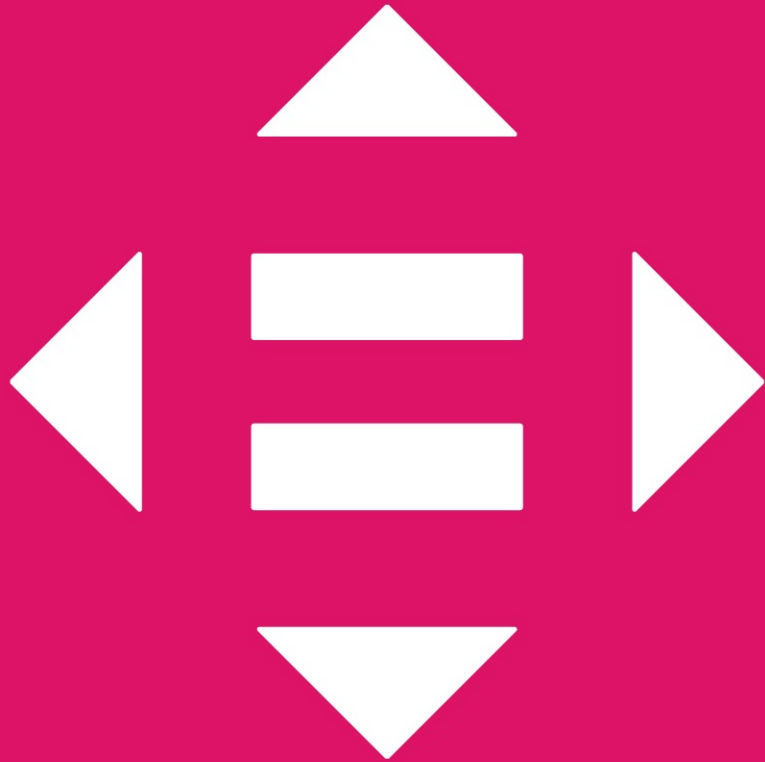




SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

University of Applied Sciences Burgenland

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



**Interpretation
of reduced
inequalities**



Main goal: to reduce inequality within and among countries

The gap between the rich and the poor is not only widening between countries, but also within countries. The rich are getting richer and richer and therefore have more power to influence global decisions. Inequality leads to frustration and discrimination, but also to violence and poverty. The UN is committed to reducing inequality and promotes inclusion, i.e. participation of all people on a political, social, cultural and economic level. Specifically, incomes in the poorer classes are to be increased, financial markets are to be more closely controlled and the participation of poorer countries in global financial and economic decisions is to be promoted.

What does inequality mean?



Inequality refers to:

...the phenomenon of unequal and/or unjust distribution of resources and opportunities among members of a given society..., is systemic and entrenched in various socio-economic and political structures... and encompasses distinct yet overlapping economic, social, and spatial dimensions.

Source: [sciencedirect.com](https://www.sciencedirect.com)



Did you know that in 2020, Montenegro had the lowest employment rate with 55,4% while Switzerland enjoyed the highest with 83,9% — compared to a European average of about 73%

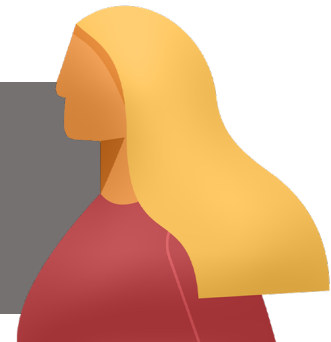
Source: ec.europa.eu



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



"What does the freedom to choose one type of life over the other have to do with equality? Aren't we all at liberty to choose in Europe? Why do people feel trapped in circumstances of inequality? I don't really understand..."



How to measure income inequalities



The GINI Coefficient:

...measures the extent to which the distribution of income (or, in some cases, consumption expenditure) among individuals or households within an economy deviates from a perfectly equal distribution. A Gini index of zero represents perfect equality and 100 inequality.

Source: oecd.org

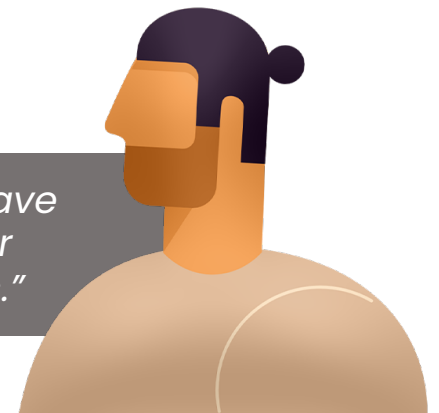


Did you know that the Gini coefficient for Austria is 31, for Slovakia 25 and for Bulgaria 41 ?

Source: worldbank.org



"I have just lately volunteered at a homeless association, where they have told me that people are ashamed to talk about the risk of losing their rented apartments and this is how the vicious downward circle starts."



How to reduce inequalities



Policies and laws to ensure:

- equal pay
- equal access to health, education and protection
- progressive taxation (and end of tax havens)
- stopping of hand-outs to dirty fossil-fuel companies
- end of child labor and violence against women and girls
- transparent political processes to empower everyone everywhere

Source: sdgwatcheurope.org



Did you know that the principle of equality and non-discrimination is a fundamental element of international human rights law and a core value of the European Union?

