25 July 2025

Positive preliminary assessment of the satisfactory fulfilment of milestones and targets related to the second payment request submitted by Austria on 30 September 2024, transmitted to the Economic and Financial Committee by the European Commission

Executive summary

In accordance with Article 24(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, on 30 September 2024, Austria submitted a request for payment for the second and third instalments of the non-repayable support. The payment request was accompanied by the required management declaration and summary of audits.

To support its payment request, Austria provided due justification of the satisfactory fulfilment of the 67 milestones and targets of the second and third instalments of the non-repayable support, as set out in Section 2.3 of the Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Austria[1].

For 7 targets covering a large number of recipients, in addition to the summary documents and official listings provided by Austria, the Commission services have assessed a statistically significant sample of individual files. The sample size has been uniformly set at 60 which corresponds to a confidence level of 95% or above in all cases.

In its payment request, Austria has confirmed that measures related to previously satisfactorily fulfilled milestones and targets have not been reversed. The Commission does not have evidence of the contrary. Upon receipt of the payment request, the Commission has assessed on a preliminary basis the satisfactory fulfilment of the relevant milestones and targets. Based on the information provided by Austria, the Commission has made a positive preliminary assessment of the satisfactory fulfilment of all 67 milestones and targets.

The milestones and targets positively assessed as part of this payment request demonstrate significant steps in the implementation of Austria's Recovery and Resilience Plan. They notably highlight the continuation of the reform momentum in key policy areas. This includes, among others, the eco-social tax reform, accelerating permitting for renewable energy sources, reforms to facilitate business start-ups and transfers, as well as reforms that support investment initiatives in the area of healthcare, circular economy and the phase-out of fossil-fuel heating system. The milestones and targets also confirm progress towards the completion of investment projects related to improving connectivity through the roll-out of broadband connections in rural areas, green and digital investments in SMEs, a further section of the Koralm railway, emission- free buses, the repair bonus scheme as well as re- and up-skilling of people.

By the transmission of this positive preliminary assessment and in accordance with Article 24(4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, the Commission asks for the opinion of the Economic and Financial Committee on the satisfactory fulfilment of the relevant milestones and targets.

[1] ST 10159 2021 INIT; ST 10159 2021 ADD 1; ST 10159 2021 COR 1, ST 14472 2023; ST 14472 2023 ADD 1; ST 10502/25 INIT; ST 10502/25 ADD 1

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Second instalment

Number and name of the Milestone: 1 Entry into force of Renewable Heating Law and the amended Environmental Subsidies Act

Related Measure: C1.1A1 Decarbonisation of the building stock

Qualitative Indicator: Provision in the law indicating the entry into force of the Renewable Heating Law and the amended Environmental Subsidies Act

Time: Q1 2022

1. Context:

The objective of the reform is to create the framework conditions for replacing outdated heating systems. It provides for a ban on the installation of heating systems based on fossil fuels for space heatings and/or hot water supply in new buildings and for incentivising the replacement of fossil-fuel heating systems in existing buildings by renewable energy or district heating. Additionally, it envisages the creation of a common platform to coordinate flanking measures against energy poverty.

Milestone 1 refers to the entry into force of the Renewable Heating Law and the amended Environmental Subsidies Act to incentivise the phase-out of fossil-fuel heating systems. Milestone 1 is the first step of the implementation of the reform. It is accompanied by milestone 2 in this payment request, related to the launch of the training for energy consultants to advise vulnerable households. The reform has a final expected date for implementation by 31 December 2022.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary Document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Renewable Heating Law (*Erneuerbare Wärme Gesetz*, EWG) published in the Federal Law Gazette BGBl. I No. 8/2024, entry into force on 29 February 2024 based on Article 6 https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/eli/bgbl/I/2024/8/20240228	Federal Law regulating the provision of renewable heating in new buildings.
3	Amended Environmental Subsidies Act (Umweltförderungsgesetz, hereinafter to referred to as UFG), published in the Federal Law Gazette, BGBl. I No. 152/2023, entry into force on 1 January 2024 based on Article 53. https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010755&FassungVom=2024-03-20 and as amended as part of the Ancillary Budget	Federal law regulating national subsidies for environmental measures, including for the replacement of fossil-fuel heating systems

	Act 2025 *(Budgetbegleitgesetz 2025*), published in the Federal Law Gazette, BGBl. I No. 25/2025, entry into force on 1 July 2025 based on Article 53 and available under: https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/BgblAuth/BGBLA_2025_I_25/BGBLA_2025_I_25.pdfsig	
4	Information sheet "quit oil and gas" for private households - individual and semi-detached houses (*Informationsblatt „Raus Aus Öl und Gas – für Private Ein-/Zweifamilienhaus/Reihenhaus")* published on the webpage of the implementing agency: Infoblatt_raus_aus_Oel_2023_2024_EFH.pdf	Information sheet on the boiler replacement subsidy scheme for private households covering individual and semi-detached houses issued by the Ministry of Climate Action (hereinafter referred to as "*BMK*") and the implementing agency *Kommunalkredit Public Consulting* (hereinafter referred to as *KPC*); and based on the UFG
5	Information sheet quit oil and gas for private individuals Multi-storey residential building/terraced housing complexes (*Informationsblatt „Raus Aus Öl und Gas – für Private mehrgeschossiger Wohnbau/'Reihenhausanlage")* published on the webpage of the implementing agency: Infoblatt_raus_aus_Oel_2023_2024_MGW.pdf	Information sheet on the boiler replacement subsidy scheme for private households covering multi-storey residential buildings based on the UFG and issued by BMK and KPC
6	Information sheet Clean Heating for all 2024; Individual and semi-detached houses (*Informationsblatt „Sauber Heizen für Alle 2024 Ein-/Zweifamilienhaus/Reihenhaus")* published on the webpage of the implementing agency: Infoblatt_Sauber_Heizen_2024.pdf	Information sheet on the boiler replacement subsidy scheme for low-income households covering individual and semi-detached houses and providing for a higher support rate, based on the UFG, and Issued by BMK and KPC
7	Information sheet for enterprises –quit oil and gas – Renewable heat generation (*Informationsblatt für Betriebe „Raus aus Öl und Gas" – Erneuerbare Wärmeerzeugung < 100 kW)* published on the webpage of the implementing agency: UFI_Infoblatt_WAERMERZEUGER_PAU.pdf	Information sheet on for the subsidy scheme for enterprises for renewable heat generation based on the UFG, and Issued by BMK and KPC
8	Information sheet connection to district heating ≥ 100 kilowatt for enterprises (*Anschluss an Nah-/Fernwärme ≥ 100 Kilowatt für Betriebe)* published on the webpage of the implementing agency: UFI_Standardfall_Infoblatt_FERNW.pdf	Information sheet on for the subsidy scheme for enterprises for connection to district heating based on the UFG, and issued by BMK and KPC
9		Information sheet for the subsidy scheme for enterprises for

	Information sheet heat pumps ≥ 100 KW performance for enterprises *(Wärmepumpen ≥ 100 kW thermische Leistung für Betriebe zur Eigenversorgung)* published on the webpage of the implementing agency: UFI_Standardfall_Infoblatt_WAERMPU.pdf	installation of heat-pumps for their own use, based on the UFG, and issued by BMK and KPC
10	Information sheet Biomass individual plants ≥ 100 KW for use by enterprises *Informationsblatt Biomasse Einzelanlagen* ≥ 100 KW*)* published on the webpage of the implementing agency: UFI_Standardfall_Infoblatt_BIOMASSE.pdf	Information sheet on the subsidy scheme for enterprises for the installation of biomass-heating systems for their own use, based on the UFG, and issued by BMK and KPC
11	Information sheet Biosmass -Combined Heat and Power and Wood Gas Production based on renewable energy sources for self-sufficiency *(Informationsblatt Biomasse – Kraft-Wärme-Kopplung und Holzgaserzeugung auf Basis erneuerbarer Energieträger zur Eigenversorgung)* published on the webpage of the implementing agency: UFI_Standardfall_Infoblatt_BIOKWK_HOHVE.pdf	Information sheet on subsidy scheme for enterprises for installing biomass/combined heat and power and wood gas production plants for their own use. Based on the UFG, and issued by BMK and KPC
12	Information sheet for municipalities quit oil and gas – renewable heat generation - < 100 KW *(Informationsblatt Gemeinden „Raus Aus Öl Und Gas" – Erneuerbare Wärmeerzeugung < 100 KW)* published on the webpage of the implementing agency: UFI_Infoblatt_WAERMERZEUGER_PAU_Gemeinden.pdf	Information sheet on the subsidy scheme for communes for the replacement of fossil heating systems with a climate-friendly heating system in municipal buildings. Based on the UFG, and issued by BMK and KPC
13	Information sheet Heat pumps ≥ 100 kW thermal output for municipalities *(Informationsblatt Wärmepumpen ≥ 100 kW thermische Leistung* *für Gemeinden zur Eigenversorgung)* published on the webpage of the implementing agency: UFI_Standardfall_Infoblatt_WAERMPU_Gemeinden.pdf	Information sheet on the subsidy scheme for communes for the installation of heat pumps in municipal buildings for self-sufficiency. Based on the UFG, and issued by BMK and KPC.
14	Information sheet Connection to district heating ≥ 100 KW for communes *(Informationsblatt Anschluss an Nah-/Fernwärme ≥ 100 Kilowatt für Gemeinden* published on the webpage of the implementing agency: UFI_Standardfall_Infoblatt_FERNW_Gemeinden.pdf	Information sheet by the implementing agency KPC on the subsidy scheme for communes for funding connection to district heating. Based on the UFG, and issued by BMK and KPC.

15	Impact assessment on the amendment of the Environmental Subsidies Act, published on the website of the Austrian Parliament: www.parlament.gv.at/dokument/XXVII/I/2267/imfname_1588954.pdf pp.186-214	The impact assessment - accompanying the amendment of the Environmental Subsidies Act
16	Data sheet Hochlaufkurve Kesseltausch	An excel table prepared by the Federal Ministry for Climate Action with modelling of additional boiler replacements as a result of increased funding as regulated under the Environmental Subsidies Act.
17	Explanatory document Abschätzungen zur Entwicklung im Bereich des Kesseltausches	Document from the Federal Ministry for Climate Action with further substantiation and explanations of the figures presented in evidence 16

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Entry into force of the Renewable Heating Law and the amended Environmental Subsidies Act to incentivise the phase-out of fossil-fuel heating systems

The Renewable Heating Law was published in the Federal Law Gazette, BGBl. I No. 8/2024 on 28 February 2024 (evidence 2) and it entered into force on the following day, on 29 February 2024 based on Article 6.

The amended Environmental Subsidies Act (evidence 3) was published in the Federal Law Gazette BGBl. I No. 152/2023 on 22 December 2023 and entered into force on 1 January 2024 based on Article 53. It was further amended through the Ancillary Budget Act 2025 (*Budgetbegleitgesetz 2025*) as published in the Federal Law Gazette I No. 25/2025 on 30 June 2025. It entered into force on 1 July 2025 based on Article 53.

It incentivizes the phase-out of heaters using liquid or solid fossil fuels in existing buildings and encourages their replacement with systems running on renewables and district heating by significantly expanding the federal funding devoted to replacing fossil fuel-based heating systems as stipulated in Article 6 (2), subsection f1b of the Environmental Subsidies Act. The financial allocations for incentivising the phase-out of fossil-fuel heating systems in existing buildings have been in force since 1 January 2024 and remain unchanged as per Article 6(2), subsection f1b of the UFG as amended amended as part of the Ancillary Budget Act 2025.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the reform shall ban the installation of heating systems based on fossil fuels for space heating and/or hot water supply in new buildings and shall incentivise the replacement of fossil-fuel heating systems in existing buildings**.

The Renewable Heating Law provides for a ban of all types of fossil-fuel systems for heat generation in new buildings as per Article 3(1) of the Renewable Heating Law. The amended Environmental Subsidies Act (evidence 3) incentivises the replacement of fossil-fuel heating systems in existing buildings with renewable energy or district heating through the allocation of significantly higher public funding for such replacements. The increased funding is available as of 2024 as per Article 6(2) subsection f1b of the Environmental Subsidies Act. The reform constitutes an unprecedented increase in the level of funding for heating system replacements and thermal-energetic renovations, with EUR 3.65 billion available for 2023-2027 as stipulated in the Environmental Subsidies Act Article 6(2), subsection f1b.

Under the revised Environmental Subsidies Act funding for climate-friendly heating systems is now available in regard to individual and semi-detached houses, multi-storey buildings, enterprises and communes thus covering all types of buildings through the different subsidy schemes as evidenced by the information sheets for the different funding schemes based on the amended Environmental Subsidies Act. (evidence 4 - 14). According to further evidence provided by Austria, consisting of the legal impact assessment accompanying the amendment of the Environmental Subsidies Act) the improved funding conditions will significantly speed up the replacement of fossil fuel-based heaters, and incentivise the replacement of additional, fossil-fuel heating systems from 2024 onwards. (evidence 15 -17).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 2 Training for energy consultants

Related Measure: C1.1A1 Decarbonisation of the building stock

Qualitative Indicator: Launch of the training for energy consultants to advise low-income and energy-poor households

Time: Q4 2022

1. Context:

The objective of the reform is to create the framework conditions for replacing outdated heating systems. The reform also envisages to create a common platform, in cooperation with the Länder and social organisations, to coordinate flanking measures against energy poverty, including funding and consultancy services for low-income households.

Milestone 2 provides for the development and launch of trainings for energy consultants to advise low-income and energy-poor households.

Milestone 2 is the second and final step of this reform and is accompanied by milestone 1 in this payment request, which is related to a ban of fossil-fuel heating system in new buildings and incentivizing the phase-out of outdated heating systems in existing buildings and encouraging their replacement by renewable energy or district heating. The reform has a final expected date for implementation by 31 December 2022.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Statutes of ARGE-EBA, the working group for training energy consultants (*Arbeitsgemeinschaft Energieberater:innen-Ausbildung)* ()	Statutes of ARGE-EBA working group including a description of its role and membership. ARGE-EBA stands for 'Arbeitsgemeinschaft Energieberater:innen-Ausbildung', that is the working group for training energy consultants, consisting of the energy advice centres of the Austrian federal provinces
3	E-Mail exchange with ARGE-EBA (ARGE-EBA-Infoblätter Sozialberatung Energie)	Evidence on the involvement of the Länder in developing the training

4	E-Mail exchange with ARGE-EBA (ARGE-EBA Soziale Energieberatung-Leitfaden-Feedback)	Evidence on the involvement of the Länder in developing the training
5	E-Mail to ARGE-EBA, (Energiearmut Informationen für die ARGE-EBA)	Evidence on the involvement of the Länder in developing the training
6	E-Mail exchange with NGOs (Caritas-Soziale Energieberatung-Leitfanden Feedback)	Evidence on the involvement of the social NGOs (Caritas) in developing the training
7	Summary report by the Austrian Anti-Poverty Network *(Armutskonferenz)* on the activities in the framework of the project *klimaaktiv* training 2022/No.1130)	Evidence on the involvement of the social NGOs (Armutskonferenz) in developing the training
8	Presentation of Training module 1 (Soziale_Energieberatung_Modul1_Konzept)	Description of the content of the training – module 1, published in summary form on the webpage Weiterbildungsreihe Soziale Energieberatung, klimaaktiv
9	Presentation of Training module 2 (Konzept_Modul2_Energieabrechnungen)	Description of the of the content of the training – module 2 published in summary form on the webpage Weiterbildungsreihe Soziale Energieberatung, klimaaktiv
10	Presentation of training module 3 and 4 (Abschlusspräsentation_Soziale Energieberatung_Modul 3 und 4)	Description of the content of the training - modules 3 and 4 published in summary form on the webpage Weiterbildungsreihe Soziale Energieberatung, klimaaktiv
11	Federal Energy Efficiency Act (Bundes-Energieeffizienzgesetz – EEffG), published in the Federal Law Gazette, BGBl. I No. 59/2023; entry into force on 15 June 2023 as referenced in Article 79(1)	The Federal Energy Efficiency Act through which the Co-ordination Office for Combatting Energy Poverty (KEA) is established
12	Link to the webpage of Koordinierungsstelle zur Bekämpfung von Energiearmut, and hereinafter referred to as KEA https://kea.gv.at/ and a digital document_kea_webpage	The webpage of the common platform for co-ordination of measures against energy poverty (KEA), digital document from 22 July 2024
13	Report “Social Energy Counselling“ by the Federal Ministry for Climate Protection, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology published on the webpage under the following link: Soziale Energieberatung	A report on the developed training series for social energy counselling explaining objectives, target group, content of the training.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

In co-operation with the Länder and the social NGOs involved in the project

The Austrian Energy Agency, (hereinafter referred to as "AEA") on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Climate Protection, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, (hereinafter referred to as "BMK") developed the training series called "social energy counselling" within the framework of "klimaaktiv", the BMK's climate protection initiative. (evidence 13).

In developing this training series, AEA worked together with the Austrian federal provinces (*Länder*) and social NGOs. For the Länder, this was the ARGE-EBA, ('*Arbeitsgemeinschaft Energieberater:innen-Ausbildung*'), the working group on training for energy-consultants established by the association of energy advice centres of the *Länder.* It trains energy consultants in Austria (evidence 2). The social NGOs involved in the project were *Caritas* (evidence 6), and *Armutskonferenz* (Austrian Anti-Poverty Network) (evidence 7).

The provided documentary evidence in the form of e-mail-exchanges demonstrates that the training modules were developed in co-operation with both the *Länder* (ARGE-EBA) (evidence 3 - 5) and the above-mentioned social NGOs (evidence 6, 7) which were the organisations involved in the process of developing the training modules. The consultation process for the development of the training modules took place in August and September 2022.

(…) training shall be offered to energy consultants to advise low-income and energy-poor households

Through the evidence submitted – a presentation of the training modules (evidence 8-10) and the report on social energy counselling (evidence 13):

These modules are:

- Basic module 1 on energy saving at home, 8 hours, online (held on 4 and 11 October 2022 as well as on 18 and 25 January 2023).
- Basic module 2 on energy billing, 6 hours, online (held on 12 and 20 April 2023)
- Specialisation module 3 on heating, 8 hours, practice sessions taking place in several Austrian cities in 2023 and 2024.
- Specialisation module 4 on electricity and domestic electric appliances, 4.5 hours, practice sessions taking place in several Austrian cities in 2023 and 2024.

The training is designed to provide the skills for "social energy consulting". The target group is defined as: social advisors, energy consultants and energy saving advisors (pp 11-15 of evidence 13). The training is primarily aimed at social workers to teach them to provide energy consulting. This is in line with the rationale of the training, targeting low income and energy-poor households, for which social advisors are more familiar interlocutors through their existing support channels.

The content of the training modules is tailored to the situation of low-income households. The goal is to reduce energy costs and improve the living quality of the households affected. The training series provides participants in the training sessions with skills and knowledge to advise energy-poor households on such topics as energy saving measures, how to reduce both heating and electricity costs, how to assess the electricity consumption of household appliances, how to detect mould

problems, how to read energy bills, consumer rights for electricity and heat, what support programmes are available. (evidence 8-10, 13).

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure**, the reform shall create a common platform, in cooperation with the Länder and social organisations, to coordinate flanking measures against energy poverty, including funding and consultancy services for low-income households**.

The Co-ordination Office on Energy Poverty (Koordinierungsstelle zur Bekämpfung von Energiearmut, and hereinafter referred to as "KEA") was established through the Federal Energy Efficiency Act (Article 40(2) (evidence 11). The Federal Energy Efficiency Act entered into force on 15 June 2023 in accordance with its Article 79 (1), and was published in the Federal Law Gazette BGBl. I No. 59/2023.

Article 40(3) of the Federal Energy Efficiency Act defines the tasks of KEA, which inter alia include:

- cooperating and networking with representatives of federal, regional and municipal institutions, energy suppliers and energy advisors, as well as recognized social institutions;
- developing measures and providing recommendations to combat energy poverty, as well as coordinating measures in this area;
- supporting advisory services, especially qualifications of counsellors;
- providing information for households, energy suppliers, local authorities and relevant institutions or organizations.
- preparing reports and monitoring studies on energy poverty as a basis for recommendations for further measures.

Article 40(5) of the Federal Energy Efficiency Act specifies the participating members, which include both *Länder* and social organisations (*Armutskonferenz).*

KEA was set up in 2023 and functions as a common platform which brings together stakeholders in the area of energy, climate change, housing and social matters. It cooperates with various institutions such as social aid organizations, public administration bodies at the federal, *Länder* and municipal level. It develops and co-ordinates measures in support of energy-poor households, which include advice and support services, and information on financial support programmes. It also commissions and publishes studies. All this information is publicly available on KEA's multilingual website (evidence 12). The website was checked by Commission services on 16 October 2024.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Target: 5 Replacement of heating systems

Related Measure: C1.1A2 Exchange of oil and gas heating systems

Quantitative Indicator: At least 31 800 projects of replacement of heating systems have been implemented and audited.

Baseline: 6360

Target: 31800

Time: Q4 2022

1. Context:

The objective of the investment is to increase the share of heating systems based on renewable energy in residential buildings, and thus reduce heating-related energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. The investment consists of a support scheme for private individuals to replace fossil-fuel heating systems with biomass-based heaters, heat pumps or connectors to district heating.

Target 5 provides that at least 31 800 projects of replacement of heating systems have been implemented and audited.

Target 5 is the second and final target of the investment, and it follows the completion of target 3, related to at least 6 360 projects of replacement of heating systems having been implemented. The investment measure has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2022.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Datasheet on implemented and audited projects	Table containing a list of 25 440 implemented and audited projects, including an anonymised identifier of final recipients, basic specification of the type of the original and of the newly- installed heating system, and a calculation of the average energy savings for each project
3	60 separate project evidence files containing the following: a) grant agreement; b) local residence registration certifying the full name and address of the beneficiary;	Project files containing key project-related information and documentary evidence certifying that projects have been implemented, verified and found eligible

	c) technical specification of old and newly installed heating system; d) internal verification certifying the project as eligible; e) official letter confirming the eligibility of the grant application	
4	Information sheet ("*Informationsblatt Raus Aus Öl und Gas für Private - Version 9/2022)*	Information sheet on the "Quit oil and gas" funding scheme for the replacement of heating systems for private households issued by the Federal Ministry of Climate Action (hereinafter referred to as "*BMK*") and the implementing agency *Kommunalkredit Public Consulting* (hereinafter referred to as *KPC*)
5	Methodology regulation on "Generalised methods for evaluating energy efficiency measures" entry into force on 29 June 2016 and published in the Federal Law Gazette BGBl.II No. 172.	Regulation on the calculation of energy savings (*Verallgemeinerte Methoden zur Bewertung von Energieeffizienzmaßnahmen,* according to the EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)
6	Guidelines on energy savings and thermal insulation ("*OIB Richlinie 6 – Energieeinsparung und Wärmeschutz*, OIB-RL-330.6-026/19")	Guidelines on energy savings and thermal insulation issued by the Austrian Institute for Building Technology *(Österreichisches Institut für Bautechnik* – OIB) in April 2019

3. Analysis:
The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

At least 31 800 projects of replacement of heating systems have been implemented and audited.

As part of the national funding programme "Quit oil and gas" ("*Raus aus Öl und Gas"*) launched on 9 February 2021, BMK has subsidised the replacement of a fossil heating systems with renewable heating systems.

The information sheet (evidence 4) defines the grant application as a two-step process: firstly, interested households needed to register and secondly, they needed to submit an application, including the final invoice issued after the replacement of heating systems has been completed.

The Austrian authorities provided a datasheet (evidence 2) containing a list of 25 440 implemented and audited projects of replacement of heating systems, which have not been part of the assessment for target 3. The list includes anonymised identifiers of final recipients, basic specification of the type of the original and of the newly installed renewable heating system, and a calculation of the expected average energy savings for each project as well as the total average energy savings of all implemented projects.

Based on the list of final recipients (evidence 2) provided by the Austrian authorities, the Commission has drawn a list of 60 projects as samples. In line with the Operational Arrangements for this target, the Austrian authorities provided as additional evidence for the selected samples, 60 separate project evidence files. Each project evidence file contains the following evidence:

a) grant agreement;
b) local residence registration certifying the full name and address of the beneficiary;
c) technical specification of old and newly installed heating system;
d) internal verification certifying the project as eligible;
e) official letter confirming the eligibility of the grant application

The analysis of the 60 project evidence files (evidence 3) established that all 60 projects contained the full name and address of the private individual benefiting for the grant. As required, for each project, the full name of the private individuals has been certified (on page 5 of the respective project evidence file) in 59 cases by a copy of the local residence registration form and in one case by a copy of the passport.

The analysis of the 60 verification checklists (page 6 of the respective project evidence file) established that each of the 60 projects was audited by an employee of the implementing agency in line with an internal verification procedure. The verification covered aspects of eligibility, identity of private individuals (applicants), risk of double funding as well as checks of the final invoice, proving that the project was correctly implemented.

Page 2 of the information sheet (evidence 4) stipulates the following renewable heating technology as eligible: two categories of district heating (climate-friendly or highly efficient, the latter being superior), biomass fueled heaters and heat pumps. Page 2 of the information sheet also defines which old heating technologies are deemed fossil and thus eligible for replacement (oil, gas, coal, all burners, electric night heaters or direct storage heaters).

The datasheet (evidence 2) contains for each of the 25 440 implemented projects information on the type of the original and of the newly installed heating system.

The analysis established that 25 440 old heating systems (16 272 fuelled by oil, 4 694 by natural gas, 3 781 by coal, 645 by LNG, 48 by fossil district heating,) were replaced by renewable heating technology: 14 201 by biomass heating systems, 1 947 by climate-friendly or high-efficiency district heating, and 9 292 by heat-pumps.

The analysis of the 60 selected samples (evidence 3) established that 60 old heating systems (44 fuelled by oil, 7 by coal, 8 by gas, 1 by LNG) were replaced by renewable heating technology: 33 by biomass heating systems, 4 by climate-friendly or high-efficient district heating, by 23 heat-pumps.

For each of the 25 440 implemented and audited projects, the datasheet (evidence 2) indicates the expected average energy savings calculated according to the Methodology on the calculation of energy savings (evidence 6). The methodology is related to the Federal law on increasing energy efficiency at companies and the federal government as published in the Official Journal no. 72/2014 (*Bundesgesetz über die Steigerung der Energieeffizienz bei Unternehmen und dem Bund veröffentlicht im Bundesgesetzblatt Nr. 72/2014*), which transposed the EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU).

As not all data inputs of the calculation were known to the implementing agency, default values of energy savings in residential buildings were used in line with the methodology to determine the

expected average energy saving for each specific renewable heating technology. This approach was also followed for the assessment of Target 3.

The values of the average energy savings per project range from 9 894 to 25 972 kWh per year. The datasheet contains also information on the total average energy savings for all 25 440 implemented projects (410 196 520 kWh per year).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 6 Determination of funding priorities

Related Measure: C1.1A3 Combating energy poverty

Qualitative Indicator: Decision on funding guidelines to ensure at least a 30% average reduction in primary energy

Time: Q1 2022

1. Context:

The objective of the investment is to contribute to a reduction in energy consumption in buildings, while supporting a just transition. For this purpose, the investment supports the thermal renovation of buildings that are used by social non-profit-organisations (NPOs) for the accommodation of people prone to energy poverty (e.g. women's shelters).

Milestone 6 concerns the decision on funding conditions and priorities for the support scheme for thermal renovation in buildings. It requires that the funding guidelines are adopted and published and that they ensure at least a 30% reduction in primary energy consumption on average across projects.

Milestone 6 is the first step of the implementation of the investment. It will be followed by target 7 and target 8, related to the approval and completion of thermal renovation projects, respectively. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Funding guidelines Renovation and boiler exchange: climate-friendly buildings for vulnerable people 'Sanierung und Kesseltausch: klimafitte Gebäude für Schutzbedürftige'	Copy of the adopted funding guidelines of the support scheme for thermal renovation of buildings. They were published on the website of Kommunalkredit Public Consulting, hereinafter referred to as "KPC": https://www.umweltfoerderung.at/fileadmin/user_upload/umweltfoerderung/betriebe/Gebaeude_Schutzbeduerftige/UFI_Standardfall_Infoblatt_GEBSAN_Schutz.pdf
3	Newsletter	Newsletter promoting the launch of the support scheme for thermal renovation of buildings
4	OIB Directive 6 – Energy savings and thermal insulation 'OIB	OIB Directive 6 setting out energy performance standards of buildings published by the Austrian Institute of Construction Engineering

	Richtlinie 6 – Energieeinsparung und Wärmeschutz', published by the Austrian Institute of Construction Engineering in 2019	(Österreichisches Institut für Bautechnik hereinafter referred to as "OIB"). The directives of OIB are the basis for the construction code of the Austrian federal states.
5	List of organisations to which donations are tax deductible '*Liste spendenbegünstigter Einrichtungen*'	List of charitable/non-profit organisations in Austria published by the Ministry of Finance. Donations to these organisations are tax deductible.
6	Investment funding directive 2022 *'Investitionsförderungsrichtlinien 2022'* adopted by the Climate Ministry and published in the Electronic Adoption and Information platform 'Elektronische Verlautbarungs- und Informationsplattform'	The investment funding directive 2022 is a central part of the Austrian national environmental funding programme as can be seen here: https://www.bmluk.gv.at/themen/klima-und-umwelt/klima/klima-initiativen-und-foerderungen/ufi/foerderrichtlinie.html As part of the investment funding directive 2022 investment support schemes such as funding guidelines are published.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The Climate Ministry (BMK) has adopted and published the funding conditions and priorities in the funding guidelines of the support scheme for thermal renovation in buildings used by social NPOs that contain dwellings for vulnerable people prone to energy poverty.

The funding guidelines for the support scheme "Renovation and boiler exchange: climate-friendly buildings for vulnerable people" was adopted at the 150th committee meeting of the Austrian national environmental funding programme on 28 June 2022 (evidence 3). The support scheme is part of the investment funding directive 2022 adopted and published by the Climate Ministry (evidence 6).

Austria submitted a copy of the adopted funding guidelines for the support scheme (evidence 2). The funding guidelines state that this is a funding scheme of the Climate Ministry financed via the Austrian national environmental funding programme and managed by KPC. They are published on the website by Kommunalkredit Public Consulting (KPC), the implementing agency for all environmental funding programmes of the Climate Ministry (evidence 2). This website was last checked by Commission services on 7 November 2024. In addition, the implementing agency promoted the launch of the support scheme in its newsletter (evidence 3).

The funding guidelines contain the funding conditions and priorities (evidence 2, p. 1-2). In particular, they describe the eligibility criteria both in terms of the type of renovation measures that can be funded and the type of entity that can apply. As outlined on page 2 of the funding guidelines (evidence 2), support under this scheme is available for the thermal renovation of buildings that are older than 15 years, and for the installation of climate-friendly heating systems. The latter can only be supported

jointly with thermal insulation measures or provided that the building has already undergone thermal insulation in the past. Climate-friendly heating systems eligible for funding are 1) the connection to a highly efficient or climate-friendly district heating system; 2) wood-fuelled central heating systems that meet certain efficiency and emissions criteria; 3) heat pumps that meet certain efficiency criteria. These eligibility criteria ensure that the scheme supports thermal renovation in buildings.

As outlined on page 1 of the funding guidelines (evidence 2), applications can be submitted either by social non-profit organisations (hereinafter referred to as "NPOs") (including associations and denominational institutions) that provide housing for vulnerable people and are on the list of organisations to which donations are tax-deductible defined by the Finance Ministry (evidence 5), or by municipalities that use or own a building predominantly for the accommodation of low-income or vulnerable people. The vulnerable people require housing in shelters because they are in a crisis situation and have very low or no incomes, which makes them prone to energy poverty.

These eligibility criteria ensure that support is provided for the thermal renovation of buildings including thermal insulation and installation of climate-friendly heating systems used by social NPOs that contain dwellings for vulnerable people prone to energy poverty.

The funding guidelines shall ensure at least a 30% average reduction in primary energy consumption of the buildings to be renovated.

The funding guidelines state that the renovation projects shall result in an average reduction of primary energy use of at least 30% (evidence 2, p. 6).

This is achieved based on three criteria set out in the funding guidelines:

1) Renovation projects will only be supported if the renovation measures ensure a high level of energy efficiency post-renovation. For this, two thresholds are specified in table 1 on page 2 of the funding guidelines based on both heating energy demand and overall energy efficiency. Post-renovation, a building's heating energy demand should be either 12% or 28% lower than what is required for major renovations based on the OIB directive 6 of 2019 (evidence 6), which underpins the Austrian building code. Moreover, the overall energy efficiency factor of the building needs to be below or equal to 0.9, which is more stringent than the requirements for major renovations set out in the OIB directive 6 of 2019. Major renovations following OIB directive 6 lead to significant reductions in primary energy use of the renovated buildings.
2) Only buildings which are at least 15 years old can benefit from this funding scheme as they were built before stringent energy efficiency criteria became the norm.
3) The installation of climate-friendly heating systems is funded in thermally-renovated buildings or in combination with thermal renovation. As climate-friendly heating systems are energy-efficient this contributes to a reduction in primary energy demand.

KPC is keeping track of energy efficiency and primary energy demand of buildings before and after renovation. Every applicant has to submit an energy certificate before and after renovation.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, the investment shall consist of an integrated support scheme that shall provide tailored support and funding for renovation of social NPOs buildings, such as thermal insulation of walls and roof, replacement of windows and heaters as well as planning support.

As outlined on page 3 of the funding guidelines (evidence 2), they provide for an integrated support scheme covering a wide range of thermal renovation measures. Funding is available for the following thermal renovation measures in buildings that are older than 15 years: insulation of exterior walls, roofs, or relevant ceilings; renovation or replacement of windows and exterior doors; installation of ventilation units with heat recovery; external shading systems to reduce the building's cooling requirements; roof greening and façade greening and planning costs (evidence 2, page 3). Applicants receive tailored support depending on the area subject to renovation and the level of energy efficiency achieved. Moreover, the replacement of fossil fuel-based heating systems with climate-friendly heating systems (connection to district heating or, if unavailable, wood heating or heat pumps) is supported either jointly with thermal renovation measures or provided that the building has already undergone thermal renovation in the past (evidence 2, pages 3-5).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 13 Launch of the zero-emission buses support programme

Related Measure: AT-C[C1]-I[1B3], Zero-emission buses

Qualitative Indicator: The call for expression of interest has been publicly announced.

Time: Q1 2022

1. Context:

The investment consists of providing funding for buses equipped with zero-carbon emitting technologies and for the development of the necessary infrastructure for operating the buses in public transportation, including recharging and refuelling points. The measure aims at supporting the transition from currently fossil fuel-powered to zero-emission buses, operated with renewable energy.

Milestone 13 concerns the launch of the support programme for zero-emission buses, requiring that the call for expression of interest has been publicly announced and that it enables transport associations, transport companies and other potential final recipients to submit their applications by digital means.

Milestone 13 is the first step in the implementation of the investment in zero-emission buses. It will be followed by milestone 14 related to the completion of the last call for expression of interest by potential beneficiaries, and target 15 related to the delivery of at least 579 buses with zero-emission technology to the final recipients, and finally milestone 16 related to the installation of the charging infrastructure by the final recipients.

The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary Document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	EBIN Funding guidelines - Zero-emission buses and infrastructure– first call (https://fdoc.ffg.at/s/vdb/public/node/content/p1cxzByaQR6odHJ9Amr2tg/1.0?a=true)	Funding guidelines with technical specifications related to the first call for expression published by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)
3	Call for expression of interest published by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)	Website of the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) showing key information related to the first call

	(EBIN – Emissionsfreie Busse und Infrastruktur 1. Ausschreibung | FFG)	for expression of interest, including the terms of reference and deadline for application.
4	EBIN Special Directive promoting the switch to zero-emission bus fleets in public transport, GZ 2022-0.026.066 published on the website of the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (https://www.bmk.gv.at/themen/mobilitaet/alternative_verkehrskonzepte/elektromobilitaet/publikationen/ebin.html)	Website of the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG), explaining the legal framework of the funding programme EBIN, including the link to the EBIN Special Directive and the information about the start of the first call published under the EBIN programme

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

The call for expression of interest has been launched.

The first call for expression of interest under the funding programme Zero-emission buses and infrastructure ("*Emissionsfreie Busse Und Infrastruktur"*, hereinafter referred to as "EBIN")" was launched by its publication (evidence 3) on 16 February 2022 on the website of the implementing Austrian Research Promotion Agency ("*Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft",* hereinafter referred to as "FFG"), whereas the deadline for submission of applications was set for 27 April 2022. The Commission checked the relevant website on 9 October 2024.

The call shall enable transport associations, transport companies and other potential beneficiaries to submit their applications (through the Settlement Office's digital submission portal).

Section 4.3 of the Funding Guidelines (evidence 2) define eligibility criteria, which include transport associations and transport companies among eligible funding applicants, as well as other potential beneficiaries. Section 4.10 of the Funding Guidelines specified that submission of applications is only possible through the "eCall" – the FFG Settlement Office portal for digital submissions. The submitted evidence also contained an active link to the "eCall" portal enabling potential beneficiaries to submit their applications digitally.

Eligible projects shall include zero-emission buses and the infrastructure to operate the buses.

Section 4.2 of the Funding Guidelines (evidence 2) define the content of the call including the terms of references, specifying that only zero-emission buses and the infrastructure needed to operate them are eligible for funding.

The general legal framework for funding of the EBIN programme is provided by the EBIN Special directive promoting the switch to zero-emission bus fleets in public transport ("*Sonderrichtlinie zur Förderung der Umstellung auf emissionsfreie Busflotten im öffentlichen Personenverkehr"*; evidence 4). It was published by the Austrian Climate Ministry on its website (BMK) in 2022, indicating validity until 31 December 2026.

Chapter 4, Section 4.1.1 of the EBIN Special Directive specifies as eligible investment: a) battery-electric buses, which are powered purely electrically without additional energy generation in the vehicle; b) trolleybuses, which draw their traction power from an overhead line stretched above the road using pantographs; c) buses with hydrogen fuel cell drive that are powered without additional energy generation in the vehicle.

Section 4.1.2, EBIN Special directive specifies the eligible infrastructure needed to operate the zero-emission buses as a) the charging infrastructure, b) overhead lines and c) hydrogen refuelling infrastructure and d) associated third-party services, which all must be in direct spatial and/or technical connection with the purchased zero-emission buses.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **provided that the minimum pre-defined (eligibility) criteria are met, projects shall be ranked according to environmental, economic and other quality assessment criteria that include implementation in an overarching transport concept.**

Section 4.8 of the Funding Guidelines (evidence 2) define in total eight assessment criteria across four categories that are used to evaluate the quality, adequacy, cost-benefit performance and relevance of the applications, whereas each assessment criterion is assigned a set number of points. These eight assessment criteria used for the evaluation and selection of the applications/projects therefore include environmental, economic and other quality assessment considerations, including the contribution to an overarching public transport planning of the affected region.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 27 - Entry into force of the legal framework for Biodiversity Fund

Related Measure: C1.1C2 Biodiversity fund

Qualitative Indicator: Provision in the law indicating the entry into force of the legal framework for Biodiversity Fund and National Biodiversity Strategy 2030

Time: Q1 2022

1. Context:

The objective of this investment is to support the preservation and restoration of biodiversity in Austria. The investment consists of establishing a biodiversity fund to fund projects for the conservation of biodiversity, restoration of degraded ecosystems, awareness raising activities and implementation of biodiversity monitoring. Eligible beneficiaries include businesses, non-governmental organisations, private households and public entities. The implementation of the measure shall be completed by 31 December 2025.

Milestone 27 provides for the entry into force of legislation establishing a Biodiversity Fund in Austria and setting its objectives and implementation modalities through the amendment of the Environmental Federation Act.

Milestone 27 is the first step of the implementation of the investment. It will be followed by milestone 28 related to the completion of the call for projects to restore priority degraded ecosystems and protect endangered species and habitats, and target 29 related to the completion of at least 20 approved projects. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Federal Act amending the Environmental Federation Act published in the Federal Law Gazette BGBL. I No. 26/2022 on 18 March 2022. Entry into force on 19 March 2022 as referenced in Article 53. Available online under the following link: BGBLA_2022_I_26.pdfsig (bka.gv.at	The revised Federal Act establishes the Biodiversity Fund
3	Funding Guidelines Biodiversity Fund	The funding guidelines (Förderungsrichtlinien) which set the

		implementing modalities for the Biodiversity Fund calls

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The Federal Act (amendment of the Environmental Federation Act) has established the Biodiversity Fund

The amended Environmental Federation Act (*Umweltförderungsgesetz,* hereinafter referred to as UFG) has established in Article 1.5 the Biodiversity Fund (evidence 2) and entered into force on 19 March 2022, one day after its publication in the Austrian official journal BGBL. I No. 26/2022, as referenced in Article 53(26).

(…) and set its objectives

The objectives of the Biodiversity Fund are defined in Article 48d of the UFG as taking measures to preserve, improve, and restore the biological diversity in Austria by supporting measures to implement the national biodiversity strategy.

(…) and implementation modalities

The implementation modalities are laid down in Articles 48e to 48h of the UFG. Article 48e defines the measures which are supported by the Biodiversity Fund. Article 48f lays down the specific conditions for the provision of funding under the Biodiversity Fund. Article 48g identifies who is eligible for funding, and Article 48h covers the provisions stipulating the amount of funding by the Biodiversity Fund.

More detailed implementation modalities have been laid down in the funding guidelines (*Biodiversitätsfonds- Förderungsrichtlinien 2022*) (evidence 3). The funding guidelines were adopted by the Minister for Climate Action in agreement with the Minister of Finance in accordance with Articles 13 and 48d of the UFG. They entered into force on 12 October 2022. They are published on the website of the implementing body, the *Kommunalkredit Public Consulting* (KPC).

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the investment consists of establishing a biodiversity fund, which shall fund projects for the conservation of biodiversity, restoration of degraded ecosystems, awareness raising activities and implementation of biodiversity monitoring.** Article 48e of the UFG contains the list of measures, which shall be financed by the Biodiversity Fund. These include the conservation of biological diversity, the improvement and restoration of degraded ecosystems (Article 48e1), as well as the establishment and implementation of biodiversity monitoring (Article 48e3 and 4) and projects for improving the knowledge and awareness of biodiversity and ecosystem services (Article 48e5).

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **eligible beneficiaries shall include businesses, non-governmental organisations, private households and public entities.**

Eligible beneficiaries are defined in Article 48g of the UFG as natural and legal persons as well as partnerships (*Personengesellschaften).*

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Target: 32 - Permit applications for construction or retrofitting

Related Measure: C1.1C4 Retrofitting of existing and construction of new sorting facilities

Quantitative Indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 3

Time: Q3 2022

1. Context:

The investment aims at increasing the plastic waste sorting capacity and depth in Austria. It consists of constructing new and retrofitting of existing plastic waste sorting facilities in order to raise the amount of recycled material.

Target 32 is about the receipt of at least three applications from public and/or private waste management companies for permits for the construction or retrofitting of sorting facilities for plastic waste by the competent authorities.

Target 32 is the first step of the implementation of the investment. It will be followed by target 33 related to the commissioning of facilities and target 34 related to achieving a better sorting depth, namely that nationwide at least 50 % of Austrian plastic waste shall be sorted for further recycling. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 March 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all its constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Information sheet Plastic waste sorting facilities issued by the implementing agency, Kommunalkredit Public Consulting (KPC) on 4 April 2022 and published the webpage of the implementing agency: https://www.umweltfoerderung.at/betriebe/sortieranlagen	The information sheet detailing the conditions for the call for projects for the construction of new or retrofitting of existing sorting facilities for separately collected plastic packaging.
3	Application for permit (Rossbacher – application)	The application by a private waste management company submitted to the competent authority, the Office of the Provincial Government of Tyrol for a permit for retrofitting measures on an existing sorting facility

4	Annex - Technical specifications accompanying the permit application (Rossbacher - technical specifications)	The technical specifications of the intended retrofitting measures submitted together with the permit application by the company Rossbacher
5	Confirmation of receipt of the permit application by the competent authority (Rossbacher - confirmation of receipt)	The confirmation of receipt of the application from a private waste management company by the competent authority, the Office of the Provincial Government of Tyrol
6	Application for permit by (TRG Tiroler Recycling GmbH & Co KG and confirmation of receipt by the competent authority (TRG application and confirmation)	The application by a public waste management company, submitted to the competent authority, the Office of the Provincial Government of Tyrol for a permit for retrofitting measures of an existing sorting facility and the confirmation of its receipt by the competent authority, the Office of the Provincial Government of Tyrol
7	Annex - Technical specifications accompanying the permit application (TRG – technical specifications)	The technical specifications of the project referred to as evidence 6 submitted together with the application
8	Application for permit (PreZero – application)	The application by a private waste management company submitted to the competent authority, the Office of the Provincial Government of Lower Austria for a permit for constructing a sorting facility
9	Annex - Technical specifications accompanying the permit application (PreZero –technical specifications)	The technical specifications of the project of preZero submitted together with the permit application
10	Confirmation of receipt of the permit application by the competent authority (PreZero confirmation of receipt)	The confirmation of receipt of the application documents a private waste management company by the competent authority, the Office of the Provincial Government of Lower Austria

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

The competent authorities have received at least three applications from public and/or private waste management companies for permits

Austria has provided a copy of the information sheet for the funding call (evidence 2), which was issued by the implementing agency which manages the funding programme, *Kommunalkredit Public Consulting* (hereinafter referred to as "KPC"), and published on its webpage.

The objective of the funding call is defined as supporting the establishment of new sorting facilities and the retrofitting of existing sorting facilities for separately collected plastic packaging and plastic packaging collected together with other packaging in order to increase the sorting capacity and depth of the collected plastic packaging. As precondition for an application for funding, the relevant permit applications for the construction and operation of the facilities must have been submitted to the competent authorities. According to the information sheet, legal and natural persons that establish and operate waste management facilities can apply for funding. Thus, public and private waste management companies are defined as eligible recipients.

