

AUSTRIA (2016-2017)

THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF FORCED OR COMPULSORY LABOUR Protocol of 2014 (P029) to the Forced Labour Convention

REPORTING	Fulfillment of Government's reporting obligations	YES.	
	Involvement of Employers' and Workers' organizations in the reporting process	2017 AR: According to the Government, the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection sent the four relevant national social partner organisations (the Federation of Austrian Industries (IV), the Austrian Federa Economic Chamber (WKÖ, the Austrian Trade Union Federation (ÖGB), and the Federal Chamber of Labout (BAK)) the questionnaire for this report in August 2017 and invited them to submit their comments. However, no comments have been received from either the employers' of workers' organisations.	
OBSERVATIONS BY THE SOCIAL PARTNERS	Employers' organizations	No.	
	Workers' organizations	No.	
EFFORTS AND PROGRESS MADE IN REALIZING MEASURES TARGETED BY THE PROTOCOL	Ratification	Ratification status	Austria has not yet ratified the Protocol of 2014 (P029) to the Forced Labour Convention.
		Ratification intention	2017 AR: According to the Government: Austrian officials have already completed the review of the possibility of ratifying the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930. Once the National Assembly reconvenes following the fresh elections completed on 15 October 2017, the proposal for ratification would be submitted. 2016 AR: The Government indicated the intention to ratify the Protocol.
	Existence of a policy and / or plan of action for the suppression of forced or compulsory labour	2016 - 2017 AR: The Government indicated that there is a national policy and plan of action for the prevention of all forms of forced labour and for combatting trafficking in persons.	
	Measures taken or envisaged for systematic and coordinated action	2017 AR: The Government reported that, in practice, forced and compulsory labour are prohibited in Austria, even if there is no offence that specifically refers to "forced or compulsory labour". Relevant provisions of Austrian criminal law include article 104a Austrian Criminal Code (Strafgesetzbuch, BGBl. No. 60/1974, as amended) (Human trafficking), article 104 Austrian Criminal Code (Slave trade), article 105 Austrian Criminal Code (Coercion), article 106 Austrian Criminal Code (Serious Coercion), article 116 Aliens Police Act (Fremdenpolizeigesetz 2005, BGBl. I No. 100/2005, as amended) (Exploitation of a foreign person). Within the area of the suppression of forced or compulsory labour the Austrian government places special emphasis on Combatting human trafficking. The Task Force on Combatting Human Trafficking has existed in Austria since as early as November 2004. It brings together all the relevant federal ministries, the federal Länder, social partner organisations and NGOs working on this issue. One of the main tasks of the Task Force on Combatting Human Trafficking is to develop and	



implement a National Action Plan on Combatting Human Trafficking. The current fourth National Action Plan, adopted for the years 2015 to 2017, is divided into the following chapters: National and international coordination and cooperation, Prevention, Victim protection, Criminal prosecution and Evaluation/monitoring. Combatting human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation has in recent years increasingly become a focus of the Task Force on Combatting Human Trafficking. In December 2012 it therefore set up its own working group on this issue and the group has convened regularly ever since.

In addition, the relevant national social partners (the Austrian Trade Union Federation, Federal Chamber of Labour, Federation of Austrian Industries and Austrian Federal Economic Chamber) are members of the Task Force on Combatting Human Trafficking and its working group "Human Trafficking for the Purpose of Labour Exploitation" and are therefore actively involved in all corresponding measures.

2016 AR: According to the Government: In March 2007 (for the period of 2007-2009), May 2009 (for the period of 2009-2011) and March 2012 (for the period of 2012-2014), the Austrian Federal Government adopted national action plans on combating human trafficking. The Fourth National Action Plan 2015 - 2017 will be submitted to the Austrian Federal Government together with the Third Austrian Report on Combating Human Trafficking 2012-2014 and the reports of the three working groups. The national action plans reflect the comprehensive approach in combating human trafficking and cover national and international coordination and cooperation, prevention, victim protection, criminal prosecution as well as evaluation and monitoring. An amendment of the criminal code relating to sexual offenses in 2013 tightened the offense of human trafficking (Art 140a Criminal Code) and pimping (Art 216 Criminal Code). Human trafficking can be punished by imprisonment of up to five years and, if the victim is a minor above the age of 14, up to ten years. In addition, exploitation now also includes exploitation for the purpose of begging and for the commission of an offense.