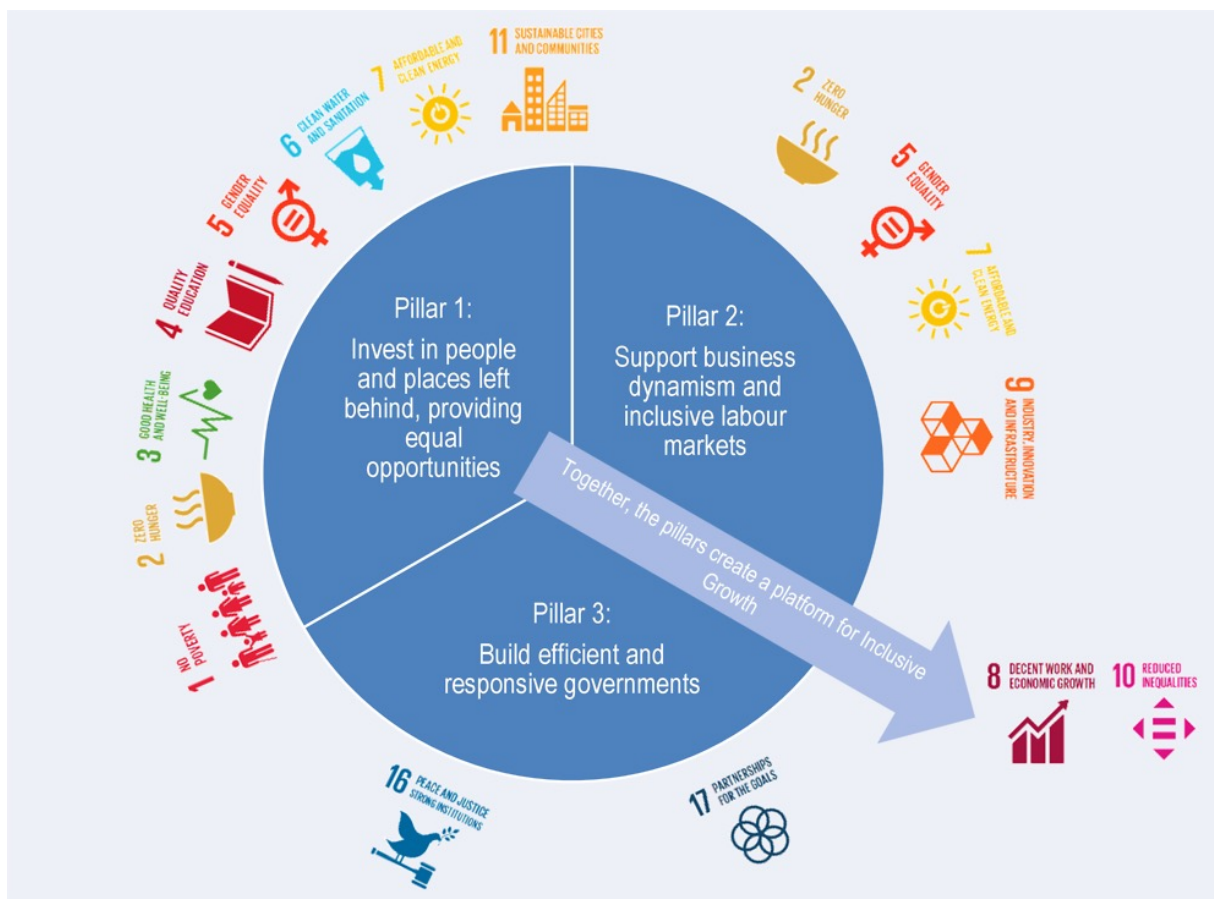
Sources: humanrights.is and equineteurope.org

"Just recently, Germany has issued the first supply chain law integrating responsibility for human rights within the full supply chain for goods to be sold in Germany."

