



SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

University of Applied Sciences Burgenland

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



**Interpretation
of peace, justice
and strong
institutions**



Main goal: to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

People who die in war and/or grow up during turbulent times (riots, unrests, disturbances) often struggle with the consequences of severe trauma and suffer from psychological problems later in life. Feeling secure and living in peace are prerequisites for the development of a healthy society. Therefore, the UN calls for an inclusive society with stable political leadership and peace. Human rights are inviolable — everywhere in the world. The UN wants to fight corruption, illegal arms deliveries and bribery and to end violence and crime in all its forms. To this end, it advocates strong institutions, a well-developed judiciary and greater participation of poorer countries in global decisions.

What are human rights?

Human rights are rights we have simply because we exist as human beings — they are not granted by any state. These universal rights are inherent to us all, regardless of nationality, sex, national or ethnic origin, skin color, religion, language, or any other status. They range from the most fundamental — the right to life — to those that make life worth living, such as the rights to food, education, work, health, and liberty.

Source: ohchr.org

"I believe that peace is more than just the absence of war and violence. Peace is not the absence of conflict — but the ability to manage conflict constructively, as an important opportunity for change and increased understanding. It is also a commitment to understanding, celebrating and learning from difference, and a commitment not to harm, but also to nurture, all individuals."

Source: peacerevolution.net



Did you know that about 73,000 people arrived irregularly at EU's southern borders in the first 10 months of 2020 — a decrease compared to the same period in 2019 — while 726 died or went missing at sea.

Source: hrw.org



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What is the rule of law?

It's the principle of governance in which all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and consistent with international human rights norms and standards.

Source: un.org



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AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



Did you know that 49 countries in the world lack laws protecting women from domestic violence?

Source: undp.org

"Living in a country with a robust legal system is a big privilege. However, even in Austria I perceive there are significant injustices in how laws are enforced in different groups, sometimes I am shocked to see that the segregation of duty between legislation, execution and jurisdiction gets so blurred, lately, especially in politics."



What is corruption?

It's the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. Corruption erodes trust, weakens democracy, hampers economic development and further exacerbates inequality, poverty, social division and environmental crises.

Source: [transparency.org](https://www.transparency.org)



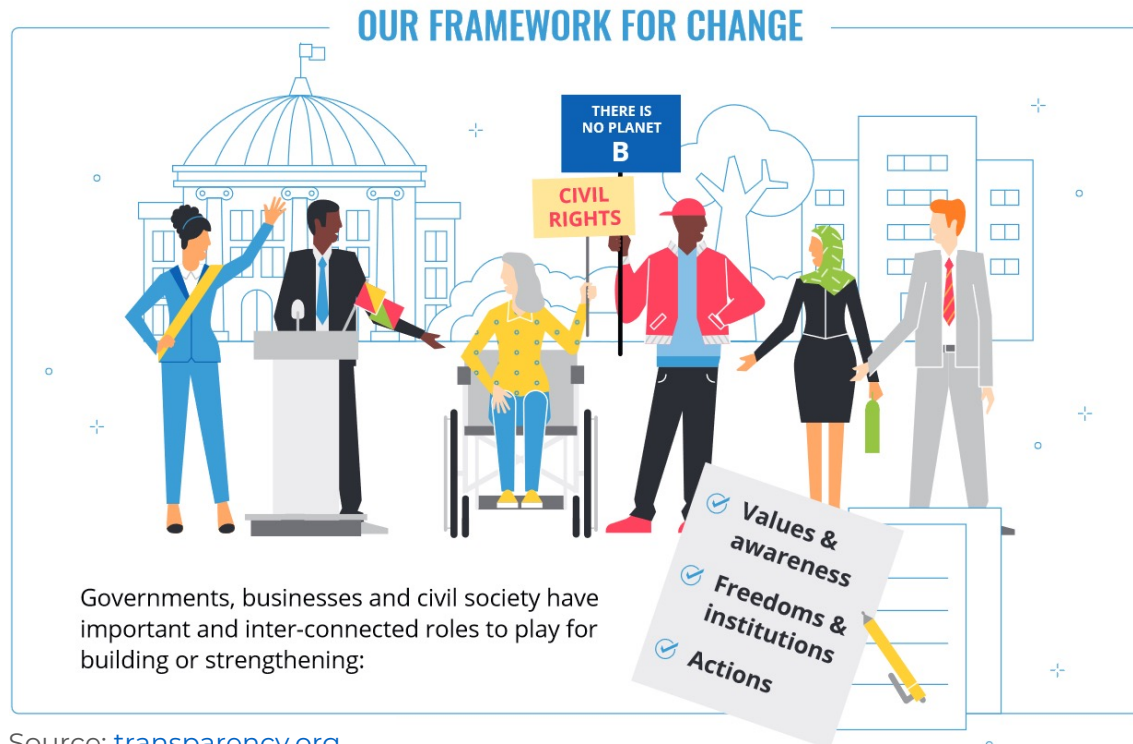
Did you know that the results of a study in 2021 – where over 40,000 people in all 27 EU countries were interviewed – reveal that almost a third of the interviewees think that corruption is getting worse in their country. A further 44% think it's not getting any better.

