

# Digital competence model for Austria (DigComp 2.2 AT)

**POLICY DEVELOPMENT**
**PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE**
 **AUSTRIA**

## Timeline

**2019 Implementation**
**2020 Implementation**
**2021 Implementation**
**2022 Implementation**
**2023 Implementation**
**2024 Implementation**
**ID number 27995**

## Background

The increasing importance of digital tools and applications at work and in everyday life, the prominent role of information and data in new business models and the changing forms of communication place a wide range of new demands on everyone. Enabling people to handle these applications, data, information, media and communication technologies competently will be a central task and challenge for education and vocational training.

A clear picture of what, to what extent, why and for what it is required, is an important framework condition for the development of digital skills.

## Objectives

- (a) acceptance: the Austrian DigComp competence framework should become and remain a work base for the development and improvement of the digital competences of all citizens which is as widely accepted, as broadly understood and as coherently interpreted as possible;
- (b) updating: the Austrian DigComp competence framework and the application scenarios derived from it are to be updated continuously and, if necessary, expanded by the task force to keep pace with the dynamics of digitalisation and its opportunities and challenges;
- (c) networking: initiatives, measures, best practice and new ideas should be exchanged and connected as broadly and intensively as possible through an implemented task force and its members;
- (d) quality management: the members of the task force ensure the quality and coherence of all measures with their participation in specific DigComp implementation and accompanying projects (funding programmes, research projects, working groups, referencing, evaluation and certification measures etc.);
- (e) development and implementation of scientifically reliable validation tools in the form of a system of competence certificates for the classification of digital competences according to the DigComp model.

## Description

In 2019, the Federal Ministry of Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW) published the digital competence model for Austria (DigComp 2.2 AT). The tool is intended for supporting the assessment and description of personal digital competences and the identification of possibilities for further development. It is based on the DigComp reference framework of the European Commission.

## 2019 Implementation

In 2019, the fit4Internet initiative developed a competence check to test everyday digital skills and made it publicly available. The check builds on the competence framework of the DigComp 2.2 AT.

The check is available in two versions (light and advanced), proceeds through different everyday situations and contains self-assessment and knowledge questions. The fit4Internet association was founded by the BMDW together with numerous organisations and leading companies to promote the development of digital skills in Austria.

The TV series *Road to digital Austria* was launched in cooperation between fit4internet and a private TV station. The series aims to highlight the opportunities and potential of digitalisation, reduce fear of contact and show a diverse picture of the digital world, thus promoting awareness of the importance of developing digital skills. In short documentary spots of around 5 minutes, a wide variety of topics in the context of digitalisation are addressed and presented and important terms are clarified.

## 2020 Implementation

In 2020, the technical further development of the fit4internet platform was continued and the TV series *Road to digital Austria* was expanded.

## 2021 Implementation

In 2021, the platform for the development of digital competences based on the DigComp 2.2 AT was further expanded. The referencing of training courses to the levels of the digital competence model on the platform fit4internet is available.

Training providers can assign their course offerings on digital competences to the competence areas and competence levels of DigComp 2.2 AT and thus enable users to search for course content according to their required competence areas and levels.

The TV series *Road to digital Austria* started its third season in the beginning of 2021.

## 2022 Implementation

With the establishment of a State Secretariat for Digitisation in the Ministry of Finance, the responsibility for digitisation agendas in 2022 and thus also the responsibility for DigComp AT moved from the Ministry of Digital and Economic Affairs to the Ministry of Finance.

Since the end of September 2022, a revised version of the digital competence framework has been available in the form of DigComp 2.3 AT, in which three additional competences have been integrated (conscious engagement with digitality, skills for legally compliant digital publication and sustainable use of resources in IT operations).

In addition, the DigComp-Cert certification system for digital competences which is part of the National Implementation Plan (NIP) was piloted and introduced in 2022. The DigComp-Cert certifies the assignment of the existing digital competences of a person according to the DigComp 2.2 AT model. The implementation takes place via an online platform, for which user must register. The assignment process to the competence levels 1-5 was piloted in 2022. DigComp-Cert consists of two parts, a knowledge check (Dig-Cert, requires an appointment at a test centre), and a proof of competence (second part), which can be chosen independently and in terms of form and scope (e.g. certificates, confirmation of participation, degree). After an examination of the

submitted proof of competence, a DigComp-Cert certificates are issued and can be shared digitally. Direct transfer to the Europass ist also planned.

