

**Table 2: Reporting table on national Europe 2020 targets**

Table 2: Description of the measures taken and information on their qualitative impact		
Progress on implementation	List of measures and their state of play that were implemented in response to the commitment	The estimated impacts of the measures (qualitative and/or quantitative) <sup>1</sup>
<b>National 2020 headline targets</b>		
<b>National 2020 employment target [77-78%]</b>		
National 2020 employment target [77-78%]	<p><u>Directed at older workers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Part-time scheme for older workers (gradual increase of minimum age from 53/58 to 55/60): the minimum age was already increased in 2019 (entered into force as from 1 January 2019; on the basis of this regulation part-time scheme will be possible from 2020 at the earliest five years before reaching the standard retirement age.</li> <li>- Part-time scheme for re-integration into the workplace after long-lasting sick-leaves (Wiedereingliederungsteilzeit, since July 2017).</li> <li>- Prevention programme fit2work - New period (2020-24) with enhanced, customized and integrated, counselling services for individuals and companies – a.o. nation-wide hotline, reinforced coordination and cooperation with providers of other (health-related) services.</li> <li>- Employment initiative 50+ (continued with additional funds): In 2019, up to € 165 million was available for wage subsidies, in-work benefits and temporary employment in social enterprises for unemployed persons above the age of 50.</li> </ul>	<p>Increasing the effective retirement age- In 2019, approx. 43.000 older workers benefitted from the part-time scheme.</p> <p>Evaluation report after two years of implementation shows positive results, with approx. 7,000 participants and positive feedback by all stakeholders involved. According to the new government programme, an extension of the scheme should be considered.</p> <p>Total number of cases in 2019: approx. 63,600. Evaluation by Statistics Austria (impact analysis with comparison group) confirms intended effect of higher employment rates among persons with health problems who participated in the fit2work programme.</p> <p>In 2019, AMS included 67,773 jobseekers over 50 in subsidised employment under the Employment Initiative 50+ and spent € 188.8m.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Cross reference with column 9 of Table 1

	<p>Additional funds of € 50 million (2019/20) to be used for long-term unemployed persons aged 50+.</p> <p>Modifications since 2018: shorter minimum period of registration with PES (3 instead of 6 months) and new measures included in the programme: qualification close to the workplace ("AQUA") and implacement foundations - ongoing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promotion of qualification: special PES offers for older jobseekers, e.g. updating obsolete qualifications ("New Skills" programme) or upskilling low-qualified persons with health impairments.</li> </ul> <p><i>Government programme 2020-24 calls for increased attention to labour market for persons aged 50+ and age(ing)-friendly employment.</i></p> <p><u>Directed (mainly) at women</u> (see Table 1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Frauen in Handwerk und Technik – "Women in craft and technical professions" – ongoing.</li> <li>- "Encouragement for reentering professional life" ("Wiedereinstieg unterstützen") - comprehensive counselling and guidance for women (and men) reentering the job market after a family related career break – ongoing.</li> <li>- "Competence with system" ("Kompetenz mit System") - ongoing.</li> <li>- Vocational centres for women (Frauenberufszentren) - ongoing.</li> </ul> <p><u>For persons with a migration background and recognised refugees</u> (see Table 1)</p>	<p>In the course of 2019, an average of 2,870 people found themselves in funded training under the "New Skills" programme. 18% of them were over 50. In 2019, the AMS supported 81,927 people in education or training for skilled workers, 16% of which had an impairment of health. 10% of the subsidized persons in training were over 50.</p> <p>Sustainable improvement of income and labour market opportunities of women. 6,900 women participated 2019.</p> <p>A greater share of women finds employment after a family related career break. 38,700 women after a family related career break benefited from a labour market policy measure in 2019.</p> <p>Women can achieve more sustainable employment through jobs that require higher skills. 760 women participated in 2019.</p> <p>Around 12,000 women benefited in 2019.</p> <p>In 2019, 40,226 migrants and refugees participated in a german language course.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PES offers for persons with a migration background and recognized refugees german language courses – ongoing.</li> <li>- PES offers competence checks for recognized refugees. – ongoing.</li> </ul> <p><u>Directed at Youth</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Education and Training until 18 is an initiative of the Austrian Federal Government to raise the educational level of young people. The aim is to ensure that all young people complete a vocational training programme that goes beyond compulsory schooling in order to give them better chances for the future.</li> <li>- Youth coaching is one of the central programmes of Education until 18. In 2019, pilot projects were initiated to improve the connection of young people from outside the educational system and to intensify cooperation between youth coaching and youth work or child and youth welfare institutions (see also Table 1). In 2020, youth coaching will also be positioned as a key instrument to ensure that young people with disabilities in day care facilities are also given every opportunity to obtain access to vocational training and the labour market.</li> <li>- AusbildungsFit (formerly Production Schools) aims at young people who need more time and support after completing their schooling. In 2019, the offer was expanded to include upstream modules that allow an even easier and lower-threshold entry for young people to the programme (see also Table 1).</li> <li>- Motivational Football Projects: In order to further expand low-threshold offers for young people in the context of Education until 18, new motivational offers have been implemented since 2019, in which young people are being motivated by</li> </ul>	<p>In 2019, 17.446 refugees participated in the competence checks.</p> <p>In 2019, 2,860 young people were supported by the coordinating offices for training up to 18 years, 2000 of them, i.e. almost 70%, with a positive result. In 2020 the number is expected to rise up to about 4.000.</p> <p>In 2019, youth coaching recorded 58,000 participations. The number of participations in 2020 is estimated at around 60,000.</p> <p>In 2019 the production schools recorded around 5,800 participations. The number is expected to rise slightly in 2020. The mandate to place young people in vocational training will be strengthened for Ausbildungsfit from 2020 on.</p>
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	<p>football training and competition and being prepared for further education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In the 2018/2019 training year, around 12,600 people took part in a course as part of the supra-company training programme. In addition, the PES has established measures for better placement in vocational training and reduction of drop-out rates in these qualification programmes.</li> <li>- Since the 2019/2020 school year covers the third cohort since the introduction of compulsory education and Education until 18 has now reached its full expansion, all the above-mentioned offers will be extended according to demand.</li> </ul> <p><i>Main focus for 2020 will be on improving planning of support and perspectives for the target group, increasing outplacement activities and enhancing performance monitoring in all offerings.</i></p> <p><i>An evaluation of almost all the projects mentioned is planned for the year 2020.</i></p> <p><u>Skilled workers initiative</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Skilled workers intensive training (FacharbeiterInnen-IntensivAusbildung FIA) – ongoing. (see Table 1).</li> <li>- Skilled Workers’ Grant (Fachkräftestipendium FKS) ongoing; extended in 2019. Supports the training of low and medium-skilled workers and job seekers in occupations with labour demand (health/nursing/social work, metalworking industries etc). In 2019, the scholarship was reintroduced and extended: Education at schools for social care professions and in the area of Industrial Engineering and Management is eligible for funding since 1.1.2019.</li> </ul>	<p>For the 2019/20 training year, some 11,100 places in supra-company vocational training are available to young people who are currently unable to find an apprenticeship place.</p> <p>Addressing skills shortages. In 2019, AMS spent € 59.3 m for 9,765 people within the framework of Skilled workers intensive training (FIA).</p> <p>In 2019, AMS spent € 37 m for 13,543 people within the framework of Skilled Workers’ Grant (FKS).</p>
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	<p><u>Further development of qualified immigration from third countries in the context of the Red-White-Red Card</u></p> <p><i>Realised in 2019:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the admission of skilled workers from third countries, the Skilled Workers Ordinance 2020 (Fachkräfteverordnung) defines 56 nationwide occupations (e.g. roofers, electrical engineers, data processing technicians, qualified nurses, nursing assistants, restaurant cooks) and 27 regional occupations (e.g. hairdressers, waiters, accountants, painters) as shortage occupations. Skilled workers from third countries can receive a Red-White-Red card for employment in a shortage occupation.</li> <li>- A further ordinance provides for preferential admission of third-country nationals practising certain occupations or holding specific qualifications via the “very highly qualified workers” track: Qualified workers proving specific types of tertiary education as defined in that ordinance can be granted a jobseeker visa (art. 24a of the Aliens Police Act) or a Red-White-Red card at a reduced rate of points.</li> </ul> <p><i>2020 - According to the current government programme, the following measures are planned (see also Table 3):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>In the context of a strategy for regulated qualified immigration, it is planned to further improve the Red-White-Red card, to simplify procedures and to digitise them as far as possible.</i></li> <li>- <i>Furthermore, the annual quotas for the temporary employment of seasonal workers from third countries in tourism and agriculture will be adjusted according to current needs.</i></li> </ul> <p><u>Reforming PES and active labour market policy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of the “Arbeitsmarktchancen Assistenzsystem” Computer based assessment of employment opportunities for each registered unemployed person aiming at increasing the efficiency of labour market programs and at the improvement of service quality for each customer. According</li> </ul>	<p>Increasing efficiency of labour market programs and customer satisfaction.</p>
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	<p>to the calculated probability for reentering the labour market people are assigned either to the group with high, average or low employment opportunities. PES consultants can finally reassign people according to their personal assessment, as the applied algorithm does not include certain personal characteristics like motivation and personal appearance in its calculation. PES offer an additional special counselling and guidance program on voluntary basis for customers with low employment opportunities. The program aims at stabilizing and preparing participants for PES qualification, training measures and placement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increasing placement services.</li> <li>- Review and revise all PES instruments for efficiency and effective reintegration into the labour market: In order to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the labour market policy measures ongoing efforts are undertaken. Currently an evaluation of qualification measures commissioned by the Labour Ministry is being carried out.</li> </ul> <p><u>Increasing job specific training and qualification in co-operation with companies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The workplace-oriented qualification for unemployed (Arbeitsplatznahe Qualifizierung AQUA). As mentioned in Table 1, AQUA provides on-the-job training while imparting industry-wide knowledge. Half of the participants 2019 were compulsory school leavers. (see also Table 1)</li> <li>- Labour Foundations – Impacement Foundations IMP - Impacement foundations offer workplace-oriented qualification. The Länder and social partners are strongly involved and the Länder may provide funding.</li> </ul>	<p>Reducing unemployment and increasing effectiveness of labour market policy.</p> <p>In 2019, AMS spent € 4.5 m for 1,498 people in labour foundations.</p>
	<p><u>Directed (mainly) at women</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income-related child care allowance</li> </ul>	

