

Annex - Questionnaire

Measures taken to implement the Convention and the commitments contained in the UNGASS political declaration, as well as good practices and progress made in the use of international cooperation mechanisms under the Convention¹

Country	Austria
Implementing authority/authorities	Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK)
Corresponding paragraph(s) of the UNGASS political declaration and/or article(s) of the Convention	UNCAC: Article 5, Preventive anti-corruption policies and practices UNGASS political declaration: Preventive measure / 3
Title of initiative	Austrian National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS): Evaluation of the action plan
Keywords of initiative	National Anti-Corruption Strategy, action plans
Short summary of initiative (please indicate the start date/duration if relevant)	In 2021, the Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK) started evaluating the NACS action plan immediately after the completion of the first cycle. The BAK developed an approach for an evaluation based on quantitative and qualitative indicators. This approach served as a basis for the evaluation of the implementation of the NACS action plan and allowed conclusions to be drawn on the success and effectiveness of the action plan measures. The evaluation also reflected on the overall strategy and evaluation approach itself and included recommendations for improvement. Start date: July 2021
Detailed description of initiative	The main objective of the Austrian National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) is to increase and ensure integrity and transparency in administration, politics and business. The Austrian Federal Government adopted the NACS on 31 January 2018 to provide the framework for all measures to prevent and combat corruption. It consists of two parts: Prevention and Prosecution. The action plan for the NACS was adopted in January 2019. It comprised measures in the field of prevention and prosecution which represent implementation goals set by the Federal Chancellery and the Federal Ministries for themselves. The aim was to implement the measures listed in the action plan in a binding manner and to initiate corresponding implementation

¹ Please use one form per initiative described

	<p>steps at federal level between 2019 and 2020. In order to regularly supplement and update the action plan, it was conceived as a “living document”. Furthermore, some authorities, the regions (Bundesländer) and some organisations decided to participate voluntarily in the implementation of the NACS by developing an action plan of their own. The voluntary participants adhered to the structure and measures described in the initial action plan for the NACS. Their action plan was published on 1 May 2019.</p> <p>The national Coordinating Body on Combating Corruption (Koordinationsgremium zur Korruptionsbekämpfung) had decided that an evaluation of the NACS action plan was to take place after the completion of the first cycle. The proposal for quantitative and qualitative indicators developed by the BAK was to be used as a basis for evaluating the implementation of the NACS action plans. The BAK coordinated the activities around the evaluation of the action plans under the NACS. The approach for an evaluation based on indicators was presented to the participating institutions in July 2021. The assessment of the operationalization of each measure was built on two indicators, a qualitative and a quantitative one. The combination of these two indicators allowed for an objective and targeted evaluation of the implementation of the action plan. The qualitative indicators made it possible to describe the content of the activities carried out and provided objective information for evaluating the content of the measures. The activities were described in terms of strategies, goals or desired results. The quantitative indicators allowed for an assessment based on figures and values in order to clearly measure the performance of a given action. Participating institutions were also invited to reflect on the results of their respective measures and to provide a brief statement on their key findings. The BAK team supported the participating institutions in the development of the indicators, the data collection and the actual evaluation.</p> <p>All contributions were compiled by the BAK and presented to the Coordinating Body on Combating Corruption in October 2022. Based on its findings and recommendations, the Council of Ministers extended the next cycle from two to three years and set precisely measurable indicators. Furthermore, every participating institution will appoint a representative for the NACS agendas. Following the previous final evaluation, all participating institutions will implement the mentioned strategies, objectives or results. Another evaluation will take place towards the end of 2025 and the participating institutions will be continuously supported by the BAK.</p>
Lessons learned in implementing the initiative	<p>The evaluation of the action plan by using qualitative and quantitative indicators led to a representative result and allows conclusions to be drawn on the success and effectiveness of the action plan measures. The evaluation also reflects the overall strategy, the evaluation approach itself and provides recommendations for improvements.</p>

	<p>The chosen evaluation approach was presented to the participating institutions in a virtual presentation. The presentation included theoretical aspects, practical examples, a timetable and clear expectations for the implementation of the evaluation. In addition, the requirements for the evaluation were communicated in bilateral talks.</p> <p>The strategy's action plan covers a cycle of three years. At the end of a cycle, an evaluation of the measures and the strategy should always be carried out as an integral part of the strategy. The evaluation recommends the approach of using qualitative and quantitative indicators also for future action plans. The institutions involved are now familiar with this approach and have the practical and theoretical skills. In the revised action plan for the current cycle, subsequent evaluation should be taken into account when defining the measure. As already mentioned, the measures should be formulated as concretely as possible, contain realistic objectives and be clearly measurable.</p>
Challenges encountered in implementing the initiative	<p>The participating institutions developed the indicators to carry out the evaluation independently according to the specifications. The BAK supported the institutions during the evaluation process (development of the indicators, actual evaluation, preparation of the evaluation report). The evaluation contributions showed different informative qualities of the indicators and the evaluation results derived from them. Not all persons responsible for the evaluation attended the information session. Furthermore, the theoretical background and the prerequisites for conducting the evaluation were often not fully known. Since the introduction of the NACS, the responsibilities and organisational structures in the participating institutions have changed. For example, it happened that the person involved in the original formulation of the measure was no longer available and the person carrying out the evaluation did not know the full background of the measures.</p> <p>Institutions that had clear responsibilities since the beginning of the NACS and which also participated in the information event submitted better evaluation outputs with more meaningful final results.</p> <p>It is expected that the quality of results will vary again due to the requirement of measurability of the indicators.</p>
Link to more information	<p>Council of Ministers adopts National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan (bak.gv.at)</p>