Targed groups of the DigComp-Cert are:

- (a) people who want to develop their digital competences;
- (b) people who want to know what digital competences they possess;
- (c) people who want to make their digital competences visible;
- (d) HR managers who want to develop the digital competences of their employees.

Furthermore, the Digital Skills Barometer was conducted for the first time in 2022, a survey-based instrument that provides a representative picture of the digital knowledge of the Austrian population that goes beyond mere self-assessment. According to the results, the average digital fitness in Austria is 41.6%. According to the model, a fitness of at least 60 to 80% is required to be able to move in a self-determined, secure and competent manner in the digital world.

At the end of the year, the Council of Ministers also adopted the Digital Competence Initiative for Austria', an initiative of several ministries with the goal of ensuring that as many people as possible in Austria have basic digital skills by 2030.

### **2023 Implementation**

In 2023, the Digital Skills Office was established at the OeAD as the National Agency for Education and Internationalisation in the context of the 'Digital Skills Initiative for Austria' to operationally advance the goal of 'making everyone digitally fit'. This initiative is supported by the Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF), the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy (BMAW), the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) and the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport (BMKÖES). The OeAD acts as central office and provides operational support for the Digital Skills Initiative.

### **2024 Implementation**

In 2024, the Federal Chancellery of Austria has published an update of the National Reference Framework for Digital Competences in Austria (DigComp 2.3 AT). The National Reference Framework for Digital Competences is a framework model that describes individual digital competences in different areas and levels. As the future 'currency' for digital skills, it enables a clear understanding of digital skills, greater transparency and targeted training for all those involved.

The National Reference Framework can be used to support decision-makers in the development of measures as well as for the planning of education and training initiatives. By assigning education and training programmes and certificates to the reference framework, transparency, orientation and comparability are ensured both in the Austrian education landscape and in the European Union by following the European model. The 'DigComp 2.3 AT' thus provides citizens, companies and institutions with a valuable basis for the further development of digital skills that promote the future, participation and prosperity.

## **Bodies responsible**

- Federal Ministry of Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW) (until 2022)
- Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF)

## **Target group**

### **Learners**

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

Young people (15-29 years old)  
Adult learners  
Low-skilled/qualified persons

### **Education professionals**

Adult educators

### **Entities providing VET**

VET providers (all kinds)

## **Thematic categories**

### **Governance of VET and lifelong learning**

Coordinating VET and other policies

### **Modernising VET offer and delivery**

Acquiring key competences

### **Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications**

Using EU transparency tools (EQF, Europass, ESCO, ECTS, ECVET principles)

Learners' possibilities of accumulation, validation and recognition of learning outcomes acquired non-formally and informally

## **European priorities in VET**

### **VET Recommendation**

VET as an attractive choice based on modern and digitalised provision of training and skills

### **Osnabrück Declaration**

Establishing a new lifelong learning culture - relevance of continuing VET and digitalisation

## **Subsystem**

IVET CVET

## **Further reading**

[Report on the development of the Digital competence model for Austria - in English](#)

[Website of the initiative to increase digital competences in Austria; including competence check for digital everyday skills](#)

[fit4internet](#)

[Information on the Digital Competence Initiative for Austria \(only in German\)](#)

[Results of the Digital Skills Barometer 2022 \(only in German\)](#)

[Digital Knowledge Certificate \(Dig-CERT\) and DigComp-CERT: Questions and Answers](#)

## Related policy developments

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### 2024 Implementation

#### Upskilling in digital production in vocational training institutions

Qualification in the use of digital production tools should be introduced step by step via relevant BMHS curricula, UAS study programmes and other contemporary qualification methods and be designed in a practice-oriented manner.



##### Type of development

Practical  
measure/Initiative

##### Subsystem

IVET

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### 2024 Implementation

#### Digital skills initiative

In 2019 the Austrian Public Employment Service (AMS) organised a total of 10 company workshops within the framework of the New digital skills initiative, which is a new development of the AMS New skills project, which has been running since 2009.



##### Type of development

Practical  
measure/Initiative

##### Subsystem

IVET CVET

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### 2017 Completed

#### Revising qualifications for industry 4.0

In 2017, an expert group within the Association Industry 4.0 Austria started to reflect on how the qualifications and competences required for industry in the digital age could be developed in initial and continuing education and training.



##### Type of development

Practical

**Subsystem**

IVET CVET

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“ ... ” **Cite as**

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). Digital competence model for Austria (DigComp 2.2 AT): Austria. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2024 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/27995>