

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT

Austrian Institute for Sustainable Development

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: 01/2018 To: 04/ 2019

Part 1. Statement of Continued Support

Vienna, April 2019

I am pleased to confirm that OIN („Österreichisches Institut für nachhaltige Entwicklung“) reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. OIN is deeply committed to making the Global Compact and its principles part of the strategy and culture of our organization. OIN's aim is to constantly contribute with practical research projects to the Sustainable Development Goals.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization, the Austrian Institute for Sustainable Development, has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely, 

Univ.-Lektor DI Dr. Alfred Strigl

Director

Part 2. Description of Actions

About the Austrian Institute for Sustainable Development

Researching, we pioneer ways of implementing sustainability, creating links between science and practical experience. The Austrian Institute for Sustainable Development (ÖIN) is committed to transforming our society into one where people live and work in a way which sustains quality of life worldwide, equally distributed and over an extended period of time, preserving it for the generations to come.

We do research in order to change – in a transdisciplinary and methodically diverse way. Our professional aim as researchers is to understand practices in everyday life, civil society, politics and the economy and to render them more sustainable. We place the human being in the centre of these efforts, approaching the overall picture from different angles. We point out where action is required and bring visions to life. Together with our project partners, we push for more social and ecological justice. That's what we are passionate about: research with impact.

The contribution to a sustainable development of Austria is especially done by

- Increasing the safety of direction for pioneers for sustainability in companies, administration, politics, science and civil society
 - Developing and disseminating of relevant implementation know how
 - the horizontal and vertical interconnection of ecological, business/technological and social fields.
 - the enhancement of communication on sustainability
1. OIN incorporates the GC principles into internal operations and implements the sustainable development goals in all projects. As far as OINs research areas are concerned, **following projects have been led in 2018 and are currently worked on:**
 - I. **Project SD4Austria:** SD4Austria identified the most relevant SDGs for a smart urban development in Austria. It explored and delivered new and relevant strategic, thematic and methodical approaches for the target audiences of the Smart-Cities Initiative. In addition, the project contributes to increasing the (international) visibility of the implementation projects of this Initiative as well as of further smart urban development actors in

Austria. Last but not least, a set of recommendations for action were formulated for the Climate and Energy Funds (KLIEN), including opinions and Know-How of different experts. These recommendations enable coupling the Smart Cities vision with the SDGs.

- II. **Project transAT, part of the project Energy Transition 2050:** The energy revolution to 100% renewable or at least CO₂ - neutral energies is a societal duty and task, because fossil energy sources lead to an increasing climate crises as well as environmental- and health damages. transAT is a powerful, motivating and impact-oriented project to promote the energy revolution in Austria especially through social innovations. Necessary political, legal and economic frameworks conditions often heavily depend on (often just a few) decision-makers in the federal government, federal states and cities/communes. Therefore transAT focuses on the involvement and activation of this target audience. The energy revolution in Austria requires a clear political statement, which can be met to a lesser extend through technical and scientific argumentation, but rather the involvement and activation of relevant actors by using suitable social innovations. The project “transAT – top-down instruments for the energy revolution 2050 in Austria” supports actively the task to better understand top-down instruments, transformation-processes and social innovations for an innovation-led energy revolution and to use them more effectively. By involving the relevant actors from politics/administration, economy, civil society, science and media, material topics for top-down governance of an energy revolution in Austria are collected, assessed and distributed.
- III. **Project Co-Creation Space St.Pölten, part of the program “Young talents for the future of energysystems”:** This projects aim was research on creative ways to foster young peoples interest in sustainability topics related to energy and climate. Therefore an innovative approach was used by action days calles „Visionale“. This action days included art, music and video as vehicle for sustainability-related topics.
- IV. **Project Las Mercedes – REDD+ project in Colombia:** The aim of the project is to protect endangered rainforest as well as to set up a CO₂-carbon offsetting, Create alternative income and demonstrate holistic sustainable development on site. Las Mercedes, as this small region is called, forms one of the last intact green corridors from the, still completely untouched, Pacific coast into the Colombian central country, located between the three Andes-Cordillera.

2. OIN fosters the dissemination of the Global Compact principles as well as the proactive communication for the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in various events including stakeholder events, speeches, university lectures and workshops held during the course of the year.
 - I. Lectures at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna are held which focus on the implementation of sustainable development at state level and in corporations.
 - II. A keynote about the Sustainable Development Goals was given at the opening meeting of the annual sustainability challenge, a program that brings students and companies together working on the implementation of innovative sustainable approaches.
 - III. Several other seminars, workshops and events on sustainability topics has been held or has been attended by the OIN

In 2019 **the project NEW3TION** has started: The trend study NEW3TION combines up-to-date results of trend research (food trends) with questions of the Smart Cities Initiative on sustainable and climate-conscious urban food spaces. The aim of the trend study is to develop and show recommendations for action and innovative solutions for the challenges Austrian cities are facing with regard to sustainable food supply, climate-friendly urban food production and awareness-raising for sustainable, healthy nutrition. Current nutritional trends, energy topics and climate protection as well as the sustainable development goals serve as guiding principles. The Smart Cities Initiative will be supported with practicable, future-oriented approaches for the "nutrition space city".

The goals of the Austrian Institute for Sustainable Development for 2019 are to foster inter- and transdisciplinary applied research integrating the SDGs and UN Global Compact principles, to support decision makers and policymakers, to give feedback from research for progress in science and knowledge transfer to students and teenagers.

Part 3. Measurement of Outcomes

Expertise provided by your organisation to further the aims of Global Compact Local Network in your country:

The Austria Institute for Sustainable Development functions as an expert hub for sustainable development in Austria linked to the Sustainable Development Goals and UNGC principles. Projects and dissemination and communication are described in Part 2.

Partnerships formalized with mutual aims to advance the UN Global Compact principles:

The Austrian Institute for Sustainable Development cooperates with academic and civil society networks in the field of sustainable development (e.g. University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna, Ökosoziales Forum, Österreichischer Rat für Nachhaltige Entwicklung)