Measures taken or envisaged to prevent all forms of forced labour

2017 AR: According to the Government, the following measures have been taken or envisaged:

a) Information, education and awareness-building particularly for those in vulnerable situations and employers: The entire body of domestic law-making and practice affirms the fact that in Austria the exploitation of people through

forced or compulsory labour is prohibited in all sectors.

As the group most at risk of forced or compulsory labour, migrants are able to use the Federal Government's migration portal www.migration.gv.at to access key information about legal regulations relevant to immigration and about living conditions and conditions of employment in Austria. In addition, information sheets are available at regional offices of the Public Employment Service (Austria) in the languages of the home countries of migrants resident in Austria.

Comprehensive information on the issue of work in Austria is available on the www.help.gv.at web pages. At www.entsendeplattform.gv.at there is now also specific information available for companies posting employees abroad and for employees who have been posted abroad. Since 2017 the foreign postings website has been available in seven languages (the link to the English version is www.postingofworkers.at).



b) Regulation and supervision of the labour recruitment and placement process:

Those placing and seconding workers are subject to an authorization requirement under Austria's Trade Act 1994 (Gewerbeordnung, BGBl. No. 194/1994, as amended) and numerous reporting and documentation obligations under the Temporary Agency Work Act (Arbeitskräfteüberlassungsgesetz, BGBl. No. 196/1988 as amended) and/or the Employment Contract Law Harmonization Act (Arbeitsvertragsrechts-Anpassungsgesetz, BGBl. No. 459/1993 as amended).

For migrant workers who are citizens of a third country to be allowed in, the Act Governing the Employment of Foreign Nationals (Ausländerbeschäftigungsgesetz, BGBl. No. 218/1975 as amended) requires the employer to make an application or at least to provide his/her written consent. Compliance with Austrian wage and employment conditions, which are informed by the principle of the equal treatment of foreigners with Austrian citizens, is immediately tested for citizens of third countries (and hence the largest at-risk group among migrants) as part of the admission procedure. Under article 29 of the Act Governing the Employment of Foreign Nationals migrant workers employed illegally have the same employment-law rights as those legally employed and are also able to enforce these.

Non-compliance with these procedures and admission requirements brings with it appropriate threats of sanctions against the employer. These range from heavy fines to the repayment of government subsidies to the withdrawal of their business licence. Exploitative terms of employment have the effect of increasing the penalties envisaged under the various laws. What is more, it is the employers who are penalized, never the foreign workers who have been illegally employed.

c) Addressing the root causes that perpetuate forced labour:

Poverty is a significant cause of the incidence of forced or compulsory labour. The Austrian Federal Government's 2013-2018 Work Programme addresses the combatting of poverty, among other things. The EU strategy "Europe 2020" similarly names combatting poverty as one of its five strategic goals. The European Social Fund (ESF) offers financial support for, among other things, the promotion of social inclusion and reduction of poverty. In terms of national measures to combat poverty we refer to the "Austrian platform accompanying implementation of the national Europe 2020 goal of combatting poverty and social exclusion". It brings together all the relevant actors – social partners, NGOs and ministries – as well as those threatened by poverty and exclusion, for a long-term dialogue on European and national issues in this area.

d) Promotion of safe and regular migration:

In Austria the admissions system for workers from third countries (non-EU member states) was updated in 2011. Instead of quotas set criteria now apply: qualified workers from third countries and their family members are now able to settle permanently in Austria and work here based on a Red-White-Red card. Admission is on a points-based system, with the most important criteria being qualifications, work experience, language skills, age, a suitable offer of work and appropriate remuneration. The migration website www.migration.gv.at offers comprehensive information in this regard.

e) Education/vocational training:

Every year, the Task Force on Combatting Human Trafficking runs public awareness-raising events to mark EU-Anti-



Trafficking Day on 18 October. The "Human Trafficking and its Victims - New Developments" conference was held on 21 October 2016 with the cooperation of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE; in 2017 Austria holds the chairmanship). The exhibition "Human Trafficking – Slavery of the 21st Century" created under the guidance of the Austrian Foreign Ministry is being shown at Austrian schools and universities.

f) Capacity building for the competent authorities:

In the course of the awareness-raising measures for the lawenforcement authorities, their work becomes increasingly focused on combatting human trafficking and identifying potential victims of exploitation. Increased numbers of inspections are now carried out, with the focus being on identifying exploitation.

g) Promotion of freedom of association and freedom to enter into collective bargaining agreements to help at-risk workers join employee organizations:

Freedom of association and freedom to enter into collective bargaining agreements are guaranteed in law and in practice within Austria. Estimates suggest that over 90 per cent of workers in Austria who are in employment are covered by collective bargaining agreements. The "non-member" effect ("Aussenseiterwirkung") means that even those employees who are not members of the signatory union to a collective bargaining agreement are covered by its provisions.

h) Guarantee of basic social protection:

The position under Austrian law and in practice (social insurance, guaranteed minimum income etc.) provides each and every one with basic guarantees of social protection.

Within the area of social insurance in Austria, compulsory insurance applies based on law and not as the result of a declaration of intent to that effect. Where work is performed for payment within a relationship of personal and economic dependence, an insurance obligation exists under article 4 (Allgemeines Social Insurance General Act Sozialversicherungsgesetz. BGBl. No. 189/1955. as amended). The compulsory insurance cover commences on the day the activity entailing an insurance obligation commences, irrespective of any notification or contribution payment (article 10 General Social Insurance Act).

On the other hand, if forced or compulsory labour does not come with protection under social insurance legislation, then needs-oriented guaranteed minimum income from the Länder may come under consideration. Those unable to earn a living and support themselves should have the support of needsoriented guaranteed minimum income. However, entitlement to needs-oriented minimum income only arises once a person's financial security from other resources (e.g. income, social insurance payments, maintenance etc.) or assets becomes inadequate. EU or EEA citizens are only fully entitled to needs-oriented guaranteed minimum income in Austria if they are based in Austria as employees or have been living in Austria for more than five years. Citizens of third countries are essentially only entitled to needs-oriented guaranteed minimum income once they have lived in Austria legally for over five years. Recognized refugees and those with subsidiary protection status are not entitled to needs-oriented guaranteed minimum income until they are recognized as refugees or has having subsidiary protection status.

Potential recipients from third countries who find themselves in a situation of need can be included within basic care provision and are thereby provided with medical insurance.