	<p>Family benefit, designed for better earning parents, who wish to withdraw from the labour market for only a limited period of time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child care allowance account</li> </ul> <p>Family benefit which can also be drawn by parents who are not or have not been in paid employment or parents who are not or have not been compulsorily insured such as: Housewives/househusbands, Students, Marginally Employed People. A parent may additionally earn up to 60 percent of the income last earned or at most up to € 16.200 a year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner Bonus</li> </ul> <p>Benefit for parents who claim child care allowance in (almost) equal parts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Time Bonus</li> </ul> <p>Benefit for working fathers who intensively and exclusively take care of their families directly after the birth of a child. . As of 1 September 2019, there is a legal entitlement to a paternity leave of 1 month (“Papamonat”).</p>	
	<p>Austria has 2019 implemented a new model and an accompanying process for new vocational profiles for the dual apprenticeship system in order to foster competence orientation for learners. 2019 20 new profiles (e.g. for the tourism sector) are already set in force. Currently all office-related jobs are in the development phase. The legal basis is the Vocational Training Act (Berufsausbildungsgesetz).</p>	
	<p>Search for qualified staff from abroad</p>	<p>The target of ~8,000 foreign skilled workers can be reached in 2024</p>
	<p><u>Contributing to the fulfilment of the employment and poverty-reduction target for women (see the details in table 1):</u></p> <p>Continuation of ongoing projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• online information platform “<a href="http://www.meine-technik.at">www.meine-technik.at</a>” (“My technology”);</li> <li>• Girls’ Day and Girls’ Day MINI in the federal service.</li> <li>• online wage calculator (“<a href="#">Gehaltsrechner</a>”)</li> </ul>	<p>Increase of employment participation and full-time employment rate of women; reduction of gender-specific horizontal and vertical segregation on the labour market, strengthening gender equality on the labour market. (see the details in table 1)</p>

	project TRAPEZ – transparent pension future	
	<p>Planned measures for low- and middle-income earners (2021):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In an initial step, the initial tax rate for income tax at source and personal income tax will be reduced from 25% to 20% in order to benefit low-income employees, pensioners, the self-employed and agricultural and forestry workers.</li> <li>- Extension of the so far temporary tax rate of 55% for incomes over EUR 1 million.</li> </ul>	This measure will reduce the burden on taxpayers especially for low- and middle-income earners.
	<p>Planned measures concerning the agricultural sector (2021):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Further tax relief will be provided to the agricultural sector via the elements set out in the government programme, such as an increase in the accounting threshold to EUR 700,000, a reduction in notional leases to 10%, an increase in the pension insurance contribution basis for those working full-time up to the age of 27, and an adjustment of the minimum contribution basis for health insurance to the level of the General Social Security Act.</li> <li>- In addition, a three-year distribution is to be established for agricultural profits.</li> </ul>	The measures will relieve the tax burden on the agricultural sector.
<b>National 2020 R&amp;D target [3,76%]</b>		
National 2020 R&D target [3,76%]	<p>“Flagship region Energy” (2018- 2025), a RTDI Initiative by the Climate and Energy Fund of the Austrian government: After the grant decision in 2018, three flagship regions energy implemented their first work programs 2019.</p> <p>The three flagship regions energy develop model solutions with up to 100% renewable energy with focus on innovative energy technologies “made in Austria” in 3 thematic areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project “Green Energy Lab” accelerates user-centric integrated solutions for the renewable energy system of tomorrow.</li> <li>- Project „New Energy for Industry“ (NEFI) works on a path towards complete decarbonisation for producing and energy intensive industry.</li> </ul>	Flagship regions energy: Model solutions in 3 thematic focus areas to demonstrate by 2025, that a region can supply itself with focus on innovative energy technologies “made in Austria” up to 100% with regional renewable energy. Additional positive effects on energy efficiency and reduction of greenhouse gases are expected.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Hydrogen initiative flagship region Austria Power &amp; Gas (WIVA P&amp;G) aims to demonstrate the transition of the Austrian economy and energy production to an energy system strongly based on renewable hydrogen.</li> </ul>	
	<p>Direct research funding (examples):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With the program, <u>Research Capacity in Industry</u> (<i>"Forschungskompetenzen für die Wirtschaft"</i>), the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW) supports companies, especially SMEs, in the systematic development and upgrading of the skills of their research and innovation staff. A second focus is to promote the establishment and anchoring of business-relevant research areas at Austrian universities and colleges as well as to stimulate cross-sectoral mobility. In 2018, a special programme line called "Digital Pro Bootcamps" has been launched within the programme focusing on the quick qualification of IT professionals (see Table 1).</li> </ul>	
	<p>Broadband Strategy 2030: Austria aims to provide full coverage of mobile and fixed gigabit-capable connections throughout the country by 2030. To achieve this target Austria aims to start a reworked funding program in 2021 for the deployment of Gigabit-capable connections in rural areas.</p>	<p>Gigabit-capable connections for regions in Austria where a market failure – especially rural areas – occurs. For Austria further development it is essential that no region is left behind and that all people and companies can participate at the digitalisation.</p>
	<p>RTI Strategy: In order to develop the "RTI Strategy 2030" as advancement to the RTI Strategy 2020 "Becoming an Innovation Leader: Realising Potentials, Increasing Dynamics, Creating the Future" the Austrian Federal Government started a process in April 2019, in which inter-ministerial working groups were established, each aimed at addressing specific topics identified as essential to become an Innovation Leader. With the involvement of RTI stakeholders and the results of a broad online survey, these working groups developed the key contents of a new RTI Strategy 2030.</p>	<p>Following the main objective of the Austrian RTDI strategy "becoming an Innovation Leader", Austria continues to aim at the overall target of an R&amp;D intensity of 3.76% of GDP until 2020, of which at least two thirds, preferably 70%, shall come from the private sector. In 2019 Austria had an estimated R&amp;D intensity of 3.19%. The efforts to reach the goal of 3.76% have to be considered within the context of the general economic situation and the need for fiscal consolidation. Emphasis shall therefore be laid on measures with a strong leverage effect on R&amp;D investments by the private sector</p>

