

## English Summary



The 10 Austrian health targets were developed with the aim to prolong the healthy life years of all people living in Austria within 20 years (until 2032), irrespective of their level of education, income or personal living condition.

Since population health is profoundly influenced and determined by many sectors outside the health care sector, the Austrian health targets were defined in a broad and participatory process that involves more than 40 stakeholders from relevant public institutions and civil society.

Since 2013, the individual health targets have been successively operationalised by setting up working groups to define three sub targets, define indicators to measure their development and describe actions to contribute to the implementation of the three sub targets.

The working group on this health target was launched in October 2016 under the leadership of the Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism and the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection. Representatives of over twenty organisations participated.

### Health target

To secure sustainable natural resources such as air, water and soil and healthy environments for future generations

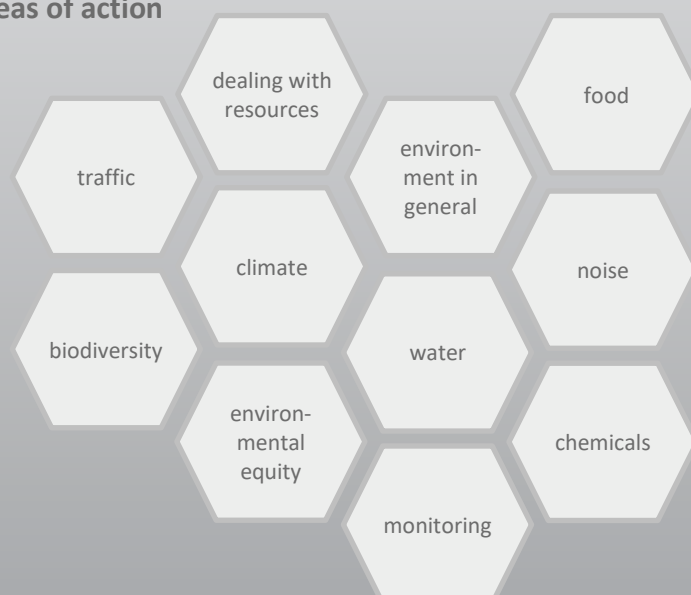
### Sub targets

To maintain and strengthen the foundations for a healthy life by dealing responsibly and sustainably with resources and living space

To avoid, identify, monitor and, if possible, reduce environmental impacts with potential effects on human health

To promote / strengthen awareness of the relationship between environment and health among the population and decision-makers and to ensure environmental equality in the best possible way

### Areas of action



Today, environmental protection no longer manifests itself as an overhyped fashion trend but as a fixture among established social values. This is largely due to the fact that environmental protection is almost always health protection at one and the same time, as can be observed in many different settings. *The classic 'protection of the environment - for its own sake' has had its day.*

### **Protection of humans is not just an “add on” to protecting the environment**

Driven by the increasingly clear link to human health, an impressive variety of instruments has been created to address environmental problems. Some of these have been highly successful, such as the global conventions for the protection of the ozone layer. The measures of the Montreal Protocol will result in future generations finding a largely restored ozone layer. An essential driving force behind this agreement was the insight that stratospheric ozone reduces precisely the component of sunlight which is responsible for the development of skin cancer. When thinking about the threats posed to humans by climate change and nuclear power plants, here too human health and well-being are the main concerns.

Modern environmental protection understands people as an integrative part of the environment. It requires a solid basis for decision-making, in order to identify possible dangers in good time and then take precautionary countermeasures.

### **Environmental protection as a mainstream issue**

The much discussed 'reconciliation of interests between ecology and economy' has left its mark on environmental protection. The 'integration' of environmental protection into other political areas and frameworks such as 'sustainable development' indicate a certain level of taming. Secure jobs and material prosperity still lead the scale of values - but environmental protection and health protection lurk in waiting positions and climb up (often in a duet) as soon as novel findings in products or environmental media heighten sensitivity.

This shows that a broad spectrum of different actions which react to environmental problems (and thus protect health) has already been developed. However, a real paradigm shift that would make the needs of the ecosphere an integral concern in the development of products and technologies still needs to take place.

