

Communication on Engagement 2018 to the UN Global Compact

Vienna, November 2019

ICEP – Institut zur Cooperation bei Entwicklungs-Projekten – joined the United Nations Global Compact in 2009. As an independent Austrian development organisation with the objective to bring people to business and business to the people, ICEP advises partners in developing countries as well as companies on how to integrate poor people into economic cycles and implements projects worldwide. With its corporAID Platform, ICEP offers companies a forum for knowledge exchange, discourse and mainstreaming of business and development as well as global corporate social responsibility issues. To set up sustainable solutions and drive business and development forward, ICEP constantly tries to bring global responsibility into the horizon of business practices. The ten principles of the UN Global Compact are a key basis for a shared understanding, which we are strongly committed to and try to advance in our sphere of influence.

In 2018, ICEP contributed to the UN Global Compact Principles in the following areas:

Business Partnerships

ICEP supports companies to create an added value for their businesses and society along their global value chain, especially in cooperation with the business partnership program of the Austrian Development Agency. In 2018, the focus was on developing new projects for companies. For example, ICEP was commissioned as a Social Impact Expert to carry out feasibility studies for RHI sites in India as well as Mondi production sites in Morocco and the Ivory Coast. MED-EL and Lenzing were assisted in the structuring and concrete development of social impact programs. Also vocational training programs has been prepared for Blum in Tunisia and Kenya. In addition to that, ICEP discussed with 10 other companies approaches to increase the developmental benefits and the efficiency of business activities in emerging and developing countries.

Awareness, Dialogue and Knowledge Exchange

For the past 16 years, through corporAID ICEP has been providing new perspectives on business opportunities in emerging and developing countries and has been demonstrating how companies can successfully address the challenges in these regions. With various activities ICEP highlighted the synergies between the private sector and development cooperation and showed how a

business-oriented international development agenda combined with sound corporate responsibility can foster innovative solutions for sustainable global development. In 2018, ICEP published 6 more issues of the corporAID magazine, covering all UN Global Compact Principles.

In November 2018, the annual business and development-conference put sustainable urban development in the spotlight as well as concrete business opportunities that will arise in that regard. Furthermore, innovative forms of (international) partnerships were discussed that not only aim to transfer viable urban development knowhow to emerging and developing countries, but help provide a better framework for business investment. Additionally, ICEP hosted various other dialogue and exchange fora on topics like Energy Solutions for rural Africa, frugal Innovation and Doing Business in Africa. In cooperation with ECOTEC, ICEP also organized a side event at the high-level forum Africa-Europe on the topic of „Revolutionizing cooperation! - Africa and Europe in the digital age“.

Participation in Policy Processes

ICEP has taken part in national policy processes and participated in Austrian networks that had the potential to enhance the active role of companies in achieving a sustainable and inclusive economy. Since 2016, ICEP has been working in cooperation with partners such as the Council for Research and Technology Development (RFTE) to develop innovation and research policies that focus not only on technological leadership, but also on specific needs in emerging and developing countries. In 2018, a study commissioned by the RFTE on the importance of frugal innovation for Austrian companies was presented, leading to a discussion about further developing Austrian innovation policies. Furthermore, ICEP continued to advocate practice-oriented development of instruments for foreign trade promotion and development cooperation. Specifically, ICEP supported the Austrian Trade Association in the development of a future-oriented project – the Import Information Hub Austria.

Detailed information can be found in the Annual Report 2018, which is attached to this letter.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Bernhard Weber
Managing Director