



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

CES/2005/32
12 May 2005

ENGLISH ONLY

STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Fifty-third plenary session
(Geneva, 13-15 June 2005)

**THE AUSTRIAN STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ITS
MONITORING**

Supporting paper submitted by Statistics Austria

THE STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1. In Austria a Strategy for Sustainable Development was worked out and adopted by the federal government in April 2002.
2. Core of the Austrian Sustainability Strategy are 20 key objectives, which are broken down into four major fields of action. For the monitoring of the 20 guiding targets it contains corresponding indicators. These 48 indicators are to be used in the reports on the development of the implementation process to describe the current status of implementation (see key objectives and corresponding indicators at http://gpool.lfrz.at/gpoolexport/media/file/Ziele_Indikatoren_engl.pdf and at the end of this report).
3. In 2004 the first report on the implementation of the SD Strategy based on indicators had to be prepared. The indicator report is available at http://gpool.lfrz.at/gpoolexport/media/file/IndikatorenBericht_06_28.pdf.
4. It was prepared in a coordinative process, led by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, by the Ministries in charge for the individual fields. The Ministries provided data and modular proposals for their description. STATISTICS AUSTRIA collected these modules and prepared graphs from the data files and designed the

layout of the full report including charts and texts for the indicators as well as the various chapters in general.

5. For some of the indicators STATISTICS AUSTRIA was responsible for provision of data to the responsible Ministry and therefore also took part in the detailed definition of the respective indicators.

6. The bodies involved in the implementation of the Sustainability Strategy took a lively interest in the report. On the one hand, they were interested in the development of specific items concerning the progress made in achieving the objective. On the other hand, some also pointed out that the presentation of information on items from different fields in one volume was valuable for them.

MONITORING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AUSTRIA

7. In addition to the progress monitoring implemented with respect to set objectives, the Austrian Strategy for Sustainable Development provides for the development of indicators for the monitoring of sustainable development based on a systematic approach.

8. This is due to the fact that the selection of indicators for key objectives was subject to restrictive conditions:

- They are oriented towards the key objectives, which, however, are not necessarily comprehensive. (Probably with good reason they reflect the existing priorities from the stakeholders' point of view);
- "Wherever possible, quantitative values were selected for the issues formulated in the key objectives and indicators, for which the database is already secured...";
- eventually, also the time factor influenced the selection.

9. Furthermore, the purpose of a monitoring of sustainable development is not only

- to monitor the progress made towards the achievement of objectives; but also
- to analyse the reasons for which objectives were, or were not, achieved: and
- to check policies, strategies, for their mutual and secondary effects.

10. It is generally undisputed that a systematic approach is needed; for this reason it is probably also requested in the Austrian SD Strategy. An OECD publication says: "Developing indicators, requires a clear "vision" of sustainable development, and the definition of a framework for structuring these indicators."

11. The systematic approach makes it easier to reduce complexity by means of problem subdivision. If there is a structure, mutual effects and causal relations can be identified. Where a structure has been established, it is possible to check for completeness and to find gaps. The structure makes it easier to choose a set of key indicators. It facilitates communication because issues can be assigned to specific contexts and it is thus clear what is being talked about.

12. Before making a selection or taking a decision on a specific framework, one has to consider thoroughly what is expected from the approach. It has to be oriented towards the

stakeholders. For use in politics, monitoring a criterion like “Diversity” would not be directly implementable; systemic approaches are thus not possible.

13. Finally it was decided to use the 2-pillar system developed in Germany. In a workshop, organised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, held in September 2003, it was tried to find thematic fields for the Austrian sustainability monitoring for these two spheres.

14. To hear many different opinions was, and still is, very useful in this process. Therefore we tried to make participation a principle of the process. Representatives from the administrative sector involved in the Austrian SD Strategy, from the fields of data provision and from science were invited to discuss in working groups:

15. The resulting structure is:

Field Man / Society		Field Environment	
1	<i>Nutrition</i>	1	<i>Landscape</i>
2	<i>Living and living environment</i>	2	<i>Ecosystems</i>
3	<i>Health and wellness</i>	3	<i>Energy and material flows</i>
4	<i>Education and research</i>	4	<i>Consumption of land</i>
5	<i>International justice</i>	5	<i>Soil</i>
6	<i>Intra- and inter-generational justice</i>	6	<i>Toxic compounds</i>
7	<i>Work</i>	7	<i>Water</i>
8	<i>Welfare</i>	8	<i>Air</i>
9	<i>Participation</i>	9	<i>Climate</i>
10	<i>Security</i>	10	<i>Noise</i>
11	<i>Culture & Art</i>	11	<i>UV radiation</i>
12	<i>Leisure</i>	12	<i>Ionising radiation</i>
13	<i>Mobility</i>		

Reader on the workshop:

http://gpool.lfrz.at/gpoolexport/media/file/Reader_zum_Workshop_MonNE.pdf.

16. Moreover, the approach is to support necessary adaptations of the Strategy. This demand for an intelligent strategy leads to another component of the task defined in the Austrian SD Strategy:

17. “Thereby [In this approach], not only the scientific-technically based measurement values but also the aspects of people’s perception and sensation must be taken into consideration, since sustainable development must be oriented towards their needs.”

