

# SUSTAINABILITY

## AT THE AUSTRIA CENTER VIENNA



“As Austria’s largest conference centre we are very much aware of our special responsibilities!”

Certified **green conference centre** in accordance with the Austrian Umweltzeichen eco-label



Dear customers and visitors,



the Austria Center Vienna is the nation’s largest conference centre. Our job is to ensure that the venue is kept as busy as possible: with large-scale international congresses and national events. Our international guests in particular – who numbered more than 100,000 in 2018 alone – tend to travel by air, leaving a sizeable environmental footprint as a result.

Which is why it is so important to make a concerted effort to keep this footprint as small as possible through a series of targeted measures. In terms of facility management and utilities, we have made use of **untreated water** for many years, as well as initiating a change-over to **LED technology** for our lighting systems, installing **e-vehicle charging stations** and only procuring **green IT** equipment. In 2014 we became the first congress centre in Austria to be granted **green conference centre** status. Our largest annual gathering – the European Congress of Radiology, which attracts more than 20,000 participants – and numerous other events, including the 130 meetings held at the venue during Austria’s presidency of the European Council, are certified as **green meetings**.

And as far as our employees are concerned, we make every effort to help them maintain a **healthy work-life balance** – something we also extend to our participants by offering **free childcare** during large-scale international congresses.

It is a great pleasure for me to present to you – in this, the first sustainability report to be released by IAKW-AG/the Austria Center Vienna – some of the energy saving, resource conservation, staff development and welfare measures that we have already integrated into our day-to-day working lives, and to reveal some of our plans for the future.