In addition to our health targets, various processes at regional and international level are striving for such a paradigm shift. Intersectoral cooperation is the key: we need to move away from silo thinking and work together. The Agenda 2030 global action plan strives for sustainable development on the social, ecological and economic level. 17 goals have been developed to be implemented at national, regional and international level. The Austrian health target on environment and health supports many of these 17 goals in their implementation.

In the WHO Euro Region, the SDGs are also supported by the European Environment and Health Process (EHP). This process was initiated in the late 1980s to bring together the national ministries responsible for environment and health. Ministerial Conferences, where ministers of environment and health from the WHO Euro Region commit themselves to making the environment healthier, are held every 5 years. The international and regional vision is 'A good life for all'.

## Process

Internationally, health targets are regarded as a relevant steering instrument that contributes to improving the health of the population in the long term. The development of the Austrian Health Targets started in spring 2011 on the initiative of the Ministry of Health and in coordination with the Council of Ministers, the National Council and the Federal Health Commission (Bundesgesundheitskommission). The process comprises four phases:

- » Phase 1: Development of the ten health targets
- » Phase 2: Operationalization of the health targets
- » Phase 3: Health target-specific implementation of actions incl. accompanying monitoring
- » Phase 4: Cross-target roll-out of measures with high impact

## The health targets process



Source: Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection

This fact sheet is a result of phase 2 for the health target 'To secure sustainable natural resources such as air, water and soil and healthy environments for future generations'. It comprised the definition of sub targets, indicators and concrete actions. An intersectoral working group was set up for this purpose. Representatives from over twenty organisations participated, including political and social institutions like the ministries in charge of health, environment, agriculture, transport and infrastructure, regional representatives for health, transport and spatial planning, interest groups and non-governmental organisations, professional groups, federal youth representatives as well as researchers.

The working group will publish the results of phase 2 in a report that will be accessible via <https://gesundheitsziele-oesterreich.at>

## Monitoring

The health target process is accompanied by continuous monitoring, which measures developments of the overall health targets and the sub targets on the basis of a small number of indicators. It also includes a regular assessment of the implementation status.

At the level of the overall health target 'To secure natural resources', two indicators were defined:

- » Observation of the fine particulate pollution on the basis of the average PM<sub>2.5</sub> exposure
- » Observation of noise pollution using noise assessment in urban areas and along high-level traffic infrastructure.

In the process of operationalisation, indicators for the sub targets were defined by the intersectoral working group. Those are listed below. Target values for these indicators have not been set by the working group, because (1) they cannot be reliably quantified in some cases, (2) there are predefined national or international targets and (3) the potential of the measures to influence the indicators has to be taken into account. For this reason, only the desired direction of development is recorded: the minimization of burdens and the maximization of resources.

Finally, metrics were defined for each action to enable the assessment of implementation in the future.

## Identifying concrete actions

The working group members proposed actions to achieve the defined sub-targets. The suggested actions were outlined according to a standardised structure. They were consequently discussed by the working group. The decision whether an action should be included was guided by the following criteria:

- » consensus in the working group that the action will contribute to achieving the sub target(s);
- » coordination and finance of the action are defined;
- » medium to high expected outcome.

Ideally, actions should be supra-regional, new or innovative. If a certain action that was considered to be

meaningful but no institution opted to take responsibility for its coordination, the action was placed in the so-called theme repository. Responsibility for the design and implementation, and ultimately for the success of the actions, lies with the coordinating institutions.

The catalogue of actions does not list all activities and measures that would possibly fit the health target. Its aim is to provide an overview of existing actions for the sustainable design and protection of livelihoods and habitats, as well as to stimulate new actions in line with the defined sub targets.



## HEALTH TARGET 'TO SECURE NATURAL RESOURCES' – SUB TARGETS, INDICATORS AND ACTIONS

In October 2016, the operationalisation of health target 'To secure sustainable natural resources such as air, water and soil and healthy environments for future generations' has been started under the leadership of the Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism and the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection. Till October 2018 six workshops, smaller coordination rounds within the core team, and electronic consultations took place. Three major fields of action were identified, and three sub-targets consequently derived.

