

**Table 3: Overview of main reform commitments for the next 12 months**

Main (new or updated) commitments in the NRP for the next 12 months	Foreseen main measures and indication on whether they are CSR relevant	Timetable or other details on implementation	The estimated impacts of the measures (qualitative and/or quantitative)
<b>Labour Market</b>			
Increasing the effective retirement age	- Part-time scheme for older workers: gradually increasing the minimum age from 53/58 to 55/60 [ <i>relevant for CSR 1</i> ]		Increasing the effective retirement age
<b>Harmonization</b> of “special pension” regulations	Some “Special pension” regulations should be made consistent with the pension system.		Ensure the adequacy and sustainability of the pension system
Reform of the unemployment insurance system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tightening of the rules of unemployment insurance regarding mobility (longer commuting distances: 2,5 hours for full time workers, 2 hrs for part-time workers, relocation)</li> <li>- review the regulation regarding income and occupation protection as well as sanctions</li> <li>- Reform of the unemployment insurance: “unemployment benefit NEW” (declining, stronger consideration of the contribution period, increasing efficiency, ...)</li> <li>- Abolish the prolongation of the UB entitlement due to sickness (except in-patient stay)</li> <li>- Restrict the duration of marginal employment during receipt of UB</li> </ul>		Reducing long-term unemployment; tightening sanctions
Reforming PES and active labour market policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evaluate and design a more effective management of the PES (revising objectives etc.)</li> <li>- Review and revise all PES instruments for efficiency and effective reintegration into the labour market</li> <li>- Increasing job specific training and qualification in co-operation with</li> </ul>		Reducing unemployment and increasing effectiveness of labour market policy

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	<p>companies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increasing employment incentives as e.g. Wage top-up scheme (Kombilohn)</li> <li>- More transparency in the budget of labour market promotion in order to optimise the management by objectives (“Auflösung Arbeitsmarktrücklage und Rückführung aktivierter passiver Mittel ins Förderbudget”)</li> <li>- Reform of short-term work</li> </ul>		
Increasing the labour supply of skilled workers and reform of apprenticeships/supra-company training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Skilled workers initiative (Fachkräfteoffensive)</li> <li>- Strategy for high-skilled immigration (see below in more detail)</li> <li>- Regionalise the list of shortage occupations (“Fachkräfteverordnung”)</li> <li>- Strengthen the apprenticeship system <i>[relevant for CSR 2]</i>:</li> <li>- focus on the dual system: e.g. increase the opportunities to start an apprenticeship for adults (via PES subsidies), acquire a larger number of apprenticeships position through the PES, increase supra-regional placement</li> <li>- improve supra-company apprenticeships with a stronger focus on placement in companies</li> <li>- Reform of subsidies for apprenticeship (IEF and PES subsidies)</li> </ul>	--	Increasing supply of skilled workers
Developing a strategy for (high-skilled) immigration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Well-defined distinction between different forms of migration</li> <li>- Strategy for needs-based qualified immigration</li> <li>- Reform of the Act Governing the Employment of Foreign Nationals</li> <li>- Reform of the “Rot-Weiß-Rot Karte”</li> </ul>		

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	<p>(Criteria-Based New Immigration from Third Countries)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishment of a residence permit for apprentices</li> <li>- Increase the duration of employment of employees in seasonal enterprises/services (tourism)</li> </ul>		
In accordance with Article 12, paragraph 1 of the Federal Constitutional Law (Art. 12 Abs. 1 B-VG) a legislation with principles for a new Social Assistance Act (Grundsatzgesetz Mindestsicherung) is to be introduced; the aim is to fight against poverty, to reduce immigration into the Austrian social system and to set increased incentives to work.	The concrete content of the measure is not fixed yet.	The measure is not fixed yet maybe the result will be expected at the end of 2018.	The solution is not fixed yet so that the impact cannot be estimated yet.
	Planned Introduction of „Familienbonus Plus“: tax deduction amount to 1,500 € per child per year (tax burden is reduced by 1,500 € per year), as of 1 January 2019.		A total of 700,000 families and 1.2 million children will benefit, which will be exempted in the future from a tax burden of up to 1.5 bn €.
<b>Education</b>			
<b>School autonomy measures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools can be organized in so called “clusters” comprising different types of schools</li> <li>• School leaders enjoy greater freedom in selecting new teachers and are responsible for human resources development.</li> <li>• Enhanced flexibility of opening hours, duration of class hours as well as class sizes and sizes of learning groups</li> </ul>	<p>Q3 2018: First generation of “clusters” will commence in the school year 2018/19</p> <p>Q1/2 2018: New teacher recruitment online platform available for school year 2018/19.</p> <p>Q3 2018: School autonomy measures concerning school organisation and instruction available to schools.</p>	<p>More efficiency in school administration.</p> <p>More flexibility for schools to tailor the organization of the school day and instruction to their students’ needs.</p>
<b>School organization measures, Departments of Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of the educational reform, administration on provincial level will be organised within one department of education (“Bildungsdirektionen”)</li> </ul>	<p>Q3 2018: New process to identify students with special needs commences.</p> <p>Q1 2019: Departments of Education are in place. Recruitment process for heads of departments commences.</p>	<p>More efficiency in school administration.</p> <p>More transparent and objective process for identifying students with special needs.</p>

