

Implementation Report 2021

Austria's National Strategy
against Antisemitism



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On 21 January 2021, Austria presented its **National Strategy to prevent and combat all forms of antisemitism**. The following year, on **31 January 2022**, an **implementation report** featuring an overview of the **employment of the National Strategy** was released. According to the Strategy, a report of this type shall be submitted annually to the national parliament. Austria was one of the first Member States of the European Union to adopt and implement a holistic strategy to prevent and fight all forms of antisemitism as foreseen by European Council Declaration on the fight against antisemitism and the development of a common security approach to better protect Jewish communities and institutions in Europe of 6 December 2018.

The National Strategy sets out a holistic approach to **prevent and combat all forms of antisemitism** and **foster Jewish life in Austria**. It aims to provide long-term prospects for Jews in Austria, and thereby safeguard Jewish life for generations to come.

Highlights 2021



- ✓ Presentation of the National Strategy against Antisemitism (NAS) in January 2021

- ✓ Establishment of the Task Force Austrian-Jewish Cultural Heritage within the Directorate General IV of the Federal Chancellery as of 1 February 2021





✓ Unanimous adoption of the Austrian-Jewish Cultural Heritage Act (ÖJKG) by the National Council on 24 February 2021



✓ Signing of a grant agreement expediting the implementation of the ÖJKG between the Federal Government and the Austrian Jewish Community (IRG) in June 2021

- ✓ Presentation of a study on anti-semitism (2020) in March 2021, conducted by the Institute for Empirical Social Studies (IFES) by order of the Austrian Parliament



- ✓ Announcement of the Federal Government's decision to acquire the remnants of the former concentration camp complex Gusen in May 2021



- ✓ Implementation of a “flag” (marking) for hate crime (prejudice motive) in the police logging system and presentation of a scientific report on 21 July 2021



- ✓ First-time announcement of the Simon Wiesenthal Prize, awarded once a year in recognition of special civic engagement to combat antisemitism and to educate the public about the Holocaust, in August/September 2021



✓ Opening of the revised exhibition at Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum on 4 October 2021



✓ Presentation of the EU Strategy to combat antisemitism and foster Jewish life by the European Commission on 5 October 2021



- ✓ Adoption of a declaration against antisemitism—initiated due to Austrian efforts—by the United Nations Human Rights Council on 5 October 2021



- ✓ Inauguration of the Shoah Wall of Names Memorial in Ostarrichpark on 9 November 2021



- ✓ Adoption of the Working Definition of Antisemitism issued by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) by the Austrian Football Association (ÖFB) and the Bundesliga on 11 November 2021



- ✓ Implementation of an additional seminar on antisemitism and sensitisation as part of the education and training of police officers

- ✓ Austria-wide extension of the mandatory Values and Orientation Courses (WOK) by the Austrian Integration Fund (ÖIF) from 8 to 24 hours



- ✓ Signing of a performance agreement between the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) and the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) 2021-2023 with regard to the creation of a research centre in the Documentation Archive of Austrian Resistance (DÖW)





On 9 November 2021, the Shoah Wall of Names Memorial, built largely due to the initiative of Holocaust survivor Kurt Yakov Tutter, was inaugurated in Ostarrichipark (9th district of Vienna). A milestone event for Austria's commemorative culture, the memorial not only commemorates the fate of approximately 65.000 Austrian Jewish children, women and men who were murdered during the Shoah, but also provides their descendants with a place for prayer and reverence.

38 measures against antisemitism

The Strategy comprises **38 specific measures** at a **societal level** and within the fields of **education and research, security, law enforcement and integration**.

Since the presentation of the National Strategy in January 2021, **29 measures** have been **launched** and **nine** have already been **fully implemented**:

- **Tripling of investments for the protection of Jewish institutions** and the **promotion of Jewish life to four million euros each year** as well as long-term legal protection (**Austrian-Jewish Cultural Heritage Act**—passed unanimously by the national parliament on 24 February 2021)
- **Close monitoring of the national data situation** regarding the recording of antisemitic incidents
- **Implementation of a “flag” (marking) for hate crime (prejudicial motive)** in the police logging system
- **Implementation of a set of measures to protect against cybercrime** which enhance existing security measures to counteract cybercrime and online hate speech
- **Implementation of Values and Orientation Courses** by the Austrian Integration Fund for persons entitled to asylum and subsidiary protection (the courses also deal with breaking down antisemitic prejudices)
- **Implementation of multiplier workshops** by the Austrian Integration Fund in collaboration with the Jewish Community of Vienna to improve preventive work
- Active communication of the **contributions of Judaism to Austrian and European history** in integration and educational formats (this involves seminars, brochures and projects teaching immigrants about Judaism and how Jewish people shaped Austria and Europe with their positive contributions to history)
- **Education and training of security, judicial and national defence authorities** (this entails different seminars and courses on antisemitism)
- **Educational events, activities and trips to memorial sites** to broaden the sensitivity training of the Austrian Armed Forces

Projects to commemorate and educate

The Federal Chancellery established the **Task Force Austrian-Jewish Cultural Heritage** in 2021 to coordinate the implementation of the National Strategy. The Task Force is also in charge of compiling the **implementation report** detailing the status of each measure.