The documents submitted by Austria show that the respective competent authorities have received three applications for permits, which is evidenced through:

- the application for a permit by the private waste management company Rossbacher GmbH (evidence 3), and the confirmation of receipt by the competent authority, the Office of the Provincial Government of Tyrol (evidence 5);
- the permit application by the waste management company TRG Tiroler Recycling GmbH & CoKG, and the confirmation of receipt by the competent authority, the Office of the Provincial Government of Tyrol (evidence 6).
- the application for a permit by the private waste management company PreZero Sorting Austria (evidence 8) and confirmation of receipt by the competent authority, the Office of the Provincial Government of Lower Austria (evidence 10).

(…) for the construction or retrofitting of sorting facilities for plastic waste.

The three applications for permits together with the annexed technical specifications cover the following:

- Rossbacher GmbH applied for a permit (evidence 3) for the retrofitting of an existing sorting facility by implementing a near-infrared sorting machine, as set out in the technical specifications annexed to the application (evidence 4).
- TRG Tiroler Recycling GmbH & Co KG applied for a permit (evidence 6) for the retrofitting of an existing sorting facility through the addition of near-Infrared sorting facilities and a non-ferrous separator. (evidence 7).
- PreZero Sorting Austria applied for a permit (evidence 8) for the construction of a new, fully automated sorting facility, as detailed in the technical specifications submitted together with the permit application (evidence 9).

In response to a funding call (evidence 2) applications for permits for upgrading or constructing new plastic waste sorting facilities have been received (evidence 5, 6, 10).

The milestone is further specified in the Operational Arrangements, which requires that for the purpose of these operational arrangements, 'plastic waste' shall be understood as to refer to plastic packaging waste pursuant to Directive 94/62/EC.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 35 Launch of the repair bonus support programme

Related Measure: C1.1C5 Promotion of the repairing of electrical and electronic equipment (repair bonus)

Qualitative Indicator: The repair bonus support programme shall be open for applications

Time: Q2 2022

1. Context:

The objective of the investment is to raise the number of refurbished and repaired electrical and electronic equipment which otherwise would be replaced with new articles, by creating a support programme to incentivise the repair of electrical and electronic equipment.

Milestone 35 concerns the launch of the repair bonus programme, to become open for applications.

Milestone 35 is the first step in the implementation of the investment, and it will be followed by target 36 and target 37, related to at least 200 000 and cumulatively 400 000 repaired or renewed electrical devices supported by the scheme. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 March 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary Document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all its constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Funding programme (Informationsblatt)	Document outlining the general principles and conditions of the repair bonus programme (October 2022 version)
3	Funding programme 2.0 (Informationsblatt 2.0)	Updated version from September 2023 of the funding programme developed in the context of suspension and amendment of the programme due to suspected fraud which is published on the website dedicated to the repair bonus reparaturbonus.at/fileadmin/user_upload/media/infoblatt_reparaturbonus.pdf Evidence 3 is the update to evidence 2 – Funding programme
4	Funding contract applicant (Förderungsvertrag)	Contract that an applicant needs to accept to create a voucher. It is then concluded between the Ministry of Climate Action (represented through a contractor, the Kommunalkredit Public Consulting GmbH (KPC)) and the private individual
5	Funding contract applicant 2.0 (Förderungsvertrag 2.0)	Updated version of the contract between the Ministry of Climate Action (represented through a processor) and the private individual or beneficiary

		evidence 5 is the update to evidence 4
6	Contract with partner company (Vereinbarung zur Teilnahme als Partnerbetrieb)	Agreement between the Ministry of Climate Action (represented through a processor) and the partner company that carries out repairs within the framework of the bonus scheme (Version October 2022)
7	Contract with partner company 2.0 (Vereinbarung zur Teilnahme als Partnerbetrieb 2.0)	Updated version of the agreement between the Ministry of Climate Action (represented through a a ontractor, the Kommunalkredit Public Consulting GmbH (KPC)) and the partner company that carries out repairs within the framework of the bonus scheme Evidence 7 is the update to evidence 6
8	List of devices (Geräteliste)	List of devices that are eligible to be covered by the repair bonus scheme (November 2022)
9	List of devices 2.0 (Geräteliste 2.0)	Updated list of devices that are eligible to be covered by the repair bonus scheme (April 2024) Evidence 9 is the update to evidence 8
10	Press releases from the 10 March and 26 April 2022 respectively	Two press releases on the workings and launch of the scheme on 26 April 2022
11	Funding Guidelines for Services (Dienstleistungsförderungsrichtlinien 2022 für die Umweltförderung im Inland)	Guideline which serves as the legal basis for the funding programme
12	Amending Act of the Environmental Funding Act (*Bundesgesetz, mit dem das Umweltförderungsgesetz geändert wird*) published in the Federal Law Gazette on 18 March 2022 and came into force on the day following the publication on 19 March 2022; Federal Law Gazette BGBl. I Nr. 26/2022 (Gesamte Rechtsvorschrift für Umweltförderungsgesetz, Fassung vom 6 March 2024)	Legal Act which serves as the legal basis for the funding programme Also available online under https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=BundesNo.rmen&Gesetzesnummer=10010755
13	Link to Website “Reparaturbonus”	Link to the Repair bonus website (www.reparaturbonus.at) where the most up-to-date documents and information that were provided as evidence can be found.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Organisational arrangements and technical procedures for the launch of the repair bonus programme have been completed; In line with the description of the measure, **the repair bonus system shall provide funding for households in the form of vouchers, which shall cover a part of the costs for repairing or renewing electrical and electronic equipment.**

All up-to-date documents and information on the launch of the repair bonus are available on the website of the "Reparaturbonus" (evidence 13). The organisational arrangements and technical procedures detailed in the funding programme (evidence 2 and 3) for the launch of the repair bonus programme have been completed so that it was launched for applications on 26 April 2022 (evidence 10).

The organisational arrangements in the funding programmes (evidence 2 and 3) specify the eligibility criteria for beneficiaries and partnering companies, the funding period as well as the relevant procedures.

The repair bonus incentivises individuals to repair electrical and electronic equipment by covering part of the repair costs. Funding is provided for 50% of the costs of a repair capped at EUR 200 or a cost estimate up to a maximum of EUR 30. The list of devices (evidence 8 and 9) covering all items for which the bonus can be redeemed, lists electrical and electronic appliances used in households. The programme is available to anyone residing in Austria, who creates a voucher via the website (evidence 13) and redeems it at any partner company for a repair or cost estimate of a repair.

Under the original framework, beneficiaries had to generate a repair voucher via the online platform which could be redeemed for a repair at a partner business with the same discounts and funding ceilings as under the restructured scheme. The invoice of the repair showed the cost of the repair minus the fraction of the cost that was covered under the repair bonus scheme. The beneficiary would only pay the costs net of the bonus for which the partner business would get reimbursed by the processor afterwards. Partner businesses therefore had to hand in the invoices and then would be reimbursed with the fraction covered under the bonus scheme.

In 2023, the scheme was restructured (see more on this below). The restructured scheme only differs in the reimbursement procedures. Now individuals are reimbursed instead of businesses. Beneficiaries pay for the full cost of the repair to the partnering business upfront and redeem the repair voucher with the partner business. The partner businesses have to report the redemption of the repair voucher to the processor. The processor then notifies the beneficiary, who then can send the invoice for the repair and gets reimbursed by the implementing agency.

[…] the funding programme shall be published and opened for applications.

The funding programme (evidence 2 and 3) was published online on the website dedicated to the repair bonus (evidence 3). The repair bonus programme was opened for applications on 26 April 2022.

The legal basis for the repair bonus programme consists of both the Funding Guidelines for Services [*Dienstleistungsförderungsrichtlinien 2022 für die Umweltförderung im Inland*] (evidence 11) and the Amended Environmental Funding Act published in the Federal Law Gazette on 18 March 2022 (evidence 12) which entered into force on the 19 March 2022, according to Article 46 of the Amending Act of the Environmental Funding Act.

In addition, the funding contract for the applicant (evidence 4 and 5) which the applicant needs to accept when creating the repair voucher online, lays down the conditions for the private individual to benefit from a repair bonus while the contract for businesses to become a partner company (evidence 6 and 7) is relevant for the businesses carrying out repairs covered under the repair bonus programme.

The repair bonus scheme was temporarily suspended on 2 July 2023, after the detection of suspected fraud by the Austrian authorities who duly notified the European Commission. Partnering companies were inspected and the repair bonus programme was restructured and redesigned to prevent the

fraud risks identified. On 25 September 2023, the repair bonus support programme was relaunched and reopened for applications. Therefore, the Austrian authorities submitted two versions of the relevant evidence, the original versions which were relevant when the programme was launched in April 2022 and those which are applicable since the relaunch in September 2023 (evidence 3).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 46 Calls for tenders to enable Gigabit capable access networks completed

Related Measure: C2.2A2 Widespread availability of Gigabit capable access networks and creation of new symmetric Gigabit connections

Qualitative Indicator: Award decisions issued

Time: Q3 2022

1. Context:

The investment aims to improve broadband availability in those areas of Austria, which, due to a market failure, are not or are insufficiently developed by the private sector. The investment has the objective of doubling the existing download and upload speed, at least to 100 Mbit/s symmetrically, upgradable to symmetrical Gigabit speeds without further investments in the passive infrastructure. The investment consists of two funding directives: the Access directive aims at vertical integrated telecom operators, whereas the OpenNet directive aims at wholesale-only providers.

Milestone 46 concerns the completion of the calls for tenders to enable Gigabit capable access networks under Broadband Austria 2030 with award decisions issued.

Milestone 46 is the first milestone of the investment. It is followed by milestone 47 related to the signature of all contracts regarding the completed calls for tenders, representing projects covering 150 000 Austrian households, and target 48 related to the completion of projects providing access to Gigabit-capable networks for at least 80 000 households. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 August 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1.	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all its constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2.	Special directive concerning the funding programme BBA2030:Access (BBA2030:A), GZ 2022-0.103.107 (BMLRT/BBA2030), March 2022 (AT_46_Sonderrichtlinie_BBA2030_Access_BMF.pdf)	Special directive concerning the funding programme BBA2030:Access
3.	Special directive concerning the funding programme BBA2030:OpenNet (BBA2030:ON), GZ 2022-0.103.107 (BMLRT/BBA2030), March 2022 (AT_46_Sonderrichtlinie_BBA2030_OpenNet_BMF.pdf	Special directive concerning the funding programme BBA2030:OpenNet
4.	Tender document by the implementing body FFG concerning the call of the funding programme BBA2030:Access, Version 1.0, March 2022 (AT_46_Ausschreibungsleitfaden_BBA2030_Access_01_FFG.pdf)	Tender document concerning the call of the funding programme BBA2030:Access

5.	Tender document by the implementing body FFG concerning the call of the funding programme BBA2030:OpenNet, Version 1.0, March 2022 (AT_46_Ausschreibungsleitfaden_BBA2030_OpenNet_01_FFG.pdf)	Tender document concerning the call of the funding programme BBA2030:OpenNet, March 2022
6.	Justified funding recommendation by the implementing body FFG concerning the call of the funding programme BBA2030:Access of 17 November 2022 (AT_46_Förderungsempfehlung_BBA2030_Access_01_FFG.pdf)	Funding recommendation concerning the call of the funding programme BBA2030:Access
7.	Funding protocol by the implementing body FFG concerning the call of the funding programme BBA2030:Access of 17 November 2022 (AT_46_Förderungsprotokoll_BBA2030_Access_01_FFG.pdf)	Funding protocol concerning the call of the funding programme BBA2030:Access funding recommendations from the implementing body FFG
8.	Funding recommendation project listing by the implementing body FFG concerning the call of the funding programme BBA2030:Access of 10 November 2022 (AT_46_Förderungsprotokoll_BBA2030_Access_01_projects_FFG.pdf)	Funding recommendation project listing concerning the call of the funding programme BBA2030:Access
9.	Decision to grant funding made by the Federal Minister of Finance based upon the justified funding recommendations from the implementing body FFG for BBA2030:A on 30 November 2022 under GZ 2022-0.832.109 (AT_46_Förderungsgewährung_BBA2030_Access_01_BMF.pdf)	Decision to grant funding for 22 projects under programme BBA2030:Access
10.	Justified funding recommendation by the implementing body implementing body FFG concerning the call of the funding programme BBA2030:OpenNet of 20 September 2022 (AT_46_Förderungsempfehlung_BBA2030_OpenNet_01_FFG.pdf)	Justified funding recommendation concerning the call of the funding programme BBA2030:OpenNet
11.	Funding protocol by the implementing body FFG concerning the call of the funding programme BBA2030:OpenNet of 20 September 2022 (AT_46_Förderungsprotokoll_BBA2030_OpenNet_01_FFG.pdf)	Funding protocol concerning the call of the funding programme BBA2030:OpenNet with funding recommendations from the implementing body FFG
12.	Funding recommendation project listing by the implementing body FFG concerning the call of the funding programme BBA2030: OpenNet of 21 September 2022 (AT_46_Förderungsprotokoll_BBA2030_OpenNet_01_projects_FFG.pdf)	Funding recommendation project listing concerning the call of the funding programme BBA2030: OpenNet
13.	Decision to grant funding made by the Federal Minister of Finance based upon the justified funding recommendations from the implementing body FFG for BBA2030:ON on 7 October 2022 under GZ 2022-0.650.487	Decision to grant funding for 88 projects under programme BBA2030:ON

	(AT_46_Förderungsgewährung_BBA2030_OpenNet_01_BMF.pdf)	
14.	Funding Contract / Offer for the project by beneficiary "öGIG Fiber GmbH (Stattersdorfer Hauptstraße 56, 3100 St. Pölten, FBN: 565499t)", funding application: "Förderungsansuchen: Breitbandausbau Unteres Drautal (Kopie von OpenNet), FFG Projektnummer: FO999896996, eCall Antragsnummer: 45388829, Ausschreibung: Breitband Austria 2030: Access 1. Ausschreibung" of 23 February 2023 (AT_46_Funding Offer_Contract_Project_896996.pdf)	Example of a funding contract/ offer

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Calls for tenders to enable Gigabit capable access networks under Broadband Austria 2030 completed with award decisions issued. Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the investment consists of the two funding directives, Access and OpenNet, of the Austria Broadband Programme 2030.**

Two funding directives were issued under the Austria Broadband Programme 2030 in March 2022: Access and OpenNet (special directive concerning the funding programme BBA2030:Access (BBA2030:A) (evidence 2) and special directive concerning the funding programme BBA2030:OpenNet (BBA2030:ON) (evidence 3).

The calls for tenders under these two directives of Austria Broadband Programme 2030, were published on 23 March 2022 with the deadline for submission of applications of 23 May 2022 (as evidenced by the copies of these calls for tenders provided in evidence 4 and evidence 5).

The tender schedule indicated in the tender document concerning the call of the funding programme BBA2030:Access of 23 March 2022 (page 9, evidence 4) and tender document concerning the call of the funding programme BBA2030:OpenNet of 23 March 2022 (page 9, evidence 5) was the following:

	Access	**OpenNet**
Submission deadline	23 May 2022, 12:00	23 May 2022, 12:00
Formal test	May/June 2022	May 2022
Evaluation	June-September 2022	June-August 2022
Grant decision	October 2022	August 2022

Following the call for tender phase, the evaluation of funding applications was concluded with the submission of the justified funding recommendations and the funding protocols by the implementing body, Austrian Research Promotion Agency (*Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft*, hereinafter referred to as "FFG") to the Ministry of Finance (*Bundesministerium für Finanzen*, hereinafter referred to as "BMF") (evidence 6 and 10, respectively, as well as evidence 7 and 11, respectively).

Based on the funding recommendations from the implementing body FFG (evidence 7 and evidence 11), the decision to grant funding was made by the Federal Minister of Finance for BBA2030:A on 30 November 2022 and for BBA2030:ON on 7 October 2022 (decisions to grant funding by the Federal

Minister of Finance for BBA2030:A, dated 30 November 2022, under GZ 2022-0.832.109 (evidence 9) and for BBA2030:ON, dated 7 October 2022, under GZ 2022-0.650.487 (evidence 13)).

Each decision includes the list of projects for which funding has been granted. The decisions outline a total of 110 projects for which funding has been granted, 22 for BBA2030:A and 88 for BBA2030:ON (evidence 9 and 13).

The implementing body FFG was informed by the Ministry of Finance about the funding decision of the Federal Minister of Finance. If the funding has been granted by the Federal Minister of Finance, the funding applicants immediately received a funding offer by means of the funding contract from FFG (chapter 7.7 of the special directive concerning the funding programme BBA2030:Access (BBA2030:A) (evidence 2) and special directive concerning the funding programme BBA2030:OpenNet (BBA2030:ON) (evidence 3)). Otherwise, the funding applicants received information stating the relevant reasons for the rejection.

Austria provided an example of a funding offer (example of a funding contract/ offer for the project by beneficiary "öGIG Fiber GmbH" of 23 February 2023, evidence 14).

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **both funding directives have the objective to improve broadband availability in those areas of Austria, which, due to a market failure, are not or are insufficiently developed by the private sector.**

The objective of both funding directives to improve broadband availability in those areas of Austria, which, due to a market failure, are not or are insufficiently developed by the private sector, is mentioned on page 10 of the special directive concerning the funding programme BBA2030:Access (BBA2030:A) (evidence 2) and special directive concerning the funding programme BBA2030:OpenNet (BBA2030:ON) (evidence 3).

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **both directives have the objective of doubling the existing download and upload speed, at least to 100 Mbit/s symmetrically.**

Both funding directives specify the objective of doubling the existing download and upload speed, at least to 100 Mbit/s symmetrically (page 13 of the special directive concerning the funding programme BBA2030:Access (BBA2030:A) (evidence 2) and the special directive concerning the funding programme BBA2030:OpenNet (BBA2030:ON) (evidence 3).

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the funded access networks shall be upgradable to symmetrical Gigabit speeds without further investments in the passive infrastructure.**

Both funding directives set out the requirement that networks have to be upgradable to symmetrical Gigabit speeds at peak load conditions without further investments in the passive infrastructure (chapter 4.1 of the special directive concerning the funding programme BBA2030:Access (BBA2030:A) (evidence 2) and of the special directive concerning the funding programme BBA2030:OpenNet (BBA2030:ON) (evidence 3)).

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **deployment of mobile networks shall be excluded from the investment.**

The Broadband Austria 2030 investment was notified to the European Commission under EU State Aid rules. The scope of the investment is framed by the Commission State Aid approval decision. According

to paragraph 9 of the State Aid decision in Case SA.63172 (OJEU C/155/2022 of 08.04.2022), the two funding programmes support the deployment of passive infrastructure that will be used to provide *fixed* broadband access to end-users, therefore excluding deployment of mobile networks from the investment. The State Aid decision in Case SA.63172 is referenced as one of the legal bases for both special directives on which the calls are based (Chapter 2 of the special directive concerning the funding programme BBA2030:Access (BBA2030:A) (evidence 2) and of the special directive concerning the funding programme BBA2030:OpenNet (BBA2030:ON) (evidence 3)).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 57 Linking registries to the Register and Systems Network (RSV), preparation of Single Digital Gateway (SDG), start of the Information Obligation Database (IVDB) by Ministries

Related Measure: C2.2C.1 Proposed legislation for Once Only: Amendment of the Business Service Portal Act

Qualitative Indicator: Registries have been connected for the purposes of the Single Digital Gateway (SDG). Ministries have been obliged to fill in the Information Obligation Database (IVDB).

Time: Q4 2022

1. Context:

The reform aims to lower bureaucracy for business operators and citizens by implementing the *Once Only* principle, which reduces multiple reporting. The reform includes legislative amendments in order to establish the mandatory application of the Once Only principle in administrative proceedings. It also envisages the set-up of the basic infrastructure for administrations across regional authorities to be able to design reporting processes and services in accordance with the Once Only principle.

Milestone 57 concerns the entry into force of the Regulation on Information Obligation Database (IVDB), obliging ministries to populate the database with information obligations emanating from existing laws and regulations. This milestone also requires the registers to be connected according to the registration timetable adopted by the 'Once Only' Steering Committee.

Milestone 57 is the second milestone of the reform, and it follows the completion of milestone 56 (part of the first instalment) related to the entry into force of the legislative amendment to the Business Service Portal Act introducing the Once Only principle, pilot launch of the Information Obligation Database (IVDB) survey tool and the availability of the Register and Systems Network (RSV) in a base version. Milestone 57 will be followed by milestone 58 (part of the third instalment) related to the establishment of the Once Only technical system connection, meeting the requirements of the Single Digital Gateway (SDG) set in Regulation (EU) 2018/1724. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2023.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all its constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Federal Act amending the Business Services Portal Act, published in the Federal Law Gazette on 26 July 2021, BGBl. I. No. 142/2021, including the link: https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20006310 (BGBLA_2021_I_142.pdf)	This Federal Act includes the regulation on Information Obligation Database (IVDB)
3	Notice on the availability of the Information Obligation Database, published in the Federal Law Gazette on 25 April 2023, including the link:	Notice on the availability of the Information Obligation Database (IVDB)

	https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/eli/bgbl/II/2023/120/20230425 (Kundmachung IVDB BGBLA_2023_II_120.pdf)	
4	Confirmation of the connection of registers to the Register and Systems Network (RSV), issued to the Federal Chancellery by *Bundesrechenzentrum GmbH* (contractor) on 29 May 2024 (Bestätigung RSV Registeranbindungen_s.pdf)	Confirmation certifying the connection of 21 registers to the Register and Systems Network (RSV)
5	Protocol excerpts of the Once Only steering committee meeting of 4 July 2023 and 29 November 2023 (AusLAUS_OnceOnly_07_04_23.pdf and AusLAUS_OnceOnly_29_11_23.pdf)	The excerpts of the Once Only steering committee meeting state that 21 registers would be connected by the end of 2023

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The Regulation on Information Obligation Database (IVDB) is in force, obliging Ministries to populate the database with information obligations emanating from existing laws and regulations.

The relevant provisions concerning the Information Obligation Database (IVDB) are set out in the Business Services Portal Act, as amended by the Federal Act BGBl. I No. 142/2021 published in the Federal Law Gazette on 26 July 2021 ("Amending Act").

The Business Services Portal Act, as amended, obliges ministries to populate the relevant database with information obligations emanating from existing laws and regulations.

Notably, Article 6(4) of the Business Service Portal Act, as amended by point 3 of the Amending Act, requires the ministries in whose field of action or responsibility there are information obligations (*Informationsverpflichtungen*) for citizens or businesses to report them in accordance with uniform requirements to *Bundesrechenzentrum GmbH*, the operator of the Once Only Platform. The Once Only Platform is part of the Information Obligation Database (IVDB).

Furthermore, Article 6(5) of the Business Service Portal Act, as amended by point 3 of the Amending Act, requires the Federal Minister for Digital and Economic Affairs to announce the availability of the Information Obligation Database (IVDB) in the Federal Law Gazette.

According to Article 8(8) of the Business Service Portal Act, as amended by point 5 of the Amending Act, the relevant provisions of the amended Business Service Portal Act regarding the regulation on Information Obligation Database (IVDB) (notably Article 6(4) of the Business Service Portal Act) enter into force following the end of the day of publication, which took place on 26 July 2021.

In addition, according to Article 8(8) of the Business Service Portal Act, as amended by point 5 of the Amending Act, Article 6(4) of the Business Service Portal Act applies from the date the Federal Minister for Digital and Economic Affairs announces the availability of the Information Obligation Database (IVDB) in the Federal Law Gazette, pursuant to Article 6(5) of the Business Service Portal Act. The Federal Minister for Finance announced the availability of the Information Obligation Database (IVDB) as of 1 January 2024, through the publication in the Federal Law Gazette on 25 April 2023 (Notice on the availability of the Information Obligation Database (evidence 3)). Therefore, the regulation on Information Obligation Database (IVDB) applies from 1 January 2024.

Registers have been connected according to the registration timetable adopted by the 'Once Only' Steering Committee.

The meeting protocol of the 'Once Only' Steering Committee of 29 November 2023 states that 21 registers will be connected by the end of 2023 (evidence 5).

The *Bundesrechenzentrum GmbH* (as contractor and operator of the Once Only Platform) issued a confirmation to the Federal Chancellery on 29 May 2024 (evidence 4) which certifies that, as of 31 December 2023, 21 registers were connected to the Register and Systems Network (RSV), *inter alia*, for the purposes of the Single Digital Gateway (SDG), corresponding to the register roadmap presented in the 'Once Only' Steering Committee on 29 November 2023.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the application of the Once Only principle shall become mandatory in administrative proceedings provided for by the new legislative measures.**

In accordance with Article 6(4) of the Business Service Portal Act, as amended by point 3 of the Amending Act, the Federal Ministries in whose field of action or competence there are information obligations for citizens or businesses are required to report them to the *Bundesrechenzentrum GmbH*, the operator of the Once Only Platform, in accordance with uniform requirements.

Moreover, Article 7 of the Business Service Portal Act, as amended by point 4 of the Amending Act, states that when drawing up drafts of legislative measures, which should contain an obligation for citizens or businesses to provide information, the relevant Federal Minister shall ask the other relevant Federal Minister via the Once Only platform whether an obligation to provide information in this regard is already included in an existing legislative measure. If so, the Federal Minister responsible for preparing the draft has to base its draft on the use of these existing data.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 60 Projects selected

Related Measure: C2.2C2 Digitalisation fund public administration

Qualitative Indicator: Selection of projects to develop a modern digital infrastructure in the public administration

Time: Q2 2022

1. Context:

The investment aims to contribute to developing citizen-centred service-oriented administration with a modern digital infrastructure. The objective is to accelerate digitalisation in the federal administration by financing cross-departmental projects to implement IT consolidation in the federal government, develop IT services for citizens and businesses, and optimise procedures. The projects are submitted by federal departments and selected by the dedicated task force.

Milestone 60 relates to the selection of the digitalisation projects in the federal government to be funded by the Digitalisation Fund, with at least 95 projects selected to implement IT consolidation in the federal government and at least 60 projects selected to develop citizen and business services, as well as accelerate and improve the efficiency of procedures.

Milestone 60 is the second milestone of the investment, and it follows the completion of milestone 59, related to setting the legal basis for the establishment of the Digitalisation Fund. It will be followed by milestone 61, related to the issuance of final reports regarding funded projects. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2023.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	List of selected projects (01_Digifonds LBB Project Overview.pdf)	List of selected projects from the project resources management tool (PRM) with a unique PRM-number
3	Copies of communication letters (selection decisions) from the Ministry of Finance (signed electronically) to the ministries concerned regarding the selected projects by means of an electronic file (ELAK) dated 15 December 2022 (02_2022-0.864.487_(BKA_e-Government)_excerpt.pdf and 02-	Communication of the selected projects from the Ministry of Finance to the ministries

	2022-0-864-487-bka-e-government-excerpt-enclosure.pdf)	
4	Copies of protocols of 11 meetings of the Digitalisation Task Force (03_2022-0.848.074 (BKA_e-Government).pdf)	In these protocols the selection decisions were recorded in electronic file (ELAK).
5	Copies of 169 electronic files (ELAK) through which project managers were informed of the results of the selection	169 individual pdfs with the complete file for each project (including the description of the project control and budgetary resolution process, application for funding, and communication on the result of the selection process)
6	Copy of the Digitalisation Fund Act (*Digitalisierungsfondsgesetz)*, which was published in the Federal Law Gazette on 27 May 2021 (BGBl I. No. 91/2021) and entered into force on 1 January 2021	The Digitalisation Fund Act *(Digitalisierungsfondsgesetz*) sets the legal basis for the Digitalisation Fund.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

At least 95 projects shall be selected in the area of "cross-departmental projects to implement IT consolidation in the federal government" and at least 60 projects shall be selected in the area of "projects with a cross-departmental impact for the development of citizen and business services and projects aimed at accelerating and improving the efficiency of procedures" […]

The Digitalisation Fund Act *(Digitalisierungsfondsgesetz*), which was published in the Federal Law Gazette on 27 May 2021 (BGBl I. No. 91/2021) and entered into force on 1 January 2021 (evidence 6), states that the fund is to be used for financing the following inter-departmental projects:

"1. Projects for the implementation of IT consolidation in the federal government;
2. Projects to expand services for citizens and companies;
3. Projects to accelerate and improve the efficiency of procedures." (Article 3(1) of the Digitalisation Fund Act)

When submitting their project applications, the federal ministries provided project description and indicated to which of the three above-mentioned categories the project belonged (section "*Projektbeschreibung*" and section "*Projekt dient der/dem…*", respectively, in the 169 electronic files (ELAK) which contain also the project applications (evidence 5)).

The selection of projects was made by the Digitalisation Task Force, comprised of the representatives of the Federal Ministry of Finance, Federal Chancellery, Federal Ministry for Art, Culture, Civil Services and Sports and formerly Federal Ministry of Digitalisation and Economic Affairs, in line with Article 3(4) of the Digitalisation Fund Act *(Digitalisierungsfondsgesetz*) (evidence 6). The Digitalisation Task Force made the decision on the selection of the projects at its meetings (copies of protocols of 11 meetings of the Digitalisation Task Force (evidence 4)). The Digitalisation Task Force also made the final assignment of the selected projects to the above-mentioned categories, as set out in the enclosure to electronic file (ELAK), dated 15 December 2022 (evidence 3).

A total of 102 projects were selected in the area “cross-departmental projects to implement IT consolidation in the federal government” and a total of 66 projects were selected in the area “cross-departmental impact for the development of citizen and business services and projects aimed at accelerating and improving the efficiency of procedures”, as set out in the list of all selected projects (evidence 2) and enclosure to electronic file (ELAK) dated 15 December 2022 (evidence 3). The selection of projects was also recorded in the protocols at the Digitalisation Task Force meetings (evidence 4).

[…] and selection decisions shall be communicated.

On 15 December 2022, the Ministry of Finance informed the relevant ministries of the results of the selection of projects through the electronic file system of the federal government (ELAK) under the reference number 2022-0.864.487 (copies of communication letters (selection decisions) from the Ministry of Finance to the ministries concerned regarding the selected projects by means of an electronic file (ELAK) dated 15 December 2022 (evidence 3)). The respective project managers were also informed through ELAK (copies of 169 electronic files (ELAK) through which project managers were informed of the results of the selection (evidence 5)).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Target: 67 Digitalisation investments in at least 7,000 companies under the RRP

Related Measure: C2.2D2 Digital investments in enterprises

Quantitative Indicator: Number of companies supported

Baseline: 0

Target: 7,000

Time: Q4 2022

1. Context:

The investment aims to encourage companies' investments into digitalisation and thus direct them towards forward-looking priority areas. It consists in a 14% subsidy for digital investments. Eligible for the subsidy are investments in the digitalisation of business models and processes (which includes Industry 4.0 and e-commerce), as well as investments in the introduction or improvement of IT and cybersecurity measures.

Target 67 requires that support is granted to at least 7,000 companies for their digital investments (such as in hardware, software, digital infrastructure and e-commerce).

Target 67 is the second and final target of this investment, and it follows the completion of milestone 65, related to the entry into force of the amendment to the Investment Premium Act which increased the budget for the premiums. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2022.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all its constitutive elements) has been satisfactorily fulfilled
2	List of the 7,009 supported companies	The list of companies includes, among other things, the type of the digital investment and its short description.
3	60 copies of: a. the funding commitment issued by the Austrian implementing agency AWS (*Austria Wirtschaftsservice*), and b. the settlement form, including where available a written confirmation of tax adviser for funding or otherwise a copy of the final invoice	In the context of sampling, for the 60 selected companies, copies of 60 afore-mentioned documents were provided by Austria, to confirm the completion of the digital investments.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

Support granted to at least 7 000 companies for their digital investments (such as in hardware, software, digital infrastructure and e-commerce).

Based on the Investment Premium Act (BGBl. I Nr. 88/2020), between 1 September 2020 and 31 December 2023, the implementing agency, Austrian Economic Service (*Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH*, hereinafter referred to as "AWS"), granted support to 7,009 enterprises for their digital investments, including in hardware, software, digital infrastructure and e-commerce (according to the list of the 7,009 supported companies, evidence 1).

Following the selection of a random sample of 60 companies, for each selected company, Austria submitted: (i) a copy of the funding commitment issued to the companies by AWS, and (ii) a copy of the settlement form, including where available a written confirmation of a tax adviser for funding or otherwise a copy of the final invoice.

The analysis of this evidence for the sample of 60 companies confirmed its alignment with the requirements set out in the CID Annex.

In particular, the Commission verified that for each sampled company there was a signed commitment from AWS to support the company's digital investment. Furthermore, the Commission checked that, upon completion of their project, each company was issued a settlement form by AWS stating the amount of the final support and the type of the supported digital investment. Finally, the Commission verified the existence of a written confirmation of a tax adviser for funding or otherwise a copy of the final invoice, which confirmed the digital investment, including its type (such as in hardware, software, digital infrastructure and e-commerce).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Target: 78 Ministerial planning approval (BMBWF & BMF)

Related Measure: C3.3A3 Austrian Institute of Precision Medicine

Qualitative Indicator: Ministerial approval by the Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) in agreement with the Federal Ministry of Finances and publication of approved planning within the Austrian Building Programme

Time: Q2 2022

1. Context:

The objective of this investment is to establish a centre for precision medicine on the campus of the Medical University of Vienna. The investment consists of a new building to be built for this new research centre. The investments include both the structural and the necessary infrastructural and digital equipment for research.

Milestone 78 requires that ministerial approval by the Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research in agreement with the Federal Ministry of Finances be presented, and that publication of approved planning within the Austrian Building Programme be proven.

Milestone 78 is the first step of the implementation of the investment. It will be followed by Milestone 79 related to the start of construction of the Institute of Precision Medicine and Milestone 80 related to its completion.

The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary Document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all its constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Letter dated 28 June 2022 signed by the Federal Minister of Education, Science and Research approving the project (AT_78_Ministerial Approval)	This letter states that approval for the project 'Center of Precision Management' is granted.
3	Austrian Building Management Plan (AT_78_Gesamtösterreichischer Bauleitplan Juni 2022)	A copy of the Austrian Building Management Plan. This document dated June 2022 contains all real estate projects of the universities exceeding a set amount.
4	Consolidated version of the University Real Estate Ordinance, published in the Federal Law Gazette II No. 24/2018 (*Gesamte Rechtsvorschrift für Universitäten-*	The Universities Real Estate Ordinance (Universitäten-Immobilienverordnung – Uni-ImmoV) regulates the procedure for the planning and execution of real estate projects at universities. The law is available at https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.w

	Immobilienverordnung, Fassung vom 21.02.2024)	xe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20010147
5	Federal Act on the Organisation of Universities and their Studies, published in the Federal Law Gazette I No. 120/2002 (*Bundesgesetz über die Organisation der Universitäten und ihre Studien (Universitätsgesetz 2002 – UG)*)	The Federal Act on the Organisation of Universities and their Studies lays down the organisation and management of universities (Universities Act 2002 – UG; Universitätsgesetz 2002 – UG). Online available at https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/Erv/ERV_2002_1_120/ERV_2002_1_120.html

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Approval of the project by the Ministry of Education Science and Research (BMBWF).

A letter dated 28 June 2022 and signed by the Federal Minister of Education, Science and Research (evidence 2) communicates the approval of the project 'Center of Precision Management' in line with the procedure set out in Article 6 of the University Real Estate Ordinance (evidence 4), which in turn is based on Article 118 of the Federal Act on the Organisation of Universities and their Studies (evidence 5). This signed ministerial letter approving the project is addressed to the rector of Vienna Medical University as the host of that Center. The letter states that this follows consultation with the Federal Ministry of Finance. It contains approved amounts as well as further stipulations of the project and states that the letter was also transmitted to all other universities, the City of Vienna and the Ministry of Finance, all in line with stipulations in Article 6 of the University Real Estate Ordinance (evidence 4).

The project shall be simultaneously included in the Austrian Building Management Plan. The Plan sets out and details all the public construction plans for universities.

The Austrian Building Management Plan (evidence 3) includes the project and details all the public construction plans for universities. The Center of Precision Management is listed as item 1, and this document contains the name of the university, the name of the building project in question, the costs and the date of approval.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 81 Award decisions for grants to universities investing in digital research infrastructure

Related Measure: 3.A.4 (Digital) Research Infrastructures

Qualitative indicator: Communication of award decisions by the awarding authority and publication of the names of the selected projects and universities

Time: Q4 2022

1. Context:

The investment consists in funding of digital research infrastructure projects for Austrian universities. The investment is implemented through a call for expressions of interest to enable financing high quality and competitive infrastructure at Austrian universities and giving them the possibility to participate in large international research infrastructures.

Milestone 81 relates to the communication of the award decisions regarding digital infrastructure projects to universities and publication of the names of the selected projects and universities.

Milestone 81 is the first step of the implementation of the investment. It will be followed by milestone 82, related to an interim progress report showing that all projects are underway and that half of the investments have been completed, and milestone 83, related to the final report showing that all investments have been completed. The investment has a final expected date for implementation by Q3 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all its constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Copies of the official award decisions of 20 December 2022 for grants to universities investing in digital research infrastructure signed by the Federal Minister of Education, Science and Research (AT_81_ZusagenUniversitäten_kompakt.pdf)	The award decisions sent to the recipients (universities)
3	Link to the official website of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) with published selected projects: https://www.bmfwf.gv.at/wissenschaft/hochschulgo	Link to the official website of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF), where the names of the selected

	vernance/steuerungsinstrumente/ausschreibung-digi.html	projects and universities were published
4	Digital document of the official website of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) with the published award decisions (AT_81_Publication Award Decisions_27-7-2023.jpg)	Digital document of the official website of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF), where the names of the selected projects and universities were published
5	Digital document of the call description for "(digital) research infrastructures (2022)" (AT_81_Call_Description.jpeg)	Also available at: (Digitale) Forschungsinfrastrukturen (bmbwf.gv.at)
6	Digital document of the selection criteria for the call "(digital) research infrastructures (2022)" (AT_81_Call_Selection Criteria.jpeg)	Also available at: (Digitale) Forschungsinfrastrukturen (bmbwf.gv.at)
7	Digital document of the dates and timeline for the call "(digital) research infrastructures (2022)" (AT_81_Call_Dates and Timeline.jpeg)	Also available at: (Digitale) Forschungsinfrastrukturen (bmbwf.gv.at)

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

Award decisions regarding digital infrastructure projects to be carried out by universities shall be communicated to the universities. The names of the selected projects and universities shall be published on the website of the Ministry.

Pursuant to the call for expression of interest "(digital) research infrastructures" (2022), 28 projects were selected by the expert commission and the award decisions were communicated to the universities individually by letters of 20 December 2022 (evidence 2).

The list of the 28 selected projects, including their names and universities, was published on the website of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) (evidence 3 and 4; this website was checked by Commission services on 11 October 2024).

In line with the description of the measure, **the investment consists in funding of (digital) research infrastructure projects for the Austrian universities. A call for expressions of interest shall be set up to enable financing high quality and competitive infrastructure at the Austrian universities and giving them the possibility to participate in large international research infrastructures.**

The call for expression of interest "(digital) research infrastructures" (2022) was published on the website of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) (evidence 5; this website was checked by Commission services on 11 October 2024). The call was designed to fund the purchase of digital research infrastructure by Austrian universities (evidence 5). The deadline for the submission of the project proposals to the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) by universities was 15 September 2022 (evidence 7).

The call was set up to enable financing high quality and competitive infrastructure at Austrian universities. This was ensured through the selection criteria. One of the criteria specifically referred to the quality of the research infrastructure, which included current relevance, innovation potential,

networking and reputation (evidence 6 under “Formal criteria”). Also, among its goals, the call specified the improvement or modernisation of high-quality and competitive (digital) research infrastructure equipment at Austrian universities (evidence 5¸ under the “Objectives”).

In addition, the call specifically mentioned the participation in large international research infrastructures as one of its goals (evidence 5 under the “Objectives”). This goal is also reflected in the formal funding criteria which require the acquisition of the infrastructures to be related, *inter alia*, to European/international initiatives (evidence 6).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 86 Education bonus measure evaluated

Related Measure: C3.3B1 Education bonus

Qualitative Indicator: Publication of evaluation report

Time: Q1 2022

1. Context:

The objective of this reform is to improve the incentives and the material framework conditions for long-term unemployed to participate in organised training or qualification sessions. The reform is expected to reduce the risk of participants prematurely dropping out from the training.

Milestone 86 envisages the evaluation of the education bonus before it has expired, with a view of a possible extension funded by the national budget and to publish the evaluation report on the website of the responsible Ministry.

Milestone 86 is the third and last milestone of the reform, and it follows the completion of milestone 84 related to setting the legal framework and the funding guidelines for the disbursement of the education bonus to unemployed people and target 85 regarding the implementation of the reform enacted in milestone 84. The reform has a final expected date for implementation 31 March 2022.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Evaluation report on the education bonus published on the website of the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection the Ministry (formerly Ministry of Labour and Economy) in December 2021: Arbeitsmarktpolitische Initiativen	The report presents the impact of the education bonus compared to 2019 when the education bonus was not yet in place.
3	Federal Act amending the Unemployment Insurance Act published in the Federal Law Gazette of the Republic of Austria BGBI I No 108/2020 on 30 September 2020 and and having entered into force on 1 October 2020 and provided a link to the publication: ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/BgblAuth/BGBLA_2020_I_108/BGBLA_2020_I_108.pdfsig	The Act established the education bonus, as part of the Corona Job Initiative for education and trainings until 31 December 2021.
4	Federal Act amending the Unemployment Insurance Act published in the Federal Law Gazette of the Republic of Austria BGBI I No 216/2021 on 30	The amendment extended the education bonus until 31 December 2022

	December 2021 and having entered into force on 1 January 2022 and provided a link to the publication: https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/eli/bgbl/I/2021/216	
5	Federal Act amending the Unemployment Insurance Act published in the Federal Law Gazette of the Republic of Austria BGBI I No. 11/2023, and having entered into force on 1 January 2023 and provided a link: https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/BgblAuth/BGBLA_2023_I_11/BGBLA_2023_I_11.html	The amendment extended the education bonus until 31 December 2023
6	Federal Act amending the Unemployment Insurance Act published in the Federal Law Gazette of the Republic of Austria BGBI I No. 118/2023, published on 12 October 2023 and having entered into force on 1 January 2024 and provided a link: https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/BgblAuth/BGBLA_2023_I_118/BGBLA_2023_I_118.pdfsig	The amendment repealed Article 20(7) of the Unemployment Insurance Act which previously referred to the education bonus. Following the amendment, the education bonus is integrated in the training allowance in Article 20 (6).

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austria authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Before the education bonus has expired, the measure shall be evaluated, with a view of a possible extension funded by the national budget.

The education bonus was set to expire on 31 December 2021 in line with Article 20(7) and Article 79(169) of the amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act (evidence 2), but it was extended twice. The impact of the education bonus was presented in the report on the "Analysis of impact of the education bonus" (evidence 3) for the period from October 2020 until December 2021 and published on the website of the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (formerly Ministry of Economy and Labour) in December 2021, thus before the expiry of the education bonus. The report evaluates the situation before and after the implementation of the education bonus. The analysis draws two conclusions, notably firstly, that the education bonus tends to extend the planned duration of the training, in particular in the area of basic qualifications (Conclusion 1) and secondly, that it contributed to reducing the drop-out rate from the trainings (Conclusion 2).

The education bonus was extended twice by amending Article 20(7) of the Unemployment Insurance Act (evidences 4-5) first until 31 December 2022 (published in the Federal Law Gazette of the Republic of Austria BGBI I No 216/2021 on 31 December 2021 and entered into force on 1 January 2022 in accordance with Article 79(169)) and second until 31 December 2023 (published in the Federal Law Gazette of the Republic of Austria BGBI I No. 11/2023 on 24 February 2023), entered into force on 1 January 2023 in accordance with Article 79 (180)) accordingly. The education bonus was integrated in the training allowance (evidence 6) by repealing Article 20(7) and amending Article 20(6) of the Unemployment Insurance Act. The amendment was published in the Federal Law Gazette of the Republic of Austria BGBI I No. No 118/2023 on 12 October 2023 and came into force on 1 January 2024 in accordance with Article 79 (181). The two extensions of the education bonus continued being financed from the national budget with unchanged conditions in accordance with Article 20 (7) of the Unemployment Insurance Act.

The evaluation report shall be published on the website of the responsible Ministry.

The impact of the education bonus was presented in the report "Analysis of impact of the education bonus" and published on the website of the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (Ministry of Economy and Labour until April 2025) (evidence 2). This website was checked by Commission services on 24 April 2024 and on 11 July 2025.

The measure description was analysed in the fiche related to milestone 84 in the first preliminary assessment of Austria of 10 March 2023.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: **88 Implementation report**

Related Measure: C3.3B2 Promoting re-skilling and up-skilling

Qualitative Indicator: Implementation report based on quarterly implementation reports

Time: Q1 2022

1. Context:

The objective of this investment is to improve the skills and competences of the unemployed, particularly the low skilled, to prepare them for the future challenges of the labour market and to make them less vulnerable for future spells of unemployment.

Milestone 88 is related to issuing an implementation report by the Ministry based on quarterly implementation reports with a view to providing detailed information on the re-skilling and up-skilling measures carried out.

Milestone 88 is the second milestone of the investment, and it follows the completion of milestone 87 which required the necessary budgetary provision to have been established in December 2020, under the 2021 budget and the Federal budgetary framework Act (BFRG). It will be followed by target 89 which specifies that at least 94 000 people will be enrolled in re- and up-skilling measures. The investment has a final expected date for implementation by 31 December 2022.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Implementation report of Austrian Re- and Upskilling Measures by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy, published here: Arbeitsmarktpolitische Initiativen	The report of March 2022 provides a descriptive and statistical overview of the re- and upskilling of people between the fourth quarter of 2020 and the first quarter of 2022.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Implementation report shall be issued by the Ministry based on quarterly implementation reports.

The Ministry of Labour and Economy presented the implementation report in March 2022, as shown on the cover page of the report itself and published it on the Ministry's website (the Ministry was renamed in April 2025 to Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection) (evidence 2). This website was checked by Commission services on 24 April 2024 and on 11 July 2025. The data in the tables and the accompanying analysis in Chapter 2 on "Participation and monitoring", as well as in Chapter 3 on the "Impact on further careers" show the quarterly implementation of the re-skilling and up-skilling measures in the period from the fourth quarter of 2020 until the first quarter of 2022, confirming that the report is based on quarterly reports.

