



Werner Holzer
Director General-Statistics

Alexandra Wegscheider-Pichler
Directorate Social Statistics

New York
March 4th 2020

National VNR and Role of Statistics Austria

UNSC Side-Event on Data and Statistics
for Evidence-Based VNRs

- Effective monitoring is necessary to measure progress towards the SDGs
- As the UN Handbook for the preparation of VNRs states:
„Access to high quality, up-to-date, and disaggregated data is vital for the VNR”
- UN Handbook recommendation: Implementation of data in the VNR via Statistical Annex
- Austria goes further: separate data chapter on progress in SDGs based on the national SDG-indicators report

- March 2020: first national SDG-indicators report
- Main Chapter deals with the 17 goals → part is included in the VNR chapter on goals and progress
- Much coordination work and discussions were necessary
- Differences between the statistical and the political language
- Statistical independence regarding data selection and presentation
- Main Opportunity: improving the VNR through an independent, statistically sound and reliable database

- Indicator set is in the responsibility of the NSO
- Statistical coordination structures are in place: statistical system is highly centralized, close contact between NSO, other national data owners (like Environmental Agency, ODA) and data users
- Interministerial working group (IMAG) for coordination of political process and VNR
- Broad discussion process regarding choice of indicators – leads to high acceptance of the SDG-indicators set

- Close cooperation of all data owners is necessary to find suitable existing data
- Focus at regional and international level (e.g. Eurostat) is necessary to fill in gaps
- Thinking outside the box: future set could include data from Citizen science

- Statistics Austria was involved in the VNR-process from the beginning
- Part of the statistical SDG-indicators report is incorporated into the Austrian VNR progress chapter
- Therefore close cooperation between policy makers and statistical office was needed
- Statistical independence was a concern for the statistical AND political partner – therefore Statistics Austria was invited to actively contribute to the VNR and not only submit a statistical annex
- Challenge: from statistical language to political language:
Risk of poverty decreased by 0.4 percentage points versus Austria was able to reduce poverty

- Some disaggregated data is available BUT
- the national SDG-Indicator set contains little disaggregated data
- this is due to lack of resources
- The biggest discussion was on gender – here some disaggregated indicators were included

- Can stimulate the closing of data gaps (Eurostat – TUS)
- Can give practical guidelines for implementation (UNECE Road map on statistics for SDGs)
- Can enhance statistical and policy cooperation (e.g. UNSC/UNIDO Workshop on Data and Statistics for Evidence-based VNRs in Vienna)
- Can motivate politicians to make progress towards the SDGs (NGOs like SDG-Watch Austria)

- VNR Chapter Progress on SDGs with
 - Box with Key Messages
 - Trend assessment (according to Eurostat)
 - Infographic
 - Interpretation and Graphics

*Please address queries to:
Alexandra Wegscheider-Pichler*

*Contact information:
Guglgasse 13, 1110 Vienna
phone: +43 (1) 71128-7838
Alexandra.wegscheider-
pichler@statistik.gv.at*

National VNR and Role of Statistics Austria