

## Austria

In Austria, the following institutions are involved in the development and execution of prevention programmes concerning non-communicable diseases:

- Health Austria Ltd (Gesundheit Österreich GmbH) / subsidiary "Fund for a Healthy Austria" (FGÖ): The Fund for a Healthy Austria has been the national competence centre for health promotion and prevention since 1998. As a service institution the FGÖ supports projects and develops activities and campaigns to make healthy living environments and lifestyles achievable for as many people as possible in Austria. ([www.fgoe.org](http://www.fgoe.org)).

- Federal Ministry for Health and Women (BMGF): Among other things, the BMGF has been implementing a Health Promotion Initiative ("iSch") since 2003. It also supports setting-oriented and target group-oriented initiatives. ([www.isch.at](http://www.isch.at)).

- GIVE Service Centre for Health Education: GIVE, a joint initiative of the Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Culture (BMBWK), the Federal Ministry for Health and Women (BMGF) and the Austrian Youth Red Cross (ÖJRK), is an important clearinghouse for information and documentation on health promotion in schools. ([www.give.or.at](http://www.give.or.at))

- Main Association of Austrian Social Security Institutions: Health promotion is an important element of the Association's innovation concept.

Legal frameworks and regulations in the field of health promotion and primary disease prevention are: the *Health Promotion Act*. With its adoption a legal foundation for the implementation of the Health Promotion Initiative by the Fund for a Healthy Austria has been created. The *Federal Act on the Quality of Health Care Services* (Gesundheitsqualitätsgesetz) expressly states that health care services should be performed in a health-promoting environment and that particular attention should be paid to the basic principles of health promotion when developing quality standards. Furthermore, the *Agreement between the Federation and the Provinces* According to Article 15a of the Federal Constitution Act on the Organisation and Financing of the Health Care System: Both Article 11 (tasks of the Federal Health Agency) and Article 16 (tasks of the provincial health agencies) provide for the development of health promotion projects. The *Health Care Reform Act*, adopted in 2005, stipulates inter alia that health promotion and prevention must be implemented as tasks of the Provincial Health Platforms. The *General Social Insurance Act* (ASVG): Health promotion has been benefit of the social health insurance scheme since 1992 under Section 154b of the General Social Insurance Act. This provision is designed to strengthen the role of the health insurance funds in the area of prevention and underscore their importance in the context of modern health care policy. Furthermore, health promotion is defined as a distinct area of health care work under the Health Care and Nursing Care Act and as a task of general practitioners under the Ordinance on the Training of Physicians. Current major topics of the FGÖ in the field of health promotion and primary prevention of non-communicable diseases are: physical activity, nutrition, mental and emotional health, prevention of alcohol abuse by young people. Main topics of the BMGF ("iSch") are: nutrition, physical activity, stress reduction and relaxation, accident avoidance, medical prevention ("Stop cardiac death", Austrian Diabetes Plan, Austrian Obesity Report), addiction prevention.

Key nationwide governmental activities (in the field of nutrition and physical activity) relating to primary disease prevention and promotion of healthy lifestyles are: the FGÖ lifestyle campaign "Being Aware of How You Live Will Make Your Life Better" on the topics of nutrition and physical activity (in cooperation with the BMGF); the establishment of an FGÖ Nutrition Hotline in cooperation with the Association for Consumer Information; the BMGF Health Promotion Initiative ("iSch"), focusing on the topics of nutrition and physical activity ([www.isch.at](http://www.isch.at)); the Fit for Austria Initiative of the State Secretariat for Sports in cooperation with the FGÖ and the Austrian Federal Sports Organisation to institute and realise physical activity-oriented health promotion projects.

Coordinating and cooperating bodies (partners, stakeholders, networks etc.) involved in the above mentioned activities are: the Federal Ministry for Health and Women (BMGF), the Fund for a Healthy Austria (FGÖ), Provincial health promotion organisations, the AKS Austria network: Styria vitalis – Styrian Society for Health Protection; the Lower Austrian Health Forum; Working Committees on Preventive Medicine in the provinces of Vorarlberg, Tyrol, Salzburg and Upper Austria ; (aks-Arbeitskreis für Vorsorge und Sozialmedizin Vorarlberg, avomed-Arbeitskreis für Vorsorgemedizin Tirol, avos-Arbeitskreis für Vorsorgemedizin Salzburg, Verein für Prophylaktische Gesundheitsarbeit (PGA) Oberösterreich); Women's health centres and Austrian Youth Red Cross (ÖJRK/GIVE).

The above mentioned activities target virtually all population groups in Austria. Settings are: Children and adolescents in non-school settings, Employees in small and medium-size enterprises, older people in regional settings, Migrants, Schools and Hospitals.

Nationwide monitoring programmes are the Austrian Microcensus (Statistics Austria; adults, every 10 years), the Austrian Nutrition Report and the HBSC data on nutrition and physical activity patterns.

Austria would like to see stipulated in the final memorandum:

- At national level: Targeting obesity at its roots (influencing nutrition and physical activity patterns already in childhood)
- At national and EU level: Creating general conditions conducive to healthy eating patterns and more physical activity (school, home environment, transport, funding in the social/health insurance sector)