Source: bundesregierung.de



Model: framework for policy action on inclusive growth



Source: oecd-ilibrary.org

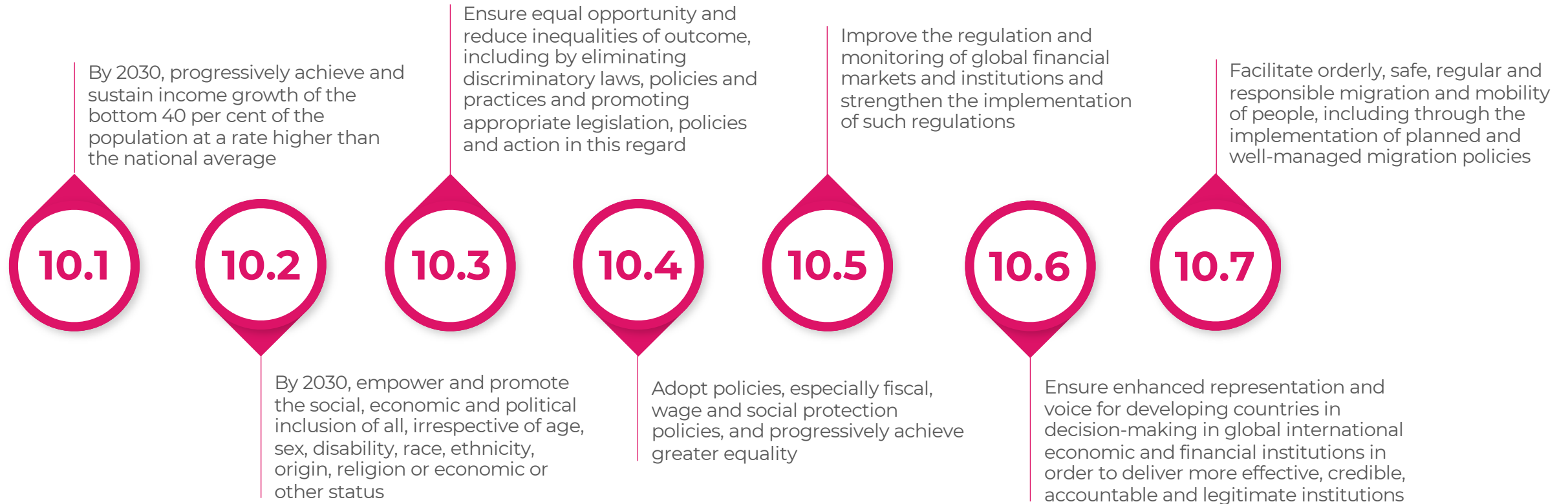


Did you know that the richest 1% of the world's population now control up to 40% of global assets, while the poorest half owns just one per cent. How crazy is that?

Source: sdgcompass.org



Subgoals: targets

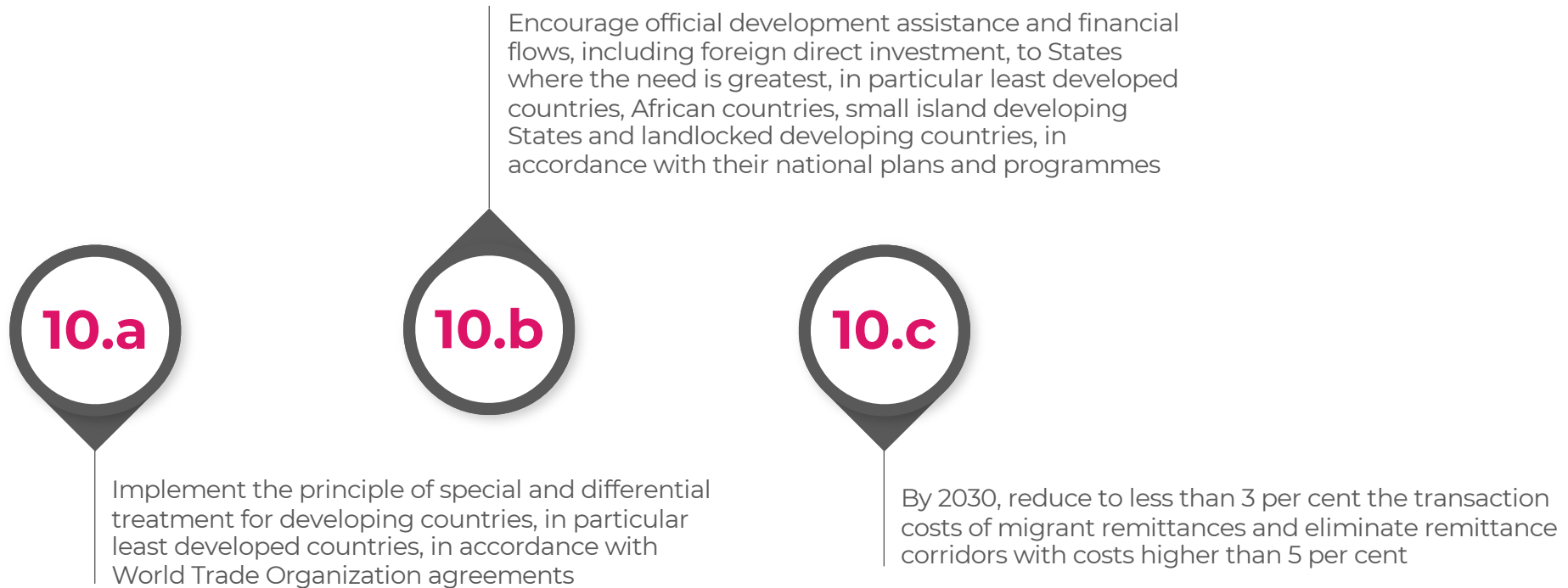


Sources: [bundeskanzleramt.gv.at](https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at) and [un.org](https://www.un.org)

