

**DIRECTORATE FOR FINANCIAL AND ENTERPRISE AFFAIRS
INVESTMENT COMMITTEE**

Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct

AUSTRIA

NATIONAL CONTACT POINT FOR THE MNE GUIDELINES

2016 REPORT TO THE OECD

The complete document is available in pdf format only

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OECD GUIDELINES FOR MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES

AUSTRIAN NCP

REPORT TO THE OECD

2015

COMMON FRAMEWORK FOR ANNUAL REPORTING BY NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS TO THE OECD GUIDELINES FOR MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES

June 2014-December 2015¹

The role of National Contact Points is to further the effectiveness of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (the Guidelines) by undertaking promotional activities, handling enquiries and contributing to the resolution of issues that arise from the alleged non-observance of the Guidelines in specific instances by individual companies. NCPs will operate in accordance with core criteria of visibility, accessibility, transparency and accountability to further the objective of functional equivalence.

National Contact Points must regularly report to the OECD Investment Committee on the nature and results of their activities to further the effectiveness of the Guidelines including implementation activities in specific instances.

This Common Reporting Framework, based on the Implementation Procedures of the Guidelines, assists NCPs in the preparation of these reports. The information provided by NCPs is the basis for the Annual Report to the OECD Council on the Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. It is also used to produce Annual reports of individual NCPs (NCP Annual reports).

¹ Until 2014, the reporting period for NCPs covered activities undertaken from June to June. From 2015 the reporting period will cover the period from January to December of each year. For practical reasons, the 2015 reporting period will also cover activities between June and December 2014.

COMMON REPORTING FRAMEWORK

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A. NCP contact information

- Contact name: Dr. Beate STERNIG, Director, Head of the Austrian NCP
- Address:
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- Website or webpage: www.oecd-leitsaetze.at
- Email: NCP-Austria@bmfwf.gv.at
- Telephone: +43 711005240 / 5050

B. Institutional arrangements

Adhering governments have flexibility in organising their NCPs as long as the institutional arrangements meet the objective of functional equivalence and help further the effectiveness of the Guidelines. NCPs have to seek the active support of social partners, including the business community, worker organisations, NGOs and other interested parties as relevant.

1. In which governmental agency (ministry) is the NCP located?

Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy, Directorate-General for External Trade Policy and European Integration
2. In the case of independent NCPs, how has the NCPs been set up? N/A
3. Does the NCP include representatives from:
 - Government agencies: No
 - Non-governmental bodies. Yes/No. If yes, please specify which:
 - business
 - trade unions
 - civil society
 - other
4. What are the main considerations that have determined the current structure of the NCP? (check all that apply).
 - Increase the relevance of the Guidelines to the ministries/government bodies involved ✓
 - Ensure the independence of the NCP vis-à-vis the government
 - Ensure accessibility of the NCP to stakeholders ✓

- Involve relevant stakeholders in the NCP
- Other

5. Does the NCP have an advisory body? Please indicate composition and functions.

Yes

The NCP Steering Committee ("Lenkungsausschuss") is chaired by a senior official of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy and includes representatives of the Federal Chancellery, the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, the Federal Ministry of Finance, the Austrian Federal Chamber of Labour, the Austrian Trade Union Federation, the Federation of Austrian Industries, the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, the Austrian Chamber of Agriculture an Austrian-based member organization of OECD-Watch as well as one external expert in the field of extrajudicial dispute resolution.

The Steering Committee meets at least twice a year for discussion and consultation with the NCP on related recent OECD developments, on-going specific instances and activities set by the NCP for the national promotion of the Guidelines.

The terms of reference of the Steering Committee include: a. Consulting the Austrian NCP in all matters regarding the implementation of the Guidelines; b. Supporting the Austrian NCP in the implementation of the pro-active agenda; c. Participation in the preparation of the Annual Report of the Austrian NCP to the OECD Investment Committee; d. Promotion of a broad dialogue on the Guidelines with stakeholders; e. Proposals for the further development of the Austrian NCP; f. Suggestion to refer a matter to the OECD Investment Committee in case of doubts regarding the interpretation of the Guidelines; g. Evaluation of the activities of the Austrian NCP, in particular with regard to the compliance with the Terms of Reference and the implementation of the key criteria pursuant to Item I of the Procedural Guidance of the Guidelines as well as the compliance with the latter.