…The report shall provide detailed information on the re-skilling and up-skilling measures carried out.

The report presents information and data on the re-skilling and up-skilling measures carried out in Chapter 2 on "Participation and monitoring", as well as in Chapter 3 on the "Impact on further careers". Table 1 in Chapter 2 presents the number of participants in training courses on basic qualifications by gender and age and Table 2 shows the number of participants in training courses on priority area qualifications by gender and age. Chapter 1 "Introduction" specifies the priority areas for training, notably IT and digital, social and care profession, environment and sustainability.

The report also provides information on the content of the training measures carried out. The training measures cover a wide range of fields like digital, green and nursing, social and care. The IT and digital trainings range from coding and software development to intensive training in electronical engineering. In the green area the trainings focus on green jobs and competencies, for instance on energy and environmental technologies. The basic qualification trainings include job-specific German courses and literacy courses. The report also clarifies in footnote 1 that youth coaching would be financed as from 2022 thus no data could be presented in the report. Furthermore, Chapter 2 presents the duration of participation in the re- and upskilling programmes. Information is also provided on the costs of the trainings. Chapter 3 contains detailed information on the participants' employment status three months after the completion of a funded re- and upskilling program.

The measure description was analysed in the fiche related to milestone 87 in the first preliminary assessment of Austria of 10 March 2023.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Target: 89 People benefitting from re-skilling and up-skilling.

Related Measure: C3.3B2 Promoting re-skilling and up-skilling

Quantitative Indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 94000

Time: Q4 2022

1. Context:

The objective of this investment is to improve the skills and competences of the unemployed, particularly the low skilled, to prepare them for the future challenges of the labour market and to make them less vulnerable for future spells of unemployment.

Target 89 is related to enrolling at least 94 000 people in re- and up-skilling measures.

Target 89 is the third and last target of the investment. It follows the completion of milestone 87 which required the necessary budgetary provision to have been established in December 2020, under the 2021 budget and the Federal budgetary framework Act (BFRG) and of milestone 88 related to issuing an implementation report by the Ministry based on quarterly implementation reports with a view to providing detailed information on the re-skilling and up-skilling measures carried out. The investment has a final expected date for implementation by 31 December 2022.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	List of individuals who participated in re- and upskilling measures	Excel Spreadsheet containing a total of 94397 people who enrolled in re-and upskilling measures. The list provides for each person a - unique identifier - area and name of the training
3	60 digital documents	The digital documents present information for each person that they enrolled in re-and upskilling measures. The digital documents show

		- the unique identifier and - the area of training for each person as recorded in the system of the Austrian Public Employment Service or the Social Ministry Service
4	Job Offensive Programme	The document provides an explanation of the purpose and structure of the Job Offensive programme and for each abbreviation which appear on the digital documents

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austria authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

At least 94 000 people shall be recorded as having been enrolled in re-skilling and up-skilling measures in the system of the Austrian Public Employment Service or by the Social Ministry Service.

A list of 94 397 people who enrolled in re-skilling and up-skilling measures has been submitted by the Austrian authorities (evidence 2). Following the selection of a random sample of 60 units, Austria submitted 60 digital documents (evidence 3) which show the internal registration for each individual in the system of the Austrian Public Employment Service (AMS – Arbeitsmarktservice) or the Social Ministry Service respectively.

In order to prove the enrolment in the up- and reskilling measure as recorded in the system of the Austrian Public Employment Service or by the Social Ministry Service, the digital documents provided for a sample of 60 units show the period of the training for each person or the starting of the training for those who could not finish it. The digital document also shows for each person the unique identifier and the area of re-skilling -and up-skilling training.

The training areas on the digital documents correspond to the areas as identified in the excel spreadsheet and are in line with the areas in the measure description of this investment as analysed in the fiche related to milestone 87 in the first preliminary assessment of Austria of 10 March 2023, notably basic qualifications, electronics and digital technologies, nursing, social and caring professions, environment/sustainability, project oriented transitional work places as well as youth coaching. As regards project oriented transitional workplaces, the digital document refers to socio-economic enterprises because project-oriented training can be performed in a social economic enterprise in accordance with the structure of the Corona Job Offensive programme (evidence 4).

The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 1 July 2025 to verify that the information provided in the digital documents corresponds to the information in the system of Austrian Public Employment Service. This check was completed successfully. During the on-spot-check the Commission also verified that the digital documents provided by Austria correspond to the information on the enrolment of a person in a re-and up-skilling measure (evidence 3).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 94 Evaluation of the remedial education package

Related Measure: C3.3C2 Remedial education package

Qualitative Indicator: Evaluation of the remedial hours package is published and includes an overview of how many weekly hours have been offered

Time: Q1 2022

1. Context:

The objective of the investment is to contribute to reducing the education gap and losses of the pupils who had to attend distance learning lessons during the COVID-19 pandemic. The aim is to avoid the increase of existing inequalities in education by focussing mostly on the most disadvantaged pupils.

Milestone 94 consists of publishing a short evaluation report which includes an oversight of the results of the final accounts of the remedial education project, and it entails also the utilisation of the additional hours provided.

Milestone 94 is the third and last milestone of the measure, and it follows the completion of milestone 92 related to the implementation the remedial education package and the related support measures including additional learning hours by the educational authorities at the schools and milestone 93 related to the provision of additional teaching hours. The implementation of the measure shall be completed by 31 March 2022.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Evaluation report of the COVID-19 package of measures for the 2020/2021 school year and link to the published document on the website of the Ministry of Education, Science and Research: Evaluation COVID-19-Förderstundenpaket Schuljahr 2020/21 (SS) (bmbwf.gv.at)	The evaluation report contains the assessment of the measures put in place to improve the educational outcome of pupils who experienced learning losses due to the COVID-19 crisis.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austria authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

A short evaluation report shall be published on the website of the Ministry.

The evaluation report on the package of measures due to the COVID-19 crisis for the school year 2020/2021, the remedial education package, is published on the website of the Ministry of Education, Science and Research and the Austrian authorities provided a link to the report (evidence 2). The Commission checked the website on 23 November 2023. The report, which is divided into 14 chapters, analyses the impact of the measures put in place to improve the educational outcomes of pupils who experienced educational losses due to the COVID-19 related long-distance learning.

It includes an oversight of the results of the final accounts of the remedial education project and it entails also the utilisation of the additional hours provided.

The remedial education package consists of the provision of resources to implement additional support measures to pupils, including individual support or group lessons. The additional support measures entail the provision of two additional hours per week per class and the extension of the summer school.

- The report provides an overview of the final results of the remedial education package in Chapters 5-11. In particular, the report contains a detailed overview of the number of teaching hours, and the availability of as well as the take up of teaching posts in the 2020/21 school year in the different school types per Laender (Chapter 5). The report also provides information, including figures per school type and number of pupils, as well as- type of measures, on the use of the supplementary lessons during the summer holiday, so called summer school which offered pupils individual support to repeat and deepen teaching and learning content so they could start the next school year well prepared (Chapter 9). Furthermore, the report also gives an overview of the risks associated with the implementation of the measures (Chapter 6) and the implementation of the quality assurance and monitoring (Chapter 7). Furthermore, Chapter 11 contains the key findings based on the overall analysis in the report and highlights the figures in light of the educational support measures.

- The utilisation of the additional hours provided is outlined in more details in Chapter 8. The analysis provides an overview of the use of the additional hours, breaking down the data per federal state and individual school types, and is accompanied by qualitative analysis. One of the key findings of the report is that at least one support measure was implemented in 74% of the schools, and that the proportion was the highest in elementary schools and compulsory secondary schools, over 80% each. Furthermore, the distribution of the additional hours shows that the focus was on supporting lessons and on individual support in the classroom, and that schools with disadvantaged students used more resources for support measures than schools without disadvantaged students.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 104 - Platform on primary health care and related measures

Related Measure: 4.A.1. Enhancing primary health care

Qualitative Indicator: Start of platform / incubator / accelerator

Time: Q4 2022

1. Context:

The Austrian platform for primary health care is intended to serve as an information and communication hub between health professionals, patient organisations, and other health care stakeholders. The objective of the measure is to promote the attractiveness of working conditions for general practitioners and other professions in primary health care. Besides improved health care provisions, the reform also aims at promoting a culture of interprofessional cooperation and mutual understanding of roles and competencies in the field of primary health care.

Milestone 104 requires that the platform on primary health care be established and start its operation. Furthermore, the incubator and primary health care unit accelerator programme have been started.

Milestone 104 is the first step of the implementation of the measure and it will be followed by target 105 assessed in the present payment request, related to promoting primary health care and finally target 106, related to measuring the success of the platform.

The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone requirements have been satisfactorily fulfilled.
1a	Website of the Austrian primary health care platform	This includes the link to the website of the Austrian primary health care platform, publicly available at primaerversorgung.gv.at. This also includes reference to the segments on the accelerator and incubator programme as well as event recordings of events as part of each programme.
2	Signed letter of confirmation on the platform on primary health care (AT_104_Confirmation Letter for Platform on PHC)	Letter confirming the establishment and start of the operation of the platform on primary health care as of September 2022, signed by the Director General (Ministry of Health of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection) and the Executive Director (the Austrian National Public Health Institute (Gesundheit Österreich GmbH, GÖG in the following).

3	Signed letter of confirmation on the incubator and accelerator programmes (AT_104_Confirmation Letter for Incubator/Accelerator Programme)	Letter to confirm the start of incubator and primary health care unit accelerator programme of September 2022, signed by the Director General (Ministry of Health of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection) and by the Executive Director (GÖG).
4	Documentation on the establishment and launch of the platform on primary health care (AT_104_Annex to the Summary Document)	Document containing: Annex 1.1: Extract of the website impressum regarding the ownership of the domain "primaerversorgung.gv.at" Annex 1.2: Invoice regarding the costs for hosting "primaerversorgung.gv.at" Annex 1.3: Press release about the launch of the Austrian primary health care platform Annex 1.4: Screenshot of the EU logo on the Austrian primary health care platform in the footer of the website Annex 1.5: Description of the project on the website of the Austrian primary health care platform Annex 2: The start of the incubator (idea workshops) and the primary health care unit accelerator programme, including digital documents
5	Audit report confirming the establishment of the platform on primary health care and its incubator and primary health care unit accelerator programme	Report by the Federal Accounting Agency (Buchhaltungsagentur des Bundes, hereinafter referred to as "BHAG"), a public service company that acts independently and is the central service provider for federal. In addition to a wider system check, BHAG also verified specifically the attainment of this target. The report is dated 25 April 2024 and e-signed by the three auditors.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The platform on primary health care shall formally be established and shall start its operation.

The primary health care platform was formally established and started its operation on 14 September 2022, and can be accessed on the website of the Austrian platform on primary health care, run by

Gesundheit Österreich GmbH (hereinafter referred to as “GÖG”). This website was checked by Commission services frequently ever since its launch, most recently on 16 October 2024.

Additional information on the formal process of the establishment and launch of the platform is included in evidence 4. This includes the description of the process on page 1, proof of ownership of the website on page 3, an invoice for the hosting services on page 4. At the launch of the platform, a press release was issued (evidence 4, pages 5 and 6) which contains information on the project published on 15 September 2022. It was presented and made available to the public during an event organised for this purpose, with participants from various stakeholders of the national primary health care community and Commission staff also attended the launch event, including a speaking role setting out Commission priorities (evidence 4, page 10).

The incubator and primary health care unit accelerator programme have been started.

The incubator and primary health care unit accelerator programme started their services, with the first events respectively in October 2021 and June 2022. The incubator programme aims at gathering ideas for the development of primary health care in Austria through various methods, such as idea workshops or surveys. The primary health care unit accelerator programme aims to make useful information available to potential founders of a primary health care unit, including through events and networking opportunities. Both programmes are closely related and integrated into the platform on primary health care. Several of the events of the incubator and primary health care unit accelerator programme listed in evidence 4 (pages 11-16) were recorded and remain available on the website of the Austrian platform on primary health care, such as the event on 20 June 2022 for the primary healthcare community. The respective segments of the website run by GÖG were checked by Commission services frequently, most recently on 16 October 2024.

The start of the incubator and primary health care unit accelerator programme as part of the platform on primary health care as of September 2022 was confirmed by a statement signed by the implementing agency as well as the responsible Ministry of Health of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (evidence 3). The programmes were further audited and their start confirmed by the independent Federal Accounting Agency (evidence 5).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 114 Identification and entrustment of the implementation bodies

Related Measure: 4.A.4, National roll-out of early childhood interventions (*Frühe Hilfen*) for socially disadvantaged pregnant women, their young children and families

Qualitative Indicator: Act(s) entrusting the implementation bodies

Time: Q4 2022

1. Context:

The objective of the measure is to support families in vulnerable situations during the period of pregnancy and early childhood. The investment consists of preventive interventions for families in need by improving and extending already existing support measures, specifically setting up this support in regions it was not yet available, and extending and qualitatively improving such services where they already provided.

Milestone 114 requires the identification and assignment of the implementation bodies for setting up the early childhood interventions (*Frühe Hilfen*)for socially disadvantaged pregnant women, their small children and families.

Milestone 114 is the first step in the implementation of the reform and is followed by target 115, assessed as part of the same payment request and related to measuring the reach and completion of national rollout and target 116, related to completing the national rollout. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 30 September 2024.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone requirements (including all its constitutive elements) have been satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	List of implementing bodies (AT_114_Implementing bodies)	Complete list of implementing bodies identified and assigned regional responsibility for the implementation of early childhood interventions (*Frühe Hilfen*).
3	Financing guidelines for the early aid scheme (AT_114_SonderfinanzierungsRL_RRF_FH)	Special financing guidelines for the national roll-out of early childhood interventions (*Frühe Hilfen*). These are also available upon registration on the website of the Ministry of Health of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection at

		https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Eltern-und-Kind/Fr%C3%BChe-Hilfen.html.
4	Collection of contracts relevant to entrusting the implementation bodies (AT_114_Copies of contracts.zip)	Copies of all acts entrusting the implementation bodies - 10 financing agreements between the Austrian National Public Health Institute Gesundheit Österreich and the state and regional health insurance providers of the federal states (*Bundesländer*) as listed in evidence 2 and 21 contracts signed with all beneficiaries to provide early childhood interventions (*Frühe Hilfen*) services, likewise as listed in evidence 2. These are supplemented by 18 documents "Chapter D – specifications of procurement procedures" which specify tasks and obligations of the contracting parties.
5	Dedicated website by the Ministry of Health of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection for early childhood interventions (*Frühe Hilfen*) for socially disadvantaged pregnant women	Dedicated website provides information on https://fruehehilfen.at/.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The implementation bodies for setting up early childhood interventions (*Frühe Hilfen*) for socially disadvantaged, pregnant women, their small children and families shall be identified and assigned.

The national Austrian institutions identified 15 implementing bodies for carrying out tasks under the early childhood interventions scheme (hereinafter referred to as "*Frühe Hilfen*") (evidence 2).

The implementation bodies were further assigned regional responsibility through contracts entrusting the implementation bodies to provide early childhood intervention services in respective regions (evidence 4). According to the Austrian federal system, the federal states (*Bundesländer*) as well as the state and regional health insurance providers share responsibility in the relevant area of health and social affairs. Therefore, two layers of contracts were concluded: by the Austrian National Public Health Institute Gesundheit Österreich (evidence 4). These are firstly, 10 financing agreements between the Austrian National Public Health Institute Gesundheit Österreich and the state and regional health insurance providers of the federal states (*Bundesländer*) and secondly, 21 contracts

and supplementary documents covering the different geographical regions signed between the Austrian Health Insurance Fund (*Österreichische Gesundheitskasse*) and the assigned local and regional providers of health care and social services as implementing bodies in their respective regions.

Regarding the objective to implement *Frühe Hilfen* for socially disadvantaged, pregnant women, their small children and families, each of the financing agreements makes reference to the objective of setting up the *Frühe Hilfen* network under point 1 of each document. Likewise, a dedicated website by the Ministry of Health of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection – which was checked by Commission services numerous times, most recently on 11 October 2024 - sets out the objective of the *Frühe Hilfen* programme as providing support for socially disadvantaged pregnant women, their small children and families in situations that leave them particularly vulnerable.

In addition, the special financing guidelines for the national roll-out of *Frühe Hilfen* define the object and modalities of funding (evidence 3). These were also published at the website of the Ministry of Health of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, which was checked by Commission services multiple times, most recently on 11 October 2024. The object as set out in section 2.3 on page 7 are tasks in the *Frühe Hilfen* programme for socially disadvantaged pregnant women, their small children and families. The modalities are described in detail from page 15, covering applications for funding, financing agreements to be concluded, controlling of accounts and associated communication obligations.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 118 Adoption of the Austrian quantitative soil protection strategy

Related Measure: C4.4B1 Soil protection strategy

Qualitative Indicator: Publication of the adopted Soil strategy

Time: Q4 2022

1. Context:

The objective of the development of a soil protection strategy is to set up a framework for consensus-finding and coordination processes with all relevant planning bodies (federal level, Laender and municipalities) to agree on a strategic guidance to curb land use leading to the adoption of the Austrian quantitative soil strategy, including the overall objective of reducing the land use in Austria to net 2.5 hectare per day until 2030.

Milestone 118 provides for the adoption of the quantitative soil protection strategy including the overall objective of reducing land use in Austria to net 2.5 hectare per day until 2030.

Milestone 118 is the second and last milestone of the reform, and it follows the completion of milestone 117, related to the development of, and the agreement on, the key elements of an Austrian soil protection strategy and a roadmap for its implementation. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2022.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Declaration on the adoption of the soil strategy of 29 February 2024	Declaration of the Länder (federal provinces), Städtebund (Federation of Towns and Cities and Gemeindebund (Federation of Municipalities) as part of which the Soil Protection Strategy was adopted.
3	Austrian Soil Protection Strategy (published at the website of Austrian federal province of Upper Austria (*Land Oberösterreich)* under the following link : Land Oberösterreich - Nationale und internationale Raum- und Regionalentwicklung	Austrian Soil Protection Strategy ("*Bodenstrategie für Österreich – Strategie zur Reduktion der weiteren Flächeninanspruch-nahme und Bodenversiegelung bis 2030*")

	(land-oberoesterreich.gv.at) following its adoption on 29 February 2024.	

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The quantitative soil protection strategy shall be adopted.

The strategy was developed in the framework of the Austrian Conference of Spatial Planning Matters, *Österreichische Raumordnungskonferenz,* (hereinafter referred to as *"*ÖROK"). ÖROK is the co-ordination platform for spatial policies in Austria where all institutional actors (federal level, federal provinces (Länder) and municipalities are represented. It acts as expert organisation and co-ordinating body on spatial planning in Austria but does not have any legal competences. Under the Austrian Federal Constitution, spatial planning falls under the jurisdiction and responsibility of the Länder.

On 29 February 2024, the strategy was adopted at a meeting of the Länder ministers responsible for spatial planning matters as part of a declaration entitled "Protecting Soil and Enabling the Future", of which Austria has provided a copy (evidence 2). Austria provided a copy of the adopted Soil Protection Strategy which has been published at the website of Austrian federal province of Upper Austria (*Land Oberösterreich)* (evidence 3). This website was checked by Commission services on 17 October 2024.

With the adoption of the strategy by political representatives of the Länder responsible for spatial planning, the key competent actors for the implementation of the strategy have endorsed it. The Länder are listed as actors for all the measures in the strategy. Additionally, high level representatives of all ÖROK authorities decided at the ÖROK General Assembly in November 2023 (at the level of the directors general of federal ministries, directors of Länder state offices, secretaries general of associations of municipalities and of cities and towns and representatives of the economic and social partners) to use the Soil Strategy as developed in the framework of ÖROK as basis for the implementation of the 12 measures contained in the action plan attached to the strategy.

Implementation of the Action Plan involving representatives of federal government, Länder and the municipalities is under way as evidenced through published documents on the website of the Federal Ministry for Agriculture for measure 1 of the Action Plan on 'Designation of Agricultural Priority Areas in Austria. A first report on the implementation of the Soil Strategy is scheduled for 2026.

It shall include the overall objective of reducing the land use in Austria to net 2.5 hectare per day until 2030

In chapter 4 of the adopted strategy (evidence 3) quantitative targets and measures to meet the objectives of the strategy are listed. Subchapter 4.1. (page 13) contains the reduction target of reducing of land-use to net 2.5 ha/day by 2030 from the government programme. With this the strategy includes the overall objective of reducing land-use to net 2.5 ha a day by 2030.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 120 Principles for the implementation of long-term care target-based governance (Zielsteuerung Pflege) are established

Related Measure: 4.B.2 Reform to further develop care provision

Qualitative Indicator: Publication of the principles

Time: Q4 2022

1. Context:

The objective of the reform is to address challenges and further develop the long-term care sector. The measure consists of several preparatory steps for a long-term care reform starting in 2024, within the next period of the Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act. The report of the Task Force Care, comprising experts from all levels of government and external stakeholders, has defined the objectives for the development of the existing care system.

The milestone 120 concerns the adoption and publication of principles for the implementation of long-term care target-based governance by the partners of the fiscal framework negotiations (Federal level, Laender and Municipalities). The commission on target-based care governance (now designated as Pflege-Entwicklungs-Kommission (PEK)) is established as a way to bring together all levels to further develop long-term care (structure, organisation, financing) in a coordinated and effective manner.

Milestone 120 is the second step in the implementation of the measure. It follows the completion of milestone 119 on pilot projects of community nursing. The third step is milestone 121 related to the start of implementing the core elements of the reform of long-term care provision as part of the Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 March 2024.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary Document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Publication of guiding principles	The homepage of the Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK) shows the 10 guiding principles of the commission for target-based care governance. The homepage also shows that the principles were published on 4 July 2023 (as finalised in April 2023). Screenshots of the homepage were submitted, which is also available at: https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Pflege/Pflegereform/Pflege-Entwicklungs-Kommission.html

3	Minutes of the meeting of the commission for target-based care governance on 24 January 2023	Minutes of the meeting of the commission for target-based care governance attended by the partners of the fiscal framework negotiations (Federal level, Laender and Municipalities) on 24 January 2023. The participants welcomed and provided further feedback on the principles and guidelines.
4	Minutes of the meeting of the commission for target-based care governance on 12 April 2023	Minutes of the meeting of the commission for target-based care governance attended by the partners of the fiscal framework negotiations (Federal level, Laender and Municipalities) on 12 April 2023. The participants had some further minor remarks on principle number 3 that was adjusted accordingly.
5	Letter signed by the Minister confirming the final agreement on the principles and guidelines dated April 2023	Letter by the Minister of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, dated 25 April 2023, to all partners of the target-based care governance including the final agreed principles and guidelines as attachment.

3. Analysis:

The principles for the long-term care target-based governance have been adopted by the partners of the fiscal framework negotiations (Federal level, Laender and Municipalities) (…)

The milestone is further specified in the Operational Arrangements, which specifies that **the principles for the implementation of the long-term care target-based governance shall be deemed adopted by the partners of the fiscal framework negotiations when they have been agreed between them**.

The minutes of the meetings of the commission for target-based care governance on 24 January 2023 (evidence 3) and on 12 April 2023 (evidence 4), together with a letter signed by the Minister of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (evidence 5) show that the principles for the long-term care target-based governance have been agreed by the partners of the fiscal framework negotiations (Federal level, Laender and Municipalities). In particular, the minutes of both meetings of 24 January 2023 and 12 April 2023 show that representatives of the federal level (at Federal Minister level), the nine Laender (Regional Ministers), the association of cities and towns and the association of municipalities participated in these two meetings.

The minutes of the meeting of the commission for target-based care governance on 24 January 2023 (evidence 3) state that on 13 January 2023 the draft principles and guidelines were transmitted to the Regional ministers, the association of cities and towns and the association of municipalities. During the meeting, a representative of the Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection proceeded to presented principles and guidelines, and all participants were asked for their feedback. The representatives of the regions of Burgenland, Vienna, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Tyrol, Vorarlberg, Carinthia, the association of municipalities and the association of cities and towns welcomed the principles and guidelines, while also providing some feedback. The minutes note that the results of the Task Force Care not only fed into the Care Reform Package, but also will guide future work. The minutes note the fundamental agreement on the principles presented in the document "principles and guidelines" as well as on the process.
In the meeting of 12 April 2023 (evidence 4), one of the principles was further discussed (principle three).

On 25 April 2023, the federal minister sent a letter to all members of the commission for target-based care governance (Federal level, Laender and Municipalities). In this letter, the minister confirmed that

principle three was revised according to the comments received during the meeting of 12 April 2023 and transmitted the finally agreed principles and guidelines as attachment.

(…) the principles (…) have been (…) published

The principles were published on the homepage of the Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection on 4 July 2023. This website was checked by Commission services on 3 June 2024.

The 10 principles refer to (1) right to care; (2) increasing healthy life years; (3) care as responsibility of society as a whole; (4) adequate and high-quality care; (5) responsibility of public sector; (6) independent living; (7) quality of care; (8) long-term care staff; (9) prevention of violence; (10) support for a United Nation Convention on the rights of older people.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 132 - Interim evaluation

Related Measure: 4.B.4, Investment in the implementation of Community Nursing

Qualitative Indicator: Interim evaluation report submitted

Time: Q4 2022

1. Context:

The objective of the establishment of community nursing in Austria is to make a significant contribution to local care services; community nurses are central contact persons who coordinate various services in this field and play a central role in prevention. The investment consists in the establishment of a network of at least 150 community nurses.

Milestone 132 requires an interim evaluation report and recommendations for further approach by external evaluators.

Milestone 132 is the second milestone of the measure, and it follows the completion of target 131, related to measuring the quantitative success of employed community nurses. This was assessed as satisfactorily fulfilled as part of the first payment request by Austria.
It will be followed by target 133, related to measuring the quantitative success of employed community nurses as well as their performance.

The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2024.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Interim evaluation report prepared by the Institute for Applied Research on Ageing and submitted to the implementing authority on 16 December 2022 (CN_Evaluierung_Zwischenbericht_Final)	Copy of the submitted interim evaluation report and of the recommendations for further approach by external evaluators
3	E-Mail including invitation to stakeholders (CN_Einladung_Präsentation)	e-mail announcing a discussion of the interim evaluation report

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Interim evaluation report and recommendations for further approach by external evaluators

The final version of the first interim evaluation report was submitted to Gesundheit Österreich on 16 December 2022, following a tender procedure and award to the "Fachhochschule Kärnten" (University of Applied Sciences Carinthia) and its *Institute for Applied Research on Ageing* (*IARA*) (evidence 2).

On pages 73 to 75, the interim evaluation report lists recommendations covering different aspects of the project targeting the implementation of the pilot projects, as well as regarding a possible further roll-out and further development of community nursing. The recommendations are intended to be taken into account by the stakeholders with regard to the further implementation of the pilot projects and the further development of community nursing in Austria.

An invitation was sent to stakeholders that had registered as interested for an exchange on the interim evaluation report on 20 December 2022 (evidence 3).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 135 - Launch of the consultation process on a strategy for the digitisation of cultural heritage

Related Measure: 4.C.2, Develop a national digitalisation strategy for cultural heritage

Qualitative Indicator: Publication of the consultation process, including launch of the online survey

Time: Q1 2022

1. Context:

The objective of the reform is to expand digitalisation in arts and culture and to promote the digital transformation of the art and culture sector. The reform consists of the development and publication of a national strategy for the digitalisation of cultural heritage. The strategy is also the framework for the investments in digitalisation included in this sub-component.

Milestone 135 requires that the consultation process of relevant stakeholders has been launched. The consultation shall take place through an online survey and specific workshops with relevant stakeholders (such as museums, educational institutions, libraries).

Milestone 135 is the first step in the implementation of the reform and it will be followed by milestone 136 related to publishing the digitalisation strategy, which is part of this payment request.

The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 March 2023.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
1a	Website to the national digitalisation strategy for cultural heritage	Links to the website of the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport (BMKÖS) on the national digitalisation strategy for cultural heritage at https://www.bmkoes.gv.at/Kunst-und-Kultur/europa-und-internationales/EU-Aufbau-und-Resilienzfazilit%C3%A4t/Digitalisierungsstrategie.html, which in turn contains links to the strategy document and other documentation, the press release published on 7 April 2022 announcing the kick-off event, further workshops and explaining the consultation process at https://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20220407_OTS0136, and the report on the stakeholder workshop published on 13 September 2022 at

		https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/eu-aufbauplan/aktuelles/veranstaltung-der-strategie-kulturerbe-digital.html.
2	Announcement of the launch of the consultation process (AT_135_Annex1_Copy_of_the_launch_of_the_consultation_process)	Digital document of the website of the Ministry announcing the consultation process on 7 April 2022, including the full URL, no longer active, but at the time accessible via https://www.bmkoes.gv.at/kunst-und-kultur/Neuigkeiten/Digitalisierungsstrategie-Umfrage2.html.
3	Online survey (AT_135_Annex2_Copy_of_the_public_online_survey)	Digital document of the online survey accessible online between 7 April 2022 and 1 May 2022, including the full URL, no longer active, but at the time accessible via https://www.bmkoes.gv.at/kunst-und-kultur/Neuigkeiten/Digitalisierungsstrategie-Umfrage2.html.
4	Results of the online survey (AT_135_Annex3_Results_of_the_public_online_survey)	Summary of the survey results including the questionnaire, objectives, participation and analysis of main results
5	Summary of workshops on the national digitalisation strategy for cultural heritage (AT_135_Annex4_Summary_of_strategy_workshops)	Summary of strategy workshops: documentation of all workshops with stakeholders from cultural and educational institutions as well as representatives from the Laender (including list of participants, agenda, protocol, photos)

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The consultation process has been launched.

The Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport launched the consultation process on the national strategy for the digitisation of cultural heritage on 7 April 2022 in the form of an online survey that was open until 1 May 2022. The consultation process was announced on 7 April 2022 (evidence 2) and the authorities also prepared a kick-off event on the same day, with a press release published on 7 April 2022 announcing the kick-off event on the website of the Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport as well as its channel at the Austrian press agency APA, where it is still available.

The consultation shall take place through an online survey and specific workshops with relevant stakeholders (such as museums, educational institutions, libraries). In line with the description of the measure, the **strategy process shall include a public kick-off event, workshops, and web-based support in the Laender**.

The online survey was accessible online between 7 April 2022 and 1 May 2022, and it covered relevant questions (evidence 3). The questionnaire is available in the report summarising the results of this survey, including its objectives, participation and further analysis of the main points (evidence 4). The online survey was publicly available and was specifically sent to 1337 relevant stakeholders in the cultural sector by the Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport. The report sets out details on respondents on pages 5-8 of evidence 4.

Furthermore, the joint consultation process included representatives of cultural heritage institutions, the federal states and an expert advisory board. A public kick-off event took place on 7 April 2022 and two workshops were held 30 June – 1 July 2022 and 6 September 2022, including with representatives from the Laender (evidence 5). For the specific workshops, the lists of participants demonstrate attendance of representatives from museums, educational institutions, and libraries. A description of the content of each event along with photographs taken is also given. A report on the kick-off event on 7 April 2022 is also available on the website of the Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport. A report on the second stakeholder workshop was also published on 13 September 2022 and remains available on the website of the Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport. These websites were checked by Commission services, most recently on 16 October 2024.

In addition to the material provided on the public kick-off event and workshops as set out above, web-based consultations took place with representatives from the Laender (regional governments) in three online meetings on 16 December 2021, 17 May 2022 and 7 October 2022 to ensure their involvement in the development of the national digitalisation strategy (evidence 5, pages 38-49).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 144 First call for expressions of interest

Related Measure: C4.4C5 Investment fund for climate-friendly cultural businesses

Qualitative Indicator: First call for expressions of interest published

Time: Q2 2022

1. Context:

The objective of the investment is to support cultural institutions, which have often little capacity for investments in a more ecological design of their operational structures, including renewable energy sources and energy saving measures. The measure therefore supports such investments and also raises awareness of medium to long-term cost savings if such investments are realised.

Milestone 144 requires that the call for expressions of interest of the investment fund for climate-friendly cultural businesses has been published, that potential applicants may access all the necessary documents and information, and that applications may be made online.

Milestone 144 is the second milestone of the investment. It follows the completion of milestone 143, which concerned the entry into force of the funding guidelines establishing the investment fund. This was assessed as satisfactorily fulfilled as part of the first payment request. Milestone 144 will be followed by milestone 145, related to the publication of selected projects, with the financial volume of the investment fund for climate-friendly cultural businesses fully committed to eligible projects. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 30 September 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
1a	Weblinks to the investment fund	Links to the investment fund on the website of the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport at https://www.bmkoes.gv.at/Kunst-und-Kultur/europa-und-internationales/EU-Aufbau-und-Resilienzfazilit%C3%A4t/klimafitte-kulturbetriebe.html, the website of the Climate and Energy Fund (KLI.EN, implementing body) at and the website of the KommunalKredit Public Consulting (KPC). Also provided are links to the press release and the press conference at the launch of the project on 10 October 2022 at https://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20221010_OTS0100/bmkoesmayer-15-millionen-euro-fuer-klimafitte-kulturbetriebe,

		https://www.bmkoes.gv.at/Kunst-und-Kultur/Neuigkeiten/Pressekonferenz-Klimafonds.html, including a recording available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJMMYblaecE.
2	Announcement of the launch of the call for expression of interest (AT_144_Annex1_Copy of the publication of the call)	This document features digital documents of, and links to, the websites of the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport, the Climate and Energy Fund and Kommunalcredit Public Consulting that provide details of the investment fund, in particular including the first call published on 10 October 2022. The deadline for applications was 15 March 2023.
3	Application form (AT_144_Annex2_Copy of the application form)	This document is a copy of, and link to, the application form for the investment fund. This was only accessible online during the period calls were open.
4	Guidance document on the programme 'climate-friendly cultural businesses' (AT_144_Annex3_Guide "Climate-friendly cultural businesses")	This document sets out guidance accompanying the call (in German), explaining the application process and specifying criteria.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The call for expressions of interest has been published.

The call for expression of interest for the investment fund for climate-friendly cultural businesses was published on the websites of the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport, the Climate and Energy Fund and the KommunalKredit Public Consulting (hereinafter referred to as "KPC") (evidence 2) on 10 October 2022. These websites were checked by Commission services on 16 October 2024.

A press release dedicated to this call for expressions of interest was also published on 10 October 2022 on the websites of the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport as well as its channel at the Austrian press agency APA, where it is still available. A recording of the press conference is also still available on YouTube. These websites were checked by Commission services on 16 October 2024.

Potential applicants may access all the necessary documents and information.

The published call for expression of interest (evidence 2) provides access to all the necessary documents and information. These are details of the investment fund for climate-friendly cultural businesses and links to the full documentation, in particular the guidance document on the programme 'climate-friendly cultural businesses' (evidence 4) regarding the first call published. That guidance sets out specific information accompanying the call, including practical information on submissions regarding the eligible areas on pages 7-12, selection criteria and further process on pages 15-17. All documents and information were available for access to the public and hence all potential applicants.

Applications may be made online.

The application was possible online via the form that was published alongside the call for expression of interest on the websites of the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport, the Climate and Energy Fund and KPC on 10 October 2022 (evidence 3). This was only accessible during the opening period of calls at the website indicated in evidence 3. The guidance document on the programme 'climate-friendly cultural businesses' (evidence 4) regarding the first call published also explains that applications may be made online, under the link provided on the KPC website included on the third page in the evidence 2.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 146 Spending Review on the analysis of the climate and energy policy support and incentive landscape

Related Measure: C4.4D1 Spending review focusing on green and digital transformation

Qualitative Indicator: Dissemination of the report

Time: Q3 2022

1. Context:

The objective of the reform is to carry out spending reviews for public spending related to the green and digital transitions. Spending reviews, as topic-related budget analysis points, supplement the regular budget planning process and may make an important contribution to improving the impact orientation of the federal budget.

Milestone 146 provides for the dissemination of a report containing the analysis of the climate and energy policy support and incentive landscape. Based on the report, examination of further funding and incentives related to their impact on climate and energy policy may take place. It aims to include climate responsibility mechanisms for Ministries and the setting of specific greenhouse gas reduction targets with given budget ceilings.

Milestone 146 is the first step in the implementation of the reform. It will be followed by milestone 147 milestone 148, milestone 149 and milestone 150, all related to the spending review focusing on the green transition and milestone 151, related to the spending review focusing on the digital transition. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Spending review report on the analysis of the climate and energy policy support and incentive landscape, published on the Ministry of Finance's website (latest website update 31 January 2023): https://www.bmf.gv.at/themen/klimapolitik/green_Budgeting/green_spending_reviews_des_bmf/modul_1_gruene_finanzstroeme_im_bundeshaushalt.html	The first spending review report of the spending review cycle focuses on the climate and energy policy funding and incentive landscape at the federal level. It examines the cost-effective use of funds and the efficient use of the existing possibilities of the public sector to achieve specific environmental and climate goals.
3	Annex to the spending review report on the analysis of the climate and energy policy support and incentive landscape	Annex to the spending review report on the analysis of the climate and energy policy support and incentive landscape

4	Short executive summary in English of the spending review report on the analysis of the climate and energy policy support and incentive landscape	Executive summary in English of the spending review report on the analysis of the climate and energy policy support and incentive landscape

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The report shall be internally disseminated.

The finalised spending review report (evidence 2 and hereinafter referred to as "report") on the analysis of the climate and energy policy support and incentive landscape is disseminated through the homepage of the Austrian Ministry of Finance. This website was updated for the last time on 31 January 2023 and checked by Commission services on 22 October 2024.

This report focuses on the analysis of the climate and energy policy support and incentive landscape.

The report (evidence 2) is divided into seven chapters. In particular, Chapter 3 analyses the methodology used by the federal government, Chapter 4 identifies the climate and energy funding and incentive landscape and Chapter 5 analyses the budgetary implications of climate policy. In this way the report specifically addresses the climate and energy policy support and incentive landscape.

Based on this, examination of further funding and incentives related to their impact on climate and energy policy may take place.

An analysis of funding and incentives related to their impact on climate and energy policy is carried out as part of the spending review, by applying the Green Budgeting Methodology (explained in chapter 3) to relevant budgetary items (Chapter 4.3 and 4.4). The element is further achieved by the constant review and development of the Austrian Green Budgeting Methodology that not only analyses the impact of funding and incentives but of entire financial flows. Updates are presented annually in the climate and environmental report, which is a supplementary document to the budget.

It aims to include climate responsibility mechanisms for Ministries and the setting of specific greenhouse gas reduction targets with given budget ceilings.

Recommendation 20 on the implementation of the principle of cost responsibility in federal budget and between local authorities and Chapter 5 on the budgetary implication of climate policy of the report (evidence 2) concern the climate responsibility mechanisms addressed at the government and federal ministries. Chapter 5.2. of the report provides a detailed analysis of the interlinkages between greenhouse gas emissions and the budget, indicating the greenhouse gas reduction targets and describing the budgetary risk under different (budgetary) scenarios (Chapter 5.2.3.). The use of the developed green budgeting methodology (Chapter 4) acts as a bridge between budget and climate policy. By using this methodology and the resulting recommendations, the reduction of greenhouse gases is linked to the given budget ceilings.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 153 Introduction of 50% Aliquotierung of the first pension increase

Related Measure: C4.4D2 Increase in effective retirement age

Qualitative Indicator: Entry into force of the law amending the Social Insurance Act

Time: Q1 2022

1. Context:

The objective of the reform is to improve the sustainability of the pension system and to minimise the risk of old-age poverty by recognising early entries into working life while abolishing early retirement pensions. The reform consists of (i) the abolishment of the early retirement pension without deductions, (ii) the introduction of the so-called "Frühstarterbonus" (early starter bonus) which is an additional 1 euro added to the pension for each month worked between the ages of 15 and 20 years and (iii) the introduction of 50% Aliquotierung of the first pension increase.

Milestone 153 is the second and last milestone of the reform, and it follows the completion of milestone 152, concerning the legal basis for the abolishment of the early retirement pension without deduction, as well as for the introduction of the early starter bonus.

The reform has the final expected date for implementation on 31 March 2022.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Ancillary Budget Act 2025 (*Budgetbegleitgesetz 2025)*	The Ancillary Budget Act 2025 was published in the Official Gazette I Nr. 25 on 30 June 2025. It amends the first-time pension adjustment to 50% in the first calendar year after entering retirement. The Ancillary Budget Act 2025 can be found here: https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/eli/bgbl/I/2025/25
3	Explanatory note to the Ancillary Budget Act 2025 (*Budgetbegleitgesetz 2025)*	The explanatory note accompanying the Ancillary Budget Act 2025 was published on 30 June 2025. It can be found here: https://www.parlament.gv.at/dokument/XXVIII/I/69/imfname_1685633.pdf
4	General Social Insurance Act (*Allgemeines Sozialversicherungsgesetz)*	The General Social Insurance Act (Allgemeine Sozialversicherungsänderungsgesetz) was amended by the Ancillary Budget Act 2025 on 30 June 2025, modifying the first-time pension adjustment to 50% in the first calendar year after entering retirement for pensioners in this category. A current version of the Law can be found here: https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10008147

5	Commercial Social Insurance *(Gewerbliches Sozialversicherungsgesetz)*	The Commercial Social Insurance (Gewerbliches Sozialversicherungsgesetz) was amended by the Ancillary Budget Act 2025 on 30 June 2025, modifying the first-time pension adjustment to 50% in the first calendar year after entering retirement for pensioners in this category. A current version of the Law can be found here: https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/geltendefassung.wxe?abfrage=bundesnormen&gesetzesnummer=10008422
6	Farmers' Social Insurance Act *(Bauern-Sozialversicherungsgesetz)*	The Farmers' Social Insurance Act (Bauern-Sozialversicherungsgesetz) was amended by the Ancillary Budget Act 2025 on 30 June 2025, modifying the first-time pension adjustment to 50% in the first calendar year after entering retirement for pensioners in this category. A current version of the Law can be found here: https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10008431
7	Pension Act 1965	The Pensions Act 1965 (Pensionsgesetz 1965) was amended by the Ancillary Budget Act 2025 on 30 June 2025. A current version of the Law can be found here: https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10008210
8	Federal Theatres Pensions Act *(Bundestheaterpensionsgesetz)*	The Federal Theatres Pensions Act (Bundestheaterpensionsgesetz) was amended by the Ancillary Budget Act 2025 on 30 June 2025, modifying the first-time pension adjustment to 50% in the first calendar year after entering retirement for pensioners in this category. A current version of the Law can be found here: https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10008173
9	Federal Railways Pensions Act *(Bundesbahn-Pensionsgesetz)*	The Federal Railways Pensions Act (Bundesbahn-Pensionsgesetz) was amended by the Ancillary Budget Act 2025 on 30 June 2025, modifying the first-time pension adjustment to 50% in the first calendar year after entering retirement for pensioners in this category. A current version of the Law can be found here: https://ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20001457

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The first-time pension adjustment in the calendar year after retirement shall be 50% of the adjustment amount.

The Ancillary Budget Act (evidence 2) was published in the Official Gazette I Nr. 25/2025 on 30 June 2025. In Articles 28, 29, 30, 37, 38, and 39, which entered into force on 1 July 2025 - the day following its publication -, it introduces a first-time pension adjustment in the calendar year after retirement of 50% of the adjustment amount by amending six social security/pension laws covering all public pension payments:

- Article 28 of the Ancillary Budget Act 2025 amends Article 108(1a) of the General Social Insurance Act (Allgemeines Sozialversicherungsgesetz, evidence 4).
- Article 29 of the Ancillary Budget Act 2025 amends Article 50(1a) of the Commercial Social Insurance Act (Gewerbliches Sozialversicherungsgesetz, evidence 5).
- Article 30 of the Ancillary Budget Act 2025 amends Article 46(1a) of the Farmers' Social Insurance Act (Bauern-Sozialversicherungsgesetz, evidence 6).

By derogating from Article 108 (1a) of the General Social Insurance Act, Article 50 (1a) of the Commercial Social Insurance Act and Article 46 (1a) of the Farmers' Social Insurance Act, the first pension increase for pensioners who retired within the calendar year preceding the first pension adjustment will be increased by 50% of the increase that would result from the application of the adjustment factor. Article 223(2) of the General Social Insurance Act, Article 113(2) of the Commercial Social Insurance Act and Article 104(2) of the Farmers' Social Insurance Act specify that the reference date for pensions falls within the calendar year preceding the first pension increase.

- Article 37 of the Ancillary Budget Act 2025 amends Article 41(2) of the Pensions Act 1965 (Pensionsgesetz 1965, evidence 7).
- Article 38 of the Ancillary Budget Act 2025 amends Article 11(1) of the Federal Theatres Pensions Act (Bundestheaterpensionsgesetz, evidence 8).
- Article 39 of the Ancillary Budget Act 2025 amends Article 37(2) of the Federal Railways Pensions Act (Bundesbahn-Pensionsgesetz, evidence 9).

Furthermore, in line with the amendments to Article 41(2) of the Pensions Act 1965, Article 11(1) of the Federal Theatres Pensions Act and Article 37(2) of the Federal Railways Pensions Act at the time of the first pension increase, retirement benefits and survivor’s benefits derived from civil servants or federal theater employees who died while in active service, as well as survivor’s benefits derived from civil servants or federal theater employees whose retirement benefits have not yet been subject to an initial adjustment, will be increased by 50% of increase that would result from the application of the adjustment factor.

The 50% increase of the first pension adjustment compared to the adjustment factor will apply in 2026 for those pensioners who retired in 2025 (Articles 28, 29, 30, 37, 38, and 39 of the Ancillary Budget Act).

The measure description was analysed in the fiche related to milestone 152 in the first preliminary assessment of Austria of 10 March 2023.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 154a Entry into force of the law introducing an increase in the pension deferral bonus

Related Measure: C4.4D3 *Reducing old-age poverty by incentivising people to work longer*

Qualitative Indicator: Provision in the law indicating the entry into force

Time: Q2 2022

1. Context:

The objective of the reform is to reduce old-age poverty by incentivising people to work longer. The reform consists of two parts. The first part aims at increasing the pension deferral bonus to incentivise individuals to work longer than their statutory pensionable age. The second part aims at tightening the eligibility conditions for the early retirement scheme "Korridorpension" by raising the minimum early retirement age and the years of contribution required thereby contributing to fiscal sustainability of the pension system. Milestone 154a requires that the law increasing the pension deferral bonus enters into force.