Targets = Numbers, Measures = Letters



Subgoals: measures

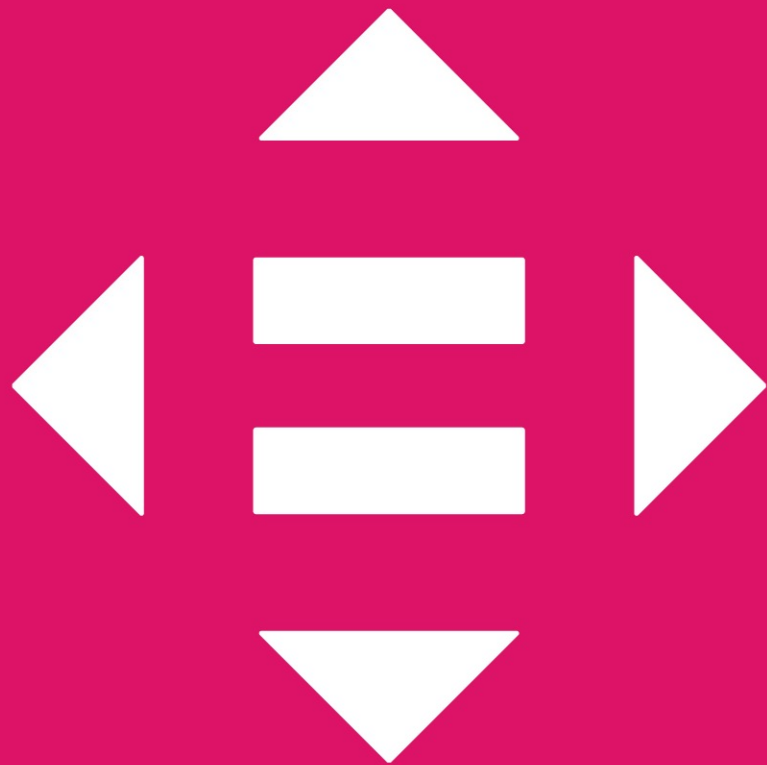


Sources: [bundeskanzleramt.gv.at](https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at) and [un.org](https://www.un.org)

Targets = Numbers, Measures = Letters



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



**Current state of
inequality**

Report 2020

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020



Source: un.org

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021



Source: un.org



REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

BEFORE COVID-19

INCOME INEQUALITY WAS FALLING IN SOME COUNTRIES



GINI INDEX FELL IN 38 OUT OF 84 COUNTRIES
(2010-2017)

THE GINI INDEX MEASURES INCOME INEQUALITY AND RANGES FROM 0 TO 100, WHERE 0 INDICATES THAT INCOME IS SHARED EQUALLY AMONG ALL PEOPLE, AND 100 INDICATES THAT ONE PERSON ACCOUNTS FOR ALL INCOME

COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

THE MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS ARE BEING HIT HARDEST BY THE PANDEMIC

- OLDER PERSONS
- PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
- CHILDREN
- WOMEN
- MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

GLOBAL RECESSION COULD SQUEEZE DEVELOPMENT AID TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



RESOURCE FLOWS FOR DEVELOPMENT

\$420 BILLION (2017) → **\$271 BILLION** (2018)