18. For example, the set is to contain not only indicators on measuring values for noise, like the sound pressure level, but also indicators on subjective perceptions of noise disturbance.

19. So far, indicators based on scientifically-technically based measuring values are predominant in all systems. However, there are differences with respect to the regional level covered by the indicator system. At the local level indicators taking into account people’s

perception and sensation are applied more frequently.

20. At present we are defining objectives for the monitoring of sustainable development, afterwards we will choose indicators for them. We plan to integrate the different stakeholders and the competent experts also in these future steps.

21. For the process of indicator selection and definition STATISTICS AUSTRIA will have a central role as data provider.

The Austrian Strategy for Sustainable Development

The 20 key objectives	Corresponding indicators
Quality of Life in Austria A task for today and tomorrow	
<p>1. A sustainable life-style: Orientation of lifestyles towards the model of sustainable development through education and awareness, and initiation of a shift in values</p> <p>2. Opportunities for the empowerment of all generations: Designing the financing of family and social benefits, health services and pensions in accordance with the demographic development, and promotion of health</p> <p>3. Gender equality: Implementation of gender mainstreaming and true equality between men and women at work and in the family</p> <p>4. Solutions through education and research: Exploiting the opportunities of the knowledge society through research, education and life-long learning</p> <p>5. A decent life for present and future generations: Fighting poverty, creating social solidarity, and securing equal opportunities for everyone</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of income (S80/S20 ratio) • Risk of poverty • Persistent risk of poverty rate • Long-term unemployment rate • Share of gainfully employed fathers and mothers with children aged below 6 years • Population in jobless households • Self defined health status by income level • Employment growth • Life-long learning (adult participation in education and training) • Early school leavers not in further education or training • Level of education • Gainfully employed persons and employment rate by gender • Income disadvantage of women in full-time employment • Health status of the population
Austria as a Dynamic Business Location Success through innovation and networking	
<p>6. Innovative structures promote competitiveness: Need-oriented research, technology and development provide system solutions for innovations, structural and social change</p> <p>7. A new understanding of business and administration: Strengthening corporate responsibility and creating efficient administrative structures and processes</p> <p>8. Correct prices for resources and energy: Creating incentives for sustainable behaviour through price signals</p> <p>9. Successful management through eco-efficiency:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R&D expenditure • Environmental taxes • Levies and taxes on labour • Material input • Consumption of landscape • Energy consumption in relation to GDP (total primary energy supply and total final energy consumption)

4

<p>Decoupling the consumption of resources and energy from economic growth even further – promoting the use of renewable raw materials and sources of energy more strongly</p> <p>10. Strengthening sustainable products and services: Setting impulses for a higher market share for sustainable products and services and promoting sustainable tourism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share of renewable energy sources in total primary energy supply • The Austrian energy import dependence, expressed by the net import tangent • Waste • Number of products with eco-label • Number of EMAS and ISO 14001 sites
<p>Austria as a Living Space Protection of diversity and quality</p>	
<p>11. Protection of environmental media and climate: Quality targets and a responsible chemicals policy</p> <p>12. Preserving the diversity of species and landscapes: Preserving animal and plant species, living spaces, natural and cultivated landscapes</p> <p>13. Responsible use of land and regional development: Orienting and tuning the space-relevant policies towards more quality of life</p> <p>14. Shaping sustainable mobility: Reducing mobility pressures and shaping a sustainable fulfilment of mobility needs</p> <p>15. Optimising the transport systems: Promoting the most environmentally friendly, most resource-sparing, most energy efficient and safest forms of transport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accumulation of pollutants in the topsoil or exceeding of thresholds • Exceedance of deposition values (critical loads) • Groundwater quality in accordance with Groundwater Threshold • Ordinance and Water Framework Directive • Surface water: good/very good ecological condition and good chemical condition in accordance with Water Framework Directive • Greenhouse gas emissions (sectoral break down) • Exceedance of air quality standards and targets (in accordance with the Act on Ambient Air Quality and the Forestry Act) • Share of organic farms in entire agricultural area, and share of farms participating in agricultural environmental programmes. • Share of sealed surface • Change in use of surfaces (regional break down) • Red list of endangered species and biotopes • Land use • Mileage

5

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Price development in the transport sector • External costs of transport • Traffic-related emissions • Share of alternative fuels • Energy efficiency of means of transport (fleet consumption) • Access to mobility (availability of public transport) • Number of traffic deaths and casualties
<p>Austria's Responsibility An active role in Europe and in the world</p>	
<p>16. Fighting poverty, creating a social and economic equilibrium within and between the countries: Making a contribution towards the consolidation of security, peace and human rights</p> <p>17. A globally sustainable economy: Developing a world economy that guarantees an intact environment and social equity</p> <p>18. Our world as a living space: Securing natural and social living spaces for everyone in the long term</p> <p>19. International cooperation and financing: Making sustainable development affordable for partner countries</p> <p>20. Sustainability Union Europe: Turning the new Europe into a Sustainability Union</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official development assistance (ODA) in % of GNI • Expenditures for the relevant focus themes of Austrian • Development Cooperation according to EZA Statistics • Environmental projects within the scope of public export funding • Share of environmental technology exports in total exports

9