Milestone 154a is the first step of the implementation of the reform. It will be followed by milestone 155a, related to the reform of the early retirement scheme "Korridorpension". The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 March 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence. For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Social Law Amendment Act 2023 (*Sozialrechts-Änderungsgesetz 2023*)	The Social Law Amendment Act was published in the Official Gazette I Nr. 189/2023 on 31 December 2023. It amends three Social Insurance Acts and the General Pension Act to increase the pension deferral bonus.
3	General Social Insurance Act (*Allgemeines Sozialversicherungsgesetz*)	The General Social Insurance Act was amended by the Social Law Amendment Act 189/2023 on 31 December 2023 to increase the pension deferral bonus. A current version of the General Social Insurance Act can be found here: https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10008147
4	Commercial Social Insurance Act *(Gewerbliches Sozialversicherungsgesetz*)	The Commercial Social Insurance Act was amended by the Social Law Amendment Act 189/2023 on 31 December 2023 to increase the pension deferral bonus. A current version of the Commercial Social Insurance Act can be found here:

		https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/geltendefassung.wxe?abfrage=bundesnormen&gesetzesnummer=10008422
5	Farmers' Social Insurance Act *(Bauern-Sozialversicherungsgesetz)*	The Farmers' Social Insurance Act was amended by the Social Law Amendment Act 189/2023 on 31 December 2023 to increase the pension deferral bonus. A current version of the Farmers' Social Insurance Act can be found here: https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10008431
6	General Pension Act *(Allgemeines Pensionsgesetz)*	The General Pension Act was amended by the Social Law Amendment Act 189/2023 on 31 December 2023 to increase the pension deferral bonus. A current version of the General Pension Act can be found here: https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20003831

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austria authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The law increasing the pension deferral bonus shall enter into force.

The Social Law Amendment Act 2023 (Sozialrechts-Änderungsgesetz 2023, evidence 2) amends three Social Insurance Acts and the General Pension Act to increase the pension deferral bonus as of 1 January 2024. It was published in the Official Gazette Nr. 189/2023 on 31 December 2023. The pension deferral bonus rewards people who have attained the minimum contribution period and who postpone retirement beyond the statutory retirement age in line with Article 5(1) of the General Pension Act (evidence 6). The Social Law Amendment Act 2023 raises the pension deferral bonus from 0.35% to 0.425% for each month of postponement. Consequently, if a person retires one year after attaining the statutory retirement age, his or her monthly pension will be increased by 5.1% instead of 4.2%. The pension deferral bonus is capped at 15.3%.

- Article 1 of the Social Law Amendment Act amends Article 261c(1) of the General Social Insurance Act (Allgemeines Sozialversicherungsgesetz, evidence 3), which sets out the parameters of the pension deferral bonus, by replacing the number 4.2% with 5.1%. In accordance with Article 794(1) of the General Social Insurance Act, Article 261c(1) of the General Social Insurance Act entered into force on 1 January 2024.
- Article 2 of the Social Law Amendment Act amends Article 143a(1) of the Commercial Social Insurance Act (Gewerbliches Sozialversicherungsgesetz, evidence 4) on the pension deferral bonus by replacing the number 4.2% with 5.1%. In accordance with Article 411(1) of the Commercial Social Insurance Act, Article 143a(1) of the Commercial Social Insurance Act entered into force on 1 January 2024.
- Article 3 of the Social Law Amendment Act amends Article 134a(1) of the Farmers' Social Insurance Act (Bauern-Sozialversicherungsgesetz, evidence 5) on the pension deferral bonus by replacing the number 4.2% with 5.1%. In accordance with Article 406(1) of the Farmers' Social Insurance Act, Article 134a(1) of the Farmers' Social Insurance Act entered into force on 1 January 2024.
- Article 4 of the Social Law Amendment Act amends Article 5(4) of the General Pension Act (Allgemeines Pensionsversicherungsgesetz, evidence 6) on the pension deferral bonus by replacing the number 0.35% with 0.425% and the number 12.6% with 15.3%. In accordance

with Article 35 of the General Pension Act, Article 5(4) of the General Pension Act entered into force on 1 January 2024.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: 155a Entry into force of the law amending the Korridorpension

Related Measure: C4.4D3 *Reducing old-age poverty by incentivising people to work longer*

Qualitative Indicator: Provision in the law indicating the entry into force of the law amending the Korridorpension

Time: Q4 2022

1. Context:

The objective of the reform is to reduce old-age poverty by incentivising people to work longer. The reform consists of two parts. The first part aims at increasing the pension deferral bonus to incentivise individuals to work longer than their statutory pensionable age. The second part aims at tightening the eligibility conditions for the early retirement scheme "Korridorpension" by raising the minimum early retirement age and the years of contribution required thereby contributing to fiscal sustainability of the pension system.

Milestone 155a requires that the law amending the Korridorpension enters into force, with a stepwise application commencing on 1 January 2026.

Milestone 155a is the second and last milestone of the reform, and it follows the completion of milestone 154a, related to the increase of the pension deferral bonus. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 March 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Ancillary Budget Act 2025 (*Budgetbegleitgesetz 2025)*	The Ancillary Budget Act 2025 was published in the Official Gazette I Nr. 25 on 30 June 2025. It amends, inter alia, three Pension Acts and four Employment Acts to amend the early retirement scheme "Korridorpension". The Ancillary Budget Act 2025 can be found here: https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/BgblAuth/BGBLA_2025_I_25/BGBLA_2025_I_25.pdfsig
3	General Pension Act (*Allgemeines Pensionsgesetz*)	The General Pension Act was amended by the Ancillary Budget Act 2025 on 30 June 2025 to amend the Korridorpension. A current version of the General Pension Act can be found here: https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20003831

4	Federal Civil Servants Employment Act 1979 (*Beamten-Dienstrechtsgesetz 1979*)	The Federal Civil Servants Employment Act 1979 was amended by the Ancillary Budget Act 2025 on 30 June 2025 to amend the Korridorpension. A current version of the Federal Civil Servants Employment Act 1979 can be found here: https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10008470&FassungVom=2025-07-08
5	Judges and Public Prosecutors Service Act (*Richter- und Staatsanwaltschaftsdienstgesetz*)	The Judges and Public Prosecutors Service Act was amended by the Ancillary Budget Act 2025 on 30 June 2025 to amend the Korridorpension. A current version of the Law can be found here: https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10008187
6	Provincial Teachers Employment Act (Landeslehrer-Dienstrechtsgesetz)	The Provincial Teachers Employment Act was amended by the Ancillary Budget Act 2025 on 30 June 2025 to amend the Korridorpension. A current version of the Law can be found here: https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10008549
7	Provincial Agricultural and Forestry Teachers Employment Act (Land- und forstwirtschaftliche Landeslehrpersonen-Dienstrechtsgesetz)	The Provincial Agricultural and Forestry Teachers Employment Act was amended by the Ancillary Budget Act 2025 on 30 June 2025 to amend the Korridorpension. A current version of the Law can be found here: https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10008567
8	Federal Theatres Pensions Act (Bundestheaterpensionsgesetz)	The Federal Theatres Pensions Act was amended by the Ancillary Budget Act 2025 on 30 June 2025 to amend the Korridorpension. A current version of the Law can be found here: https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10008173
9	Federal Railways Pensions Act (Bundesbahn-Pensionsgesetz)	The Federal Railways Pensions Act was amended by the Ancillary Budget Act 2025 on 30 June 2025 to amend the Korridorpension. A current version of the Law can be found here: https://ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20001457

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austria authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The law amending the Korridorpension shall enter into force, with a stepwise application commencing on 1 January 2026.

The Ancillary Budget Act 2025 (Budgetbegleitgesetz 2025, evidence 2) amends a total of seven legislative acts: four Employment Acts and three Pension Acts to amend the early retirement scheme "Korridorpension" (Articles 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38 and 39 of the Ancillary Budget Act). It was published in the Official Gazette I Nr. 25/2025 on 30 June 2025 and entered into force on 1 July 2025, the day following its publication. The minimum age by when a person can enter early retirement via the Korridorpension is raised from 62 years to 63 years and the minimum contribution period for accessing the Korridorpension is raised from 480 months to 504 months, as indicated below. Entry into force on 1 January 2026 of the amendments of the seven legislative acts is set out in the following articles:

- Article 38(1) in the General Pension Act (evidence 3)
- Article 284(120) of the Federal Civil Servants Employment Act 1979 (evidence 4)
- Article 212(84) of the Judges and Public Prosecutors Service Act (evidence 5)
- Article 123(102) of the Provincial Teachers Employment Act (evidence 6)
- Article 127(79) of the Provincial Agricultural and Forestry Teachers Employment Act (evidence 7)
- Article 22(53) of the Federal Theatres Pensions Act (evidence 8)
- Article 62(43) of the Federal Railways Pensions Act (evidence 9)

The Ancillary Budget Act 2025 (Articles 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38 and 39, evidence 2) sets out the stepwise application of the above changes starting on 1 January 2026. People born before 1 January 1964 are unaffected due to their age and the changes apply fully to people born after 30 September 1966. A stepwise application concerns only people born between 1 January 1964 and 30 September 1966, with the following provisions applying:

Date of birth in quarter:	Minimum retirement age in Korridorpension	Minimum contribution period in Korridorpension
1st quarter 1964	62 years and 2 months	482 insurance months
2nd quarter 1964	62 years and 4 months	484 insurance months
3rd quarter 1964	62 years and 6 months	486 insurance months
4th quarter 1964	62 years and 8 months	488 insurance months
1st quarter 1965	62 years and 10 months	490 insurance months
2nd quarter 1965	63 years	492 insurance months
3rd quarter 1965	63 years	494 insurance months
4th quarter 1965	63 years	496 insurance months
1st quarter 1966	63 years	498 insurance months
2nd quarter 1966	63 years	500 insurance months
3rd quarter 1966	63 years	502 insurance months

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: 157 Entry into force of a law introducing a mandatory climate check for new legislative proposals

Related Measure: C4.4D4 *Climate action governance framework*

Qualitative Indicator: Provision in the law indicating the entry into force of the amendment to the Austrian Federal budget law (BHG 2013), with an effective application of the relevant provisions commencing no later than 1 January 2026.

Time: Q2 2022

1. Context:

The objective of the reform is to establish a sound legal framework for the implementation of the climate targets.

Milestone 157 requires the amendment to the Austrian Federal Budget Law (BHG 2013) introducing a mandatory addendum to the Austrian annual federal budget and a climate check for legislative proposals through a new binding impact dimension within the regulatory impact assessment.

Milestone 157 is the second and last milestone of the reform, and it follows the completion of milestone 156 related to the establishment of a Citizens' Climate Council and of a focal point on green budgeting in the Ministry of Finance to coordinate the implementation of green budgeting standards in Austria.

The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence. For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Ancillary Budget Act 2025 (*Budgetbegleitgesetz 2025)*	The Ancillary Budget Act 2025 published in the Official Gazette on 30 June 2025, amending, inter alia, the Austrian Federal Budget Law (BHG 2013) by introducing a new mandatory addendum to the Austrian annual federal and a climate check for legislative proposals through a new binding impact dimension within the regulatory impact assessment https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/BgblAuth/BGBLA_2025_I_25/BGBLA_2025_I_25.pdfsig
3	Explanatory note (*Erläuterungen*) accompanying the Ancillary Budget Act 2025	Explanatory note (*Erläuterungen*) submitted to the Austrian Parliament, explaining the objectives of the Ancillary Budget Act 2025 and the proposed amendments of the related laws https://www.parlament.gv.at/dokument/XXVIII/I/69/imfname_1685633.pdf
	Austrian Federal Budget Law (*Bundeshaushaltsgesetz 2013*)	Copy of the consolidated version of the Austrian Federal Budget Law (BHG) 2013 https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20006632

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austria authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

An amendment to the Austrian Federal Budget Law (BHG 2013) shall introduce a mandatory addendum to the Austrian annual federal budget and…

Article 51(3) of the Ancillary Budget Act 2025 (evidence 2) amends, among others, Article Art 42(4) of the Austrian Federal Budget Law (BHG 2013, evidence 4) by introducing a new mandatory addendum to the Austrian annual federal budget.

The Austrian Federal Budget Law governs the budgetary process and financial management of the Austrian federal government. Art 42(4) of the law defines the mandatory annexes that must accompany the annual draft federal budget. The amended Art 42(4) contains a new mandatory addendum (no. 7) to the Austrian annual federal budget. It requires an overview of budget execution related data in the context of EU climate requirements relevant to the Austrian annual federal budget.

…a climate check for legislative proposals through a new binding impact dimension within the regulatory impact assessment.

Article 51(2) of the Ancillary Budget Act 2025 (evidence 2) amends, among others, Article 17 of the Austrian Federal Budget Law (BHG 2013, evidence 4) that defines the scope of mandatory regulatory impact assessment for new legislative and regulatory proposals. The amendment of Article 17(1) introduced the impact on climate policy as a new binding impact dimension within the regulatory impact assessment.

Provision in the law indicating the entry into force of the amendment to the Austrian Federal budget law (BHG 2013), with an effective application of the relevant provisions commencing no later than 1 January 2026.

Article 51(6) of the Ancillary Budget Act 2025 (evidence 2) specifies that the above-mentioned amendments of Articles 17 and 42 of the Austrian Federal budget law (evidence 4) enter into force with the publication of the Act in the Official Gazette. The Act was published in the Official Gazette on 30 June 2025 (BGBI. I Nr. 25/2025) and thus entered into force on that date.

Article 51(6) of the Ancillary Budget Act 2025 (evidence 2) further specifies that the amended Article 17(1) regarding the mandatory regulatory impact assessment is applicable as from 1 January 2026.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: 159 Entry into force of the eco-social tax reform

Related Measure: C4.4D5 Eco-social tax reform

Qualitative Indicator: Provision in the law indicating the entry into force of the eco-social tax reform.

Time: Q1 2022

1. Context:

The measure aims to combat climate change and to contribute to the achievement of European and national climate targets. The first stage of the tax reform has been already implemented, but additional incentives for climate-friendly consumer behaviour should be introduced by the second stage of the reform. In detail, the second stage of the eco-social tax reform is expected to increase investment incentives for climate-friendly technologies and to support the expansion of the circular economy by providing preferential tax treatment for low or zero-emission technologies and products.

Milestone 159 concerns the entry into force of the eco-social tax reform to reduce annual CO_2 emissions by at least 2.6 million tonnes by 2030 (compared to 2019).

Milestone 159 is the second and last milestone of the reform, and it follows the completion of milestone 158 related to the launch of the work by a dedicated task force. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 March 2022.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	The eco-social tax reform Act 2022 which was published in the Federal Law Gazette of the Republic of Austria on 14 February 2022 and entered into force on 1 July 2022. The Act is also available online here: https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/BgblAuth/BGBLA_2022_I_10/BGBLA_2022_I_10.pdfsig	The eco-social tax reform Act 2022 contains the introduction of a CO2 pricing
3	Explanatory notes to the co-social tax reform Act 2022 which was published on 14 February 2022 https://www.parlament.gv.at/dokument/XXVII/I/1293/fname_1038887.pdf	The explanatory notes to the eco-social tax reform Act 2022 contain general comments as well as comments on individual law provisions

4	Impact assessment on the effects of the eco-social tax reform, published on the website of the Austrian Parliament on 15 December 2021: https://www.parlament.gv.at/dokument/XXVII/I/1293/fname_1038889.pdf pp. 1-33	A legally mandatory impact assessment on the effects of the eco-social tax reform, including the introduction of the CO2 pricing
5	Government programme 2020-2024: https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/bundeskanzleramt/die-bundesregierung/regierungsdokumente.html	The government programme describes the objectives of the Austrian government between 2020-2024. Pages 55-56 outline the steps and objectives of the eco-social tax reform.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Entry into force of the eco-social tax reform,

The eco-social tax reform Act 2022 (the Act) was published in the Official Journal on 14 February 2022 and entered into force on 1 July 2022, as per its articles 1-9 (Fed. Law. Gaz. No I No 10/2022).

...including a price for CO_2 emissions,

The Article 9 (10) of the Act sets an incrementally rising price for CO2-emissions. The price trajectory foresees an initial price of EUR 30 per metric ton of CO2 in 2022 to be gradually increased to EUR 55 by 2025.

...which is expected to reduce annual CO_2 emissions by at least 2.6 million tonnes by 2030 (compared to 2019).

As indicated in the impact assessment (evidence 4) under target 3, the Act is expected to reduce emissions by 2.6 million tonnes CO2 annually by 2030 in sectors that are not covered by the EU ETS.

In line with the description of the measure, **the measure shall introduce a pricing for CO_2 emissions, such as through CO_2 pricing via existing taxes within the framework of tax legislation or a national emissions trading system with prices set at the beginning**.

As described above, a national emissions trading system was created with prices set at the beginning.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure **the forthcoming second stage of the eco-social tax reform is expected to be an important complement to investment incentives for climate-friendly technologies (included notably in Component 1 Green recovery of the Austrian Recovery and Resilience Plan) and support to expand the circular economy by providing preferential tax treatment of low- or zero-emission technologies and products**.

As set out in Article 1 (6) of the Act, the "Ecological Investment Allowance" ("Öko-Investitionsfreibetrag") was extended from 10% to 15% of acquisition costs in case of acquisitions of

low- or zero emission technologies and products. Furthermore, the same Article sets out the possibility to claim as special expenses the costs for replacing fossil heating systems and for the comprehensive thermal renovation of buildings.

Article 5 of the Act sets out that the electricity duty is not charged on self-produced and self-used electric energy.

In line with the measure description, **the tax reform is expected to be revenue-neutral by providing tax relief to companies and private households through compensatory measures that have additional positive social and economic effects, such as reduced labour taxes or targeted consumption-based bonuses**.

Several measures have been adopted by Austria in the Act, providing tax relief to companies and private households through compensatory measures that have additional positive social and economic effects. For example, as set out inArticle 1 (15) of the Act, wage and income taxes were reduced from 35% to 30% and from 42% to 40%, respectively, which reduces the tax burden for employees. In addition, as set out by Articles 1 (4), Article 2 (4) and Article 1 (6) of the Act, the basic tax allowance for profits was increased from 13% to 15%, the corporate income tax rate was gradually reduced from 25% to 23%, and the Ecological Investment Allowance was introduced, creating positive effects for Austrian companies. Furthermore, Article 1 (19) of the Act sets out an increase of the family bonus plus and of the additional child allowance, providing families with increased benefits.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **these measures are coordinated with instruments at the European level, so that double pricing is excluded**.

As set out in Article 9 (20) of the Act, the CO2 pricing in Austria is coordinated with instruments at European level and explicitly excludes the pricing of emissions under the national scheme if they are already covered under the EU Emission trading system (ETS). A company or activity can only be subject to one system — either the EU ETS or Austria's national CO_2 pricing, not both.

Furthermore, in line with the measure description, **the pricing is based on the one hand on the goal of true cost agreed in the government programme and on the other hand on the emission reductions necessary to achieve the climate targets**.

The overall goal of CO2 emission reduction targets, on which the pricing is based, is set out on page 55-56 of the government programme ("Regierungsprogramm" 2020-2024, evidence 5) and Article 9 (1) of the Act. Furthermore, Article 9 (1) of the Act specifies that the CO2 pricing is contributing to Austria's commitment in reaching the climate goals of the Paris agreement. More precisely, in the impact assessment (evidence 4) under target 3, the reduction of emissions by 2.6 million tonnes CO2 annually by 2030 in sectors that are not covered by the EU ETS is expected.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 160 Green Finance Agenda

Related Measure: C4.4 D6 Green Finance (Agenda)

Qualitative Indicator: Publication of the Green Finance Agenda

Time: Q1 2022

1. Context:

The objective of the Green Finance Agenda is to establish a political and monitoring framework that mobilises private capital for investments needed to achieve the 2030 climate and energy targets. The actions of the Green Finance Agenda focus on (i) mobilisation of capital for climate protection and sustainable investment, (ii) anchoring and managing climate-relevant risks in the due diligence obligations, and (iii) development of uniform strategies, methods and guidance.

Milestone 160 concerns the publication of the Green Finance Agenda, which shall include concrete reference to the planned actions, such as facilitating the granting of 'green loans' and the development of strategies and methods for a better risk management in the context of green finance.

Milestone 160 is the first step of the implementation of the reform. It is followed by the final milestone 161, which is part of the same payment request and is related to the publication of an implementation report on the Green Finance Agenda, including a methodology based on quantitative and qualitative indicators to guide the measurement of the success of green finance actions. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2022.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary Document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Proposal no 68/14 for the adoption of the Austrian Green Finance Agenda, submitted to the 68th Council of Ministers on 1 September 2023 jointly by the Federal Minister of Finance and the Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/dam/jcr:71558040-70b6-4aaa-b708-2b57fad06ca8/68_14_mrv.pdf)	Proposal for the adoption of the Green Finance
3	Green Finance Agenda, adopted on 6 September 2023 (https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/dam/jcr:f57fcbe9-6679-4857-a1d6-5246c1d2c55d/68_14_beilage_nb.pdf)	Green Finance Agenda adopted by the 68th Council of Ministers and published by the Federal Chancellery

4	Green Finance Agenda (in German) (https://www.bmluk.gv.at/dam/jcr:45a70270-d7e8-4153-92c5-de7500b16635/BMK_Green-Finance-Agenda_2023_UA.pdf ; https://www.bmf.gv.at/dam/jcr:9f7ab649-d491-4dc6-8e87-ef2a936c1c94/Green-Finance-Agenda.pdf)	Green Finance Agenda - German version published on 7 September 2023 by the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, and the Federal Ministry of Finance
5	Green Finance Agenda (in English) (https://www.bmluk.gv.at/en/topics/climate-environment/climate/green-finance/green-finance/austrian-green-finance-agenda.html)	Green Finance Agenda - English version published by the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology
6	European Banking Authority Report on the role of environmental and social risks in the prudential framework, EBA/REP/2023/34, published in October 2023	Report issued by the European Banking Authority elaborating on, among others, risk assessment of environmental adjustment factors

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The Green finance agenda shall be published.

By their joint proposal dated 1 September 2023 (evidence 2), the Federal Minister of Finance and the Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology submitted the Green Finance Agenda for adoption to the 68th Council of Ministers. The Green Finance Agenda was adopted by the Council of Ministers on 6 September 2023, and subsequently published on the website of the Federal Chancellery (evidence 3), as well as on the websites of the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology and of the Federal Ministry of Finance (evidence 4 and 5) on 7 September 2023. These websites were checked by the Commission services on 29 October 2024.

It shall include concrete reference to the planned actions, such as: facilitating the granting of 'green loans' and development of strategies and methods for a better risk management in the context of green finance (such as the systematic measurement and reduction of the exposure to climate and environmental risk).

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the actions of the green finance agenda focus on the following three aspects, under the premise of actively combating greenwashing: (i) mobilisation of capital for climate protection and sustainable investment, (ii) anchoring and managing climate-relevant risks in the due diligence obligations, and (iii) development of uniform strategies and methods as well as guidance.**

The Green Finance Agenda (evidence 4 and 5) sets out strategic measures and action areas aimed at scaling up finance for climate-friendly investments. It contains five chapters with three areas of actions, including in total 25 specific measures and implementation steps.

Chapter one defines sustainability objectives by referring to Commission's Action Plan on Financing Sustainable Growth (2018) and EU Sustainable Finance Strategy (2021). Chapter two covers the

aspects related to (i) mobilisation of capital for climate protection and sustainable investment. It includes specific actions aimed at facilitating the granting of green loans, such as for instance the issuance of government green bonds, bills and loans in the years 2022 and 2023 as well as the Green Finance Alliance that is being implemented by the Environment Agency Austria.

Chapter three covers the aspects related to (ii) the management of climate risks and regulatory obligations. It contains specific actions aimed at (iii) developing a cross-sector strategy, guidance and methods supporting companies in better incorporating climate and environmental risk in their risk management systems, such as for instance the Guidance on Sustainability Risk Management issued by the Financial Market Authority, the Climate Risk Management Initiative. Other specific actions in the Green Finance Agenda concern research projects analysing carbon risks and promoting systematic measurement of the exposure to climate and environmental risks. Chapter four focuses on actions promoting transparency, a long-term approach, and effective impact, including measures addressing greenwashing, such as for instance Green financial literacy.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **specific actions included in the Green Finance Agenda are: promoting the agreement on a 'Green Supporting Factor' at EU level and, based on the EU agreement, national implementation of the 'Green Supporting Factor' to facilitate granting of 'green loans'.**

The Green Finance Agenda in Chapter two mentions federal government's support for creating competitive and stable financial system conducive to driving green transformation, including through suitable, effective and budget-neutral measures at European level. As one of the specific actions it includes the potential introduction of a "green supporting factor", aimed at lowering equity requirements for loan-financed environmental projects. However, no EU agreement has been reached on the "green supporting factor", owing to financial stability risks identified by the European Banking Authority (evidence 6) within its mandate to report on the availability of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) data and standardized methodology for risk classification. In the absence of an agreement on the "green supporting factor" at the EU level, the Green Finance Agenda envisages supervisory incentives to encourage banks to accelerate their green finance activities in a prudent and environmentally effective manner.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 161 Use of quantitative and qualitative indicators to measure the achievement of implementation

Related Measure: C4.4 D6 Green Finance (Agenda)

Qualitative Indicator: Publication of indicator-based report on the implementation of the Green Finance Agenda

Time: Q4 2022

1. Context:

The objective of the Green Finance Agenda is to establish a political and monitoring framework that mobilises private capital for investments needed to achieve the 2030 climate and energy targets. The actions of the Green Finance Agenda focus on (i) mobilisation of capital for climate protection and sustainable investment, (ii) anchoring and managing climate-relevant risks in the due diligence obligations, and (iii) development of uniform strategies, methods and guidance.

Milestone 161 concerns the publication of the report on the implementation of the Green Finance Agenda that shall present a methodology based on quantitative and qualitative indicators guiding the measurement of the success of green finance actions.

Milestone 161 is the second and last milestone of the reform, and it follows the completion of milestone 160, related to the publication of the Green Finance Agenda which is part of this same payment request. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2022.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Monitoring and Evaluation Report on the Austrian Green Finance Agenda (https://www.bmluk.gv.at/dam/jcr:3795f2ee-b09b-499a-ba5e-e1ce48d8d667/BMK_BMF_Report_GFA_Milestone161_UA.pdf; https://www.bmf.gv.at/dam/jcr:ba0bcab4-78ae-45d8-bed9-92ee150b9687/Monitoring%20and%20Evaluation%20Report%20on%20the%20Austrian%20Green%20Finance%20Agenda.pdf)(https://www.bmluk.gv.at/dam/jcr:3795f2ee-b09b-499a-ba5e-e1ce48d8d667/BMK_BMF_Report_GFA_Milestone161_UA.pdfhttps://www.bmk.gv.at/green-finance/finanzen/finanzzukunft.html ; https://www.bmf.gv.at/dam/jcr:ba0bcab4-78ae-45d8-	Indicator-based report taking stock of the implementation of the Green Finance Agenda, published on 23 May 2024 jointly by the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology and by the Federal Ministry of Finance

	bed9-92ee150b9687/Monitoring%20and%20Evaluation%20Report%20on%20the%20Austrian%20Green%20Finance%20Agenda.pdf	

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Publication of indicator-based report on the implementation of the Green Finance Agenda.

The Austrian authorities provided a copy of the Monitoring and Evaluation Report (hereinafter the "Report" on the Austrian Green Finance Agenda" (evidence 2), as well as the links to the website of the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology and of the Federal Ministry of Finance where it was published on 23 May 2024. These websites were checked by the Commission services on 29 October 2024.

The report shall present a methodology based on quantitative and qualitative indicators to guide the measurement of the success of green finance actions.

The Report presents a methodology that provides for regular and systematic monitoring, aimed at ensuring a cost-efficient implementation of the Green Finance Agenda and at measuring its impact. For each of the 25 action areas of the Green Finance Agenda, it contains at least one, up to three qualitative and/or quantitative indicators capturing either the progress in implementation and/or evaluating the impact of the action.

Furthermore, for each action area it indicates the ministry responsible for monitoring as well as the implementation status of the respective measures as of 1 April 2024.

In the section "Enhancing impact and cost-efficiency", the Report envisages joint reviews and evaluations of the Green Finance Agenda. According to the Report, the first joint review will be carried by the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Finance by the end of 2026.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 163 Finalisation of the Competence Framework for financial education

Related Measure: C4.4D7 National Financial Education Strategy

Qualitative Indicator: The Competence Framework for financial education is transmitted to the European Commission

Time: Q3 2023

1. Context:

The aim of the reform is to establish a national financial education strategy to improve financial literacy among the population by setting up a strategy plan that includes specific steps and long-term goals upon which education stakeholders may base their actions, as well as establishing a competence framework.

Milestone 163 concerns the finalisation of the competence framework with special focus on increasing the basic financial education in schools and for young people, increasing the capital market knowledge of the population and more awareness about the importance of future and old-age provision. Women were identified as one of the specific target groups.

Milestone 163 is the second and last milestone of the reform, and it follows the completion of milestone 162, related to the publication of a strategy document that sets common goals and a long-term vision for financial education in Austria and that includes a dedicated action plan and the establishment of a framework for cooperation and coordination between public and non-public financial education actors for providing a structure for the implementation of the action plan across the various stakeholder groups. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 March 2021.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary Document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone requirements (including all its constitutive elements) have been satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Competency framework on financial literacy for children and youth	Financial Literacy Competency Framework for children & youth defining learning goals and relevant knowledge for different areas of financial literacy according to age groups; available on the website of the Federal Ministry of Finance https://www.bmf.gv.at/dam/jcr:0c941bae-a9dc-42c3-93eb-5be668d4f0df/AT%20Competence%20Framework%20for%20Children%20and%20youth.pdf
3	Competency framework on financial literacy for adults	Competency Framework on financial literacy for adults, defining four key topics of financial literacy and grouped by

		relevant knowledge, skills and motivation; available on the website of the Federal Ministry of Finance https://www.bmf.gv.at/dam/jcr:b466209c-ad56-413e-bcfb-38c2c743ad54/%C3%96sterreichischer%20Kompetenzrahmen%20Finanzbildung.pdf

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The competency framework shall focus on increased basic financial education in schools and for young people,

The Competency Framework for adults and the Competency framework for financial education for children and youth have been published on the website of the Federal Ministry of Finance (evidence 2 and 3). This website was checked by Commission services on 24 October 2024.

Both competency frameworks on financial literacy build on the frameworks of the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development/International Network on Financial Education and PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment (OECD/INFE)) in the field of Financial Literacy as well as the EUs Competency Framework for children and youth which were adapted to the Austrian needs (evidence 2 and 3).

The competency framework for children and youth (evidence 2) defines learning goals and relevant knowledge for different areas of financial literacy along three age groups. These age groups are set in accordance with the different school levels, notably age group 1 corresponds to primary school ages 6-10 (*Volksschulalter*), age group 2 corresponds to middle school age, 11-15 years old (*Unterstufe/Mittelschule*) and age group 3, ages 16-18 which is equivalent to the typical age of high school students (*Oberstufe*). This classification ensures an easy overview for stakeholders such as schools and teachers or other educators to get an idea of what learning goals are seen as age appropriate.

Furthermore, both frameworks define four key topics. For the children and youth framework these are divided into sub-topics that indicate - based on each age group - the knowledge and skills children and adolescents should acquire at that respective age. For adults the topics are sorted by knowledge, skills and motivation.

The four key areas are:

- Money and Transactions (p. 2-7): Familiarises children with money's characteristics and importance in budgeting.
- Planning and Managing Finances (p. 8-15): Provides knowledge in budgeting, saving, investing, and credit management.
- Risk and Reward (p. 16-18): Imparts skills related to identifying and managing financial risks and rewards.
- Financial Landscape (p. 19-26): Introduces various financial products, services, and providers.

(…) increasing the population's capital market knowledge and raising awareness about the importance of future and old-age provision.

Both the competency framework on financial literacy for adults (evidence 3) and the one for children and youth (evidence 2) address the aim to improve the population's participation in the capital market by focusing on key skills and relevant financial knowledge.

The framework for children and youth does so by pointing to interconnected topics (p. 1) linked to

a) digital finance and the digital provision of financial information, education, and advice (e.g. p. 2, 3, 6, 8, etc.)
b) entrepreneurship (e.g. p. 4, 6, 7, etc.)
c) social and governance aspects (e.g. p. 3, 4, 5, 6, etc.)
d) making sustainable financial decisions (e.g. p. 5, 6, 10, etc.).

All these topics are an important part in supporting young people to increase their capital market knowledge.

The competency framework for adults (evidence 3) includes a chapter on investing which includes skills for stock and fund prices. Furthermore, it includes a chapter on the selection and diversification of investments (p. 17 - 21). The framework categorises financial competence into four content areas which all contain references to capital market specific knowledge and/or information on long-term investment and old-age provision (see examples below):

I. Money and Currencies
    a. Income needs – awareness that sufficient income at pension age its important as is knowledge on the functioning of the pension system (p.4)
II. Financial Planning and Management
    a. Aspects of proper budgeting such as dealing with unexpected income or expenditure, saving goals and priorities, investing on the capital market, sustainable investment, long-term budgeting as a household, pension age and taking up credit (p. 12 – 32)
III. Risks and Rewards
IV. Financial Landscape (providing an overview of all necessary information in the financial world).
    a. Financial products (p.44 -47)

Synergies are also expected with the Green Finance Agenda (such as 'Green Financial Literacy').

The objective of the Green Finance Agenda (assessed under Milestone 160) is to establish a political and monitoring framework that mobilises private capital for the necessary investments to achieve the climate and energy targets of 2030. The areas which correspond to the green financing objective of 'making sustainable financial decisions', are highlighted in green in both competency frameworks. These include items such as considering recycling and repairing purchased products instead of replacing them with new ones and considering sustainability in addition to the price of a product as well as information on sustainable bank account options etc.

In addition, the framework for adults includes a chapter on sustainable investments (page 20), information on sustainability in context with retirement plan (page 24), risks and rewards of investments (page 37), financial products and financial services (page 45). Furthermore, there is a chapter on sustainability preferences and sustainability standards (page 46) and sustainability disclosures are also addressed (page 47).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 164 - Entry into force of the start-up package

Related Measure: C4.4D8 Start-up package

Qualitative Indicator: Provision in the law indicating the entry into force of the start-up package

Time: Q1 2022

1. Context:

The objective of the reform is to provide sustainable support to growth-oriented start-ups and to increase the attractiveness of Austria as a business location internationally.

Milestone 164 is related to the Start-up package which introduces a new legal form the Flexible Company (Flexible Kapitalgesellschaft which had the working title: 'Austrian Limited'). This new legal form is tailored to the needs of start-ups and innovative SMEs and the area of social entrepreneurship.

Milestone 164 is the only milestone of this reform. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 March 2022.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary Document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone requirements (including all its constitutive elements) have been satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Amendment Act to the Company Law (*Gesellschaftsrechts-Änderungsgesetz 2023 – GesRÄG 2023*) enacting the Flexible Company Act (*Flexible-Kapitalgesellschafts-Gesetz* – hereinafter also referred to as *FlexKapGG*) published in the Federal Law Gazette on 30 December 2023 (Federal Law Gazette I BGBl No. 179/2023) and entered into force on 1 January 2024	The Flexible Company Act introduces a new company form, the so-called Flexible Company (*Flexible Kapitalgesellschaft short FlexCo or FlexKapGG*). It is available here https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/eli/bgbl/I/2023/179/20231230.
3	Explanatory Notes on the Company Law Amendment Act 2023 (Gesellschaftsrechts-Änderungsgesetz 2023 – GesRÄG 2023) of which the Flexible Company Act (Flexible-Kapitalgesellschafts-Gesetz –	Explanatory Notes accompany the government bill of the Company Law Amendment Act 2023 (*Gesellschaftsrechts-Änderungsgesetz 2023 – GesRÄG 2023)*2023 was accompanied by, which contain general comments and comments on the individual provisions. The government bill together with the Explanatory Notes (and other documents relevant to the legislative process) were submitted to the

	hereinafter also referred to as FlexKapGG) is part of	National Council on 24 November 2023 and are accessible via https://www.parlament.gv.at/gegenstand/XXVII/I/2320.
4	Start-Up-Promotion Act (Start-Up-Förderungsgesetz) published in the Federal Law Gazette on 31 December 2023 (Federal Law Gazette I No. 200/2023), which entered into force on 1 January 2024	The Start-Up-Promotion Act contains amendments to various laws and entered into force on 1 January 2024. A copy of the Federal Law Gazette I No. 200/2023 is accessible via https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/eli/bgbl/I/2023/200/20231231.
5	Explanatory Notes on the Start-up-Promotion Act	Explanatory Notes on the Start-up-Promotion Act, accessible via https://www.parlament.gv.at/gegenstand/XXVII/I/2321

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Entry into force of a law introducing a new corporate form (working title: 'Austrian Limited'), which shall facilitate the early stages of start-ups. It shall particularly take the needs of start-ups and innovative SMEs into account. It shall include flexible allocation of shares to investors and employees.

Article 1 of the Company Law Amendment Act (hereinafter referred to as "Amending Act", evidence 2) enacts the Flexible Company Act (*Flexible-Kapitalgesellschafts-Gesetz*). The Amending Act was published in the Federal Law Gazette on 30 December 2023 and entered into force on 1 January 2024 in accordance with its Article 1 paragraph 28.

The Flexible Company Act (*Flexible-Kapitalgesellschafts-Gesetz*) introduces a new corporate form, the Flexible Company, in short FlexCo (*Flexible Kapitalgesellschaft* - FlexKap) (Article 1, Paragraph 1, section 1). The legal basis for this new corporate form is the Austrian Limited Liability Companies Act (hereinafter referred to as "*GmbHG*") which is applicable on a subsidiary basis (Article 1, paragraph 1, section 2 of the Flexible Company Act) and complements the 29 paragraphs specific to Article 1 of the Flexible Company Act (evidence 2).

All paragraphs of the Flexible Company Act address the needs of start-ups and their founders in the early stages of establishing a company. This is aimed at increasing the attractiveness of Austria as a business location and therefore attracting international founders as per the explanatory notes on the Start-up Promotion Act (evidence 5).

The Flexible Company Act puts in place a framework that is adapted to the requirements and needs of start-ups, innovative SMEs and companies operating in the area of social entrepreneurship such as easing capital requirements and shareholding by implementing the following provisions (as per evidence 2 and 3

1. The Flexible Company Act allows for **more flexible capital measures**, such as:
    - **issuance of company value shares (*Unternehmenswert-Anteile*)**, shares that are designed for employee participation but can also be issued to other stakeholders (section 9-11); possibility of issuing fractional shares, enabling diverse share classes

with distinct rights (section 13); this is aimed at enabling employees to participate in the company's success without affecting the company's decision-making process. This design specifically targets the participation of employees in the case of a so-called "exit-event", that is the profitable sale of a start-up;
    - simplification of the process to transfer shares by eliminating the formal requirement for a notarial act, which is replaced by the possibility for **simpler notarial certificate** (section 12);
    - allowing the acquisition and **holding of own shares** under specific conditions (treasury shares) (section 15-18);
    - possibility of **capital raising instruments** such as conditional capital, authorized capital, issue of financial instruments with subsequent subscription and conversion rights and capital reduction through withdrawal of treasury shares (sec. 19-24).
2. The **minimum capital requirement** for Flexible Companies is reduced to EUR 10 000 (sec. 1 para. 2 Flexible Company Act in conjunction with (the new) sec. 6 para. 1 GmbHG), with a minimum shareholder contribution of EUR 1 (instead of EUR 70 as is the case for the standard GmbH).
3. The Flexible Company Act also allows for the **establishment of the company electronically** (sec. 4)

These provisions cater not only specifically to the needs of start-ups and innovative SMEs but also cover the requirement to include the flexible allocation of shares to investors and employees as the Flexible Company Act allows for more flexible capital measures, more share classes and simplified formal requirements for share transfers.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure that, to strengthen growth financing, **further tax incentives shall be examined.**

Austria examined further tax incentives addressing, the lack of liquidity that restricts Start-ups and young small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) in their ability to attract and keep highly qualified employees. The explanatory notes on the Start-up Promotion Act (evidence 5) illustrate the key considerations of the draft government bill (first paragraphs on page 1). One of these considerations is the lack of liquidity that restricts Start-ups and young SMEs in their ability to attract and keep highly qualified employees and therefore also restricts their growth. The Flexible- Company Act (evidence 2) introduces certain benefits for „start-up employee shareholdings", in particular a taxation deferral until the shares are factually sold. The tax incentives provided for in the Flexible-Company Act address the economic purpose of strengthening growth financing by making it attractive for employees of a start-up to acquire shares of the company and stay through the early stages.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 166 Entry into force of the company form for investments in shareholding (SICAV)

Related Measure: C4.4D9 Strengthening equity capital

Qualitative Indicator: Provision in the law indicating the entry into force of the company form for investments in shareholdings (SICAV)

Time: Q1 2022

1. Context:

The objective of the measure is to strengthen the equity position of Austrian companies by facilitating the mobilisation of private capital in companies in form of equity. The reform consists of two actions, namely, i) opening up the possibility of converting government-guaranteed loans, into equity or equity-like instruments and ii) anchoring a company form for investments in company holdings in the form of the SICAV (investment company with variable capital (société d'investissement à capital variable)), a collective investment scheme, into Austrian law.

The description of Milestone 166 provides an amendment of the Austrian company law introducing the legal form of SICAV in order to facilitate equity investments in companies.

Milestone 166 is the second and last milestone of the reform, and it follows the completion of milestone 165, related to the conversion of state-guaranteed loans into equity. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 March 2022.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone requirements (including all its constitutive elements) have been satisfactorily fulfilled
2	The Federal Act enacting the Venture Capital Fund Act and amending to the Financial Market Supervisory Authority Act, the Alternative Investment Fund Manager Act, the Investment Funds Act 2011 and the Income Tax Act 1988 which entered into force on 22 July 2023 and was published in the Official Federal Law Gazette BGBl. I Nr. 111/2023 on 21 July 2023 and available on https://ris.bka.gv.at/eli/bgbl/I/2023/111/20230721	The newly created 'Venture Capital Funds Act (VCFA – Wagniskapitalfondsgesetz)' together with the amendments to the Financial Market Supervisory AuthorityAct, Alternative Investmentfunds Manager Act, Investment Funds Act and Income Tax Act provide the the legal basis for the SICAV (société d'investissement à capital variable).

3	Consolidated Act on the Venture Capital Fund	The law which created the 'Venture Capital Funds Act (VCFA – Wagniskapitalfondsgesetz)' which is the main source for establishing the legal basis for the SICAV.
4	Consolidated Act on the Financial Market Supervisory Authority Law (FMABG)	The Financial Market Supervisory Authority Law which was amended to facilitate the introduction of the SIVAC.
5	Consolidated Act on the Alternative Investment funds Manager Law (AIFMG)	The Alternative Investment funds Manager Law which was amended to facilitate the introduction of the SIVAC.
6	Consolidated Act on the Investment Funds Act (IFA)	The Investment Funds Act which was amended to facilitate the introduction of the SIVAC.
7	Consolidated Act on the Income Tax Law (ESTG)	The Income Tax Law which was amended to facilitate the introduction of the SIVAC.
8	Explanatory notes to the Venture Capital Funds Act	The explanatory notes to the Venture Capital Funds Act (VCFA), which contain general comments as well as comments on individual law provisions.
9	Impact assessment on the creation on the SICAV	A legally mandatory impact assessment which analyses the effects of the creation of a SICAV aiming at strengthening the equity of Austrian companies.
10	The Austrian Public Companies Act (APCA)	Copy of the Austrian Public Companies Act

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

An amendment of the Austrian company law shall enter into force to introduce the legal form of SICAV

The Austrian company law consists of a variety of individual legal acts, such as the Austrian Company Code, the Austrian Stock Corporation Act or the Austrian Limited Liability Company Act.
The legal basis for a company form for investments in shareholding (hereinafter referred to as "SICAV"), a collective investment scheme, was introduced by the Venture Capital Funds Act (hereinafter referred to as "VCFA") (evidence 2 and 3) and related amendments to other legal acts, namely the Financial Market Supervisory Authority Act (evidence 2 and evidence 4), the Alternative Investment funds Manager Act (evidence 2 and evidence 5), Investment Funds Act (evidence 2 and evidence 6) and the Income Tax Act (evidence 2 and evidence 7). The Federal Act enacting the VCFA

and amending the relevant other Acts (evidence 2) was published in the Official Federal Law Gazette BGBl. I Nr. 111/2023 on 21 July 2023. The provisions on enacting the VCFA entered into force on 22 July 2023 in accordance with Article 1 (27) of the Federal Act. The other related amendments (as mentioned above) entered into force on 22 July 2023 except three provisions, which entered into force on 1 January 2024, in accordance Article 4 and Article 5 of the Federal Act.

…in order to facilitate equity investments in companies.

Articles 9 and 10 in conjunction with Article 2 (2) of the VCFA (evidence 3) provide the legal basis for setting up a SICAV and stipulate that the SICAV is a public company limited by shares and an undertaking for collective investment (fund). The SICAV thus represents a special legal form for companies under Austrian company law. In addition, Article 5 (2) of the VCFA requires SICAV to exclusively invest in certain assets which are mainly shares in other companies (equity capital) and therefore facilitates equity investments in companies.

As furthermore set out in the impact assessment (evidence 9), the SICAV facilitates the strengthening of the equity position of companies thanks to its function as intermediary between companies and investors. In particular, the VCFA has introduced the possibility for investors to provide the intermediating SICAV with capital which the SICAV invests in companies with capital needs. Based on the impact assessment, different kinds of companies including small and medium-sized enterprises should be put in a position to benefit from increased availability of equity capital provided by the SICAV.

As explained above, **the SICAV is now anchored in Austrian company law**. This is in line with the measure description.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure**, the design shall take into account high transparency standards, investor protection, money laundering prevention and the exclusion of tax structuring models.**

In order to ensure high transparency standards, Article 4 (2) of the VCFA stipulates that the setting up of a SICAV should be notified to the financial market authority and that the marketing of the SICAV can be prevented by the authority, if the requirements for setting up the SICAV have not been fulfilled (Article 4 (9 3) of VCFA). In addition, the explanatory notes (evidence 8) to the VCFA state that the SICAV is based on high transparency standards and investor protection.

