability Coordinators (NHKs).

## **Important role for the SDG implementation as connective link**

In addition to the coordination between the federal government and the federal states, particular importance was attached to the NHK-K as an essential interface to the local



level and, in some cases, to civil society and the business sector. The NHKs come together for multi-day conferences every year and also use various other exchange formats. The aim is to jointly create sustainability activities, develop strategies and draw up reports. The regular discourse on the programmes, projects and developments in the context of sustainable development in Austria makes it easier for the NHKs to involve all relevant levels during the implementation their projects.

### Successful cooperation

Thanks to the work of the NHKs, several collaborations could already be launched and successfully implemented at the Provincial Governors' Conference (Landeshauptleutekonferenz) and the State Environmental Officers' Conference and the

State Environmental Officers' Conference. For example, the NHK-K was commissioned in 2009 with the coordination for the further development as well as the implementation of the "Austrian Strategy for Sustainable Development" (ÖSTRAT). In addition, the NHK-K, with its working group on "Decentralised Sustainability Strategies - Local Agenda 21" (DNS), established on behalf of the State Environmental Officers' Conference, makes an important contribution to aligning the regional and local sustainability processes and promotes the involvement of the municipalities in the local implementation process of the 2030 Agenda.

The NHK-K also contributed at the second SDG Dialogue Forum: to present the diversity of activities for implementation of



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ACTIVE ON NATIONAL LEVEL  
DIALOGUE WITH FEDERAL STATES AND MUNICIPALITIES



the 2030 Agenda in the federal states, the NHKs collected best practice examples from all federal states upon the request of the Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology.

The three best flagship projects were awarded at the SDG Dialogue Forum 2022. In this way, they made a significant contribution to illustrating the diversity of SDG projects in Austria to a broad public.



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## Gudrun Walter

Sustainability Coordinator Province of Styria and  
Office of the Provincial Government of Styria,  
Department I4 - Water Management, Resources and  
Sustainability

### **The Expert Conference of the Sustainability Coordinators of the Federation and Federal States (NHK-K)**

Following the decision of the State Environmental Officers' Conference and the Environment Minister in 1999, the course was set in the direction of sustainable development and integration of sustainability policy-making and the joint Conference of the Sustainability Coordinators of the Federation and Federal States (NHK-K) was organised as a platform for cooperation, networking and consensual cooperation.

The 2030 Agenda with its 17 SDGs provides the guidelines for sustainable development on an economic, ecological and social level. The Sustainability Coordinators of the Federal States (NHK) work vertically and horizontally. They act not only as an interface between the federal states, between the states and the federal government,

but also to the various stakeholders at the state level. They are located differently in the federal states, which is ultimately perceived as diversity and gain.

The professional exchange and mutual support leads, for example, to joint projects - taking advantage of synergies. Learning from one another generates added value which everyone can benefit from. In this way, different thematic areas are tackled and implemented with a common understanding. It is worth-mentioning here, for example, the SDG Impulses "Governance approaches and ideas for implementation of the 2030 Agenda" meeting, exchange on the SDG, sustainability and climate report of the individual federal states or the joint 2030 Agenda conference for towns and



municipalities, in cooperation with the Association of Towns and Municipalities, which is held at regular intervals in the individual federal states.

In Austria's first volunteer report, projects of the federal states could also be presented. The involvement of the respective state chair of the NHK-K as a

permanent member of the interministerial working group on the 2030 Agenda (IMAG) makes the work of the federal states even more visible.

Diverse, innovative projects in all federal states show that the 2030 Agenda has just arrived and is put into practice.







## Florian Leregger

Former Executive Director of the Austrian Institute for Environment, Peace and Development

### SDGs in the towns and municipalities: Local activities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

The towns and municipalities play an important role in the SDG implementation process. Without their active involvement, many goals and targets cannot be implemented. Relevant areas of action, for example, procurement, local space planning, water supply and social infrastructure fall within the scope of municipal responsibilities.

More and more communities commit themselves to the SDGs. As an orientation framework, they offer diverse approaches to solutions as well as concrete options for action. Obviously, there are different possibilities to work with or on the 2030 Agenda. In any case, the potential is great. For example, there is an SDG sample resolution that the municipal council can use to acknowledge sustainable development by resolution. But the SDGs also allow for a holistic inspection of the projects at municipal level in order to handle them

as sustainable and fit for the future as possible (Tool “SDG-Kommunalcheck für Investitionsprojekte” of IUFE, Ökosoziales Forum Wien and KDZ-Zentrum für Verwaltungsforschung). Thus, the SDGs can be used, for example, during the planning and construction of a kindergarten or redesigning of the main square.

We, at the Institute for Environment, Peace and Development (IUFE), continuously obtain valuable insights in our projects based on the knowledge and experience of the persons from the local politics and administration in various federal states. Accordingly, the following SDG application possibilities and options for action in towns and municipalities should be noted:

- ♦ **Building awareness:** SDG information activities, for example, at the football ground, in regional media, on the municipal website, at the town’s library or at the town hall
- ♦ **Mapping:** inventory of previous sustainability initiatives alongside the SDGs
- ♦ **Projects:** measures which contribute to the implementation of the individual SDGs, for example, public procurement, renewable energy community or community garden
- ♦ **Citizens involvement:** participation processes in the context of the SDGs
- ♦ **Strategic embedding in space planning:** implementation of the SDGs, for example, in the local development concept or in the municipal model
- ♦ **Budgeting:** Linking the municipality finances to the SDGs





Sustainable  
Development Goal II

# Sustainable towns and municipalities

“Committing to Europe in the community is indispensable on the way towards sustainable communities. The EU is a pioneer, in particular, in the area of mobility, energy and affordable housing.”

Theres Gruber

EU Local Councillor from Rohr im Gebirge (Lower Austria)



# EUROPE STARTS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL



Over 1,600 volunteer Local Councillors for Europe are an indispensable bridge between European institutions and citizens. Austria's initiative continues to grow and already serves as a role model throughout the EU.

European issues are not only discussed in Brussels and Strasbourg, but especially, also where people live and work: in Austria's regions and municipalities. This is exactly where the Local Councillors for Europe work under the slogan "Europe starts at the local level", in order to jointly and effectively achieve the goals at all levels. "Our aim is for the Europe Local Councillors to be European ambassadors within their municipalities and share the European spirit", Karoline Edtstadler, Austrian Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution, explains the aim of the initiative.

## **Turntable for issues and concerns**

On the one hand, the Local Councillors for Europe pass on issues, concerns and requests of the local population to the

national and European level. On the other hand, as local disseminators, the Councillors bring European topics and initiatives directly to the municipalities, thus strongly contributing to the development of sustainable cities and communities. They inform and connect local citizens, for example, with funding possibilities for EU projects, EU initiatives or local media reports on EU topics.

## **Comprehensive services**

The initiative is led by the Austrian Federal Chancellery (BKA) in cooperation with the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (BMEIA), the European Commission (Representative Office in Austria), the European Parliament (Liaison Office in Austria) and the

ACTIVE ON NATIONAL LEVEL  
DIALOGUE WITH FEDERAL STATES AND MUNICIPALITIES



© BKA/ Andy Wenzel



Austrian Association of Municipalities (Österreichischer Gemeindebund). The Local Councillors for Europe are supported through comprehensive services by the BKA and other partners of the initiative. These include continuous information such as a magazine (Unser Europa. Unsere Gemeinde. [Our Europe. Our Municipality]), newsletters, information on the website, regular training sessions on relevant EU topics, regional EU dialogue and “Europa-Sprechstunden” (Europe consultation hours), networking meetings, trips to Brussels and support for events (lectures, publications). The initiative, spanning across

parties and federal states, has run in Austria since 2010. As best practice for SDG II, the idea has been picked up by the EU and is now being implemented across the EU.

**For more information, please visit:**

[www.europagemeinderaete.at](http://www.europagemeinderaete.at)



## Felix Hell

European Community Councilor in Telfs, Tyrol

In 1993, the year that I was born, the go-ahead was given for the internal market, with its principles of free movement of goods, services, people and capital. These freedoms have accompanied me all my life and I think it is important that a “Europe without borders” continues to exist. Another point of contact for me took place a little later, in elementary school, when the cash currency changeover from schilling to euro took place on January 1, 2002. I associate the EU above all with peace and community.

I became a European Community Councilor because it was and still is a great concern of mine to actively promote the exchange between the community as the smallest political entity and the EU. In Telfs - a municipality that is home to 84 nationalities, 20 religions and more than 130 associations - the EU is present not only through various subsidies, but above all, in the very positive perception by the

population. To get to know the EU and how it works better, I spent five days in Brussels in September 2022, together with other European local councillors. They face similar challenges, so networking and exchanging ideas with them is particularly important to me.

