

**OECD GUIDELINES FOR MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES
AUSTRIAN NCP
REPORT TO THE OECD
2014**

National Contact Points must report annually to the OECD Investment Committee on the nature and results of their activities to further the effectiveness of the Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, including implementation activities in specific instances.

A Common Reporting Framework, based on the Implementation Procedures of the Guidelines, assists NCPs prepare these reports. This information is the basis for the Chair's Annual Report to the OECD Council.

Common Reporting Framework

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Common framework for annual reporting by National Contact Points

The role of National Contact Points is to further the effectiveness of the Guidelines by undertaking promotional activities, handling enquiries and contributing to the resolution of issues that arise relating to the implementation of the Guidelines in specific instances. NCPs will operate in accordance with core criteria of visibility, accessibility, transparency and accountability.

A. Institutional arrangements

1. Governmental location of the NCP

Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (BMWFV)

2. Structure of the NCP

Monopartite Interagency Bipartite Tripartite Quadripartite Independent Expert Body

The Austrian NCP is located in the Directorate-General for Trade Policy and European Integration of the BMWFV

3. Does the NCP have an advisory body?

Yes No

The Austrian NCP Steering Committee is chaired by a senior official of the BMWFV and includes representatives of the Federal Chancellery, the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, the Federal Ministry of Finance, the Austrian Federal Chamber of Labour, the Austrian Trade Union Federation, the Federation of Austrian Industries, the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, the Austrian Chamber of Agriculture, an Austrian-based member organization of OECD Watch as well as one external expert in the field of extrajudicial dispute resolution.

The terms of reference, which are available at the NCP's website are the basis for the activities of the Steering Committee. Its main tasks are: Consulting of the Austrian NCP in all matters regarding the implementation of the Guidelines; support and consulting of the Austrian NCP during the implementation of the pro-active agenda; participation in the preparation of the annual report of the Austrian NCP to the OECD Investment Committee; promotion of a broad dialogue on the Guidelines with stakeholders; proposals for the further development of the Austrian NCP; suggestion that a matter be referred to the OECD Investment Committee in case of doubts regarding the interpretation of the Guidelines; evaluation of the activities of the Austrian NCP, in particular with regard to the compliance with the Terms of Reference and the implementation of the key criteria pursuant to Item I of the Procedural Guidance of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises as well as the compliance with the latter.

4. Does the NCP have an oversight body?

Yes No

5. Was the NCP structure modified in the reporting period?

Yes No

6. How does this structure enable the NCP to operate effectively?

As an official unit of the BMWWF, all laws and regulations providing for the impartiality, accountability and liability of members of the Austrian civil service apply. The Steering Committee provides an adequate infrastructure for stakeholder involvement.

7. Does the NCP have an allocated budget?

Yes No

The Austrian NCP has an annual budget for specific instances (also covering costs of a mediator), and additional funds for promoting the OECD Guidelines, covering the costs of e.g. brochures, events, workshops and seminars.

8. Does the NCP have dedicated staff?

Yes No

The Austrian NCP has dedicated staff within its unit and also within the department of the BMWWF where the NCP is associated with.

9. Are changes in the structure or resources available to the NCP contemplated in the near future?

Yes No

10. Does the NCP report within the Government on its activities?

Yes No

The Austrian NCP has to report to its Steering Committee at least twice a year. The Steering Committee itself includes besides the chairperson from the BMWWF, representatives from other federal ministries such as: Federal Chancellery, Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, Federal Ministry of Finance.

B. Information and promotion

11. Does the NCP have a dedicated website or dedicated webpages?

Yes No

The Austrian NCP has a dedicated German and English webpage: www.oecd-leitsaetze.at

12. Are the 2011 Guidelines available online?

Yes No

German and English version.

13. Are the 2011 Guidelines available in print?

Yes No

German versions are available through the Austrian NCP. Numerous copies have been distributed in the recent months.

14. Did you develop other products to raise awareness of the Guidelines? Yes No

The Austrian NCP has published a brochure about the OECD Guidelines in German. A second one in cooperation with respACT Austria, the Austrian platform for sustainable development, CSR and business ethics was published in mid 2013.

15. Is your Annual Report available online? Yes No

Annual Report 2011/2012:

<http://www.en.bmwfw.gv.at/ExternalTrade/EUcoordination/Documents/Annual%20Report%202012%20of%20the%20Austrian%20NCP%20to%20the%20OECD.pdf>

Annual Report 2012/2013:

http://www.bmwfw.gv.at/Aussenwirtschaft/oesterreichinderEU/EU-Institutionen/Documents/CommonReportingFramework2013_Austria_FINAL.pdf

16. Is your Annual Report available in print? Yes No

A copy can be obtained from the Austrian NCP.