Sources: [transparency.org](https://www.transparency.org) and [transparency.org](https://www.transparency.org)

"Countries in the EU are known for being wealthy, stable and democratic. However, this clean image is undermined by issues ranging from regional inequality and erosion of the rule of law to corruption problems. Bribery and corruption create an unlevel playing field for honest businesses and cut deeply into the social fabric of developed and developing countries alike."

Sources: [transparency.org](https://www.transparency.org) and [oecd-ilibrary.org](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org)

Model: the transparency international framework for change



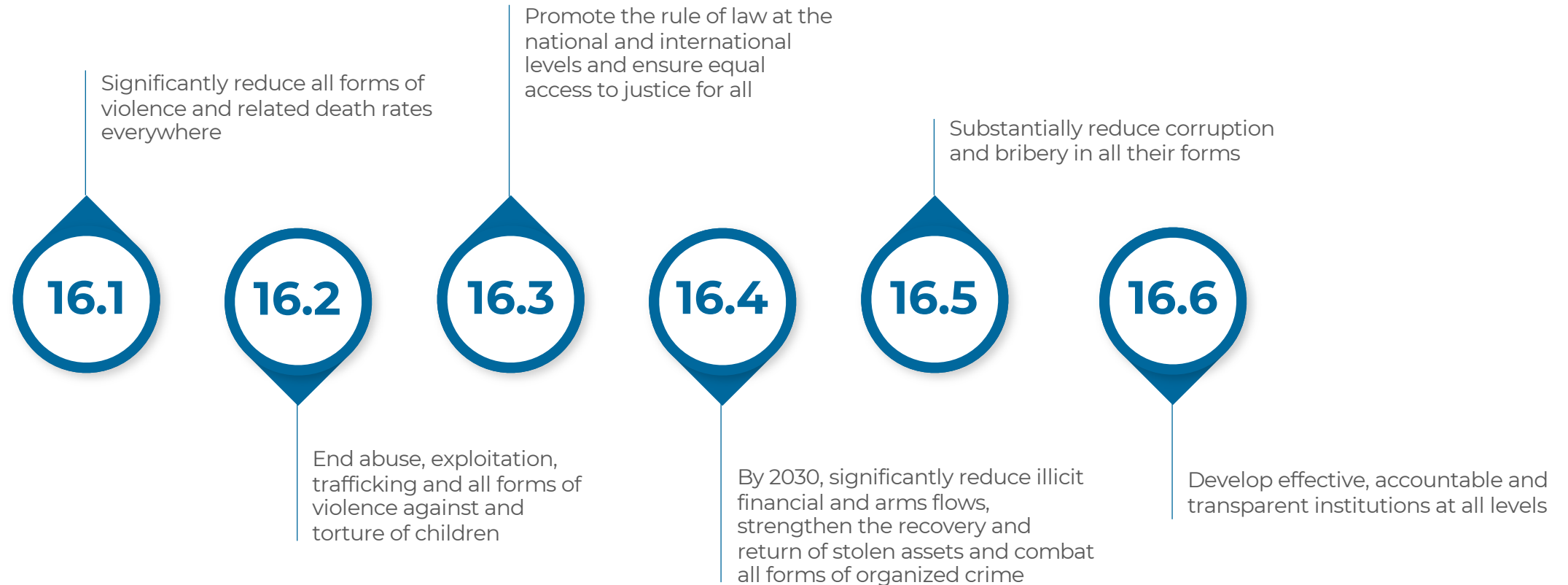
Source: [transparency.org](https://www.transparency.org)



Did you know that The Global Corruption Barometer – European Union 2021 shows that people in all 27 EU states are well aware of these issues and want their leaders to act with more integrity.