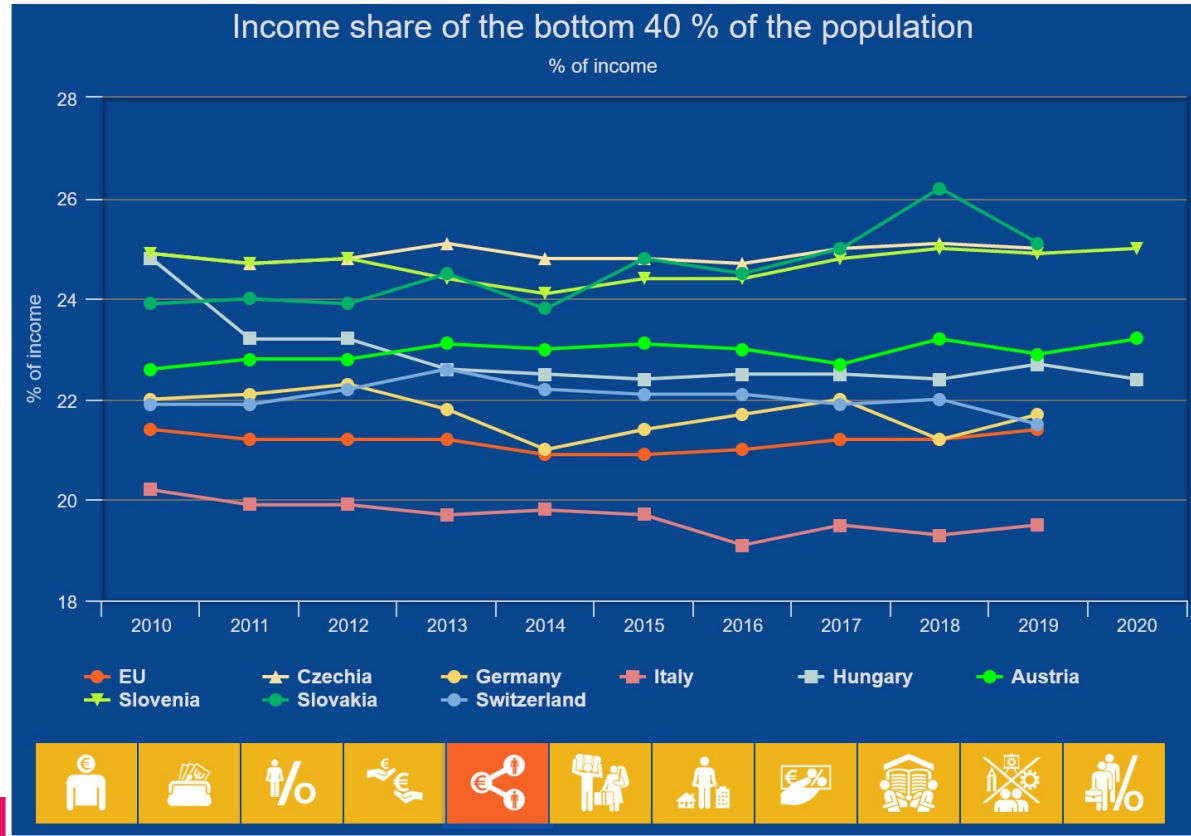


54% OF COUNTRIES WITH DATA HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE SET OF MIGRATION POLICIES



Source: un.org

Some European statistics



Source: ec.europa.eu

Did you know that Italy has around 20% of income share received at 40% of the population, while Slovenia and Slovakia have around 25%?

Source: ec.europa.eu



"Income and wealth inequality are issues that should be very important to all of us. Exceeding inequality has troubling effects for a society that often leads to unsustainable living circumstances and conflicts, but inequality is a complex web of relationships. Watch this interesting [TEDxTalk](#) about how abstract math can help us understand complex dynamics.



Implementation in Austria as of 2020

Target	National indicators (selected)	Trend
10.1	Trend for gross annual income adjusted for inflation, 1 st income quartile	↘
	S80 to S20 income quintile ratio Net annual household income	↗
10.2	Risk of poverty (50% of median)	↗
	Risk of poverty (60% of median)	↗
	Risk of poverty (70% of median)	:
10.4	Wage share	↗
10.5	Non-performing loans in relation to total gross loans	↑

Source: Statistics Austria. 8-year trend 2010–2018 (if figures missing, at least 7-year trend) in 4 categories (↑↗↘↓) if there is a clear target (quantitative/normative); ✓ (part of the) indicator target achieved; : calculation of trend not possible. More information about methodological questions can be found in the National Indicator Report 2020.

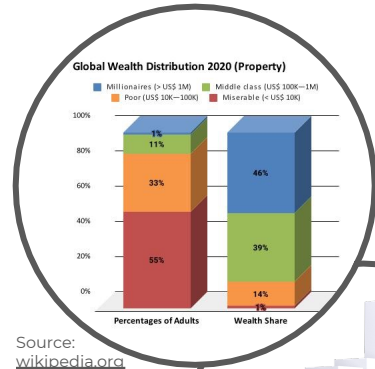
- > Declines in income have had a greater effect on lower incomes than on higher ones. However, the income gap recently narrowed again.
- > The risk of poverty (household income less than 60% of the median) dropped by 0.4% from 2010 to 2018.
- > The wage share (wages and salaries as a percentage of the gross domestic product) rose from 66.7% (in 2010) to 68.5% (in 2018).



Did you know that the incomes of the richest 20% of households in Austria were about four times higher in 2018 than those of the poorest households? In the EU, this ratio is 1 to 5.

Source: sustainabledevelopment.un.org

Main issues to solve in Austria as of 2020



Unequal distribution of wealth

Need for more social mobility and socio-ecological infrastructure



More political participation and taking Austria's responsibility for international affairs more seriously



Did you know that in 2020, the richest 1% of Austrian households held 40,5% of net wealth in Austria, while the bottom 50% represent 2.5%?

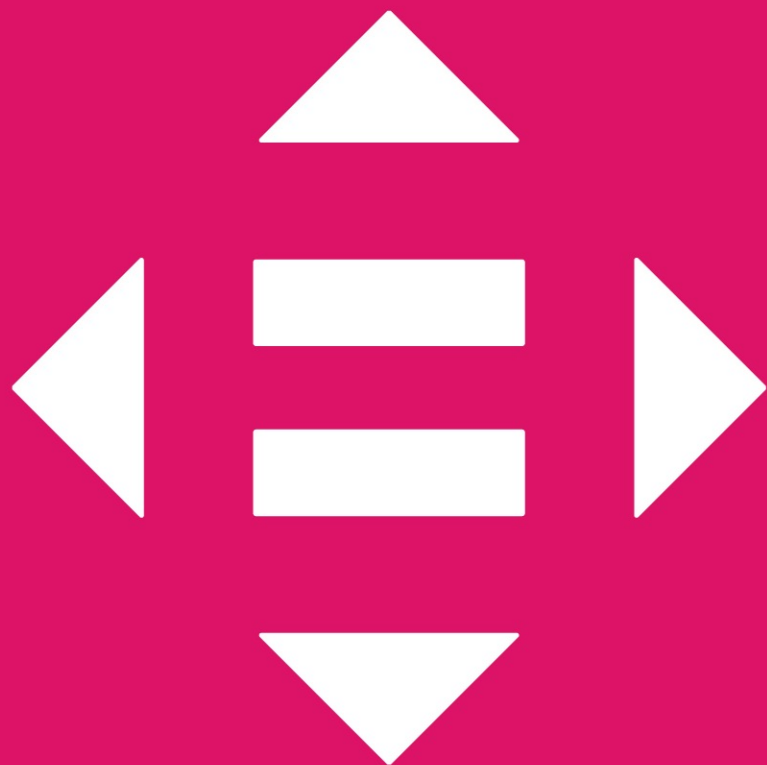
Source: [arbeiterkammer.at](https://www.arbeiterkammer.at)



"I have read that only 15% of kids from low-income families can climb the career ladder to earn an average income and change their social status."