6. Does the NCP have an oversight body? Please indicate composition and functions.

Yes

The NCP Steering Committee ("Lenkungsausschuss") is not only an advisory body but also an oversight body because according to its Terms of Reference it has to evaluate the activities of the Austrian NCP, in particular with regard to the compliance with the Terms of Reference and the implementation of the key criteria pursuant to Item I of the Procedural Guidance of the Guidelines as well as the compliance with the latter.

Regarding the composition of the NCP Steering Committee see the answer to question 5.

7. Please provide any other information on how its structure enables the NCP to operate in accordance with the core criteria of visibility, accessibility, transparency and accountability.

The decision for the structure of the Austrian NCP was taken after an in-depth debate in which some stakeholders expressed a preference for an independent NCP: The Austrian NCP is an official unit (visibility) within the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy since March 1st 2012. All laws and regulations providing for the impartiality, accountability and liability of members of the Austrian civil service apply. Additionally, the NCP Steering Committee ("Lenkungsausschuss") provides an adequate infrastructure for oversight and stakeholder involvement.

The NCP Steering Committee ("Lenkungsausschuss") in its function as an oversight body evaluates the activities of the Austrian NCP, in particular with regard to the compliance with the Terms of Reference and the implementation of the core criteria visibility, accessibility, transparency and accountability.

8. How is the NCP funded? (check all that apply)
- government budget ✓
 - other (please specify)
9. Does the NCP have dedicated staff? Yes
- How many full time staff members? 1
 - How many part time staff members? 0
 - No dedicated staff members
10. Are the financial and human resources provided to the NCP sufficient for the NCP to carry out its mandate? Yes
11. What challenges does the NCP face in fulfilling its mandate? (check all that apply)
- Lack of financial resources
 - Lack of capacity
 - Lack of support from the government
 - Difficulties in engaging the business community, worker organisations, other non-governmental organisations, other interested parties.
 - Other
12. Please explain these challenges, and elaborate on additional elements that would be needed for the NCP to fulfil its mandate and functions.

The Austrian NCP, as an official unit of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy is sufficiently equipped with financial and personal resources. The NCP is offering regularly

activities and meetings to improve the exchange of expertise with other governmental agencies and relevant stakeholders, i.e. business community and civil society.

13. Does the NCP report to the government on its activities? Yes/No. If yes: Yes

- Through regular meetings
- Through established reporting channels ✓
- In an ad hoc manner
- Other ✓ (Steering Committee)

14. Please specify to whom the NCP reports (ex. Parliament, governmental body, etc.)

The Austrian NCP reports to its superiors within the hierarchy of the Ministry regularly and to the NCP Steering Committee ("Lenkungsausschuss") at least twice a year. The NCP Steering Committee itself includes besides the chairperson from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy representatives from other Federal Ministries such as: Federal Chancellery, Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, Federal Ministry of Finance.

15. Does the NCP coordinate with other domestic government bodies or representatives with regard to activities on responsible business conduct? Yes/No. If yes, please elaborate

The Austrian NCP is in close contact with the department of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy which is responsible for RBC issues.

C. Information and Promotion

16. Does the NCP have a dedicated website or dedicated webpages? If yes, please provide link.

www.oecd-leitsaetze.at

17. Are the Guidelines available online? Yes/No Yes, also in German version.

18. Are the Guidelines available in print? Yes/No Yes, a copy can be obtained from the Austrian NCP.

19. Is the NCPs Annual Report available online or in print? Yes/No Yes

20. Does the NCP have a promotional plan on the Guidelines? If yes, please provide details. Yes

The Austrian NCP had a cooperation contract with an NGO for the period from 1 November 2014 till 31 October 2015 in order to promote the Guidelines, to leverage the work done and getting companies informed and involved.

As part of this cooperation the Austrian NCP and its partner organised a number of seminars, workshops, etc. presenting various aspects of the Guidelines, such as human rights, due diligence in the financial sector or combating bribery. In particular the following events were organised: a) Workshop: "Responsible Supply Chain Management" (December 2014), b) Business Breakfast: "Responsible Finance – Due Diligence in the financial sector" (March 2015), c) Business Lunch: "Human Rights in corporate context" (April 2015), d) Webinar: „Combating Bribery“ (June 2015).

In March 2015 the Austrian NCP organized a mediation workshop in cooperation with the OECD, international experts and the Consensus Building Institute with the aim to create a better understanding of the practice of mediation in the NCP context, offer peer-to-peer knowledge sharing and explore improvements to NCPs' key processes. In the run-up to the workshop the NCP organised a high-ranking information event for companies, stakeholders and NCPs with an expert panel discussion about the revised Guidelines and mediation in corporate praxis.

