ADVISING THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT TO ACHIEVE THE SDGS

Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens
In 2019, the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens (BKMC) initiated a project in cooperation with the Austrian Federal Chancellery to promote the SDGs in Austria. The Centre advised the Austrian Government on SDG implementation by identifying effective measures and recommendations. Austrian governmental authorities were interested in exchanging lessons learned and best-practice cases of other European countries to improve their understanding of effective SDG implementation. It was also the aim to improve Austria’s ranking in the SDG Index and Dashboard (SDSN and Bertelsmann Stiftung) to eventually reach the top 5. At the beginning of the cooperation with the BKMC, Austria was still ranked 9th in the overall index; it now ranks 5th.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Objective

The Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens’ SDG efforts in 2019 culminated in 14 recommendations relevant to the Austrian government and significant for the continued work on improving Austria’s SDG implementation. In 2020, the BKMC looks forward to continuing its advisory role to the Austria government as the country prepares to deliver its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) to the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2020.

Project Detail - 2019

The project included the following activities in 2019:

- SDG best-practice symposium in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations in Vienna
- Multi-stakeholder brainstorming workshop
- Breakout session during the Political and Legal Symposium of European Forum Alpbach (EFA)
- High-level political retreat at EFA
- Synopsis paper of work promoting the SDGs in Austria and 14 recommendations from the BKMC
- Peer-learning roundtable for the SDGs and reporting to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)

Outlook - 2020

Partners


Pillar of Work

Leadership

Donor

Austrian Federal Chancellery
IMPACT OF PARTNERSHIP

HIGH-LEVEL ADVISING FOR THE SDGs

The BKMC coordinated a high-level SDG retreat at the margins of European Forum Alpbach 2019. The retreat gathered high-level Austrian stakeholders at the governmental level along with international experts and youth representatives for an exchange of ideas and recommendations with reference to the main themes for Austria’s upcoming Voluntary National Review (VNR): Women/Youth/leaving no one behind, Climate Change and Digitalization.

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Over the course of 2019, the BKMC worked with the Austrian Federal Chancellery to conduct a multi-stakeholder process for the SDGs, including a brainstorming workshop in preparation for the high-level retreat at European Forum Alpbach and conducting several meetings with NGOs, CSOs, the private sector and Austrian ministries where inputs could be gathered.

HIGH-LEVEL SESSIONS

The BKMC organized a Breakout Session at European Forum Alpbach featuring both Co-chairs of the Centre, H.E. Ban Ki-moon and H.E. Heinz Fischer, as well as the Austrian Chancellor and Minister for Sustainability and Tourism and international experts on the SDGs. The session was open to all attendees of the forum and featured an interactive component to engage audience members, many of which were young scholarship holders at the forum.

PEER-LEARNING AND BEST PRACTICES

In order to facilitate peer-to-peer exchange, the BKMC organized an event in cooperation with the Swedish Permanent Mission in Vienna featuring best-practice examples for the SDGs in Europe with speakers from both the governmental level and the private sector. Additionally, the Centre hosted a peer-learning roundtable on the topic of SDG implementation and reporting to the HLPF, which featured interventions from government representatives from the Netherlands, Finland, Slovakia, and Estonia.