Best regards

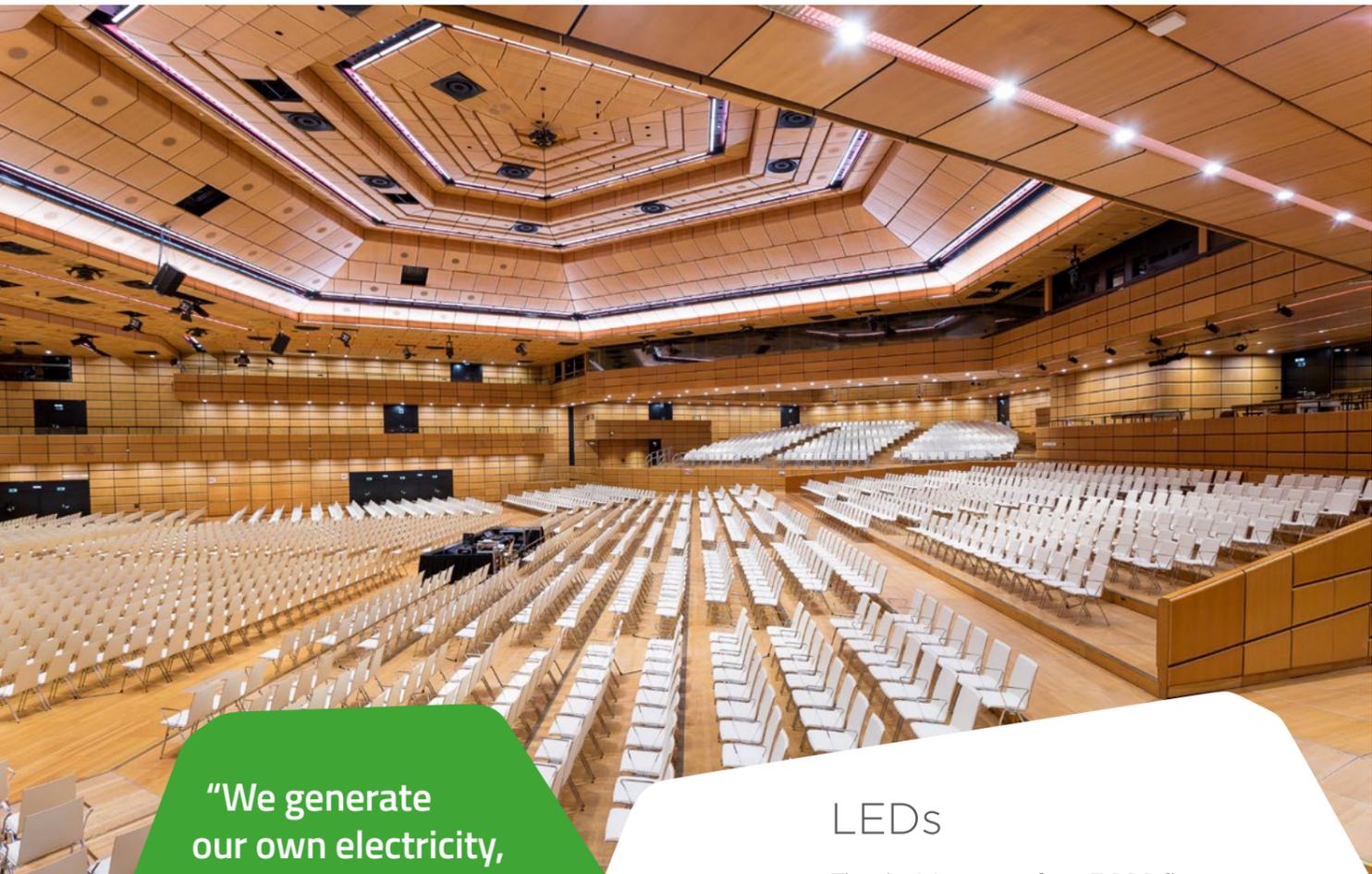
Dr. Susanne Baumann-Söllner

DI Dr. Michael Rotter



# ENERGY

## CONSERVING RESOURCES



“We generate our own electricity, heating and cooling energy. Our LED lighting and heat recovery systems, together save enough energy to **power more than 750 households** a year.”

### LEDs

The decision to **replace 7,000** fluorescent tube lights and incandescent bulbs with **LEDs** saves **500,000 kWh** of energy each year – equivalent to the annual power consumption of **200 average households in Austria**.

As LEDs generate significantly less heat than traditional light bulbs, the changeover also results in lower demand for cooling energy in hot weather.



### Water – heated sustainably and used cleverly

The **solar collectors** on the roof of the Austria Center Vienna **provide hot water for all of the venue's kitchens and restrooms**. Water from the **facility's own well** is used to flush all of the conference centre's 240-plus toilets.

This same source also supplies all of the water required for the **cooling systems** at the Austria Center Vienna and the Vienna International Centre.

### Heat recovery

In 2018 the ventilation system was modernised throughout the main building (total volume of approx. 360,000m<sup>3</sup>) and fitted with a high-efficiency heat recovery system. The new system **cuts energy consumption by up to 90%** compared with conventional technologies – the energy saved is enough to power around 550 average households for a year.\*

\*Based on a household with 2.2 individuals using 2,400 kWh/a.



### 100% renewable energy

All of our electricity comes from renewable sources, mainly hydro, and is **CO<sub>2</sub> emission free**.

# GREEN MEETINGS

## SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS



### Partners pulling in the same direction

When it comes to hosting their green meetings, our customers can draw on the full support of our **tried-and-tested partner companies**, which include catering and stand assembly experts. As **fully eco-label-certified enterprises**, they are ideally placed to meet all of the requirements for a green meeting, guaranteeing your event will run smoothly.



**“Green meetings are an investment in the future – and one of our biggest priorities! We will help you plan and obtain certification for your event – free of charge.”**



### Public transport

We have **outstanding access to Vienna’s public transport network**, with the U1 underground line just a five-minute walk away. We actively promote use of public transport among organisers and participants – travelling on the underground rather than by car not only **cuts CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**, but in many cases **saves time and nervous energy**.

### Waste avoidance

One of the central aims of green meetings is waste avoidance. The 130 certified meetings hosted at the Austria Center Vienna during Austria’s presidency of the EU Council avoided an estimated **126,000 kg of general waste and 198,000 kg of paper waste**. This is the equivalent of 115 large waste containers and 257 large paper recycling bins.



