



For the Future We Want

Action Request: *pursuing a decent life for all on a sustainable planet*

As young people and inheritors of this planet, we are key actors to safeguard the implementation of Agenda 2030. Hence, we call on our political representatives to full-heartedly pursue the achievement of a sustainable future for all. This is what we advocate for:

I. Common Partnership Strategy

In response to the government of Austria's decision to take a mainstreaming approach to achieve Agenda 2030, we would urge you to consider the opportunity to implement a common partnership strategy. Inspired by Sweden's successful implementation we emphasize the following adaptations:

- To initiate a coordination body with a clear mandate for the implementation of Agenda 2030.
- To establish an advisory board including stakeholders (e.g. academia, private sector, civil society, youth representatives), which also develops specific targets for Austria's implementation of Agenda 2030.

The coordination body shall be responsible for regular interministerial exchange forums in which the advisory board presents its recommendations and delegates of the ministries present their progress in implementing Agenda 2030.

To fulfill the mainstreaming approach we strongly recommend the Federal Chancellery to embody its responsibility and to communicate it to civil society. The government shall recognize the opportunity to act as a role model on national, sub-national and international levels.

II. Policy coherence

To make sure Agenda 2030 will be implemented, we need a whole-of-government approach embodied in the Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development principle (PCSD).

We recommend creating a methodological toolkit for evaluating the impact of a certain policy or a project on each SDG. This "SDG check" would become part of the standard procedure when developing policies and assessing projects that require public funding and procurement. The responsibility of using the toolkit would be undertaken by ministries' SDG units to support the mainstreaming approach.

III. SDG information and communication strategy

As only 19%¹ of Austrians actually know what the Sustainable Development Goals are about, we recommend implementing measures to increase this number to at least 40% by 2022 and to 60% by 2024. In order to achieve an effective mainstreaming approach, we ask the political representatives to develop an SDG information strategy underpinned by the values of accessibility and inclusivity. This includes sharing data with SDG Watch Austria as well as implementing an annual summit for a multi-stakeholder exchange.

As role models the government representatives have the chance to publicly commit to 2030 Agenda and thus inspire all Austrians to follow their lead. This could be done by participating in SDG training, which would also be available to ministry staff and administrative bodies. This includes raising awareness for the political work regarding the Global Goals by urging public

¹ Eurobarometer April 2017



relation representatives to include the SDGs in daily political and governmental communication. A key objective of the SDG information strategy should include measures such as nationwide campaigns, using traditional media and social media channels, for example by adding the hashtag #Austria4SDGs. Another idea is to create short video statements by senior members of the ministries and the government, similar to the Styrian video "Die SDGs und wir". Finally we suggest encouraging federal offices to develop their own SDG information strategies, as for example the local Styrian Government did at the FairStyria Conference on November 29th 2018.

IV. Education that serves everyone

We strongly believe that a holistic approach on education is necessary for a decent life for all.

We call upon the political representatives to make sure that no one is being left behind and ensure access to education for everybody regardless of their origin, gender, ability, age or religion.

It is necessary to break down the existing structural discrimination (material and immaterial barriers) by focusing on and investing more in education by creating healthy and equitable circumstances. This can be achieved by regarding educational spaces as crucial to the development of life skills. In order to create an inclusive society for all we must ensure that the participation of learners and educators is encouraged and their boundless potential acknowledged, particularly those with special needs and minorities.

The sustainable development goals of Agenda 2030 should be embedded in the curricula of all educational institutions, to achieve quality and inclusive education and to reduce inequalities among learners and educators.

V. Youth Participation and Inclusion

We call upon our political representatives to enable meaningful participation of all young people in political processes. The voices and demands of young people, such as expressed by youth organisations, need to be heard. Inspired by the example of Finland, where an Agenda Youth Group works under the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development, we want to be considered as partners in achieving the goals and be more included in decision-making processes.

We would like to invite the political representatives to benefit from the existing expertise among young people recognizing their significant role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

We urge you to include young people working on Agenda 2030 such as the SDG ambassadors and the UN Youth Delegates in the Voluntary National Report process.

The five "Ps" of Agenda 2030 – People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership – need to be addressed with immediate and sincere effort to achieve a decent life for all.

Thus, we entrust our political leaders to consider our recommendations for implementing Agenda 2030. In light of the Austrian EU presidency, we also encourage the Austrian government to pass on the message to future EU presidencies.

Representatives of young Europeans
who participated in the discussions on

"For the Future We Want

– pursuing a decent life for all on a sustainable planet"

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