

# Action Plan on Women's Health in Austria. From reporting to action.

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14<sup>th</sup> EPH Conference 2021  
Virtual, Room N

Gesundheit Österreich  
GmbH 

# HERstory in (Data)-History

## The Background for the Action Plan

**1990s** Women were **systematically excluded** from clinical trials  
Substantial research deficits on sex differences and women's health in the field of health research

**1991** **WHO** Europe launchend "Investing in Women's Health" initiative

**1993** **Vienna Declaration** on Women's Health

- Trend-setting insights into women's health require
- looking at women's perspectives and needs
- challenges women face at different stages of life
- inequalities in education and income as well as social status

**1998** **Vienna Programme for Women's Health**

**1998** WHO issues a "gender challenge" in the World Health Report for a better appreciation of risk factors involving women's health

**2016** WHO Strategy on women's health and well-being in the WHO European Region



Foto: Representation Matters 2021

# Women´s Health Reports and Surveys in Austria

Year	Title	Format
2008/2009	Time use Survey	Survey
2009	Girls' and Women's Health Report Vorarlberg	Regional/local Report
2010/2011	<b>Austrian Women's Health Report</b>	National Report
2014	<b>8. Women's Scoreboard</b>	Survey (Online)
2018	Gender Health Report	National Report
2018	Gender Health Report Upper Austria	Regional/local Report

# How were findings translated into policy?

## The Development of the Action Plan

Initiated by the **Minister of Women's Affairs** in 2015

- commissioned by the **Ministries of Health and Women's Affairs**
- developed in a **multidimensional and systematic** process
- **intersectional and cross-political (HiAP)**
- by **4 expert working groups** (according to lifephases)
- by **50 interdisciplinary experts, 50 organizations**

Connected to the **WHO** objective of the **Strategy on women's health** and well-being in the WHO European Region (2016)

Along three **lifephases of women**

1) **Young Women**  
Education, relationships,  
"becoming a woman"

2) **Women of working age**  
Reproductive decisions,  
partner, employment, family  
care, menopause

3) **Older Women**  
Retirement, changing  
roles



## Aktionsplan Frauengesundheit

*40 Maßnahmen für die Gesundheit von Frauen in Österreich*

Quelle: Cover Aktionsplan Frauengesundheit, 2018

# Launching the Action Plan 17 Goals – 40 Measures

- **Presentation of the Action Plan on the 1<sup>st</sup> Women´s Health Dialogue** by the Austrian **Minister of Health** in May 2017
- **Cross-party approval** in the **Austrian National Assembly** in June 2017

# Three pillars as implementation structure

Focal Points

Implementation  
**key pillars**

1 coordinating  
link in each  
federal state

Focal Point  
Meetings

**Expert exchange**  
with input  
presentations on  
relevant topics

(e.g. contraception, FGM, mental health,  
...)

(2-3 annually)