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<p><b>School 4.0 –(Digitalization strategy)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalizing piloting of the curriculum for the school subject “Digital basic education” (lower secondary school); preparing general introduction of the subject in school year 2018/19 together with all relevant stakeholders.</li> <li>• Digital competences of the teachers are strengthened by means of continuous education at the university colleges of teacher education (PH). All new teachers acquire standardized digital competences and present them in the form of a compulsory portfolio focusing on digital didactics until the end of the job-entry phase.</li> <li>• Further improvement of internet connectivity and high-speed WIFI for educational institutions.</li> <li>• Digital teaching and learning materials are made available via a central portal. The use of interactive learning materials and digital textbooks is being expanded. The development of new materials will also be supported by the foundation for educational innovation.</li> </ul>		<p>Improved digital competences of the pupils at the end of 8th grade. Strengthened digital competences of teachers. Creation of the best possible infrastructure conditions at schools and quality-assured content for effective digital education.</p>
<p><b>Improving language competences, in particular of pupils whose first language is not German</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See changes in Annex 1, Table 1, column 8</li> <li>• MRV 5/29, published on January 24th in 2018: Replacement of the current system of language support for children with migrant background and insufficient competences in the language of instruction by “German support classes/courses”. A screening procedure at school entry at any age is to become obligatory, going along with a higher quantity of hours dedicated to the measure (up to 15 hours in primary</li> </ul>	<p>First steps are intended to be taken already in 2018</p>	<p>Improved language outcomes of children, in particular those with a migrant background and/or from a socially disadvantaged background. Pupils will acquire language skills they need to follow lessons and towards improved academic performance. This will also facilitate their active participation in lessons and further their integration into the class. Better transition between kindergarten and the</p>

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	school and up to 20 hours in secondary level I).		school-entry phase.
<b>Further expansion and development of all-day school places</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investment-programme of EUR 800 million from 2014-18. Additional EUR 750 million will be invested from 2017-2032</li> <li>Overall, up to 270,000 places are to be offered, representing a rate of up to 40% of the relevant age group.</li> <li>A standardized quality assurance of all Austrian all-day schools will be implemented in 2017/18.</li> </ul>	In order to increase quality from school-year 2017/18 ongoing all-day schools have to describe their pedagogical concept in a standardized online-survey which will be supervised by school authorities.	Improving equal opportunities and compensating for socio-economic disadvantages. . All-day school types also have a positive effect on the integration of pupils with migrant backgrounds and on social interactions among students. All-day schooling is also of great importance (and proven effectivity) with regard to social and labour market policy issues (e.g. the compatibility of work and family life, women's employment).
<b>Combatting dropping-out, including youth and apprentice coaching</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing implementation of National Strategy on preventing early school leaving</li> <li>Provision of support and career orientation for students/ apprentices at risk of dropping out.</li> <li>Provision of "Übergangsstufe" ("Transition Stage") as a preparatory form, to avoid drop out of pupils in the first year (9th grade) of a vocational school or college</li> <li>Extension of the youth coaching programme and utilisation of synergies between the counselling systems</li> <li>Extension of the programme "SDH - Schule des Handelns": With the help of cross-curricular learning units students acquire the necessary core competences which will then help them to pursue their own individual learning aims.</li> </ul>		Further reduction of the rate of early school leavers and dropouts Strengthened communication, cooperation and coordination between the different support systems in and for schools (psychologists, school social worker, pedagogues, youth coaches).
<b>Compulsory education and training until 18 ("Ausbildung bis 18")</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further development of the commitments and measures regarding all-day school places, career guidance, reading and languages competences, school-entry</li> </ul>	Implementation 2018 and beyond First steps in the evaluation of the "Ausbildung bis 18"	Contributing to the achievement of the EU 2020 education target by reducing the number of early school-leavers