17. Does the NCP coordinate with other government activities on responsible business conduct?

Yes No

The Austrian NCP is in close contact with the department of the BMWFW which is responsible for RBC issues.

Furthermore the Austrian NCP is also involved in the EU's work on RBC such as on conflict minerals for instance.

18. Does the NCP, together with appropriate state entities (export credits agency, investment state-owned enterprises, overseas investment guarantee and inward investment promotion programs ...), inform prospective investors about the Guidelines and their implementation?

Yes No

The Austrian NCP is working together with the Austrian export credit agency OeKB. OeKB is Austria's main provider of financial and information services to the export industry and the capital market. It also has a reference to the OECD Guidelines in their application forms for export guarantees.

OeKB acts on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Finance, a member of the NCP's Steering Committee.

Together with the Austrian NCP OeKB is planning to host an event on RBC by the end of 2014 .

19. If the NCP conducted surveys or collected data documenting enterprises' awareness and use of the Guidelines, such as references in corporate codes of conduct, provide details.

In December 2012 the Austrian NCP together with respACT Austria conducted a survey, regarding the level of awareness of the OECD Guidelines within selected Austrian companies. A follow-up survey is planned for the end of 2014.

20. Does the NCP have a promotional plan on the Guidelines? Yes No

As in 2012 / 2013 the Austrian NCP signed another one year contract for 2014 with respACT Austria to promote the OECD Guidelines and to leverage the work done, getting companies involved. respACT is Austria's leading platform for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Sustainable Development. respACT also is the official focal point of the UN Global Compact in Austria. respACT and the Austrian NCP host events and promote the OECD Guidelines in line with the contractually agreed promotional plan.

In addition to that the Austrian NCP has its own promotional plan. Events solely organized by the Austrian NCP in 2014 together with relevant stakeholders are under preparation for the second half of 2014.

21. Did the NCP organise any event to promote the Guidelines and their implementation procedures?

Yes No

22. Did the NCP participate in any event organised by stakeholders or other entities to promote the Guidelines and their implementation procedures?

Yes No

Title	OECD Global Forum on Responsible Business Conduct
Date	26 Jun 2013
Place	OECD, Paris - France
Further details	The Austrian NCP attended the Forum
Title	Human Rights and Business and Responsible Business Conduct - where now?
Date	4 Jul 2013
Place	European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Vienna - Austria
Further details	The Austrian NCP was a member of the discussion panel
Title	CSR in Austria - visit of Usbek delegation to Austria
Date	9 Jul 2013
Place	Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (BMWFV), Vienna - Austria

Further details	The Austrian NCP took part in a meeting at the BMWFW with an Usbek Delegation. The delegation was generally about CSR in Austria and the OECD Guidelines
Title	CSR Guidelines in Practice - take responsibility along the supply chain with the OECD Guidelines
Date	10 Sep 2013
Place	Linz - Austria
Further details	The Austrian NCP hosted part of the event
Title	Webinar on the OECD-Guidelines
Date	4 Mar 2014
Place	Internet
Further details	The Austrian NCP, together with respACT Austria organized a webinar about the OECD-Guidelines. The Austrian NCP held a lecture during the event.

23. What use has been made of embassies, notably in emerging markets and other non-adhering countries, for raising awareness and promoting the Guidelines?

The Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKO) is a member of the NCP's Steering Committee. Using its network in 2013 the Austrian NCP sent a promotion letter regarding the OECD Guidelines to all 75 Aussenwirtschaft Austria offices abroad in 2013. These offices provide a broad range of intelligence and business development services for both Austrian companies and their international business partners.

Furthermore all Aussenwirtschaft Austria offices were informed about the launch of the OECD database on specific instances.

In 2013 the Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, yet another member of the NCP's Steering Committee, also sent the same promotion letter to the Austrian embassies and selected consulates.

24. Does the NCP have a direct relationship with OECD partner organisations and/or other leading responsible business conduct instruments:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ILO? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| UN Global Compact and its local networks? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| National Institution for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Global Reporting Initiative? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| ISO26000? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Other | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

The Austrian NCP regularly works together with e.g. respACT Austria, which is the official focal point of the UN Global Compact in Austria and also promotes ISO 26000 and GRI.

25. Does the NCP or another government agency promote the OECD Risk Awareness Tool for Multinational Enterprises in Weak Governance Zones?

- Yes No

The website of the Austrian NCP provides a link to the Risk Awareness Tool for Multinational Enterprises in Weak Governance Zones.

26. Does the NCP or another government agency promote the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High Risk Areas?