The protection of investors is further promoted, inter alia, by Article 5 (1) regarding the requirement for risk diversification of investments by the SICAV and by Article 10 (6) of the VCFA regarding the prohibition to issue shares in the SICAV to retail investors. Furthermore, high transparency standards and investor protection are facilitated by Article 16 of the VCFA on the requirements for transparent investment conditions.

Money laundering prevention is ensured, inter alia, by Article 12 (1) of the VCFA. This provision requires the directors of SICAVs to act in accordance with market integrity. The explanatory notes to the VCFA (evidence 8) state that market integrity is guaranteed by certain protective legal acts including those on anti-money laundering and that the prevention of money laundering is a central principal of the VCFA.

Article 186 of the Investment Funds Act 2011 (evidence 6) contains the standard rules for the tax treatment of investment funds in Austria. The VCFA is now explicitly included in Article 186 in order to make it clear that the standard tax rules for investment funds also apply to the SICAV. This clarification has also been highlighted in the explanatory notes to the VCFA (evidence 8). Moreover, the explanatory notes explicitly state that tax structuring models will not be enabled.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 168 Start of operations

Related Measure: C4.4D10 Labour market: one-stop shop

Qualitative Indicator: The one-stop shop is operational

Time: Q1 2022

1. Context:

The objective of the measure is to provide targeted support for bringing the long-term unemployed facing multiple barriers back to the labour market by facilitating access to qualification and training. The measure consists in the establishment of a one-stop shop aimed at helping the long-term unemployed face multiple barriers to placement and inclusion in the labour market. The design and set-up of the one-stop shop shall be done in close cooperation with social partners and the Länder. This one-stop shop should coordinate and facilitate access to the appropriate services of different support institutions.Milestone 168 provides that the one-stop shop is operational and has started offering services to the unemployed.

Milestone 168 is the second and last milestone of the reform, and it follows the completion of milestone 167, related to the development of the concept of the one-stop shop with the involvement of the Laender and social partners.

The one-stop shop has a final expected date for implementation on 31 March 2022.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Contract 2022	Signed contract between the Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection and Pro Mente Salzburg for operationalizing the introduction of the one-stop shop covering the year 2022
3	Contract 2023	Signed contract between the Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection and Pro Mente Salzburg on the one-stop shop covering the year 2023
4	Contract 2024	Signed contract between the Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection and Pro Mente Salzburg on the one-stop shop covering the year 2024

5	Annual report 2022 and its annex	Annual report on the working of the one-stop shop by the contractor Pro Mente Salzburg
6	Evaluation report covering 2022-2023	Interim evaluation of the one-stop shop by the International Research Centre for Social and Ethical Issues (ifz)
7	Report by the Accounting Agency	External report (Substanzprüfung) that declares the proper use of funds on reaching milestone 168
8	Contract 2025	Contract between the federal level represented by the Public Employment Service and Pro Mente Salzburg on the one-stop shop. The service was renamed as "Vamos – Counselling and Support". The contract entered into force by electronic exchange equivalent to a blue ink signature.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austria authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The one-stop shop shall be operational and have started to offer services to the unemployed.

The not-for-profit organisation Pro Mente Salzburg committed to provide services of a "Social Helpdesk – One-Stop Shop" in a contract with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (evidence 2). The one-stop-shop is operational and started to provide these services from 1 April 2022.

The "one-stop shop" is an integral case management helpdesk supporting people with social and health problems (psychological, physical, cognitive) to participate in the labour market. The contract (evidence 2; p. 2/section 3) specifies that the participants are unemployed.

The annual report (evidence 5, pages 9-10) confirms that the clients are unemployed (page. 10) and suffer from mental health issues, addiction, homelessness, poverty, etc. and struggle with basic life skills. They require targeted support that the Public Employment Service cannot provide with the goal of overcoming these difficulties and supporting them in their participation in the labour market.

The contract further outlined the maximum financial commitment for running the one-stop shop and the obligation for the service provider to provide an annual report. The annual report (evidence 5) for 2022 was delivered by Pro Mente. It outlines that the helpdesk provided services to 77 unemployed clients during the first year of operation.

A report (Substanzprüfung) by the Accounting Agency (an independent public service company) was submitted (evidence 7). Between 14 July 2022 and 14 September 2022, the Accounting Agency evaluated the operation of the one-stop shop and concluded that the one-stop shop in Salzburg was operational as it had started offering services to the long-term unemployed.

The one-stop shop continued its operation in 2023 and 2024, as proven by the signed contracts for 2023 (evidence 3) and for 2024 (evidence 4). The contracts are signed on an annual basis. The contract

covering the year 2025 (evidence 8) entered into force by electronic exchange equivalent to a blue ink signature on 16 December 2024.

The results of the one-stop shop's operation are being monitored and independently evaluated by the International Research Centre for Social and Ethical Issues (ifz). An interim evaluation of the one-stop shop for the period 2022-2023 by the International Research Centre for Social and Ethical Issues (ifz) was prepared (evidence 6).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 171 - Entry into force of the Grace Period Act

Related Measure: 4.D.11 Liberalisation of business regulations

Qualitative Indicator: Provision in the law indicating the entry into force of the Grace Period Act

Time: Q2 2024

1. Context:

The objective of the measure covering among others the Grace Period Act, is to contribute to the liberalisation of the framework conditions for trade and the promotion of the provision of business-oriented services that also contribute to the green and digital transitions.

The reform package consists of three measures, the third of which is the Grace Period Act which is aimed at the removal of barriers to business transfers. It therefore contains several activities that should facilitate the transfer of businesses to new owners, such as a transfer to the next generation in a family business.

Milestone 171 is the third and last milestone of the reform, and it follows the completion of milestone 169 and milestone 170, related to the broader goal of liberalising business regulations in varying domains. Whereas milestone 171 and the Grace Period Act are directed towards easing the transfer of businesses, milestone 169 and milestone 170 were aimed at taxi and ride rental business and charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, respectively. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 March 2022.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone requirements (including all its constitutive elements) have been satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Grace Period Act - *law on the removal of barriers to business transfers* (*Bundesgesetz, mit dem die Gewerbeordnung 1994, das ArbeitnehmerInnenschutzgesetz und die Bundesabgabenordnung geändert werden (Grace-Period – Gesetz), published in the Federal Law Gazette BGBl. I Nr. 56/2024 (, Federal Law Gazette I no. 56/2024) issued on 5 June 2024*)	Law on the removal of barriers to business transfers amending the Tax Procedure Code, the the Trade Act and the Health and Safety at Work Act also available at: https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/BgblAuth/BGBLA_2024_I_56/BGBLA_2024_I_56.pdfsig
3	Explanatory notes (*Regierungsvorlage – Erläuterungen*) accompanying the Grace Period Act	The explanatory notes accompany the Grace Period Act and provide explanations on the amendments to the existing legal acts and how these changes aid in facilitating the transfer of businesses to new owners. Also available at:

		https://www.parlament.gv.at/dokument/XXVII/I/2510/fname_1621930.pdf

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The law on the removal of barriers to business transfers (Grace Period Act) shall enter into force.

The Grace Period Act (evidence 2) contributes to removing barriers to business transfers by the amending three different laws: (i) the Tax Procedure Code, (ii) the Trade Act and (iii) the Health and Safety at Work Act. The Grace Period Act was adopted on 29 May 2024 and published in the Federal Law Gazette of Austria BGBl. I no. 56/2024 on 5 June 2024.

Regarding the amendments to the Tax Procedure Code (Article 1 of the Grace Period Act)

Article 1 of the Grace Period Act introduces paragraphs 153h to 153l to the Tax Procedure Code. This amendment introduces the possibility of receiving support during a company handover ("*Begleitung einer Unternehmensübergabe*"). Thanks to the amendment, businesses can request support from the Austrian tax authority during the transfer period of the business typically to a family member, usually a handover from one generation to the other. Under new paragraph 153j of the Tax Procedure Code, during this process, previously unaudited tax periods of the transferring business are subject to an audit to unveil any potential tax risks. In addition, it enables the tax authority to promptly assess the tax treatment of transactions that have already been carried out as well as of transactions that have not yet been implemented (paragraph 153k of the Tax Procedure Code). This ensures greater legal certainty for the parties involved in business transfers to another family member. This process is mainly administered online through the digital platform "FinanzOnline".

Amendments to the Tax Procedure Code entered into force on 1 December 2024, the possibility to request the support for the company handover became available from 1 January 2025, as per amendment of paragraph 323 (72) of the Tax Procedure Code by Article 1, section 2 of the Grace Period Act.

Regarding the amendments to the Trade Act (Article 2 of the Grace Period Act)

Article 2 of the Grace Period Act amends paragraphs 339 (3), 353, 365, 376 and 382 of the Trade Act. It abolishes paragraph 339 (3) line 3 and paragraph 365 (2) of the Trade Act. This refers to abolishing the requirement for businesses to provide a physical extract from the company register as the trade authority can access the company register digitally. This will further facilitate e-government processes. Under Article 2, paragraph 5 of the Grace Period Act, the amendments to the Trade Act entered into force on the day after the publication of the law in the Official Journal, on 6 June 2024.

Regarding the amendments to the Health and Safety at Work Act (Article 3 of the Grace Period Act)

Article 3 of the Grace Period Act introduces paragraph 101a as well as paragraph 131 (21) to the Health and Safety at Work Act. Under this amendment, regulations are eased for the two-year handover period regarding the regulation on mandatory meetings of the health and safety committee of the business and the notification to authorities on the new appointment of a safety representative. Under Article 3, paragraph 3 of the Grace Period Act, the amendments to the Health and Safety at Work Act entered into force retroactively on 1 January 2024.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure **the removal of barriers to business transfers (Grace Period Act) contains several activities that shall facilitate the transfer of businesses to new owners (such as to the next generation in a family business).**

The Grace Period Act includes amendments to three different legal acts that all contribute to easing the facilitation of transferring a business to new owners. The amendment to the Tax Procedure Code (Article 1 of the Grace Period Act), increases legal certainty and avoids the need for the new owner to be subject to ex-post audit and instead ensures that the audit process is done while the business is being transferred. The amendment of the Trade Act (Article 3 of the Grace Period Act) further enables e-government processes by abolishing the requirement on businesses to provide a physical extract from the company register to the trade authority. The additional amendments to the Health and Safety at Work Act (Article 3 of the Grace Period Act) are aimed at easing the administrative burden during the two-year "Grace-Period" of transferring the business during which formal requirements for health and safety Committee meetings and appointments are partially suspended.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 182 Arrangements for the control framework of the Recovery and Resilience Plan

Related Measure: C6.A.1 Arrangements for the control framework of the Recovery and Resilience Plan

Qualitative Indicator: Signature of legally binding agreements

Time: Q4 2023

1. Context:

The objective of the measure is to improve the control framework of the Austrian Recovery and Resilience Plan and to ensure an effective implementation of proportionate measures for the protection of the financial interests of the Union (PFIU) according to Article 22 of the RRF Regulation.

Milestone 182 relates to the signature of legally binding agreements between the responsible bodies at federal level and the implementing bodies which are fully or partially responsible for the RRF implementation.

These agreements will include obligations for these implementing bodies to collect and ensure access to relevant data and to conduct appropriate controls of double funding. For implementing bodies that are subject to such obligations through existing legal requirements, no further legally binding agreements are necessary.

Milestone 182 is the only audit and control milestone in Austria's RRP. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2023.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone requirements (including all its constitutive elements) have been satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Administrative agreement 1 – Vienna ("Verwaltungsvereinbarung") Administrative agreement 2 – Burgenland Administrative agreement 3 – Carinthia Administrative agreement 4 – Lower Austria Administrative agreement 4a – Lower Austria Administrative agreement 5 – Upper Austria Administrative agreement 6 – Salzburg Administrative agreement 7 – Styria	Legally binding agreements signed with each of the nine federal states (Länder), obliging them to respect data collection according to Article 22 (2)(d) of the RRF Regulation and to check double funding before new grants are signed.

	Administrative agreement 8 – Tyrol Administrative agreement 9 – Vorarlberg	
3	Transparency Database law published in the Federal Law Gazette of the Republic of Austria BGBl. I No 99/2012, as amended by Federal Acts BGBl. I No 140/2021 and 169/2023	The Act established the obligation to publish RRF beneficiaries and measures in the Transparency Database.
4	General Funding Regulation published in the Federal Law Gazette of the Republic of Austria BGBl. II No 208/2014, as amended by Federal Act BGBl. II No 190/2018	The Act defines (i) the types of funding, the delegations from national to federal level, the responsibilities of the various implementing entities, (ii) including a documentation retention period of 10 years, and (iii) the obligation to avoid double-funding.
5	Law on Beneficial Owners Register published in the Federal Law Gazette of the Republic of Austria BGBl. I No. 136/2017, as amended by Federal Act BGBl. II No 190/2018	The law regulates the obligations under the data base and defines the beneficial owners, including foreign beneficial owners.
6	Federal Procurement Act published in the Federal Law Gazette of the Republic of Austria BGBl. I No 65/2018, as amended by Federal Act BGBl. II No 91/2019	The law regulates obligations of public authorities related to procurement, including the obligation to record the names of contractors or sub-contractors in the Transparency Data Base
7	List of implementing bodies and responsible ministries	Table of measures, milestones and targets, indicating responsible implementing bodies bound either by legal binding agreements with the federal states or existing legal requirements
8	Information on Transparency Database and the avoidance of double-funding, dated 22 September 2023	Email from the Federal Ministry of Finance providing clarifications on the use of the Transparency Database for double-funding checks

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Legally binding agreements shall be signed between the responsible bodies at federal level and the implementing bodies which are fully or partially responsible for the RRF implementation.

The Austrian authorities provided a list (evidence 7) indicating all implementing bodies and ministries responsible for all 178 milestones and targets under the Austrian recovery and resilience plan.

Legally binding agreements ("*Verwaltungsvereinbarung*", evidence 2) were signed individually between nine federal states and the Austrian National Public Health Institute ("*Gesundheit Österreich GmbH*", hereinafter referred to as "GÖG"). *Gesundheit Österreich GmbH*, acting as the financial donor on behalf of and for the account of Austria, represented by the Federal Minister of Social Affairs Federal Minister of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, concluded the agreements

with the nine federal states that are the funding recipients and implementing bodies of the measure 4.A.4 National roll-out of "Frühe Hilfen" (early childhood interventions), (milestones 115 and 116).

Such agreements shall set out an obligation for these implementing bodies to (a) collect and ensure access to the data required by Article 22 (2) (d) (i) - (iii) of the RRF Regulation and (b) conduct appropriate controls of double funding between the RRF and other Union programmes and document these controls.

The legal agreements (evidence 2) signed between the nine federal states and GÖG oblige the former to (i) collect and ensure access to relevant data and (ii) to conduct appropriate controls of double funding as follows:

- each agreement cites on page 1, first indent the obligation of data collection under Art. 22 (2) (d) (i) – (iii) of the RRF Regulation and the obligation to encode them in the Transparency Database according to the Transparency Database law.
- each agreement cites on page 1, second indent the obligation to check double funding in the national transparency data base and in data bases at EU level such as Kohesio and Financial Transparency System before providing funding and to document these checks (page 1, third indent).

Where the aforementioned obligations are already legal requirements no legally binding agreement shall be necessary.

All nine agreements concern the implementation of measure 4.A.4 National roll-out of "Frühe Hilfen" (early childhood interventions), (milestones 115 and 116), in which the nine federal states are involved.

Implementing bodies responsible for the remaining measures under the Austrian recovery and resilience plan are bound by the existing legal requirements as follows:

- Transparency Database law *("Transparenzdatenbankgesetz",* evidence 3*),* in Article17, Article 25, Article 40, Article 40a, Article 40b, Article 40c, Article 40d, Article 40e, Article 40f covers reporting obligations related to the RRF and defines the entities concerned, funding types, publicity requirements, and data to be encoded in relation to public procurement and state aid. The law explicitly includes works and services funded by the RRF.
- Law on Beneficial Owners Register („*Wirtschaftliche Eigentümer Registergesetz*", evidence 5), in Article 1, Article 2 and Article 5 defines the subjects to which the law applies, including a definition of "beneficial owner" and "foreign beneficial owners".
- General Funding Regulation („*Allgemeine Rahmenrichtlinien für die Gewährung von Förderungen aus Bundesmitteln*", evidence 4) defines in Article 1 the types of fundin; in Article 5 the obligation to make a query in the Transparency Data Base; in §7 the delegations from national to federal level; in Article 8 the responsibilities of the various implementing entities including a documentation retention period of 10 years; in Article 17 the obligation to perform double-funding checks before granting funds (EU funds included), the reasoning and verification methods, the obligation to consult the Transparency Data Base; in Article 25 the conditions for non-payment and for financial recovery; and in §31 publicity requirements according to EU law.

- Federal Procurement Act ("*Bundesvergabegesetz*", evidence 6) defines in Article 17 the obligation of double funding checks (before granting funds, EU funds included), the reasoning

and verification methods, obligation to consult the Transparency Data Base, conditions for non-payment and for financial recovery, publicity requirements according to EU law. In Article 147 the law stipulates that contracting authorities shall draw up a notice of award of each contract awarded, of each framework agreement concluded and of each dynamic purchasing system put in place, or a notice of withdrawal from a procurement procedure, including the obligation to record the names of contractors or sub-contractors in the Transparency Data Base.

Furthermore, in the context of a follow-up to Commission's audit on the Protection of the Financial Interests of the Union (PFIU - AT – Q1 - 2023), the Austrian authorities provided additional information (evidence 8) concerning the controls of double-funding between the RRF and other Union programmes. The information provided by the Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF) and the implementing body Kommunalkredit (hereinafter "KPC") demonstrated that, for the selected samples, the double funding checks recorded in the Transparency Database were verified and resulted in the correct consultation for four measures implemented by KPC. In addition, BMF informed that it has introduced regular quarterly checks on the use of the Transparency Data Base by the public bodies involved in the implementation of the Austrian recovery and resilience plan.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Third Instalment

Number and name of the Milestone: 9 Implementation of the Mobility Masterplan has started

Related Measure: 1.B.1 Mobility Masterplan 2030

Qualitative Indicator: Completion of several steps in the Mobility Masterplan

Time: Q3 2023

1. Context:

The objective of this reform is to reduce CO_2-emissions in the transport sector and provide for a coherent approach to reach climate neutrality.

Milestone 9 provides for the start of implementation of the Mobility Masterplan 2030, which sets out a strategy for sustainable mobility until 2030. The implementation consists of publishing of key strategic documents, such as the strategy for shared mobility, freight transport, and digital transformation in mobility, as well as conducting climate checks on existing legislation for the mobility sector. Implementation of the Alpine Convention is also envisaged. The afore-mention strategic documents include the introduction of comprehensive measures regarding e-mobility, e.g., developing infrastructure such as cycling paths, and establishing a monitoring system for evaluating the progress.

Milestone 9 is the first step in the implementation of this reform, and it will be followed by milestone 10, focused on evaluating the indicators of the 2030 Mobility Masterplan to demonstrate that a sustainable shift in the reduction of CO_2 emissions in the transport sector has been achieved.

The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 30 September 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Fast-track Renewable Energy Mobility Programme, published on 12 December 2022 by the Ministry of Climate.	The “Sofortprogramm: Erneuerbare Energie in der Mobilität“ (Fast-track renewable energy mobility programme) is the implementation strategy of the Mobility Master Plan 2030 for the energy transition in road transport.

		Can also be accessed on the Ministry of Climate's website.
3	Shared Mobility Strategy, published on 3 November 2023 by the Ministry of Climate.	The "Sharing Strategie im Personen-Mobilitätsbereich" (Shared Mobility Strategy in the Personal Mobility Sector) is the implementation strategy of the Mobility Master Plan 2030 for vehicle- and ride-sharing. Can also be accessed on the Ministry of Climate's website.
4	Freight Masterplan 2030, published on 31 March 2023 by the Ministry of Climate.	The "Masterplan Güterverkehr 2030" (Freight Masterplan 2030) is the implementation strategy of the Mobility Master Plan 2030 to achieve climate-neutral freight transport. Can also be accessed on the Ministry of Climate's website.
5	Masterplan Digital Transformation in Mobility, published on 4 November 2022 by the Ministry of Climate.	The "Action Plan Digital Transformation in Mobility (AP-DTM)" (Action Plan for the Digital Transformation in Mobility) is the implementation strategy of the Mobility Master Plan 2030 in the digital sector. Can also be accessed on the Ministry of Climate's website.
6	FTI Mobility Strategy 2040, published on 14 September 2020 by the Ministry of Climate.	The "FTI-Strategie Mobilität 2040" (Research, Technology, and Innovation Mobility Strategy 2040) is the framework for a transition to a climate-neutral mobility system in urban and rural areas through innovation and digitalisation. Can also be accessed on the FTI Mobility Transition website.
7	FTI Aviation Strategy, published on 14 September 2022 by the Ministry of Climate.	The "Klimafreundliche Luftfahrtinnovationen: Die Strategie für Forschung, Technologie und Innovation für die österreichische Luftfahrt 2040+" (Climate-friendly aviation innovation: The strategy for research, technology and innovation for Austrian aviation 2040+) is the implementation strategy of the Mobility Master Plan 2030 in the aviation sector. Can also be accessed on the the Ministry of Climate's website.
8	Simplon Allianz Action Plan for the Alps, published on 27 October 0022 by Simplon Allianz.	The "Simplon-Allianz Aktionsplan für die Alpen 2022" (Simplon Allianz Action Plan for the Alps 2022) is the action plan for climate-friendly mobility in the Alps region. Can also be accessed on the following website.

9	Motor Vehicle Act 1967. Changes were published on 13 May 2022 in the Federal Law Gazette I No. 62/2022. It entered into force on 14 May 2022 in accordance with Article 135 (42) of that Act. Further changes were published on 20 April 2023 in the Federal Law Gazette I No. 35/2023. It entered into force on 21 April 2023 in accordance with Article 135 (43) of that Act.	The climate check was done on the law "Kraftfahrgesetz 1967" (Motor Vehicle Act 1967). The climate-relevant revision took place in Articles 38 (2), 102 (3c, 4), 134 (1, 3), 4 (7a), 33 (6a), 101 (5,6), 104 (9). Available in the Federal Law Gazette: 1st amendment link, 2nd amendment link.
10	Road Traffic Act 1960. Changes were published on 27 July 2021 in the Federal Law Gazette I No. 154/2021. It entered into force on 1 September 2021 in accordance with Article 103 (24) of that Act. Further changes were published on 27 July 2022 in the Federal Law Gazette I No. 122/2022. It entered into force on 1 October 2022 in accordance with Article 103 (25) of that Act. Further changes were published on 20 July 2023 in the Federal Law Gazette I No. 90/2023. It entered into force on 01 March 2024 in accordance with Article 103 (26) of that Act.	The climate check was done on the law "Straßenverkehrsordnung 1960" (Road Traffic Act 1960). The climate-relevant revisions took place in Articles 99 (2d, 2e), 7 (6), 15 (4), 53 (1) Z.6b, 53 (1) Z.26a, 54 (5) lit.n, 68 (2), 76d, 99 (2f, 2g), 99a, 99b, 99c, 99d. Available in the Federal Law Gazette: 1st amendment under the link, 2nd amendment under the link, 3rd amendment under the link.
11	Bus Services Act. The changes were published on 31 December 2023 in the Federal Law Gazette I No. 203/2023. It entered into force on 1 January 2024 in accordance with Article 51 (8) of that Act.	The climate check was done on the law "Kraftfahrliniengesetz" (Bus Services Act). The climate-relevant revision took place in Articles 33 (1, 1b, 2a), 34 (4), 38 (3) Z 2, 42 (1) Z 4, 42 (3). Available in the in the Official Journal under the link.

12	Federal Roads Act 1971. Changes were published on 16 November 2023 in the Federal Law Gazette I No. 143/2023. It entered into force on 17 November 2023 in accordance with Article 49 (1) of the Federal Constitutional Law ("Bundes-Verfassungsgesetz").	The climate check was done on the law "Bundesstraßengesetz 1971" (Federal Highway Act 1971). The climate-relevant revision took place in Article 3, Article 17 (2). Available in the in the Official Journal under the link.
13	Highway and Expressway Financing Company Act. Changes were published on 16 November 2023 in the Federal Law Gazette I No. 62/2022. It entered into force on 1 January 2024 in accordance with Article XI 1 (6) of that Act. Further changes were published on 16 November 2023 in the Federal Law Gazette I No. 142/2023. It entered into force on 1 January 2024 in accordance with Article XI 1 (5) of that Act.	The climate check was done on the law "ASFINAG-Gesetz" ("Autobahnen- und Schnellstraßen-Finanzierungs-Aktiengesselschaft-Gesetz"- Autobahn and Expressway Financing Company Act). The climate-relevant revision took place in Articles II 15a (1, 3), II 8b (1,2). Available in the Official Journal: 1st amendment under the link, 2nd amendment under the link.
14	Shipping Law Amendment Regulation 2023. Changes were published on 29 June 2023 in the Federal Law Gazette II No. 204/2023. It entered into force on 30 June 2023 in accordance with Article 60.04 (2) of that Regulation.	The climate check was done on the regulation "Schifffahrtsrechtsnovelle-Verordnung 2023" (Shipping Law Amendment Regulation 2023). The climate-relevant revision took place in Article 7.02 Z.4,5, and attachment 7 B.12. Available in the in the Official Journal under the link.
15	Lake and River Traffic Regulation. Changes were published on 29 June 2023 in the Federal Law Gazette II No. 204/2023. It entered into force on 30 June 2023 n accordance with Article 127 (3) of that Regulation.	The climate check was done on the regulation "Seen- und Fluss-Verkehrsordnung" (Lake and River Traffic Regulation). The climate-relevant revision took place in Article 103 (10) and attachment 3 B.9. Available in the in the Official Journal under the link.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The following strategic documents under the Mobility Masterplan have been published:

(a) Fast-track renewable energy mobility programme;

The Fast-track Renewable Energy Mobility Programme ("*Sofortprogramm: Erneuerbare Energie in der Mobilität*") was published on 12 December 2022 on the website of the Federal Ministry for Climate (evidence 2). The Commission checked the relevant website on 08 November 2024. The programme was developed involving more than 80 experts from over 50 institutions and includes 41 specific measures in the following categories: charging infrastructure, user comfort, fleet decarbonization and public procurement, renewable fuels, incentives, research programs and R&D services, pilots and experimentation spaces, communication and public relations, and collaborations and partnerships. The aim of this immediate programme is to meet the goal of the MMP 2030 so that only emission-free passenger cars will be newly registered by 2030 at the latest. Furthermore, in line with goals of the programme, in 2030:

- 95% of the population should be able to reach a fast-charging location within a maximum of 15 kilometres throughout Austria.
- A fast-charging location for cars and light commercial vehicles is to be available on average every 25 kilometres on the high-level road network, with a maximum distance of 50 kilometres between the locations.
- The first locations on the high-level road network for high-performance charging infrastructure to supply all-electric heavy-duty commercial vehicles will be identified before the end of 2022. The first locations are to be put into operation in 2023/24.

(b) Shared Mobility Strategy;

The Shared Mobility Strategy ("*Sharing Strategie im Personen-Mobilitätsbereich*") was published on 3 March 2023 on the website of the Federal Ministry for Climate (evidence 3). The Commission checked the relevant website on 08 November 2024. The strategy sets out conditions to be achieved, which would facilitate the use of sharing and carpooling in a targeted manner to pursue climate-neutral mobility. The strategy identified concrete measures as next implementation steps of the Mobility Masterplan, including communication activities, consolidation of quantitative goals and implementation monitoring, evaluation and prioritisation of measures, development of missing fundamentals and incorporation into federal activities, as well as supporting the industrial sector in implementing the measures.

(c) Freight Masterplan;

The Freight Masterplan 2030 ("*Masterplan Güterverkehr 2030* was published on 31 March 2023 on the website of the Federal Ministry for Climate" (evidence 4). The masterplan (hereinafter referred to as "the MGV") is based on the three essential principles of the Mobility Masterplan 2030 – "avoid, shift, and improve". Starting with avoidance of freight traffic, the plan outlines the possibilities and limits of decoupling economic growth and transport development. The MGV also focuses on the shift of freight traffic to rail, as it continues to enable growth in freight transport with scarce energy

resources due to its high energy efficiency. The contribution of inland waterway transport to the modal shift to environmentally friendly modes of transport is also analysed. The third focus of the MGV relates to the improvement of road freight transport: with a market share of road freight transport of almost 70 per cent, the MGV argues that the achievement of climate neutrality is strongly dependent on the successful decarbonisation of future road transport, both in international and local transport. Lastly, the MGV provides for annual monitoring of the progress of implementation.

(d) Masterplan Digital Transformation in Mobility;

The Masterplan Digital Transformation in Mobility ("Action Plan Digital Transformation in Mobility (AP-DTM)") was published on 11 April 2022 on the website of the Federal Ministry for Climate (evidence 5)**.** The Commission checked the relevant website on 08 November 2024. The action plan outlines the status quo and lists its principles and aims, including close cooperation with other public stakeholders, monitoring of the environmental impact, announcement and mediation of alternative climate-neutral mobility services and forms of mobility, integrated traffic management, and establishment of pioneer regions for data and service governance. The document also lists the competences and existing activities, and a detailed description of what digital transformation in mobility entails, including a list of measures. The measures include enabling sustainable mobility through structuring the digital framework for digital transformation, optimal use of mobility data, making transport fit for the future with integrated traffic management, making the sustainable mobility services more attractive to use, as well as accompanying measures such as developing an education and training concept for the digital transformation in mobility.

(e) FTI Mobility Strategy 2040;

The FTI Mobility Strategy 2040 ("*FTI-Strategie Mobilität 2040*") was published on 14 September 2020 on the website of the FTI Mobility Strategy (evidence 6)**.** The Commission checked the relevant website on 08 November 2024. The strategy establishes that by 2040 Austria should have mastered the challenges of the transition to a sustainable, climate-neutral, and inclusive mobility and transport system in its urban and rural areas; Austrian research, technology and innovation players should have made a significant contribution to this transition and to sustainable development, safeguarding the quality of life, competitiveness and employment in Austria; innovations from Austria should be recognized worldwide as leading and in demand. The strategy is to be implemented in four mission fields, which form the framework for the RTI policy measures: cities, regions, digitalization, and technology. The mission fields "Cities: Making Urban Mobility Climate-Neutral" and "Regions: Mobilizing and Sustainably Connecting Rural Areas" focus on the spatial dimension that shapes the need for and demand for mobility and concentrate on concrete applications in different contexts. Complementary to this are the mission fields "Digitalisation: Operating infrastructure, mobility and logistics services efficiently and in a climate-friendly manner" and "Technology: developing environmentally friendly transport technologies", which focus on technology-based key areas and address the potential of digitalisation and technological innovations for a climate-neutral mobility system.

(f) FTI Aviation Strategy.

The FTI Aviation Strategy ("*Klimafreundliche Luftfahrtinnovationen: Die Strategie für Forschung, Technologie und Innovation für die österreichische Luftfahrt 2040+")* was published on 14 September

2022 on the website of the Ministry of Climate " (evidence 7). The Commission checked the relevant website on 08 November 2024. The Aviation Strategy complements the Federal Government's FTI Strategy 2030 for aviation-related topics. It forms a trend-setting framework for the coming decades and sets the strategic orientation by means of overarching objectives. According to these principles, Austria's aviation in research, technology and innovation (RTI) will be "green and efficient", "future-oriented and competitive" and "digital and intermodal" with a view to 2040+, thus setting clear priorities for the technological and thematic development of aviation in Austria. The aviation strategy also lists clear quantitative objectives for each of the afore-mentioned goals. Firstly, for "green and efficient" aviation it envisages Austria to become a "respected co-developer and supplier of components and services for climate-neutral aircraft", the Austrian aviation industry to produce in a circular way (at least 40% of companies by 2030), and for sustainability, efficiency, and safety to be at the heart of research and technology development-activities. Secondly, for "future-oriented and competitive" aviation, the strategy aims to enhance national innovation and drive the development of disruptive technologies through RTI; the strategy also lists goals for value added to the economy through the sustainable aviation industry, training of aviation professionals, building an RTI ecosystem for the new aviation industry, and reaching clearly set goals for Austrian aviation industry visibility in the world (e.g., at least one RTI Aviation event in Austria by 2030). Lastly, the strategy sets clear goals for the "digital and intermodal" aspect of the Austrian aviation industry, such as that at least 50% of funded RTI projects should deal with topics relevant to the digitalization of the aviation industry (by 2030) and that at least 2 success stories related to (cyber)security in the Austrian aviation industry should be published per year.

In addition, a legislative package introducing a Climate Check for existing legislation for the mobility sector has been enacted

A climate check of the existing sectoral mobility laws has been carried out (evidence 9 – 15). The results were evaluated and are gradually anchored into the Motor Vehicle Act, where the climate-relevant revision took place in Articles 38 (2), 102 (3c, 4), 134 (1, 3), 4 (7a), 33 (6a), 101 (5,6), 104 (9) (evidence 9). The same was done for the Road Traffic Act in Articles 99 (2d, 2e), 7 (6), 15 (4), 53 (1) Z.6b, 53 (1) Z.26a, 54 (5) lit.n, 68 (2), 76d, 99 (2f, 2g), 99a, 99b, 99c, 99d (evidence no. 10); the Bus Services Act Act in Articles 33 (1), 33 (1b), 33 (2a), 34 (4), 38 (3) Z 2, 42 (1) Z 4, 42 (3) (evidence 11); the Federal Roads Act Articles 3, 17 (2) (evidence 12); the Highway and Expressway Financing Company Act in Articles II 15a (1), II 15a (3), II 8b (1,2) (evidence 13); the Shipping Law Amendment Regulation 2023 in Article 7.02 Z.4,5, and attachment 7 B.12 (evidence 14); and the Lake and River Traffic Regulation in Article 103 (10) and attachment 3 B.9 (evidence 5).

…the Alpine Convention (Transport Protocol) has been implemented.

The implementation of the Alpine Convention is described in Chapter 5 of the Simplon Allianz Action Plan for the Alps ("*Simplon-Allianz Aktionsplan für die Alpen 2022*") which was published on 27 October 2022 (evidence 8). The Commission checked the relevant website on 08 November 2024. This Plan builds on the implementation of the Transport Protocol, as stated in Chapter 1 of the Alpine Convention, which has legal status in Austria as a directly applicable law (BGBl. III 234/2002, i.d.F. BGBl. III 108/2005) and which also has been ratified by the EU (ABl. 2013, Nr. L 177/13).

The afore-mentioned published documents and amendments to legislation contribute to the measure's goal of bringing forward a Mobility Masterplan, including comprehensive measures regarding e-mobility and sustainable mobility. The relevant documents also include monitoring plans, as stated in the measure description, for example in Chapter 9 of the Freight Masterplan, which provides for annual monitoring of the progress of implementation.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: 22 Contracts awarded

Related Measure: C1.1B5 Construction of new railways and electrification of regional railways

Qualitative Indicator: Contracts or other legal instruments awarded

Time: Q4 2023

1. Context:

The objective of this measure is to improve the Trans-European Network along the Baltic-Adriatic Core-Network Corridor and the intra-regional connectivity in Austria through public transport.

Milestone 22 concerns the award of contracts or other legal instruments for works on several projects and project segments aimed at constructing a new railway line (Koralm railway) between Styria and Carinthia, including the relevant infrastructure.

Milestone 22 is the second milestone of the investment 1.B.5. It follows the completion of milestone 21 concerning the start of construction of Lavanttal railway station. It will be followed by milestone 23, related to the completion of works fulfilling the relevant contracts for milestone 22.

The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence. For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description
1	Summary Document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Contract award letters (“Schlussbrief”) and/or purchase orders (“Bestellung”), concerning the contracts: B17331, B16313, B16574, B17475, B17839, B17980, G22685/G22960, B16661, E13852, B15850, B16235, B16951, A15123, B19639, B17731, B16383, B16935, B17377, B17378, E13858, B17818, A13385, L12244, L11774, B17773, B17340, E13843	Copies of contract award letters issued by Austrian Federal Railways (ÖBB) to the selected contractors, confirming the contracts for works on relevant project and projects sections
3	TED award notices concerning the contracts: B17331, B16313, B16574, B17475, B17839, B17980, G22685/G22960, B16661, E13852, B15850, B16235, B16951, A15123, B19639 B17731, B16383, B16935, B17377, B17378, E13858, B17818, A13385, B17340, E13843	Copies of award notices published on the EU platform Tenders Electronic Daily

4	Management summaries concerning the contracts: L11774, L12244	Documents issued by the Austrian Federal Railways (ÖBB), showing the workflow of approval authorisations and dates of signature concerning the award of contracts

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Contracts or other legal instruments awarded for works collectively covering the following projects and project segments:

The Austrian authorities provided copies of contract award letters (evidence 2) issued by the Austrian Federal Railways (ÖBB) to the selected contractors, and where available, the award notices (evidence 3) published on the EU platform Tenders Electronic Daily (hereinafter "TED platform"), concerning in total 27 contracts, or other legal instruments, for works related to projects and projects segments defined in the milestone description.

Contracts or other legal instruments awarded for works collectively covering the following projects and project segments:

- **Graz-Weitendorf**

The contract award letter (evidence 2) and award notice (evidence 3) confirm the award of contract B17331 (Provia ref. 53890). The contract was signed on 19 February 2021 and published on the TED platform on 9 April 2021. It concerns works on the project section Graz-Weitendorf, including earthworks, demolition, concrete structures, drainage systems and noise protection measures.

- **Feldkirchen-Weitendorf, including airport branch (Flughafenast)**

The contract award letter (evidence 2) and award notices (evidence 3) confirm the award of contract no. B16313 (Provia ref. 37575). The contract was signed on 12 August 2020 and published on the TED platform on 2 September 2020. It concerns works on the project section Feldkirchen-Weitendorf, including engineering structures, rails relocations, clearing work and construction of bridges.

The contract award letter (evidence 2) and award notices (evidence 3) confirm the award of contract no. B16574 (Provia ref. 55897). The contract was signed on 12 March 2021 and published on the TED platform on 9 April 2021. It concerns works on the project section Feldkirchen-Weitendorf, including the building of bridges, tunnels, shafts, and underpasses.

The contract award letter (evidence 2) and award notices (evidence 3) confirm the award of contract no. B17475 (Provia ref. 55757). The contract was signed on 9 March 2021 and published on the TED platform on 9 April 2021. It concerns works on the project section Feldkirchen-Weitendorf, including rail tracks, freight terminal and ancillary works such as access roads, water protection, noise barriers, and bridges.

The contract award letter (evidence 2) and award notices (evidence 3) confirm the award of contract no. B17839 (Provia ref. 73025). The contract was signed on 2 February 2023 and published on the TED platform on 17 February 2023. It concerns works on the project section Feldkirchen-Weitendorf, including rail tracks and single-tube tunnel of the airport rail branch Graz (Flughafenast).

The contract award letter (evidence 2) and award notices (evidence 3) confirm the award of contract no. B17980 (Provia ref. 73015). The contract was signed on 23 August 2022 and published on the TED platform on 30 August 2022. It concerns works on the project section Feldkirchen-Weitendorf, including the installation of railway technical equipment, telecommunications and signalling, power supply, safety systems, as well as construction of bridges, tunnels and regional connection towards Werndorf station.

The contract award letter (evidence 2) and award notices (evidence 3) confirm the award of contract no. G22685/G22960 (Provia ref. 51594). The contract was signed on 8 July 2021 and published on the TED platform on 3 September 2021. It concerns the local construction supervision of works on the project sections Feldkirchen-Weitendorf, Deutschlandsberg - St. Andrä, including the Koralmtunnel.

- **Wettmannstätten-Deutschlandsberg**

The contract award letter (evidence 2) and award notice (evidence 3) confirm the award of contract no. B16661 (Provia ref. 61571). The contract was signed on 5 November 2021 and published on the TED platform on 3 December 2021. It concerns works on the project section Wettmannstätten-Deutschlandsberg, comprising the construction of various components for a railway station, including buildings, platforms, bridges, mechanical and electrical systems and outdoor facilities.

The contract award letter (evidence 2) and award notice (evidence 3) confirm the award of contract no. E13852 (Provia ref. 71059). The contract was signed on 31 January 2022 and published on the TED platform on 19 August 2022. It concerns works on the project section Wettmannstätten-Deutschlandsberg, including the installation of electrical systems and equipment at the Weststeiermark station.

- **Deutschlandsberg-St.Andrä, including Koralmtunnel**

The contract award letter (evidence 2) and award notice (evidence 3) confirm the award of contract no. B15850 (Provia ref. 36150). The contract was signed on 10 July 2020 and published on the TED platform on 16 July 2020. It concerns works on the Deutschlandsberg - St.Andrä project section, including track laying, concrete work, civil engineering, overhead lines and safety measures in the Koralmtunnel.

The contract award letter (evidence 2) and award notice (evidence 3) confirm the award of contract no. B16235 (Provia ref. 22115). The contract was signed on 15 June 2021 and published on the TED platform on 12 July 2021. It concerns works in the Koralmtunnel, including the installation of railway technical equipment, cabling, telecommunications, safety and mechanical systems and tunnel fittings.

The contract award letter (evidence 2) and award notice (evidence 3) confirm the award of contract no. B16951 (Provia ref. 69161). The contract was signed on 18 July 2022 and published on the TED platform on 5 August 2022. It concerns works in the Koralmtunnel, including the installation of overhead wire and catenary systems.

The contract award letter (evidence 2) and award notice (evidence 3) confirm the purchase order no. 4401061926 under the service contract no. A15123 (Provia ref. 77013). The purchase order was signed on 24 October 2022 and published on the TED platform on 28 October 2022. It concerns works in the Koralmtunnel, including the installation ceiling-mounted high-speed overhead contact line systems.

As mentioned above, the contract award letter (evidence 2) and award notices (evidence 3) confirm the award of contract no. G22685/G22960 (Provia ref. 51594). The contract was signed on 8 July 2021 and published on the TED platform on 3 September 2021. It concerns the construction supervision of works on the project sections Feldkirchen-Weitendorf, Deutschlandsberg - St. Andrä, including the Koralmtunnel.

The contract award letter (evidence 2) and award notice (evidence 3) confirm the award of contract no. B19639 (Provia ref. 109241). The contract was signed on 16 May 2024 and published on the TED platform on 19 June 2025. It concerns works in the Koralmtunnel, including the installation of a supplementary water management pipelines.

• St.Andrä-Aich

The contract award letter (evidence 2) and award notice (evidence 3) confirm the award of contract no. B17731 (Provia ref. 58782). The contract was signed on 2 December 2021 and published on the TED platform on 12 January 2022. It concerns works on the St.Andrä-Aich project section, including the construction of slab tracks in the Granitztal tunnel area between St. Paul and Aich.

• Aich-Mittlern, including Jauntal bridge

The contract award letter (evidence 2) and award notice (evidence 3) confirm the award of contract no. B16383 (Provia ref. 55992). The contract was signed on 2 November 2021 and published on the TED platform on 3 December 2021. It concerns works on the Aich-Mittlern project section, including the construction of the Jauntal bridge.

• Mittlern-Althofen

The contract award letter (evidence 2) and award notice (evidence 3) confirm the award of contract no. B16935 (Provia ref. 36048). The contract was signed on 22 July 2020 and published on the TED platform on 24 August 2020. It concerns works on the project section Mittlern-Althofen, comprising the construction of a slab track, including open track, bridges, and tunnels.

• Maintenance bases along the Koralm railway

The contract award letter (evidence 2) and award notice (evidence 3) confirm the award of contract no. B17377 (Provia ref. 62234). The contract was signed on 3 November 2021 and published on the TED platform on 19 November 2021. It concerns works on the maintenance base Werndorf, including various construction works, landscaping, operational facilities, workshops, and storage halls.

The contract award letter (evidence 2) and award notice (evidence 3) confirm the award of contract no. B17378 (Provia ref. 73588). The contract was signed on 8 April 2022 and published on the TED platform on 26 April 2022. It concerns works on the maintenance base Werndorf, including heating, ventilation, and air conditioning in buildings and storage area for rescue trains.

The contract award letter (evidence 2) and award notice (evidence 3) confirm the purchase order no. 4300880192 under the service contract E13858 (Provia ref. 72158). The purchase order was signed on 4 March 2022 and published on the TED platform on 19 August 2022. It concerns works on the maintenance base Werndorf, including electrical engineering systems and energy technology infrastructure.

The contract award letter (evidence 2) and award notice (evidence 3) confirm the award of contract no. B17818 (Provia ref. 87218). The contract was signed on 20 February 2023 and published on the TED platform on 10 March 2023. It concerns works on the maintenance base at the Weststeiermark station, including the construction of operational buildings and outdoor facilities.

• Tunnel doors along the Koralm railway

The contract award letter (evidence 2) and award notice (evidence 3) confirm the purchase order no. 4300864679 under the service contract no. A13835 (Provia ref. 11760). The purchase order was signed

on 24 August 2021 and published on the TED platform on 6 September 2021. It concerns works on the installation of tunnel doors along the Koralm railway.

- **Radio Block Center Graz**

The contract award letters (evidence 2) confirm the call-off purchase orders no. 4900366406 (ref. L11774) and no. 4900463398 (ref. L12244), which were signed and issued respectively on 22 November 2021 and 28 November 2022 (evidence 4) and both concluded under the framework service contract no. 4600029332. Both orders concern works on the Radio Block Center Graz, including the installation, upgrades and servicing of the European Train Control System (ETCS) Level 2 infrastructure.

- **Traction power supply along the Koralm railway (Bahnstromversorgung)**

The contract award letter (evidence 2) confirms the purchase order no. 4300882688 under the service contract B17773 (Provia ref. 75729). The purchase order was signed on 22 April 2022. It concerns rail electrification works, including the installation of traction power supply along the Koralm railway.

The contract award letter (evidence 2) and the award notice (evidence 3) confirm the award of contract no. B17340 (Provia ref. 48892). The contract was signed on 3 November 2020 and published on the TED platform on 9 December 2020. It concerns the installation of traction power supply along the Koralm railway, including associated equipment and facilities.