	<p>The Grand Research Challenges “Climate Change and Resources Efficiency” are embedded as foci in the Austrian RTI Strategy. A number of activities support this strategy, e.g.</p> <p>The development of the Climate Change Center Austria (CCCA), a platform bringing together all Austrian university and non-university research institutions in regard to Climate Change, including the Climate Service Center (CS) in Graz and the newly established Climate Data Center at the Austrian Meteorological Institute (ZAMG).</p> <p>The Earth System Science Research Programme (ESS), an inter- and transdisciplinary research programme which is jointly run by the BMBWF and the Austrian Academy of Sciences</p>	<p>Enhancement and improvement of research networks, research infrastructure and its use. Focus on societal challenges, establishment of networks, strengthening the research-policy dialogue.</p>
	<p>The initiative “Austrian Geological Survey Research (GBA) Partnerships on Mineral Raw Materials” started in 2015. It combines resource policy with research policy.</p>	<p>The initiative aims at establishing new research networks of the relevant research institutions in order to strengthen the expertise which can be used to secure sustainable supply of mineral raw materials.</p>
	<p>Development of the Austrian research area, e.g. the Joint Programme Initiative and Project JPI CLIMATE, with the ERANET and Call on Climate Services (ERA4CS and AXIS).</p> <p>Support of the “Austrian Barcode of Life”-Initiative (ABOL), a biodiversity initiative which aims to generate and provide DNA-Barcodes of all species of animals, plants, and fungi recorded from Austria. ABOL is a national collaboration among numerous, renowned scientific institutions and experts, engaged in biodiversity research of Austria. It is supported among several others by the BMBWF. Succeeding the pilot phase (2014–2017) that set up the structures, the overall project started in October 2017 and is designed as a long-term project over a period of at least 10 years. DNA barcodes will be generated in subprojects assigned to group-specific ABOL clusters.</p>	<p>Establishing the infrastructure of the barcodes and making them accessible for all applications in an open-access database. Improving research infrastructure in order to tackle the big societal challenge ‘biodiversity loss’.</p>

	<p>Further consolidation and expansion of the Young Science Center for the cooperation of Science and Education have taken place by regularly providing information on the website (<a href="http://www.youngscience.at">www.youngscience.at</a>), via newsletter (10x per year) and facebook (daily) and through networking opportunities (workshops, presentations, meetings) as well as school visits from researchers.</p>	<p>Networking impacts: 4,324 single users of the website (2019, per month), 3,700 recipients of the newsletter and 1,358 followers on Facebook (December 2019), nearly 530 persons reached through workshops, meetings and presentations (2019), 341 persons reached through webinars (since 2017), 115 school visits from researchers organised by young science in 2019.</p>
	<p>Expansion of the “Alliance for Responsible Science”, (<a href="http://www.responsiblescience.at/">www.responsiblescience.at/</a>) Consolidation of the Austrian Center for Citizen Science as a measure to promote citizen science and open innovation in science by regularly providing information on the website (<a href="http://www.zentrumfuercitizenscience.at">www.zentrumfuercitizenscience.at</a>), via newsletter and social media and through networking opportunities; Support for the development and realisation of citizen science projects. Sixth launch of the Austrian Citizen Science Award in 2020, <a href="http://www.zentrumfuercitizenscience.at/en/citizen-science-awards">www.zentrumfuercitizenscience.at/en/citizen-science-awards</a>; - The funding initiative Top Citizen Science is supported by the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF), the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) and the OeAD. In the course of three calls (2015–2017) 31 projects have been funded. (<a href="http://www.zentrumfuercitizenscience.at/en/top-citizen-science.html">www.zentrumfuercitizenscience.at/en/top-citizen-science.html</a>). The OeAD funded 14 out of 31 TCS projects. 11 out of 14 projects were completed.</p>	<p>By December 2019 the Austrian Alliance for Responsible Science had 44 members.</p> <p>Support for the development and realisation of citizen science projects through information via website (10,418 single users per month in 2019), newsletter (720 recipients, December 2019) social media (658 followers on Facebook and 1,421 on twitter, January 2020), 1,380 persons reached through workshops, meetings, festive events and presentations (2019).</p> <p>So far nearly 14,000 citizens have participated in the Citizen Science Award since 2015.</p> <p>Different target groups of the Austrian population have been reached and involved in research by Top Citizen Science projects. The Austrian Science Fund (FWF) has continued funding citizen science projects – after a fourth Top Citizen Science call in 2019, a fifth call started at the end of January 2020.</p>
	<p>National contact point (NCP) for Knowledge Transfer and Intellectual Property (NCP_IP) and IPAG Intellectual Property Agreement Guide of the Austrian universities</p>	<p>Co-ordination of national knowledge transfer activities, and harmonisation with institutions of other Member States as well as standardise intellectual property management (IPAG). E.g. a set of (online) model contracts is made available</p>

	<p>Strengthening academic transfer and structures for valorisation as laid down in the IP recommendation of the European Commission</p> <p><a href="http://www.ncp-ip.at">www.ncp-ip.at</a></p>	<p>helping the most appropriate model contracts to be selected. The use of these contracts is voluntary. Since the start of IPAG in October 2013, there have been about 32,000 free downloads of model agreements from the IPAG tool (<a href="http://www.ipag.at">www.ipag.at</a>). The National Contact Point for Knowledge Transfer and Intellectual Property (NCP-IP) is also drawing up a manual which summarises and, where necessary, further develops possible fair sharing and compensation models (e.g. for crowdwork). To this end, the NCP has set up a competence group on “Remuneration Mechanisms in Open Innovation” which developed a toolkit for fair compensation-rules for all actors in an open innovation project. (<a href="https://www.fair-open-innovation.at/">https://www.fair-open-innovation.at/</a>)</p>
	<p>Further Development of the Institute of Science and Technology Austria (2017–2026): Fostering Basic Research – Increasing Excellence. Since 2015, performance agreements between the institute and the responsible ministry have been in place. The current second performance agreement covers the period 2018 - 2020.</p> <p>In 2019, IST Austria was ranked third in the normalized “Nature Index 2019”-ranking, a global comparison of research institutions and universities based on their publication output in relation to the institute size. Among institutions with more than 30 of the prestigious grants of the European Research Council (ERC), IST Austria with 48 % shows the highest ERC grant success rate among institutes in Europe.</p>	<p>Institutional augmentation and the enhancement of research excellence in the field of interdisciplinary research activities at the interface of physical sciences, formal sciences and life sciences.</p>
	<p>The Stem Cell Research Center at the IMBA of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW) has been established and the expansion phase has started. An Evaluation of the performance of the Center is just on the way and the OeAW plans to integrate the Center in her ordinary portfolio for the next performance period 2021–2023</p>	<p>Strengthening the already existing know-how of the institute and setting up a stem cell biobank as research infrastructure facility for the Austrian Life Sciences community and beyond. Boosting biomedical research, addressing big societal challenges and continuing the successful cluster policy in the area of life sciences.</p>