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### SUB TARGET 1 - NATURAL LIVELIHOODS

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**'To maintain and strengthen the foundations for a healthy life by dealing responsibly and sustainably with resources and living space'**

Here, the term resources encompasses the necessities of life that are of importance to the environment and human beings. These are air, water, soil, forest stands, biological (and genetic) diversity of animals and plants including their habitats and the interactions of these factors. These resources are a prerequisite for a healthy environment as well as human health, and must thus be protected and preserved.

It is crucial to use limited resources (energy sources, fertile soil, and [mineral] raw materials) efficiently. This calls for sustainability in production (e.g. recycling waste), purchasing (e.g. eco-labelling) and consumption (e.g. avoiding waste).

Biological diversity (biodiversity) provides ecosystem services. In other words, it contributes to clean air, clean drinking water, food availability and recreation. It is thus an essential basis for human life. Biodiversity also helps ecosystems to adapt to changing conditions (e.g. climate change). Climate change is a global

challenge. In addition to climate protection measures, measures to adapt ecosystems in this respect are of particular importance for human health. The responsible use of soil is another major challenge. It needs to be ensured that sufficient safe and high-quality food can be produced in Austria and negative effects of sealing (e.g. in the event of flooding) can be prevented.

The term habitat refers to both the natural and the man-made environment. When organizing living space for humans, physical, chemical and biological (e.g. air quality, living conditions, green space, climate change) as well as psychosocial environmental

factors (e.g. quality of social relations in the living environment) should be taken into account. Nevertheless, the habitats of animals and plants also need attention. Their preservation and conservation serves biological diversity. Urban development, spatial planning and transport planning are central areas of action in relation to habitats. Particular attention must be paid to the efficient use of energy and climate-friendly mobility.

In order to achieve all this, the necessary background conditions and instruments of control are needed at all levels and in all sectors concerned.

### Sub target 1: Indicators and areas of action

#### Indicators

greenhouse gas emissions	land use	biodiversity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>greenhouse gas emissions from transport (in million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sealed area per inhabitant</li> <li>total amount of sealed land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farmland-Bird-Index</li> <li>Forest Biodiversity Index</li> <li>Percentage of protected goods in a favourable conservation status</li> </ul>

#### Areas of action



Source: GÖG

In the area of **biodiversity**, the central issue is the implementation of the **Biodiversity Strategy Austria 2020+**, which was drawn up and adopted by the National Biodiversity Commission (NBK) in 2014. The numerous actions laid down in this strategy aim at preserving biodiversity in Austria, halt the loss of species, genetic diversity and habitats, and minimise the causes of danger. At the European and international level, there is a **Biodiversity Convention** which, among other things, supports cooperation between biodiversity and health promotion (e.g. WHO report on biodiversity and health). To this end, relevant bodies and processes are identified in which such cooperation can be strengthened. Against this background, the **implementation of the 'Recommendations for an Action Plan 2020+ Biodiversity & Health'** should also be considered. They emerged from a cooperation between institutions focusing on biodiversity on the one hand and health on the other. The action

plan contains six fields of action (research, information and education, health promotion and prevention, public relations, the state of nature and sectoral integration) with nine objectives and 48 measures. The **implementation of the Austrian Programme for the Promotion of Environmentally Sound, Extensive and Habitat Conserving Agriculture (ÖPUL)** also tries to preserve biodiversity, although ÖPUL 2015, the fifth agri-environmental programme since 1995, also addresses issues such as soil erosion and soil management, greenhouse gas and ammonia emissions from agriculture and animal-friendly husbandry.