As a local councillor for Europe, I want to make the EU more accessible and tangible for young citizens and to ensure that the freedoms we have as Europeans are appreciated. My intention in my work as a European Community Councilor is therefore to motivate young people to get involved in our community, but also within the EU. This requires not only appreciation and respect, but also information and participation.

Dialogue  
with culture  
and  
education

# MAKE WAY FOR THE REBELS OF CHANGE



The “Rebels of Change” campaign of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and Südwind shows children and youth the way to becoming active together for a better world and, in doing so, provides an opportunity for young people to experience the sustainable development goals.

To learn about the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations and its sustainable development goals by experiencing them first-hand by yourself? This is what the “Rebels of Change” campaign of the ADA makes possible for young people. The programme, developed by a total of eight children’s, youth and development-policy organisations, is intended to show different ways to become active together for a better world, through campaigns such as petitions and other practical initiatives like an eco-fair in Innsbruck, Austria, or city nature walks. Under the slogan of “More courage for change is needed now”, the campaign puts the 17 SDGs in the spotlight. Hands-on activities on social media, workshops and other participatory formats offer exciting possibilities for everyone to join.

## **Strong digital component**

Important for the success of the campaign: the goals are made a contemporary subject of discussion, not only during events, but also in digital spaces. Under the hashtag #TeamUpForChange, the emphasis is put on digital activities. Thus, the young target groups are directly addressed and mobilised for participation via their channels and networks. The attractive website of the “Rebels of Change” offers an up-to-date overview of events, background information and ways of participating: **[www.rebels-of-change.org](http://www.rebels-of-change.org)**. Posters and visuals are also available for download for those who wish to personally share the campaign’s messages. For more information, please visit:

**[www.rebels-of-change.org/mitmachen/#downloads](http://www.rebels-of-change.org/mitmachen/#downloads)**.





### Diverse partners

The campaign is coordinated by Südwind, an association for development policy and global equality, and financed by the ADA and with funds of the Austrian Development Cooperation. Other “Rebel” partners are the Dreikönigsaktion der Katholischen Jungschar, sustainLabel, Naturfreunde International, ÖKOBÜRO – Alliance of the Austrian Environmental Movement, SDG Forum Vorarlberg, Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation (VIDC) and Welthaus Österreich.



© Rebels of Change



© Christian Husar

Bot. Friedrich Stift (ADA) and Konrad Rehling (Südwind) - #TeamUpForChange.





*“Rebels of Change aims to encourage the discussion on the SDGs in Austria and invites everyone to participate. Because everyone of us can make the world a bit better and fairer. We gladly support such an initiative. And there is a bit of a rebel in each of us, let’s get inspired by the young people.”*

## **Ambassador Friedrich Stift**

Austrian Ambassador and Managing Director of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA)



# MUSEUMS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



The project “17 Museums x 17 SDGs” shows that museums and exhibition halls in Austria can focus not only on the past, but also on the future.

The importance of museums and exhibition halls for a sustainable future is at the core of the “17 Museums x 17 SDGs: Goals for Sustainable Development” project by ICOM Austria in cooperation with the Austrian Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport (BMKÖS). 17 Museums and exhibition halls from all federal states across Austria were invited in 2021 to work on 17 SDGs from February to December 2021. The assignment of the SDGs to individual halls was done by live lottery. Until the end of 2021 the museums worked on the projects, which were also accompanied by communication measures. On 12th May 2022, the results of the initiative and a respective publication in this regard were presented to the public in the context of the international Bodensee Symposium.

## **Exemplary implementation**

Firstly, the museum for modern art in Salzburg (Museum der Moderne Salzburg) implemented projects on SDG 2 - zero hunger. During the project development, they focused on nourishing an regional produce. The programme included an action day on 16th October 2021 - official World Food Day - in cooperation with the Salzburger Freilichtmuseum, a fund-raising campaign in cooperation with Caritas and a collection of home recipes as a digital reference guide for the public.

The focus of the, the focus of the project by the Werner Berg Museum in Bleiburg, Carinthia was on gender equality (SDG 5) through building awareness and the discourse on traditional and new role



models. Against this backdrop, discussion events, workshops, special guided tours and an event on the female role model in the Slovak ethnic group (“doma/daheim/at home”) were carried out. The role model of a man and woman in the last 90 years was explained through the works of Werner Berg and Karlheinz Fessler. Art-education campaigns, lectures and concerts assisted the visitors in confronting the issue of gender equality with heightened awareness. The event was accompanied by school workshops where the students discussed gender roles in the past as compared to the present. Those impulses were further processed during art classes at school. Finally, the students’ works were presented at the Werner Berg Museum.

The Architekturzentrum Wien concentrated on SDG 7 (renewable energy) and highlighted the issue of resource-saving architecture and green living. Specific projects included introducing greenery to the Architekturzentrum Wien inner courtyard, creating guides on how to introduce greenery into our private space, excursions to green architecture, the “Boden für Alle” (Soil for Everyone) exhibition in the federal states and holding a conference on “Energy

transition and construction”. International experts addressed the topics of climate-friendly construction, improvement of the CO2 footprint of existing buildings and existing districts as well as the adaptation of urban spaces and the consequences of climate change.



# AN OVERVIEW OF 17 MUSEUMS AND “THEIR” SDGS

Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol:

**SDG 1** - No poverty

Museum der Moderne Salzburg:

**SDG 2** - Zero hunger

vorarlberg museum:

**SDG 3** - Good health and well-being

Salzburger Freilichtmuseum Großgmain:

**SDG 4** - Quality education

Werner Berg Museum Bleiburg/Pliberk,  
Carinthia:

**SDG 5** - Gender equality

Österreichische Galerie Belvedere, Vienna:

**SDG 6** - Clean water and sanitation

Az W - Architekturzentrum Wien:

**SDG 7** - Affordable and clean energy

inatura - Erlebnis Naturschau, Vorarlberg:

**SDG 8** - Decent work and economic growth

KZ Gedenkstätte Mauthausen/Mauthausen  
Memorial, Oberösterreich:

**SDG 9** - Industry, innovation and infra-  
structure

Römerstadt Carnuntum, Niederösterreich:

**SDG 10** - Reduced inequalities

Steirisches Feuerwehrmuseum Kunst &  
Kultur:

**SDG 11** - Sustainable cities and communities

Ars Electronica Center, Oberösterreich:

**SDG 12** - Responsible consumption and  
production

Museum der Völker, Tirol:

**SDG 13** - Climate action

Graz Museum, Steiermark:

**SDG 14** - Life below water

Museum Niederösterreich:

**SDG 15** - Life on land

Landesmuseum Burgenland:

**SDG 16** - Peace, justice and strong institu-  
tions

Naturhistorisches Museum Wien:

**SDG 17** - Partnerships for the goals





## Bettina Leidl

Director of the MuseumsQuartier Vienna

Our society is facing great challenges at the moment: the energy crisis, climate change, human rights violations and much more. Art and culture have a key role in tackling these challenges. One of the central tasks of cultural work is to create awareness for ecologically and socially fair coexistence, critically question the issues and developments related to society, and provide orientation and active stimuli.

17 SDGs are the agenda for sustainable transformation of our society on the social, ecological and economic level and an appeal to everyone, on individual and institutional level to make a contribution to the implementation. Therefore, the International Council of Museums ICOM Austria has invited the Austrian museums in the context of the “17 museums x 17 SDGs” to actively, specifically and visibly confront the SDGs. The initiative aims at building awareness and allows the museums to

develop projects which promote a fair, just and tolerant society.

In addition to the strong role-model effect of cultural institutions, art also has an ability to process complex content in an easy-to-understand format and make it available to the wider public as well as create reflection spaces for societal and political discourse. For this purpose, we need spaces for exchange, discussion and communication, such as the Museum District where free, accessible opportunities for dialogue and joint creation can be offered.

We need to use the power of culture to allow all people to have a wonderful life full of opportunities. Cultural facilities have the potential to be the transformation enablers and disseminators to bring the vision of a good future for all members of the society.

# PLATFORM FOR THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION



Sustainable development needs sustainable education: The “Bildung2030” (Education 2030) platform is aiming to offer the foundations for global learning and education for sustainable development.

Education2030 is a digital platform that motivates and supports people in actively addressing issues of sustainability in a self-reliant and collaborative manner. In particular, it is intended to help learners and teachers to inform themselves about sustainable and globally just development in the sense of the 2030 Agenda.

## **Convey knowledge meaningfully**

The platform offers a lot of information on the topics of the 2030 Agenda. Teachers are supported to convey global challenges to their students of different age groups in diverse formats in an exciting and meaningful way. Knowledge should be disseminated by interactive offers, such as workshops and webinars.