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	<p>phase and primary schools, reform of vocation education and training and combatting dropping-out (cf. relevant commitments) and extension of SDH (Schule des Handelns)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening the cooperation between different stakeholders (ministries, institutions, social partners, ...)</li> </ul>		<p>Reduction of unemployed youth and the most vulnerable groups</p>
<p><b>Integration of refugees in schools</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MRV 5/29, published on January 24th in 2018: Replacement of the current system of language support for children with migrant background and insufficient competences in the language of instruction by “German support classes/courses”. A screening procedure at school entry at any age is to become obligatory, going along with a higher quantity of hours dedicated to the measure (up to 15 hours in ground school and up to 20 hours in secondary level I).</li> <li>• Continuing the implementation of language learning courses and language start groups at compulsory schools in school year 2017/18.</li> <li>• Continuing the implementation of “Mobile Intercultural teams” to provide targeted support for schools and teachers in the reception and integration of refugee children and adolescents into the school and class community.</li> <li>• In school year 2017/18 continuing accompanying pedagogic integration measures at primary schools and New Secondary Schools (NMS): 250 post distributed to the school places according to an equal opportunities index</li> </ul>	<p>Follow-up MRV 5/29: First steps are intended to be taken already in 2018</p>	<p>The package of measures supports efforts to accommodate the integration of refugees into the education system. Students without any or with low command of German language are better prepared to enter/continue (vocational) education and training, resulting also in a reduction of the rate of early school leavers and dropouts.</p>

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	<p>(“Chancenindex”), derived from the first language of the pupils and the proportion of parents with compulsory education as highest educational level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuing the implementation of 85 posts for school social work to support schools with special social challenges, especially schools with a high proportion of children with a refugee background.</li> <li>Provision of „Übergangsstufe“(“Transition Stage”) at AHS and BMHS: 97 courses in schools year 2017/18.</li> <li>Basic education / literacy: 1000 additional basic training places in 2018 (thus a total of 3,400 places from 2016-2018) in the framework of the adult education initiative for 15 to 19-year-old refugee youths who are no longer of school age and who have no links in their previous educational biography to the Austrian secondary school system. A special focus is on increasing the proportion of girls in this training segment.</li> </ul>		
<b>Further developing of Austrian adult education system</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of the Agreement according to Section 15a of the Constitution between the Federal Government and the provinces in order to continue the Initiative for Adult Education from 2018-2021.</li> </ul>	<p>A third programme period from 2018 to 2021 is in implementation.</p> <p>Implementation of a quality assurance and evaluation system for the period 2018 - 2021</p>	<p>Reduction of the number of persons without basic education, increase of the number of persons with basic educational qualifications, increase in the permeability of the education system</p>
<b>Higher Education</b>			
<b>Raising the public budget for the basic funding of universities</b>	<p>Period 2016-2018: Additional € 315 million</p> <p>Period 2019-2021: further increase of public funds for universities is envisaged, in the</p>	<p>Distributed among 22 universities with the signing of performance agreements in December 2015</p> <p>Decision in spring 2018</p>	<p>Positive effects on the quality of teaching and learning as well as on the study and research conditions at universities.</p>

