Nutrition policy status in Austria

NOURISHING policy index

May 2023



This country snapshot presents detailed results of the **NOURISHING policy index** [1] for Austria. It highlights strengths and weaknesses in the design of national government nutrition 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 NOURISHING policy brief, which compares Austria to 29 other European countries.

Main messages

- 1 Austria implements nutrition and diet-related policy actions in five out of the ten policy areas of the NOURISHING framework. The highest assessment achieved was moderate on policies to limit or remove specific nutrients in food products (I1).
- 2 Nutrition label standards and regulations (N1) which include only EU wide policies, need to be strengthened at national level. There is a lack of sugar-sweetened beverage provisions in schools and of regulations on food availability within the school vicinity which have an impact on otherwise well-designed standards on school food and food in other out-of-education locations (O). Weak food based dietary guidelines and an absence of public awareness campaigns on nutrition (I2) were also identified.
- 3 No action was taken at national level in half of the framework therefore policy areas need to be prioritised in using financial incentives to increase affordability and accessibility of healthier food. An example through the implementation of health-related food taxes (U), and marketing to young people, particularly in/around schools (R), the retail environment (S), nutrition advice and counselling in healthcare settings (N2) along with strengthening public food procurement policies by implementing further policy actions within this area (H).

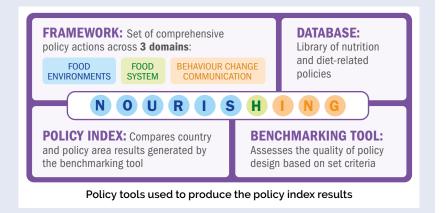
Overview of policy status	NO POLICIES IDENTIFIED	POOR	FAIR	MODERATE	GOOD	EXCELLENT	
Nutrition label standards and regulations on the use of claims and implied claims on food					FAIR		
Offer healthy food and set standards in public institutions and other specific settings					FAIR		
Use economic tools to add	Use economic tools to address food affordability and purchase incentives					NO POLICIES IDENTIFIED	
Restrict food advertising a	Restrict food advertising and other forms of commercial promotion					NO POLICIES IDENTIFIED	
Improve nutritional quality	Improve nutritional quality of the whole food supply					MODERATE	
Set incentives and rules to	Set incentives and rules to create a healthy retail and food service environment					NO POLICIES IDENTIFIED	
H Harness supply chain and	Harness supply chain and actions across sectors to ensure coherence with health					NO POLICIES IDENTIFIED	
Inform people about food and nutrition through public awareness				FAIR			
Nutrition advice and couns	Nutrition advice and counselling in healthcare settings				NO POLICIES IDENTIFIED		
G Give nutrition education a	Give nutrition education and skills					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 NOURISHING 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 41 benchmarks.

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



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

N	Nutrients on back of pack	
	Front of pack labels	X
	Warning labels	×
	Rules on nutrient claims	
	Rules on health claims	
	Food and drink available in schools, including restrictions on unhealthy foods	
0	Measures relating to sugar-sweetened beverage provision in schools	×
	Fruit and vegetables initiatives in schools	
	Food and drink available in immediate vicinity of schools	X
	Unhealthy food in out-of-education locations	× × ×
U	Health-related food taxes or tariffs	×
	Income related subsidies or initiatives to increase affordability and accessibility of healthy food	×
	Targeted subsidies or initiatives to increase affordability and accessibility of healthy food	×
	Marketing to young people through advertising	×
R	Direct marketing to young people	×
	Marketing through sponsorship to young people	×
	Marketing to young people through point of sale measures	×
	Marketing to young people through product placement and branding	×
	Marketing to young people through product design and packaging	×
	Marketing in/or around schools	X
	Limit or removal of specific nutrients in food products	

S	Planning restrictions regarding food service outlets around schools	×
	Planning restrictions on food service outlets	×
	Initiatives to increase the availability of healthier food in stores and food service outlets	×
H	Measures to support food producers to increase healthy food and decrease unhealthy food in the supply chain	×
	Measures to support food manufacturers to increase healthy food and decrease unhealthy food in the supply chain	×
	Measures to support food retailers to increase healthy food and decrease unhealthy food in the supply chain	×
	Governance structures for multi- sectoral/stakeholder engagement	×
	Nutrition standards for public procurement	
	Supporting urban agriculture in health and planning policies	X
	Community food production	X
	Development and communication of food-based dietary guidelines	×
	Public awareness, mass media and informational campaigns and social marketing on healthy eating	X
N	Nutrition advice and counselling in primary care	X
	Nutrition advice and counselling in school healthcare setting	×
G	Nutrition education in curricula	X
	Training for educators	
	Training for health professionals	×
	Cooking skills	×
	Training in schools in growing food	×
	Training for caterers	

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/nutrition-policy-index

[2] Policy database: policydatabase.wcrf.org





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