Also Global Citizenship Education and education for sustainable development as well as materials on specific topics such as political education, responsibility in global value chains and reflection on one's own consumption behaviour around clothing are prepared and available on the platform. The Bildung2030 platform is a joint project of the organizations Baobab, Forum Umweltbildung, KommEnt, Südwind and Welthaus Graz. The implementation is financed by the Austrian Development Cooperation and the Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology.



SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS



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# Ten aspects of education for sustainable development



**ACT CONCRETELY:** Learning to do something ourselves.



**THINK CRITICALLY:** Learn to handle information critically and make connections.



**INVOLVE EMOTIONS:** Learn to pay attention to our emotions.



**COMMUNICATE:** learn to communicate with respect and appreciation.



**BECOME CONSCIOUS WITH KNOWLEDGE:** learn to be critical with knowledge.



**COOPERATE:** learn to work collaboratively with others.



**DEVELOP VISIONS:** learn to develop your own positive models of the future.



**PARTICIPATE:** learn to get involved in the design processes.



**REFLECT:** learn to pause, reflect on your own actions and draw conclusions for change.



**METHOD DIVERSITY:** learn that different people respond distinct to different sensory input, so multiple ways of learning must be tapped.<sup>21</sup>



## Hannah Satlow

Project coordinator of the web platform Education2030 and education officer at Baobab

### Partnership for education in practice

As the SDGs were developed in 2015, a point of criticism was that they were more of a wish list than an action plan. So many hopes and concerns are compiled in the document. As an educational advisor, I clearly rediscovered my dreams for Austria and all students in SDG 4. Baobab has a library on site for education and consultancy. We work on the issues of globalisation, sustainability, diversity and language education. The concept of Global Learning and Citizenship Education has been a longstanding basis of our work. It is SDG 4.7 where we can especially clearly see the mission for our work: The support for students to acquire the “necessary knowledge and qualifications to promote sustainable development”.

In Austria, there are many institutions which work on the SDGs. Together with our long-standing partner organisations Südwind, Welthaus Graz and KommEnt we

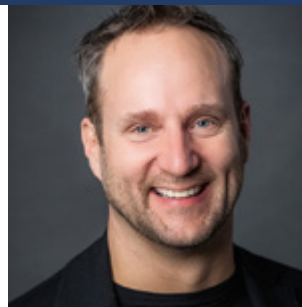
have developed an idea to combine these offers on one web platform. In the process, more organisations started to cooperate with Forum Umweltbildung. This undertaking is of fundamental value, because until now Global Learning and Education for Sustainable Development was not much combined in Austria. The cooperation supported by funding authorities helped to reflect on the understanding of education, similarities and differences. The result is the materials and offers which can be found on the web platform and which comply with the same quality criteria.

It has shown me that good partnerships are essential for a fair and sustainable world. A great added value for education has materialised thanks to the cooperation, where we think in a networking manner, critically question the attitudes and opinions, and thus, live Global Citizenship Education and Education for Sustainable Development.

Sustainable  
Development Goal 4

## Quality education

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4 QUALITY  
EDUCATION



“Almost 10% youth unemployment in Austria at the start of 2021. Therefore, it is those initiatives which produce opportunities specifically for young people with difficult social backgrounds, that are so important. In this regard, it is particularly important to focus on inclusion, diversity and special education in order to strengthen humanitarian and democratic aspects in society in the long term.”

**Matthias Strolz**

Patronage for Sindbad – Social Business

Sustainable  
Development Goal 10

## Reduced inequalities

“The rich do not have to invest enough in the poorest countries to make them rich; they must invest enough for these countries to climb the first step on the economic ladder. Economic development works. It can be successful. And it tends to build on itself, but to do that, it has to get going first.”

**Jeffrey Sachs**

SDG Advocate at UNSG and President of the SDSN

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10 REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



# Dialogue with politics

# SDGS IN AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT



The stronger involvement of the Austrian Parliament in the implementation of the SDGs is, among other things, the result of the commitment of the active national members of Parliament (MPs) and Austrian Federal Minister Karoline Edtstadler.

On 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020, international Human Rights Day, the Austrian National Council decided for the Parliament to get actively involved in the implementation of the SDGs. The political wish has already been expressed before, to ensure a close cooperation between the parliament and the federal government on the implementation of the SDGs.

## **2030 Agenda as a “guiding principle” for the MPs**

It was during the above mentioned plenary meeting that Federal Minister Karoline Edtstadler emphasised the great importance of the strong involvement of the Parliament. Despite this, it is evident that implementing the SDGs is also a task for

society as a whole, which is why the general public must also be strongly involved at all times.

Based on the values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law which are adhered to in large parts of Europe, the SDGs are intended to work towards a better and just future for all. During the session, Austrian national MPs Carmen Jeitler-Cincelli, Gertraud Salzmann (both from the Austrian People's Party) and Astrid Rössler (the Greens Party) echoed this notion. The initiative of the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP), the Social Democratic Party (SPÖ), the Greens and the NEOS, which was presented to the plenary and adopted in its entirety, was



based on a motion for a resolution of the Constitutional Committee concerning the “increased involvement of Parliament in the implementation of the SDGs” by MP Petra Bayr (SPÖ). Therein, Bayr had called for all MPs to be regularly informed about the current status of the implementation of the SDGs by the federal government. All MPs should consider the 2030 Agenda as a “guiding principle”. It was stated during the debate that a regular discourse on various inter-disciplinary matters should be held at all parliamentary committees. In addition, a cross-party working group was suggested as a platform for exchange. During the parliamentary debate, it was requested that regular, retrospective but also prospective reports on the SDG implementation by the federal ministries shall be submitted to the Austrian National Council.

### **SDGs as part of the impact assessment of new legislation**

In order to further integrate the SDGs, the National Council decided on March 2, 2023 to integrate the SDGs into the legally binding impact assessment of legislative projects. Accordingly, the federal government is now called upon to submit a bill as soon as possible that

makes the implementation of the SDGs in the law-making process mandatory in advance, in addition to the existing impact assessment, as an integral part of the bills submitted to parliament under federal budget law.

In Austria, the SDGs have already been taken into account voluntarily in impact-oriented management at the federal level since 2021, initiated by the 1st VNR. In this context, the SDGs are linked to or subordinated to the already existing budgetary impact goals defined by the ministries. In this way, it is shown which SDGs are also fulfilled by the impact goals and a transparent monitoring system is made available, which observes central SDG activities of the departments, makes them comparable and documents them in measurable indicators. So far, however, the impact goals have taken first place instead of anchoring the SDGs as independent goals in the budget.

Therefore, the decision of the National Council on a mandatory SDG impact assessment is an important step towards integrating the SDGs centrally in budgeting and in new regulatory projects and thus as independent goals. Thus, a further



development of impact orientation in the area of the SDGs as a whole is also being considered, in which a stronger connection of impact orientation to the SDGs is to be made possible, the links between planning

and evaluation are to be made clearer, and a more complete picture of the federal government's activities on the SDGs is to be presented.



## Entschlieung

### betreffend Verstärkte Einbindung des Parlaments bei der Umsetzung der SDGs

Die Bundesregierung wird aufgefordert, gemäß den im Ausblickskapitel des Freiwilligen Nationalen Berichts zur Umsetzung der Nachhaltigen Entwicklungsziele (FNU) angeführten strukturellen und prozeduralen Maßnahmen, die künftig die kohärente Umsetzung der Agenda 2030 durch Österreich verstärken sollen, das Parlament regelmäßig über die Fortschritte bei der Umsetzung der SDGs zu informieren und dabei

- als Basis den FNU im ersten Halbjahr 2021 im Nationalrat zu behandeln und diskutieren;
- 2021 einen Mechanismus zu schaffen, der das Parlament einbindet und dabei die umfassende horizontale Wirkung der Nachhaltigen Entwicklungsziele (SDGs) in vollem Ausmaß berücksichtigt.

Fig. 5: Decision („Entschließungsantrag“) of the Austrian National Council



# AUSTRIA'S PARLIAMENT'S ACTION FOR SDGS



The parliament is an important player in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Austria and on an international level. The SDGs are an highly relevant inter-disciplinary issue in parliamentary activities. The parliament is regularly inform by the federal government on the progress on the SDG implementation.

The SDGs get cross-party support in Austria. There are currently four so-called SDG ambassadors. These are members of the National Council who are in charge of the SDGs and their implementation in parliament, namely Carmen Jeitler-Cincelli, Petra Bayr, Astrid Rössler and Yannick Shetty. As mentioned above, in 2020, the increased involvement of the Parliament in the national implementation process of the 2030 Agenda was decided by the National Council. Since then, the Parliament has been engaged in numerous events on the implementation of the SDGs, as the following examples show:



During the “SDGs - be part of it” event in September 2016, the parliament shifted the focus to the increased involvement of children and youth in the implementation of SDGs.



During the “Your SDG – Your Voice” workshop in April 2019 the students learned about the SDGs and understood the commitment of the Austrian National MPs in this regard at first hand.