Source: [transparency.org](https://www.transparency.org)

Subgoals: targets and measures



Source: un.org

Targets = Numbers, Measures = Letters

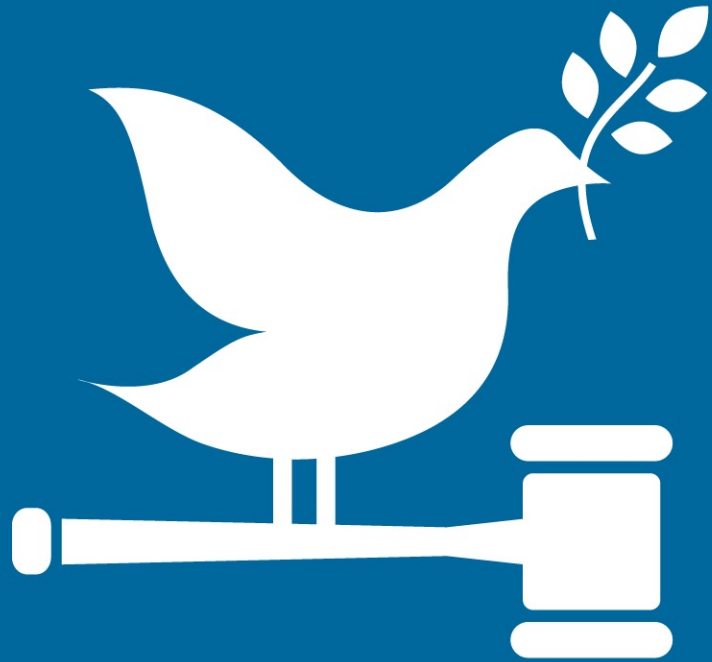
Subgoals: targets and measures



Source: un.org

Targets = Numbers, Measures = Letters

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**Current state of
peace, justice and
strong institutions**

Report 2020

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020



Source: un.org

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021



Source: un.org



PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

BEFORE COVID-19

EVERY DAY,
100 CIVILIANS ARE KILLED
IN ARMED CONFLICTS



DESPITE PROTECTIONS
UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW



THE GLOBAL HOMICIDE RATE
HAS DECLINED SLOWLY



TRANSLATING TO
440,000 HOMICIDE VICTIMS
WORLDWIDE

COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS FURTHER THREATEN
GLOBAL PEACE AND SECURITY



ALREADY IN 2019, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE FLEEING WAR, PERSECUTION AND CONFLICT EXCEEDED 79.5 MILLION, THE HIGHEST LEVEL EVER RECORDED