	Further development of the “Erwin Schrödinger Center for Quantum Science and Technology” (ESQ) (2016–2021): A network of excellence between the hot spots of quantum research in Austria has been established. A postdoc fellowship programme has been successfully implemented in 2017. The OeAW plans to integrate the Center in her ordinary portfolio for the next performance period 2021–2023.	Setting up new impulses for research and teaching through the ESQ’s unique spectrum of research topics, from fundamental quantum physics to novel quantum technology. 26 research groups, 21 START and 5 Wittgenstein Awards, 24 ERC Grants;
	Strengthening Vienna Biocenter – Vision 2020 (2011–2020) and Vienna Biocenter Core Facilities (VBCF): Strengthening Research Infrastructure – Increase post gradual life science	Enhancement and improvement of research infrastructure and its use - addressing big societal challenges and continuing the successful cluster policy in the area of life sciences in Austria.
	Implementation of the Strategy for Life Sciences and the Pharmaceutical Sector	Implementation of 27 measures until 2021. Strengthening the competitiveness of the Austrian Life Sciences and Pharmaceutical Sector
	Enhancement of the Austrian Social Science Data Archive (AUSSDA) consortium in Austria as partner in the ESFRI-Research Infrastructure Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA)	Strengthen the Austrian research community in social science through the further enhancement of AUSSDA as an inter-university cooperation project (Universities of Vienna, Linz and Graz) with the aim of archiving social science research data, training and research in the field of archiving and methods research.
<b>GHG emission reduction target [-16%]</b>		
	Climate Policy Package pursuant to the Austrian Climate Change Act (“KSG-Maßnahmenprogramm 2015-2018”) ( <i>implemented</i> )	Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of approx. 1.7 million tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> e for 2020, calculated ex-ante (2015) against baseline trend
	Additional Policy Package pursuant to the Austrian Climate Change Act for 2019-2020 ( <i>under preparation</i> )	Additional to existing Climate Policy Package (above), but no quantification possible at present
	Possible additional measures with immediate effect to be implemented as part of the new Government Programme 2020-2024 ( <i>under preparation</i> )	Additional to existing Climate Policy Package (above), but no quantification possible at present
	Oil Boiler Prohibition Act 2019 (“Ölkesselbauverbotsgesetz”, (ÖKEVG 2019)); in force since October 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2019. As from 2020	Due to a Parliamentarian decision, the Federal Government decided to add another 20 Mio. Euro for the support program for the exchange of oil fired

	the installation of oil-fired boilers is forbidden by law in new buildings throughout Austria.	boilers by climate friendly heating systems in the residential sector
	<p>Subsidies program for thermal renovation</p> <p>Continuation of the subsidies program for thermal renovation of buildings (residential and business) started in 2009. This program pushes at the same time investments, jobs and saves energy. Continuation until 2020 is intended.</p> <p>(Contributes also to energy efficiency target see below).</p>	Annually ~ 89,000 t CO <sub>2</sub> or ~ 2.68 million t CO <sub>2</sub> over the lifetime of the projects.
	<p>Climate Protection Initiative klimaaktiv (<a href="http://www.klimaaktiv.at/english/">www.klimaaktiv.at/english/</a>)</p>	<p>klimaaktiv is the Austrian climate protection initiative of the Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism launched in 2004. In addition to regulatory law and state funding, klimaaktiv is an instrument in the field of voluntary measures and incentives in Austrian climate and energy policy and is listed as a corresponding horizontal measure in the integrated national energy and climate plan (NEKP) for Austria. The primary goal of klimaaktiv is an increased market penetration with climate-friendly products and services of high quality to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>klimaaktiv brings together players from politics, government, finance and society, disseminates and connects ideas and projects which get applied across Austria. The objective of the innovative multi-level governance initiative is: distribution of information, awareness-raising, training offers and furthermore quality standards for the key areas of the energy transition: (1) energy (saving), (2) construction and renovation, (3) renewable energy and (4) mobility. The relevant target groups are companies, municipalities and households.</p> <p>This approach has resulted in greater opportunities for the state to be actively involved in the</p>

		<p>management of solutions to complex collective problems by enhancing and strengthening the traditional instruments of regulation, taxes and subsidies.</p> <p>The annual business report presents the progress made in the distribution of and the establishment of climate friendly technologies and services in the market. It evaluates and informs on the success of implementation.</p> <p>In 2012 the project period 2004 to 2012 has been evaluated by the Wuppertal Institute in Germany. The innovative character has been attested and klimaaktiv was complimented for its exemplary comprehensive approach and unique design for innovative governance. A further evaluation of the programme will be carried out in 2020.</p> <p>In 2008 the “klimaaktiv pakt 2020” for large companies who commit themselves voluntarily to the compliance with the Austrian climate and energy goals until 2020 has been introduced as a new instrument. By the end of 2017 12 companies have joined the “klimaaktiv pakt 2020” and have already reduced 1.050,000t CO<sub>2</sub>. The successful concept "klimaaktiv Pakt" for Austrian large-scale enterprises will be continued until 2030.</p> <p>Additionally klimaaktiv awarded energy efficiency projects in companies saved 283,600t of CO<sub>2</sub>.</p> <p>It is intended to extend the project duration of the climate protection initiative klimaaktiv to 2030.</p>
	<p>Climate Protection Initiative klimaaktiv mobil</p> <p>Implementation of the 2nd phase of the klimaaktiv mobil technical and financial support program from 2013-2020 to promote mobility management, alternative fuels and vehicles, e-</p>	<p>klimaaktiv mobil provides a national supportive framework to motivate and support companies, cities, municipalities and regions, leisure and tourism operators, schools and youth groups to develop and implement measures to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from</p>

	<p>mobility, eco-driving and cycling with a focus on companies and municipalities.</p>	<p>transport related activities. klimaaktiv mobil offers five pillars of support: consulting, financial support, education &amp; certification, information &amp; motivation and awareness raising as well as awarding of partners committed to CO<sub>2</sub> reduction projects.</p> <p>klimaaktiv mobil contributes to EU and Austrian environmental and climate protection objectives, particularly to the national Climate Act and #mission2030.</p> <p>Achievements 2004-2018:</p> <p>15.000 climate friendly mobility projects were supported and implemented (e.g. in companies, communities, tourism, schools)</p> <p>objective 2020:</p> <p>continuation klimaaktiv mobil: -0.5 million t CO<sub>2</sub> in 2020</p>
	<p>Electromobility</p> <p>Within the Austrian promotion programme for electric mobility with renewable energy the “E-mobility offensive 2019-2020” has been launched from the Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology in cooperation with importers of passenger cars, motorbikes and the sports trading sector. It offers attractive fundings for E-cars, E-scooters/motorbikes, E-(cargo)-bikes, E-charging infrastructure as well as for new areas like electric light and heavy duty vehicles and E-buses.</p>	<p>Contribution to the EU 2020 climate and energy targets as well as the 10% target for applying renewable energy in transport by increasing the number of electric vehicles and charging stations operated with renewable energy.</p> <p>The number of electric vehicles will continue to rise due to the promotion program in company and municipality fleets as well as for private drivers.</p>