Moreover, it is responsible for strengthening the coordination between individual actors in the areas of **commemoration, antisemitism education and prevention**, and supports various **projects**, including:

- **Shoah Wall of Names Memorial** (inaugurated on 9 November 2021; commemorates the fate of approximately 65,000 Jewish children, women and men from Austria who were murdered during the Shoah)
- **Historical Jewish Law Moot Court—The Rabbinic Tribunal of Prague** (November 2021–September 2022; project organised by the Research Cluster The Jewish Holy Roman Empire, Department for Legal and Constitutional History—University of Vienna)
- **Theodor Herzl as an Austrian constitutionalist?—His influence on the Jewish national movement and its constitutional concepts** (November 2021–September 2023; project organised by the Research Cluster on The Jewish Holy Roman Empire, Department for Legal and Constitutional History—University of Vienna)
- **Centropa Stories** (October 2021–March 2022; bilingual podcast series organised by the Austrian Centre for Research and Documentation of Jewish Life in Eastern and Central Europe)

Antisemitic incidents in numbers

According to statistics provided by the registration office of the Jewish Community of Vienna (IKG Wien), there were **965 antisemitic incidents in Austria in 2021**. The previous report showed 585 incidents for the year 2020.

Classification of antisemitic incidents during the year 2021

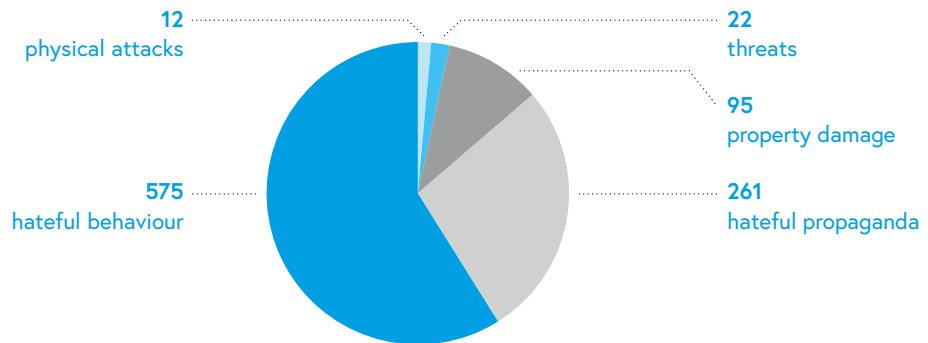





Fig. 1: classification of antisemitic incidents during the year 2021
(source: IKG registration office, annual report: 1.1.2021-31.12.2021)

Of these 965 attacks, 461 are deemed to have been motivated by right-wing extremist thought, 148 by left-wing extremist ideology, 103 by Muslim extremist views, while the rest cannot be classified.

As can be seen in the pie chart above, the majority of these incidents involved hateful behaviour (575 instances), while hateful propaganda made up 261 cases of antisemitic aggression. There were also 95 instances of property damage, 22 threats and 12 physical attacks.

Implementation table

The following table lists the measures set out in the NAS and the current status of their implementation.

-  the measure has been fully implemented
-  the measure has been partially implemented
-  with long-term measures: certain stages of the implementation process have been completed or implementation has begun

1. Tripling of investments for the protection of Jewish institutions and the promotion of Jewish life to **four million euros** each year as well as long-term legal protection.



2. Preparing to establish a centre for research on antisemitism on the part of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research for the upcoming performance agreement 2021–2023 with the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) and creation of a **research centre in the Documentation Archive of Austrian Resistance (DÖW)**.



3. Creation of a platform for ongoing coordination across society. This platform aims to institutionalise discussions on current developments and to present possible solutions between the federation, federal provinces, municipalities, corporations, civil society institutions and NGOs as well as sports and youth organisations and other institutions.



4. Evaluation and—if necessary—legal revisions of the Prohibition Act, the Symbols Act and the Badge Act with respect to domestic jurisdiction, in particular with regard to the offenses of Sections 3g and 3f of the Prohibition Act as well as closing of existing gaps in the law.





5. Reviewing legal procedures for confiscating Nazi memorabilia under the Prohibition Act, regardless whether or not an action that is subject to prosecution has been carried out and evaluation of the Badge Act.



6. Monitoring of the domestic data situation with regard to the recording of antisemitic incidents and coordination of that by the Federal Ministry of Interior and the Federal Ministry of Justice together with civil society organisations by the end of 2021.