As part of this cooperation the Austrian NCP and its partner published several newsletters and a new brochure which provides practical instructions for responsible supply chain management of small and medium sized enterprises for their supply chain.

For the time period from 1 November 2015 till 31 October 2016 a new cooperation contract with an NGO was concluded in order to promote and communicate the Guidelines.

The new promotion plan focuses a) on a new communication and information strategy for the Guidelines and the Austrian NCP including media cooperations and a review of the NCP-website and b) on activities presenting and discussing current developments on RBC.

The Austrian NCP plans to create a communication basis (corporate wording and corporate design), which could be used for different applications, like invitations, brochures, letters, press releases and other activities.

A new folder on the Guidelines and the tasks of the Austrian NCP should – in addition to the brochure of the OECD – give a good overview of the content of the Guidelines and the responsibilities of the NCPs.

A new annual report on the activities of the Austrian NCP and an information document summarizing the complaint and mediation procedures before the Austrian NCP will increase the transparency of the actions and the proceedings before the Austrian NCP.

The Austrian NCP will organize an event in order to offer companies information and new perspectives in dealing with the Guidelines and thus increase the awareness of Austrian companies for risks and give possible solutions. The event will provide a framework for better positioning of the Austrian NCP and give participants insight into the complaint and mediation procedures of the Austrian NCP. This event is designed for 70 to 100 participants and is expected to take place in June 2016.

Two focused expert discussions in the form of a business breakfast will be carried out in cooperation with other leading institutions for CSR and SD in order to utilize synergies and to reach more businesses. These expert discussions are designed for 20 to 30 people with the aim to provide participants the opportunity to exchange their views on a sector- or subject-specific topic of the Guidelines.

In addition to that the Austrian NCP provides, whenever requested, information on the Guidelines and the NCP-System. Several bilateral meetings between the Austrian NCP and relevant stakeholders and companies were held in 2015 and will be continued in 2016.

21. Has the NCP implemented the actions identified in the promotional plan? Why or why not?

The Austrian NCP carried out a survey on the awareness level of the Guidelines. The result shows that there is still a need of information and know-how, especially with exporting SMEs, about the OECD-Guidelines-framework. Therefore, a new innovative communication concept will be set up within 2015/2016 to make basic information about the Guidelines easily accessible.

22. How does the NCP inform investors about the Guidelines and their implementation? Through (check all that apply):

- Embassies ✓
- Export credits agency ✓
- Overseas investment guarantee body ✓
- Investment promotion agencies
- Other (please specify)

23. Has the NCP done any studies to assess awareness of enterprises on the Guidelines and the NCP? If yes, through:

- Survey(s) ✓
- Regular meetings
- Other

24. What were the results of these studies/surveys?

15,8% of the companies have knowledge about the Guidelines and use it in their daily business. About 43,6% of the companies have knowledge about the Guidelines but do not use it. 14,9 % of the companies have already heard about them and about 25,7% do not know the Guidelines.

25. Has the NCP organised any events to promote the Guidelines and their implementation procedure?
Yes

An overview of the Guidelines, including its specific field-related recommendations, was given at every single of the following activities:

- Half-day Workshop on "Responsible Supply Chain Management"
December 2nd 2014, Vienna
Structure and Outcome: Around 25 participants out of the banking-, real estate-, industrial-, and logistics sector as well as representatives of other relevant stakeholder groups; Discussion on transparency and cooperation measures within (transnational) supply chains; Good-practice input by two Austrian companies.
- Evening-event "Pathway to Mutual Benefits"
March 2nd 2015, Vienna
Structure and Outcome: Around 70 CSR managers and representatives from other stakeholder groups participated in the event; Discussion on mediation and dispute resolution out of corporate perspectives and the impact of the Guidelines in practice.
- Two-day Mediation Workshop for NCPs "Creating Shared Knowledge on mediation and Crucial Processes for NCPs"
March 2nd+3rd 2015, Vienna
Structure and Outcome: Around 2 dozen professionals from 18 NCPs participated in this exclusive NCP-workshop. The workshop sought to create a better understanding of the practice of mediation in the NCP context, offer peer-to-peer knowledge sharing and explore improvements to NCPs' key processes.
- Branches-Breakfast "Responsible Finance - Due Diligence in the financial sector"
March 20th 2015, Vienna
Structure and Outcome: Around 25 participants (executive level) out of the banking- and insurance-sector as well as individual financial-sector-experts; Discussion on responsible financing and the challenge of due diligence measures with financial transactions.
- Business Lunch "Human Rights in corporate context"
April 14th 2015, Vienna
Structure and Outcome: Around 30 participants out of the telecommunication-, banking-, industries- and public-sector; Discussion on human rights within corporate activities, especially along/within the supply chain.
- Webinar "Combating Bribery"
June 16th 2015
Structure and Outcome: Around 25 participants out of the banking-, food-, oil/gas-, electronics- and cosmetics-sector; Web-based lecture; Experts-inputs; Guidance on how to proactively avoid bribery in transnational corporate activities.