		<p>Public charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, objective 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3000-4000 standard charging points up to a maximum of 22 kW</li> <li>• 500-700 quick-charging points with more than 22kW power</li> </ul>
	<p>Masterplan Cycling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of the national cycling strategy “Masterplan Cycling 2015-2025” with joint investment focus (Bund and Länder) on awareness raising (cycling motivation campaign “Austria is cycling”), extension of national and regional cycling infrastructure and cooperation in klimaaktiv mobil financial support program.</li> </ul>	<p>Contribution to the EU 2020 target of greenhouse gas emission reduction in transport by increasing everyday cycling. Contribution to National Climate- and Energy strategy #mission2030, National Climate Act, Global and National Action Plan Physical Activity and National Health Targets.</p> <p>objective 2025: increase of cycling modal share from 7% to 13%</p>
	<p>Masterplan Walking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Austrian “Masterplan Walking” was presented as a national strategy to an international public within the “Walk21 Vienna” conference in October 2015. Next step is the nationwide implementation of the masterplan together with all stakeholders. This process is still going on successfully.</li> </ul>	<p>Contribution to the EU 2020 target of greenhouse gas emission reduction in transport by increasing walking. Contribution to National Climate Act, National Action Plan Physical Activity and National Health Targets.</p>
	<p>Climate and Energy Fund (Klima- und Energiefonds KLIEN)</p>	<p>The fund supports research and development in the field of sustainable energy technologies and climate research. Projects in the fields of public short distance and regional transport, environmentally-friendly freight transport, as well as mobility management projects, are promoted as well as projects supporting the market penetration of climate-relevant and sustainable energy technologies.</p>

		<p>In the period 2007-2019 the climate and energy fund awarded research contracts and made subsidy commitments to the amount of about 1.4 billion Euro. The annual business report presents the progress made in research and measures for the market implementation of climate friendly technologies and measures and informs which important priorities are just being implemented.</p>
	Federal Environment Fund (Umweltförderung im Inland)	<p>The Federal Environment Fund supports GHG emission reduction measures (including renewable energy or energy efficiency) in the industrial sector with a total annual budget of EUR 70 million €.</p> <p>In 2018 the leveraged climate-related investments in the private sector amounted to approximately 592 million EUR, and in corresponding CO<sub>2</sub>- emission reductions totalling at about 236,700 t annually or 3.85 million tons over the lifetime resp.</p> <p>Additionally the aid program for thermal renovation of buildings (62.7 million EUR) lead to investments of more than 381 million EUR and corresponding CO<sub>2</sub>- emission reductions of more than 89,000 t (i.e. approximately 2.68 million tons over lifetime).</p>
	CO <sub>2</sub> emission target in the Austrian Fuel Act 2012 (Kraftstoffverordnung 2012)	<p>According to the Austrian Fuel Act (Kraftstoffverordnung 2012) as the national transposition of the Fuel Quality Directive 2009/30/EC suppliers of fuels have to reduce life cycle greenhouse gas emissions per unit of energy from fuel and energy supplied 2020 by 6 %.</p>
	Biofuel target in Austrian Fuel Act 2012 (Kraftstoffverordnung 2012)	<p>The use of biofuels counts towards the 10% renewable target in transport of the Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC. Since 2009 5.75% of the fossil fuels have to be substituted with</p>

		biofuels. 2018 the share of renewable energy in transport has reached 9.8% (including multiple counting for electricity in road and rail)
	<p>In order to promote the progress of e-mobility, the private use of electric company motorcycles is tax free (concerning the remuneration in kind).</p> <p>Furthermore, a full input tax deduction is allowed concerning electric motorcycles (dependable on the acquisition costs). Moreover, the motor-vehicle registration tax as well as the engine-related insurance tax/motor vehicle tax are greened. All these measures are implemented by the Tax Reform Act 2020 and largely come into force from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020.</p>	Reduce the tax wedge, especially for low-income earners, by shifting the tax burden to sources of revenue less detrimental to growth and promote the greening.
	<p>Planned measures promoting the greening (2021):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Greening of the motor-vehicle registration tax,</li> <li>- Greening of the payment in kind for company cars (greater incentives should be provided for CO2-free company cars),</li> <li>- Increase of the air passenger duty,</li> <li>- Greening and better targeting of the commuter allowance,</li> </ul> <p>Fight against "fuel tourism" and the transit of heavy goods vehicles from abroad: The Austrian federal government will take measures in line with EU law, in order to prevent fuel tourism and to reduce the transit of heavy goods vehicles.</p>	
<b>Renewable energy target [34%]</b>		
	Austria's share of renewable energy as defined in EU Directive 2009/28/EC reaching 33.5% by 2020	In 2019 two separate legislation passed parliament: amended Green Electricity Act and the new Biomass Act. It was important to create legal security for renewable energy producers in Austria to bridge the time until the Modernisation of the renewable funding scheme is completed and into force.
	<p>In order to foster the greening, the following measures are implemented by the Tax Reform Act 2020 (largely entry into force: 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- lower tax rates for hydrogen and biogas used as fuel or even exemptions for hydrogen or biogas or even a tax</li> </ul>	

	<p>exemption for bio LNG complying with sustainability criteria;</p> <p>a complete tax exemption for electricity from photovoltaics produced for own consumption is introduced fostering the greening.</p>	
<b>National energy efficiency target [25,1 Mtoe]</b>		
	<p>The national headline target is set out in the Austrian Energy Efficiency Law, which is already implemented and also in force since 2014.</p> <p>The provisions concerning the implementation of the new national headline targets until 2030 according to Directive 2018/2002/EU are in preparation.</p>	<p>Austria set out in the Austria Energy Efficiency Law several energy efficiency targets.</p> <p>The cumulative target, will be reached by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a bundle of measures which can be divided into the categories residential and service buildings, production and services as well as trade and small-scale consumption, mobility, energy provision, security of energy supply and general as well as by</li> <li>• an energy efficiency obligation system</li> <li>• The minimum impact of these measures for the cumulative target shall be by law 11,07PJ/a final energy savings in the time frame 2014 -2020. Monitoring of the years 2015, 2016 and 2017 shows that these savings can be well achieved.</li> </ul>
	Federal Environment Fund (Umweltförderung im Inland)	<p>The Federal Environment Fund supports energy efficiency projects in the industrial sector with a total annual budget of about 32.9 million €.</p> <p>In 2018 the leveraged energy efficiency investments in the private sector amounted to approximately 256 Million €, and in corresponding CO<sub>2</sub>-emission reductions totalling at about 94,500 t annually or 303,100 MWh annually resp.</p>