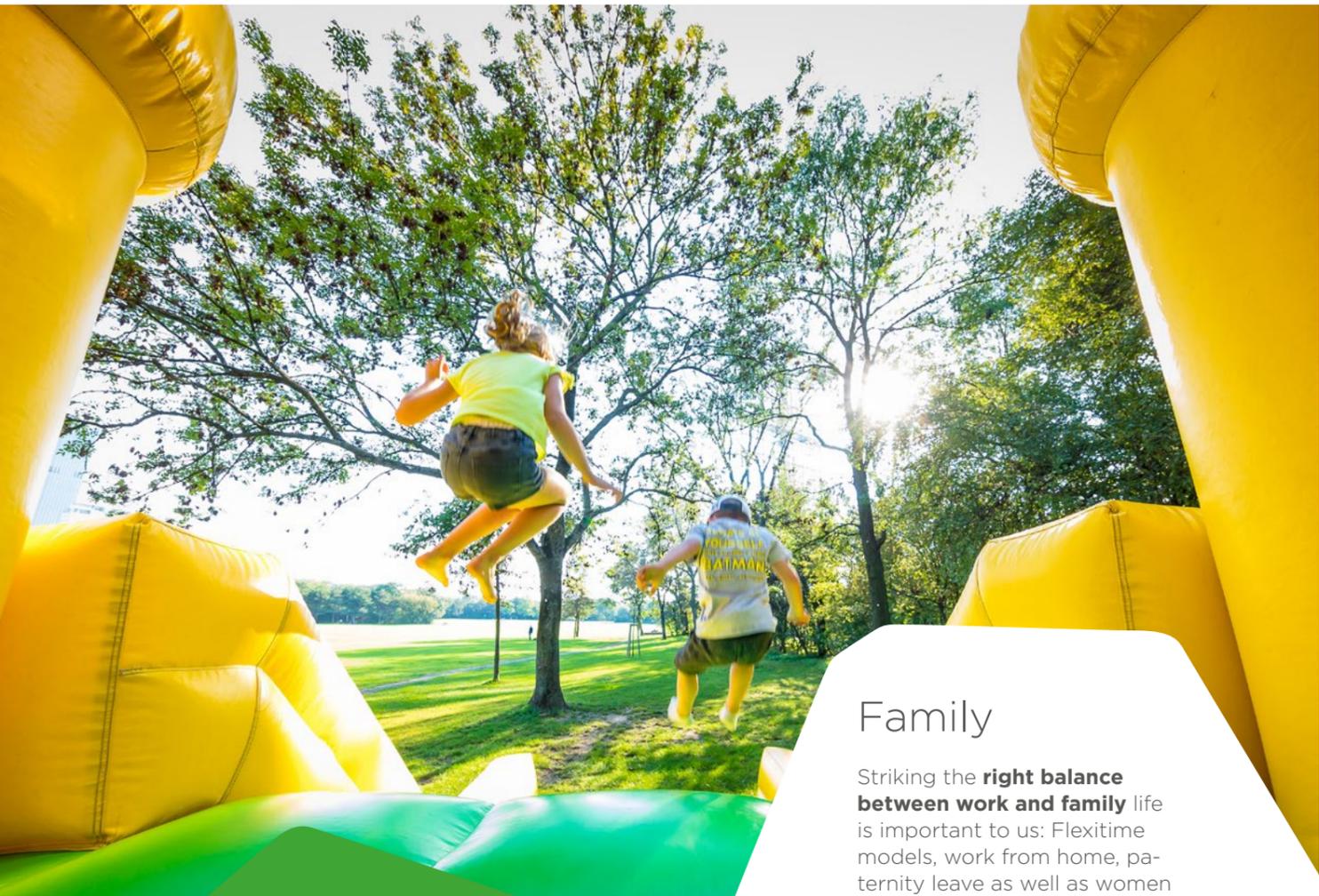
### Everything under one roof

We are a **one-stop shop**, offering all of the services and amenities that our customers need for their events with the support of our partner companies.

Literally under one roof, as many of our partners have offices on site! This also plays a significant part in keeping **supply routes to an absolute minimum**.



# STAFF DEVELOPMENT



## Family

Striking the **right balance between work and family** life is important to us: Flexitime models, work from home, paternity leave as well as women and family support are just as much part of our **corporate culture** as company celebrations with the whole family.