The exchange between the MPs and experts was the focus of the “Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs at the parliament” event in June 2022.

### Increased dialogue between science and policy-making

Since September 2022 a cooperation between the UniNEtZ project and the Parliament has ensured an increased exchange of knowledge and experience between science and politics. On the initiative of the parliamentary “SDG Ambassadors” the focus is on one SDG every month:



© Parlamentsdirektion/Thomas Jantzen

“Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs at the parliament” event: active MPs in an exchange with experts on the implementation of the SDGs in Austria.



© Parlamentsdirektion/Johannes Zinner

In the context of the event at the Austrian Parliament, the MPs and scientists have confronted the SDG implementation options every month, since September 2022. Here SDG 14 “Life under water” was examined in more detail, hence the octopus as a symbol therefore.

### **SDG patronage and sustainable Parliament**

The Austrian SDG Award, presented by the Senate of Economy, has been recognizing companies, youth organisations, journalists and municipalities for their exemplary implementation of the SDGs since 2017. The event takes place in the premises of the Parliament. As a sign of support for the SDGs, the President of the National

Council, Wolfgang Sobotka, takes on the honorary patronage of the award every year. However, the Parliament does not only talk about the SDGs: The Austrian parliamentary building reopened in 2023 after a complex renovation, and is now the first parliament in the world which was certified as a sustainable one.<sup>22</sup>



## Petra Bayr

Member of the National Council, SPÖ Spokesperson for Global Development and Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

### 2030 Agenda:

#### From ideas straight into the policy-making

The appointment of the SDG-Ambassadors was the first important step to make our colleagues aware of the SDGs. What we need now is to actively introduce the SDGs into the parliamentary activities.

The first step in this direction has already been taken when the Voluntary National Review and the relevant report of the Court of Auditors were discussed. It is now necessary to make the SDGs the subject of debate at all committees in a structural and regular manner. This requires sustainability project reports of the ministries which are regularly discussed at all committees, as well as a clear objective with a time scale, responsibilities and budgets for each individual target.

A new structure of the parliamentary committees according to the 2030 Agenda motto of “break down the silos” would be desirable. The cooperation of several committees, if target conflicts arise, is also an option here, as are new structure, for example regular sustainability meetings with all chairs of the parliamentary committees.

Currently, the SDGs are finding their way into the minds of most politicians. Next, they must be included in all acts of joint policy-making.

# Carmen Jeitler-Cincelli

Member of the National Council and Deputy Secretary  
General of the Austrian Business Federation

© Julius Hirtzberger



## **Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Austrian National Council: A pioneering initiative for a sustainable future**

As a member of the National Council and as a mother of three children, shaping a sustainable future is very close to my heart. As elected representatives, we also have a responsibility to integrate the SDGs into our national policies.

That is why, as SDG spokesperson for the People's Party within the Austrian Parliament, I initiated this joint project of all political groups.

At the beginning of dealing with the complex of topics, it quickly became clear to our small core team that there was very little knowledge about the goals of the 2030 Agenda within the parliamentarians. The first step should therefore be to provide broad information and education.

To this end, we put together SDG ambassador teams from our parliamentary groups, who then jointly organised a goal

through a mini-expo with information booths on each of the monthly plenary days, with strong support from Uninetz. In the meantime, these pop-up booths are well frequented and a permanent component of our plenary weeks.

The implementation of the SDGs in the Austrian National Council is of great importance. On the one hand, it sends a clear signal to the public that we are honestly committed to a sustainable future. By establishing our working group, we demonstrate our non-partisan commitment and create a platform for the exchange of ideas and awareness for broad target groups.

Second, integrating the SDGs into the policy-making process allows us to advance sustainable development at all levels. By incorporating the SDGs as guiding principles in our legislative work and policy agenda, we can ensure that the goals for poverty reduction, education, gender equality, climate action and other areas are at the heart of our policy priorities.





## Astrid Rössler

Member of the National Council, Environment Spokeswoman in the Green Parliamentary Club

### 17 goals for a better world

How can we have a more constructive political discussion and orientate ourselves better towards sustainability? This question led to the creation of the core team of MPs at the Austrian National Council who wanted to integrate a holistic approach of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the parliamentary activities.

Together with the experts from the SDG partner universities of UniNetz and the President of the Austrian National Council, a format was developed to make the SDGs visible and accessible to all MPs. Since the summer of 2022, an SDG has always been displayed in the lounge of the Austrian National Council at the plenary sessions. The selection of contents is up to the responsible MP, the form is diverse, from posters to interactive modules. Experts of the relevant partner university are available

for personal exchange. An information sheet on the current SDG is placed on each seat, including the content-related links to the parliamentary activities.

Unlike the formal committees of the National Council, this format promotes cross-party cooperation and interdisciplinary consideration - in line with the 17 SDGs for a better world.

## Yannick Shetty

Member of the National Council (NEOS)

© NEOS/Yannick Shetty



### **The 2030 Agenda as guard rail of the parliamentary activities**

While in many countries, the 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda are widely discussed in the public sphere, Austria still needs to catch up. For this reason, the active MPs from almost all parliamentary groups merged into an SDG steering committee at the parliament. Our objective, among other things, is to increase the parliament's involvement in the implementation of the goals and create awareness of the political relevance of the SDGs among the MPs.

The “be present” and the “knowing about it” can only be the first steps for the parliament. In particular, Goal 13 (Take action to combat climate change) still lags far behind

the requirements, in Austria. The speed of climate change is worrying and many young people show their fear and concern in a somewhat disturbing way. We must take care to leave a functioning world for the next generations and stop contributing to the disaster. The objectives of the 2030 Agenda can be the guard rails for this.

As for the future, I wish that the goals of the 2030 Agenda would be streamlined into the parliamentary activities to a greater extent and would be the yardsticks of any legislative action.



# Active on European Level

# THE REGIONS AND THE EU: TOGETHER INSTEAD OF SIDE BY SIDE



Which approaches to the implementation of the SDGs have stood the test? What can we learn from other countries in Europe? Experiences and best practices are exchanged during panel discussions.

The European exchange of experiences plays an important role in the implementation of the SDGs. With this backdrop, the Austrian Federal Chancellery (BKA), the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens (BKMC) and the Permanent Representation of Sweden at the United Nations in Vienna invited participants for a targeted transfer of knowledge on 21st May 2019 under the title: “Europe and the SDGs: Best practices and recommendations”. At the core of the debate between government and private sector representatives, there were best practice examples from Sweden, Finland, Slovakia and Austria. Ambassador of Sweden, Mikaela Kumlin Granit, and

BKMC Co-chair, Dr. Heinz Fischer, emphasised the great urgency of the SDG implementation by governments and companies. Fischer stressed the importance of “joint” instead of “competitive” implementation measures. This inspiring exchange has been the impetus for many more best-practice dialogues since then at the political and administrative levels with a wide range of stakeholders (see also chapter “SDG Dialogue Forum: Successful and extensive exchange on SDGs” on page 33 et seq.).

## **Austria calls all ministries to account**

At the panel discussion, BKA representative, Sabine Schneeberger reported that



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the Austrian government has integrated the 2030 Agenda in its various programmes. This is because all Austrian ministries are tasked to pro-actively integrate the SDGs into their area of responsibility in the context of the “mainstreaming approach”. The cooperation in the IMAG, especially created for this purpose, has also stood the test.

### **Finish government reports annually**

Ambassador Pirkko Hämäläinen talked about successful approaches regarding the SDG implementation in Finland: Each year, the ministries must report which SDG implementation steps have been taken. These are coordinated in progress as well as activity reports at government level by eleven departments. A summary report is

then submitted by the government to the national parliament - also on an annual basis.

### **Sweden recommends the involvement of schools and communities**

During the event, the Ambassador of Sweden, Inger Buxton, emphasised that the general public has been involved in the SDG implementation process in Sweden. The concept of “Leaving no one behind” should serve as a common denominator in the implementation of the SDGs, she recommended. Realising the SDGs should not only be the responsibility of the government and ministries, but of all members of society, she said. With this in mind, Buxton also advocated for embedding the SDGs in schools.



For example, in spring 2023, the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched its international communication initiative #FirstGeneration, an international campaign to promote communication towards and engagement by the population on the Global Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In collaboration with Swedish embassies and

local and international partners, events are organised around the world to raise awareness and inspire commitment to the Global Goals through positive influence. Teachers and educators have a uniquely key role to play and an opportunity to reach young people and engage them on issues of social, economic and environmental sustainability.

**For more information, please visit:**

[www.firstgeneration.se](http://www.firstgeneration.se)



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What can we learn from one another about the SDG implementation in Europe? Ambassadors Inger Buxton (Sweden), Sylvia Meier-Kajbic (Austria), Pirkko Hämäläinen (Finland) and Strategy Advisor Kvetoslav Kmec (Slovakia) presented specific examples.



