

National strategies in the field of OSH in the EU – AUSTRIA

Country Overview

Information source: <https://oshwiki.osha.europa.eu/en/themes/national-osh-strategy-austria>

Indicator name	
Basic information	<p>Current strategy</p> <p>Original version: Österreichische ArbeitnehmerInnenschutzstrategien 2021-2027 (In English: Austrian Occupational Safety and Health Strategy 2021 – 2027, not available in English) follows the OSH Strategy 2013-2020.</p>
Background	<p>The Austrian OSH Strategy 2021-2027 is based on the experiences of the past and strongly influenced by the European Strategic Framework the National Strategy 2021-2027.</p>
Characteristics and objectives	<p>The Austrian OSH-Strategy was established to improve networking between the various actors in Occupational Safety and Health. The strategy links national and regional stakeholders in the field of OSH such as Ministries, accident insurances, social partners as well as OSH representatives. The Austrian OSH Strategy 2021-2027 is based on the experiences of the past and strongly influenced by the European Strategic Framework the National Strategy 2021-2027.</p> <p>The OSH strategy 2021 – 2027 has three focal points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I. Change: digital and green transformation • II. Prevention: minimizing occupational accidents – Vision Zero and work related diseases especially those linked to chemical agents, as well as ergonomic and psychosocial risk • III. Preparation for future pandemics.
	<p>The current Austrian Occupational Safety and Health Strategy consists of several projects. The detailed planning of the projects is published on the website of the Austrian Labour Inspectorate. The projects are published in a rolling plan, this means that they are continuously supplemented by new plans and projects. For each project working groups are individually formed (new project = new working group).</p> <p>Detailed description of the projects. Violence at work – objective I (Timeline: 2022 - 2024). Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation - Who (ministries, social partners, institutions) does what regarding the prevention of violence at work? What is relevant for occupational safety? • Networking and exchange – what is needed to be able to deal with the issue of violence at work

<p>Details and activity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide guidelines - new guidelines for the social partners. <p>Digitalisation (in the frame of the EU-OSHA campaign) - objective I (Timeline: 2023)</p> <p>Road safety - objective II (Timeline: 2022-2024). Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase awareness regarding road safety (driving for work) • To improve the knowledge for developing and implementing road safety concepts • To reduce driving related accidents (driving for work, inhouse-transport, commuting) • To disseminate prevention material through partners of the Austrian OSH Yes Strategy. <p>Occupational safety and health for start-ups/for beginners - objective II (Timeline: continuously). Goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support and advise companies in implementing occupational safety and health. <p>Carcinogens - objective II (Timeline/start: 2023).</p> <p>Data on health and safety of workers - objective I and II (Timeline: 2022-2024). Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To gain an overview: aggregated data related to work-related accidents and occupational diseases: data access and data quality • To improve the access to data on work-related accidents and occupational diseases and to improve the insufficient data situation related to those data • To set priorities in prevention based on data (prevention of workplace accidents and occupational diseases). <p>COVID 19: lessons learned - objective III (Time frame: 2023-2024). Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To have a common view on the protection of workers related to the COVID19 crises • To get an overview about best practices in other countries to respond to epidemic crises (especially in the area of Germany, Austria and Switzerland) • To be able to respond immediately and effective to future crises • To be better prepared to similar future crises. <p>Stay fit – healthy through working life - objective II (Timeline: 2022, 2023, 2024). Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the knowledge of a healthy lifestyle among young people
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide/disseminate leaflets on healthy lifestyle for young people through a strong participation of important stakeholders such as BAK (the Federal Chamber of Labour), ÖGB (Confederation of Austrian Trade Unions), WKÖ (Austrian Federal Economic Chamber), IV (Federation of Austrian Industries), vocational schools, etc • To raise awareness on a healthy lifestyle among educational institution and apprentices.
<p>Actors and stakeholders</p>	<p>The OSH Advisory Board (Arbeitnehmerschutzbeirat - ASB) is a body consisting of representatives of the most important occupational safety institutions in Austria. It has the supervision of the technical committee (FA-ÖAS), which is responsible for the content and administrative coordination of the Austrian OSH Strategy (ÖAS). The technical committee develops joint strategies and defines responsibilities, working methods and roles. The results are presented to the OSH Advisory Board, adjusted if necessary and approved.</p> <p>The Central Labour Inspectorate is responsible for controlling and coordinating the Austrian OSH Strategy (ÖAS). The Central Labour Inspectorate published a list of the first set of projects including the responsible body and partners.</p> <p>Further cooperation, especially beyond the members of the Expert Committee of the Austrian OSH strategy (FA-ÖAS) can be added at any time. The lead institution is responsible for the composition of the group.</p>
<p>Resources and timeframe</p>	<p>Time frame: 2021 – 2027.</p> <p>The Austrian OSH strategy 2021 – 2027 does not include details about budget or staff information.</p>
<p>Evaluation</p>	<p>The previous Austrian OSH Strategy 2013-2020 was evaluated annually and adapted according to the results. An evaluation team was in charge of a process-oriented, impact-oriented and concept-oriented evaluation. The results led to a final overall evaluation of the ÖAS (Österreichische ArbeitnehmerInnenschutzstrategie) and to concrete proposals for a further development of the strategy.</p> <p>The report is published on the website of the Austrian Labour Inspectorate.</p> <p>Indicators for the years 2021 to 2027:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No indicators can be identified. However, the strategy includes specifications for the evaluation of expected results (Workplace inspections, checklists, guidelines, brochures, surveys). The evaluation of the achievement of the intended effect should take place in the individual projects.

<p>Relationship to EU Strategic Framework</p>	<p>The Austrian OSH Strategy (ÖAS) is guided by the objectives of the EU Strategic Framework; each project is assigned to one of the objectives in the EU Strategic Framework.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Key objective 1 of the EU Strategic Framework (Anticipating and managing change). Change: digital and green transformation 2. Key objective 2 of the EU Strategic Framework (Improving prevention of work-related diseases and accidents). Prevention: minimizing occupational accidents – Vision Zero – and work-related diseases especially those linked to chemical agents, as well as ergonomic and psychosocial risk (already a focus of the Austrian OSH strategy 2013-2022) 3. Key objective 3 of the EU Strategic Framework (Increasing preparedness – responding rapidly to threats). Preparation: for future pandemics. <p>Concrete projects encompass violence at the workplace, noise, digitalisation (in the frame of the EU-OSHA campaign), road safety, occupational safety and health for starters, carcinogens, COVID 19: lessons learned, collecting data on health and safety of workers, raising awareness of young workers.</p>
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