26. Did the NCP participate in any event organised by stakeholders or other entities to promote the Guidelines and their implementation procedures?

- **Workshop on "OECD NCPs work with the ICT-Sector"**

July 10th, 2015, London

Organised by the UK NCP and the Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB)

Structure and Outcome: Around 25 participants, mostly representatives of NCPs and academia as well as civil society; The workshop covered key developments relevant for companies and NCPs to consider in thinking about the responsibility of MNEs in the ICT sector, in particular latest domestic and international cases, reports and standard setting. Good-practice and expertise by the WPRBC, U.S. Department of State, BAE Systems, Article 19, UK NCP, German NCP, OECD Watch, IHRB.

- **Conference on "Responsible Business Conduct and the OECD Guidelines for MNEs"**

October 8th+9th 2015, Budapest

Organised by the Hungarian NCP

Structure and Outcome: Wide range discussion on OECD Guidelines and NCP-relevant issues; excellent opportunity for informal experience- and information-sharing.

27. Does the NCP cooperate with OECD partner organisations and/or other leading organisations working on responsible business conduct? Please check all that apply and provide further details on the nature of the cooperation.

- ILO
- UN Global Compact and its local networks ✓
- UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights
- National Institution for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights
- Global Reporting Initiative
- ISO

Other, please provide details. ✓ World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

28. Did the NCP receive enquiries about the Guidelines and the NCP? From (check all that apply):

- Business ✓ 2
- Labour organisations
- Non-governmental organisations ✓
- Government agencies

- Other government (e.g. via embassies)
- Other (individuals, press, academia) ✓ 3

29. If available please provide web statistics regarding your NCP's website:

- How many visitors did the website(s) receive in the reporting period? Not available
- How many downloads of materials on the NCP website (e.g. the Guidelines, brochures, other materials) occurred during the reporting period? Not available

D. Specific instances

According to the Procedural Guidance, NCPs are expected to contribute to the resolution of issues that arise relating to the implementation of the Guidelines in specific instances in a manner that is impartial, predictable, equitable and compatible with the principles and standards of the Guidelines.

30. What are the NCP's procedures for handling specific instances? Please attach the procedures

Procedures for handling specific instances - Austrian NCP (see Chapter 3, ToR Austrian NCP, available at www.oecd-leitsaetze.at)

3. Specific Instances

3.1.) In the event of a specific instance being submitted to the Austrian NCP due to purported violations of the Guidelines, it shall be handled in accordance with the Procedural Guidance of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

3.2.) The referral to the Austrian NCP is informal and free of charge. Correspondence shall basically be carried out by e-mail. The e-mail address of the Austrian NCP is: NCP-Austria@bmwfw.gv.at.

3.3.) Correspondence shall take place in German; in case of convenience, the official OECD languages English or French are also admissible.

3.4.) The Austrian NCP shall immediately confirm to the complainant the receipt of his/her notification and also inform the Steering Committee hereof.

3.5.) Upon receipt of a notification, the completeness of the latter shall be verified by the Austrian NCP. In doing so, the Austrian NCP can issue an order to amend. The notification is complete if the following information and data are stated in the notification:

- a. Name, address, an e-mail address and telephone number, if necessary, of the notifier;
- b. Name, address, an e-mail address and phone number, if necessary, of the respondent;

c. Designation of the determination of the Guidelines, the violation of which is alleged;

d. Statement of, in particular, the facts, through which the provision of the Guidelines referred to has been violated;

e. In case a responsibility of the respondent is alleged within the scope of the supply chain, also data regarding the respondent's relationship to the company having violated the provisions of the Guidelines designated.