The contract award letter (evidence 2) and the award notice (evidence 3) confirm the award of contract no. E13843 (Provia ref. 70613). The contract was signed on 22 July 2022 and published on the TED platform on 5 August 2022. It concerns the installation of traction power supply along the Koralm railway, including frequency converters and grids, enabling power transmission.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 25 Entry into force of the implementing regulation

Related Measure: C1.1C1 Legal framework for increasing collection rates for beverage packaging and the supply of reusable beverage containers in retail

Qualitative Indicator: Entry into force of the Implementing Regulation for increasing collection rates for plastic beverage packaging

Time: Q1 2023

1. Context:

The objective of this reform is to increase the reuse, collection and recycling rate of beverage packaging and containers. The reform consists of legal changes, which aim to provide for an effective take-back system for single-use plastic and metal beverage packaging and, ultimately, increase the recycling rate of these materials and to raise the supply of reusable beverage containers in the retail sector.

Milestone 25 concerns the entry into force of the implementing Regulation, which establishes the sub-legal basis for increasing collection rates for beverage packaging.

Milestone 25 is the second milestone of the reform, and it follows the completion of milestone 24, which concerned the amendment of the Waste Management Act. It will be followed by target 26, related to raising the quota of reusable containers to at least 25 % of the volume of all beverages sold in 2025. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 March 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence. For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	The Implementing Regulation (Ordinance on Deposits for Single-Use Beverage Containers), entry into force on 26 September 2023 in accordance with its Article 27 and published in the Federal Gazette of the Republic of Austria BGBl. II No. 283/2023 available online under the following link:	The Implementing Regulation (Ordinance on Deposits for Single-Use Beverage Containers) specifies the details for the functioning of the deposit-refund system.

	RIS - Pfandverordnung für Einweggetränkeverpackungen - Bundesrecht konsolidiert, Fassung vom 06.03.2024 (bka.gv.at)	
	Federal Act amending the Waste Management Act (*Bundesgesetz, mit dem das Abfallwirtschaftsgesetz 2002 geändert wird* (*AWG-Novelle Kreislaufwirtschaftspaket*) as published in the Federal Law Gazette on 10 December 2021	The amended Waste Management Act, providing the legal basis for the implementing Regulation(Ordinance on Deposits for Single-Use Beverage Containers)

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The Implementing Regulation has established the sub-legal basis

The Implementing Regulation, the Ordinance on Deposits for Single-Use Beverage (evidence 2) entered into force on 26 September 2023, one day after its publication in the Federal Gazette of the Republic of Austria, BGBL II No. 283/2023 (hereinafter referred to as "Implementing Regulation") in accordance with its Article 27.

The legal basis for the Implementing Regulation was established through the amendment of the Waste Management Act in 2021. (evidence 3)

Article 14c subparagraph 1 of this amended act introduced the obligation on distributors to collect a deposit for single-use beverage packaging made of plastic and metal as of 1 January 2025.
Article 14c subparagraph 2 empowers the Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology to lay down detailed provisions regarding various aspects of the deposit-refund system. Consequently, the Implementing Regulation - the sub-legal basis for increasing collection rates for plastic beverage packaging - was established in accordance with Article 14c subparagraph 2 of the amended Waste Management Act.

(…) for increasing collection rates for plastic beverage packaging.

The Implementing Regulation specifies the details for the functioning of the deposit-refund system. In order to increase the collection rates for plastic beverage packaging, the Implementing Regulation lays down the collection quotas, product types, materials, organization of the material and financial flows, the coordinating body responsible for coordinating and managing the deposit refund system, the deposit procedures, the labelling requirements, data management, and the take-back obligations.

In particular:

- Quotas for collection rates for plastic beverage packaging: Article 1 (1) of the Implementing Regulation specifies quotas for separate collection rate of at least 80% in 2025 and at least 90% in 2027.

- The deposit amount and obligations of end distributors: Pursuant to Article 4 (1) of the Implementing Regulation, the end-distributors of single-use plastic and metal beverage containers with a filling volume of 0.1 to 3.0 liters must collect a deposit of €0.25 per packaging from the respective buyer in the name and on behalf of the coordinating body. They are also obliged to take back the emptied beverage packaging from the consumer against payment of the deposit during regular business hours. Return methods include the use of reverse vending machines or manual processing as stipulated in Article 5 (1) of the Implementing Regulation.

- The coordinating body: As stipulated in Article 7 of the Implementing Regulation, the coordinating body (*Zentrale Stelle*) is the organization responsible for extended producer responsibility, tasked with coordinating and managing the deposit refund system.

- Financing and material flow: Pursuant to Article 10 of the Implementing Regulation, the financing of the deposit refund system relies on producer contributions for each single-use beverage packaging placed on the market. The calculation encompasses all expenses and revenues, including those from recycled materials and the unredeemed deposit amounts.

- Labeling: The appendix of the Implementing Regulation contains a depiction of the deposit symbol. The labeling with the deposit symbol is intended to enable end consumers to distinguish between deposit and non-deposit packaging.

By laying down the detailed operating provisions for a deposit-refund system and setting a starting date for it in the Implementing Regulation, Austria has set the necessary legal basis for increasing the collection rates of plastic beverage packaging.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 28 Completion of the call for projects to restore priority degraded ecosystems and protect endangered species and habitats

Related Measure: C1.1C2 Biodiversity fund

Qualitative Indicator: The call for projects has been completed and projects have been awarded

Time: Q1 2023

1. Context:

The objective of this investment is to support the preservation and restoration of biodiversity in Austria. The investment consists in establishing a biodiversity fund in order to fund projects for the conservation of biodiversity, restoration of degraded ecosystems, awareness raising activities and implementation of biodiversity monitoring.

Milestone 28 provides that the implementing body conducts a call for projects for the restoration of degraded ecosystems and the protection of endangered species and habitats based on the funding guidelines. Furthermore, it lays down that the funding projects for biodiversity monitoring are awarded on the basis of an existing nationwide approach.

Milestone 28 is the second milestone of the investment, and it follows the completion of milestone 27, which concerned the entry into force of the legal framework of the Biodiversity Fund. It will be followed by target 29, related to the completion of at least 20 biodiversity projects. The investment has a final expected date for implementation by 31 December 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Funding guidelines Biodiversity Fund 2022, published on the website of the implementing agency: https://a.storyblok.com/f/194745/x/c9953f59e2/foerderungsrichtlinien_bdf_2022_idf_2023.pdf	The funding guidelines for the Biodiversity Fund defining the scope of eligible projects and potential beneficiaries.
3	Call # 1 for the submission of project proposals under the Biodiversity Fund.	Text of the publication of the first call of the Biodiversity Fund focusing on the protection of endangered species and habitat restoration. The call was published on 12 October

		2023 on the webpage of the implementing agency.
4	Awarding Criteria for the funding call on protection of endangered species and habitat restoration	The award criteria for the restoration call.
5	Minutes of the meeting of the Biodiversity Fund Commission (Protokoll_BDF_3) of 24 March 2023	Minutes of the meeting of the Biodiversity Fund Commission, recommending funding of 24 projects on restoration and protection. The Biodiversity Fund Commission, its members, tasks and responsibilities are defined in the Federal Act that establishes the Biodiversity Fund. It
6	48 Project evidence files from the call for projects on restoration called e.g. C321004_Vertrag C321004_Annahmeerklärung	24 contracts of the awarded projects plus 24 *"Annahmeerklärungen", the* confirmation of acceptance by recipients.
7	Call # 2 for the submission of project proposals for the Biodiversity Fund	Text of the publication of the second call on the Biodiversity Fund focusing on biodiversity monitoring. The call was published on 25 March 2023 on the webpage of the implementing agency.
8	Scientific document on biodiversity indicators (BDF_Headline_indikatoren_Call2)	A technical background document on headline indicators for a nationwide approach on biodiversity monitoring in support of the call for projects.
9	Awarding criteria (Awarding_Criteria_BDF_Call2)	The awarding criteria for the biodiversity monitoring call.
10	Minutes of the meeting of the Biodiversity Fund Commission	Minutes of the meeting of the Biodiversity Fund Commission of 25 October 2023 containing the list of projects recommended for funding by the Biodiversity Fund Commission to the competent Minister from the call on biodiversity monitoring. The Biodiversity Fund Commission, its members, tasks and responsibilities are defined in the Federal Act that establishes the Biodiversity Fund.
11	90 project evidence files from the call on monitoring, titled for instance C321098_Vertrag C321098_Annahmeerklärung	45 contracts of the awarded projects from the call on biodiversity monitoring plus 45 *"Annahmeerklärungen",* the confirmation of acceptance by recipients.
12	Study_strategic_framework_restoration	The study which provides the technical basis for prioritizing

		restoration of ecosystems in Austria published together with #Call1.
13	Federal Act amending the Environmental Federation Act published in the Federal Law Gazette BGBL. I No. 26/2022 on 18 March 2022. Entry into force on 19 March 2022 as referenced in Article 53. Available online under the following link: BGBLA_2022_I_26.pdfsig (bka.gv.at	The revised Federal Act establishes the Biodiversity Fund

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Based on the funding guidelines

The funding guidelines (evidence 2) were adopted by the Minister for Climate Action in agreement with the Minister of Finance on the basis of Articles 13 and 48(d) of the amended Environmental Federation Act (*Umweltförderungsgesetz, hereinafter referred to as UFG)* which established the Biodiversity Fund (evidence 13). They entered into force on 12 October 2022. They were amended in 2023. The amended guidelines entered into force on 2 January 2024. (evidence 2) Austria provided a copy of the funding guidelines which are published at the website of the implementing body, the Kommunalkredit Public Consulting (KPC).

(…) which shall specify the nature and scope of eligible projects

Articles 1 and 2 of the funding guidelines define the specific objectives and intended impact of the Biodiversity Fund, which are to preserve, improve, and restore biological diversity. More specifically, funded projects are envisaged to help to improve the status of 30% of endangered species and habitats, the protection of 30% of the territory, with a significant increase of areas under strict protection. Further objectives are the establishment of a nationwide biodiversity monitoring program to improve knowledge about biodiversity and ecosystem services; and implementing measures to improve connectivity of protected areas.

(…) and the potential beneficiaries

Article 5 of the funding guidelines defines the potential beneficiaries: natural and legal persons as well as partnerships *(Personengesellschaften).*

(…) the implementing body has conducted a call for projects for the restoration of degraded ecosystems and the protection of endangered species and habitats.

The implementing body of the Biodiversity Fund, *Kommunalkredit Public Consulting* (hereinafer referred to as “KPC”) publishes calls for projects in the framework of the Biodiversity Fund on its website (evidence 2).

The first call for projects under the Biodiversity Fund focused on protection and restoration and was open from 12 October 2022 to 12 January 2023 (Call #1) (evidence 3).

Under its point 1, the Call #1 invited the submission of projects in two categories and the final date for implementation of projects is set as end of December 2025. These categories are:

- Implementation of projects for restoration of priority ecosystems with a focus on swamps, wetlands and special areas such as dry grasslands and sand dunes.
- Implementation of projects for the protection of endangered species and habitats as a contribution to improving the status of 30 % of endangered biotopes and 30 % of endangered species until 2030+.

The minutes of the Biodiversity Fund Commission of 24 March 2023 show that 24 projects were recommended for funding. The minutes contain a list of all the selected projects, including a description of each project and implementation timeline (evidence 5). Austria submitted copies of all 24 contracts as well as copies of the 24 acceptance declarations by the recipients of the projects selected for funding as a result of this call (evidence 6). These project descriptions also contain information on how the projects scored according to the award criteria (evidence 4). The first award criterion concerns compliance with the thematic requirements of the call for projects. All projects which were selected for funding achieved the maximum score of 4 points for this criterion thus showing clear alignment of the results of the call with its objectives.

Funding projects for biodiversity monitoring have been awarded on the basis of an existing nationwide approach.

The second call for projects (Call #2) focused on monitoring of biodiversity. It was open from 9 March 2023 to 11 August 2023.

This call for projects (evidence 7) defines under point 1 as its scope to fund projects for recording and evaluating the status and trends of biodiversity in Austria. Only projects that contribute to closing identified gaps in a nationwide biodiversity monitoring, preferably nationwide or regionally, were eligible. Furthermore, the call requires that projects would have to provide data for the 25 headline indicators, which constitute the nationwide biodiversity monitoring system.

A technical background document with further details on these headline indicators (evidence 8) was published together with the call. Furthermore, the award criteria (evidence 9) set as priority award criterion No. 1 a project's contribution to monitoring these headline indicators. The minutes of the Biodiversity Fund Commission of 25 October 2023 (evidence 10) show that 45 projects that fulfilled this criterion were recommended for funding. The minutes also contain a description of each project recommended for funding. Austria submitted the 45 contracts and 45 acceptance agreements (evidence 11) by the recipients selected from the call on biodiversity monitoring. The deadline for the completion of projects is set as December 2024.

4. **Commission Preliminary Assessment:** Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 45 - Implementation of the measures developed by the Platform to reduce red tape and simplify procedures for broadband deployment

Related Measure: C2.2A1 Set-up of Platform Internet-infrastructure Austria (PIA) 2030

Qualitative Indicator: Publication of a report which shall confirm the implementation of the measures developed by the Platform to reduce red tape and simplify procedures for broadband deployment

Time: Q4 2023

1. Context:

The objective of the measure is to support the creation of a platform with the purpose of coordinating the relevant stakeholders and developing legal, regulatory and technical measures for broadband deployment. In addition, the platform will help implement recommendations contained in the Connectivity Toolbox and reduce bureaucracy and simplify procedures for broadband deployment.

Milestone 45 requires that implementation of the work programme with measures for cutting red tape and simplifying procedures for broadband deployment, be completed and confirmed by means of a published evaluation report.

Milestone 45 is the second and last milestone of the reform, and it follows the completion of milestone 44 on adopting the work programme of the Platform Internet-Infrastructure (PIA) 2030 and establishing a task force to coordinate all relevant stakeholders. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2023.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the requirements of the milestone (including all its constitutive elements) have been satisfactory fulfilled.
2	Work programme of Platform Internet-infrastructure (PIA) Austria 2030 adopted in March 2021	The work programme was drafted by the Ministry of Finance and published by the Broadband Office https://data.breitbandbuero.gv.at/PIA2030-Arbeitsprogramm.pdf
3	Statutes of PIA 2030 adopted in March 2021	The statutes of the operative core group of the PIA set out its operational principles (membership, tasks, way of working, representation, etc). The statutes of the PIA will be kept internal to all nominated members of the PIA groups. Issuing entity: Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism.
4	Evaluation report of the work of the PIA 2030 adopted in April 2024	The evaluation report ("Bericht an die Steuerungsgruppe (April 2024)") summarises the work and recommendations of the seven working groups of the PIA. The report was issued by the

		Ministry of Finance and published by the Broadband Office. https://data.breitbandbuero.gv.at/PIA2030_Bericht-an-die-Steuerungsgruppe-2024.pdf
5	Roadmap for the implementation of the Connectivity Toolbox, adopted in April 2021	The roadmap for the implementation of the Connectivity Toolbox, within the scope of the Common Union toolbox.
6	Implementation report of the Connectivity Toolbox (report not dated)	Connectivity Toolbox implementation report detailing the implementation of the 39 best practice points. Published on the European Commission homepage on 19 May 2022. Connectivity toolbox: Member States' implementation reports | Shaping Europe's digital future (europa.eu)

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Implementation of the work programme by the Platform Internet infrastructure Austria 2030 with measures for cutting red tape and simplifying procedures for broadband deployment. Publication of an evaluation report describing the implementation of the work programme.

The Platform Internet-infrastructure Austria (PIA) 2030 coordinates the interaction between the federal government, states, municipalities, cities, and the private sector and provides for further development of legal, regulatory and technical measures in the context of broadband deployment (evidence 4, p. 9-10). These entities include broadband coordinators, representatives, state-aid applicants and contractors, telecommunications providers and their interest groups.

The work programme of the Platform Internet-infrastructure Austria (PIA) 2030 (evidence 2) lists three thematic areas around which the tasks of the PIA are structured: (i) Supporting political decision-makers, (ii) Developing uniform legal, regulatory and technical framework for broadband expansion, and (iii) Accompanying measures for broadband expansion (which, according to the Statutes of PIA 2030 (evidence 3), refer to media monitoring and opinion polls, scientific research regarding mobile communications and health, and state-of the art security standards to build communications infrastructure).

The work programme (p. 2) also specifies that working groups will be tasked by the Steering Committee to focus on (i) overall coordination, (ii) cellular/mobile communications, (iii) structural measures, (iv) funding and processes, (v) open access networks and (vi) Connecting Europe Facility.

The Statutes of PIA 2030 (evidence 3) provide the framework for the implementation of the work programme. They set out the operational principles of the PIA 2030 such as the membership rules, its tasks, the way of working, representation, etc. The operational tasks are to be implemented by the Operational Core Group which consists of the Ministry of Finance (BMF), the Austrian Regulatory Authority for Broadcasting and Telecommunications (*Rundfunk & Telekom Regulierungs-GmbH* (RTR)) and the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) (evidence 3, p 2).

The Statutes of PIA 2030 also clarify in Article 2(2) sub-paragraph 2.c. that the tasks of the Operational Core Group include the acceleration and simplification of bureaucratic procedures for broadband deployment. Among others, Article 2(1) of the Statutes of PIA 2030 outlines that supporting the political decision makers includes the evaluation of different financing models for broadband expansion, the conclusion of a fiber and 5G pact and the evaluation of the use of new technologies on an ongoing basis in order to deploy the broadband network in the rural areas quickly. These measures contribute to cutting red tape and simplifying procedures for broadband deployment.

The evaluation report (evidence 4) confirms the implementation of the work programme and recommendations derived from it. The report was issued by the Ministry of Finance, adopted by the PIA 2030 Steering Group and published on the website of the Broadband Office (checked by Commission services on 2 June 2025). It covers the period since the inception of the PIA in March 2021.

The evaluation report shows that, in line with the work programme, seven working groups have been set up, namely: 1) "Cellular/mobile communications"; 2) "Structural measures"; 3) "Funding and processes"; 4) "Open Access Networks"; 5) "Connecting Europe Facility", 6) "Cybersecurity"; and 7) "Demand side aspects and applications". Compared to the initial work programme, "Overall coordination" is no longer listed as a working group, while "Cybersecurity" and "Demand side aspects and applications" have been added. The evaluation report (evidence 4; p. 4) outlines that 14 large-scale events and many other meetings in smaller settings have taken place in the working groups. Overall, several hundreds of stakeholders participated.

The evaluation report outlines that measures for cutting red tape and simplifying procedures for broadband deployment were in particular addressed in the working groups "Cellular/mobile communications", "Structural measures", "Funding and processes" and "Demand side aspects and applications".

The working group "Structural Measures" (p. 15-17) developed recommendations to simplify and accelerate construction measures, thus cutting red tape. This includes a legal framework for the expansion of shared usage rights, easier access to information about infrastructure and construction projects, or geographical surveys of broadband coverage.

Likewise, the working group "Funding and processes" (p. 18-20) organised four events to engage with stakeholders on the legal basis and processes for the calls for proposal for Open Net and Access funding programmes, which aim at increasing broadband access in Austria (evidence 9 and 10). This helped answer questions regarding the tender procedures for these funding programmes efficiently and thus simplified procedures for broadband deployment. Subsequently, this working group analysed the process/submitted projects and provided recommendations for the second call for proposals.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the platform shall implement recommendations of the Connectivity Toolbox.**

Under the patronage of PIA2030 and its working group representatives as well as other stakeholders added by the working group representatives, the Austrian government prepared a roadmap (evidence 5) to implement the Connectivity Toolbox pursuant to the Commission Recommendation on a common Union toolbox under C(2020) 6270 final[2].

[2] Commission Recommendation (EU) 2020/1307 of 18 September 2020 on a common Union toolbox for reducing the cost of deploying very high capacity networks an ensuring timely and investment-friendly access to 5G radio spectrum, to foster connectivity in support of economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis in the Union, C(2020) 6270 final, EUR-Lex - 32020H1307 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

The Connectivity Toolbox implementation report (evidence 6) describes the progress on 39 best practices, with 26 that have already been implemented, 10 that are currently being implemented and 3 that will not be implemented. The report (p. 3) specifies 10 best practice areas, in eight of which measures are already implemented or ongoing. The eight best practice areas support cutting red tape and simplifying procedures for broadband deployment in Austria, namely by:

- Introducing permit exemptions and fast track procedures and promoting the application of existing lighter permit granting procedures;
- Providing model regulations on electronic communications network deployment;
- Providing informative materials and workshops for municipalities and other competent authorities;
- Ensuring the use of electronic means for permit applications;
- Digital administrative portal/Single Information Point (SIP) coordination;
- Fast track procedures for rights of way;
- Establishing broadband coordinators;
- Setting legal requirements with regard to the appropriateness of fees.

In line with the requirements of the measure description, the Connectivity Toolbox implementation report (evidence 6) shows that the platform has implemented recommendations contained in the Connectivity Toolbox.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: 47 Signature of contracts

Related Measure: C2.2A2 Widespread availability of Gigabit capable access networks and creation of new symmetric Gigabit connections

Qualitative Indicator: Signature of contracts

Time: Q3 2023

1. Context:

The investment aims to improve broadband availability in those areas of Austria, which, due to a market failure, are not or are insufficiently developed by the private sector. The investment has the objective of doubling the existing download and upload speed, at least to 100 Mbit/s symmetrically, upgradable to symmetrical Gigabit speeds without further investments in the passive infrastructure. The investment consists of two funding directives: the Access directive aims at vertical integrated telecom operators, whereas the OpenNet directive aims at wholesale-only providers.

Milestone 47 concerns the signature of all contracts regarding the completed calls for tenders, representing projects for 150 000 Austrian households.

Milestone 47 is the second milestone of the investment. It follows milestone 46 related to the completion of the calls for tenders to enable Gigabit capable access networks under Broadband Austria 2030 with award decisions issued and it will be followed by target 48 related to the completion of projects providing access to Gigabit-capable networks for at least 80 000 households. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 August 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1.	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all its constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2.	Special directive concerning the funding programme BBA2030:Access (BBA2030:A), GZ 2022-0.103.107 (BMLRT/BBA2030), March 2022 (AT_47_Sonderrichtlinie_BBA2030_Access_BMF.pdf)	Special directive concerning the funding programme BBA2030:Access
3.	Special directive concerning the funding programme BBA2030:OpenNet (BBA2030:ON), GZ 2022-0.103.107 (BMLRT/BBA2030), March 2022 (AT_47_Sonderrichtlinie_BBA2030_OpenNet_BMF.pdf)	Special directive concerning the funding programme BBA2030:OpenNet

4.	Tender document by the implementing body FFG concerning the call of the funding programme BBA2030:Access, Version 1.0, March 2022 (AT_47_Ausschreibungsleitfaden_BBA2030_Access_01_FFG.pdf)	Tender document concerning the call of the funding programme BBA2030:Access
5.	Tender document by the implementing body FFG concerning the call of the funding programme BBA2030:OpenNet, Version 1.0, March 2022 (AT_47_Ausschreibungsleitfaden_BBA2030_OpenNet_01_FFG.pdf)	Tender document concerning the call of the funding programme BBA2030:OpenNet
6.	Decision to grant funding made by the Federal Minister of Finance based upon the justified funding recommendations from the implementing body FFG for BBA2030:A on 30 November 2022 under GZ 2022-0.832.109 (30 November 2022) (AT_47_Förderungsgewährung_BBA2030_Access_01_BMF.pdf)	Decision to grant funding for programme BBA2030:A
7.	Decision to grant funding made by the Federal Minister of Finance based upon the justified funding recommendations from the implementing body FFG for BBA2030:ON on 7 October 2022 under GZ 2022-0.650.487 (7 October 2022) AT_47_Förderungsgewährung_BBA2030_OpenNet_01_BMF.pdf	Decision to grant funding for programme BBA2030:ON
8.	Signed funding contracts together with the respective signed declarations of acceptance by the beneficiaries (106 in total), 5 August 2024 (AT_47_funding_contracts_with_declarations_of_acceptance_by_beneficiaries.zip)	The number of declarations of acceptance by beneficiaries is higher than 106 due to additional added declarations at the municipality level), as a result of the broadband roll-out projects funded under the RRP.
9.	Extracts from the internal WebGIS database provided by the settlement agency FFG, 11 September 2024 (AT_47_households_contracted_by_each_funding_contract_20240911.zip)	The WebGIS extracts show how many households each funding application/contract/project covers, as a result of the broadband roll-out projects funded under the RRP.
10.	Excel-based table extracted from the internal WebGIS database provided by the settlement agency FFG, 11 September 2024 (AT_47_households_contracted_by_each_funding_contract_20240911.xlsx)	The table shows how many households each funding application/ contract/ project covers, as a result of the broadband roll-out projects funded under the RRP.
11.	E-mail of conformity by the Austrian National Regulatory Authority for Telecommunications (RTR GmbH) to the Ministry of Finance, 24 June 2024	The e-mail certifies that the contracts represent

	(AT_47_confirmation_letter_by_NRA_AT_RTR_20240624.pdf)	projects covering at least 150 000 households.
12.	Report "*Substanzprüfung 2.A.2 Flächendeckende Verfügbarkeit von Gigabitfähigen Zugangsnetzen sowie Errichtung neuer, symmetrischer Gigabit-Anbindungen OA lfd. Nr. 47 Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft mbH*", issued by the Federal Accounting Agency (BHAG) concerning the substance audit for milestone 47, 5 August 2024 (AT_47_audit_report_by BHAG_for_M47.pdf)	Report issued by the Federal Accounting Agency (BHAG) concerning the substance audit for milestone 47
13.	Evaluation manual for the evaluation of funding applications by the independent evaluation committee, March 2022 (AT_47_Evaluation_manual_BBA2030_BHB_AON_01.pdf)	Evaluation manual for the evaluation of funding applications by the independent evaluation committee

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Signature of all contracts related to the completed calls for tenders for projects to enable Gigabit capable access networks under Broadband Austria 2030.

Pursuant to Article 1.1 of the funding contract (evidence 8), funding for the broadband roll-out projects is granted based on (i) the funding application, (ii) the recommendation of the evaluation committee and (iii) the funding award decision. Once a funding award decision is issued, a funding proposal for the relevant broadband roll-out project is submitted by the FFG to the applicant and the applicant has to sign it within four weeks (Article 8.1 of the funding contract (evidence 8)). Once signed by the funding applicant, the funding proposal automatically becomes the funding contract.

The award decisions issued following the calls for tenders under the two broadband roll-out funding programmes, Breitband Austria 2030: Access (BBA2030:A) and Breitband Austria 2030: OpenNet (BBA2030:ON), outline a total of 110 broadband roll-out projects to be funded under the RRP (evidence 6 and 7). Out of those, four roll-out projects were withdrawn. Therefore, a total of 106 broadband roll-out projects were set to be funded as of 11 September 2024.

Austria provided 106 funding contracts with signed declarations of acceptance by beneficiaries (evidence 8).

The signed contracts shall represent projects for 150 000 Austrian households.

While the text of the funding contracts does not mention the precise number of households covered by the contract/project, such number is derived from the funding application. The funding application forms an integral part of the funding contract (Article 2.1 of the funding contract (evidence 8)).

As part of the funding application, applicants were required to submit the geographic mapping of their broadband roll-out project using the BMF's WebGIS application (pages 15 and 16 of the tender documents (evidence 4 and evidence 5)). The geographic mapping in the funding applications allows to determine the number of households covered by each project. The number of households covered is one of the evaluation criteria of the proposed projects (section 1.1 of the evaluation manual

(evidence 13)). For the determination of how many households a project covers, the WebGIS application relies on the data for households on a 100×100 meter grid cells level provided by *Statistik Austria*.[3]

Austria provided the list of 106 funding contracts (evidence 10) and for each contract the extracts from the WebGIS application (evidence 9) showing the number of households covered by each contract (under ""*ΝΗ … Summe der neu erschlossenen Haushalte in den weißen und grauen Rasterzellen*"). The sum of the covered households in the extracts from the WebGIS application exceeds the minimum requirement of 150 000 and amounts to 157 276.

Moreover, the independent national regulator, National Regulatory Authority for Telecommunications (RTR-GmbH), certified, based upon its evaluation, that the funding contracts represent projects for at least 150 000 households, amounting to 158 824 households (evidence 11).[4]

Finally, the contracts and extracts from the WebGIS application have been audited in substance and on-site at FFG by the external audit body, Federal Accounting Agency (hereinafter referred to as "BHAG"), in terms of whether the broadband roll-out projects to be funded under the RRP cover at least 150,000 households. The audit has been done based upon a total value of 157 276 households according to the extracts of the WebGIS application for all 106 funding applications/ contracts as of 11 September 2024. BHAG's audit report confirmed that the minimum threshold of 150 000 households was met, stating: "*The BHAG checked the entries individually and confirmed the total of 157.276 households, which were checked on the basis of the individual WebGIS statistics*" (Section 5 of evidence 12).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

[3] Publikationen - STATISTIK AUSTRIA - Die Informationsmanager, Regionalstatistisches Datenangebot - STATISTIK AUSTRIA - Die Informationsmanager, statistik.at/atlas/reg-datenkatalog/.

[4] The difference with the total number of households in the extracts from the WebGIS application is explained by the fact that the WebGIS data relies on the *Statistik Austria* data from 31 October 2019 used during the tenders, while the regulator's evaluation is based on the household data from *Statistik Austria* from 31 October 2021.

Number and name of the Milestone: 58 Establishing the Once Only technical system connection

Related Measure: C2.2C.1 Proposed legislation for Once Only: Amendment of the Business Service Portal Act

Qualitative Indicator: Single Digital Gateway (SDG) requirements, set in Regulation (EU) 2018/1724, have been met, as confirmed by a report to be sent to the Commission

Time: Q4 2023

1. Context:

The reform aims to reduce bureaucracy for business operators and citizens by implementing the Once Only principle, which reduces multiple reporting. The reform includes legislative amendments in order to establish the mandatory application of the Once Only principle in administrative proceedings. It also envisages the set-up of the basic infrastructure for administrations across regional authorities to be able to design reporting processes and services in accordance with the Once Only principle.

Milestone 58 concerns the establishment of the Once Only technical system connection, meeting the requirements of the Single Digital Gateway (SDG) set in Regulation (EU) 2018/1724.

Milestone 58 is the third and final milestone of the reform. It follows the completion of milestone 56, related to the entry into force of the legislative amendment to the Business Service Portal Act introducing the Once Only principle, pilot launch of the Information Obligation Database (IVDB) survey tool and the availability of the Register and Systems Network (RSV) in a base version, and milestone 57, related to the entry into force of the Regulation on Information Obligation Database (IVDB), obliging Ministries to populate the database, and the connection of registries. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2023

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Signed letter of the contractor (Austrian Federal Computing Center) to the Federal Chancellery of 27 May 2024 (Bestätigung Betrieb SDG_s.pdf)	The letter certifies that IT application Single Digital Gateway Once Only Principle (SDG-OOP) has been made available.
3	Extract from the meeting minutes of the Single Digital Gateway steering committee of 29 November 2023 (Auszug_SDG LAUS_vom_29-11-2023.docx)	The extract includes the competent authority's approval of the system architecture of the Austrian intermediary platform as it was developed by the contractor.
4	Extract of the presentation by the Commission after the accelerator event in	The extract presents the readiness and progress of Member States in setting up the Once Only infrastructure.

	March 2024 (OOTS_2024_March_Acceleratormeter.pdf)	
5	Letter from DG DIGIT and DG GROW of the Commission of 25 April 2024 (240425_Acceleratormeter_Congratulations_Letter_AT.pdf)	The letter congratulates Austria on the progress in the implementation of the Once Only Technical System.
6	Official country profile in the Single Digital Gateway Once Only collaborative space of the Commission, exported on 26 August 2024 (Country profile - AT-v20-20240826_063750.pdf)	The country profile presents the status of the implementation of the SDG Regulation by Austria.
7	Extract from the Operational Report Once-Only Principle by the Austrian Federal Computing Center of August 2024 (6_OOP Betriebsbericht UR 202408.pdf)	The extract provides the number of data requests from the business service portal at the national level in 2023 and in January-August 2024.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The Once Only technical system connection has been established meeting the requirements of the Single Digital Gateway (SDG) set in Regulation (EU) 2018/1724.

The signed letter of the contractor (Austrian Federal Computing Center (*Bundesrechenzentrum GmbH)*) to the Federal Chancellery of 27 May 2024 certifies that IT application Single Digital Gateway Once Only Principle (SDG-OOP) has been made available, in accordance with the contract 'BMF (V) Operation SDG-OOP-AT (Single Digital Gateway – Once Only Principle Platform Austria)' with reference 2023-0.790.320 (evidence 2).

Furthermore, the Austrian Single Digital Gateway (hereinafter referred to as "SDG") steering committee accepted the system architecture of the Austrian platform as it was developed by the contractor, as evidenced by the extract from the meeting minutes of the SDG steering committee, dated 29 November 2023 (evidence 3).

In March and April 2024, the Directorate-General for Digital Services (DG DIGIT) and Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW) of the Commission classified the Austrian Once Only infrastructure as "production-ready" with "first live transactions". The Commission services ranked it at stage 5 out of 6 (meaning that the Once Only technical system connection is tested and configured), based on the readiness monitoring tool, known as *Acceleratormeter*, following the March 2024 Accelerator event (as confirmed by the extract of the presentation by the Commission after the Accelerator event in March 2024 presenting the readiness of Member States (evidence 4) and a letter from the Commission congratulating Austria on the progress in the implementation of the Once Only Technical System of 25 April 2024 (evidence 5)).

The country profile shows that Austria has fulfilled all needed technical implementation of an intermediary platform, in line with the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724, and Austria's eIDAS node is also connected to the intermediary platform (official country profile in the SDG Once Only collaborative space of the Commission presenting the status of the implementation of the SDG Regulation, exported on 26 August 2024 (evidence 6)).

Based on the above, the Once Only technical system connection has been established, in line with the requirements of Article 14 of the Single Digital Gateway (SDG) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **as a first step, entrepreneurs at national level shall benefit from the measure.**

The Once Only technical system connection allows national entrepreneurs to retrieve business data from the Austrian registers connected to the platform, with each request reducing the burden of filling out this data. On the national level, data from the business service portal was requested 104 084 times until the end of 2023 and 17 014 times in January-August 2024, as evidenced by the extract from the Operational Report Once-Only Principle by the Austrian Federal Computing Center of August 2024 (evidence 7).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 61 Final reports on the funded projects

Related Measure: C2.2C2 Digitalisation fund public administration

Qualitative Indicator: Issuance of final reports on the funded projects regarding digitalisation of public administration

Time: Q4 2023

1. Context:

The investment aims to contribute to developing a citizen-centred service-oriented administration with a modern digital infrastructure. The objective is to accelerate digitalisation in the federal administration by financing cross-departmental projects to implement IT consolidation in the federal government, develop IT services for citizens and businesses, and optimise procedures. The projects are submitted by federal departments and selected by the dedicated task force.

Milestone 61 requires that the final reports on the projects funded under the Digitalisation Fund are issued by the implementing federal departments to the Digitalisation Task Force Office and brought to the attention of the Digitalisation Task Force.

Milestone 61 is the third and last milestone of the investment. It follows the completion of milestone 59, related to setting the legal basis for the establishment of the Digitalisation Fund, and milestone 60, related to the selection of digitalisation projects in the public administration to be funded under the Digitalisation Fund. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2023.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone requirements (including all its constitutive elements) have been satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Copy of the Digitalisation Fund Handbook issued by the Ministry of Finance, dated 6 December 2022 (2022-12-06_DigiFonds-Handbuch.pdf)	The Digitalisation Fund Handbook sets out the process for the implementation of the Digitalisation Fund, including the requirement for the implementing federal ministries to submit project completion reports to the Digitalisation Task Force Office.
3	ELAK 2024-0.502.467 (BKA/e-Government), dated 19 December 2024 (2024-0.502.467 (BKA_e-Government) - gesamter Akteninhalt - Info an TFD.pdf)	Complete electronic file ELAK 2024-0.502.467 (BKA/e-Government) by means of which the Digitalisation Task Force Office transmitted the list of all 152 funded projects, their final reports, project applications and a budget overview to the Digitalisation Task Force.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Final reports on the projects funded under the Digitalisation Fund shall be issued by the implementing departments to the Digitalisation Task Force Office and brought to the attention of the Digitalisation Task Force, with representatives of the Federal Chancellery, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Arts, Culture, Public Service and Sport.

The issuance of the final report (*Abschlussbericht*) by the implementing departments to the Digitalisation Task Force Office is a requirement and the last step in the implementation of a project funded under the Digitalisation Fund, according to the implementation procedure set out in the Digitalisation Fund Handbook (evidence 2, diagram 27).

The Digitalisation Task Force qualified 168 project applications regarding the digitalisation of public administration for funding from the Digitalisation Fund. Of these 168 qualified project applications, 16 projects were ultimately not commissioned (evidence 3, pages 4, 10-11). As a result, no payments were made for those projects and no submission of final reports was required. Therefore, in total 152 projects were funded under the Digitalisation Fund.

Austria provided copies of all 152 final reports, signed by project managers of the relevant implementing departments, as submitted to the Digitalisation Task Force Office (evidence 3, as of page 111). The final reports contain a number of elements detailing the projects, such as the name of the project, its start and end dates, its main milestones, achieved results, and lessons learnt.

The Digitalisation Task Force Office compiled the list of all projects, budget overview, final reports and respective project applications in electronic file ELAK 2024-0.502.467 (BKA/e-Government) (evidence 3; ELAK refers to the official electronic file system of the Austrian federal government). The Digitalisation Task Force Office then transmitted the entire electronic file ELAK 2024-0.502.467 (BKA/e-Government), including the final project reports, to the Digitalisation Task Force, comprised of the representatives of the Federal Chancellery, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Arts, Culture, Public Service and Sport (evidence 3, page 2).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Target: 64 - Completion of SME digitalisation projects

Related Measure: C2.2D1 Digitalisation of SMEs

Quantitative Indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 15 300

Time: Q4 2023

1. Context:

The measure aims to help SMEs get advice on designing, implementing and scaling up their digitisation projects, in order to improve competitiveness. The investment consists of two support programmes KMU.DIGITAL 3.0 and KMU.E-Commerce. KMU.DIGITAL 3.0 provides advisory support and implementation support for concrete digitisation projects. KMU.E-Commerce shall support SMEs in the implementation of concrete e-commerce projects and shall provide funding for new investments into e-commerce.

Target 64 provides for at least 15 300 digitalisation projects completed by SMEs as recorded in the reporting system run by the Austrian Chamber of Commerce (*Wirtschaftskammer Österreich – WKÖ*) and the Austria Business Service (*Austria Wirtschaftsservice – AWS*).

Target 64 is the third and last target of the investment, and it follows the completion of milestone 62 and milestone 63, related to the approval and publication of the relevant funding guidelines for KMU.DIGITAL and KMU.E-Commerce. The investment has a final expected date for implementation of 31 December 2023.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary Document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone requirements (including all its constitutive elements) have been satisfactorily fulfilled
2	List of digitalisation projects	Excel Spreadsheet containing a total of 17056 completed digitalisation projects (13907 for KMU.DIGITAL - Module Consulting, 1689 for KMU.DIGITAL - Module Implementation, and 1460 for KMU E-Commerce). The list provides a - unique identifier - project description - type of support programme - name of the SME - reference number for the settlement form of the consultancy report.
3	8 confirmations of the internal checks of SME status by the implementing agency (AWS – Austria Business Service)	Confirmations issued by the Austria Business Service (AWS) to the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economic Affairs confirming the successful

		assessment of the SME requirement based on the EU definition and the internal record system. The 8 confirmations for the eight projects selected under KMU.DIGITAL Implementation and E-Commerce, issued by the AWS.
4	List of SMEs for which the Austrian Chamber of Commerce (Wirtschaftskammer Österreich – WKÖ) confirms the internal check of the SME status	Confirmation by the Chamber of Commerce (WKÖ), to the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economic Affairs confirming the successful assessment of the SME requirement based on the EU definition and the internal record system. The confirmation document issued by WKÖ confirms the SME status for 51 out of 52 projects covered under the Module KMU.DIGITAL – Consulting. One project is missing from the list as it does not meet the SME status requirement (*see Analysis*)
5	51 consultancy reports for the Module KMU.DIGITAL - Consulting	Document autogenerated through the consultant's feedback in the online interface of the implementing agency, summarising the results of the consultation provided to the SME
6	8 audited compilations of accounts for the Module KMU.DIGITAL – Implementation & KMU. E-Commerce	Audited version of the compilation of records created automatically from the Abrechnungsformular (settlement form) uploaded by the SME to the reporting system.
7	8 proofs of payments for the Module KMU.DIGITAL – Implementation & KMU. E-Commerce	Documentation of the payment process from the implementing agency to the SME including the recipient's name, IBAN and amounts.
8	Three Funding guidelines, one for each KMU.DIGITAL Consulting, KMU.DIGITAL Implementation and KMU.E-Commerce	Funding guidelines for the project lines KMU.DIGITAL Consulting, KMU.DIGITAL Implementation and KMU.E-Commerce respectively
9	Confirmation for SME reference number and related name by the Austrian Chamber of Commerce (WKÖ)	Document issued by the Austrian Chamber of Commerce to the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economic Affairs on the direct relation between the reference numbers and name of SMEs as per the internal recording system
10	46 firm reports	Firm reports are extracts from the "Business Compass" from Compass-Verlag. In contrast to the Commercial Register, the data in the Business Compass are indicators and are based, among other things, on entries in the Commercial Register. The firm report indicates the name of the firm, the legal form (individual business, limited partnership or general partnership) and where available the number of staff.
11	27 balance sheets	The balance sheets are supplementary extracts from the "Business Compass" from Compass-Verlag. The

		individual balance sheet indidcates the name of the firm and balance of the firm for 2024.
12	12 extracts of the registry of enterprises (Unternehmensregister)	Extracts from the registry of enterprises stating the name of the firm, the legal form (individual business, limited partnership or general partnership)
13	23 extracts of the commercial register (Firmenbuch)	Extracts from the commercial register showing the name of the firm, the classification as a micro, small or medium sized firm as well, where available, the balance sheet of the two previous years

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

At least 15 300 digitalisation projects shall be completed by SMEs as recorded in the reporting system run by the WKÖ and AWS

A list of 17 056 completed digitalisation projects (13 907 for KMU.DIGITAL - Module Consulting, 1689 for KMU.DIGITAL - Module Implementation, and 1 460 for KMU E-Commerce) has been submitted by the Austrian authorities (evidence 2). The list is an extraction of records in the reporting system run by the WKÖ and AWS (evidence 2).

Following the selection of a random sample of 60 units (52 projects of the module KMU.DIGITAL – Consulting, 5 projects of the Module KMU.DIGITAL – Implementation and 3 projects covered under the module KMU. E-Commerce), Austria submitted:

Regarding the Module KMU.DIGITAL – Consulting:

- A list issued by the Austrian Chamber of Commerce (evidence 4) confirming for 51 firms out of the 52 projects selected under KMU.DIGITAL – Consulting, the internal check for the status of an SME (no evidence was provided for the unit that failed the internal SME check, see below). The list contains the unique item identifiers and the name of the SME as per global list (evidence 3)
- 51 consultancy reports (evidence 5) based on the input provided by a certified consultant via the website of the the KMU.Digital programme run jointly by the Ministry of Labour and Economic Affairs and the Austrian Chamber of Commerce (WKÖ) which redirects the funding recipient and consultant automatically to the online platform “AWS Fördermanager” from the Austria Business Service (AWS). The reports contain the following pieces of information relevant for the verification in the sampling process: Unique project identifier, short project description/project title, name of the client (individual or SME), name and contact details of the consultant, a summary of the expected areas of improvement based on the content of the consultation. The reports are submitted by the consultant after the completion of the consultancy project.

The consultant who provided the consultation to an SME was required to provide their feedback directly to the SME and register it via the online platform of the implementing agency (WKO - Chamber of Commerce) as per section 4.1 of the funding guidelines (evidence 8). This report by the consultant (evidence 5) is a condition for the SME to receive the funding and needs to be transmitted online to the implementing agency by the SME together with the invoice for the consultation in order to receive the funding.

During the sampling check of 51 units of the 52 selected under the Module KMU.DIGITAL Implementation & E-Commerce 22 units were identified where the consultancy report (evidence 5) only mentions the individual who contracted with the consultant on behalf of the firm, but the name of the SME is missing, hence no immediate match with the global list of SMEs was available. In some cases, an association of the individual with the respective company could be inferred from the e-mail address. The Austrian Chamber of Commerce confirmed that the unique identifiers that can be found on all of the 22 consultancy reports in question, are directly linked in the internal system to an SME (evidence 9), which is also confirmed by the list confirming the SME status of 51 firms (evidence 4). This link is confirmed by the extracts from the respective registries and the Wirtschafts-Compass submitted to confirm the units' status as an SME (evidence 10-13)

Regarding the Modules KMU.DIGITAL – Implementation & KMU. E-Commerce:

- The funding guidelines (evidence 8) stipulate under point 10 (named "Auszahlung") paragraph 3 that the funding recipient must submit a signed proof (part of the settlement form which is then auto generated into the compilation of accounts) of use consisting of a factual report and numerical record/evidence of the project costs incurred. The numerical proof must include a verifiable breakdown of all income and expenses related to the subsidised service.
- 8 compilations of accounts ("geprüfte Rechnungszusammenstellung") (evidence No 6) which is an auto-generated document based on the settlement form ("Abrechnungsformular") that is handed in by the SMEs /the funding applicant. It confirms that the investment project has been fully completed. To this online settlement form, the funding applicant uploads both the invoice(s) and the proof(s) of payment to relevant contractors. The compilation of accounts is checked by AWS (including the invoice and the proof of payment that are part of the compilation of records ("Rechnungszusammenstellung"). If this check is successful, the document is "stamped" digitally and filed as "Geprüfte Rechnungszusammenstellung" (audited compilation of account), meaning that this digitalisation project has been completed and the settlement by AWS concluded/completed.
- 8 proofs of payment ("Auszahlungsbeleg") (evidence 7) which document the payment of the funding from AWS to the funding applicants. This is only done after the positive audit/assessment.

