

The main recommendations of the Austrian report:

- **Science:** The phenomenon of scientific skepticism and disinformation should be counteracted decisively. The performance and limits of scientific research and teaching should be communicated and an understanding of this should be created in schools.
- **Politics:** Dialogue across society should be promoted and political decisions should be justified in a comprehensible manner. Decision-making and advisory committees should have a diverse range of professionals, be flexible and transparent, and understandably communicate their findings. Health, nursing and social professions should be made more attractive in the sense of proactive crisis prevention.
- **Media:** Creating trust, thinking positively and dialogue as a principle. Transparency and credibility should be increased so that trust in the media can be strengthened again. Constructive journalism should be action- and solution-oriented even in times of crisis and should not exclusively represent extremes and stir up fears. The media should fulfill a dialogue function and include different perspectives. Care must be taken to ensure that the media maintains political independence.
- **Population:** Citizens should treat each other openly and respectfully and take care of each other in times of crisis. This requires talking more with each other instead of about each other.

The following lessons were learned:

- **Increase crisis resilience:** The Federal Crisis Security Act was passed in the summer of 2023 to increase Austria's security and resilience. The main cornerstones of this law include the Federal Crisis Security Cabinet under the leadership of the Federal Chancellor, the advisory committee under the leadership of the Crisis Security Advisor and the specialist committees under the leadership of the respective security policy experts. These committees are intended to ensure comprehensive strategic and transparent advice to the Federal Government on crisis prevention and crisis management.
- **Establish structured crisis communication:** As a result of the report's recommendations, the future crisis security consultant will also be commissioned to develop a concept for transparent and easy-to-understand crisis communication, to map it in a structured manner and then to ensure this, with a focus on regular and crisis-independent communication.
- **Measures against scientific skepticism:** The case studies now available are an important basis for countering the phenomenon of scientific skepticism. As early as 2022, the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) initiated a strategy to strengthen trust in science and democracy with a 10-point program. To get a differentiated picture of this topic, a study was commissioned and carried out by the IHS together with Aarhus University. On this basis, further measures are now being developed. In addition to the continuation of measures such as Sparkling Science and the children's and youth universities, measures such as science ambassadors or a separate science week in the polytechnic schools have already been implemented. In addition, the topic will be anchored more firmly in the curricula and will also be part of the performance agreements with universities in the future.
- **Making the health, care and social professions more attractive:** One of the central recommendations to politicians is to strengthen resilience in the health system and in care. This particularly includes making health, nursing and social professions more attractive. The federal government has already taken extensive measures during and after the corona pandemic that will have an impact in the coming years - such as a monthly subsidy for

trainees and pay increases for employees in nursing and social care professions as well as a relief week and better pay for night shifts for nursing professions . In addition, the care fund will be endowed with 1.1 billion euros from 2024. This means that the federal states have sufficient financial resources available to further make nursing professions more attractive and to train additional employees. The agreement on financial equalization secures these improvements for the next five years.

- **Use data for planning:** Secure data sources are also essential for accurate decision-making. Timely, regular and systematic data collection, analysis and interpretation is the basis for all risk management. The further development of the existing documentation and information system for analyzes in the healthcare sector into a fully-fledged official data evaluation platform for the shared use of secondary data also strengthens evidence-based decision-making. In a first step, the data will be available to all system partners in the healthcare system (federal, state, social insurance providers) for better control. In a second step, research should also be given rapid access to health data. Improved data bases allow optimized planning and control of structures in the health sector. This contributes significantly to the resilience of the health system.