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	context of the implementation of capacity-oriented, student-based funding of universities		
<b>Higher Education Area Structural Funds 2016-2018</b>	€ 750 million 2016-2018 (i.e. additional € 300 million or + 67% compared to 2013-2015)	The main part of the funds allocation will be based on indicator-reporting throughout the period 2016-2018, a smaller part is competitively allocated depending on the quality of projects	Positive effects on the quality of teaching and learning as well as on the study and research conditions at universities.
<b>New model for financing universities – implementation of a capacity-oriented, student-based funding of universities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparatory measures are deepened by the performance agreements 2016-2018</li> <li>• Essential elements of the new funding model are already in use for the allocation of Higher Education Area Structural Funds</li> <li>• A government-wide discussion process to develop further measures on student- and capacity-oriented university funding for the period 2019-2021 ended up in June 2017 by the resolution to issue until 31 January 2018 a draft proposal for the implementation of capacity-oriented, student-based funding of universities.</li> </ul>	The government has submitted a corresponding revision of the Universities Act and the National Council adopted this revision on 28 February 2018. The new funding model for public universities will be implemented for the next forthcoming performance agreement period 2019-2021.	The measure has positive effects on the quality of teaching and learning and the study and research conditions at universities.
<b>Improving the quality of teaching, learning and the study conditions at universities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allowing access restrictions in fields of study which are in especially high demand.</li> <li>• To further expand the range of fields of study allowing access restrictions (e.g. foreign language studies, law, educational science/pedagogy), an amendment to the Universities Act is envisaged in 2018.</li> <li>• The implementation of a capacity-oriented, student-based funding model for universities will contribute to the increase of teaching staff and to the improvement of teacher-student-ratios</li> </ul>	The government has submitted a revision of the Universities Act on which the National Council will decide in spring 2018. The revision of the Universities Act contains regulations to allow for access restrictions in additional fields of study and regulations for implementing a capacity-oriented, student-based funding model for universities.	Positive impact on the quality of teaching and learning and the study conditions. Impact on increasing the number of students who actively take examinations as well as the number of degrees awarded, on reducing the drop-out rate, on increasing the share of higher education graduates.
<b>Reform of teacher training (PädagogInnenbildung NEU)</b>	<p>Implementation of further measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of joint curricula in line with the Bologna architecture and the national curricular framework</li> </ul>	Supplementary funding of cooperation projects by Higher Education Area Structural Funds in the period 2016-2018	The measure has positive effects on the entire education system in Austria.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperation of universities and university colleges of teacher education in four regional clusters</li> <li>• Supplementary funding of scientific staff, esp. in didactics</li> </ul>		
<b>Improve the quality of study choice guidance in order to promote well-considered study decisions</b>	Further increase the number of schools participating in the “18plus Berufs- und Studienchecker”		Contribution to reducing drop-out rate in higher education
<b>Improve the social dimension in higher education</b>	<p>Implementation of the “national strategy on the social dimension of higher education”: The quantitative goals and the action lines have been integrated into the Austrian University Development Plan 2019-2024. They will also be integrated into the new Development and Funding Plan for Universities of Applied Sciences.</p> <p>Relevant measures at public universities shall be implemented by the performance agreements 2019-2021.</p> <p>Regulations concerning the new funding model for public universities shall also comprise regulations to guarantee the realisation of measures for underrepresented groups and measures on the social dimension.</p>	The Development and Funding Plan for Universities of Applied Sciences is in preparation. Performance agreements with public universities for the period 2019-2021 are negotiated in autumn 2018 and will be concluded till the end of 2018. Concerning the new funding model, the government has submitted a revision of the Universities Act on which the National Council will decide in spring 2018. The new funding model for public universities should be implemented for the next forthcoming performance agreement period 2019-2021.	<p>Improving the Social Dimension in higher education towards more participative equity (widening access for under-represented groups and students with specific needs).</p> <p>Reducing drop-out rates.</p> <p>Raising the share of graduates from under-represented groups and of students with specific needs.</p>
<b>Qualitative and quantitative development of the Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS)</b>	<p>315 new study places will be financed in 2016-2017</p> <p>200 new study places will be financed in 2017-2018</p> <p>450 new study places will be financed in 2018-2019</p>	A new Development and Funding Plan for Universities of Applied Sciences is in preparation aiming further to enhance the number of study places of the students of the Universities of Applied Sciences.	Further increase in the overall number of study places, in consequence also increase in the number of HE graduates (important contribution to achieving the EU 2020 target).
<b>Implementation of the results of the project “Shaping HEIs for the Future” and implementation of the measures of the Austrian University Development Plan via performance agreements and the development of</b>	Main objectives: Pronunciation of educational profiles of universities and Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS); foster complementary design of range of subjects; foster permeability within the higher education sector.	<p>Implementation of results particularly by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- performance agreements with public universities for the period 2019-2021, which are negotiated in autumn 2018 and will be concluded till the end of 2018.</li> <li>- by financing new study places in 2018-</li> </ul>	The measure has positive systemic effects on the higher education system in Austria.

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<b>the universities of Applied Sciences</b>		2019 at Universities of Applied Sciences - by the new Development and Funding Plan for Universities of Applied Sciences which is in preparation.	
<b>Reform of the student support system</b>	<p>Amendment 2017 of the Student Support Act with following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase of the study grants</li> <li>• increase of the income limits concerning the calculation of study grants</li> <li>• special support for mature students (over 27 years)</li> </ul>	The measures come into effect with the academic year 2017/18	Positive impact on the participation of underrepresented groups in higher education. Contribution to the national strategy for the social dimension, especially for students with low socio-economic background.
<b>Research and Development</b>			
<b>Promoting the next generation of highly qualified young researchers</b>	<p>In July 2017, the projects of the 6th and final call for proposals of the Programme Sparkling Science started.</p> <p>These 39 projects involve 45 scientific institutions (amongst these 12 Austrian universities and 10 universities from other countries). 34 partner institutions from society and economy and 86 schools are involved.</p>	Projects started in summer 2017 and finish by the end of 2019.	The estimated budget (6.5 Mio. Euro) of the call allows funding for 39 projects, involving around 6 500 students from 86 schools.
<b>Promoting the application of modern crowd sourcing methods R&amp;D</b>	<p>The Austrian Center for Citizen Science, which was founded in 2015, launched the 3rd call for proposals of the funding initiative "Top Citizen Science". in winter 2017/2018. This initiative invites project leaders of ongoing research projects funded by the Program Sparkling Science or by the Austrian Science Fund to apply for additional funding, if they are interested in opening up to the public and generate additional results through citizen science methods. The quality of the applications will be evaluated by a peer review procedure, involving citizen science specialists from Europe and from the U.S.A.</p>	The call was launched in winter 2017/2018, the resulting projects will start in July 2018 and finishing 2020.	The estimated budget of the call will allow funding for around 10 projects. Since the projects work together with diverse communities on a topic-related basis, this results in a wide range of different possibilities. Therefore, the number of persons involved cannot be estimated.
<b>Further development of the Joint</b>	Evaluation and selection of projects of the	Budget for Call ERA4CS is € 450 000 from	Promotion of the interdisciplinary field

