**Title:** Austrian Businesses Networking for Sustainable Development: The case study of respACT

**Abstract**

This thesis analyses and explores networking models for business sustainability among Austrian companies. Nowadays networking for sustainable development plays a crucial role in establishing a platform for the enhancement of international and national cooperation for sustainable practices and is key to achieving business sustainability. Networks help companies resolve issues that an individual company cannot do alone, bring together knowledge, experience and information from a wide range of stakeholders, provide direct access to other companies and organizations that allow them communicate and exchange the best practices of business sustainability.

The main objective of this research is to determine the motivations and disincentives of businesses to join the networks for business sustainability and cooperate for the development of sustainable practices. The research focuses on the case study of Austrian companies cooperating within the business council for sustainable development, called respACT. After analysis, it is clear that each company has its own motivations to become a partner of a network. However the majority of companies are driven by purely sustainable value-oriented motives, while some focus as well on obtaining new business opportunities. Moreover, the study evaluates the factors that prevent companies from joining networks for business sustainability.