Under the Modules KMU.DIGITAL – Implementation & KMU. E-Commerce the SME is requested to compile all relevant information and documents through an online interface the "AWS funding manager" (AWS Fördermanager) as per section 8 of the funding guidelines. Once it has submitted all relevant information and documentation of the project and marks it as completed, the settlement form is autogenerated and checked for completeness by AWS, which then becomes the audited compilation of records (evidence 6). Upon a positive assessment of the settlement form, the funding decision is recorded and shared with the accounting department.

The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 15 January 2025 to verify the internal recording of the funding process by the AWS. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the AWS internal recording system provides a full documentation of the entire funding process from the initial funding request to the final positive assessment and payment.

Hence for both funding modules the documents submitted as PDFs are autogenerated documents based on the information provided by the relevant entity in an online interface and assessed by AWS/ WKÖ.

During the sampling check of the eight units selected under the Module KMU.DIGITAL Implementation & E-Commerce, one unit was identified (connecta Steuerberatungs KG [item identifier: P2068460]), where the name of the SME as per the global list submitted (evidence 2) did not match the name on the proof of payment (evidence 7). However, in the audited compilation of accounts (evidence 6) the name that is indicated on the proof of payment was crossed out and replaced with the name that matches the global list as well as the document documenting the internal check of the SME requirement. A handwritten correction next to the crossed out name explained that a change in the name of the firm had taken place in-between the start of the project and completion of it. A comparison between the IBAN numbers on the proof of payment and in the compilation of records also proved to be identical.

With regards to the SME status of companies Austria provided primary evidence that confirms the status as an SME for 59 out of 60 units (no evidence was provided for the unit that failed the internal SME check, see below). The documentation provided included

- firm reports (evidence 10) which indicate the name of the firm, its legal form and where available the number of staff
- balance sheets (evidence 11)
- extracts from the registry of enterprises (evidence 12) stating the name of the firm, the legal form (individual business, limited partnership or general partnership) and
- extracts from the commercial registry (evidence 13) showing the name of the firm, the classification as a micro, small or medium sized firm as well, where available, the balance sheet of the two previous years.

Taken together, the primary evidence and supplementary information confirm the SME status of the units in the sample in accordance with Austrian accounting legislation.

As per target description the measure targets SMEs specifically, the Austrian authorities submitted two separate sets of documents confirming that they checked the SME requirement internally. For the Module KMU.DIGITAL Implementation and E-Commerce, eight individual confirmations of SME status issued by the Austria Business Service (evidence 3), were submitted. For the module KMU.DIGITAL – Consulting, a single confirmation list issued by the Austrian Chamber of Commerce (evidence 4) was submitted, showing that 51 out of the 52 projects selected are covering SMEs. One of the firms selected under sampling, the BKG Bestattung Kärnten GmbH [item identifier: 2020/P2049838], is missing from the list issued by the Austrian Chamber of Commerce (evidence 4), indicating that a confirmation of the SME status requirement could not be issued. The Austrian authorities explained, that during the internal checks for the SME status requirement the implementing agency (WKÖ) found that the firm is a subsidiary of another firm and does therefore not meet the SME requirement. For this unit no further evidence was submitted. This unit is therefore considered to have failed the sampling check.

The evidence provided for a sample of 60 units confirmed that the requirement of the target has been met for 59 units, whereas one unit has failed the sampling check. A statistical analysis was carried out taking into account the overachievement of the target of 17 056 for a required 15 300. Based on this, there is statistical assurance that the target has been met – despite the failure of one unit, all the constitutive elements have been satisfactorily fulfilled.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Target: 69 Investments in e-mobility

Related Measure: C2.2D3 Green investments in enterprises

Quantitative Indicator: Number of zero-emission vehicles; Number of charging stations

Baseline: 0; 0

Target: 20000; 100

Time: Q4 2023

1. Context:

The investment aims to encourage companies' investments into ecological transformation and to direct them towards forward-looking priority areas. It consists in a 14% subsidy for investments in the priority areas of green transition, such as thermal renovations, energy saving measures, photovoltaic and electricity storage systems as well as zero-emission vehicles and charging stations.

Target 69 requires that at least 20 000 zero-emission vehicles have been purchased and 100 charging stations have been installed by companies.

Target 69 is the second target of this investment, and it follows the completion of milestone 68, related to the entry into force of the amendment to the Investment Premium Act which increased the budget for the investment premiums. It will be followed by target 70, target 71 and target 72, related to the support of at least (i) 500 companies for investments in thermal renovation, (ii) 13 476 companies for investments in solar energy and electricity storage, and (iii) 800 companies for their investments in energy savings respectively.

The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 March 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all its constitutive elements) has been satisfactorily fulfilled
2	List of the 21.932 purchased vehicles	The list includes, among other things, short description of the purchased vehicles.
3	List of 168 installed charging stations.	The list includes, among other things, short description of installed charging stations.
4	Documents regarding zero-emission vehicles: a. the settlement form, including where available a written confirmation of tax	In the context of sampling, documents concerning 60 randomly selected zero-emission vehicle sets were provided by Austria, comprising 140 units. In total, 306 documents were provided.

	adviser for funding or otherwise a copy of the final invoice b. the funding commitment issued by the Austrian implementing agency AWS (*Austria Wirtschaftsservice*) c. technical specifications of the purchased vehicle(s), or other evidence, indicating its zero-emission technology	In addition to the randomly selected zero-emission vehicles, a non-random sample of the 3 largest categories of vehicle sets were provided by Austria, comprising 425 units. In total, 9 documents were provided.
5	Documents regarding charging stations: a. the funding commitment issued by the Austrian implementing agency AWS (*Austria Wirtschaftsservice*) b. the settlement form, including where available a written confirmation of tax adviser for funding or otherwise a copy of the final invoice	In the context of sampling, documents concerning 60 randomly selected charging station sets were provided by Austria, comprising in total 83 units. In total, 130 documents were provided.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

Between 1 September 2020 and 31 December 2023, the implementing agency, Austrian Economic Service (*Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH*, "AWS"), granted support to companies for purchasing 21.932 zero-emission vehicles (evidence 2) and for installing 168 charging stations (evidence 3).

At least 20 000 zero-emission vehicles have been purchased.

Following the selection of a random sample of 60 purchased zero-emission vehicle sets, Austria submitted 306 documents (evidence 4) related to 140 units, containing: (i) a copy of the settlement form, including where available a written confirmation of a tax adviser for funding or otherwise a copy of the final invoice (evidence 4a), and (ii) a copy of the funding commitment issued by AWS (evidence 4b), (iii) a copy of the technical specifications, or other evidence, indicating zero-emission technology of the purchased vehicle (evidence 4c). Each of the 60 selected zero-emission vehicles sets comprised one or several units bearing identical description. The 60 selected zero-emission vehicle sets concerned in total 140 vehicle units.

The Commission verified that for each selected zero-emission vehicle there was a copy of the settlement form (evidence 4a) submitted by the applicant company to AWS, which included a tax adviser's confirmation, or a copy of the final invoice related to the purchase of the zero-emission vehicle(s). Furthermore, the Commission verified that there was a signed funding commitment issued by AWS to the applicant company (evidence 4b), confirming the verification of the settlement form, the payment of eligible amounts and the description of the zero-emission vehicle(s). Finally, the Commission verified the technical specifications, or other evidence, which confirmed that the

purchased vehicles were a full electric or a hydrogen vehicle (evidence 4c). Given that the evidence for some of the selected zero-emission vehicles concerned several units with identical description, as a precaution the sample was extended to 140 units in total. Subsequently, the Commission verified the relevant requirements (evidence 4a, 4b, 4c) for all additional units.

The analysis of evidence confirmed that the requirements of the element of the target related to zero-emission vehicles have been met for 134 out of the 140 verified zero-emission vehicle units, whereas 6 units failed: (1) the evidence for one zero-emission vehicle (identifier P2127700-1) concerning five units (hydrogen buses) substantiated the fulfilment of all requirements only for one unit, resulting in an error of four units; (2) the evidence for one zero-emission vehicle (identifier P2267944-3) concerning three units (full electric passenger cars) substantiated the fulfilment of all requirements only for one unit, resulting in an error of two units. A statistical analysis was carried out taking into account the overachievement of this target by 1.932 for the required 20.000 units. The conclusion is that there is statistical assurance that this element of the target is satisfactorily fulfilled.

In addition, a non-random sample consisting of the three largest categories of zero-emission vehicles was selected on the basis of professional judgement and assessed, and all corresponding units were found (evidence 4) to have satisfactorily fulfilled all requirements.

100 charging stations have been installed by companies.

Following the selection of a random sample of 60 installed charging stations, Austria submitted 130 documents (evidence 5) related to 83 units, containing: (i) a copy of the settlement form, including where available a written confirmation of a tax adviser for funding or otherwise a copy of the final invoice (evidence 5a), and (ii) a copy of the funding commitment issued by AWS (evidence 5b). Each of the 60 selected charging station sets comprised one or several units bearing identical description. In total, the 60 selected zero-emission vehicle sets concerned 83 charging station units.

For one unit (identifier P2095877) out of the total 83 units, Austria did not provide any evidence.

The Commission verified that for each selected charging station there was a copy of the settlement form (evidence 5a) submitted by the applicant company to AWS, which included a tax adviser's confirmation, or a copy of the final invoice related to the purchase of the zero-emission vehicle(s). Furthermore, the Commission verified that there was a signed funding commitment issued by AWS to the applicant company (evidence 5b), confirming the verification of the settlement form, the payment of eligible amounts and the description of the charging station. Given that the evidence for some of the selected charging stations concerned several units with an identical description, as a precaution the sample was extended to 83 units in total. Subsequently, the Commission verified the relevant requirements (evidence 5a and 5b) for all additional units.

The analysis of evidence confirmed that the requirements of the element of the target related to charging stations have been met for 82 out of the 83 verified charging station units. A statistical analysis was carried out taking into account the overachievement of the target by68 for the required 100 units. The conclusion is that there is statistical assurance that this element of the target is satisfactorily fulfilled.

In the light of the above analysis, there is assurance that all constitutive requirements set out in the CID Annex have satisfactorily been fulfilled.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 79 - Start of construction of the Institute of Precision Medicine

Related Measure: C3.3A3 Austrian Institute of Precision Medicine

Qualitative Indicator: Publication of ministerial approval on the website of the Ministry to start construction activities

Time: Q4 2023

1. Context:

The objective of this investment is to establish a centre for precision medicine on the campus of the Medical University of Vienna.

The investment consists of a new building to be built for this new research centre and covers both the structural and the necessary infrastructural and digital equipment for research.

Milestone 79 is related to the (physical) start of the construction works, marked by a ceremonial event.

Milestone 79 is the second milestone of the investment, and it follows the completion of milestone 78 related to the ministerial approval of planning and publication within the Austrian Building Programme. It will be followed by milestone 80 related the completion of the construction of the Institute of Precision Medicine. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2023.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary Document	Summary document duly justifying how the requirements of the milestone (including all its constitutive elements) have been satisfactory fulfilled.
2	Ministerial Construction approval	The signed ministerial decision of 20 November 2023, which enables the start of construction work. The Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research confirms that construction approval has been granted and that construction can therefore begin. Also published on the Webiste of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research https://www.bmb.gv.at/Ministerium/Presse/2023_archiv/20231215a.html
3	Confirmation letter of Start of Construction	Confirmation letter to the project management (ARGE PL4.0/PM1) signed by a representative of the local building authority (TDC-SKD ZT GmbH) that the physical construction work has begun dated 14 February 2024.

4	Press release	Copy of the publication on the website of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research confirming the start of construction work for the Center of Precision Medicine, which was marked by a ceremonial event. Also available at: https://www.bmbwf.gv.at/Ministerium/Presse/2023_archiv/20231215a.html including a link to photos of the event https://www.apa-fotoservice.at/galerie/35402
5	Consolidated version of the University Real Estate Ordinance published in the Federal Law Gazette II No. 24/2018 (*Gesamte Rechtsvorschrift für Universitäten-Immobilienverordnung, Fassung vom 21.02.2024*)	The Universities Real Estate Ordinance (Universitäten-Immobilienverordnung – Uni-ImmoV) regulates the procedure for the planning and execution of real estate projects at universities. The law is available on the link from the Official Journal: https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20010147
6	Universities Act published in the Federal Law Gazette I Nr. 120/2002 and valid in the amended version of 1 July 2024 BGBl. I Nr. 50/2024 [https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/eli/bgbl/I/2024/50] (*Bundesgesetz über die Organisation der Universitäten und ihre Studien*- BGBl. I Nr. 120/2002 *(Universitätsgesetz 2002 – UG)*)	Federal Act on the Organisation of Universities and their Studies (Universities Act 2002 – UG; Universitätsgesetz 2002 – UG). Online available at: https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/Erv/ERV_2002_1_120/ERV_2002_1_120.html

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The construction works have physically started.

On 20 November 2023, the Federal Minister of Education, Science and Research confirmed the approval of the construction for the Center of Precision Medicine – Eric Kandel Institute to the Director of the Medical University of Vienna (evidence 2). The local building authority ("*Bauaufsicht*") TDC-SKD ZT GmbH which is supervising the construction of the building that will house the Centre of Precision Medicine confirmed on 14 February 2024 that the "ground-breaking" ("*erster Spatenstich*") on the construction site took place on 15 December 2023 (evidence 3). This marks the start of the physical construction works. As a first step, exploratory actions on the assessment of the soil have started as stated in the letter (evidence 3).

Furthermore, the start of construction on 15 December 2023 as confirmed by the Confirmation letter of Start of Construction (evidence 3) was marked by a public event that took place on 15 December 2023 and that was attended by the Federal Minister of Education, Science and Research, the Rector of the Medical University Vienna, the Mayor of the City of Vienna as well as the name giver of the "Eric Kandel Institute, Center of Precision Medicine", Nobel Prize winner Eric Kandel, among others. The Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research published a press release [evidence 4] about the ceremony of the "ground-breaking" ("erster Spatenstich") including a link to photos of the ceremony on the website of the APA (Austria Presse Agentur). Austria provided a link to the press release which has been published on the website of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (evidence 4). This website was checked by Commission services on 9 October 2024.

Furthermore, the qualitative indicator of the CID requires the Publication of ministerial approval on the website of the Ministry to start construction activities. The ministerial approval has been published (evidence 2).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 90a Entry into force of the amended School Education Act

Related Measure: C3.3C1 Improved access to education

Qualitative Indicator: Provision in the Act indicating the entry into force of the amended School Education Act

Time: Q1 2023

1. Context:

The objective of the reform is to improve the basic skills of disadvantaged groups of pupils, including pupils with a migration background in order to guarantee equal opportunities in education. The reform aims to complement the investments that are part of the same sub-component with a view to improving access to education. The reform consists of three legal acts aiming at improving national standardised assessments, and at establishing criteria for the specification of the socio-economic baseline of schools which will enable the allocation of resources to schools whose socio-economic profile is more demanding.

Milestone 90a provides for the entry into force of an act amending the School Education Act establishing the legal framework for the creation of additional modules of the national standardised assessments "Individual Competence Assessment PLUS" (iKMPLUS).

Milestone 90a is the first step of the implementation of the reform. It will be followed by milestone 90b regarding the entry into force of the legislation on the implementation of additional modules of the national standardised assessments and milestone 91a related to the entry into force of a legal act establishing criteria for the specification of the socio-economic baseline of schools. The reform has a final expected date for implementation in December 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Federal Act amending the School Education Act, the 2005 Higher Education Act, the 2020 Education Documentation Act, the Employment Requirements Act and the Audit Tax Act, published in the Federal Law Gazette BGBl. I No 227/2022 on 30 December 2022 and entered into force on 31	The Amending Act establishes the legal framework for the creation of additional modules of the national standardised assessments.

	December 2022 and provided a link to the Act (hereinafter referred to as "Amending Act"): BGBLA_2022_I_227.pdfsig (bka.gv.at)	
3	Explanatory notes on the amendments of the School Education Act and link to those notes on the website of the Austrian Parliament: fname_1482148.pdf (parlament.gv.at)	The Explanatory notes provide clarification on each amendment introduced by the Amending Act.
4	Federal Act amending the School Education Act in 2019 published in the Federal Law Gazette BGBl. No. 86/2019 and provided a link: RIS Document (bka.gv.at)	The 2019 amendment to the School Education Act establishes the national competence assessment, the so-called the Individual Competence Assessment Plus.
5	Education Documentation Act published in the Federal Law Gazette BGBl. I No 20/2021	The Act regulates the processing of data of pupils and schools.
6	Consolidated version of the Federal Act of the Education Documentation Act version of 17 September 2024	The consolidated Education Documentation Act contains the amendments (as published in the Federal Law Gazette BGBl. I No 227/2022 and entered into force on 31 December 2022) that provide the possibility of processing student-related data when carrying out additional competency assessments.
7	Regulation of the Federal Minister for Education, Arts and Culture on Educational standards in school education and published in the Federal Law Gazette BGBl. II No 1/2009	The Regulation – among others - implements the national competence assessment.
8	Consolidated version of the Regulation of the Federal Minister for Education, Arts and Culture on educational standards in school education version of 17 September 2024	The consolidated version of the Regulation contains the modifications to the Regulation implementing the amendments to the national competence assessment.
9	Website of the national standardised assessments "Individual Competence Assessment PLUS" (iKMPLUS) Die verpflichtenden Module der iKMPLUS (bmbwf.gv.at)	The website provides up-to-date information on the national standardised assessments "Individual Competence Assessment PLUS" (iKMPLUS), including the modules.

10	Consolidated Education School Act published in the Federal Law Gazette BGBl. No 472/1986	The consolidated School Education contains all amendments to the School education Act until December 2022

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Entry into force of an act amending the School Education Act establishing the legal framework for the creation of additional modules of the national standardised assessments "Individual Competence Assessment PLUS" (iKMPLUS).

The legal framework for establishing the creation of additional modules of the national standardised assessments "Individual Competence Assessment PLUS" (iKMPLUS) is provided by the Federal Act amending the School Education Act and other acts (the "Amending Act").

The Amending Act was published in the Federal Law Gazette BGBl. I No 227/2022 on 30 December 2022 and it entered into force on 31 December 2022, in accordance with Article 1(5) of the Amending Act (evidence 2).

Article 1 of the Amending Act adds in Article 17 (1a) (2) of the School Education Act that, when prescribing education standards, the competent Federal Minister should take into account an additional form of assessing pupils competences, notably allowing teachers and school heads to conduct supplementary assessments to support their teaching activities. This additional form of assessing pupils' competences stipulates the need to amend the Regulation of the Minister for Education, Arts and Culture on the Standards in School Education (evidence 7) to create additional modules via which teachers can carry out supplementary assessments if necessary (evidence 4,7,8).

In order to enable teachers to collect data via more modules and to look at their results in an interconnected way, Article 3 of the Amending Act modified Article 16 (1) of the Education Documentation Act (published in the Federal Law Gazette BGBl. I No 20/2021) (evidence 5,6). This amendment adds the possibility of processing student-related data not only while carrying out mandatory assessments but also for supplementary competency assessments.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Target: 105 Promotional events in the context of the platform/incubator programme

Related Measure: C4.4A1 Enhancing primary health care

Quantitative Indicator: Number of participants in events

Baseline: 0

Target: 100

Time: Q4 2023

1. Context:

The objective of the measure is to promote the attractiveness of working conditions for professionals in primary health care, particularly in rural areas. Besides improved health care provisions, the reform also aims at promoting a culture of interprofessional cooperation and mutual understanding of roles and competencies between health care and social professions in the field of primary health care.

Target 105 requires that at least 100 young professionals (such as students, health care and social professionals) participate in events promoting primary health care, organised in the framework of the platform/incubator programme.

Target 105 is the second step of the investment, and it follows the completion of milestone 104, related to establishing a platform on primary health care and starting an incubator and primary health care unit accelerator programme.

Target 105 will be followed by target 106, related to measuring the success of the platform. The 'Austrian platform for primary health care' is intended to serve as an information and communication hub between health professionals, patient organisations, education, science, the public administration of the health care system and other health care stakeholders.
The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.

1a	Website of the Austrian primary health care platform	This includes the link to the website of the Austrian primary health care platform, publicly available at primaerversorgung.gv.at. This also includes reference to the segments on the accelerator and incubator programme as well as event recordings of events as part of each programme.
2	Signed statement on platform events (AT_105_Official Statement on platform events)	Official statement to confirm that promotional events organised in the frame of the incubator and accelerator program of the Austrian platform on primary health care have taken place. This includes event titles plus a translation from German, as well as a brief description of event formats. It is signed by the Executive Director of the Austrian National Public Health Institute (Gesundheit Österreich GmbH).
3	List of participants (AT_105_Anhang_A_Nachweis YP)	Anonymised list of participants of events promoting primary health care. This list includes information on the number of participants, the date of events and the occupation and career phase to prove their status as 'young professionals'. The document confirms that 121 young professionals participated in the events until 31 December 2023.
4	List of events recordings (AT_105_Videonachweise)	List of promotional events organised in the frame of the incubator and accelerator program of the Austrian platform on primary health care, including links to the recording on Youtube where available.
5	Audit report confirming the establishment of the platform on primary health care and its incubator and primary health care unit accelerator programme	Report by the Federal Accounting Agency (Buchhaltungsagentur des Bundes, BHAG), a public service company that acts independently and is the central service provider for federal. In addition to a wider system check, BHAG also verified specifically the attainment of this target. The report is dated 25 April 2024 and e-signed by the three auditors.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

At least 100 young professionals (such as students, health care and social professionals) shall participate in events promoting primary health care, organised in the framework of the platform/incubator programme.

The primary health care platform was formally established and started its operation on 14 September 2022, and can be accessed on the website of the Austrian platform on primary health care. Information on the events promoting primary health care is publicly available on this website. This website was checked by Commission services frequently ever since its launch, most recently on 16 October 2024.

An official statement (evidence 2) confirms that promotional events organised in the framework of the incubator and accelerator program of the Austrian platform on primary health care have taken place. It was further audited and confirmed by the independent Federal Accounting Agency (evidence 5).

The Austrian authorities provided a document (evidence 4) giving links to the recordings of the webinars listed in evidence 2. As verified, collaborating organisations and speakers are visible in the recordings. For the protection of personal data, the recordings were stopped right at the end of the presentations held in each webinar (ahead of the start of the Q&A session).

Austria provided an anonymised list of participants in events promoting primary health care (evidence 3). This list includes information on the number of participants, the date of events and the occupation and career phase of the participants to prove their status as 'young professionals'. The document confirms that 121 individuals that identified as young professionals according to criteria set out at registration, participated in the events until 31 December 2023. Such events have been continuing since.

The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 14 October 2024 to verify in particular the data gathering for the participants attending events. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the tools employed by the Austrian National Public Health Institute corroborate the information presented in evidence 2, 3 and 4 to demonstrate that at least 100 young professionals (such as students, health care and social professionals) participated in events promoting primary health care, organised in the framework of the platform/incubator programme.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Target: 108 Funding of primary health care projects

Related Measure: C4.4A2 Funding of primary health care projects

Quantitative Indicator: Number of projects funded

Baseline: 0

Target: 45

Time: Q4 2023

1. Context:

The objectives of the measure are to expand rapidly multi-professional primary health care units in Austria and to ensure low-threshold decentralised access to services for the population, especially in rural areas. The investment consists of funding new primary health care units as well as expanding existing primary health care settings. The focus is on establishing multi-professional primary health care networks in rural areas and on taking into account environmental aspects.

Target 108 requires that at least 45 projects related to primary health care will be funded, and that at least 15 of those constitute new primary health care units.

Target 108 is the second target of the investment, and it follows the completion of milestone 107 on the adoption and publication of funding guidelines. It will be followed by target 109 and target 110, related to the further expansion of funding primary health care projects.

The investment has a final expected date for implementation by 30 June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
1a	Website of the Austrian primary health care platform	This includes the link to the website of the Austrian primary health care platform, publicly available at primaerversorgung.gv.at. The website shows the contact details of 76 primary care units in Austria.
2	List of 45 funded projects	A list of all funded projects (up to 31 December 2023) is provided, containing the category of the project (newly-established primary health centre unit (PHCU) or project related to primary health care), a unique identifier, the project title, a project description, the business ID, the degree of urbanization and the project focus. The list is an extract from the data base of Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH, the promotional bank of the Austrian federal government, which is managing the funding applications (Microsoft dynamics system).

3	List of contracts in force, dated 28 August 2024	Signed confirmation by the Austrian Health Insurance Fund (*Österreichische Gesundheitskasse, ÖGK*) showing that all listed primary health care units have ongoing contracts to provide primary care services as part of the public healthcare service. The ÖGK is a self-governing body and operates independently.
4	Proof of focus on rural areas	A list of activities organized with the objective of reaching municipalities and persons in rural areas with an interest to start a PHCU. The document includes primary evidence on the activities, namely four event programmes, one list of participants, one information document describing the content of workshops, one press release and one e-mail invitation.
5	Audit report by the Federal Accounting Agency, dated 27 June 2024	Report by the Federal Accounting Agency (Buchhaltungsagentur des Bundes, BHAG), a public service company that acts independently and is the central service provider for the federal level. In addition to a wider system check, BHAG also verified specifically the attainment of this target. The report is dated 27 June 2024 and electronically signed by two auditors.
6	Confirmation of project funding by AWS, dated 29 January 2025	Signed confirmation by Austria Wirtschaftsservice (AWS) showing the commitments of funds in accordance with the funding guidelines.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

At least 45 projects related to primary health care shall be funded (…)

In a signed letter dated 29 January 2025 (evidence 6), Austria Wirtschaftsservice (AWS) confirms the commitment of funds for 45 primary health care units based on the implementation agreement in the framework of the Recovery and Resilience Facility and in accordance with the funding guidelines. The AWS is the promotional bank of the Austrian federal government, which is managing the funding applications. In addition, a signed letter dated 29 August 2024 (evidence 3) by the Austrian Health Insurance Funds confirms that these 45 units have continuous contracts with the Austrian Health Insurance Fund and are thus part of the public healthcare system and not privately funded practices. The project titles and company names that are specified in the letter, show that these 45 projects are primary health care units. The Austrian Health Insurance Fund is a self-governing body and operates independently from the Austrian government. The report (evidence 5) of the Federal Accounting Agency, a public service auditing company that acts independently, also confirms the attainment of the target.

Furthermore, the list of 45 funded projects (evidence 2) describes these primary health care units in more detail, including detailing contributions to primary health care. The list of projects is an extract from the data base (Microsoft dynamics system) of AWS, the promotional bank of the Austrian federal government, which is managing the funding applications. In line with the verification mechanism, this list includes the project category, project number, project description, company name, degree of

urbanisation, and whether there is a focus on ecological sustainability, social sustainability, digital infrastructure and digitalisation, spatial infrastructure, and continuing education and training. The list shows that five primary health care units focused on ecological sustainability, five units focused on social sustainability, 17 units focused on digital infrastructure and digitalisation, 16 units focused on spatial infrastructure, and nine units focused on continuing education and training. The project titles and company names match in evidence 2 and evidence 3. The list of these 45 primary health care units can also be corroborated by online information on the website of the Austrian platform for primary healthcare (evidence 1a), verified by Commission services on 3 December 2024.

(…) out of which at least 15 shall consist in the establishments of new primary health care units (centres and networks (…)).

The list of 45 funded primary health care units (evidence 2) includes the category of the project (newly established PHCU (Type A project)) and a brief description. The list confirms that 15 new primary health care units were established. The Report by the Federal Accounting Agency (evidence 5), a public service company that acts independently, also confirms that in total 18 new primary health care units were established in the relevant time period.

(…) (also in rural areas).

The list of 45 funded projects (evidence 2) shows the degree of urbanisation of their location for all new primary healthcare units. Out of the 15 new primary healthcare units, three have been established in sparsely populated areas (rural area), two units in intermediate density areas (towns, suburbs) and ten units in densely populated areas (cities/urban centres/urban areas). In order to confirm the rural location of three primary healthcare units (Tullnerfeld, Mittersill, and Melk), the Commission services checked firstly the respective websites of the units and secondly the "STATatlas" of Statistics Austria on 7 November 2024.

Furthermore, as required in the measure description, evidence 4 "proof of focus on rural areas" describes the actions that were taken to support the establishment of new primary health care units in rural areas. Besides the general events organised by the Austrian Primary Healthcare Platform, additional activities were carried out to reach municipalities. These include an online seminar for mayors of municipalities, support at regional events for founders, consultation of municipalities on RRF funding, involvement of regional stakeholders and of the "Association of Austrian Municipalities", making municipalities institutional members of the Austrian Primary Health Care Platform, and provision of specific information on the model of primary health care networks. This is further demonstrated by the four event programmes, one list of participants, one information document on workshops, one press release and one e-mail invitation. The report by the Federal Accounting Agency (evidence 5) also confirms the focus on rural areas via events targeted at stakeholders in rural areas. Overall, these activities underline the goal to establish multi-professional primary health care networks in rural areas by closely involving the respective municipalities.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: 111 Entry into force of the law defining the framework for the electronic 'parent-child pass'

Related Measure: C4.4A3 Development of the electronic parent-child pass platform including the interfaces to the early childhood intervention (*Frühe Hilfen*) networks

Qualitative Indicator: Provision in the law indicating the entry into force of the law defining the framework for the electronic 'parent-child pass'

Time: Q2 2023

1. Context:

The objective of the investment is to digitalize Austria's paper-based parent-child pass and introduce an electronic parent-child pass platform. The parent-child pass is a screening programme for the early detection of health risk factors, diseases and health problems during pregnancy and early childhood until the age of 62 months. The electronic platform offers information and includes an interface with the early aid networks and thus contributes to better health opportunities for pregnant/breastfeeding women and their children, in particular for socially disadvantaged families.

Milestone 111 requires that the legal framework for the implementation of the electronic parent-child pass is developed based on a consultation of stakeholders.

Milestone 111 is the first step of the implementation of the investment. It will be followed by milestone 112 related to the programming contract for the electronic parent-child pass platform as well as target 113, related to the development of the platform and its adoption by medical practitioners. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary Document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone requirements (including all its constitutive elements) have been satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Copy of the electronic parent-child pass law *'elektronischer Eltern-Kind Pass Gesetz'* published in the Federal Law Gazette I No. 82/2023 on 19 July 2023. The law entered into force retroactively on 30 June 2023.	The electronic parent-child pass law defines the legal framework for the electronic 'parent-child-pass': https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/BgblAuth/BGBLA_2023_I_82/BGBLA_2023_I_82.pdfsig.
3	Incentives for the uptake of the electronic parent-child pass and requirements for its	The report on incentives for the uptake of the electronic parent child pass was

	design – report 'Anreize zur Inanspruchnahme des eEKP und Anforderungen an seine Gestaltung – Ergebnisbericht'	prepared by Gesundheit Österreich GmbH (GÖG). It addresses the question how acceptance and hence uptake of electronic health applications such as the parent-child-pass can be insured, respectively increased. It is based on a survey of the relevant scientific literature, two expert interviews and input from stakeholders (professional groups).
4	Needs assessment regarding the requirements of the electronic parent- child pass platform – Report 'Ergebnisse aus der Bedarfserhebung zu den Anforderungen an den eEKP - Ergebnisbericht'	The report on the needs assessment regarding the requirements of the electronic parent child pass platform discusses the specific needs and requirements for the electronic parent-child-pass from the point of view of expectant and young parents. These insights were obtained via various participatory methods (focus groups as well as online survey) with expectant and young parents. Parents made a number of observations and suggestions, some of which were later taken into account in the development of the electronic parent-child-pass platform, e.g. the reminder function.
5	Content concept II for the development of the electronic parent child pass platform including the interface with the early childhood intervention networks '*Fachkonzept II für die Entwicklung der Elektronischen Eltern-Kind-Pass Plattform inkl. der Schnittstellen zu den Frühe Hilfen Netzwerken*'	The content concept is Annex 3 of the contract between the ministry of health and the Federation of Social Insurers for the implementation of the electronic parent child pass platform. It is a 126 pages document, which describes the content requirements for the parent-child-pass platform, including a concept for the documentation platform, data collection and use and for the information platform which will be part of the electronic parent child pass platform.
6	Concept for the involvement of health care providers *‚Grobkonzept Einbindung der Gesundheitsdienstleister:innen (AP 6)'*	The concept paper explains how health care providers will be involved throughout the various developmental stages of the project.
7	Overview of workshops held for stakeholder consultations on the electronic parent-child pass platform	List summarizing dates and participants of the sessions/workshops with health care providers broken down by medical specialty (additional protocols of each session can be provided)
8	Public stakeholder consultation process summary	On the website of the Austrian parliament, a short description of the public parliamentary stakeholder consultation process can be found. 1031 statements were submitted:

		https://www.parlament.gv.at/gegenstand/XXVII/ME/259?selectedStage=101

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Based on a consultation of stakeholders, the legal framework for the electronic implementation of the parent-child pass have entered into force.

The Electronic Parent-Child Pass Law (*Eltern-Kind Pass Gesetz,* evidence 2) establishes the legal framework for the electronic implementation of the parent-child pass. It was published in the Federal Law Gazette on 19 July 2023. In accordance with Article 12 of the Parent-Child Pass Law, the framework for the roll-out of the electronic parent-child pass, in particular Article 4(1), Article 8(1) and Article 11 of the Parent-Child Pass Law, entered into force on 30 June 2023.

Article 4(1) establishes the obligation of the Minister of Health to provide the electronic parent-child pass platform for documentation and strengthening of patient rights. Article 8(1) further specifies that the electronic parent-child pass platform shall be accessible via a website and via an application for mobile phones. Article 11 designates the Federation of Social Insurers as main implementing partner of the Ministry of Health, responsible for the implementation of the parent-child pass platform. The legal obligation, the requirement for electronic access, and the designation of the agency responsible for the implementation set up the legal framework for the electronic implementation of the parent-child pass. Articles 1-3, 4(2)-5, 6(2)-7, 8(2)-10 and 13-16 which concern the roll-out and operation of the electronic parent-child pass will enter into force on 1 January 2026.

The law benefitted from stakeholder consultations. A public stakeholder consultation was held as part of the parliamentary consultation process. More than 1000 statements on the law were submitted between 12 April 2023 and 9 May 2023 (evidence 8). To inform the drafting of the law, the Austrian Public Health institute conducted a scientific study (evidence 3) that synthesised the relevant scientific literature and relied on expert interviews. Input from expecting and young parents was obtained via participatory methods, i.e. focus groups and an online survey of parents (evidence 4). Health care providers were able to give input during a number of sessions/workshops conducted by the Austrian Public Health Institute in 2022. These inputs informed the content concept *(Fachkonzept)* (evidence 5) that details all the requirements for the electronic parent-child-platform.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 112 Award of the electronic 'parent child pass' platform programming contract

Related Measure: C4.4A3 Development of the electronic parent child pass platform including the interfaces to the early childhood intervention *(Frühe Hilfen)* networks

Qualitative Indicator: Publication of the award of the electronic 'parent child pass' platform programming contract

Time: Q4 2023

1. Context:

The Investment consists of replacing Austria's paper-based parent child pass with an electronic parent and child pass platform that will serve as documentation tool and communication platform. The parent child pass is a screening programme for the early detection of health risk factors, diseases and health problems during pregnancy and early childhood until the age of 62 month. The new electronic platform will facilitate documentation and communication, it shall be easy to use and available in different languages and include automatic reminders for women.

Milestone 112 requires that the award following a tender for the programming of the electronic parent-child passport shall be carried out.

Milestone 112 is the second milestone of the investment, and it follows the completion of milestone 111, which establishes the legal framework for the electronic parent-child pass platform and which renamed the mother-child pass into parent-child pass. It will be followed by target 113 on the adoption of the electronic platform by caring medical doctors. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary Document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Cooperation contract 'Kooperationsvertrag' between Austria and the Federation of Social Insurances	This is the contract for the programming of the electronic "parent-child pass" platform. It is a public-public cooperation agreement between the Minister of Health and the Austrian Federation of Social Insurances.

3	Electronic parent-child pass law *'elektronischer Eltern-Kind Pass Gesetz'* published in the Federal Law Gazette I No. 82/2023 published on 19 July 2023.	The electronic parent-child pass law established the legal framework for the electronic parent-child pass platform in the Articles 4(1), 8(1) and 11. These Articles entered into force retroactively on 30 June 2023. The body of the law will enter into force on 1 January 2026.
4	Memo der Finanzprokuratur	A legal memo of the lawyer and legal advisor of the Republic of Austria *'Finanzprokuratur'* on the possibilities of concluding a public-public cooperation agreement that is in line with the requirements of Directive 2014/24/EU in the case of the award of the implementation of the electronic parent child pass platform.
5	Opinion by the Ministry of Health regarding the public-public cooperation agreement for implementing the electronic parent-child pass platform	Legal analysis by the Ministry of Health explaining the reasons why the public-public cooperation agreement that the Ministry of Health and the Federation of Social Insurances have concluded is compatible with public procurement law.
	Content concept II for the development of the electronic parent child pass platform including the interface with the early childhood intervention networks '*Fachkonzept II für die Entwicklung der Elektronischen Eltern-Kind-Pass Plattform inkl. der Schnittstellen zu den Frühe Hilfen Netzwerken*'	The content concept is Annex 3 of the contract between the ministry of health and the Federation of Social Insurers for the implementation of the electronic parent child pass platform. It is a 126 pages document, which describes the content requirements for the parent-child-pass platform, including a concept for the documentation platform, data collection and use and for the information platform which will be part of the electronic parent child pass platform.
7	Confirmation by the Federation of Social Insurers	Confirmation that the company SVC is a 100% subsidiary of the Federation of Social Insurers issued and signed by the director of the Federation of Social Insurers.
8	Website of the Ministry of Health	The website of the Ministry of Health states that the contract for the programming of the electronic parent-child pass platform is awarded to the Federation of Social Insurers: https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Eltern-und-Kind/Eltern-Kind-Pass.html

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The award following a tender for the programming of the electronic parent-child passport shall be carried out.

Under Article 11(1) of the Electronic Parent-Child Pass Law establishing the legal framework for the electronic Parent-Child Pass (evidence 3), the Austrian Federation of Social Insurers has the mandate to implement the electronic parent-child pass platform. The Austrian Minister of Health has concluded a public-public cooperation agreement with the Federation of Social Insurers to implement the electronic platform for the parent-child pass. This agreement was signed on 21 December 2023 and it

sets out the cooperation contributions of the Minister of Health and the Federation of Social Insurers to jointly implement the electronic parent-child pass platform, including the programming of the platform (evidence 2).

According to the Further specifications in the Operational Arrangements, **the term "tender" shall be understood as any procedure that is in accordance with Directive 2014/24/EU.** The public-public cooperation agreement which was concluded for the parent-child pass is in line with Article 12(4) of Directive 2014/24/EU, which exempts such forms of procedures from some obligations, if certain conditions are met. The public-public cooperation concluded for the parent child pass meets the criteria laid out in Article 12(4):

i) It constitutes a cooperation between the Minister of Health and the Federation of Social Insurers, two contracting authorities pursuant to Directive 2014/24/EU, with the aim of ensuring that public services they have to perform are provided with a view to achieving a common objective. Both authorities contribute to the implementation of the electronic parent-child pass platform with contributions that go beyond financial flows (evidence 5).
ii) The implementation of the electronic parent-child pass platform is governed solely by considerations relating to the public interest (evidence 4; evidence 5).
iii) The authorities do not perform activities related to their cooperation for the electronic parent-child pass on the open market (evidence 5).

For the programming of the platform, the Federation of Social Insurers relied on its 100% subsidiary, the company SVC (evidence 7). This does not preclude the completion of a public-public cooperation agreement. The conditions for an inhouse award are given as the SVC is an inhouse subsidiary within the meaning of Article 12(1) of Directive 2014/24/EU:

i) The Federation of Social Insurers exercises over the SVC a control which is similar to that which it exercises over its own departments (evidence 7);
ii) All of the activities of the SVC are carried out in the performance of tasks entrusted to it by the Federation of Social Insurers (evidence 7);
iii) The SVC does not perform on the open market nor is there any direct private capital participation in the SVC (evidence 7).

The award of the programming contract for the electronic parent-child pass platform to the Federation of Social Insurers was published on the website of the Ministry of Health on 2 February 2024 (evidence 8). This was last checked by Commission services on the 5 November 2024.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the investment consists in the development of an electronic documentation and communication platform with simplified access to test results for health care practitioners and affected women (pregnant and breastfeeding).**

According to the public-public cooperation agreement, the electronic parent-child pass platform is set to serve as a communication and documentation platform in accordance with Article 4(1) of the Electronic Parent-Child Pass Law (evidence 3). The cooperation agreement sets the parameters for the electronic documentation and communication platform in Annex 3 comprising the content concept II (evidence 6) on pages 18 to 62. It is accessible both for expecting mothers, for the children and their legal guardians and for health care practitioners as detailed on pages 31 to 32, 33 and page 21 of the content concept II (evidence 6), respectively. For (expecting) parents and legal guardians the electronic parent-child pass platform will be accessible both via a website and via a mobile application as explained on page 13 of the content concept II (evidence 6). Health care practitioners are obliged to document the test results of required medical examinations and consultations in the platform in accordance with Article 4(3) of the law. For each of the required medical examinations and

consultations the cooperation agreement specifies details on the results to be recorded in Annex 3, the content concept (evidence 6) on pages 40 to 62. (Expecting) parents will have access to this information in accordance with Article 8(2) of the law and as further specified in the content concept II (evidence 6). In addition, parents will receive information about relevant support services. On the platform, a contact form will enable parents to easily reach out to the early childhood intervention networks (*Frühe Hilfen*) (evidence 6, page 22).

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **accessibility shall be made easy in order to allow also socially disadvantaged families or less educated women with limited German language skills to use the mother child passport as a key preventive tool.**

The cooperation agreement for the implementation of the electronic parent-child pass platform specifies how accessibility will be made easy and user friendliness will be achieved. On the platform, information will be provided in different languages (evidence 6, pages 13-14 and 31). The languages for translation will be selected by a steering committee based on a needs assessment. To further avoid barriers, simple language will be used and medical terms and scores will be explained (evidence 6, pages 13-14 and 31) with the aim to provide better services especially for socially disadvantaged families with limited German language skills. The electronic parent child pass platform will introduce additional features that will make the system more user friendly, for instance a reminder function which will automatically inform parents of the next required medical examinations in accordance with Article 8(2) of the Electronic Parent Child Pass law. The cooperation agreement for the implementation of the electronic child pass platform specifies the details of the reminder function in Annex 3, the content concept (evidence 6), on pages 23 to 25.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Target: 115 National roll-out of early childhood interventions (*Frühe Hilfen*)

Related Measure: C4.4A4 National roll-out of early childhood interventions (*Frühe Hilfen*) for socially disadvantaged pregnant women, their young children and families

Quantitative Indicator: percentage of envisaged national rollout

Baseline: 0

Target: 0.75

Time: Q3 2023

1. Context:

The objective of the measure is to support families in vulnerable situations during the period of pregnancy and early childhood thereby promoting health equality and social fairness. The investment consists in an expansion of family counselling and in setting up regional early childhood intervention networks of cooperation among all relevant institutions and services in the field of early childhood. The early aid services shall be expanded to make this service available to families in all districts of Austria.

Target 115 requires that at least 75% of the envisaged national rollout shall be completed.

Target 115 is the second target of the investment, and it follows the completion of milestone 114. It will be followed by target 116, related to 100% rollout of the early aid programme. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 30 September 2024.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Audit report 4.A.4 of the National roll-out of early childhood interventions for socially disadvantaged pregnant women, small children and their families '*Substanzprüfung 4.A.4 Nationaler Roll-out der "Frühen Hilfen" für sozial benachteiligte Schwangere, ihre Kleinkinder und Familien*' federal accounting agency of the Republic of	Report by the Federal Accounting Agency (Buchhaltungsagentur des Bundes, hereinafter referred to as "BHAG"), a public service company that acts independently and is the central service provider for the federal level. BHAG verified specifically the attainment of this target. The report is dated 26 April 2024 and e-signed by the three auditors.

	Austria '*Buchaltungsagentur des Bundes'*	
3	Copies of contracts with implementing bodies and primary funding recipients	Copies of contracts signed with the primary funding recipients (Bundesländer) and the implementing bodies. The contracts with the implementing bodies also contain supplementary documents such as Annex D that specifies service provision and regional coverage.
4	Annual report on early childhood interventions 2023 '*Frühe Hilfen – Zahlen, Daten und Fakten 2023'*	Annual report (Frühe Hilfen. Zahlen, Daten und Fakten 2023) on the state of implementation as well as characteristics of families supported etc. of 'early aid' in Austria. The report was published on the website: https://nzfh.at/publikationen/jahresberichte
5	List of early childhood interventions networks	A website that gives contact information for each Frühe Hilfen network and clarifies who is responsible for which district: https://fruehehilfen.at/netzwerke

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

At least 75% of the envisaged national rollout shall be completed.

Austria has achieved a full rollout of the programme early childhood interventions as provided by evidence 2, the official audit report of the federal accounting agency on the national rollout of the programme early childhood interventions; by evidence 3, the contracts with implementing bodies and primary funding recipients by evidence 4, the annual report on early childhood interventions of the year 2023 and by evidence 5, a website which presents all early childhood interventions networks in Austria.

The audit report concludes on page 6 that the national rollout has been achieved in full by September 2023. Full rollout covering all districts means that in Austria every child in need has access to the service of early childhood interventions, irrespective of their place of residence. Before, if a family was living in a district that is not covered, they were not eligible for support from early childhood interventions. The website of early childhood interventions (evidence 5) presents the teams working for the respective early childhood interventions network, gives contact information and explains which districts are covered by the respective network. Commission services confirm that for all Austrian districts, there is a early childhood interventions network responsible. The Annual Report on early childhood interventions (evidence 4) which was published by the Nationales Zentrum Frühe

Hilfen explains the timeline of the rollout of early childhood interventions on page three. In 2022, eight additional districts were covered and in 2023 the 44 remaining districts were covered.