3.6.) The Austrian NCP is responsible for specific instances against companies headquartered in Austria. Specific instances of which there is no such competence can still be considered by the Austrian NCP, provided that the notification is complete and bears sufficient relation to Austria. Furthermore, also if there is another relevant interest in the handling of the specific instance or if its handling cannot be otherwise guaranteed.

3.7.) In case the Austrian NCP does not consider itself competent, the complainant shall be immediately informed hereof. Should, however, the Austrian NCP come to the conclusion that the competence of another National Contact Point is to be assumed where applicable, this shall, following a possible contacting of a foreign NCP presumably competent in the opinion of the Austrian NCP, be communicated to the complainant.

3.8.) In the case of an admissible notification, the Austrian NCP carries out a first evaluation on whether the question raised justifies a closer revision. The complainant shall immediately be informed on this result of the first evaluation which shall be appropriately founded, however at the latest within six weeks upon receipt of the notification. The issue of an order for amendment addressed to the complainant by the Austrian NCP interrupts this term until the presentation of the improved notification.

3.9.) The Austrian NCP shall not be entitled to reject the handling of a specific instance solely because parallel proceedings have been conducted, are under way or are available to the parties concerned. Furthermore, it has no right to interrupt an already pending case for this sole reason, unless this is the mutual desire of all parties involved.

3.10.) In case the Austrian NCP upon the first evaluation decides to initiate a closer revision of the specific instance, it shall forward – provided that this has not been done yet – the notification to the respondent asking for statement. The Austrian NCP endeavours to convince the parties to participate in good faith during the procedure.

3.11.) The costs of the proceedings shall be basically borne by the contracting parties.

3.12.) The Austrian NCP shall consider the contribution to a mutual proceeding carried out by the parties in specific instances to be its central task. The Austrian NCP is no quasi-judicial body. Furthermore, the NCP does not have any administrative power of command or power of enforcement.

3.13.) The authentication of their statements resides with the parties. The Austrian NCP, however, endeavours, according to its recourses, to contribute to the clarification of the facts. For this purpose, it

can, if necessary, make use of the Austrian representation authorities abroad. The referral shall be effected via the Federal Ministry of Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs.

3.14.) The Austrian NCP strives for closing the proceedings with a joint statement by the contracting parties. In the event that it cannot be reached despite all endeavours, the Austrian NCP reserves the right to issue a unilateral statement. Such a declaration can contain estimations and recommendations.

Where applicable please elaborate or note an absence of NCP procedures regarding:

- Requirements on submitting a complaint in a specific instance

The complaint is seen as complete if the following information and data are stated in the notification:

- a. Name, address, an e-mail address and telephone number, if necessary, of the notifier;
- b. Name, address, an e-mail address and phone number, if necessary, of the respondent;
- c. Designation of the determination of the Guidelines, the violation of which is alleged;
- d. Statement of, in particular, the facts, through which the provision of the Guidelines referred to has been violated;
- e. In case a responsibility of the respondent is alleged within the scope of the supply chain, also data regarding the respondent's relationship to the company having violated the provisions of the Guidelines designated.

- Standing requirements for participating in a specific instance (e.g. rules around who is allowed to bring complaints to an NCP mechanism, who is allowed to participate in mediation).

Any natural or legal person with an entitled interest is allowed to bring complaints to the NCP mechanism. The designation of a concrete person, acting on behalf of the complainant/group of complainants and the respondent has to be defined at the very beginning of the proceeding.

- Confidentiality provisions

As provided in the Procedural Guidance, confidentiality shall be observed during the entire duration of the proceeding. The Austrian NCP takes the necessary measures for the protection of sensitive data and information. Sensitive data and information as well as trade and business secrets shall also be maintained upon termination of the proceeding.

- Indicative timeframes for the different steps of the procedure

In the case of an admissible notification, the Austrian NCP carries out a first evaluation on whether the question raised justifies a closer revision. The complainant shall immediately be informed on this result of the first evaluation which shall be appropriately founded, however at the latest within six weeks upon receipt of the notification. This process is followed by written consultations/exchange by the parties, coordinated and observed by the NCP. If the parties agree on setting up mediation meetings, the Austrian NCP offers its good office. A final/common statement should be reached, in the best case, within 12 months after the complaint was accepted by the NCP. However, if a potential positive outcome i.e. a common agreement between the parties

is only reachable within a longer timeframe, the Austrian NCP is willing to extend the offer of its good office as long as needed.