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



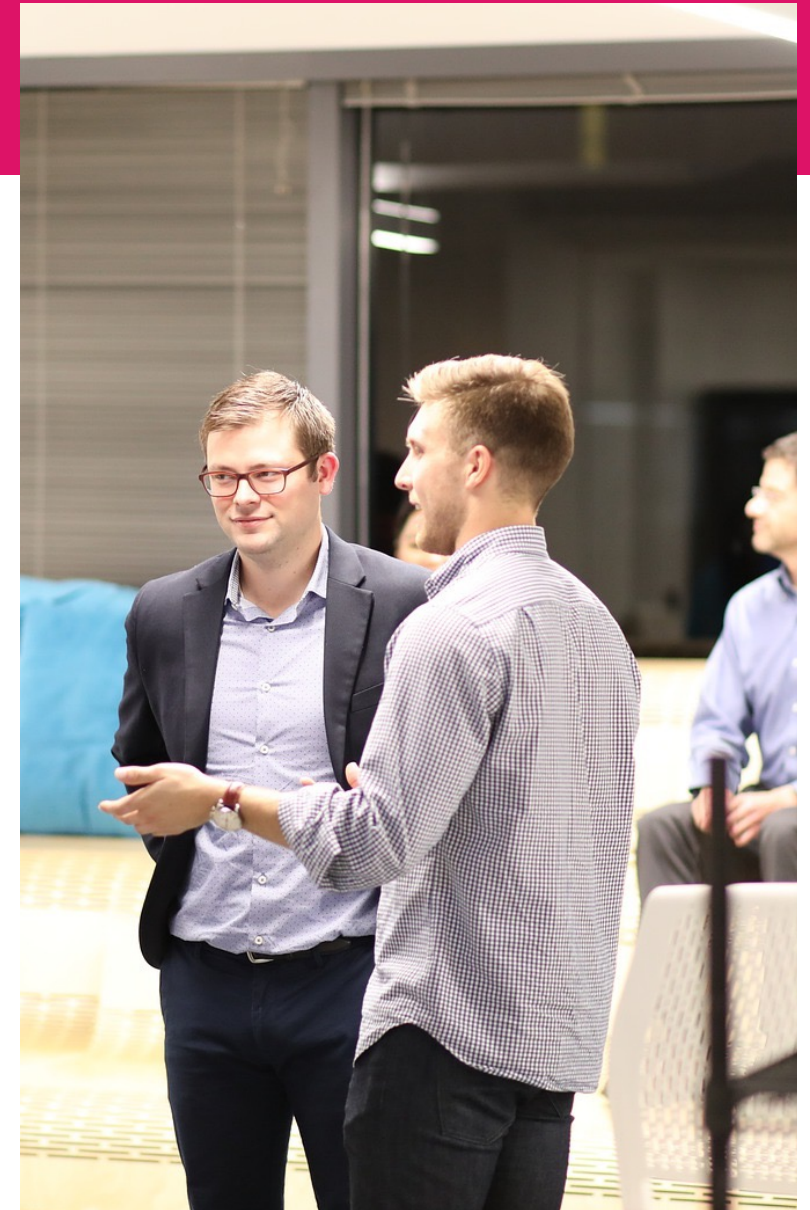
**Potential
contributions
Learning activity**

Before thinking about potential contributions...

- Imagine an organization (business).
What is the core purpose of this organization*?
- Who are this organization's internal and external stakeholders?
- How does "inequality" impact this organization (its purpose, its stakeholders, its operation, its viability)?
- What challenges and/or costs emerge from this "impact of inequality" upon this organization?
- On the other hand, what opportunities and/or benefits arise?
- With all this in mind, what contributions** might this organization make to reach SDG 10 within its sphere of influence via inward and outward actions?

* Meant here are all sizes, all types

** Consider contributions inside the organization (referring to everything that is a resource to the organization and is directly or indirectly controlled by the organization, for instance, human resources, know how, monetary and material resources) and the outside of the organization (referring to everything outside of the organization that it can influence but lies outside of its control, for instance, policy change, partnering with other organizations, etc...)



Potential contributions by educational institutions

The purpose of educational institutions is to educate and train for life and for particular professional interests.

In terms of SDG 10, the tasks lie in raising awareness of the dynamics of inequalities and help students understand how inequality is created, maintained and further deepened, globally and in their own countries and social layers — by the social structures and economic systems currently in place — and to create momentum towards collaborative reinventing of these structures and systems.



Did you know that national as well as international students can apply for educational grants and scholarships in Austria? What about such opportunities in your country?

Source: [grants.at](https://www.grants.at)

Potential contributions by educational institutions, cont.