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	This possibility is based on the second and fourth lines of article 2(1) Basic Welfare Support Agreement (Grundversorgungsvereinbarung; article 15a Federal Constitutional Law Agreement (Bundesverfassungsgesetz Vereinbarung); BGBl. I No. 80/2004), under which "vulnerable foreigners in need", which cover victims of human trafficking, may be included within emergency medical care provision.
	2016 AR: The National Action Plan for on combating human trafficking for the period 2015-2017 contains several planned initiatives in this regard, for example: promotion and presentation of the exhibition "Human Trafficking – Slavery of the 21st Century" directed at youths and young adults and as part of certain events; revising, updating and disseminating the existing information material on human trafficking placing a special focus on labour exploitation (e.g. adapting the existing decree directed at labour inspectors); raising awareness on the hotline installed by the Federal Criminal Intelligence Service.
Measures taken or envisaged to protect victims of forced labour	2017 AR: According to the Government, various measures have been taken or envisaged covering the following:
	a) Training of relevant actors and identification of forced labour practices:
	Regular training events and awareness-raising measures on the issue of human trafficking and labour exploitation are held at the level of the law-enforcement authorities (the police, financial police, labour inspectorates and asylum support offices) and the courts (public prosecutors' offices and judges).
	b) Material, medical and psychological assistance for victims; measures for the rehabilitation and social and professional reintegration of victims and legal protection of victims:
	Victims of human trafficking receive support in particular from two leading care organizations LEFÖ/IBF (Intervention Centre for Trafficked Women) and MEN VIA (shelter for male victims of human trafficking), whose funding is largely guaranteed by the Federal Ministries of Education and Women's Affairs (now of Health and Women's Affairs), of the Interior and of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection.
	According to the Act on Granting Aid to Crime Victims (Verbrechensopfergesetz, BGBl. No. 288/1972 as amended) help should be provided where it can be assumed with some degree of certainty that, as a result of illegal and deliberate behaviour carrying a custodial sentence of over six months, physical injury has occurred, or a person's health has been damaged, costs of treatment have arisen as a result or that person's capacity for work has been reduced. The following forms of support are envisaged: replacement of loss of earnings and upkeep plus income-related fringe benefits, therapeutic care including psychotherapy, crisis intervention, orthopaedic care, rehabilitation, lump-sum compensation for pain and suffering, reimbursement of funeral costs and the "hardship rule" (in case of the pension rights of violent criminals in prison having been suspended).
	c) Protection of the victim's privacy and identity: Where a victim is to be questioned as a witness during criminal
	proceedings, this may, subject to certain preconditions, be done as early as the preliminary proceedings through a remote video relay of those involved in the proceedings and their legal counsel. As a result, it may be possible for them to avoid giving evidence in the main proceedings (separate questioning of the witness, article 165 Code of Criminal Procedure).



Moreover, where there is reason to fear, based on certain facts, that witnesses would, during a judicial hearing expose themselves or third parties to serious risk of death or injury or jeopardize their physical integrity or freedom by revealing their name or other personal details, or, by answering questions that allow inferences to be made, witnesses are permitted not to answer such questions. In that case witnesses are permitted to disguise their external appearance, and for their facial expressions to be observed only to the extent this is absolutely necessary to judge the credibility of the evidence they give (article 162 Code of Criminal Procedure).

With the Second Protection against Violence Act the protection of victims in civil proceedings was comprehensively extended in 2009. In Austrian civil proceedings victims and witnesses are protected against intimidation, retribution and renewed victimization, specifically through the following provisions:

- articles 75a et seq. and 417 of the Code of Civil Procedure (Zivilprozessordnung, RGBl. No. 113/1895, as amended) (Apart from the giving of the address of a party or of a witness),
- article 172 Code of Civil Procedure (Hearing in chambers).
- article 289a Code of Civil Procedure (Separate questioning),
- article 289b Code of Civil Procedure (Questioning of minors),
- article 10a Federal Law on Court Proceedings in Non-Contentious Matters (Außerstreitgesetz, BGBl. I No. 111/2003, as amended) (Reference to the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure regarding the non-disclosure of the home address),
- article 19 Federal Law on Court Proceedings in Non-Contentious Matters (Hearing in chambers),
- article 20 Federal Law on Court Proceedings in Non-Contentious Matters (Exclusion also of the parties during the questioning of minors).

These provisions give the victims the possibility of being heard without having to be present in the court room (or at least not in the presence of the alleged perpetrator), to present evidence and set out their views, needs and concerns directly or, in the case of child victims, via a "mediator" (a properly trained expert). What is more, the institution of psychosocial assistance in proceedings already established in criminal proceedings has been adopted into civil proceedings. The psychosocial assistance granted to a victim in criminal proceedings also applies to the civil proceedings if a connection exists on the facts between the criminal and the civil proceedings and this is required to preserve the victim's procedural rights (article 73 Code of Civil Procedure).

d) Specific measures for children:

Drehscheibe Wien (literally, Vienna Hub), a social and education institution within Vienna's Municipal Department 11, looks after unaccompanied child refugees and foreigners in Vienna and has, in recent years, developed a network with its own partner countries. This guarantees the best possible repatriation of children through close cooperation with the relevant young people's welfare authorities in the children's home countries. In the case of unaccompanied child refugees, the possibility that they may have been exploited is now scrutinized in greater depth.