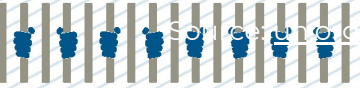
127 COUNTRIES

HAVE ADOPTED
RIGHT-TO-INFORMATION

OR

FREEDOM-OF-INFORMATION
LAWS

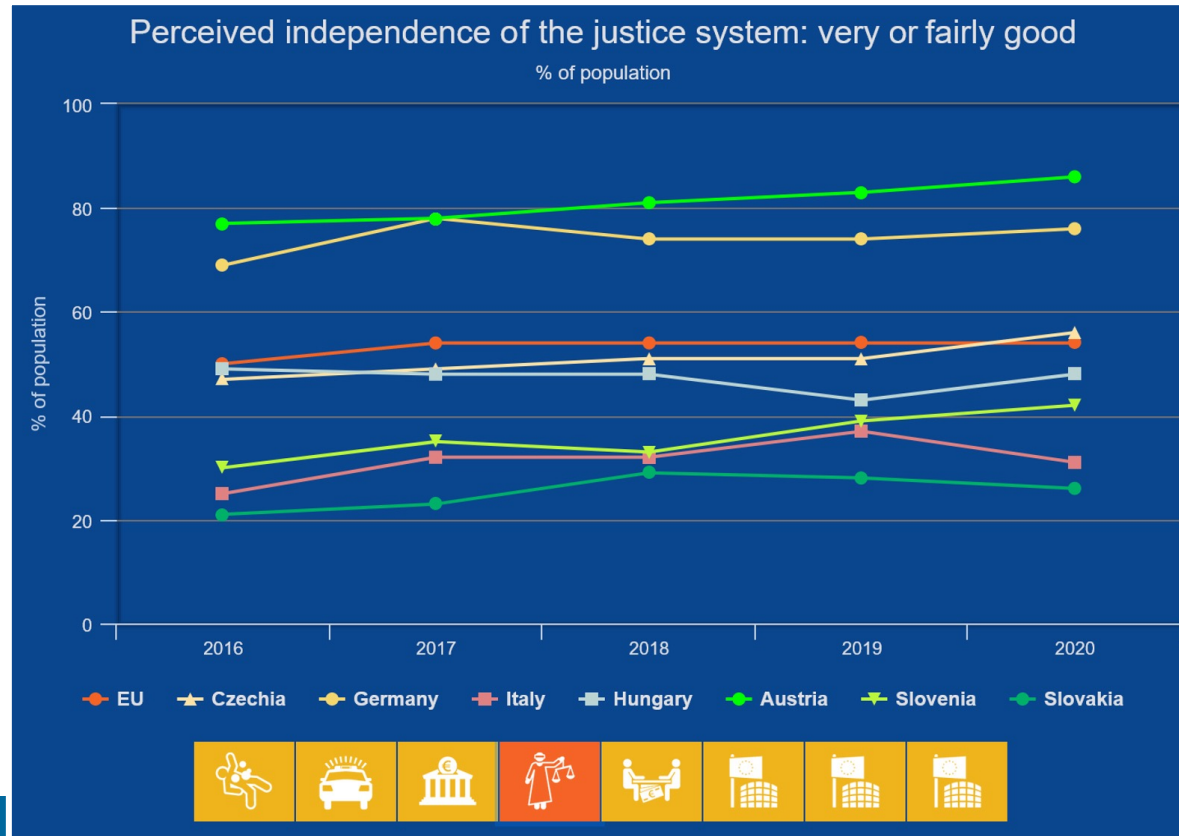
Source: un.org



60% OF COUNTRIES HAVE PRISON OVERCROWDING,
RISKING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19



Some European statistics



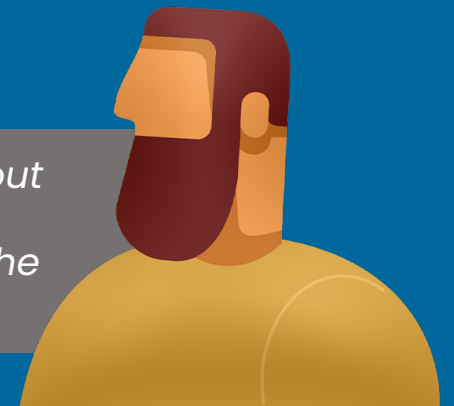
Source: ec.europa.eu



Did you know that today 86% of Austrians perceive the independence of the justice system to be very or fairly good? They share this score with Denmark (87%).

Source: ec.europa.eu

"As I was studying law at the university, I found it quite calming to learn about the independence of Austrian's justice system based on laws and their recitals being stable and predictable, plus that there is no case law like in the U.S. and U.K, where you have no idea how a court decision might end."



Implementation in Austria as of 2020

Target	National indicators (selected)	Trend
16.1	Deaths attributed to intentional homicide / aggravated assault per 100,000 population	:
	Conflict-related deaths	✓
	Physical and sexual violence against women	:
	Perceived problems with neighbourhood crime, vandalism or violence	↑
16.5	TARGET: Reduce corruption and eliminate bribery of public officials	✓
16.6	Trust in the political system	:
16.9	TARGET: Birth registration	✓
16.10	TARGET: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms	✓
16.a	Number of Austrian Armed Forces soldiers deployed in UN missions	:

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.

- > The risk of death due to intentional homicide, manslaughter or physical assault remains at a constantly low level in Austria (2018: 0.6 in 100,000 people).
- > In 2012, 5% of women aged between 15 and 74 said they had experienced sexual and/or physical violence in the previous 12 months.
- > Austrian soldiers were deployed in UN peacekeeping missions to an above average extent in 2018.



Did you know that in 2018, 9.7% of Austrians said they were experiencing problems due to crime, violence or vandalism in their neighborhood?

Source: un.org

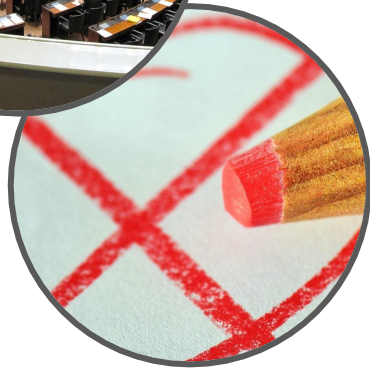
Main issues to solve in Austria as of 2020



Create a collaborative ability to solve intersocietal conflicts



Foster democratic culture and institutions



Improve active participation of citizens



Did you know that there is a business concept where economy is aligned with ethical values – called “The Economy for the Common Good.” It contributes to a culture of good living in a peaceful and sustainable civilization. This is characterized by human coexistence, trust and appreciation, strong social cohesion and basic human rights.