	<p>Action Plan Sustainable Public Procurement and initiatives on sustainable and innovative public procurement</p> <p>The Austrian Action Plan on Sustainable Public Procurement (naBe-AP), which was adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2010, pursues the long-term goal that the public sector buys more and more sustainable products and services. Given the major purchasing power of the public sector, the Action Plan contributes to the development of a green and sustainable economy. It addresses all public authorities in Austria and is compulsory for the Federal level. The Public Procurement Agency (BBG) is consequently implementing the requirements of the Action Plan. Currently, there are criteria sets for 18 product groups available which are revised on a regular basis, 2019 by the latest. The process of implementation, evaluation and improvement of the naBe-AP is coordinated by the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology. On 1 September 2019 the Ministry initiated a service platform within the BBG to connect all relevant stakeholders in the procurement procedure and to foster the implementation of the naBe-Actionplan. Awareness raising, networking, organizing conferences are important tasks of the platform. (<a href="http://www.nachhaltigebeschaffung.at">www.nachhaltigebeschaffung.at</a>).</p>	<p>The results of the first evaluation of the SPP-AP show that the percentage of public purchasers considering environmental requirements could be significantly risen. Green Public Procurement (GPP) has become particularly well established on Federal and provincial level as well as at universities. Municipalities are an important target group for further action in 2020.</p> <p>The SPP-AP is supposed to be both an important instrument to strengthen political support for GPP in organizations of all levels and an important source to define concrete ecological criteria. Based on these results the SPP-AP will be continuously adapted. Harmonization of SPP criteria on federal and provincial level is on a good way.</p>
	<p>Master Plan Environmental Technology</p> <p>The Austrian environmental and energy technology industry makes a considerable contribution to sustainable growth and an improvement of the environmental situation in Austria and abroad. In view of the great importance of environmental technology and services, the Master Plan Environmental Technology (MUT) has been adapted and published in 2019.</p> <p>The Master Plan Environmental Technology aims at the bundling and strategic orientation of the Austrian environmental technology sector until 2030.</p>	<p>The Environmental Technology Master Plan contributes to achieving the environmental and climate protection goals of the EU and Austria,</p> <p>In particular, the master plan will also contribute to the achievement of objectives in the climate and energy strategy #mission2030 as well as in the circular economy action plan of the EU. A first implementation focus is green finance for environmental technologies.</p>

	<p>The new Environmental Technology Master Plan comprises six strategic fields of action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. National market penetration</li> <li>2. Global market development</li> <li>3. Innovation</li> <li>4. Digitization</li> <li>5. Qualification, education, labour market</li> <li>6. Business creation and financing</li> </ol> <p>with 30 measures to strengthen the environmental technology and service sector in Austria and worldwide.</p>	
	<p>Master Plan Green Jobs</p> <p>Green jobs are jobs in the environment sector. The EU definition describes green jobs as work in the manufacturing of products, technologies and service activities by means of which environmental damage is avoided and natural resources are preserved. Green jobs exist in different branches, for example in renewable energies, sustainable construction and renovation as well as in water and waste water management. They include jobs requiring a high level of qualification just as much as apprenticeships vocations or simple, unskilled labour.</p> <p>The main purpose of green jobs is to make a contribution to environmental protection. This is why there are green jobs in all economic and social areas and why also existing job types can become green jobs.</p> <p>In 2010, the Austrian Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management developed a „Masterplan green jobs“ in order to establish a strategy to increase</p>	<p>The Austrian Green Jobs Masterplan defines six key areas of action to increase employment in the environmental goods and service sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fostering the export of environmental goods and services, focusing on environmental technologies</li> <li>• Strengthening sustainable tourism in Austria</li> <li>• Increasing the material use of biomass</li> <li>• Thermal retrofitting and optimizing energy systems of buildings</li> <li>• Fostering public transport</li> <li>• Increasing the share of renewable energy</li> </ul>

	employment in the „Environmental Goods and Services Sector“ (i.e. „green jobs“).	There are currently 186.099 green jobs in Austria; including the green jobs in public transport the number is even higher (214.340) with rising tendency. This means that almost every 20th job is a green job; more than 10 percent of the GDP are yielded in this sector.
	Support for energy management systems in SMEs	Energy management, which also offers SMEs the opportunity to record energy consumption in their firm and, where possible, achieve a lasting reduction. This will give them a competitive edge and is key to making Austria a strong location for business and employment. Funding schemes will be needed to support the implementation of energy management systems in small and medium-sized enterprises. The support program started in 2018 and runs until 2022. For this period, 5 million euros are available
<b>National early school leaving target [9,5%]</b>		
Austria has already achieved its national 2020 ESL target with a rate of 7.3% in 2018.	Implementation of the Early School Leaving Strategy - Ongoing implementation of Austria’s National Strategy on prevention of early school leaving since 2012. The strategy is intended to combine current measures and activities in the field of ESL in the three strategic pillars of prevention, intervention and compensation. This common roof combines structural – i.e. system-changing – and school-specific measures with student-centered counselling approaches to form a whole (see below).	Promotion of networking and cooperation between the relevant institutions and stakeholders. Improved educational outcomes, reduced early school leaving and enhanced equal opportunities – especially for disadvantaged young people.  (Further) contribution to “Compulsory education & training up to 18”
	Prevention measures within school system include i.a.: - Continuation and advancement of German language support: Starting with the school year 2018 -2019, German language support classes/courses replaced the previous system of language support for pupils with an insufficient level of the language of instruction. - All-day school forms: By 2032/33, € 750 million will be invested in their expansion. All-day school forms provide high-quality	

	<p>education and care and thus contribute to improving the compatibility of family and career.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IBOBB: Measures in the field of information, counselling and orientation (e.g. in vocational orientation teaching) support the acquisition of basic competences for autonomous decisions regarding education and occupation.</li> <li>- Diagnostic tools in general compulsory schools: In order to be able to better assess the respective competence development of pupils and to coordinate the subject teaching, diagnostic tools for German (reading), mathematics and English (receptive skills) (IKM - Informal competence assessment) will be implemented nationwide at grade 3 and 7 from 2020/21. The IKM will be further developed into the iKM<sup>Plus</sup>.</li> <li>- “Diagnostic Checks” (ESF-supported projects at vocational schools): Targeted diagnostics and support in the main subjects help to reduce school drop-out at vocational schools.</li> <li>- Übergangsstufen - Preparatory/transitional levels at the AHS (Academic Secondary School) and BHS (College for Higher Vocational Education) for pupils: In the “Übergangsstufen” (transitional stages) learning deficits can be systematically addressed and competences developed.</li> </ul>	<p>The Informal Competence Assessment (iKM<sup>Plus</sup>) provides evidence on students’ competence development and their specific needs. It helps teachers to self-evaluate their classroom teaching and to develop the quality of teaching and learning.</p>
	<p>Intervention measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Measure Youth Coaching: The BMBWF and schools support the work of youth coaches at the school level. The aim is to increase the effectiveness of psychosocial support by improving the coordination of all psychosocial counselling systems. The programme is the main pillar in the context of “AusBildung bis 18” to support youth at risk of dropping out.</li> <li>- Education/Training until 18: With the “AusBildung bis 18” programme, the Federal Government offers a wide range of options as well as the necessary support and appropriate incentives to make participation in education and training more binding. Every young person should attend school or do an apprenticeship up to the age of 18.</li> </ul>	
	<p>Compensation measures include i.a.:</p>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- € 111,5 million will be invested in the programme of the Initiative Adult Education from 2018 to 2021</li> <li>- Basic education: This supports people to make up for poor or missing competences in reading and writing, everyday mathematics, information and communication technologies and independent learning in order to promote their social, political and professional participation.</li> <li>- Completion of compulsory education: The Adult Education Initiative offers young people without compulsory education or low-qualified adults the opportunity to complete compulsory education and to participate in basic education programmes free of charge (overall programme 2012 to 2021).</li> </ul>	Planned participations: approx.. 26.000 during the period
	Apprentice and training company coaching programmes - ongoing and will be extended in 2020	Around 6.500 coaching conversations since implementation in 2015
<b>National target for tertiary education [38%]</b>		
The government aspired to raise the share of the 30-34 years old having completed tertiary education to at least 38%. AT reached the national target for tertiary graduates in 2012 (38.3%) and increased the share to 40.7% in 2018.	<p>Broadening the financial base for the funding of higher education by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raising the public budget for university funding (the 22 public universities received in total a budget increase of € 1.3 billion (13%) for the period 2019-2021).</li> <li>- Implementing the funding increase through performance agreements 2019-21 via a three-pillar-model (teaching: main throughput-indicator “number of active students”; research: main input-indicator “number of research staff”; infrastructure).</li> <li>- Financing additional academic teaching and research staff.</li> <li>- Raising public funds in order to enhance the number of study places at Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS).</li> <li>- Providing incentives for raising private funding of universities, science and research (e.g. by simplifying the setting-up of non-profit foundations for the purpose of science and research).</li> </ul>	The measures put a strong focus on students by increasing the quality of teaching and contribute to create optimal conditions for students, lecturers and scientists in order to provide a higher number of best-qualified graduates.
	The Austrian National Development Plan for Public Universities (2019-2024) was updated for the period 2022-2027 due to the preparation of the performance agreements 2022-2024 with universities.	Austrian National Development Plan for Public Universities is a strategic governance instrument, which ensure that relevant developments and topics will be taken up and implemented by the