The measures in the **transport sector** essentially aim to curb private motorised transport and thereby reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. This is desirable in view of climate change as well as particulate pollution, and would have a direct positive impact on health (less noise, more exercise through cycling). In concrete

terms, this involves the **implementation of the National Cycling Masterplan 2015-2025** with its aim of significantly increasing the proportion of journeys made by bicycle by 2025. It comprises 24 actions covering cycling offensives, cyclist-friendly environments, information systems, awareness raising, optimisation of links to other means of transport, cycling as an economic factor, and cycling for the promotion of health. Furthermore, sub target 1 is also supported by activities that foster public transport: With the implementation of the **ÖBB framework plan 2018 to 2023**, rail expansion will be promoted, and in Vienna the further expansion of the underground network will facilitate a switch from motorised individual transport to public transport. **Financial support for the ongoing operation of public passenger transport** (e.g. for transport associations who offer semester tickets, free school and apprentice travel as well as general relevant financial allocations to the municipalities) will promote its use. Another measure is the **promotion of electromobility**. It does have potential to decrease greenhouse gas, nitrogen oxide and particle emissions as well as noise pollution, especially in urban areas. The **support and advisory programmes of klimaaktiv mobil** also offer a wide range of services for the CO<sub>2</sub> reduction in mobility projects: for Austrian companies, fleet operators and property developers, cities, municipalities and regions as well as tourism stakeholders, schools and youth initiatives. The offers include funding, counselling, awareness raising, partnerships as well as training and certification initiatives.

Another priority measure for sub target 1 concerns **energy**, its resource-saving consumption and **climate protection**. In this respect, another thematic cluster of the **klimaaktiv** initiative is relevant: to promote energy efficiency for individual buildings and entire new housing estates. It includes a catalogue of quality criteria to evaluate buildings. It has a special focus on climate protection, energy and resource efficiency, renewable energy and energy saving. Furthermore, a system for the planning, evaluation and quality assurance of climate-friendly and urbanistically attractive new housing estates was developed to assist communities as the central decision-makers in this regard. A measure that originated at the international level is the development of an **Integrated National Climate and Energy Plan** for Austria based on the Austrian Climate and Energy Strategy published in June 2018, which in turn is based on EU guidelines and the 2015 UN Paris agreement. A specific contribution to climate protection is to be made by a **survey of the Austrian health sectors' carbon footprint**. Its aim is to provide an empirical basis for recommendations to policymakers on the development of a climate protection strategy for the health sector.

Another measure, the **Waste Prevention Programme 2017** aims at the **sustainable management of natural resources and raw materials**. It specifies five action areas: (1) prevention of construction and demolition waste, (2) waste prevention in enterprises and organisations, (3) waste prevention in households, (4) prevention of food waste, and (5) reuse.

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## SUB TARGET 2 - ENVIRONMENTAL BURDENS

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**'To avoid, identify, monitor and, if possible, reduce environmental impacts with potential effects on human health'**

Direct and indirect adverse health effects caused by physical, chemical and biological factors (in short: environmental burdens) in various environmental media (water, soil, air, food, technical systems) and areas of life (natural habitats, living and working places, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, traffic, etc.) should be identified, considered and, if possible, reduced as early as possible. The entire life cycle and a wide range of exposure pathways, including possible interactions and combinations of environmental impacts, are to be taken into account. This includes exposure

to chemicals, pollutants, noise, radiation and microbes and the associated psychosocial stress factors.

The effects of chemicals, nanoparticles and other environmental burdens on human health are partly known. This applies, for example, to the effects of particulate matter, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, certain persistent organic pollutants, hazardous chemicals, noise, disturbing and damaging light immissions (light pollution), radiation (electrosmog, radon), allergenic pollen and moulds. Actions to minimise these environmental impacts should be taken and/or refined. For certain potential burdens (e.g. endocrine disruptors, nanoparticles, combined effects), data needs to be improved and additional measures to protect the environment and health need to be developed and implemented.

According to the precautionary principle, burdens or damage to the environment and human health should be avoided or reduced as far as possible in advance (despite an incomplete knowledge base).

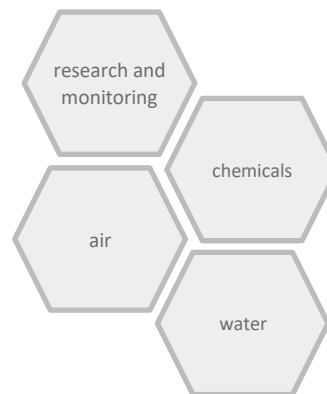
In order to achieve all this, the necessary background conditions and instruments of control are needed at all levels and in all sectors concerned.