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<p><b>Programming Initiative, esp. the Project JPI CLIMATE</b></p>	<p>ERANET Climate Services (ERA4CS) call (Horizon 2020); Start of 4 year CSA in February 2018 2018: Creation of an International Networking platform in climate change research through the Climate Change Centre Austria to maximise JPI impact nationally.</p>	<p>the BMBWF plus “in-kind Funds” and potential EU-Top up Funds (up to 100%) depending on the results of the evaluation  Call on "Enabling Societal Transformation", planned for 2018/19</p>	<p>“Climate Services”, which connects scientists, society and industry.</p>
<p><b>Strengthening of basic research and research infrastructure in Environmental Sciences in order to enable Austrian scientists to collaborate internationally and to provide solutions to existing and emerging societal needs.</b></p>	<p>ABOL (“Austrian Barcode of Life”-Initiative) is a national collaboration of numerous, renowned scientific institutions and experts, engaged in biodiversity research of Austria. In the long-term it aims to generate DNA-Barcodes from all Austrian species of animals, plants and fungi.  The Earth System Science Research Programme (ESS), an inter- and transdisciplinary research programme is jointly run by the BMBWF and the Austrian Academy of Sciences.  The initiative “Austrian Geological Survey Research (GBA) Partnerships on Mineral Raw Materials” which started in 2015 combines resource policy with research policy.</p>	<p>Succeeding the pilot phase (2014–2017) that set up the structures, the overall project started in October 2017 and is designed as a long-term project over a period of at least 10 years. DNA barcodes will be generated in subprojects assigned to group-specific ABOL clusters.  In 2018 the ESS will start the 3rd call and undertake an interim evaluation.  In 2018 the “Austrian Geological Survey (GBA) Research Partnerships on Mineral Raw Materials” in the first instance will be restructured according to the results of the interim evaluation thereafter it will continue developing new projects.</p>	<p>The infrastructure of the barcodes will allow an open-access database thus free available for all applications.  The ESS programme will support interdisciplinary and long-term environmental research.  The GBA Mineral Raw Materials Initiative aims at establishing new research networks of the relevant research institutions in order to strengthen the expertise which is supposed to support the sustainable supply of mineral raw materials.</p>
<p><b>Promotion of gender equality and gender mainstreaming in research</b></p>	<p>Ongoing implementation of the 50% female quota in university boards and annually reporting about progress; reduction of the gender pay gap at universities;</p>	<p>Annually reporting about progress</p>	<p>More creative and innovative university boards through higher diversity. Women in rectorate (university management) are shaping the university development and are visible as role models. Higher incentives for young scientists to start an academic career through the closure of the gender pay gap.</p>
	<p>Development and adoption of Equal</p>	<p>In the course of 2018 all universities will</p>	<p>22 universities implemented their</p>

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	Opportunity Plans by universities (compatibility of study/work with family obligations and 6 non-discrimination areas).	adopt their Gender Equality Plan.	Gender Equality Plan to the rectorate for adoption.
	Implementation of selected recommendations of the action orientated study to cultural change in research and science landscape basing on the results of the follow up cultural change study 2017 and the working group within the Austrian Higher Education Conference on “gender competence”	Implementation of the recommendations in the steering instruments like the performance agreements in 2018	Acceleration of the cultural change; identification of the main issues; using the developed pool of ideas for further measures/activities
	Execution of the Diversity Management Award “Diversitas” for HEI and Research Institutions for services in the field of diversity management.	Award ceremony of Diversitas 2018	“Diversitas” is awarded every two years, was awarded in 2016 for the first time. The submissions of 2016 will be also published in an English brochure in order to make visible the achievements of the universities and research organisations in the field of diversity management in the framework of the Austrian EU Presidency.
<b>Implementation of the national strategy on intellectual property (IP strategy)</b>	According to the government programme 2013-2018 the Council of Ministers decided to develop a national IP strategy involving the relevant stakeholders. The strategy, lead-managed by the Ministry of Science, Research and Economy and the Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology, has been approved in a ministerial council application on 14 February 2017.	Implementation of specific measures has already been started and will be continued in 2018. Implementation will be monitored and assessed by an IP-Monitoring Committee.	The main goal of the strategy is the increase of the innovative capacity of the innovation system and the deployment of the potential in the field of IP. Key aspects of the strategy include the establishment of an information portal for IP at the Austrian Patent office, clear positioning of public support measures, and a launch of a broad program for awareness, education and professional training.
<b>Implementation of the measures of the Strategy for improving conditions for Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) in Austria</b>		Monitoring-Group and Stakeholder-Roundtable at least once a year to assess the implementation of the 41 measures of the Strategy for improving conditions for SSH in Austria	Strengthen research conditions in the Social Sciences and Humanities by using instruments more efficiently.