“Every successful event is down to the work of a well-trained and **motivated team.**”

## Initiative

We maintain a **culture of open dialogue** – we want our people to think creatively and act on their own initiative. A **gym for all staff members** was set up last year in a move spearheaded by our employees.



## Top employer

The Austria Center Vienna was named one of the top 20 employers in Austria at the first time of asking in 2018 (in the 50-250 employee category), earning it the official title of **Great Place to Work**. This distinction is presented in recognition of efforts to promote training and development and enable employees to maintain a healthy work-life balance.



## Health

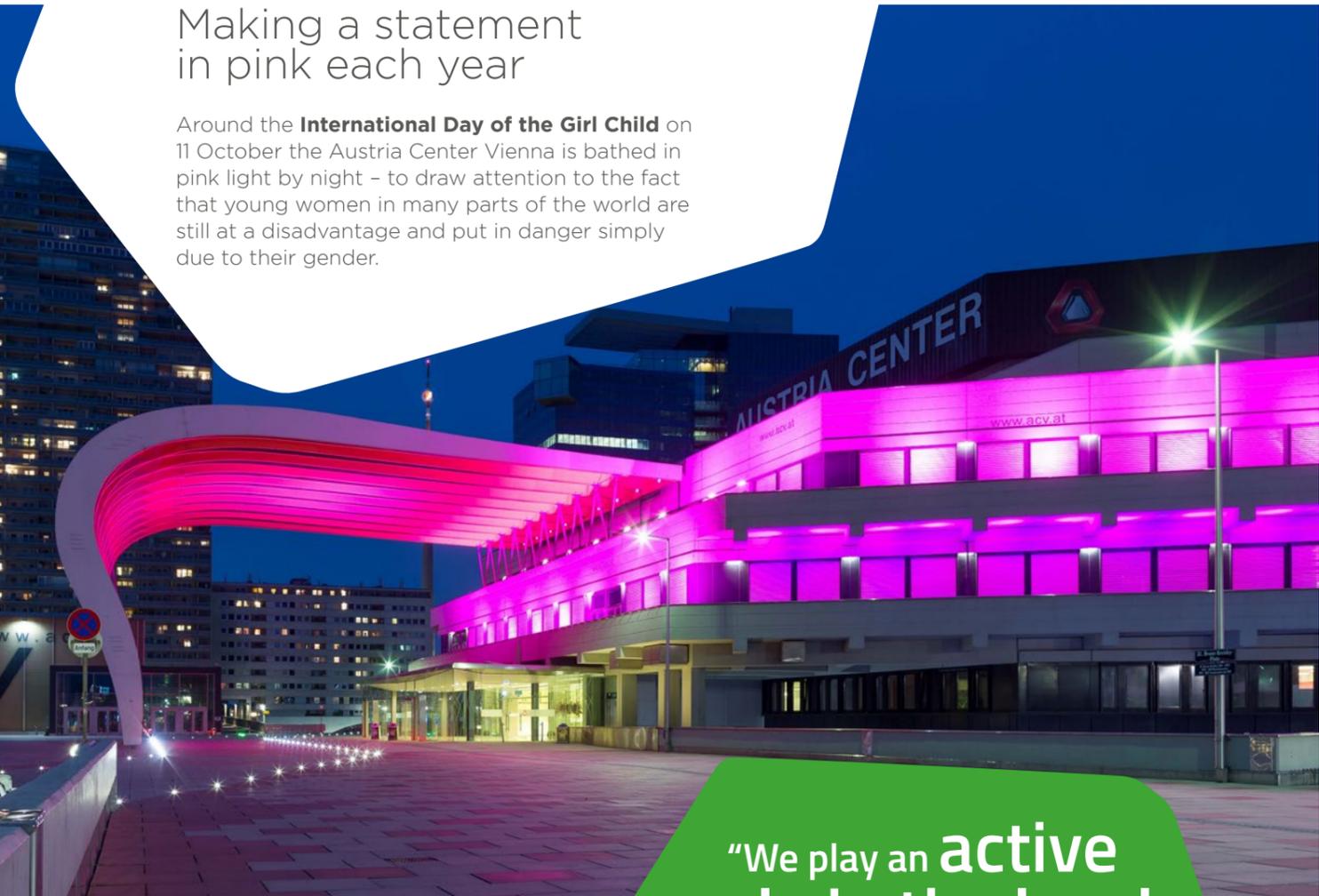
The long-term health and wellbeing of our employees is close to our heart. In addition to contributions such as free healthy drinks, a **fresh basket of fruit** each week and breakfast together every two weeks, we also host information events on various health-related topics and offer various medical check-ups on site as part of our **preventive health programme**. It goes without saying that our employees have access to a company doctor at regular intervals.