### European strategy is important

When the examples of best practices of the companies and civil society organisations were discussed, multiple success factors for the implementation of the SDGs were mapped out, such as the cooperation between the national and regional levels as well as the need for a strong strategy on EU level. The best practice exchange tells

us that initiatives for increasing awareness for cross-border sustainability are also crucially important.



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What companies and civil society organisations can contribute to the implementation of the SDGs was discussed by Helena Lindemark (CEO of Sustainable Development Sweden AB), Gabriela-Maria Straka (Director of CSR & Corporate Affairs, Grüne Brauerei Göss), Bernhard Zlanabitz (SDG Watch Austrian Steering Committee, Director of EU-Umweltbüro) and Markus Haas (WKÖ).





“The 2030 Agenda provides a vision of an aspirational, equitable and just future for all on a safe and resilient planet. A lot has been achieved, but it is not enough by far. Consequently, there is an ever more urgent need for strategies and road maps toward the needed transformative change. TWI2050 initiative has identified six transformations that operationalise the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.”

## Naki Njebojosa

Honorary Fellow and former Deputy Director General, IIASA;  
former Professor of Energy Economics, Vienna University of Technology.

“The SDGs define how the world which we want to leave to our children should look like. Each country and each individual on our planet is called to make their contribution to reaching these goals. We can do it together!”

## Ambassador Sylvia Meier-Kajbic

Austrian Ambassador and former Head of Department VII.I Development Cooperation in the framework of the European Union and United Nations of the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs



© BMEIA

A portrait of Ambassador Erika Bernhard, a woman with blonde hair tied back, smiling. She is wearing a dark blue scarf and a necklace. The background of the photo is a blue and red flag. The photo is set within a circular frame composed of several green, wedge-shaped segments. A copyright notice '© BMEIA' is visible in the bottom left corner of the photo.

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“In July 2020, Austria presented its first Voluntary National Review on the implementation of SDGs to the United Nations. A steering committee under the leadership of the Austrian Federal Chancellery and the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinated the compilation of the review. The broad stakeholder process involving federal ministries, federal states, the association of towns and municipalities, social partners, science, youth and civil society made it possible for the first time to have a wider overview of the diverse initiatives for sustainability. The SDG event in the Swedish embassy house brought a lot of stakeholders together.”

## Ambassador Erika Bernhard

Ambassador and Envoy of the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs



Sustainable  
Development Goal 7

## Affordable and clean energy

“I refuse to share the pessimistic view of the future. We need to have faith in sustainable technology progress. The growth must not be associated with the consumption of resources to form the basis for a sustainable economy.”

**Wolfgang Anzengruber**  
Former CEO of Verbund AG

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7 AFFORDABLE AND  
CLEAN ENERGY



Sustainable  
Development Goal 12

## Sustainable consump- tion and production

“The core message of ARA (Altstoff Recycling Austria AG) is: There is no climate protection without a circular economy. At the same time, digitalisation is an important driving force. Together with all employees we would like to create even more efficient, faster and more convenient collection, sorting and recycling, and all this throughout the entire value chain.”

**Martin Prieler**  
Executive Director of Altstoff Recycling Austria AG

© ARA/Daniel Willinger



12 RESPONSIBLE  
CONSUMPTION  
AND PRODUCTION



# LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND: THE BROADER THE BETTER



Which approaches to reporting the implementation of the SDGs have proven successful? Who should be specifically involved and how? A roundtable on SDG implementation and reporting focused on concrete best practice projects and recommendations.

On 16th December 2019, another discussion, the Peer Learning Roundtable on the SDGs and the Reporting at the High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF) took place. The coordinators and many stakeholders of SDG implementation in Austria and Europe discussed best practices and national implementation strategies in this regard. Different approaches to reporting on SDG implementation to the HLPF were also discussed.

## **Involving the youth**

Machiel van Stralen (SDG Team of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands) emphasised the involvement of various interest groups as the most

important recommendation regarding the Voluntary National Review (VNR). Above all, he stressed the successful involvement of the youth in the Dutch review and reporting process and in the presentation of their VNR.

Furthermore, the initiative “Adopt an SDG”, launched by NGOs, is supported by many MPs in the Netherlands. This campaign was kicked off on 25th September 2017, the second anniversary of the SDGs, in order to engage the newly elected members of the Dutch Parliament in implementing the SDGs. As part of the campaign, MPs select their favourite SDGs, and are subsequently continuously provided with information, expertise, research, and policy advice on this



specific SDG in advance of parliamentary debates by a coalition of about forty civil society organisations, working on almost all of the social, economic, and environmental issues addressed in the 2030 Agenda. With twenty-four out of 150 parliamentarians (nearly one in six) having adopted the SDGs, the campaign now includes MPs from both coalition and opposition parties, as well as from various parliamentary standing committees.

**For more information, please visit:**

[www.concordeurope.org/2018/09/25/sdg-good-practices-from-across-europe/](http://www.concordeurope.org/2018/09/25/sdg-good-practices-from-across-europe/)

**Creating formats for stakeholder involvement**

Ambassador of Finland, Pirkko Härmäläinen shared information about two central forums of stakeholder involvement: An annually held high-level political forum with the title “Present and future of Sustainable Development in Finland”. Therewith, stakeholders can present their positions and the results are then incorporated into the Finnish review. In the context of a “citizens panel”, citizens can express their views on the present status of sustainable development. Once again, these are also taken into account in the review.

**Setting priorities**

Strategy Expert Kvetoslav Kmec emphasised the intensive participation process in Slovakia before the presentation of the VNR at the HLPF. The Slovak process started seven months before the reporting and led to the selection and establishment of six national priorities, which were also presented then.

**Transparent reviews**

Eili Lepik, Deputy Strategy Director at the Estonian Government Office, recommended the involvement of various stakeholders in the reporting process and presentation. She also suggested making the design of the VNR as informative and honest as possible by including all 17 SDGs in the report as well as the use of indicators.

**Recommendations for the next Austrian review**

On the basis of the discussion results, the Austrian participants of the roundtable discussion formulated concrete recommendations for the creation of the next Austrian voluntary review. Monika Fröhler, BKMC CEO, advocated for the involvement of the Austrian youth in the review and its presentation. More exchange about the



challenges in Austria and stronger involvement of the Parliament was called for by Karin Kuranda (Globale Verantwortung). Julia Baumgartner (BMEIA) advocated for more informative and factual reporting with a focus on existing challenges. Stefanie Weniger (respACT) and Franz Fehr (UniNEtZ)

recommended that future activities with regard to SDG implementation should build on the data from the report.



© BKMC

The involvement of stakeholders and, in particular, the youth was an important topic at the Peer Learning Round-table on the SDGs and the reporting to the United Nations.



## Ambassador Pirkko Hämäläinen

Ambassador of Finland and Permanent Representative of  
Finland to the International Organizations in Vienna

Recent crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine pose challenges to sustainable development. Finland's development cooperation has slowed down due to the crises. Nevertheless, there are achievements to be proud of. Finland has ranked first in international comparison of sustainable development for the last two years. Finland has managed to achieve or is close to achieving, in particular, the Sustainable Development Goals related to social sustainability. The main challenges of Finland concern consumption and production patterns, climate action and the state of biodiversity. In 2022, the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development adopted the 2030 Agenda roadmap, a medium-term plan focusing especially on the domains in which Finland has not yet achieved the goals of the agenda. Engaging the whole society plays an essential role in

the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In Finland, this has been done using the Commitment2050 tool, which allows different stakeholders to give concrete, measurable and followable operational commitments. A sustainability assessment has been integrated into the annual cycle of policy planning, budgeting and reporting. Finland strives to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in all its actions, both domestically and internationally. Long-term cooperation with partner countries is an important element of Finland's work to support sustainable development. One example is Nepal, where the greatest achievements of long-term development cooperation are the reduction of poverty, improvement of literacy and access to clean drinking water for almost everyone.



16th December 2019: Peer Learning Roundtable in the Ban Ki-moon Centre. Everything was new on this December day: the participants, the location, and the oncoming Voluntary National Review. And new things are exciting. The momentum, the energy, the anticipation that one can contribute to something “greater”, that Austria would report to the UNO on the 2030 Agenda for the first time. And “get help”, for example, from Finland - the SDG hero.

But new things also have something vague, undefined, and worrying about them. Trust had to be built between the civil society and the government first. There were initial hardships and expectations, demands, discussions, work methods were miles apart from one another. But there was the good will which ultimately led the right people at the right time and place to success. It could have been different. As always in history a lot depends on so little, on nuances, on moments, discussions. The importance of cooperation and mutual learning to achieve the SDGs was emphasised at the event and it was the first indication of what should be essential.