$e) \ Specific \ measures for \ migrants:$

Labour migration policy has always been part of employment policy. In Austria it is clearly informed by elements of



employment policy, particularly a consideration of the position and performance of the labour market as well as of the equal treatment of migrants compared with Austrians when it comes to wages and employment conditions. This is to prevent social and wage dumping that distorts competition and consequently has an adverse effect on employment.

2016 AR: "Drehscheibe" (a centre operated and established by the City of Vienna's municipal Department 11) is a crisis centre for unaccompanied alien minors, some of whom fell victim to child trafficking. Over the past few years, "Drehscheibe" has established a successful system of cooperation with Romanian and Bulgarian government authorities and NGOs. It organises the children's repatriation, provided that they receive comprehensive care and support in their home countries and are effectively protected against perpetrators. In the reporting period of 2012-2014, "Drehscheibe" has provided care and support to 828 unaccompanied alien minors and examined 332 cases of suspected child trafficking.

Several measures aim at empowering (potential) victims. This includes in particular providing reliable information on rights, entitlements and support services. In 2014, UNDOK was established as a contact point for individuals without an official residence and labour permit. UNDOK is a cooperation of trade unions, the Austrian Chamber of Labour, the Austrian National Union of Students and NGOs and offers free individual counselling and support, in order to enforce employment and social welfare entitlements. In the year 2014, several presumed victims of human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation have been referred to victim protection organisations by UNDOK.

Austria is granting every victim of human trafficking a period of 30 days to "recover and reflect" prior to taking any stay-related steps. After that period victims and witnesses of human trafficking from third States may receive a "special protection" residence permit, if criminal proceedings have been commenced or other claims have been raised.

Measures taken or envisaged to facilitate access to remedies

2017 AR: According to the Government,

a) Information and counselling for victims regarding their rights:

Victims of human trafficking are given extensive support by the specialist victim protection institutions LEFÖ/IBF (Intervention Centre for Trafficked Women) and MEN VIA (shelter for male victims of human trafficking). This includes, for example, the provision of psychosocial, psychological, social, health and life counselling, advice and intervention in relation to their rights of residence and employment law, someone to accompany them to police interrogations and the provision of psychosocial and legal support in legal proceedings.

The Drop-In Centre for Undocumented Workers (UNDOK), set up in 2014, significantly contributes to the support of those who could potentially find themselves having to do forced labour. In a way that is easy to access, free-of-charge and multi-lingual, UNDOK informs undocumented workers of their rights and offers counselling and support with the enforcement of their employment and social security claims. The UNDOK drop-in centre is an initiative of several trades unions, the Vienna Chamber of Labour, the Austria Students' Union and of various NGOs and, among other things, is supported by the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection.

b) Free legal assistance:



Alongside advice from the relevant victim protection organizations, the option also exists of the provision of legal aid (see below) to facilitate access to compensation in addition.

c) Cost-free proceedings:

Access to court and hence to all the instruments of the Austrian law of civil procedure is equally open to everyone regardless of their status in Austria.

For parties with no financial resources the institution of legal aid and the associated dispensation from having to bear their own legal costs, including the possibility of the provision of a (free) legal aid lawyer, ensures they have the possibility of properly enforcing or defending their rights before a court.

Parties or witnesses who do not speak German are provided with court interpreters. Those without financial means may again have their interpreting costs covered by the grant of legal aid.

d) Development of forced labour indicators:

In 2014 the "Human Trafficking for Labour Exploitation" working group within the Task Force on Combatting Human Trafficking drew up a list of indicators to help identify victims of labour exploitation. The list was drawn up in collaboration with representatives of the law-enforcement authorities and of social partners, and was specifically aimed at the work of the law-enforcement authorities. This list, which was kept as short and succinct as possible, comes with brief information about the main support organizations for potential victims and about how any findings made are shared with the police (the Federal Criminal Police Office's human trafficking hotline). The police sector also has its own list of indicators on the issue of "human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation". Incidentally, when the list was drawn up, indicators were also included that had been compiled jointly by the ILO and the European Commission.