Source: ecogood.org

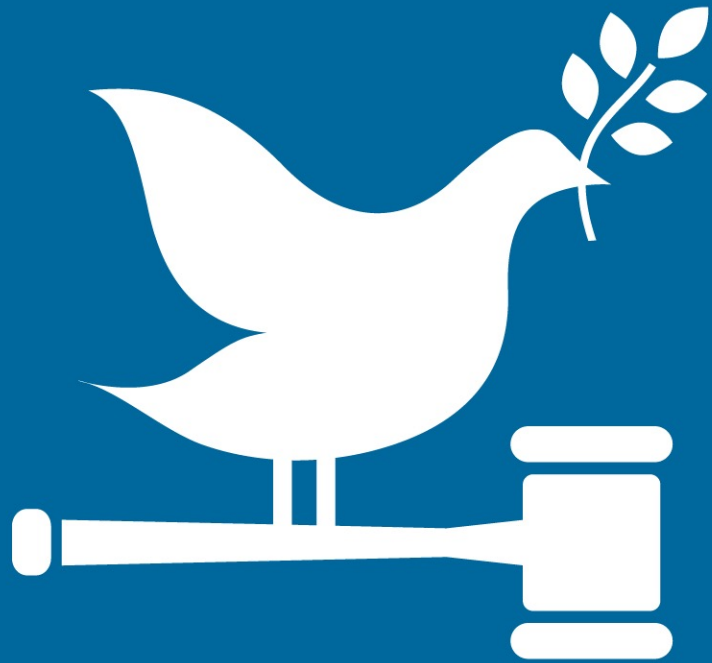
Sources: uninetz.at and uninetz.at

“Countries in western Europe account for seven of the top ten places in the global democracy rankings of 2020, including the top three spots, occupied by Norway, Iceland and Sweden. Finland and Denmark ranked sixth and seventh place. Austria ranked #18. North Korea is last with rank # 167.”

Source: eiu.com



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**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 do violence, crime and corruption/bribery impact it (its purpose, its stakeholders, its operation, its viability)?
- What challenges and/or costs emerge for this organization for not taking actions on potential violence, crime and corruption/bribery?
- On the other hand, what opportunities and/or benefits arise?
- With all this in mind, what contributions** might this organization make to reach SDG 16 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 16, the tasks lie in raising awareness about the need for justice, peace and inclusion as the very basis for sustainability and in pointing to the dangers and negative consequences for the world at large when violence, crime and corruption and/or bribery are tolerated.



Did you know that there is a University for Peace in Costa Rica educating students from more than 120 nations, providing them with unique global master and doctoral degree programmes?

Source: upeace.org

Potential contributions by educational institutions, cont.

Potential inward actions:

- adjust educational programs to include topics related to peace, justice, ethics, transparency and anti-corruption/bribery
- focus research on ways to provide more transparency in public and private sectors
- engage students in collaborative design activities for peace, justice and strong institutions

Potential outward actions:

- support vulnerable local communities with pro bono legal support for access to jurisdiction
- promote active civic participation among staff and students towards more peace and justice in the world
- collaborate with other institutions to provide free-of-charge citizenship and peace education to interested public

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 16, municipalities should monitor and strive to eliminate internal corruption and enact thorough transparency guidelines.



Did you know that Austria has a transparency portal for providing information on received public funding for private persons, but also for organisations and institutions?

Source: transparenzportal.gv.at



"When you witness bribery conducted by your boss cheating, how can you do the right thing? Say nothing and keep your job? Say something to your boss and get fired? Austria provides an anonymous whistleblower system at the Office of Prosecution for Economic Crime and Corruption."

Source: bkms-system.net

Potential contributions by municipalities, cont.

Potential inward actions:

- implement and monitor internal anti-corruption/bribery checks and balances
- strive for transparency and accountability of public services delivered
- train public staff on detecting potential corruption/bribery actions

Potential outward actions:

- support vulnerable communities with extra free-of-charge legal support
- encourage citizens' participation in policy decision making
- lobby for transparency in all institutions for providing public access to information concerning their operations

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 16, the opportunities for contribution may vary greatly between different types or sizes of organizations, but their core contributions to society for reaching SDG 16 are to conduct business responsibly (strategic social investment, public policy engagement and collective action to build peace, to fight corruption and to respect the rule of law) and to encourage transparency in business in general.