## Sub target 2: Indicators and areas for action

### Indicators

groundwater contamination	POPs in air and breast milk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportions of sites where quality objectives for nitrates and pesticides are met</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• number of detective POPs and their concentration in the air</li> <li>• contaminated breast milk</li> </ul>

### Areas of action



Source: GÖG

In the area of **research and monitoring**, two measures concerning persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are being implemented. The **POPMON project** aims at proposing priority actions on POPs in food, based on information on the occurrence, exposure and toxicology of POPs, as well as industrial and contaminated sites in Austria. The aim is the early detection of contaminated regions, in order to minimise risks. In addition, regular **monitoring of breast milk** will be established, as the measurement of POPs and heavy metals in breast milk is an indicator of the effectiveness of UN agreements. As part of another measure, Austria wants to strengthen its role in the European **human biomonitoring platform HBM4EU**. This platform aims at evaluating human exposure to harmful substances, in order to harmonise human bio-monitoring activities in the partner countries, and improve the knowledge and evidence base of the Union's environmental and chemical policies. The gained insights shall inform European environmental and health politics and help to effectively advance it. The **Interreg project 'Macroplastics in and along the Danube'** operates at a smaller scale: Methods for the analysis of the sources and routes of plastic waste on the Danube between Vienna and the Slovakian border are being developed and awareness-raising is being conducted.

A bundle of measures can be summarised under the keyword **'use of chemicals'**. Another step to be taken is Austria's **participation in risk management**

**measures in European chemicals legislation**. It will contribute to the evaluation and classification of substances, propose interventions and participate in the scientific committees of the chemicals agency ECHA. Moreover, the **Chemicals Leasing 4.0** business model will be further established. Instead of buying chemicals, companies shall lease the use and disposal of chemicals, and payment shall be made on the basis of the service provided (e.g. cleaned surface area per m<sup>2</sup>). This will reverse the economic interest of chemical manufacturers - the more efficiently products are used, the higher the profit. Savings potentials are estimated at up to 80 percent in some industries.

Two measures to reduce a specific group of chemicals relate to **biocides**. In the context of **restricting the use of biocides in facades**, a number of individual measures are intended to replace conventional biocides with encapsulated ones, because encapsulated ones pose less risk to water and consequently to health: (1) An encapsulation requirement will be introduced at the Biocidal Product Committee; (2) Encapsulated biocides will be increasingly used by means of programmes and action plans for sustainable public procurement, and particularly environmentally and health-endangering active substances will be excluded; (3) The development of cost-effective alternatives to the use of biocides in and on facades will be promoted; (4) Public relations work will make

measures of an exemplary nature visible for the private construction sector. The second measure aims at restricting the **sale of antimicrobial household products**. According to the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, the risks to health and of microorganisms becoming resistant to biocidal agents should be rated higher than any hygienic benefits. Therefore the size of containers for authorised biocidal disinfectants shall be reduced, the data basis on disinfectants established through a market survey, and the public shall be informed about the sensible use of disinfectants in the household.

The **Nitrate action programme**, the last amendment of which came into force in January 2018, aims at **reducing water pollution**. Rules are laid down for the application of nitrogenous fertilizers on agricultural land in accordance with a 1991 European Council directive. Another measure based on legislation (the Federal Waste Management Plan 2017) is intended to reduce water and soil pollution. It concerns the **recovery of phosphorus from municipal sewage sludge**. Until now, the only usage of phosphorus contained in sewage sludge was the application of sewage sludge (compost) to agricultural land. In order to

secure and expand its use for the future, pollutants (e.g. hormones and endocrine disruptors, pathogen germs, drug residues or heavy metals) contained in the sewage sludge must be eliminated. Therefore corresponding investments by operators of larger sewage treatment plants will be supported.

Two measures focus on **reducing air pollution**. On the one hand, the provinces are to issue **ordinances on measures within the framework of the Air Pollution Control Act**. These ordinances are to be issued for areas in which immission limit values (e.g. for nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter) are exceeded beyond a tolerance margin. They should contain remediation measures in the areas of installations, traffic, substances and products. **Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the NEC Directive** is the other measure. The National Emission Ceilings EU Directive (2016) sets reduction obligations regarding anthropogenic atmospheric emissions of certain air pollutants for the Member States, and prescribes the establishment of national air pollution control programmes as well as reporting on emissions and their effects.