e) Capacity building and enhanced resources for the competent authorities, such as labour inspection, law enforcement, prosecution services and judges:

Specifically in the area of the law-enforcement authorities, aware-raising measures have been increased in recent years to improve the identification of victims of human trafficking. There has been a recognition that this area in particular is given a key role in combatting exploitation. In the area of criminal justice, a few courts have been given special jurisdiction, thereby creating specializations in human trafficking.

f) Provisions for authorities not to prosecute victims for acts which they have been compelled to commit:

Purely on principle, the defence under article 10(1) Criminal Code immediately offers a remedy here: "Anyone who commits a punishable action in order to avert from him/herself or another an immediately impending significant disadvantage, shall be excused if the damage threatened as a result of the action was not disproportionately greater than the disadvantage it is intended to prevent, and in the perpetrator's situation no other behaviour was expected of someone having the legally protected values."

Where these requirements are not met, the possibility still exists of an alternative to formal criminal proceedings under articles 198 ff. Criminal Code, where relevant also with the use of the state witness provision under article 209a Criminal Code. The public prosecutor's office must withdraw from the prosecution of a criminal offence if it is clear, based on facts that have been adequately resolved, that it is not reasonable for the proceedings to be stayed and there appears to be no requirement for a penalty to be imposed in terms of



- the payment of a cash amount,
- the performance of community service,
- the setting of a probationary period, in conjunction with assistance provided by a probation officer and the performance of obligations, or
- mediation between the victim and the perpetrator
- to prevent the accused from committing criminal offences or thwarting the commission of criminal offences by others

However, an alternative to formal criminal proceedings is only permitted if

- the criminal offence does not fall under the jurisdiction of the regional court as a Schöffengericht (a criminal court consisting of one professional judge and two lay judges) or a Geschworenengericht (a criminal court consisting of three professional judges and a jury of eight),
- the guilt of the accused should not be regarded as severe (article 32 Criminal Code) and
- the offence has not resulted in a person's death.

Article 28c (3) Act Governing the Employment of Foreign Nationals expressly provides that a foreign worker who is employed illegally under article 28c of that Act should not be punished as an accomplice within the meaning of article 12 Criminal Code.

In criminal administrative proceedings, articles 5 and 6 Administrative Penal Act (Verwaltungsstrafgesetz 1991; BGBl. No. 52/1991 as amended) similarly provide a legal basis for the exclusion of any punishment where the perpetrator has the nature of a victim.

The waiver of criminal prosecution and the victim's exemption from punishment is also contained in the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and in EU Directive 2011/36/EU.

In 2017 edicts on the non-punishment principle were issued by the Federal Ministry of Justice (for the area of criminal law) and by the Federal Chancellery (for the area of administrative penal law). The Task Force on Combatting Human Trafficking has set up its own sub-working group for this.

g) Penalties such as the confiscation of profits and criminal liability of legal persons:

Articles which the perpetrator used for the commission of a premeditated offence which were intended by him/her to be used in the commission of such offence or which were generated as a result of that offence should generally be confiscated if at the time of the ruling they are owned by the perpetrator (Confiscation: article 19a Criminal Code). Furthermore, the court may declare as confiscated assets that have been obtained for or as a result of a punishable offence. The confiscation extends to emoluments and the replacement value of the assets to be confiscated. Where the assets that are the subject of the confiscation have not been secured or seized, the court shall declare the forfeiture of the cash equivalent of the assets acquired. Where it is not possible to determine the scope of the assets to be confiscated or not possible to do so without disproportionate expense, the court shall set such amount based on its belief (Forfeiture: article 20 Criminal Code). Assets over which a criminal or terrorist organization has a right of disposal or which are made available or accumulated as funding for terrorism shall also be forfeited (Extended forfeiture: article 20b Criminal Code).