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<b>Implementation of the Strategy for Life Sciences and the Pharmaceutical Sector</b>		Implementation of 27 measures until 2021.	Strengthening the competitiveness of the Austrian Life Sciences and Pharma Sector
R&D concerning the "Great Social Challenges" energy, environment, health	e.g. Energy and environmental Technologies, innovations in Transport/Mobility, Safety and Security, Services Innovations	Enhance quality of life as well as economic and job growth to increase wealth	Impact for society: tailor-made solutions for societal challenges Impact for economy: marketable solutions and products, creation of jobs and growth
Excellent R&D, basic and applied research and innovation	e.g. Competence Centers for Excellent Technologies (COMET), Research Studios Austria (RSA), Services Innovations, Program Research Capacity in Industry.	Increase the quality of corporate research to level up the strength in innovation.	Better exploitation of R&D-knowledge Competitive industry, growth and jobs
Implementation of the Open Innovation Strategy for Austria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of the measures listed in the Austrian Open Innovation Strategy</li> <li>• Monitoring of the implementation progress</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monitoring-report concerning the current implementation status of the Open Innovation Strategy for Austria in the Austrian Research and Technology Report (June 2018)</li> <li>- Stakeholder-roundtable by the end of 2018 to assess the implementation progress of the Open Innovation Strategy for Austria</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Involvement of wider public in innovation activities</li> <li>- Increase of the innovation potential of Austria by using Open Innovation</li> </ul>
Alignment of R&D policies, funding and programs	A position on Alignment has been agreed on by the major R&D stakeholders in Austria in 2016. The implementation will be coordinated by a dedicated working group of the FTI task Force (WG Alignment)	Start of the WG Alignment September 2017, work mainly focuses on institutional Alignment, building up on previous results on alignment on program levels	More effective use of R&D Funds Better coordination of R&D at national and international levels, better coordination with EU-programs, also in view of FP9
<b>Implementation of the Strategy for Life Sciences and the Pharmaceutical Sector</b>	In November 2016, the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (BMBWF) presented a Strategy for life sciences and the pharmaceutical sector. The strategy focuses on research, development, production and application in medical and molecular biology and biotechnology (red biotechnology), (bio-) medicine, veterinary medicine, pharmacy and medical technology. 27 measures have been identified.	Implementation of 27 measures until 2021: Since end of 2016/ early 2017 the BMDW and BMBWF commenced to implement all these measures (according to their specific duration)	Strengthening the competitiveness of the Austrian Life Sciences and Pharma Sector

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<p><b>Promotion of Knowledge Transfer between universities, other research organisations and the private sector</b></p>	<p>Programme “Knowledge Transfer Centres and IPR Commercialisation” 2014-2018          Knowledge Transfer between universities, other research organisations and the private sector shall be promoted within three virtual regional Knowledge Transfer Centres.          A virtual thematic Knowledge Transfer Centre in the field of life sciences operated from 2014 to 2017. Its function shall be enhanced through the set-up of a Translational Research Center (TRC, see next line).</p> <p>The above program was analyzed and rendered very positive results. It is therefore intended to prolong the program for another period.</p> <p>As one of the measures of the Life Sciences Strategy another thematic Knowledge Transfer Centre in the field of medical devices is planned to run for 3 years starting in 2018/2019.</p> <p>Planned: Founding programme fellowships for academic spin-offs.</p>	<p>2014-2018</p> <p>2018-2022</p> <p>2018-2021</p> <p>2017-2020</p>	<p>Strengthening collaboration in R&amp;D between academia and industry has been a major point in Austria's STI policy for decades. The Austrian RTI strategy aims at improving and stimulating the level of collaboration between universities, public research organisations and the economic sector. For this purpose the Austrian RTI strategy promotes the establishment of knowledge transfer centres. The programme provides incentives for universities to collaborate with other universities and Public Research Organisations in the region and also the pooling of resources between universities at a regional level shall be promoted.</p> <p>Fellowships programme:          Scientists and students with innovative ideas should be supported in their efforts to establish their own companies. The fellowship can ensure the financing of salary costs and access to the academic infrastructure. The fellowships will be granted within the context of a competition via the knowledge transfer centers. This measure is funded to the amount of € 5 million per year.</p>
<p><b>Translational Research Center: Applied Knowledge Transfer between universities, other research organisations and the private sector</b></p>	<p>As a measure of the Life Science Strategy and a common goal of the entire Life Sciences Stakeholder Community the BMDW initiated the set-up of a Translational Research Center (TRC) in late 2016.</p>	<p>The TRC shall start operation in late 2018.</p>	<p>As initial preclinical development often fails due to lack of financing and missing product development competences, potentially useful discoveries made by academia remain unexploited. The TRC will bridge the gap between</p>

