



ENSP

European Network
for Smoking and Tobacco Prevention

Austria

Tobacco Control Policies Implementation Level

Austria has made progress on tobacco control in recent years. However, people continue to die and become sick needlessly, and the costs to society from tobacco use continue to mount. Austria can still do more to make the proven tobacco control tools work for its citizens' wellbeing.¹



Austria became a Party to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control on December 14, 2005.² Austria adopted first Federal Tobacco Act (BGBl No.431/1995) on 30 June 1995. On 20 December 1996, Regulation No. 738 Establishing the Procedures for Measuring Condensate (Tar) and Nicotine in Tobacco Smoke was published by Austria Government. Austria published Federal Law Amending the Tobacco Act, the Income Tax Act 1988, the Corporation Tax Act 1988, the Labour Inspect Act 1993, and the Federal Officials Protection Act (BGBl No. 101/2015) on 13 August 2015. Austria adopted Ordinance of the Federal Minister of Health and Women's Affairs regarding the authorisation of novel tobacco products (NTZulV) (BGBl II No. 42/2017) on 2 February 2017.³

WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) implementation level

Ratification: 15/09/2005

Entry into Force: 14/12/2005⁵

Policy ⁶	Status
Protection from tobacco smoke	
The comprehensiveness of protection in health-care facilities	Partial
The comprehensiveness of protection in educational facilities	Completed
Tobacco-related mortality	
Estimated total number of tobacco-related deaths	12.1
Taxation of tobacco products	
The proportion of the retail price consisting of taxes	77.11%
Only specific tax levied	No
Only ad valorem tax levied	No
Combination of specific and ad valorem taxes levied	Yes
Supply of tobacco and tobacco products	
Tracking regime to further secure the distribution system developed	Yes
Sales of tobacco products to minors prohibited	Yes
Sale of tobacco products from vending machines prohibited	No
Sale of cigarettes individually or in small packets prohibited	Yes
Tobacco growing	
Viable alternatives for tobacco growers promoted	Not applicable
The number of workers	Not applicable
General obligations	
Comprehensive multisectoral national tobacco control strategy	No
Focal point for tobacco control	Yes
National coordinating mechanism for tobacco control	Partial
Packaging and labelling of tobacco products	
Health warnings occupying 50% or more	Yes
Health warnings in the form of pictures or pictograms	Yes
Liability	
Criminal and/or civil liability action launched by any person	No
Education, communication, training, and public awareness	
Implemented educational programs targeted to adults	Partial
Implemented educational programs targeted to children and youth	Yes
Tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship	
Comprehensive ban on all tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship	Yes
Ban on display of tobacco products at points of sales	Yes
Ban covering tobacco sponsorship	Yes
Ban covering cross-border advertising originating from the country	Yes
Demand reduction measures concerning tobacco dependence and cessation	
Evidence-based comprehensive and integrated guidelines developed	Yes
Implemented media campaigns to promote tobacco cessation	No
Implemented telephone quit lines	Yes
Primary health care providing programs on diagnosis and treatment	No
Nicotine replacement therapy available	Yes
Surveillance	
National system for surveillance of patterns of tobacco consumption established	Yes
National system for surveillance of consequences of tobacco consumption established	Yes

Additional details show that:⁴

- Tobacco harms the health, the treasury, and the spirit of Austria. Every year, more than 10100 of its people are killed by tobacco-caused disease. Still, more than 12000 children (10-14 years old) and 1292000 adults (15+ years old) continue to use tobacco each day.
- Even though fewer women die from tobacco in Austria than on average in very high-HDI countries, tobacco still kills 69 women every week, necessitating action from policymakers. Women deaths are about 8.3%, whereas men are about 16.73%.
- Even though fewer men smoke on average in Austria than on average in very high-HDI countries, there are still more than 683500 men who smoke cigarettes each day, making it an ongoing and dire public health threat.
- Even though fewer people use smokeless tobacco on average in Austria than on average in very high-HDI countries, 115700 people still currently use smokeless tobacco, indicating a continuous public health challenge, including heightened levels of oral cancers.

National Action Units:⁷

- Monitor tobacco use and prevention policies: Functional national assistance for surveillance of tobacco consumption and consequences surveillance. Despite this there is a huge need for comprehensive system of tobacco industry monitoring
- Protect people from tobacco smoke from: Smoking is banned in Restaurants, Pubs and Bars, Indoor Offices, Government Facilities and Universities.
- Offer help to quit tobacco use: Austria offers Quitting Resources: NRT and/or some cessation services (at least one of which is cost-covered).
- Warn about the dangers of tobacco: Cigarette pack health warnings are required to cover 65% of each the front and rear side of the tobacco product.
- Enforce bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship: Austria implements direct bans on National TV and radio, International TV and radio, Local magazines and newspapers, international magazines and newspapers, Billboard and outdoor advertising, Advertising on internet.
- Raise taxes on tobacco: Austria implements 58.59% of Retail Price is Excise Tax.

References:

- 1 Tobacco Atlas – Austria: <https://tobaccoatlas.org/country/austria/>
- 2 Tobacco Control Laws – Austria: <https://www.tobaccocontrolaws.org/legislation/country/austria/summary>
- 3 Tobacco Control Laws – Austria: <https://www.tobaccocontrolaws.org/legislation/country/austria/laws/desc>
- 4 Tobacco Atlas – Austria: <https://tobaccoatlas.org/country/austria/>
- 5 WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control – Austria: <https://untobaccocontrol.org/impldb/austria/>
- 6 WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control – Austria 2020: https://untobaccocontrol.org/impldb/wp-content/uploads/Austria_2020_WHOFCtCreport.pdf
- 7 Tobacco Atlas – Austria: <https://tobaccoatlas.org/country/austria/>