- Existence of a statute of limitations

-

- Publication and availability online of initial assessments

The Austrian NCP has so far not published the result of its initial assessments/first evaluation.

31. How many new specific instance(s) did the NCP receive in the reporting period? 1

32. What are the main challenges the NCP encountered in handling specific instances during the reporting period? (check all that apply).

- Parallel legal proceedings
- Parallel public campaigning by complainant ✓
- Unrealistic expectations regarding possible outcomes ✓
- Unwillingness of the company to engage
- Unwillingness of the complainant(s) to engage
- Other (please elaborate)
- No specific instances

E. Proactive Agenda

In accordance with the Investment Committee's proactive agenda, NCPs should maintain regular contact, including meetings, with social partners and other stakeholders in order to: a) consider new developments and emerging practices concerning responsible business conduct; b) support the positive contributions enterprises can make to identify and respond to risks of adverse impacts associated with particular products, regions, sectors or industries.

33. Does the NCP engage in any of the multi-stakeholder advisory groups under the proactive agenda?

- Responsible Mineral Supply Chains? Yes/No. Please specify. No
- Stakeholder Engagement in the Extractive Industries? Yes/No. Please specify. No
- Responsible Business Conduct in the Financial Sector? Yes/No. Please specify. No
- Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains? Yes/No. Please specify. No

- Responsible Supply Chains in the Textile and Garment Sector? Yes/No. Please specify. No

34. How does the NCP use and rely on guidance developed as part of the proactive agenda projects mentioned above? (check all that apply).

- Promotion and awareness raising activities ✓
- Dealing with specific instances
- Handling enquiries
- Developing guidance at the national level ✓
- Other

F. Co-operation and peer learning

In addition to contributing to the Committee's work to enhance the effectiveness of the Guidelines, NCPs are encouraged to cooperate and engage in horizontal, thematic peer reviews and voluntary peer evaluations. Cooperation and experience sharing can be carried out through meetings at the OECD or hosted by a government and can include mentoring and coaching, direct co-operation between individual NCP on specific issues, etc.

35. How did the NCP engage in co-operation and experience sharing with other NCPs during the reporting period? Check all that apply:

- Horizontal learning activities ✓
- Co-hosting events ✓
- Co-operation in handling specific instances ✓
- Mentoring/capacity building events ✓
- Other
- No co-operation

36. Did the NCP encounter any difficulties in co-operating with other NCPs? If yes, please elaborate. No

37. Is the NCP interested in volunteering for a peer evaluation? Yes/No. Please indicate semester/year.

The Austrian NCP has been confronted just with a few specific instances (till the 2011 update only two complaints were submitted to the Austrian NCP, one of them still pending and the other one withdrawn). Therefore we would like to propose undergoing a peer review not before 2017, depending on our experience and number of specific instances till 2017. In any case it would be useful taking part in a peer review team before as "observer".

38. Is the NCP interested in being part of a peer review team? Yes/No. – Please indicate semester/year.
Yes, 2016.

39. Please provide suggestions for themes of future horizontal learning exercises.

Energy- / Mineral- / ICT-Sector

40. Is the NCP interested in hosting an NCP learning/experience-sharing event? Please indicate semester/year.

The Austrian NCP hosted a workshop on Mediation in March 2015 (see TOP 25).

G. Impact and future work

41. Have there been any measurable impacts of the Guidelines and/or the efforts of the NCP in the past implementation cycle? For example:

- Have the Guidelines been referred to in national legislation (e.g. on non-financial reporting, export credits regulation etc.)? No.

But the OeKB, Austrian Export Credit Agency, has a reference to the OECD Guidelines in their application forms for export guarantees.

- Do any domestic industry standards refer to the Guidelines? No
- Other?

42. What are the new emerging challenges for enterprises identified by NCPs, notably in developing and emerging economies and sectors?

Energy Sector including responsible sourcing of minerals; Garment Sector; ICT-Sector; working conditions in value chains.

43. How has the NCP helped enterprises address these challenges?

By proactively providing information and expertise on recent OECD- and EU-developments in the relevant fields; by hosting activities and publically discussing existing and upcoming challenges; by offering its good office in general.

44. What issues might deserve particular attention during the 2016 implementation cycle of the Guidelines? For example:

- Areas for which additional proactive agenda projects would be valuable

ICT

- Areas where additional research or analytical support would be helpful

-
- Areas which would benefit from additional policy dialogue
-
- Other: Business and Human Rights; OECD Guidelines and SDGs; Global Supply Chains.