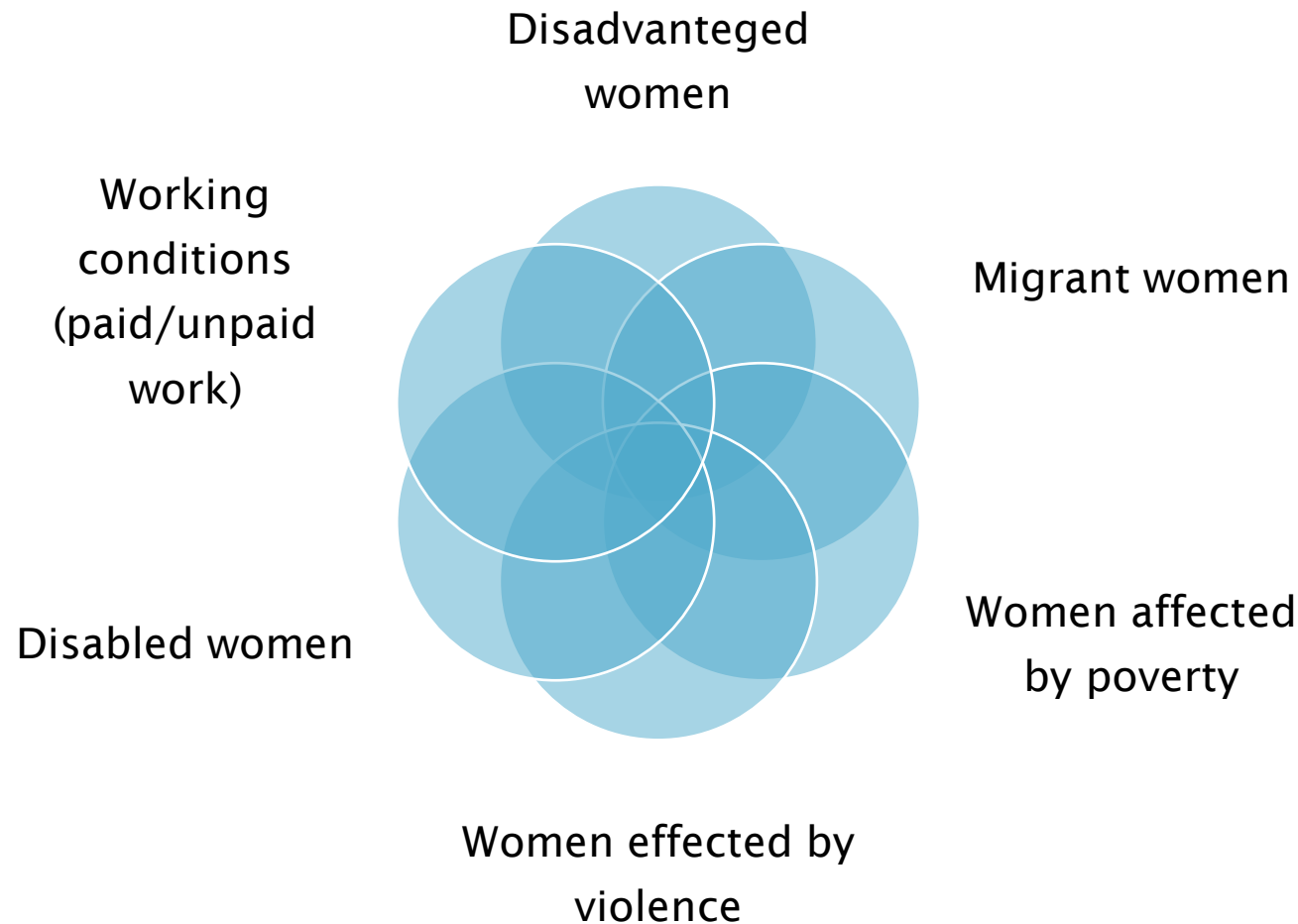
Women's Health  
Dialogue

**Intersectoral**  
conference,  
Austria-wide

(1 annually)

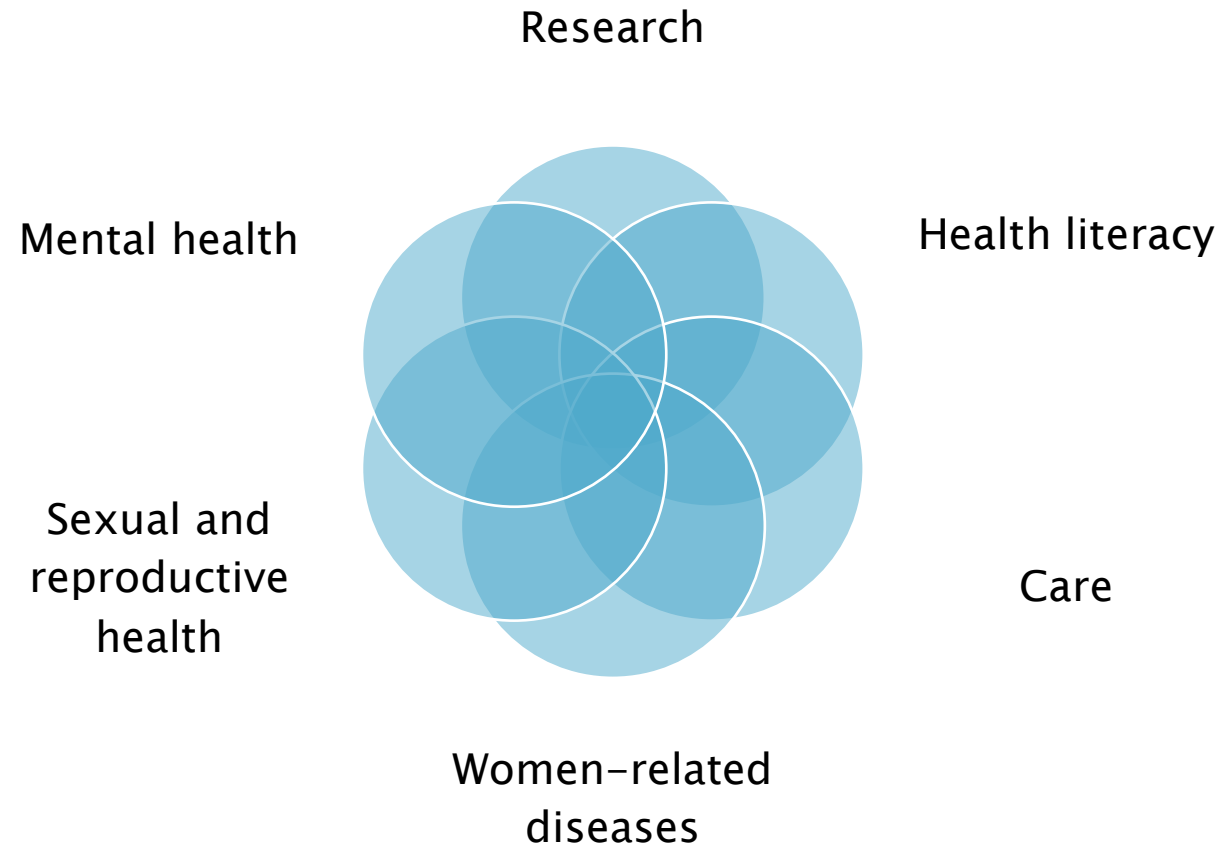
# Measures on socio-economic determinants