**fit2work.at**

# TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

## Making a statement in pink each year

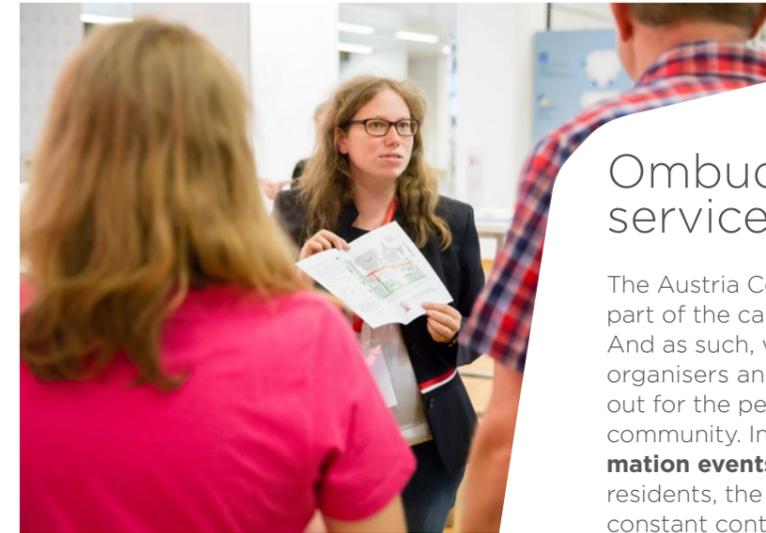
Around the **International Day of the Girl Child** on 11 October the Austria Center Vienna is bathed in pink light by night – to draw attention to the fact that young women in many parts of the world are still at a disadvantage and put in danger simply due to their gender.



## Science communication

Participants at the scientific and medical congresses held at the Austria Center Vienna not only discuss the current state of research, they also **present the very latest insights**. And we are committed to sharing these with the general public via our **science communication service**.

“We play an **active role in the local community**: as a thriving part of Vienna’s Donau City district, through free childcare for participants, and as a partner to residents.”



## Ombudsman service

The Austria Center Vienna is a vibrant part of the capital's Donau City district. And as such, we not only look after our organisers and guests, but also look out for the people who live in the local community. In addition to hosting **information events** and engaging with local residents, the ombudsman service is in constant contact with our neighbours.

## UNWG-Bazaar

The United Nations Women's Guild (UNWG) hosts its popular bazaar at the Austria Center Vienna every year. It is our pleasure to open up our spaces free of charge for this enjoyable gathering, which brings together people of all ages **from more than 80 countries**.



