

Case study for Road Map on Statistics for SDGs 2.0
Austria: The project “How’s Austria?”

Description	<p>The project “How's Austria?” was launched in 2012 by Statistics Austria to measure prosperity and progress for Austria. A set of 30 key indicators complements GDP, reflecting the three pillars of "material wealth", "quality of life" and "environment" contributing to a broader understanding of prosperity and progress in Austrian society. The final responsibility for the selection of indicators lies with Statistics Austria. International developments in the discussion on prosperity and progress are also taken into account, for example, the framework of indicators of the UN Agenda 2030 was used in 2017 for a thorough evaluation and discussion of the How’s Austria? indicator set.</p> <p>An expert panel provides an assessment of the key indicators on a 5-point evaluation scale, which can provide simple information about the development of sustainability. This assessment is represented by weather icons from sun to thunderstorm for a long-term period (minimum 10 years) and a short-term period (last three years). The evaluation is conducted on a yearly basis by a group of external experts from independent Austrian research institutions. Statistics Austria itself does not take part in the assessment of individual indicators.</p>
Advantages	<p>Regarding the structure of the project and the selection of indicators, Statistics Austria implemented, to a large extent, recommendations made by the “Sponsorship Group on Measuring Progress, Well-Being and Sustainable Development”, but also taking into account proposals of the national expert community. The ongoing involvement of the central stakeholders (research institutions, interest groups and federal ministries) regarding the selection of indicators is a cornerstone of the project. These discussions guarantee the widest possible national acceptance of the set of indicators.</p> <p>The weather icons allow the pinpointing of problem areas at a glance.</p>
Challenges	<p>The involvement of many stakeholders, experts and interested parties made the definition of the set of indicators more complex and time consuming as there are conflicts of interest among stakeholders with different priorities. Also, additional information has to be added to explain different points of view, this increases the effort to prepare the annual study. However, as mentioned, the final responsibility for the selection of indicators lies with Statistics Austria.</p>
Future steps	<p>Continued discussion of the selected indicators and yearly report and evaluation based on a long-term period (minimum 10 years) and a short-term period (last three years).</p>
More information	<p>A yearly report presents the developments of the key indicators in text and graphics, complemented by additional information, including one chapter which deals with the question "How is Austria compared to the EU?"</p> <p>https://www.statistik.at/web_en/statistics/-----/hows_austria/index.html</p>