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### SUB TARGET 3 - ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS, ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY

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**'To promote / strengthen awareness of the relationship between environment and health among the population and decision-makers and to ensure environmental equality in the best possible way'**

Based on the health literacy concept of the Austrian Platform for Health Literacy (ÖPGK), health-related environmental awareness is defined as the knowledge, motivation and ability of people to find, understand, assess and apply relevant information on the relationship between environment and health. This enables well-informed decisions on issues relevant to the environment and health in everyday life. Such decisions support the preservation, design and sustainable use of the environment as an essential determinant of health, which in turn helps to maintain and improve quality of life and health throughout the life cycle.

To this end, it is necessary to creatively strengthen the personal skills and sense of responsibility of all

population groups, to facilitate access to comprehensible, independent and quality-assured information, and to promote awareness of environmental protection and nature conservation as a contribution to health, especially among children and young people. People should be able to easily fulfil their role as responsible partners in the system, both on a personal level and as decision-makers or multipliers. This way the acceptance of measures shall be increased and their implementation enhanced. This also means that systems and general conditions must be designed in a way that enables competent decisions.

Environmental burdens (e.g. by air pollutants, noise, climate change) cause almost a quarter of the global burden of disease (stroke, heart attacks ...) and are often unevenly distributed among the population. In a larger context, it can be seen that the distribution between states and regions is also unequal. It should also be borne in mind that the perpetrators, beneficiaries and victims are often not the same persons and actors. In the interests of environmental equity,



the distribution of environmental burdens and resources should be treated as a cross-cutting issue. Particularly vulnerable population groups such as children or socio-economically disadvantaged persons deserve special attention. Background conditions and infrastructure must be organized in such a way that equal opportunities in environment-related health issues and participation rights in the design of settings are guaranteed for vulnerable groups.

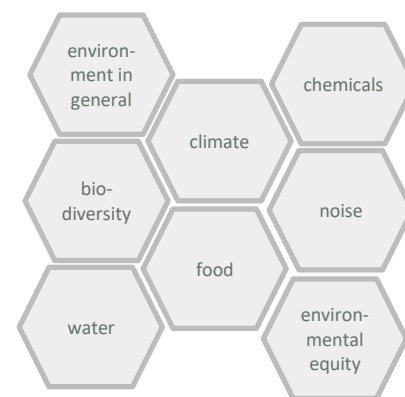
In all matters that have an impact on the health target, environmental equity must be taken into account in the decision-making. In order to enable informed decisions, it is necessary to improve national availability of data and empirical evidence on environmental equity.

### Sub target 3: Indicators and areas of action

#### Indicators

environmental quality of life	sense of noise pollution	environmental awareness, behaviour
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Points achieved from 100 possible points stratified by sociodemographic aspects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of the population that is disturbed/nuisance by noise in the residential area during the day or at night stratified by socio-demographic aspects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>shares of public transport + bicycle + walking and motorized individual transport in local passenger transport</li> <li>eco-labels</li> </ul>

#### Areas of action



Source: GÖG

The measures of this sub target focus on the preparation and provision of information / knowledge on environmental issues connected to health to the population, political decision-makers, and researchers. Some of these measures are target group-specific, while others are structural measures that are expected to enhance environmental awareness and equity. Some measures involve the creation and implementation of thematically appropriate strategies or action plans.

The **environment in general** in connection with health is addressed in the Ostrava Declaration signed in 2017 by the European environment and health ministers. It aims to create a health-promoting environment. A measure within the framework of the present process is to draw up a **national catalogue of actions for implementing the Ostrava Declaration** with the very broad environmental issues set out therein (indoor and outdoor air, drinking water, environmental quality of life, sanitation, harmful effects of chemicals, waste disposal and contaminated sites, climate change, healthier and more sustainable cities and regions, ecological sustainability of health systems).