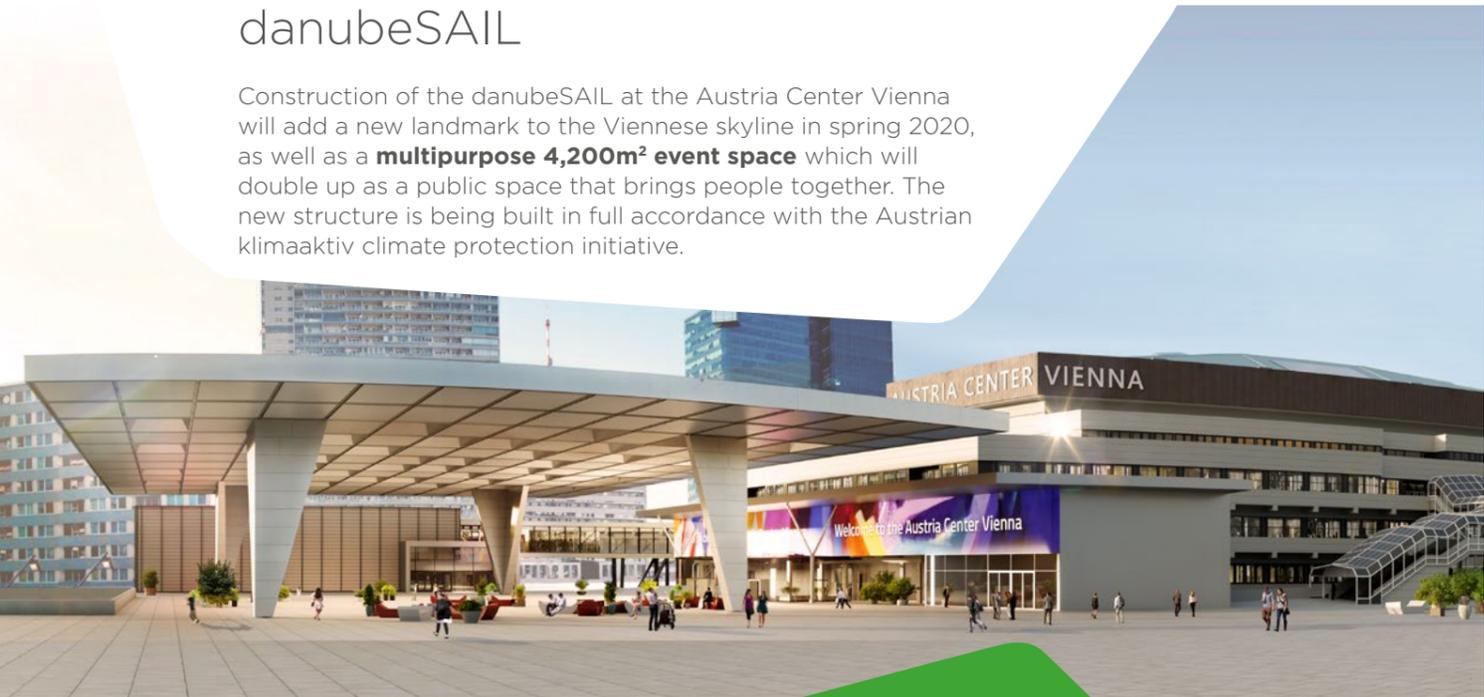
## Free childcare

**Maintaining a healthy work-life balance** is not just an important issue for our employees, but our guests, too. As a result, we took the decision to introduce free childcare at major international congresses at the start of 2018.

# SHAPING THE FUTURE

## danubeSAIL

Construction of the danubeSAIL at the Austria Center Vienna will add a new landmark to the Viennese skyline in spring 2020, as well as a **multipurpose 4,200m<sup>2</sup> event space** which will double up as a public space that brings people together. The new structure is being built in full accordance with the Austrian klimaaktiv climate protection initiative.



“Ambitious plans for the future: we want to get **even better!**”

## Heating energy for 2,000 Viennese households from 2019

A joint project with local utility Wien Energie enables us to make use of waste heat from our pumping system: from 2019 the system will provide **heating energy for around 2,000 households.**



## Technical advances deliver additional 40% energy savings

The sophisticated heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system at the Austria Center Vienna is being improved all the time to make it even more energy efficient. 2019 will also bring the **installation of new pumps and motors** designed to ensure that the system always performs at the precise level demanded of it. This will bring potential additional energy savings of 25-40%, or around **750,000 kWh a year.**

## Major projects for the next few years

- **Remote metering** to identify and decommission sources of excess power consumption
- **New hot water system:** phased refurbishment of pipes incl. insulation
- **Independent temperature controls** for all external rooms and hallways
- Modernisation of **ventilation system**
- **Rehabilitation/renovation of northern facade**
- Completion of **PV** feasibility study
- **Greening concept** for building and square outside main entrance
- Publication of a biennial GRI-compliant **sustainability report**
- **Quality seal** for operational **health and safety**