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It puts a focus on integration of the principle of sustainability in university development and university profiles.</li> <li>- Another focus is digital transformation. Digital skills and computational thinking should be mandatory elements in up-to-date academic education, particularly in social science and humanities.</li> <li>- It foresees actions for strengthening the relevance and the quality of teaching.</li> </ul>	<p>autonomous higher education institutions and contributes to the improvement of strategic planning in higher education.</p> <p>By implementing actions in these fields, universities contribute to a high quality level of education.</p>
	<p>New model for university funding – implementation of “Student- and Capacity-oriented University Funding”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The new model now applies in the performance agreements 2019-2021 with 21 public universities (University of Continuing Education Krems is funded separately). It puts a strong focus on students by increasing the quality of teaching.</li> <li>- Some indicators used in the new model have already been used for allocating Higher Education Area Structural Funds in the performance agreement periods 2013-2015 and 2016-2018 (e.g. number of active students, number of students with equal or more than 40 ECTS per year (“fast students”), projects and programme funding).</li> <li>- Beginning with the performance agreement period 2019-2021, the universities receive a global budget, which consists of three components: for the performance areas ‘teaching’, ‘research/advancement and appreciation of the arts’ and ‘infrastructure and strategic development’ (three-pillar model). The budget components are calculated based on seven weighted groups of subjects along specific indicators. Main indicators are the number of active students (component ‘teaching’) and the number of research staff (component ‘research’). 3.6% of the total budget are distributed by four competitive indicators as an additional incentive: the number of graduates; the number of students with equal or more than 40 ECTS (“fast students”); project and programme funding and structured doctoral programmes. A novelty is the linking of funds to a successful implementation of measures, which aim to promote the social dimension in teaching and the social diversification of students.</li> </ul>	<p>The measure has positive effects on the quality of teaching and learning as well as the study and research conditions at universities.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Beyond the indicators, a call for projects on digitalisation and the social dimension in teaching in 2019 was a further competitive element in the third pillar of the funding model. Higher Education Area Structural Funds are now integrated into the three-pillar-model.</li> </ul>	
	<p>Improving the quality of teaching, learning and the study conditions at universities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- allowing access restrictions in fields of study which are in especially high demand. Following an evaluation in 2015, the access restrictions were prolonged until 2021 (amendment to the Universities Act, November 2015).</li> <li>- The implementation of the new model for university funding was accompanied by adequate legal provisions allowing the federal government in cooperation with the universities to regulate the access according to the available capacities.</li> </ul>	<p>Positive impact on the quality of teaching and learning and the study conditions.</p> <p>Impact on increasing the number of students who actively take examinations as well as the number of degrees awarded, on reducing the drop-out rate, on increasing the share of higher education graduates.</p>
	<p>Improving the quality of teaching, learning and the study conditions at universities by further measures agreed on in performance agreements, such as: increase of teaching staff, improvement of teacher-student ratios, support for student progress, curricula design, staff development.</p>	<p>Impact on reducing the dropout rate in higher education, on increasing the quality of teaching and learning, on increasing the share of higher education graduates.</p>
	<p>Special emphasis on the field of computer science/informatics/IT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The total number of study places for beginners in informatics/computer science at public universities was increased from 2,500 to 2,800 (amendment to the University Act 2002, in 2018). The performance agreements 2019-2021 specify the concrete numbers of study places at universities concerned.</li> <li>- Further specific measures were agreed upon in the performance agreements with universities for the period 2019-2021, for example an increase of the staff capacities in the field of informatics and computer science (establishment of about 30 additional professorships).</li> <li>- At Universities of Applied Sciences, 450 new study places for beginners in programmes focusing on STEM and digitalisation have been financed since 2018/2019.</li> </ul>	<p>The measures have a positive impact on increasing study conditions and the number of graduates in the highly demanded fields of study "Computer science/informatics/IT".</p>

	- Another 330 additional study places for beginners with a focus on STEM and digitalisation will be provided in 2020/2021.	
	<p>Reform of teacher training (Paedagog/innenbildung NEU) with a focus on improving the scientific, didactic and practical orientation of teacher training. The reform is jointly implemented by universities and university colleges of teacher education in four cluster regions.</p> <p>As of 2016/17, the new joint teacher training programmes for secondary schools (general education) are offered in all four regional clusters (“Verbundregionen”) for more than 35 subjects. Students are required to complete a multi-stage admission procedure, which includes a self-assessment and a test to demonstrate their aptitude for teaching.</p>	The reform is expected to develop positive effects on the quality of the entire education system in Austria. It is exemplary for co-operation between higher education institutions (in different sectors).
	<p>Improve the social dimension in higher education by implementing the national strategy on the social dimension of higher education. It contains nine quantitative goals to illustrate and measure the participation of different target groups in higher education. The quantitative goals and the action lines are mirrored in Austrian policy steering documents. In addition, there is an annual strategy implementation conference.</p> <p>Social dimension is also part of performance agreements with public universities. At the end of 2020, universities have to show their progress on implementing the measures for promoting the social dimension as defined in the performance agreements. If universities do not have any measures for social dimension, the ministry can retain up to 0.5% of the overall budget. Social dimension is also embedded in the Development and Financing Plan 2018/19 to 2022/23 for Universities of Applied Sciences.</p>	Positive impact on the participation of underrepresented groups in higher education. The national strategy is embedded in a European process with the overarching target that “the student body entering, participating in and completing higher education at all levels should reflect the diversity of our populations” (London, 2007).
	The Development and Financing Plan 2018/19 to 2022/23 for Universities of Applied Sciences specifies relevant themes and subjects (e.g. digital transformation, STEM) which are the basis of annual calls by the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research for financing additional study places and new study programmes.	Further increase in the overall number of study places. As a consequence, the number of HE graduates increases too. That is an important contribution to achieving the EU 2020 target.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 450 new study places for beginners in programmes focusing on STEM and digitalisation have been financed since 2018/2019.</li> <li>- Another 330 additional study places for beginners with a focus on STEM and digitalisation will be provided in 2020/2021</li> </ul> <p>The government's aim is to offer 55,250 study places in the Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS) sector in 2020/2021.</p>	
	<p>The aim of the Project "Shaping HEIs for the Future" was to turn a prioritised goal of the Austrian University Development Plan into action. The implementation of results is carried out via performance agreements with public universities and via other steering instruments concerning the Higher Education Sector, like the Development and Funding Plan for Universities of Applied Sciences 2018/19 to 2022/23. Amongst others, there was a focus on measures concerning the field of informatics and computer science.</p>	<p>The measure has positive systemic effects on the higher education system in Austria.</p>
	<p>The Performance Agreements 2019-2021 with the universities contain prioritized measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Financing additional academic teaching and research staff (in total 358 new professors or tenure track positions)</li> <li>- Extending and deepening the research areas</li> </ul> <p>Strategic priorities: digital and social transformation, sustainability</p>	<p>The measures have positive systemic effects on the higher education system in Austria and the quality of teaching/learning and research.</p>
	<p>Digital transformation: the universities have to develop an institutional strategy on digitalisation in teaching, research and administration.</p> <p>The performance agreements 2019-2021 put emphasis on the use of digital technologies, digital tools and methods in teaching and learning, and a high availability of open educational resources (OER), as well as appropriate service and support for students and staff, including adequate technical infrastructure.</p> <p>The performance agreements specify measures to improve student/teacher-ratios and the support of students (especially in the field of informatics/computer science) in order to reduce drop-outs.</p> <p>In 2019, to take digitalisation in teaching and research to the next level, the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research</p>	<p>Positive impact on the digital transformation processes in teaching/learning, research and administration at universities.</p> <p>Positive impact on the development of Open Educational Resources (OER), digitisation strategies in higher education, the implementation of the FAIR data principles and the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) in Austria.</p>