A further measure would like to clarify the **sense and benefit of the integrated assessment of environmental and health impacts** by setting up a cross-policy and cross-level working group, which should lead to a common methodology for the assessment of environmental and health impacts. In order to interlink environmental and health literacy, **synergies with measures from the health target on strengthening health literacy** shall be used by delegating a committed person with environmental and health literacy to the core team of the Austrian Health Literacy Alliance (ÖPGK). The **implementation and dissemination of the Green Care Strategy** involves taking measures to improve health and quality of life of people with the help of nature, animals and plants as well as finalising and establishing a strategy plan for this purpose at the University College for Agrarian and Environmental Pedagogy in Vienna.

Several measures focus on **climate change** and its health consequences. The **APCC Special Report 'Health, Demography and Climate Change'** is intended to provide central actors from science, administration and politics with a decision-making basis to

assist the alignment of climate and health policies. The **Austrian strategy for adaptation to climate change** and especially those measures defined in the updated version of 2017 for the 'Health' area of action are to be implemented. A short-term effective measure with regard to climate change is the **implementation of the national heat protection plan**. The entire population, but above all vulnerable persons and their relatives, as well as institutions such as hospitals and care facilities, are to receive timely information on forthcoming heat waves as well as clear and practicable instructions for action. The plan describes the intended flow of information to relevant institutions and vulnerable groups as well as activities planned in the event of an impending heat wave at federal and province level.

Further more, awareness should be raised in the general public on the connection between **biodiversity** and health. As part of a biodiversity campaign entitled '**vielfaltleben**' (**living diversity**) launched in 2009, a focus will be placed on '**biodiversity and health**' in 2019.

Two measures will be implemented to increase knowledge of **food** production and processing. Under the title '**Gut zu wissen**' (**Good to know - where our food comes from**), the labelling of the origin of food in mass catering is being promoted. Within the framework of the so-called '**Schule am Bauernhof**' (**school at the farm**), pedagogically trained farmers provide children and young people an in-sight into agriculture and forestry and promote a better understanding of ecological and economic connections as well as the origin and production methods of food.

The **platform wasseraktiv.at** communicates knowledge on **water** as an environmental medium. The platform has been in existence since 2009 and is constantly being expanded. It provides up-to-date information and tips for events on the subject of water and the EU Flood Directive. Its aim is to raise awareness of water as a resource and promote the participation of the interested public and stakeholders.

To improve the management of environmental **noise** an **action plan on environmental noise** has been drawn up on the basis of noise mapping. Austrian citizens can participate in this process. In 2017 noise mapping covered the conurbations of Vienna, Graz, Linz, Salzburg and Innsbruck as well as main transport routes with high traffic levels.

Two measures are intended to provide the general public and in particular businesses with better information on **chemicals** that are harmful to health. An amendment to poison law requires companies and private users to provide a license for the purchase of poisons. It can be acquired by passing a **technical knowledge course**. A second measure is the REACH chemicals regulation of 2007. It places stronger obligations on manufacturers and suppliers of certain products (e.g. toys, textiles, electronic appliance, furniture etc.) to provide information. The regulation lays down a list of "substances of very high concern" (e.g. carcinogenic, hormonally disruptive or environmentally harmful). The **LIFE AskREACH project**, funded by the EU, aims to make the general public, trade and industry aware of the presence of these substances in everyday objects. The core element of this project is a smartphone app.

Last but not least, the compilation of a **report on the socio-economic differences** between those affected and those protected by environmental factors and in environmental behaviour is a relevant measure for **environmental equity**.

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## OVERARCHING ACTIONS

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Some of the actions included in the report do not match any of the three sub-targets, but nevertheless support the health target. This includes the **promotion of measures to increase road safety** as well as two activities in the psychological field. On the one hand, **environmental-psychological expertise** shall be provided for the implementation of the health target. On the other hand, **transdisciplinary working groups** shall be installed to optimise the health targets' measures with regard to environmental psychology.

### Further information

Detailed information on the overall health target process, on the working groups and on the accompanying monitoring can be found on the Austrian Health Targets website:

<https://gesundheitsziele-oesterreich.at/english-summary/>

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