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	<p>Its operative aim includes the identification, screening and selection of promising project ideas for innovative drugs. These projects will be further developed by professionals during the preclinical phase. Projects are then commercialized to industry for further product development.</p>		<p>basic science and industrial research / applied sciences through hands-on-involvement of highly specialized professionals, who efficiently translate the selected projects into industry-standard product development. The goal of the TRC is to translate basic research discoveries into the initial preclinical stage and thus to become the one-stop-shop for biomedical innovations 'Made in Austria'.</p>
<b>Business Environment</b>			
<p>Implementation of a national strategy on intellectual property (IP strategy)</p>	<p>According to the government programme 2013-2018 the Council of Ministers decided to develop a national IP strategy involving the relevant stakeholders. The strategy, lead-managed by the Ministry of Education, Science and Research and the Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology has been approved in a ministerial council application on 14 February 2017.</p>	<p>The implementation of specific measures has already been started and will be continued in 2018. The implementation will be monitored and assessed by an IP-Monitoring Committee.</p>	<p>The main goal of the strategy is the increase of the innovative capacity of the innovation system and the deployment of the potential in the field of IP.</p>
<p>Public Procurement Promoting Innovation (PPPI)</p>	<p>Ongoing implementation of the Austrian Action Plan on Public Procurement Promoting Innovation (PPPI), particularly via the PPPI Service Center that has been established within the Federal Procurement Agency (BBG). The PPPI Service Center will conduct a variety of measures, e.g. instalment of a PPPI online platform for both demand-side and supply-side; community building events; initiation and implementation of pilot projects via PPPI challenges; trainings for public procurers etc. The Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) will provide funding for pilot projects using the new procedure "innovation partnership" from</p>	<p>Evaluation of the PPPI initiative is ongoing, results are expected for March 2018.</p>	<p>Through PPPI, industry is encouraged to deliver innovative goods and services, i.e. to invest in R&amp;D. Furthermore, the public sector is being modernized and thus able to provide advanced and (eco-) efficient goods and services to the Austrian citizens.</p>

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	2018 onwards (i.a. in the area of education). Not CSR relevant.		
Reform and modernization of the public procurement legislation		The new public procurement act (Vergaberechtsreformgesetz 2018) will be passed and enter into force in 2018.	Modernisation of public procurement; implementation of e-procurement.
<b>Ideas.Lab 4.0</b>	Stimulus initiative to encourage radical innovations in the field of industry 4.0 and digitalisation; the program uses the “sandpit” process to specifically approach a broader range of actors and entice new players (aside from the “usual suspects” in the community) to get involved in research projects	Start expression of interest: April 2018 Selection of projects: September 2018 Start of projects: December 2018 End of projects: 2022	Max. 7 projects; Gain experience with the “sandpit-method”; generating new ideas, approaching new players, etc.
<b>Excellent R&amp;D, basic and applied research and innovation</b>	e.g. Competence Centers for Excellent Technologies (COMET), Research Studios Austria (RSA), Services Innovations, Programme Research Capacity in Industry	Increase the quality of corporate research to level up the innovational strength.	
<b>Excellent R&amp;D, basic and applied research and innovation</b>	Programme Research Capacity in Industry	Increase the quality of corporate research to level up the innovational strength.	Concept development
<b>KMU-digital (KMU Digital)</b>	Support for SMEs in digital change	2017-18	Consulting, concept development and qualification
<b>Digital Innovation Hub</b>	Installation of a DIH in Austria	2018-19	
<b>Impact Innovation Programm</b>	Widening participation and enabling new forms of innovation processes. Three components: – impact innovation – social crowdfunding – customization in R&D projects	2018-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Customer-oriented product development</li> <li>– Promoting new kinds of services and products</li> <li>– Enabling the use of new forms of innovation processes</li> <li>– Widening participation in innovation processes</li> </ul>
<b>Quantum Computing</b>	Supporting the development of a quantum computing demonstrator.	2018-19	
Foster investment in the services sector by reducing administrative and regulatory barriers, easing market entry and facilitating company growth	<b>Expansion of the Business Service Portal</b> ( <a href="http://www.usp.gv.at">www.usp.gv.at</a> ) and connection to an <b>unified hub for administrative matters</b> ( <a href="http://www.oesterreich.gv.at">www.oesterreich.gv.at</a> ). The Business Service Portal actually provides all the relevant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Expansion in the field of electronic business formation</li> <li>» Enhancement of intelligent and dynamic electronic forms for businesses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Reducing administrative and regulatory barriers and easing market entry through expansions in the field of electronic business foundations</li> </ul>