Namely, to involve various stakeholders in the implementation and reporting process. The civil society, as a “watchdog” over implementation has been well engaged by SDG Watch Austria through an integrated approach.

Now, 4 years and one VNR later, Austria should focus again on creating an inclusive and informative review for 2024 which shows the challenges and interconnections between the SDGs to direct future efforts and sustainable development.

It starts all over again, the “new” is perceptible again, and the trust between the stakeholders is greater than before. There is still a long way to go.

## Bernhard Zlanabitnig

SDG Watch Austria and Director EU-Umweltbüro  
(Environmental Office)



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# THE NEXT GENERATION IS FEMALE: FOCUS ON WOMEN'S POTENTIAL



“The Next Generation is Female” - a dialogue platform of European top female politicians focuses on the situation and potential of women and girls, above all, in war and conflict situations. After the initial conference in Salzburg, several activities have already been set in motion.

Multiple crises require diverse solution: A conference on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> August 2022 in Salzburg gave the go-ahead to the initiative. “Women in particular, as key players in crises, wars and post-conflict processes, can make a significant contribution to finding solutions to European challenges,” Minister Edtstadler stressed at the conference. This approach should also contribute to making the EU and the world more sustainable, inclusive and resilient.

## **High-profile European female leaders**

“The Next Generation is Female” platform is supported by many European female leaders and top politicians. Participants of the conference, which will to be held annually in the future, were, among others persons, Judit Varga, Hungarian Minister for Justice and Minister of State for EU Relations in Hungary, Tytti Tuppurainen, Finnish Minister for the European Affairs and Management of State Properties Abroad, Hadja Lahbib, Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Irena Dimitrova, Bulgarian





Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Parliamentary Secretary in Latvia, Daniela Grigore Gitman, State Secretary for European Affairs in Romania and Andreja Metelko-Zgombić, State Secretary for Europe at the Croatian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The European Parliament was represented by Vice President Nicola Beer and MP Eva Maydell.

### **Better support for women in Ukraine**

Under this initiative many activities have been carried out since its launch. For one of which, Karoline Edtstadler, Austrian Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution travelled to Kyiv together with seven other European female politicians on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>

November 2022, to facilitate further European support, in particular for women and girls. The main focus were discussions with high-profile Ukrainian female politicians, among them, Olena Selenska, First Lady of Ukraine and Olha Stefanischyna, Deputy Prime Minister and also representatives of aid organisations, soldiers, mothers, displaced women and students.

Women must be actively involved in the decision-making processes, above all, in the rebuilding of Ukraine, said Edtstadler. The experiences, concerns and perspectives of women and girls must also be more visible in the media.



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### **Solidarity with women in the Republic of Moldova**

On International Women's Day, eight representatives of "The Next Generation is Female" met, among other persons, President Maia Sandu, in the Republic of Moldova. During this working visit the country, which had accepted the highest number of Ukrainian displaced persons

measured in relation to its own population, was assured of full European solidarity.

During this meeting it was also discussed how to make the important role of women in society and in peacebuilding efforts more visible. The reason behind this trip were fears that Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine could also spread to neighbouring Moldova.



ACTIVE ON  
EUROPEAN LEVEL



© BKA/Christopher Dunker

Karoline Edtstadler, Austrian Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution wants to pave the way for a more resilient and more feminine EU via the network "The Next Generation is Female". More attention should be given to women in crisis regions.

# Active on International Level

# FIRST VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW ON SDG IMPLEMENTATION



To prove how they achieve the SDGs, all UN members shall-must submit the “Voluntary National Review” on the implementation of the SDGs (VNR) at least twice until 2030. Austrian Federal Minister Karoline Edtstadler presented the first Austrian review on the implementation of the SDGs in the context of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020.<sup>23</sup>

The backbone of this first implementation report was a more than one year-long work process involving all stakeholders and the entire drafting group, co-chaired by the BKA and the BMEIA.

Building on the results of the panel discussions held in 2019 (see chapter on “Leaving no one behind: The broader, the better,” on page 115 et sqq.), and the coordination of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group (IMAG), a comprehensive review and broad stakeholder engagement took place: In

total, more than 40 organisations were involved in the development, production and communication of the report between May 2019 and July 2020.<sup>24</sup> For example, all federal ministries contributed to the VNR with their cooperation partners at the federal, state and municipal levels. In addition, social partners, stakeholders from the business community, civil society organisations and institutions from academia were also invited to contribute to the report. In several rounds of voting on the report, which was ultimately widely accepted,



around 320 pieces of feedback were taken into account.<sup>25</sup>

### Three major focus areas

The first VNR yielded a comprehensive inventory of measures, success stories and initiatives carried out to implement the 2030 Agenda in Austria. Specific progress was documented on the basis of data analysed by Statistics Austria, the Austrian federal statistics institute. In addition to that, in its first VNR, Austria also set three major priorities areas on the issues of

- ♦ digitalisation
- ♦ women, youth and “Leaving no one behind” as well as
- ♦ climate protection and climate change adaptation.

In addition, the first VNR included a forecast on other approaches of the federal government to further implement the SDGs.

### Positive reactions

The feedback on Austria’s first VNR turned out to be generally positive: Austria performs well in the implementation of the SDGs and their targets when compared on

an international level (see chapter “Austria on the SDG test bench” on page 21 et seq.). In addition, Austria was praised for the diverse and transparent involvement of various stakeholder groups in the SDG implementation. Particularly, the large-scale process of drawing up the VNR with intensive cooperation between politics, administration, science, economy and civil society ensured positive international feedback. The fact that Austria integrated a separate chapter on data analysis the “data chapter” for the monitoring of progress into the review VNR, based on data from Statistics Austria, also serves as a role model for other countries.

### For more information, please visit:

[sdgs.un.org/basic-page/austria-24738](https://sdgs.un.org/basic-page/austria-24738)





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Fig. 6: Illustration: Cover first VNR

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic Austria's first VNR at the High-Level Political Forum of the United Nations was presented in a virtual format. Apart from Austrian Federal Minister Karoline Edtstadler, other members of the government and representatives of civil society and business also had an opportunity to take the floor. Subsequently, the review was presented in Austria.



# UN HLPF IN NEW YORK: JOINT RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES



The “High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development” (HLPF) 2022 focused on the discussions regarding the negative effects of current global crises. In line with this, Austria concentrated on women as peacebuilders during a special side event on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

The HLPF in New York annually deals with the global progress and challenges concerning the SDGs implementation. The debates in July 2022 focused on the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular, on education, gender equality, environment and partnerships (SDG 4, 5, 14, 15, 17). The results of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine were also a point of discussion.

## **Eco-social tax reform promoting sustainability**

Austrian Federal Minister Karoline Edtstadler clarified at the UN Forum that the effects of the current global crises

pose a great risk to the achievement of the SDGs, making a strong multilateral response even more necessary. Apart from combating crises, Austria resolutely works for a sustainable future, she said, referring also to the implementation of the eco-social tax reform and strong investments in the digitalisation of companies.

## **Supporting “women peacebuilders” in all crisis regions**

In New York, Austria placed special emphasis on this issue with an HLPF side event about “Women in peacebuilding & justice”, linking SDG 16 “Peace, equality and strong institutions” and SDG 5 “Gender



equality". Apart from Austrian Federal Minister Edtstadler, also H.E. Ms. Sima Sami Bahous, Executive Director of UN Women, H.E. Mr. Fabio Cassesse, Director for Development Cooperation at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Adela Raz, former Permanent Representative of Afghanistan at the United Nations, Director of Afghanistan Policy Lab at Princeton University, H.E. Ms. Mavic Cabrera Balleza, Director of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, and Ms. Brittany Roser, UN Advocacy Advisor NRO PAX for Peace, participated in the event, which was moderated by Ms. Monika Froehler, CEO BKMC.

The situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and Ukraine was the main focus of the discussion. In this regard, Sima Bahous stressed the numerous recent setbacks in women's rights worldwide. Referring to

the results of a report by UN-Women, she reported that it is evident that societies with more gender equality are considerably more resilient and crisis-resistant. Moreover, Mavic Cabrera Balleza highlighted the fundamental role of local civil society organisations, currently in Ukraine, which often act as "first responders" in conflicts. She appealed for the strategic financing of women's rights organisations and "Women Peacebuilders" in all crisis regions.

© BKMC/David Plakke



Austrian Federal Minister Karoline Edtstadler emphasised Austria's commitment to equality and the empowerment of women.





“We must change the narrative about what women’s rights should be, as it has to be inclusive and comprehensive enough to not limit our scope and imagination.”

## Adela Raz

Director of the Afghanistan Policy Lab at the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs and former Afghan ambassador to the U.S. and the UN

“SDG 16: Peace, equality and strong institutions is such an important goal for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda that it should be covered at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development of the UN (HLPF) every year.”