Did you know that around 904 € billion were lost to corruption every single year across the EU (report from 2018)? In Austria, over 10.4 € billion are lost each year in Austria due to corruption. That's almost 4% of GDP, representing a third of the entire annual healthcare budget and is 2 billion more costly than the budget for family and children?

Source: [greens-efa.eu](https://www.greens-efa.eu)

Potential contributions by corporations and other organizations, cont.

Potential inward actions:

- conduct business responsibly in any region, respect and support rule of law, compliant with laws and regulations, and build peace
- implement anti-bribery policies and code of conduct based on values and compliance, as well as effective, accountable and transparent governance
- measure and report on implementation progress, including on operations in high-risk areas

Source: sdgcompass.org

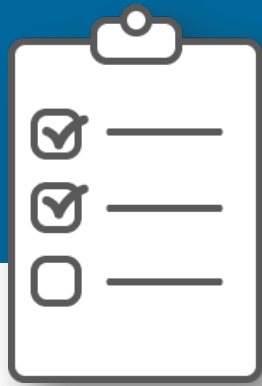
Potential outward actions:

- engage in public-private dialogues, partnerships and collective action in conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, anti-corruption and the rule of law
- work with governments and civil society to eliminate corruption in all its forms
- work with suppliers and business partners to comply with international standards concerning SDG 16

"On 21 April 2021, the Commission adopted a proposal for a Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD). The proposal extends the scope to all large companies and all companies listed on regulated markets and requires the audit (assurance) of reported information, introduces more detailed reporting requirements according to mandatory EU sustainability reporting standards, requires companies to digitally 'tag' the reported information, so it is machine readable and feeds into the European single access point envisaged in the capital markets union action plan."

Source: ec.europa.eu





Activity: potential contributions by an organization of your choice

The purpose of xyz organization is to...

In terms of SDG 16, the tasks for this organization might be:

Potential inward actions:

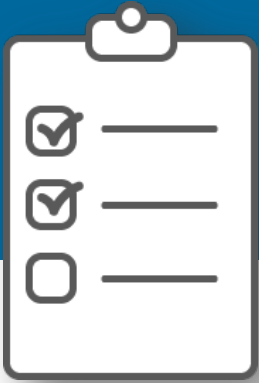
Potential outward actions:

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 concerning the impact upon it from potential violence, crime and corruption/bribery?
- How do the designed inward and outward actions cohere and create synergy for xyz impact?



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**Reflection and
resources
Learning activity**

Reflection and some resources

- What is the relation between peace & justice and sustainable development?
- Why is the rule of law so important?
- How important do you think organisations like Transparency International are for raising awareness about SDG 16 goals and the associated societal change?
- When have you thought about human rights lately?
- What would you do if you felt unfairly treated by the police (or another authority), or if you observed violations done to others?

Further Infos:

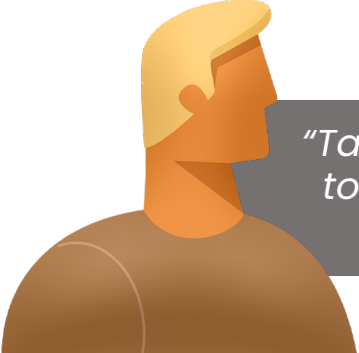
- [SDG definition of the UN](#)
- [EU progress report on SDGs 2020](#)
- [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization](#)
- [Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights](#)
- [Universal declaration of human rights](#)
- [Maintain international peace and security](#)
- [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime](#)
- [UNICEF #EndViolence](#)
- [#SafetoLearn](#)
- [SDG Report 2021](#)



Activity: SDG journey

- Put your SDG glasses on and observe your environment under the SDG 16 umbrella for a week. On the one hand, keep your ears open to what is going on around the world in this regard. On the other, what is going in your immediate environment? Are there any emerging issues related to violence or conflict or bribery or injustice? What is the evidence? Why are these things happening? What are different actors doing to prevent it?
- 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)



“Talking to a friend lately, we have discussed the fact that it seems normal to offer contracts in private sector only to recommended friends, no one else gets a chance to make an offer, but where does bribery start?”

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Sources

Slide 3:

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Slide 4:

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- <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/european-union>
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Slide 5:

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