Potential inward actions:

- redesign application policies for universities (including scholarships) to provide equal opportunities for all
- adjust educational programs to highlight the dynamics of inequalities
- increase diversity among faculty and employees (representation of women and vulnerable groups)

Potential outward actions:

- collaborate with OEAD for offering summer school scholarships, for instance, to attend (for academic credit) the [summer school](#) for alternative economic and monetary systems
- work towards inclusive and equal education system changes (research, lobby)
- collaboratively increase international job opportunities at educational institutions (websites and platforms, co-hosted by universities)

Potential contributions by municipalities

The purpose of municipalities is to plan, manage, and improve public work and services to the community. In terms of SDG 10, municipalities' tasks lie in actively participating in creating policies and other ways to reduce inequalities within their regions.

Potential inward actions:

- increase representation of women and other vulnerable groups among public employees
- train public service staff in the topic of inequality (financial and social)
- assure barrier-free social mobility for public employees

Potential outward actions:

- partner with social businesses to help generate job opportunities for vulnerable groups from the region
- lobby for 100% social mobility in the region
- collaborate with other towns to improve the socio-ecological infrastructure in the region



Did you know that the city of Vienna has 119 gender equality indicators, tackling, for instance, income inequalities? Statistics and its publication for awareness is the first step towards better policies for a more equal world.

Potential contributions by corporations and other organizations

The purpose of for-profit organizations (i.e. business) is to provide a service in exchange for resources (i.e. money). The purpose of non-profit organizations is to impact society in a certain way. Both need to generate and/or collect adequate resources to pay for their operations and activities and/or make profit.

In terms of SDG 10, the opportunities for contribution may vary greatly between different types or sizes of organizations, but their core contributions to society for reaching SDG 10 are to minimize pay gaps within their own organization, to offer working conditions that are free of discrimination, to share profits with their employees and to invest in their continuing education, also to maintain a supply chain that follows these policies.



Did you know that some CEOs in the US earn more than 2000x times what their typical workers are paid in a year?

Source: ips-dc.org



Source: sdgcompass.org

Potential contributions by corporations and other organizations, cont.

Potential inward actions:

- implement diversity and inclusion policy for equal representation and opportunities for all
- reduce (possibly unjustified) pay gaps and share profits with employees
- invest in continuous staff education, offer more of it to vulnerable individuals to counterbalance inequality

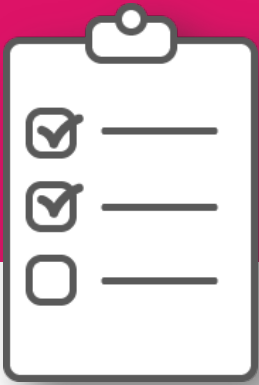
Potential outward actions:

- partner with civil society networks to provide education and entrepreneurial skills training to empower vulnerable groups
- maintain a supply chain that respects human rights and works toward equality and cooperate with other companies along the supply chain and within your industry to lobby for fair and equal chances and pay for all employees
- support community engagement to reduce inequalities within the organization's sphere of influence



"Companies play a very important role in mitigating different gaps in equality. I think businesses should carefully consider if all of their employees are compensated fairly and if there might be biases present that go unnoticed."

Activity: potential contributions by an organization of your choice



The purpose of xyz organization is to...

In terms of SDG 10, potential contributions by xyz organization might be:

Potential inward actions:

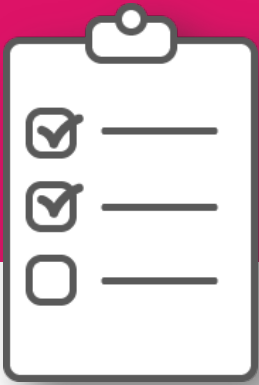
Potential outward actions:

How do inward and outward actions interact and impact each other?

Are partnerships necessary for the desired impact?



Activity: checking design of potential contributions

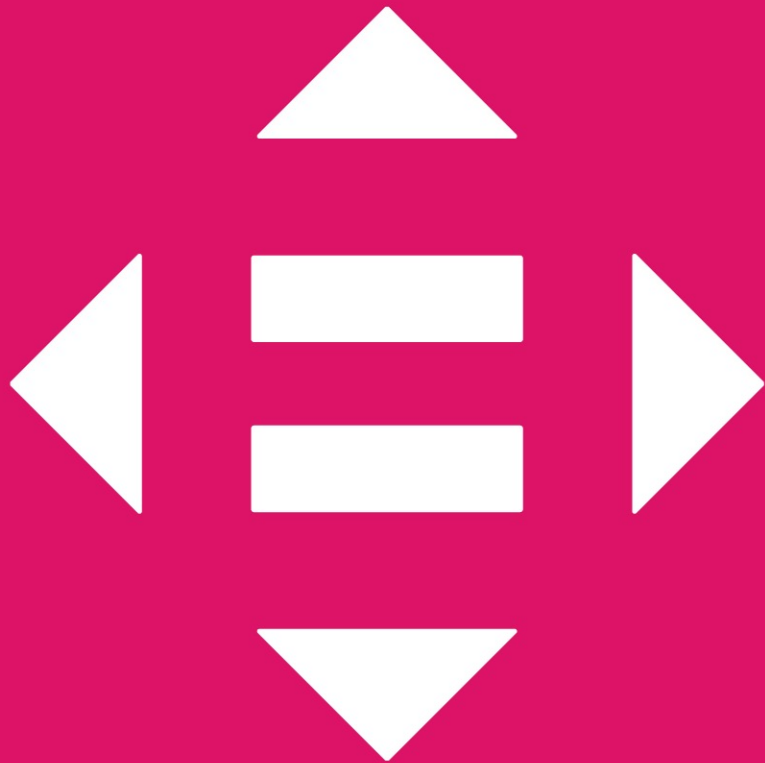


Returning to the opening questions:

- In which ways do the designed actions support the core purpose of xyz organization?
- In which ways do the designed actions serve the internal and external stakeholders of xyz organization?
- What balance between costs vs. benefits (or challenge vs. opportunity) can be noticed for xyz organization in terms of “impact of inequality” and/or mitigation thereof upon this type of organization?
- How do the designed inward and outward actions cohere and create synergy for xyz impact?



