

 Republic of Austria

Austria's way of implementing the 2030 Agenda

Austria's 2nd Voluntary National Review on the implementation of
the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at a glance



The Report

For decades, Austria has been taking action in the field of sustainable development. Since 2013, sustainable development is enshrined in the Austrian constitution as a national objective. Together with 192 other countries, Austria is also committed to the United Nation's (UN) 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In doing so, Austria pledges to implement the SDGs regionally, nationally and globally by 2030 and to conduct regular national reviews on progress.

Austria's second Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the SDGs (VNR) was compiled during multiple global crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic. It intends to provide food for thought and motivate further SDG initiatives. The VNR was prepared from October 2022 to May 2024 together with representatives of the Federal Ministries, the Federal States, the Association of Towns and Municipalities, the social partners, business, science and civil society.

Implementation

All Federal Ministries implement the 2030 Agenda in their respective areas of responsibility and involve several governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in this process

Improvements since Austria's 1st VNR

Since the last VNR, Austria actively advanced its involvement of stakeholders, such as its collaboration with the scientific community. As part of the interdisciplinary "UniNEtZ" project, 300 scientists from more than 20 scientific institutions presented a report proposing approximately 1.000 concrete measures for implementing the SDGs in Austria.

What transformations towards sustainability are needed to achieve the 2030 Agenda goals?

The content of Austria's 2nd VNR was aligned along this question, providing not only an inventory of progress but also an outlook on further steps up to 2030. Three aspects of the report that should enable and guide this desired change in the future are highlighted:

- The continuation and systematic advancement of a transparent and participatory multi-stakeholder process
- The improvement of Statistics Austria's database and the positioning of said data as a central element in the report.
- Inclusion of cross-cutting issues: gender equality, the youth's perspective and the international dimension

Key Areas

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We can only face the major challenges of our time together. Social cohesion and solidarity ensure that no one is left behind.

Johannes Rauch,
Federal Minister for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection



Austria's 2nd VNR identifies three key areas where transformations have been initiated and further change is proposed in the future:

Leaving no one behind:

Anyone may experience a predicament, but people in vulnerable situations are hit harder by multiple crises than others. In Austria, these people can rely on a well-developed welfare state that can shape the upcoming transformations in a solidary, inclusive and equitable way. To this end, Austria is implementing measures in the areas of child poverty, gender equality and care, as well as for people with disabilities.

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The digital and green transformation is a pivotal element of the 2030 Agenda. By advancing these initiatives, we fortify Austria's position as an economic powerhouse and make significant strides towards achieving the SDGs.

Martin Kocher,
Federal Minister for
Labor and Economy



Protecting the biosphere:

Accelerated action in climate and environmental protection is a fundamental prerequisite for a sustainable transformation in Austria, as well as internationally. In the 2020–2024 period, an eco-social tax reform was implemented in Austria, ambitious targets and measures for renewable energies and electricity infrastructure were adopted, the mobility transition and the establishment of a circular economy were advanced and biodiversity protection was significantly strengthened.

Skills for 2030:

Skills for sustainable development are crucial to the success of the transformations needed to implement the 2030 Agenda. Active labor market policies, the promotion of further training and the strengthening of dual vocational training play a key role in this regard. Skills for “Responsible Business Conduct” and the sustainable and inclusive implementation of digitalization are essential levers for achieving the SDGs.

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The sustainable transformation of Austria took a significant step forward from 2020 to 2024. It is essential to maintain this course to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

Leonore Gewessler,
Federal Minister for
Climate Action,
Environment, Energy,
Mobility, Innovation
and Technology

Trends

According to international rankings, Austria has been among the top countries in the world for several years. Tracking concrete trends on the progress towards individual SDGs in Austria is made possible by Statistic Austria's continuously updated and refined set of SDG-indicators. It shows Austria's success in achieving numerous goals:

- The proportion of female managers and of women in parliament grew significantly.
- Austria is well above the EU-average in terms of lifelong learning.
- Renewable energies already cover a third of Austria's energy consumption.
- Austria is frontrunner in the EU with its proportion of land farmed organically.



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The SDGs are our compass for sustainable development. Bringing the SDGs into the mainstream is therefore a focus of mine.

In addition to active dialogue with all those involved, I would particularly like to see more media paying attention to these future issues.

**Karoline Edtstadler,
Federal Minister
for the EU and
Constitution**

Success Stories

Anyone could submit SDG projects via a web form. This call was answered by 252 initiatives, 120 of which are presented as success stories in the 2nd VNR. These projects from all over Austria show the diverse ways Austria implements the social, ecological and economic dimension of the 2030 Agenda. Thereby, they demonstrate concretely what this broad commitment has already achieved.

Outlook

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Multilateralism and partnerships on equal terms, embedded in a rules-based international order, remain the best means of addressing shared global challenges.

Alexander Schallenberg,
Federal Minister for
European and
International Affairs



Through its 2nd VNR Austria renews its commitment to the 2030 Agenda and its national objective of sustainable development. The transformations and key areas outlined in its 2nd VNR provide an impetus for the coordinated and swift achievement of these goals. The partnership principle enshrined in SDG 17 is a catalyst and multiplier to achieving the SDGs and overcoming the challenges ahead. In this spirit of cooperation, Austria has significantly increased its funding for international climate financing and humanitarian aid.

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