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	<p>information of public administration for businesses via a one-stop web portal.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Embedment of an e-delivery system – an electronic communication system between businesses and public authorities (with proof of delivery).</li> <li>» Embedment of eProcurement – an unified platform of all public procurements</li> <li>» Ongoing content development regarding legal requirements (EU &amp; AUT) user needs and language standards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Time reduction associated with business foundations</li> <li>» Easy access to all public procurement and severe participation simplification</li> <li>» Opening the platform according to requirements of the EU - Single Digital Gateway Regulation (additional language etc.)</li> <li>» Simplified usage of information for business owner and employees</li> <li>» With the further development of the USP, companies are to be supported even better through the digitalisation of relevant operational administrative processes and through the expansion of the USP as a workplace.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Information obligation database</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Ongoing improvements in the areas of information obligations</li> <li>» Following the once only principle business should need to report each data-set only once to the public authorities.</li> <li>» An information obligation database will be built as a foundation for a future efficient communication between the business sector and public authorities / and between public authorities themselves.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Reduction of corporate obligations regarding information obligations towards public authorities.</li> <li>» Through the reuse of data that is already available at authorities (once-only principle), companies no longer have to provide multiple information to public authorities resulting in time savings and less administrative burdens for business</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Fit4internet-Programme</b> including measures to build up digital skills mainly within the following target groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- seniors,</li> <li>- <b>SMEs</b>,</li> <li>- youth and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» By the end of 2018, free courses for seniors shall be offered in each district town.</li> <li>» In parallel, measures for the other target groups will be evaluated and developed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Skill/competence development in all target groups</li> <li>» Increased internet usage</li> <li>» Measure against purchasing power outflow</li> </ul>

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	- women.	» Better exploitation of the opportunities offered by digitization by people and SMEs.	
Developing a national 5G strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduce cost and facilitate deployment of fibre infrastructure</li> <li>- Nationwide deployment of fibre infrastructure</li> <li>- Early allocation of enough spectrum</li> <li>- Create possibilities for infrastructure sharing</li> <li>- Boost demand for digital technologies</li> <li>- Promote new digital value chains</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Publishing the 5G Strategy in the first half of 2018</li> <li>» Subsequently amendment of the telecommunication act</li> <li>» In Autumn 2018 first auction for 5G spectrum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» In the second half of 2018 the first 5G test regions go live</li> <li>» Significantly facilitating and reducing the cost of infrastructure deployment</li> <li>» Increase the “5G readiness”</li> <li>» Provision of 5G spectrum for the early deployment of 5G networks</li> <li>» New business fields</li> <li>» Promotion of start-ups</li> <li>» Better services in all areas of life (education, health, mobility/transport, civil protection,...)</li> </ul>
Developing a new Broadband Strategy 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revision of the current Strategy with regard to the gigabit objective and the 5G introduction</li> <li>- However continuation of the current funding scheme (Breitband Austria 2020) and its goals (99% coverage of ultrafast-broadband (&gt;100Mbit/s) until the end of 2020) as a midterm target on the road to the gigabit society</li> </ul>	» Publishing the Broadband Strategy 2030 in 2018	» Intensifying the development of nationwide fibre infrastructure by applying new strategies
<b>Energy and Climate</b>			
	Austria’s “SUSTAINABILITY ACTION DAYS” is an annual country-wide initiative to promote and visualize the manifold multi-stakeholder engagement and their scope of action for sustainability in Austria. Its aim is to increase awareness for sustainable development and foster networking in the SD community. Jointly organized and managed by the	In 2018 sustainable action days will take place from May to June.	It strengthens the visibility of bottom-up approaches within all mayor stakeholder groups to contribute to sustainable development across the 3 dimension, addressing a total of 15 thematic field of actions.

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	<p>“Sustainability Coordinators” of the 9 Austrian federal provinces and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism the initiative commonly contributes to the goals and initiatives of the EU2020 Strategy and the implementation of the Agenda 2030.</p>		
	<p>Launch of a new Integrated Climate and Energy Strategy 2030.</p>		<p>Fulfilment of the 2030 energy and climate goals.</p>

**Explanatory notes to Reporting Table 3:**

Apart from measures relevant for the achievement of the national Europe 2020 target, only key reform commitments for the next 12 months should be included. The reporting table should cover in more detail measures not yet reported in Table 1 or 2 or cross-references to Table 1 or 2 otherwise. Information on impacts should be provided to the extent available.