## Ambassador Alexander Marschik

Austrian Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Austria to New York and the United Nations





Sustainable  
Development Goal 5

# Gender equality

“Women earn significantly less than men and it will still remain this way for the next 40 years, if we do not close the gap faster. For this purpose, we need a minimum wage which allows us to make a living and age with dignity, reduction and redistribution of working time and development of child care facilities.”

**Barbara Blaha**

Economist and Founder of Moment Magazin





## Sustainable Development Goal 16

# Peace, equality and strong institutions

“I remind everyone once again about our commitment to the rule of law in Austria. Although it is based on stable national and European foundations, we must still remain alert.”

**Brigitte Bierlein**

Former Austrian Federal Chancellor and former  
President of the Constitutional Court





# INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM: CHANCE FOR MORE SUSTAINABLE INTERNET DESIGN



Federal Minister Karoline Edtstadler, as the political representative of the Global North, has been appointed to the Leadership Panel of the United Nations Internet Governance Forum (IGF) by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. As ambassadors of the IGF, the IGF Leadership Panel advocates for the sustainable design of our Internet. Against the backdrop of a global decline in democracy and multiple crises, it is an accessible, free, sustainable and secure Internet that is more important than ever for fostering social cohesion.

In light of the rapidly advancing digital transformation, especially in areas such as artificial intelligence, autonomous driving, smart cities or e-government, dialogue and best-practice exchange between the companies shaping and driving digital

developments, governments, academia and other stakeholders, are essential.

The IGF is a global multi-stakeholder body established by the United Nations that brings together stakeholders on an equal





footing for discussions on policy issues and recommendations. It promotes a shared understanding of how to maximise the opportunities of the Internet and manage emerging risks and challenges.

The IGF Leadership Panel consists of ten high-level members appointed from government, the private sector, the tech community, and civil society by the United Nations Secretary-General for two-year terms. Of the two government representatives, one is always from the Global South and one from the Global North. Austria currently holds the representation of the Global North through Federal Minister Karoline Edtstadler.

### **Rules for the digital world**

At the invitation of Federal Minister Karoline Edtstadler, the IGF Leadership Panel met in Vienna from 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2023, with the clear focus on the planned Global Digital Compact. This is intended to be a commitment by the United Nations to an open, free, accessible and secure Internet and will be adopted at the “Summit of the Future” in September 2024. “In many cases, the rules of the international community only fit into the analog world and not into

the digital one. Effective regulations for the digital space are therefore needed here,” said Federal Minister Karoline Edtstadler. The yardstick must always be in compliance with human rights. “Safeguarding human rights on the Internet also means, first and foremost, providing access to the Internet for everyone, especially in the global South” - keyword: “connect the unconnected” - in order to ensure equal access to information for all. On the other hand, however, it also means spreading the protective shield against the dark side of the Internet as widely as possible,” she added, referring to hate on the Internet, which spreads much more quickly through algorithms than in the analog world. It was also important to protect people from autocratic and dictatorial regimes, deliberately using Internet shutdowns to influence elections or to cover up human rights violations.

### **Unique platform for stakeholders**

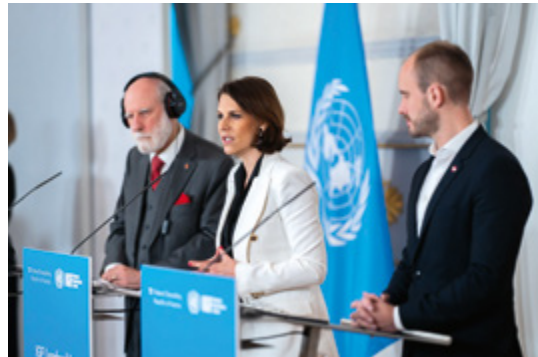
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## ACTIVE ON INTERNATIONAL LEVEL



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The IGF Leadership Panel developed valuable input for the Global Digital Compact at a meeting in Vienna in early March this year (at the Austrian Federal Chancellery). The aim is to promote a free, open and trustworthy Internet in which human rights apply and which supports the achievement of the SDGs.

@Vinton Cerf/Royal Society



## Vinton G. Cerf

Chairman, Leadership Panel of the Internet  
Governance Forum

The Leadership Panel of the Internet Governance Forum has had the benefit of Minister Karoline Edtstadler's enthusiasm, insights and pragmatic determination to deliver on the Panel's primary goal, which is to highlight the outcomes of the annual Internet Governance Forum meetings and to share them at the venues where they might otherwise not be made visible. Minister Edtstadler convened a recent meeting of the Panel in Vienna and played a leadership role as one of the working group chairs in this effort. Her refreshingly clear calls for an open and multi-stakeholder driven Internet resonate with everyone who makes constructive use of the Internet and the World Wide Web. Minister Edtstadler brings a particularly

helpful perspective to the work of the Panel, given her important focus on innovation policy.

The Leadership Panel draws on the powerfully diverse experience and perspectives of its members and I am personally grateful for the time and energy that Minister Edtstadler is putting into her term of service.

Sustainable  
Development Goal 8

## Decent work and economic growth

“Caused by multiple factors, such as globalisation, new technologies and demographic changes, a clear structural change of work environments can now be observed. In addition, the current shortage of qualified workforce also results in employees being able to demand more, not only financially, but especially as regards the work conditions.”

**Johannes Kopf**

Member of Management Board of AMS  
(Austrian Public Employment Service)

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8 DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH



Sustainable  
Development Goal 9

## Industry, innovation and Infrastructure

“A strong industry, competitive framework conditions as well as confidence and optimism are the cornerstones which can help us fight the economic crises, such as the Coronavirus pandemic.”

**Georg Knill**

President of Federation of Austrian Industries

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9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



# KOFI ANNAN AWARD FOR INNOVATION IN AFRICA: PROMOTING SDGS



The “Kofi Annan Award for Innovation in Africa” aims to promote innovative social entrepreneurs from all over the African continent. Each year, the focus is placed on a different SDG.

The idea of the “Kofi Annan Award for Innovation in Africa” (KAAIA) already occurred in the context of the Austrian EU Presidency in 2018. The project materialised after the “High-Level Africa-Europe Forum” under the motto “Taking cooperation into the digital age”. The declared objective of KAAIA is a partnership between Africa and Europe, beyond the way from classical development cooperation. In memory of the former UN Secretary General, the programme aims to should make a contribution to an inclusive and more equitable just world.

## **Support for social entrepreneurs**

By founding the Global Compact in the year 2000, former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan already highlighted the importance of the private sector for the fight against poverty. The Global Compact is a global pact between the UN and companies to make economic growth and globalisation more sustainable. On the power of business, the former Secretary General said at the time: “But governments cannot do it alone. Civil society groups have a critical role, as partners, advocates and watchdogs. So do commercial enterprises. Without the private sector, sustainable development will remain only a distant dream.”





In this spirit, KAAIA now identifies innovative social entrepreneurs from the African continent, supporting them in scaling their sustainable solutions. The prize is awarded every two years, focusing on a specific SDG each time. The first edition of the awards prioritised digital solutions in the area of SDG 3 (health and well-being) due to the COVID 19 pandemic. For the 2024 awards, the focus will be on food security and thus SDG 2 (No Hunger), due to current developments.

### Procedure and awards

After a “Call for Innovations”, nine teams of finalists are selected out of all the participating startups. These teams flesh out their solutions during a five-day innovation bootcamp at the World Food Programme Innovation Accelerator before presenting them to a high-ranking international jury. The jury then selects three winners who, in addition to receiving funding of 250,000 euros each, take part in a 12-months “sprint program” of the World Food Programme Innovation Accelerator. In scaling their solutions, they are supported by mentors as



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well as a broad partner network.<sup>26</sup> The other finalists will also benefit from a support network of experts and investors who all share a common goal: granting the startups access to the right resources.

The Austrian Federal Chancellery and the Kofi Annan Foundation are supported by the Austrian Development Agency and the World Food Programme Innovation Accelerator.<sup>27</sup>



**Kofi Annan Award**  
for Innovation in Africa



**Austrian  
Development  
Agency**



**Kofi Annan**  
FOUNDATION



**Federal Chancellery  
Republic of Austria**



World Food  
Programme

**INNOVATION  
ACCELERATOR**



A portrait of Elhadj As Sy, a man with a grey beard and glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and blue tie. The portrait is set against a white background and is framed by a semi-circular arrangement of red segments. The text "© ICRC/Kofi Annan Foundation" is written vertically along the left edge of the portrait.

© ICRC/Kofi Annan Foundation

“We are very pleased that the Kofi Annan Award for Innovation in Africa lives up to its name as a pan-African award. We received excellent applications from entrepreneurs across all five regions of the continent who have one thing in common: innovative digital solutions to improve health and well-being.”