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



**Reflection and
resources
Learning activity**

Reflection and some resources

- What kind of inequalities are we facing globally, and in Europe specifically?
- How is inequality created in the first place?
- Why is economic growth not enough for an equal world?
- What are the biggest challenges for your country concerning inequality?
- What is the organization you work for doing to mitigate inequality in the world or in their region or in their industry?
- What could you do to reduce inequality in your sphere of influence?

Further Infos:

- [SDG definition of the UN](#)
- [SDG Compass for SDG 10](#)
- [UN Development Programme SDG 10](#)
- [SDG Watch Austria](#)
- [Neunerhaus](#)
- [Bake against poverty](#)
- [Social Entrepreneurship Network Austria](#)
- [Inequality in Europe](#)
- [SDG Report 2021](#)



Activity: SDG journey

- > Put your SDG glasses on and observe your environment under the SDG 10 umbrella for a week and explore the topic of inequalities. Look for the most vulnerable groups, older persons, persons with disabilities, children, women or migrants and refugees. Think about the long-term consequences of inequality for society.
- > If appropriate and allowed, take pictures of the found circumstances and catalogue the photos (begin making a scrapbook) — they will lead to a final assignment at the end of the series. Before you venture out, it might be a good idea to inform yourself about legal responsibilities when taking photos of people: [oesterreich.gv.at](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at) (If you are not in Austria, look for the regulations of the respective country!)

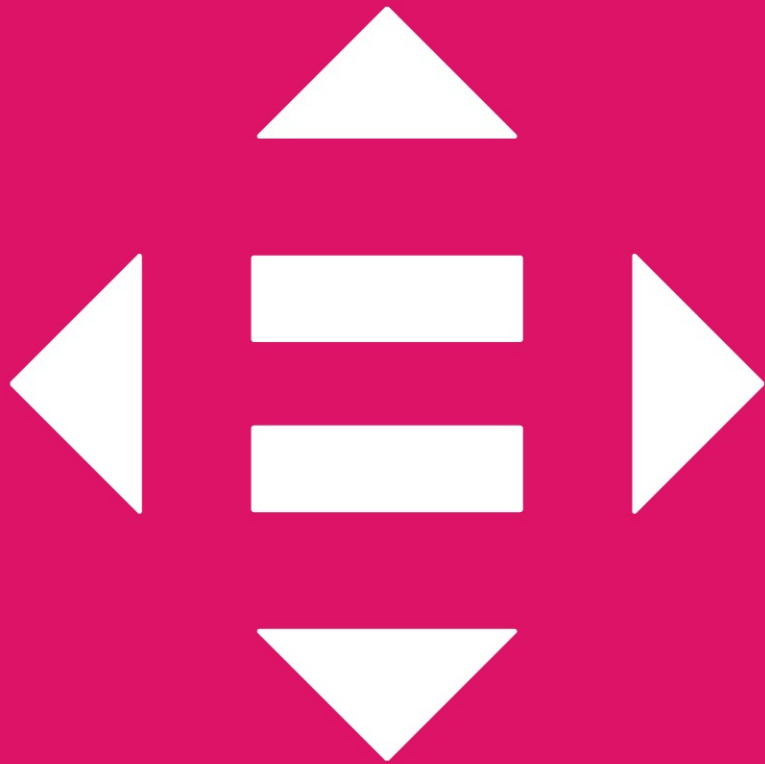
Possible resource for online scrapbook (free for classrooms and non-profits): [canva.com](https://www.canva.com)



“Do you know anyone who suffers from inequality? What might you do to help them? How might you get engaged in mitigating inequality?”



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



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Sources

Slide 3:

- <https://germanwatch.org/en/node/14072> (download Arbeitsblätter)

Slide 4:

- <https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/social-sciences/inequality>
- https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/sdg_08_30a/default/table?lang=en

Slide 5:

- <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=4842>
- <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.GINI>

Slide 6:

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- <https://equineteurope.org/equality-in-europe/>
- <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/suche/lieferkettengesetz-1872010>

Slide 7:

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- <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/b271e3c0-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/b271e3c0-en>

Slides 8 & 9:

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Slide 11:

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- <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal10>
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Slide 12:

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- <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/de/web/sdi/indicators>
- https://www.ted.com/talks/eugenia_cheng_an_unexpected_tool_for_understanding_inequality_abstract_math

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<https://grants.at/en/>

Slide 18:

<https://summer-university.net/aems-vienna/>

Slide 19:

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Slide 20:

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Slide 25:

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