## Which groups of women are focused?



# Measures on Women's health

## Which topics are focused?



**Framing:** Socio-economic determinants of health

**Missing:** Digital health, KI-systems, E-health, etc.



# What has happened so far?

- Established **network structure** (experts from practice, policy and science, intersectional)
- October 2019 - **first status of implementation process** (according to the traffic light system)
  - implementations have progressed very differently
  - partly by topic, partly by age
- Forcing the **implementation** of the Action Plan ist part of the current Austrian **government programme**
- October 2021 – **second status of implementation process** (including impact of COVID-19-pandemic)
  - Progress in**
    - Promoting **health literacy**, Toolbox for **victim protection**
  - Little progress**
    - Measures for **girls**, measures for **older women**

# Data Situation in Austria

- **General Statistics**

- Routine data on labour market, demography, education, health, social statistics, living conditions

- **Administrative Data**

- Clinical data, diagnosis, inpatient stays, clinical care

- **Surveys**

- ATHIS (Austrian Health Survey)
- HBSC (Health behaviour in school aged children)
- ESPAD (European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs)
- EU-SILC (Statistics on Income and Living Conditions)
- HLS-EU (European Health-Literacy-Survey)

- **Missing Data**

- Detailed medical and health data of women
- Regional data
- Connectivity
- Gendered (not sex) data
- Diverse people
- Outpatient sector
- Vaccination statistics
- Children (esp. <11 years)

Eigene Darstellung, GÖG  
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General Statistics

Administrative Data

Surveys

Missing Data

# What´s Next

- **Reports and Surveys**

- In process: Time Use Survey, Statistics Austria  
Expected publication, Spring 2023 (period 10/2021-10/2022)
- A women´s health report is part of the current Austrian government programme

- **Forcing provided information and data**

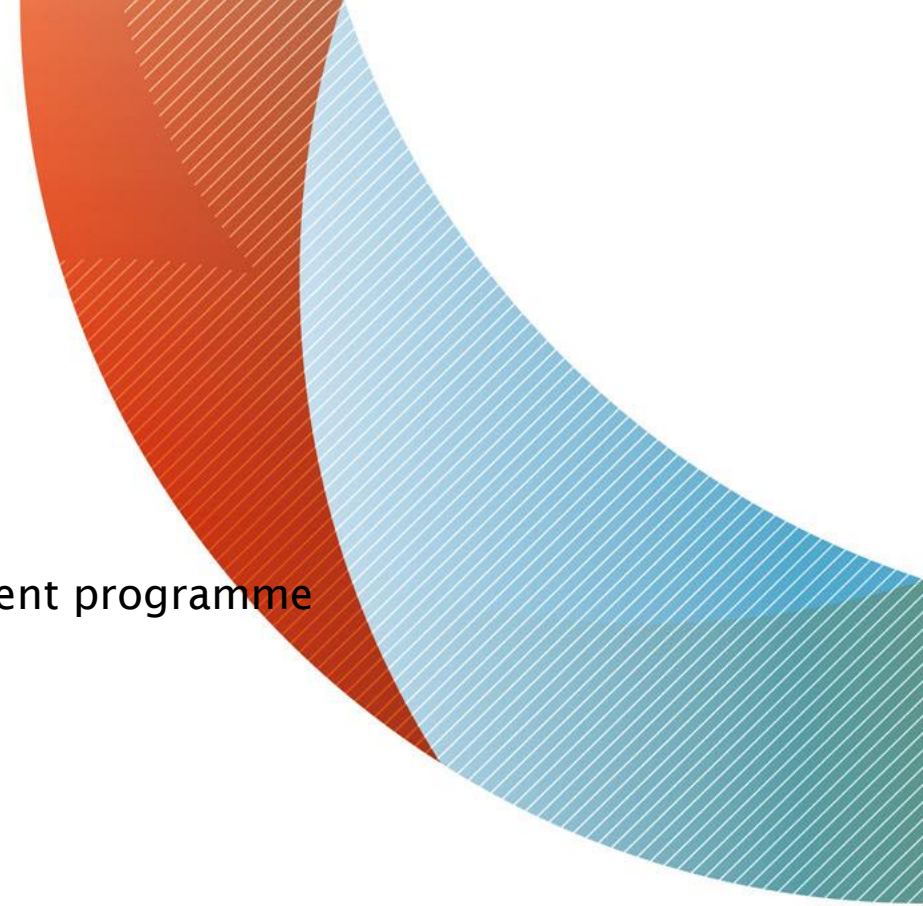
- **Networks and Cooperations**

- National and international on Women´s and Gender Health

- **Implementation of measures**

- **Updating the Action Plan on current issues (COVID-19 effects, digital health)**

- **Discussing delimitations on Women, Gender and LGBTIQ for reports and actions**



# Thank you for your attention!

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