	published a special call for projects that provides additional € 50 million for digital transformation (in teaching, research and administration) and social transformation (in teaching) at public universities. As a result, the ministry is going to fund 35 projects for digital (and social) transformation in higher education (call for proposals and funding decision: 2019; realization phase 2020-2024).	
<b>National poverty target [-235.000 persons]</b>		
	In general, it can be stated that the Austrian welfare state foresees a comprehensive mix of different measures involving the federal states and several Federal Ministries that contribute to the reduction of the risk of poverty and social exclusion:	
	Labour market policies have strong poverty-reducing effects and special measures are addressing particularly groups at risk of poverty and social exclusion.	
	<p><u>Pension Adjustment 2020:</u></p> <p>With the Pension Adjustment Act 2020 a staggered pension increase above the adjustment factor for lower pensions has been enacted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Total pension incomes up to EUR 1.111 increased by 3.6 %,</li> <li>- total pension incomes exceeding EUR 1.111 and up to EUR 2.500 increased by a factor which declines linear from 3.6 % to 1.8 %,</li> <li>- total pension incomes exceeding EUR 2.500 and up to EUR 5.220 increased by 1.8 % and</li> <li>- total pension incomes exceeding EUR 5.220 increased by a fix amount of EUR 94.</li> </ul>	With a view to relieving the burden on recipients of small and medium pensions and strengthening purchasing power, the government resolved small and medium sized pensions.
	<p><u>Pension bonus:</u></p> <p>A pension bonus for single pensioners with a contribution period of 360 months of gainful employment and a pension bonus for single pensioners and married pensioners (or unmarried couples)</p>	This measure will contribute to the adequacy of pensions by improving the income situation of retirees and combating old-age poverty.

	<p>with contribution period of 480 months or gainful employment has been enacted.</p> <p>Up to five years of childcare and one year of military service also count as contribution period.</p> <p>This measure brings a further improvement for retirees with low own entitlements: The top-up benefit threshold will amount in case of 360 years of contribution EUR 1.080 and in case of 480 contribution months EUR 1.315 (for single pensioners) and EUR 1.782 (for couples/in registered partnership).</p>	
	<p>Care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuous increase of the long-term care allowance (<i>Bundespflegegeld</i>) at all levels taking effect from 1 January 2020 and subsequently from 1 January each year with a respective adjustment factor.</li> <li>• Continuous further development of various care services such as 24-hour care subsidies, services for persons with dementia etc.</li> <li>• Needs-based further development of working arrangements for people with care responsibilities: Legal entitlement to nursing leave or part-time nursing leave of up to 4 weeks for employees in companies with at least 5 employees in total from 1 January 2020.</li> </ul>	<p>Improving of the financial situation of people in need of care and their relatives; improving care services provided.</p> <p>➤ for further details see Annex 1, Table 1.</p> <p>Better reconciliation of work and family responsibilities.</p>
	<p>Families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuous expansion of “Early childhood interventions” (<i>Frühe Hilfen</i>): supporting measures for families in need (due to burdened life circumstances).</li> <li>• Continuation of the “School Start Package” program within the FEAD program for Austria: provision of educational material for children living in households receiving minimum income benefit (<i>Sozialhilfe</i>).</li> </ul>	<p>Providing comprehensive support for vulnerable families. Breaking the cycle of intergenerational transmission of poverty (promoting social mobility).</p> <p>Addressing materially deprived school pupils and their families. Counteracting social stigmatization. Breaking the cycle of intergenerational transmission of poverty (promoting social mobility).</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuation of the supervised visitations program (<i>“Besuchsbegleitung”</i>): support measure to provide personal contact between low-income parents not living in the same household as their children.</li> <li>Various planned measures within the new government program 2020-2024 have poverty-reducing/preventing effects such as the new Family Bonus Plus (increase of family incomes) or improvements and further expansion of the Early childhood, education and care (ECEC) services (improving education outcomes, better reconciliation of family and working life, breaking the cycle of intergenerational transmission of poverty/promoting social mobility)</li> </ul>	<p>Enabling regular contact between vulnerable parents and their children as a contribution to combating social exclusion. Breaking the cycle of intergenerational transmission of poverty (promoting social mobility).</p>
	<p>Gender Equality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Various planned measures within the new government program 2020-2024 to reach more gender equality have poverty-reducing/preventing effects (e.g. equal wages for equal work, a better distribution of paid and unpaid work between women and men, breaking up of stereotypes and role models etc.)</li> </ul>	
	<p>Persons with disability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuation of the implementation of the National Action Plan on Disability 2012-2020: measures in the fields of disability policies, non-discrimination, accessibility, education, employment promotion, independent living, health and rehabilitation as well as awareness raising and information.</li> </ul>	<p>Strengthening the rights and fostering of inclusion of people with disabilities in all areas of life in line with the UN’s Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.</p>
	<p>Taxes &amp; benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Various planned measures within the new government program 2020-2024 have poverty-reducing/preventing</li> </ul>	



	effects, e.g. reduction of the income tax rates (financial relief for families), eco-social tax reform (ensuring better living conditions through climate protection and climate change mitigation policies)	
	Social Assistance Principle Act ( <i>Sozialhilfe-Grundsatzgesetz</i> ): Entered into force on 1 June 2019 as a new framework law with the goal to establish nationwide harmonized standards of social assistance (minimum income scheme). Implementing laws to be adopted by the <i>Länder</i> .	Introduction of nationwide equal standards for adults for the latest social safety net.
	Refund of health insurance contribution for low-income employees and pensioners as well as a direct reduction of health insurance contribution for self-employed and agricultural and forestry workers, as of 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2020. Increase of tax credits for low-income earners and pensioners, as of 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2020. All these measures were implemented by the Tax Reform Act 2020.	

### **Explanatory notes to Reporting Table 2**

Apart from measures relevant for the achievement of the national Europe 2020 targets, key reform commitments for the next 12 months should be included as well. The reporting table should cover in more detail measures not yet reported in Table 1 or cross references to Table 1 otherwise. Information on impacts should be provided to the extent available.