The Corporate Liability Act (Verbandsverantwortlichkeitsgesetz, BGBl. I No. 151/2005, as amended) stipulates the preconditions under which



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	organizations are liable for criminal offences and how they are punished, along with the procedure for determining liability and imposing penalties. A criminal offence for the purpose of this piece of legislation is an action punishable under federal or state ("Land") legislation with a court-imposed penalty. 2016 AR: The Government reported that according to a study by the United Nations and the EU5, the number of criminal proceedings against perpetrators remains small. During the period under review the Task Force thus set priority on criminal prosecution. Significant progress was achieved through continuous trainings for judges and prosecutors, the establishment of a special unit at the Higher Court in Vienna with a special competence for human trafficking cases as well as enhanced cooperation with victim protection institutions. The Haskovo case involving over 100 victims and 20 final convictions (as of February 2015) serves as a good example.
Non-prosecution of victims for unlawful acts that they would have been forced to carry out	
Cooperation with other Member States, international / regional organizations or NGOs	2017 AR: According to the Government: Austria was among the first countries to ratify the relevant Council of Europe Convention. In 2016, GRETA, the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, reviewed Austria for the second time in relation to its application of the Convention. At EU level too, Austria actively contributes to combatting human trafficking, as well as in other forums including the OSCE and the United Nations. Ultimately, Austria is also engaged in bilateral exchanges, most recently for example with China, Turkmenistan, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Germany. The National Action Plan on Combatting Human Trafficking considers the area of international cooperation as a particular focus.
Promotional activities	2016 AR: According to the Government: Raising Austrian's awareness for the issue of human trafficking is a priority of prevention activities of the TF. Besides comprehensive information campaigns, responses to media inquiries and participation of TF members in numerous public events, the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs organised a public event in October 2012, 2013 and 2014 on the occasion of the EU Anti-Trafficking Day. These events were opened by members of the Austrian Federal Government and supported by international organisations such as UNODC, OSCE, IOM and NGOs. Under an initiative led by the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, TF- HT experts designed the travelling exhibition "Human Trafficking – Slavery of the 21st Century" directed at Austrian students, pupils and teachers. The exhibition is presented annually in the course of the action days for "Political Education" and was shown in the Austrian Parliament in December 2012, at the event on the occasion of the EU Anti- Trafficking day 2013 and 2014 as well as the open house day of the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs 2013 and 2014. Occupational groups likely to come into contact with victims of human trafficking are a particularly important target group of the activities of the TF. Numerous training events and seminars on sensitisation and awareness raising were thus held in the period of 2012-2014, often in cooperation with NGOs
	such as LEFÖ-IBF or ECPAT. Practical experiences have shown a clear connection between seminars and better identification of victims.



	Special initiatives/Progress	
CHALLENGES IN REALIZING MEASURES TARGETED BY THE PROTOCOL	According to the social partners	Employers' organizations
		Workers' organizations
	According to the Government	2017 AR: According to the Government: One of the main obstacles restricting even better suppression of human trafficking and forced labour is the persistent excessive lack of awareness of the issue. The Federal Government is therefore concentrating on reinforcing awareness-raising measures. A particularly relevant focus here lies in making the lawenforcement authorities more sensitive to the issue as they are the ones able to uncover the exploitation first. 2016 AR: The Government stated that challenges remain as far as access to compensation for victims of human trafficking, in particular the enforcement of awarded compensation, are concerned. In order to achieve that victims receive the awarded compensation and to prevent perpetrators from benefitting from criminal activities, the possibility of enacting further legal provisions in this area, also in light of international experience, should be assessed. The already advanced work of the working group on child trafficking on a draft instruction manual for the identification and support of victims of child trafficking should be finalized as soon as possible. The cross-linking and training of all relevant stakeholders, in particular in the federal provinces, should be enhanced. The Task Force promotes further developing the legal framework and will thus examine potential accession to new legal instruments of the ILO and the Council of Europe as well as improvement of national laws. One of the major challenges that remain is improving the situation of human beings in countries of origin. Despite budgetary constraints, further
		projects and international cooperation against human trafficking must be supported.
TECHNICAL COOPERATION NEEDS	Request	2017 AR : The Government indicated that it does not require ILO technical assistance.
	Offer	NIL.