

Impact factsheet Austria

From ratification to the end of the baseline evaluation procedure under the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

2013 Ratification

Ratification of the Istanbul Convention by Austria on 14 November 2013.

2017 Baseline evaluation report by GREVIO

Findings made by GREVIO on the level of implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Austria, including on the need for more comprehensive and co-ordinated policies on all forms of violence against women, data collection, greater prevention and awareness raising, the need for more specialist support services for victims and effective criminal justice responses to domestic violence and stalking. Assessment made on the basis of the Austrian Government's state report, non-governmental organisation (NGOs) shadow reporting and an evaluation visit.

2017 Comments from the Austrian Government

Comments from the authorities on GREVIO's assessment.



Ratification by Austria, 14 November 2013

2018 Recommendations of the Committee of the Parties

Adoption of eleven recommendations based on GREVIO's findings for further action regarding comprehensive and co-ordinated policies that address all forms of violence against women, financial resources, the national co-ordinating body, data collection, specialist support services for domestic and sexual violence, and amendments to the criminal procedure regarding the use of diversion in cases of domestic violence and stalking.

2021 Government reporting on progress made

Information on progress made in Austria between 2018 and 2021 in relation to the recommendations received.

More information on Austria's ongoing progress in implementing the Istanbul Convention is available at coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/austria

2021 Committee of the Parties' conclusions

Adoption of conclusions on the implementation of the Committee's recommendations, confirming progress made regarding comprehensive policymaking, notably through the introduction of the Violence Protection Act mandating risk management and mandatory counselling for perpetrators of domestic violence, the increase in funding, the training of professionals and the introduction of sexual violence support services in all nine provinces. Further measures encouraged in relation to data collection, greater institutionalisation of the national co-ordinating body, the introduction of longer-term strategic policy documents and a more even distribution of support services for victims.

2023 Final implementation report from the Austrian Government

Report detailing the measures taken in response to the conclusions, especially regarding comprehensive and co-ordinated policies, the national co-ordinating body, data collection and specialist support services.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS



Over the course of the baseline evaluation procedure, the legal and policy framework in Austria was enhanced with the adoption of the **Violence Protection Act** in 2019, reinforcing the protection from and prosecution of acts of domestic violence and other forms of violence against women, and the **Federal Act to Combat Hate Crime** in 2021. Hence, specific criminal offences covering female genital mutilation and unauthorised visual recordings ("upskirting") were introduced, psychosocial and legal assistance to victims of online hate speech extended, and the system of protection orders amended to offer more comprehensive protection to victims, including online, among other legislative changes. In addition, mandatory 6-hour counselling was introduced for perpetrators of domestic violence after eviction from the family home.



The **financial resources** allocated to violence against women policies and services were enhanced, notably by increasing the funding for the national co-ordinating body and for a range of specialist support services for victims.



Specialist counselling services for victims of sexual violence were created in all nine provinces of the country.



Training to key groups was stepped up, including law enforcement officers, judges, public prosecutors and professionals providing psycho-social court assistance in family law proceedings and supervised visitation.