## Elhadj As Sy

Chairman of the Kofi Annan Foundation  
and former Secretary General of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)



# Conclusions

# OUTLOOK AT MID-TERM



The year 2023 marks the half-way point on the way towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Despite great challenges caused by crises and geopolitical conflicts, there have been manifold relevant successes.

Geopolitical conflicts, the climate crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic impeded the implementation of the SDGs. Nevertheless, decisive results could be registered in recent years. The United Nations Statistics Division reports great progress regarding SDG 3, 7, 9 and 17 in its “SDG Progress Charts” (see overview).

## **Successful implementation in Austria**

There have also been relevant successes in Austria, as the following examples clearly indicate



The awareness and public relations work were improved, above all through the SDG website ([www.sdg.gv.at](http://www.sdg.gv.at)), playing the role of a central information platform for the SDGs and their implementation. The web-

site includes, among other things, specific “success stories” and Austria’s first Voluntary National Review (VNR).



SDG strategy and SDG action plan are further milestones of the Austrian SDG work. The SDG strategy of Austria’s Global Compact Network has supported companies in the implementation of the SDGs since 2016.



In recent years, an improved cooperation at the parliament has also been achieved (see chapter „Austria’s Parliament’s action for SDGs“, on page 100 et seq.).



The SDGs indicator R-reports of Statistics Austria are especially important for the implementation of the SDGs in and by Austria, as they underpin the SDG work



with figures, data and facts and provide key trends at a glance. as because the SDG work is governed by figures and data, and provides central trends at a glance.

### **Austria's second VNR will be presented in 2024**

At the High-Level Political Forum of the United Nations in New York in July 2024, Austria's second Voluntary National Review (VNR) will be presented by Austria's Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution. The Austrian Institute of Statistics Austria, Statistik Austria will also create an up-to-date SDG Indicators Report for this purpose. The work on preparing the report is carried out - under the leadership of the Austrian Federal Chancellery and the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs - with the intensive involvement and consultation of all Austrian stakeholders. Reporting is coordinated by the Interministerial Working Group.

The second VNR will deal with, among other things, the issues of "Skills for 2030: competences for sustainable development" (coordinated by the BMAW), "Leaving no one behind: social cohesion and solidarity in a time of multiple crises" (coordinated

by the BMSGPK) and "Transformation to a fossil-free, environmentally-friendly and resource-saving economy and society" (coordinated by the BMK). Cross-cutting issues, such as gender equality and global perspective are also taken into account, at the same time. The progress is demonstrated by success stories and best practice examples.

### **SDG Dialogue Forum 3.0**

In 2023, the SDG Dialogue Forum will take place for the third time, ensuring the participatory dialogue between diverse players in the field of SDG implementation. Before the High-Level Event of the SDG Dialogue Forum 3.0 on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023, the Innovation Pools will be placing innovative ideas for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the focus. In addition, this year, a representative of the Global South will - for the first time - contribute their perspective on the key challenges in implementing the SDGs. The forum will be designed in an even more participatory format, thanks to the "networking spaces".



### Focus on the youth

Already at the SDG Dialogue Forum in 2022, youth were increasingly involved in the expert discussions. In 2023, this participatory approach will be further strengthened. In the run-up to the SDG Dialogue Forum, a separate youth forum will take place for this purpose. It will be organised together with the “Rebels of Change” initiative by the Austrian Development Agency and Südwind (see chapter “Make way for the ,Rebels of Change’” on page 84 et sqq.). The SDG Dialogue Forum wants to take up the results of the youth forum and empower youth representatives to be represented at the SDG Dialogue Forum in all formats. The BKMC works with young change makers in all its programmes to ensure that the generations of tomorrow are involved in the decisions of today.

of all stakeholders is necessary. Targeted and coordinated action by policy-makers, openness to research and innovation in all areas as well as innovative thinking and creative solutions to the problems of our time are more important than ever.

### Dialogue and exchange

In the second half of the SDG implementation leading up to 2030, it is especially important to support dynamics for a social-ecological transformation, a green energy transition and better financing of development policy activities. To this end, respectful dialogue and exchange with one another as well as the commitment

## CONCLUSIONS AND OUTLOOK

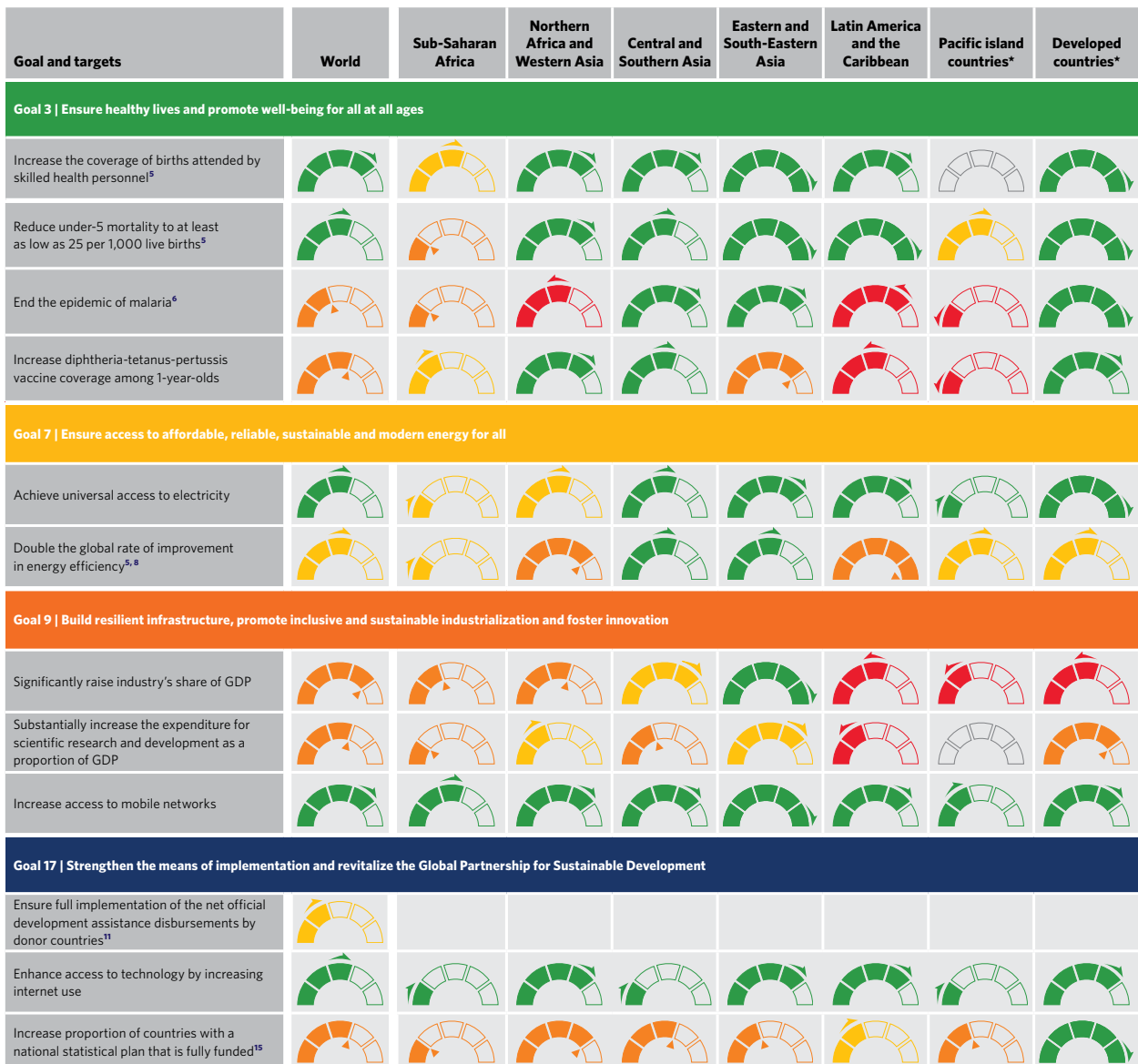
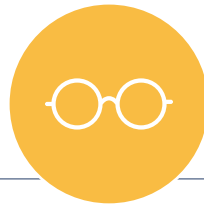


Fig. 7: The SDG Progress Charts show significant progress in certain areas. Austria is included among the “developed countries” category.<sup>28</sup>



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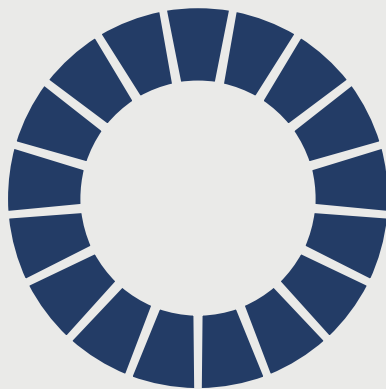
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