

Austrian Health Targets: fostering better health for all and sustainable development through Health in All Policies

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Objective

The ten Austrian health targets were developed with the aim of **prolonging the healthy lives of all people living in Austria irrespective of their level of education, income or personal living conditions**. Implementation is planned for a period of 20 years (until 2032).

Elaboration process

- Formulated in a **broad participatory process** that involved more than 40 stakeholders from relevant **public institutions and civil society**
- Officially approved in summer 2012** by the Federal Health Commission and the Council of Ministers.

Steering and project management

The process is led by the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection and **managed in a collaborative effort** by public health experts at the Ministry and GÖG. An **intersectoral plenary composed of over 40 stakeholders** from different areas of policy and society meets twice a year to discuss interim results, as well as current developments and challenges.

Implementation

Intersectoral working groups define **sub-targets, concrete actions** as well as **indicators and metrics** for the implementation of each health target. So far the working groups on **targets 1, 2, 3, 6, 8 and 9** have **published their reports**. For targets 1, 2 and 6 **first updates** are available. According to a recent monitoring report **133 actions (about 90%)** were **fully implemented or currently in implementation**.

Monitoring

Continuously carried out by Gesundheit Österreich GmbH (GÖG), addressing three levels:

- Ten Austrian Health Targets:** meta indicators to assess target achievement
- Sub-targets:** indicators defined by working groups
- Actions:** metrics for each individual action

		Austrian Health Targets									
		Target 1	Target 2	Target 3	Target 4	Target 5	Target 6	Target 7	Target 8	Target 9	Target 10
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	1. No poverty										
	2. Zero hunger										
	3. Good health and well-being										
	4. Quality education										
	5. Gender equality										
	6. Clean water and sanitation										
	7. Affordable and clean energy										
	8. Decent work and economic growth										
	9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure										
	10. Reduced inequalities										
	11. Sustainable cities and communities										
	12. Responsible consumption and production										
	13. Climate action										
	14. Life below water										
	15. Life on land										
	16. Peace, justice and strong institutions										
	17. Partnerships for the goals										

Contribution to Austrian SDG implementation

With their integrated multi-level approach, the SDGs offer many possibilities for the realisation of **synergies** and support for **collaborative action on health**. The Austrian Health Targets are widely regarded as a **best practice example for SDG mainstreaming** in Austria.

The health targets are highly relevant to the implementation of **SDG 3** (good health and well-being), but also support most other SDGs through the **participation of a wide range of policy sectors** (see chart). As *promoting equal opportunities* and *Health in All Policies* are overall principles, all the Austrian Health Targets contribute to **SDG 10** (reducing inequalities) and **SDG 17** (partnership for the goals) at national level.

As a whole, the targets **cover all levels of sustainable development:** the economic, the social, the ecological. For example, Targets 1, 2, 3, 5 and 9 focus on social and economic determinants of health. Targets 4, 7 and 8 also address the natural and built environment more directly.

Next steps:

- Launch of working group on health target 5 (autumn / winter 2018)
- Start of working group on health target 7 (2019)
- Strengthening the links between the health targets and agenda 2030 and increasing their visibility: plenary workshop dedicated to the SDGs on 18 October 2018
- New process phase: focus on flagship measures that support the implementation of several health targets and SDGs simultaneously (from autumn 2018)

Ten Austrian Health Targets

- To provide health-promoting living and working conditions for all population groups through cooperation of all societal and political areas 
- To promote fair and equal opportunities in health, irrespective of gender, socio-economic group, ethnic origin and age 
- To enhance health literacy in the population 
- To secure sustainable natural resources such as air, water and soil and healthy environments for future generations 
- To strengthen social cohesion as a health enhancer 
- To ensure conditions under which children and young people can grow up as healthy as possible 
- To provide access to a healthy diet for all 
- To promote healthy, safe exercise and activity in everyday life through appropriate environments 
- To promote psychosocial health in all population groups 
- To secure sustainable and efficient health care services of high quality for all 