7. Preparation of a documentation centre in connection with the prevention of and fight against antisemitism with the involvement of the antisemitism reporting office of the Jewish Community and other actors.



8. Active cooperation at a European level to promote the comparability of the data collected by the EU member states.



9. Establishment of an Austria-wide coordinated consortium to participate in the European research infrastructure **EHRI** (European Holocaust Research Infrastructure) with the involvement of all stakeholders.



10. Strengthening of the coordination between individual actors in the field of antisemitism education and antisemitism prevention in schools in order to be able to reach as many schools and young people as possible.



11. Increasing protection against violence and hate speech/messages on the internet: Implementation of a package of measures to combat hatred on the internet and other forms of digital crime efficiently.

12. Invitation of specific institutions to the National No Hate Speech Committee which are dedicated to education about and the fight against anti-semitism, in order to supplement the network with their specific expertise.



13. Forthcoming increase in the existing exchange between the advisory institutions (Advisory Centre for Extremism, Advisory Centre for #GegenHassimNetz, Federal Office on Sect Issues) and focus on antisemitism.



14. Implementation of Values and Orientation Courses by the Austrian Integration Fund for persons entitled to asylum and subsidiary protection. The courses also deal with the dismantling of antisemitic prejudices.



15. Implementation of an international research project to develop a catalogue of qualifications and measures for appropriate training and further education of teachers in the areas of antisemitism prevention, Holocaust studies and National Socialism as well as anti-racist educational work. Implementation of the recommendations of the research group in the training curricula and in the further training of teachers.



16. Evaluation and quality assurance of the current training curricula for educators based on the results and recommendations of the international research project, in particular on the topics of antisemitism, the Holocaust and National Socialism as well as anti-racist educational work.



17. Expansion of educational offers to educators to include current challenges in dealing with antisemitism and racism as well as the promotion of collaboration and **exchange measures with international educational institutions**, including those in Israel.





18. Preparation and use of the existing literature and scientific knowledge for schools and school inspectors in order to be able to deal with antisemitic incidents in an appropriate manner.



19. Revision of the existing teaching materials to reflect current challenges on the subject of antisemitism.



20. Supplementing and strengthening the **basic training courses of the general administrative service, the executive service and the in-service training**, with specific teaching content on the subjects of “Antisemitism—Education against prejudice—Early detection—Awareness-raising”.



21. Promotion of **dialogue projects** that enable an exchange between young people from different backgrounds (different social groups, nationalities, religions).



22. Active **conveyance of the contributions of Judaism** to Austrian and European history in integration and educational formats.



23. Increasing awareness and strengthening of Jewish culture and Jewish community life in Austria.



24. Consistent **implementation and regular evaluation of the security plan** for Jewish institutions and communities.



25. Ongoing implementation of **training, education and further training measures** for security authorities, the judiciary and national defence with the aim of increasing awareness of the problem.

26. Implementation of **educational activities, events and visits to memorial sites** by the **Austrian Armed Forces** within the framework of the training principle of state and defence political education for the purpose of making a national contribution to the promotion of human rights and as measures against totalitarianism, antisemitism and racism.



27. Further intensification of the **collaboration between the security authorities and the Israeli Religious Society**.



28. Strengthening the **collaboration between the various stakeholders and the nationwide network for preventing extremism and deradicalization** (BNED).



29. Creation of a “**National Action Plan for the Prevention of Extremism and Deradicalization**” by the BNED, which should contain specific measures that focus on holistic extremism prevention in their implementation.



30. Implementation of **multiplier workshops by the Austrian Integration Fund** in cooperation with the **Israeli Religious Society** to improve prevention work.



31. Promotion of **youth projects in the field of integration**, which raise awareness about radicalisation, propaganda, antisemitism and the importance of peaceful dialogue between cultures and religions.



32. Implementation of a “**flag**” (marking) for **hate crime (prejudice motive)** in the **police logging system**. This marking is also transferred to the justice process automation system (VJ) through a common interface, through which reports of antisemitic crimes can be systematically recorded and evaluated.





33. Continuation of scientific research on behalf of Parliament and further extensive empirical survey on antisemitism.



34. Carrying out an **in-depth study on antisemitism** in the context of **migration and integration**.



35. Examination of the **expansion of existing training courses at the Extremism Advice Centre** for youth work, parent education and other areas to include a further module on the subject of antisemitism.



36. Sustainable support for **projects of the various religious communities** to promote the reduction of prejudices and the strengthening of social solidarity.



37. Further **development of school organisation and school culture** as well as the training and further education of teachers in order to meet the diverse challenges appropriately.



38. Preparation of an **evaluation report of the various measures employed in 2024**; submission of an **annual report** to inform the Austrian national parliament.