- Yes No

The website of the Austrian NCP provides a link to the Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High Risk Areas.

27. Were enquiries received on the Guidelines and their implementation procedures

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| From other NCPs? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| From the business community? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| From labour organisations? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| From non-governmental organisations? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| From governments of non-adhering countries? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Other | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

Enquiries about pending Austrian specific instances, the Guidelines itself and the complaint mechanism were received from other Austrian federal ministries, several companies, NGOs and individuals. Furthermore enquiries were received from Austrian companies in terms of the Guidelines and conflict minerals.

C. Proactive agenda

In accordance with the Investment Committee's proactive agenda, NCPs should maintain regular contact, including meetings, with social partners and other stakeholders in order to: a) consider new developments and emerging practices concerning responsible business conduct; b) support the positive contributions enterprises can make to identify and respond to risks of adverse impacts associated with particular products, regions, sectors or industries

28. Did the NCP identify new emerging challenges for enterprises, or engage in any related activities?

Yes No

D. Co-operation and peer learning

In addition to contributing to the Committee's work to enhance the effectiveness of the Guidelines, NCPs will engage in joint peer learning activities. In particular, they are encouraged to engage in horizontal, thematic peer reviews and voluntary NCP peer evaluations. Such peer learning can be carried out through meetings at the OECD or through direct co-operation between NCPs.

29. Did the NCP engage in direct co-operation with other NCPs? Yes No

On the 20th of September 2013 the Austrian NCP hosted the "First Regional Meeting 2013 for Central European National Contact Points" in Vienna. Purpose of the meeting was to strengthen the cooperation between the neighbouring NCPs, combine the effort to further the effectiveness of the OECD Guidelines and to share good practices in the region. The following NCPs attendet the meeting: Germany, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Czech Republic and Slovenia.

Furthermore the Dutch NCP was invited to describe its NCP structure and to share its experiences in handling specific instances to the Austrian business community in Linz.

30. Is the NCP interested in volunteering for a peer evaluation? Yes No

2015 onwards

31. Is the NCP interested in being part of the team conducting a voluntary peer evaluation? Yes No

2015 onwards

E. Specific instances

32. Did the NCP develop procedures for handling specific instances? Yes No

- are they available online? Yes No

<http://www.bmwfj.gv.at/Aussenwirtschaft/investitionspolitik/Documents/Geschäftsordnung%20des%20österreichischen%20Nationalen%20Kontaktpunktes.pdf>

<http://www.en.bmwfj.gv.at/ExternalTrade/EUcoordination/Documents/Terms%20of%20References%20-%20Austrian%20NCP.pdf>

<http://www.bmwfj.gv.at/Aussenwirtschaft/investitionspolitik/Documents/Reglement%20interieur%20du%20PCNA.pdf>

- in which language/s ? German, English and French

- do procedures take into account the 2011 Procedural Guidance? Yes No

33. How many new specific instances did the NCP receive in the reporting period?

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Title	Human rights and environmental issues in Laos		
Leading NCP	Austria		
Supporting NCP			
Description	The Austrian National Contact Point has received a complaint in connection with the Xayaburi dam project and has, in accordance with the Procedural Guidance, started the initial assessment of whether the issues raised merit further examination.		
Theme/s	IV. Human Rights		
Date specific instance received	9 Apr 2014		
Host country/ies	Austria, Laos		
Source	<input type="checkbox"/> Trade Union <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NGO <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals <input type="checkbox"/> Business <input type="checkbox"/> Other interested parties		
Industry sector	Construction		
Status	In progress		
Summary	The initial assessment of whether the issues raised merit further examination has been started.		
Initial assessment	Assistance to parties	Conclusion of the procedures	
From date: 9 Apr 2014	From date:	From date:	
To date:	To date:	To date:	

34. Do you have any updates on specific instances that were reported and not concluded in the previous reporting period?

Yes No

F. Useful experiences and future work

34. Provide any other information on the nature and results of NCP activities during this implementation cycle of the updated Guidelines, including on any useful experiences and/or difficulties encountered in carrying out the duties of the NCP.

The Austrian NCP is strongly convinced that close cooperation between the NCPs and peer learnings in regards to promotion activities and workshops are very useful and strengthen the general coherence among NCPs.

35. Based on your recent activities, what issues might deserve particular attention during the 2014-2015 implementation cycle of the OECD Guidelines?

In the view of the Austrian NCP the following issues do deserve more attention: supporting peer learning and peer evaluations: facilitating capacity-building for NCPs: supporting NCP performance and strengthening the role of NCPs in specific instances.

NCP CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact	Austrian National Contact Point Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy
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