## Physical activity policy status in Austria

MOVING policy index



This country snapshot presents detailed results of the **MOVING policy index** [1] for Austria. It highlights strengths and weaknesses in the design of national government physical activity policies. This snapshot supplements the policy index results with an in-depth look at the quality of policy design in each country. Full policy index results are outlined in the MOVING policy brief, which compares Austria to 29 other European countries.

## Main messages

- 1 Austria implements policy actions in all six areas of the MOVING framework. Three policy areas achieved a moderate assessment for national level policy action: initiatives that promote physical activity in schools, community, and recreation (M), physical activity in the workplace (O), and increasing physical activity through public communication which builds behaviour change skills (N).
- 2 Weaknesses in policy design at national level were identified for policies on the built environment, such as active design guidelines for outside buildings or on open/green spaces (V) and transport infrastructure (I). There were also weaknesses in providing training for healthcare professionals on physical activity promotion and providing such services in outpatient settings (G).
- **3** Particular attention should be given to policy areas where a poor assessment was achieved, which include giving physical activity training, assessment and counselling in healthcare settings (G). National government action should also be prioritised to implement policy actions in all areas of physical activity, including structures and surroundings which promote physical activity (V) and transport infrastructure to promote active societies (I), thus improving overall environments that enable physical activity.

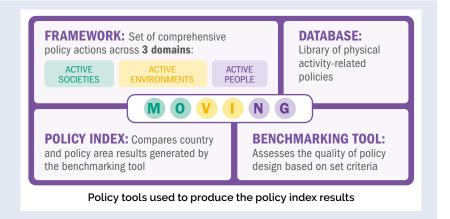
Overview of policy status	NO POLICIES IDENTIFIED	POOR	FAIR	MODERATE	GOOD	EXCELLENT	
Make opportunities and initiatives that promote physical activity in schools, the community and sport and recreation					MODERATE		
Offer physical activity opportunities in the workplace and training in physical activity promotion across multiple professions					MODERATE		
V Visualise and enact	Visualise and enact structures and surroundings which promote physical activity					FAIR	
Implement transport	Implement transport infrastructure and opportunities that support active societies					FAIR	
	Normalise and increase physical activity through public communication that motivates and builds behaviour change skills				MODERATE		
Give physical activity training, assessment and counselling in healthcare settings					POOR		

This snapshot is based on national level policies only. Policies issued by provincial, regional or local governments are outside the scope of this project.

## **Methods**

The MOVING policy index methods are fully explained in the associated **policy brief**. In short, the policy index combines values for a) policy presence, and b) policy design for 23 benchmarks.

The benchmarks are applied to policies in the **MOVING database** [2], collected through a comprehensive scan in 30 European countries, including Austria.



<ul> <li>No policy identified</li> <li>Meets up to 75% of policy design</li> <li>Meets up to 99% of policy design</li> <li>Meets up to 50% of policy design</li> <li>Meets all aspirational standards</li> </ul>	Breakdown of policy index results	(For full details on the policy design criteria, consult the <b>policy brief</b> )			
	X No policy identified	Meets up to 75% of policy design			
Meets up to 50% of policy design  Meets all aspirational standards	Meets up to 25% of policy design	Meets up to 99% of policy design			
	Meets up to 50% of policy design	Meets all aspirational standards			

M	Physical activity in schools and PE	
	Physical activity in and outside of classrooms	
	Physical activity outside of school hours	×
	Community and mass participation initiatives	
	Physical activity for people of all ages and abilities	
	Financial incentives to promote physical activity	
0	Training for professions outside of healthcare	
	Physical activity in the workplace	
	Design guidelines and regulations for buildings	
	Active design guidelines outside buildings	×
V	Active design guidelines for open/green spaces	×
V	Walking and cycling infrastructure	
	Integrated urban design and land-use policies	×
	Access to quality public open space and green spaces	×
	Policies to support public transport	×
	Road safety actions including safety of pedestrians, cyclists etc	
	Mass communication campaigns to promote transport	×
	Policies to promote active transport	
N	Mass media campaigns and social marketing promoting physical activity	
	Develop and communicate physical activity guidelines	
G	Pre- and in-service training within health care	×
	Primary care (assessment, counselling and PA prescriptions)	
	Health care and outpatient settings	×

Note: The policy landscape in any country evolves over time. These findings reflect our knowledge as of May 2023. To see latest results and for further technical information on the policy indexes, please consult our website: wcrf.org/our-policy-work.

For feedback or suggested updates, please email policy@wcrf.org. More info in the CO-CREATE project can be found at co-create.eu

[1] Policy index: wcrf.org/physical-activity-policy-index [2] Policy database: policydatabase.wcrf.org





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