

# Two Crisis and the Opportunities To Reorient Health Care - in Austria

Peter Nowak

19. Mai 2021, BMC Kongress 2022, Forum B1 Tour d'horizon – Impulse aus dem Ausland, Berlin

Gesundheit Österreich  
GmbH ● ● ●



# Two global Crisis: Corona and Climate Change

**But how to deal with the complexity of these challenges?**

- Understand the epidemic as a complex system.
- Complex systems cannot be influenced by individual measures.
- Therefore, plan and implement prevention as a complex multiple intervention.

Thesepapier 8 - Die Pandemie durch SARS-CoV-2/CoViD-19. Schrappe et al. 29. Aug. 2021

vaccine doses administered

Editorial



Climate change must be a priority for public health



"There is a unique opportunity for aligning the global recovery from COVID-19 with the response to climate change to improve public health, create sustainable economies, and protect the planet." Lancet

ipcc

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change

2021

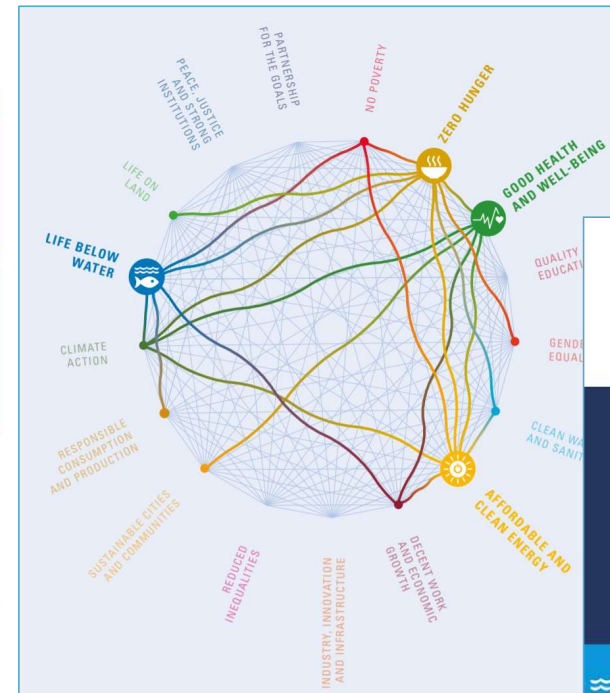
Working Group I Contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Working Group I Contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Working Group I contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**



-

# A individual Answer: Salutogenese - Confidence and Making Sense as the Basis of Health

What do people need to have confidence ("sense of coherence") in themselves and the world and thus to be healthy?

– **Comprehensibility** → understand yourself and your world

– **Meaningfulness** → experience life as meaningful

– **Manageability** → having the resources to cope with those demands

*“put it at its simplest, help one to see the world as '**making sense**', cognitively, instrumentally and emotionally”*

(Antonovsky 1996)



# What do we mean with re-orienting health care within this new reality of complex systems?

- **What do health systems "treat"?**  
bodies → psyche → whole persons → social relations → communities/regions → (marginalized) populations → ecosystems
- **What does health policy "manage"?**  
hospitals → primary care → health promotion → social equity → sustainability
- **Who controls? Who is involved?**  
policy/administration/experts → science → self-determined citizens → regional communities (population participation)

# Initiatives to orient the Austrian health care system

Establishment of **3 Competence Centers** by the Ministry of Health in the next 3 years:

## 1. Future Health Promotion:

- Foresight process Health Promotion 2050
- broad citizens participation
- targeted funding programs for burning issues (e.g. youth mental health)



Kompetenzzentrum  
**Zukunft  
Gesundheitsförderung**  
Agenda  
Gesundheitsförderung

## 2. Climate and Health:

- climate resilient health care system (adaption)
- health co-benefits (active mobility, nutrition,...)
- climate neutral health care system (mitigation)



Kompetenzzentrum  
**Klima und Gesundheit**  
Agenda  
Gesundheitsförderung

# Competence Center „Health Promotion and Health Care“



Kompetenzzentrum  
**Gesundheitsförderung  
und Gesundheitssystem**  
Agenda  
Gesundheitsförderung

Aim: **Include health promotion & health literacy** measures as a routine task of health care

- Develop **policies, regulations** and incentives for health care organizations
- Further develop the **“Austrian Health Literacy Alliance”**, e.g. model regions for health literacy (<https://oepgk.at/>)
- Analyze & develop **health promotion and health literacy skills** of health professionals, e.g. communication trainings
- Support for networks **health promoting hospitals**, primary care, nursing homes (<http://www.ongkg.at/>)
- Develop **Social prescribing**, violence protection, support for marginalized populations, citizens participation
- Develop & coordinating **good digital health information**, trainings

österreichische  
plattform  
gesundheits  
kompetenz 

  
ONGKG

 Social Prescribing