The contracts with the service providers specify the precise nature of the services which consist of both family counselling and coordination of the early childhood interventions networks (evidence 3). The early childhood interventions networks connect different social and medical service providers in the districts allowing for cooperation and optimal service provision. For the Bundesländer Styria, Upper Austria, Vienna, Tyrol, Vorarlberg and Salzburg, Annex D to the contract with the service providers gives relevant details, in particular the districts covered, and the services provided in terms of weekly working hours for family counselling and network management. For the Bundesländer Carinthia and Burgenland, the contracts between the regional authorities and the national coordinating body Gesundheit Österreich GmbH provide necessary details, in particular, the districts covered and the amount of services to be funded. For the South-Eastern districts of Lower Austria, (that is Baden, Bruck an der Leitha, Gänserndorf, Lilienfeld, Mistelbach, Mödling, Neunkirchen, Wiener Neustadt (Land) and Wiener Neustadt (Stadt)), the details about the services provided are to be found in Annex D to the contract between Österreichische Gesundheitskasse and the service providers Die möwe Kinderschutz gemeinnützige GmbH and Ananas gemeinnützige Familienberatung PaPuB GmbH. For the other districts of Lower Austria, (that is Amstetten, Gmünd, Hollabrunn, Horn, Korneuburg, Krems an der Donau (Stadt), Krems (Land), Melk, St. Pölten (Land), St. Pölten (Stadt), Scheibbs, Tulln, Waidhofen an der Thaya, Waidhofen an der Ybbs and Zwettl), details about the services to be funded (i.e. districts to be covered and family counselling and network coordination to be provided) are found in the contract between the Bundesland Niederösterreich and the national coordinating body Gesundheit Österreich GmbH.

Furthermore, in line with the measure description, **the investment consists in preventive interventions throughout the phase of early childhood by improving and extending already existing support measures, setting up regional early childhood interventions networks and establishing cooperation among all relevant institutions and services in the field of early childhood in the districts ('Bezirke'- Austrian subregional entity) not yet covered.**

The social programme early childhood interventions consists of family counselling for young families in need and of establishing regional support networks that bring together different actors and institutions in the health and social space to support young children and their families (evidence 4). The present investment consists of expanding existing early childhood intervention networks by funding additional staff and setting up new networks so that all districts in Austria are covered as specified in the contracts with service providers (evidence 3).

The family counsellor of early childhood interventions accompanies a family in need and serves as confidant until the child turns 3. In this role, she or he connects the family to more specialised health and therapy services as required (evidence 4, page 17) aided by the early childhood interventions network coordinators. For instance, if a medical problem was detected during pregnancy, the family counsellor in collaboration with the early childhood interventions network will assist the family to navigate the (medical) system and connect them to a suitable therapy offer. Thus, the programme enables early preventive interventions which are highly effective in supporting a child's development.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Target: 123 Thermal refurbishment projects completed

Related Measure: C4.4B3 Investment in climate-friendly town centres

Quantitative Indicator: Number of thermal refurbishment projects

Baseline: 0

Target: 34

Time: Q4 2023

1. Context:

The objective of the investment is to raise the attractiveness of town centres, notably in rural areas, by supporting investment in measures to prevent the use of new land outside the town centres. The investment consists of several elements, including thermal renovation of buildings in town centres, measures for greening facades, connection to high-efficiency district heating as well as recycling of brownfield land.

Target 123 provides that at least 34 thermal renovation projects of companies and/or municipalities in town centres are completed.

Target 123 is the first target of the investment, and it follows the completion of milestone 122, under which the funding guidelines for the four areas of intervention were adopted (1. thermal renovation of commercial and communal buildings, 2. facade-greening projects, 3. connection of buildings to high-efficiency district heating, and 4. recycling of brownfield land). The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Full project list - “Thermal refurbishment of buildings”	The list provides an overview of all projects that received funding including names of recipients, locations of projects, project descriptions and current status.
3	Initial project applications and brief project descriptions (Antrag)	Project applications including project descriptions and technical specifications.
4	Grant agreements (Vertrag)	Copies of the grant agreements including the names of recipients and locations of the projects. Each contract-file’s name contains the project name and internal project reference number, in order to

		match with the full project list and each project description.
5	Payment letters (Auszahlungsbrief)	Copies of the payment letters issued by the competent authority (Kommunalkredit Public Consulting GmbH).
6	Energy performance certificates (Energieausweis)	Energy performance certificates before and after completion of the thermal refurbishment projects
7	Funding guidelines for thermal refurbishment projects of buildings for businesses or municipalities (Infoblatt)	Funding guidelines for thermal refurbishment projects of companies or municipalities

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

At least 34 thermal renovation projects of companies and/or municipalities in town centres are completed.

Evidence 2) is the list of all thermal renovation projects. It includes information on the 34 completed projects.

The funding guidelines (evidence 7) for the thermal refurbishment of commercial and communal buildings are valid for all project applications. The guidelines are in effect since July 2022 and provide the general criteria for two different fundings. The Recovery and Resilience Facility provides funding only for thermal renovation in line with target 123 under section A of the funding call.
The guidelines specify the nature and scope of eligible projects and the potential recipients, objectives for funding, measures eligible for funding, costs to be reimbursed, and other general prerequisites and requirements for funding as well as the funding process.

The projects applications verified by the competent authority (Kommunalkredit Public Consulting GmbH) fulfil all funding criteria (evidence 3). They also include the projects' technical specifications and their precise locations in the municipalities.

Copies of the grant agreements (evidence 4) include the names of recipients and locations of the projects. Each contract-file's name contains the project name and internal project reference number.

34 projects have received the payout and the corresponding signed payment letters (evidence 5) were issued by the competent authority (KPC). As per grant agreement (evidence 4), such payments can only be made once all documents of completion were submitted. The payment letters show that the (expected) dates of the actual payments of the grants range from May 2023 to December 2024.

The renovations could either be for companies or municipalities. The project list (evidence 2) shows that only companies, and no municipalities benefitted. However, the funding guidelines (evidence 7) show that the funding was open to municipalities as well.

The project applications (evidence 3) include information about the projects taking place in town centres. All projects took part in town centres in line with the measure.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Target: 127 Projects for the connection to high-efficiency district heating completed

Related Measure: 4.B.3 Investment in climate-friendly town centres

Quantitative Indicator: Number of projects for the connection to high-efficiency district heating

Baseline: 0

Target: 375

Time: Q4 2023

1. Context:

Investment 4.B.3 Climate-friendly town centres aims to increase the attractiveness of town centres by supporting costly investments to make buildings fit for the green transition. The investment consists of several types of projects, including thermal renovation, roof and façade greening, recycling of brownfield land, and the connection to high-efficiency district heating.

Target 127 requires completing at least 375 projects for the connection of buildings in city centres to high-efficiency district heating, meaning that the buildings must be located within city centres and only the connections to district heating classified as "high-efficiency" can be considered eligible.

It is the first and only target of investment 4.B.3 that aims to support connections to high-efficiency district heating for buildings in city centres – targets 123, 126 and 129 are related to other areas of intervention within this investment. The investment has a final expected date for implementation by 30 June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary note	Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Full list of projects	The list provides an overview of all projects that received funding including the names of recipients, unique identifiers, locations of projects, project descriptions (incl. technical specifications), and payment dates.
3	Project applications	Project applications including the names of recipients, unique identifiers, locations of projects, short technical specifications. Submitted for each sampled project.

4	Technical specifications	Technical specifications, including the confirmation of location in the city centre, connection to highly efficient district heating, as well as the names of recipients, unique identifiers, locations of projects, and other technical specifications of the project. Submitted for each sampled project.
5	Payment letters	Copies of the payment letters issued by the competent authority (Kommunalkredit Public Consulting, KPC).

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

At least 375 projects for the connection to high-efficiency district heating are completed.

The list of 395 completed projects of connection of buildings in city centres to high-efficiency district heating was provided by the Austrian authorities, including an overachievement by 20 completed projects (evidence 2). The project list covered the unique identifiers of each project, project descriptions, names and addresses of the recipients, brief technical specifications of the heating systems, as well as the dates of issuing of payment letter and remittances. =

Based on the provided list of beneficiaries (evidence 2), the Commission has drawn a random sample of 228 units. Following this selection, the Austrian authorities provided project applications (evidence 3), technical specifications (evidence 4), as well as payment letters (evidence 5), issued by Kommunalkredit Public Consulting (KPC) and the Austrian Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology. Together, these show that each of the sampled projects met the eligibility conditions set by the CID Annex – that the buildings are located within city centres and the connections are made to high-efficiency district heating.

The technical specifications (evidence 4) provided for each project include a summary of the assessment by the competent authority, Kommunalkredit Public Consulting (KPC), that the new connection was made to a highly efficient district heating, as well as that the relevant building was located within a city centre (evidence 4). The technical specifications also include the personal information about the recipient, the location of the project, as well as the type of the heating to be connected.

This information was further verified with the payment letters (evidence 5), which included the name and address of the recipient, as well as the unique identifier, value of payment, and the issuing date. The payment letters were issued by KPC to the recipients and were signed by relevant employees of KPC. The issuing dates of payment letters range from April 2022 to November 2023.

Therefore, in line with the measure description, the completed projects achieve the intended objective of supporting the buildings in city centres fit for the green transition.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Target: 129 Brownfield land projects completed

Related Measure: C4.4B3 Investment in climate-friendly town centres

Quantitative Indicator: Number of recycling of brownfield land projects

Baseline: 0

Target: 30

Time: Q4 2023

1. Context:

The objective of the investment is to raise the attractiveness of town centres, notably in rural areas, by supporting investment in measures to prevent the use of new land outside the town centres. The investment consists of several elements, including thermal renovation of buildings in town centres, measures for greening facades, connection to high-efficiency district heating as well as recycling of brownfield land.

Target 129 requires that at least 30 projects of recycling of brownfield land are completed.
Target 129 is the fourth target of the investment, and it follows the completion of milestone 122 related to the adoption of the funding guidelines for the renovation of buildings in town centres in four areas of intervention. Targets 123, 126 and 127 are related to other areas of intervention within measure 4.B.3. Target 129 is followed by target 130 related to the completion of at least another 30 projects of recycling of brownfield land.
The investment has a final date for implementation on 30 June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone requirements (including all its constitutive elements) have been satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Full project list	The list provides an overview of all projects that received funding including names of recipients, locations of projects, project descriptions and current status.
3	Initial project applications and brief project descriptions	Project applications including project descriptions and technical specifications, depicting each project's scope (brownfield site-development concept and (optional) contamination assessment as well as other preliminary assessments of the building stock and soil-foundation and (optional)

		assessment of other location-induced additional expenditures).
4	Grant agreements ("Förderungsverträge")"	Copies of the grant agreements including the names of recipients and locations of the projects. Each contract-file's name contains the project name and internal project reference number, in order to match with the full project list and each project description.
5	Payment letters	Copies of the payment letters issued by the competent authority (Kommunalkredit Public Consulting, KPC).
6	Funding guidelines for brownfield land development concept-studies	Funding guidelines for brownfield land development concept-studies.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

At least 30 projects of recycling of brownfield land are completed.

The list of all projects of recycling of brownfield land is provided in evidence 2. The list of projects includes 32 completed projects thereby overachieving the target.

The projects were selected in line with the procedure set out in the funding guidelines which were successfully assessed under milestone 122 in the first payment request (evidence 6). In particular, the funding guidelines specify the nature and scope of eligible projects and the potential recipients, objectives for funding, measures eligible for funding, costs to be reimbursed, and other general prerequisites and requirements for funding as well as the funding process.

The projects that received support were selected by the Commission for Remediation of Contaminated Sites and Brownfields which recommended to support the projects for which all funding criteria were fulfilled (see evidence 3).

The eligible project promoters then entered into grant agreements (evidence 4) which include the names of recipients and the locations of the projects. Each contract-file's name contains the project name and an internal project reference number.

Once these 32 projects have been completed, the competent authority (Kommunalkredit Public Consulting, KPC) issued payment letters (evidence 5). The payment letters show that the dates of the actual payments of the grants range from March 2023 to September 2024.

The funded projects include development concepts (including inter alia needs-assessments, feasibility analysis, cost estimations, stakeholder participation/ surveying), soil examinations, and structural engineering tests for recycling of brownfield land.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 136 - Decision of the Ministry for Culture (BMOESK) on the strategy for the digitalisation of cultural heritage

Related Measure: C4.4C2 - Develop a national digitalisation strategy for cultural heritage

Qualitative Indicator: The strategy is published

Time: Q1 2023

1. Context:

The objective of the reform is to expand digitalisation in arts and culture and to promote the digital transformation of the art and culture sector to increase visibility of cultural objects and the networking between cultural institutions.

Milestone 136 is related to the publication of the digitalisation strategy taking into account the results of the consultation process.

Milestone 136 is the second and last milestone of the reform, and it follows the completion of milestone 135, assessed under the same payment request and related to the development of a national digitalisation strategy by conducting a consultation process. With the adoption and publication of the national strategy for the digitalisation of cultural heritagethe reform is finalised. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 March 2023.

Following the completion of this milestone, in line with the description of the measure in the Council Implementing Decision, Austria will have improved the visibility of cultural objects and networking between cultural institutions. This is a further step of this measure that is not linked to the milestones and targets in the Council Implementing Decision.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary Document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone requirements (including all its constitutive elements) have been satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Digital Cultural Heritage Strategy (Strategie Kulturerbe Digital) was adopted by the Austrian Government on 31 March 2023 and published on the the website of the Ministry of Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport.	The main strategy document on the digital cultural heritage taking stock and describing possible areas of use for digital tools. The strategy is published on the website of the Ministry of Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport (BMKOES) https://www.bmkoes.gv.at/Kunst-und-Kultur/europa-und-internationales/EU-Aufbau-und-Resilienzfazilit%C3%A4t/Digitalisierungsstrategie.html It can be directly downloaded through https://www.bmkoes.gv.at/dam/jcr:418639e8-05d5-44b4-a5e0-fe12b517a742/strategie-kulturerbe-digital.pdf

3	Digital document on the decision on the adoption of of Digital Cultural Heritage Strategy	Screenshot of the internal record system showing the process of adoption of the of Digital Cultural Heritage Strategy started on 23 March 2023 and completed on 31 March 2023
4	Report by members of the University for Continuing Education Krems on the results of the consultation process	Report by members of the University for Continuing Education Krems on the results of the Consultation Process (Ergebnisse der Online-Konsultation) summarising the results of the online consultation process and published online under https://www.bmkoes.gv.at/dam/jcr:807eebed-f571-4a0c-b10d-72ca6cef3331/strategie%20kulturerbe%20digital%20umfrage%20ergebnisse.pdf The report was commissioned by the Federal Minstry of Finance, the Federal Ministry of Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport (BMKOES) is responsible for its content.
5	Press release on the public presentation of the Digital cultural heritage strategy	Copy of the press release on the public presentation of the Digital cultural heritage strategy also accessible via https://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20230418_OTS0021/mayer-und-tursky-praesentieren-strategie-kulturerbe-digital-bild

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Publication by the Ministry for Culture (BMKOES) of the strategy for the digitalisation of cultural heritage

The Federal Ministry of Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport adopted the strategy on the strategy for the digitalisation of cultural heritage on 31 March 2023 as published on its official website. Within the Austrian legal system, the adoption of such strategies does not follow a formal process but are run through the relevant hierarchy in the Ministry in a written procedure. As a final step the relevant State Secretary authorises the document, here for publication and relevant other colleagues are informed. Finally, the document is filed (evidence 3).

Taking into account the results of the consultation process, the digitalisation strategy has been published.

The consultation process (see also Milestone 135) served as a stocktaking exercise of the current state of digitialisation in the cultural sector, use of digital tools, trainings taken and desired etc.

The results of the consultation process are summarised in a separate report by members of the University for Continuing Education Krems (evidence 4). This report sets out the status quo, as well as the feedback received through the online consultation. Topics that are deemed of particular relevance for the development of a national digitialisation strategy of cultural heritage include legal safety, funding opportunities, defined standards for data, development of IT infrastructure, opportunities for exchange and support for long-time archiving as well as training.

Chapter 5 of the Digital Cultural Heritage Strategy (evidence 2, p. 25-37) highlights eight fields of action for digital transformation (*Handlungsfelder der digitalen Transformation*):

- strategy development
- collection and archiving
- Visualisation
- mediation and education
- research
- knowledge and skills
- value chains
- legal framework

In these fields of action, where relevant issues identified during the consultation process were taken into account. These include inter alia:
The subchapter “collection and archiving” focuses on the digital collection and archiving of cultural heritage, including the digitization of existing collections, the development of digital preservation strategies, and the use of standardized metadata.
One of the results of the consultation process also was the interest in more training opportunities which is addressed in the secion on knowledge and skills. This section emphasises the need for cultural heritage professionals to develop new knowledge and skills in the areas of digital cultural heritage, including digital literacy, data management, and programming.
The subchapter on the legal framework acknowledges that further development of framework conditions is needed and also points to a “good practice” event series “Museum and the law” on the topic of copyright etc. addressing the consultation feedback on increased legal safety.
Finally, the strategy points to the funding opportunity (*kulturerbe digital*) that was made available starting in 2023 for the digitalisation of cultural heritage and thereby addressing the identified interest in more funding opportunities (evidence 2 p.43).

The strategy was presented to the public in the context of the Ministerial Council and published on the website of the Ministry of Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport (evidence 2). The publication was accompanied by an official press release (evidence 5).

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure**, this strategy shall aim at promoting the further digital transformation of the art and culture sector in Austria**. The strategy serves both as a stocktaking exercise and as a way to clearly set out future priority areas such as the funding opportunity to digitalise cultural heritage for the web-based data aggregation platform from different cultural heritage institutions (*Kulturpool*).

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure**, it shall advance the digitalisation of cultural heritage, such as the collections and inventory of cultural institutions**. The strategy serves both as a stocktaking exercise and sets out future priority areas such as the funding opportunity to digitalise cultural heritage using the corresponding investment fund “digital cultural heritage” (Kulturerbe digital) established in November 2022 and the relaunch of the online platform “Kulturpool” (assessed under Milestone 140) on 14 March 2024. The Kulturpool is the platform used to both digitalise cultural heritage objects but also to make them accessible to the public. As the platform and the corresponding investment fund are clearly defined as measures to address the findings and goals set out in the strategy, the strategy also contributes to advancing the digitalisation of cultural heritage.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 140 ‘Kulturpool Neu’ — web-based data aggregation platform from different cultural heritage institutions

Related Measure: C4.4C4 - Digitalisation wave cultural heritage

Qualitative Indicator: Publication and launch of the ‘Kulturpool Neu’ platform

Time: Q1 2024

1. Context:

The investment aims to launch the digitalisation in cultural institutions. The archives of the different art and culture divisions should be increasingly translated into a digital format and hence become accessible to a wider public.

Milestone 140 provides for launching the ‘Kulturpool Neu’ platform with a new, contemporary design. It envisages function as a central platform that merges the data form different institutions of cultural heritage and makes them digitally available to the public.

Milestone 140 is the first step of the implementation of the investment. It will be followed by target 141 and target 142, related to the digitalisation of at least 400 000 and 600 000 cultural and art objects respectively. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary Document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone requirements (including all its constitutive elements) have been satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Certificate of works completion, signed by the Museum of Natural History Vienna and the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport on 19 March 2024	With the document termed “Abnahmezertifikat” (Certificate of completion) the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service confirms the inspection and approval of the project “Kulturpool” together with the contractor the Museum of Natural History Vienna
3	Press release on the launch of the newly designed platform published on 14 March 2024	Press release on the launch of the newly designed platform also available on https://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20240314_OTS0126/bmkoesmayer-online-portal-kulturpool-macht-oesterreichs-kulturerbe-zugaenglich
4	Screenshot of the website	Screenshot of the newly designed website right after
5	Link to the website ”Kulturpool”	Link to the redesigned online platform “Kulturpool” https://kulturpool.at/
6	Demonstration video of the different modes of use of the platform (in German)	This video demonstrates the modalities of the “Kulturpool”, how to search for certain pieces of

		cultural heritage, institutions etc. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79on5bhp0zs
7	Link to overview of the project redesigning the online platform "Kulturpool"	Link to the page on the website of the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport giving a brief overview of the "Kulturpool" https://www.bmkoes.gv.at/kunst-und-kultur/schwerpunkte/digitalisierung/kulturpool.html

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The 'Kulturpool Neu' platform has been launched with a new, contemporary design.

The digital platform with a new, contemporary design has been launched on 14 March 2024, as confirmed by the certificate of completion (evidence 2) and is online available as "Kulturpool" (evidence 5). The Natural History Museum was commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport in October 2022 to produce an updated design and relaunch the platform (evidence 2). The contemporary design can be seen in the digital document of the platform (evidence 4) or by visiting the website (evidence 5, the website was checked by Commission services on 13 June 2025).

It shall function as a central platform that merges the data from different institutions of cultural heritage and makes them digitally available to the public.

The platform functions as a central platform which merges data from different institutions and makes them digitally available (evidence 6) as confirmed by the certificate of completion (evidence 2). This can be seen on the platform on which at the time of its launch in 2024, cultural objects from 13 different museums and institutions of cultural heritage were digitally available (evidence 3). At the time of the assessment of the payment request, there were already 36 institutions of cultural heritage represented (evidence 5, the website was checked by Commission services on 14 July 2025). The platform allows the user to type an art genre, artist, institution, or any other keyword into the search bar to browse the library of cultural heritage objects (evidence 6).

Furthermore, in line with the description of the **measure the investment consists of an update of the existing platform 'Kulturpool' to 'Kulturpool NEU' and hence a state of the art central digital platform.** The certificate of completion (evidence 2) confirms the launch of the newly designed online platform ´Kulturpool´ on 14 March 2024.The platform allows for a combination of browsing through objects and editorial content.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 147 Spending Review 'Identifying synergies with the funding landscape of the Länder'

Related Measure: C4.4D1 Spending review focusing on green and digital transformation

Qualitative Indicator: Dissemination of the report

Time: Q2 2023

1. Context:

The objective of the reform is to carry out spending reviews for public spending related to the green and digital transitions. Spending reviews complement the regular budget planning process and may make an important contribution to improving the impact orientation of the federal budget.

Milestone 147 provides for the identification of synergies in the funding landscape of the Länder, including the climate responsibility mechanisms between the federal level and the Länder as part of the Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act 2017 (Finanzausgleichsgesetz 2017). Based on the report, findings may serve as a basis for the next period of Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act.

Milestone 147 is the second step in the implementation of the reform, and it follows the completion of milestone 146 related to analysis of the climate and energy policy support and incentive landscape. It will be followed by milestone 148, milestone 149 and milestone 150, all related to the spending review focusing on the green transition and milestone 151, related to the spending review focusing on the digital transition. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2025

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Spending review report on identifying synergies with the funding landscape of the Länder' landscape, published on the Ministry of Finance's website (latest website update 6 December 2023): https://www.bmf.gv.at/themen/klimapolitik/green_Budgeting/green_spending_reviews_des_bmf/modul-2_identifikation_von_synergiepotentialen_mit_der_foerderlandschaft_der_bundeslaender.html	The second spending review report of the spending review cycle focuses on identifying synergies in the funding landscape of the Länder, including the climate responsibility mechanisms between the federal level and the Länder as part of the Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act 2017 (Finanzausgleichsgesetz 2017), so that it may serve as a basis for the next period of

		Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act.
3	Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act 2024, published on the Ministry of Finance's website: https://www.bmf.gv.at/dam/jcr:fc193897-7238-4b07-971f-1703581536f5/Paktum%20zum%20FAG%202024.pdf	The Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act (Finanzausgleichsgesetz) is the core law that governs intergovernmental fiscal relations between the central government and the single Länder. The most recent Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act was adopted in December 2023 and is covering the period 2024-2028.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The report shall be internally disseminated.

The finalised spending review report (evidence 2 and hereinafter referred to as "report") on identifying synergies with the funding landscape of the Länder's, including the climate responsibility mechanisms between the federal level and the Länder, is disseminated through the homepage of the Austrian Ministry of Finance. This website was updated for the last time on 6 December 2023 and checked by Commission services on 6 November 2024.

This report shall focus on identifying synergies in the funding landscape of the Länder,

The report (evidence 2) is structured into nine chapters. In particular, Chapter 4 describes the climate relevant funding transparency database, used by the federal government, and carries out a detailed analysis of the climate and energy funding landscape of the federal government and the Länder based on data from the transparency database. Chapter 5 identifies the climate protection targets and how they are implemented in the Länder, Chapter 6 analyses the budgetary implications of climate policy and Chapter 7 applies the green budgeting methodology to the budget of the Länder. In this way the report specifically addresses the synergies with the funding landscape of the Länder.

…including the climate responsibility mechanisms between the federal level and the Länder as part of the Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act 2017 (Finanzausgleichsgesetz 2017),

Chapter 6 of the report takes stock of climate targets and the connected budgetary risks. It further elaborates the current responsibility mechanism based on the Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act (Finanzausgleichsgesetz) (2017) and suggests different policy options for improvement. In particular, Chapter 6.2. addresses budgetary risks in connection to climate change, and Chapter 6.5. gives different policy recommendations to address them, including recommendation 13 on the climate coordination mechanism and recommendation 16 on the climate responsibility mechanism.

…so that it may serve as a basis for the next period of Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act.
The first findings from the review and its recommendations were included in the negotiations on the Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act 2024 (evidence 3, page 7-8), including the implementation of

green budgeting pilot projects with the Länder as specified by recommendation 23 of the spending review report.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 151 Spending Review 'Further advancement of digitalisation in public administration'

Related Measure: C4.4D1 Spending review focusing on green and digital transformation

Qualitative Indicator: Dissemination of the report

Time: Q3 2023

1. Context:

The objective of the reform is to carry out spending reviews for public spending related to the green and digital transitions. Spending reviews, as topic-related budget analysis points, supplement the regular budget planning process and may make an important contribution to improving the impact orientation of the federal budget.

Milestone 151 provides for the dissemination of a report containing the evaluation of the effects of the digitalisation fund.

Milestone 151 is the third step in the implementation of the reform. Milestone 151, related to the spending review focusing on the digital transition, follows the completion of milestones 146 and 147, and will be followed by milestone 149 and milestone 150, all related to the spending review focusing on the green transition. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Spending review report on the evaluation of the effects of the digitalisation fund, published on the Ministry of Finance's website: https://www.bmf.gv.at/dam/jcr:82d9f513-c259-4b21-97e6-533a5d170001/Spending_Review_Modul_6_Digitalisierung.pdf	The third spending review report of the spending review cycle focuses on evaluation of the effects of the digitalisation fund. It examines the development of the digitalisation in the public administration.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The report shall be internally disseminated.

The finalised spending review report (evidence 2 and hereinafter referred to as “report”) on evaluating the effects of the digitalisation fund is disseminated through the homepage of the Austrian Ministry of Finance. This website was checked by Commission services on 6 November 2024.

This report shall focus on evaluating the effects of the digitalisation fund.

The report is structured into five chapters, which all evaluate the effects of the digitalisation fund. In particular, Chapter 1 is giving an overview of projects financed by the digitalisation fund and their impact. Chapter 2 analyses and evaluates the decision-making structures and the use of the fund’s resources. Chapter 2.4. specifically addresses the challenges of the operational processes of the digitalisation fund. Chapter 3 suggests various policy options, including a more efficient and targeted design of the operational process based on experience with the digitalisation fund. Chapter 4 provides a summary of the conclusions reached from the analysis. Chapter 5 suggests different recommendations to address the issues indicated in the previous chapters. In this way the report specifically evaluates the effects of the digitalisation fund.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 172 Entry into force of the amended EIA Act

Related Measure: C5.A.1 Acceleration of permitting procedures for renewables

Qualitative Indicator: Provision in the law indicating the entry into force of the amended EIA Act

Time: Q1 2023

1. Context:

The objective of the measure is to streamline the permitting procedures for renewable energy projects by amending the national Environmental Impact Assessment Act ("EIA Act"). The amendment aims at introducing several procedural simplifications. The impact of the reform shall be evaluated in a report to the Austrian Parliament, presenting recommendations on how to further speed up the permitting procedures for renewables.

Milestone 172 requires that the amended EIA Act enter into force.

Milestone 172 is the first step in the implementation of the reform to be followed by milestone 173 related to a report to the Austrian Parliament evaluating the impact of the reform. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 30 September 2024.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Federal Act amending the Environmental Impact Assessment Act, entered into force on 23 March 2023 and published in the Federal Gazette of the Republic of Austria, BGBl. I No. 26/2023. Consolidated version available online under RIS - Umweltverträglichkeitsprüfungsgesetz 2000 - Bundesrecht konsolidiert (bka.gv.at)	The Federal Act that amends the Environmental Impact Assessment Act that introduces several procedural simplifications.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The amendment to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Act shall enter into force.

The amended Environmental Impact Assessment (hereinafter referred to as "EIA") Act (*Umweltverträglichkeitsprüfungsgesetz 2000 – UVP-G 2000*) entered into force on 23 March 2023, one day after its publication in the Federal Gazette of the Republic of Austria, BGBl. I No. 26/2023, in accordance with Article 46(29). Austria submitted a copy of the consolidated version of the amended Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Act (evidence 2).

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the amendment aims at introducing several procedural simplifications, such as facilitation of changes to the permit in case of technological development (…).**

This is achieved through the new Article 18c of the amended EIA Act. It introduces a simplified procedure for modifications to projects, which are emission-neutral or the result of a technological development (such as a newer and more powerful generation of wind turbines) that has no significant adverse effect on the environment. Such changes must be notified to the authority together with a report from a civil engineer. If the permitting authority does not react within four weeks, the reported modifications do not require changes to the permit and the developer can proceed with implementation.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the amendment aims at introducing several procedural simplifications, such as (…) reducing the length of permitting procedures on administrative and judicial level by setting concrete deadlines for objections at the beginning of the procedure (…)**.

Article 14 of the amended EIA Act on structuring the procedure allows the competent authority to set deadlines for raising objections after publication of the report for consultation of the public. Unless otherwise specified, this deadline is set as one week ahead of the hearing. The new Article 9(6) of the amended EIA Act specifies that parties that do not make objections within the set deadline lose their right to participate further in the procedure. Thus, with the authority's ability to set deadlines for submission of objections before the oral hearing, the possibility of adding objections later (in the procedure) and thus delaying the process is eliminated.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the amendment aims at introducing several procedural simplifications, such as (…) removing the suspensive effect of the appeal in case of insufficiently substantiated complaints (…).**

The new Article 17a of the amended EIA Act on the removal of the suspensive effect of appeals for projects related to the energy transition ensures that insufficiently substantiated appeals no longer have a suspensive effect on a decision. The article obliges a competent authority to remove the suspensive effect of such blanket complaints, and that the Federal Administrative Court must decide immediately in case of an appeal against such a decision on the removal of the suspensive effect.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the amendment aims at introducing several procedural simplifications, such as (…) and an increased use of digitalisation.**

Article 5(1) of the amended EIA Act grants authorities the possibility to set further requirements for the electronic submission and structuring of documents. The new Article 16a of the amended EIA Act on online or hybrid hearings states that hearings may take place in a hybrid or fully online format setting conditions to ensure participation of all concerned parties.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 174 The Hydrogen Strategy is published and the national hydrogen platform is established

Related Measure: C5.A.2 Hydrogen as key technology to climate neutrality

Qualitative Indicator: Publication of the Hydrogen Strategy and establishment of the national hydrogen platform.

Time: Q2 2023

1. Context:

The objective of this reform is to establish a national Hydrogen Strategy in Austria. The strategy focuses on three main goals: increasing renewable hydrogen production, setting the framework for developing hydrogen-ready infrastructure for imports and transport, and installing 1 GW of electrolyser capacity by 2030 to reduce fossil fuel dependence in hard-to-decarbonize sectors like industry and transport.

Milestone 174 requires the publication of the Hydrogen Strategy and the establishment of the national hydrogen platform. The platform shall include representatives from research, industry, the energy sector and civil society.

Milestone 174 is the first step in the implementation of the reform. It will be followed by milestone 175 related to the publication of the first evaluation report on the implementation of the Hydrogen Strategy and milestone 176 related to the implementation of key measures in the Hydrogen Strategy. The reform has a final expected date for implementation in June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary Document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone requirements (including all its constitutive elements) have been satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Austrian Hydrogen Strategy (Wasserstoffstrategie für Österreich)	Austrian Hydrogen Strategy, as published by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Protection (BMK) and the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economic Affairs (BMAW) in Vienna on 2 June 2022. The main measures required to implement the hydrogen strategy are the responsibility of these ministries. The ministers of both ministries liaise with the Hydrogen Partnership's advisory board. The strategy outlines ambitious targets for the ramp-up of the hydrogen market in Austria, as well as policies for implementation, structured along eight policy fields. One of the measures is the establishment of a national hydrogen platform. Link to the BMAW webpage where the Hydrogen Strategy is published:

		https://www.bmaw.gv.at/Themen/Wirtschaftsstandort-Oesterreich/Wasserstoffstrategie.html
3	Hydrogen Strategy for Austria (Executive Summary)	Executive summary of 1) in English.
4	Website to the platform HyPA | Hydrogen Partnership Austria: Hypa	Link to the website of the national hydrogen platform "Hydrogen Partnership Austria" (HyPA)
5	Hydrogen Partnership Austria - Fragebogen	Survey on the implementation of the hydrogen strategy sent to 200 stakeholders
6	Press conference by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Protection (BMK) and the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economic Affairs (BMAW) for the publication of the Hydrogen Strategy	Link to the press conference: https://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20220531_OTS0180/aviso-do-2-juni-1130-uhr-pk-gruener-wasserstoff-fuer-oesterreich-mit-gewessler-kocher-und-kren
7	Press conference by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Protection (BMK) and the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economic Affairs (BMAW) for the launch of the "Hydrogen Partnership Austria"	Link to the press conference: https://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20230620_OTS0169/start-der-hydrogen-partnership-austria

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The Hydrogen Strategy shall be published

The Hydrogen Strategy was published by the Federal Ministry for Climate Protection (BMK) and the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economic Affairs (BMAW) on the website of the BMAW (evidence 2), checked by COM services on 17 September 2024, and presented by Austrian Minister for Climate and Energy, Leonore Gewessler, and Austrian Minister for Labour and Economic Affairs, Martin Kocher in a press conference on 2 June 2022 (evidence 6).

The national hydrogen platform shall be established.

The national platform "Hydrogen Partnership Austria" was established on 20 June 2023 as specified by the website (evidence 4, website assessed by the Commission on 17 September 2024). The first meeting of the advisory board took place at the same time as the presentation of HyPA **o**n 20 June 2023. HyPA is an initiative of the BMK and BMAW as well as the province of Tyrol and is implemented by the Austrian Energy Agency and the Standortagentur Tirol (evidence 3). The platform's current activities can be taken from its website (evidence 4).

The platform shall include representatives from research, industry, the energy sector and civil society. The platform's advisory board includes members from research, industry and the energy sector as set out on the platform's website (evidence 4).

Civil society was included through a large-scale survey of over two hundred hydrogen stakeholders, (evidence 5). These responses formed the basis for recommendations of the advisory board to the government for possible further developments for hydrogen market ramp-up. In addition, to foster involvement of stakeholders and the broader public in the developing policy framework for hydrogen, Hydrogen Partnership Austria organises roundtables, workshops and webinars (evidence 4). These include different stakeholders for specific topics, including civil society organisations. Another goal of Hydrogen Partnership Austria is to enhance information, create evidence and improve communication regarding hydrogen for civil society. This is achieved inter alia through comprehensive information through the website, creation of diverse fact sheets for the public, and active communication e.g. through a newsletter and information on events.

Furthermore, in line with the measure description, the Hydrogen Strategy shall provide specific actions in eight policy areas (flagship projects on the targeted deployment of hydrogen technologies, funding for production of renewable hydrogen, incentives for hydrogen-enabled business models, hydrogen-ready infrastructure, green mobility based on hydrogen, R&D in the field of hydrogen, stakeholder dialogue on hydrogen matters and collaboration at EU and international level on hydrogen regulation and infrastructure).

The Hydrogen Strategy provides specific actions in the eight policy areas listed in the measure description (pages 42-46 of the Strategy). Following the same order as in the measure description, the eight policy areas and corresponding action points (examples in parentheses) are the following:

1) Enabling a timely market ramp-up through flagship projects (e.g. Austria will participate in the first waves of the International Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI) on hydrogen)
2) Support and incentives for the production of renewable hydrogen (e.g. introduction of a sales quota for renewable gases in the Austrian gas market)
3) Incentivising marked-based business models and the targeted application of climate neutral hydrogen in industry (e.g. support for projects on using hydrogen in industry as part of the support programme „Transformation der Wirtschaft")
4) Establishing an infrastructure for hydrogen and creating import opportunities (e.g. "Roadmap towards a Hydrogen Backbone": development of a roadmap for the adaptation of natural gas pipelines for the use of hydrogen)
5) Targeted advancement of hydrogen technologies in the area of mobility (e.g. R&D support FTI-Agenda Mobility, Zero Emission Mobility)
6) Intensifying research and development activities (e.g. funding for the European Strategic Research & Hydrogen Agenda „Green Hydrogen")
7) Creation of the national hydrogen-platform H2Austria for stakeholder dialogue
8) Austria's priorities on European and international level (e.g. work on regulation, common standards, trans-European hydrogen infrastructure)

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: 177 Publication of the guidelines

Related Measure: C5.B.1 Photovoltaic systems

Qualitative Indicator: Online publication of the guidelines

Time: Q4 2023

1. Context:

The objective of the investment is to support the expansion of photovoltaic systems and thereby accelerate the green transition. This investment aims to establish a subsidy scheme for private individuals and non-profit associations who install photovoltaic systems with funding for a capacity of up to 20 kWp with or without electricity storage.

Milestone 177 requires that the funding guidelines for the subsidy scheme be published.

Milestone 177 is the first step in the implementation of the investment. It will be followed by target 178 and target 179, which specify the number of installed photovoltaic systems that received funding. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone requirements (including all its constitutive elements) have been satisfactorily fulfilled .
2	Funding guidelines published by the "Klima- und Energiefonds" (Government's Climate and Energy Funds) on 2 January 2024 (Photovoltaik-Anlagen Jahresprogramm 2023) The guidelines can be found on the website of the Austrian climate fund: https://www.klimafonds.gv.at/wp-content/uploads/sites/16/Leitfaden_PV_2023.pdf	Funding guideline for Photovoltaic systems specify the subsidy scheme for photovoltaic installations.
3	Federal Act on subsidies for investments in renewable energy production and storage, published in the Federal Law Gazette BGBl. II Nr. 64/2023 on 15th March, 2023	This law specifies the subsidy scheme for investments in electricity production. In Article 6 it lays out specific conditions for surcharges and discounts for different types of photovoltaic systems. The funding guidelines refer to paragraph 6 of this law to establish that only photovoltaic systems on buildings are eligible for funding.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The guidelines of the subsidy scheme shall be published.

Austria published the guidelines for the subsidy scheme Photovoltaic systems ("Photovoltaik-Anlagen Jahresprogramm 2023") on 2 January 2024 (evidence 2).

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the subsidy scheme supports photovoltaic systems with or without electricity storage exclusively on buildings and thereby promotes the expansion of renewable energy. Only private individuals and non-profit associations shall be eligible for funding.**

The funding guidelines specify that photovoltaic systems with and without electricity storage can receive subsidies. Only private individuals and non-profit associations who are considered consumers according to Article 1(1)ii. 1 Z 2 of the Consumer Protection Act (Konsumentenschutzgesetzes) are authorized to submit a funding request according to chapter 4.0 of the funding guidelines. Photovoltaic systems that are built on agricultural land or green areas are not eligible for funding according to chapter 2.0 of the guidelines. Photovoltaic systems that are subject to a discount or surcharge in accordance with Article 6 of the Federal Act on subsidies for investments in renewable energy production and storage, published in the BGBl. II Nr. 64/2023 (evidence 3), are not eligible for funding. This excludes some special types of photovoltaic systems, e.g. floating photovoltaic systems.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the subsidy scheme shall support the installation or expansion of photovoltaic systems with a capacity ≤ 20 kWp with or without electricity storage. The systems shall be subdivided according to their size. Systems up to 10 kW peak and systems between 10 and 20 kW peak shall be subsidised with different flat rates.**
Chapter 4.0 of the funding guideline specifies the subsidy scheme. The scheme supports the installation or expansion of photovoltaic systems. Photovoltaic systems with a capacity of up to 10 kWp will receive a flat rate subsidy of 285 EUR/kWp. Photovoltaic systems with a capacity of 10-20 kWp will receive a flat rate subsidy of 250 EUR/kWp. If a photovoltaic system has a capacity that exceeds 20 kWp, a subsidy will only be given for the first 20 kWp capacity. For each metering point, only one photovoltaic system can receive a subsidy.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the subsidy scheme may also support electricity storage systems of up to 50 kWh, when they are installed together with the renewable energy generation system. Flat rates per kWh shall be awarded for electricity storage systems.**
Chapter 4.0 of the funding guideline further specifies a subsidy scheme for electricity storage systems when they are installed together with the renewable energy generation system. Storage systems with a capacity of up to 50 kWh receive a flat rate subsidy of 200 Euro/kWh. For larger electricity storage systems, no subsidies are paid out beyond a capacity of 50 kWh.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: 180 Launch of the funding call

Related Measure: C5.B.2 Funding zero-emission commercial vehicles and infrastructure

Qualitative Indicator: Launch of the funding call for projects for heavy-duty commercial vehicles

Time: Q1 2023

1. Context:

The objective of this investment is to scale up investment 1.B.4 Zero-emission utility vehicles, which consists of providing funding for commercial vehicles equipped with zero-carbon emitting technologies and for the development of the necessary infrastructure for operating the commercial vehicles. The scaled-up part of that investment increases the ambition of the original measure by providing funding to switch from fossil fuel-powered to zero-emission technology for the category of heavy-duty commercial vehicles.

Milestone 180 concerns the launch of a funding call for projects for zero-emission heavy-duty commercial vehicles for the vehicle categories N2 and N3, tractor units and special vehicles.

Milestone 180 is the initial step in the implementation of the investment. It will be followed by target 181 related to the procurement of at least 167 heavy duty zero-emission commercial vehicles and the infrastructure required for their operation by the final recipients.

The investment has a final expected date for implementation 30 June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone requirements (including all its constitutive elements) have been satisfactorily fulfilled
2	ENIN Funding guidelines - Zero-emission heavy-duty commercial vehicles (N2, N3) - second call, published on 22 March 2023 (https://fdoc.ffg.at/s/vdb/public/node/content/YRPgIL5uS8yUX0wdZUW99Q/1.0?a=true)	Funding guidelines with technical specifications related to the to the second call for expression published by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)
3	Call for expression of interest published by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) (https://www.ffg.at/ENIN/2-Ausschreibung)	Website of the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) showing key information related to the second call for expression of interest, including the terms of reference and deadline for application.

4	ENIN Special Directive promoting the switch to zero-emission commercial vehicles and infrastructure (Förderung der Umstellung auf emissionsfreie Nutzfahrzeuge (bmk.gv.at))	Website of the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG), explaining the legal framework of the funding programme ENIN, including the link to the ENIN Special Directive

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Austrian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Funding call for projects for heavy-duty commercial vehicles (categories N2 and N3, tractor units and special vehicles) "Emission-free commercial vehicles and infrastructure (ENIN)" shall be launched.

The call for expression of interest under the funding programme "*Emissionsfreie Nutzfahrzeuge und Infrastruktur* (hereinafter referred to "ENIN") was launched by a publication (evidence 3) on 22 March 2023 on the website of the implementing Austrian Research Promotion Agency ("*Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft",* hereinafter referred to as "FFG"), whereas the deadline for submission of applications was set for 10 May 2023. This was the second call under this funding programme and it concerned heavy-duty commercial vehicles (categories N2 and N3), whereas the first call under the same funding programme focused on light commercial vehicles (category N1).

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **only electric and hydrogen-powered vehicles of categories N2, N3, tractor units and special vehicles, as well as the infrastructure required for their operation, shall be eligible for funding.**

Section 4.1 (page 10) of the Funding guidelines (evidence 2) specify that eligible for funding are only zero-emission heavy-duty commercial vehicles of the categories N2 and N3 and the infrastructure needed to operate them. Section 4.7 (page 16) further specifies that eligible are also costs related to tractor units ("*Sattelzugmaschinen*") and special vehicles ("*Sonderfahrzeuge*"). Section 9.3 (page 36) comprises a list of special vehicle types, including construction dump trucks, waste collection vehicle, mixer truck, pump truck, crane truck, vehicles for spreading or snow removal, vehicles for street and sewer cleaning, fire department vehicles, ladder vehicles (for both fire department and other public and civilian use) and towing vehicles. The technical criteria and eligible costs for the funding of charging and refuelling infrastructure are specified in Sections 4.2 and 4.7.

The general legal framework for funding of the ENIN funding programme is provided by the ENIN Special Directive ("*Sonderrichtlinie zur Förderung der Umstellung auf emissionsfreier Nutzfahrzeuge und Infrastruktur"*, evidence 4) that was published by the Austrian Climate Ministry (BMK) in 2023, indicating the entry into force on 20 March 2023 and validity until 31 December 2030.

Chapter 4, Section 4.1.1 of the ENIN Special directive (p. 9) specifies as eligible investment: a) electric commercial vehicles, which are powered purely electrically without additional energy generation in the vehicle; b) commercial vehicles hydrogen fuel cell powertrains; c) commercial vehicles powered by overhead electricity lines.

The section 4.1.3 of the Special directive specifies the eligible infrastructure needed to operate the zero-emission commercial vehicles as (a) charging infrastructure, (b) hydrogen refuelling infrastructure as well as (c) associated third-party services, which all must be in direct spatial and/or technical connection with the purchased of zero-emission commercial vehicles.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the scaled-up part of that investment shall increase the ambition of the original measure by providing funding to switch from heavy-duty commercial vehicles (categories N2 and N3, tractor units and special vehicles) to heavy-duty zero-emission commercial vehicles (categories N2 and N3, tractor units and special vehicles).**

The second call for expression provides funding for the switching to heavy-duty zero-emission commercial vehicles (categories N2 and N3, tractor units and special vehicles). This represents an increase of the ambition of the original measure that focused on zero-emission utility vehicles of category N1.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled