

Easing the recognition process of qualifications acquired in third countries

POLICY DEVELOPMENT**REGULATION/LEGISLATION** **AUSTRIA**

Timeline

2016 Approved/Agreed	2017 Implementation	2018 Implementation
2019 Implementation	2020 Implementation	2021 Implementation
2022 Implementation	2023 Implementation	2024 Implementation

ID number 27986

Background

Promoting the immigration of skilled workers from other countries has for years been regarded as a strategy to meet the growing demand for skilled workers in certain occupational fields.

At the same time, experience has shown that there are many people who have immigrated to the country in the past, and that there are still people immigrating, whose skills acquired in their countries of origin are not recognised in Austria for various reasons.

Objectives

The objective of the federal Act on the simplification of procedures to recognise and assess foreign educational and professional qualifications is to:

- (a) simplify the procedures for the recognition of foreign educational or professional qualifications obtained in a third country;
- (b) introduce procedural provisions for the assessment of foreign educational and professional qualifications;
- (c) achieve more transparency in recognition processes.

Description

The federal Act on the simplification of procedures to recognise and assess foreign educational and professional qualifications came into force in July 2016. It was introduced by the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, which was the main responsible body for integration issues until 2020 when the integration agenda was transferred to the Federal Chancellery. A federal recognition portal was established by the Integration Fund (ÖIF), along with information centres, to provide comprehensive and consistent information on the possibilities of recognition and procedures.

2016 Approved/Agreed

2017 Implementation

2018 Implementation

2019 Implementation

In 2019, the programme is operational and fully implemented throughout Austria. Minor adjustments are made on a continuous basis but have no impact on the policy as a whole.

2020 Implementation

According to the latest data available from Statistics Austria as of June 2020, around 10 400 applications for recognition or assessment of foreign educational and vocational qualifications were submitted in the reporting period from 1 October 2018 to 30 November 2019. During this period, 7 400 persons were granted final recognition of an educational or vocational qualification, of which almost 40% were in the field of health and social services.

In 2020, under the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, access to health and care professions was facilitated for persons with qualifications acquired abroad, provided that the qualification acquired abroad had been recognised or notified, even if any prescribed compensatory measures or supplementary training had not yet been completed.

The integration agenda was transferred from the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs to the Federal Chancellery.

2021 Implementation

According to the latest data available from Statistics Austria as of March 2022, in the reporting period 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021, 10 066 applications for recognition or assessment were submitted. The majority (77.9%) were submitted to offices in federal ministries. 6 617 applications were concluded positively and 752 negatively in this reporting period. The field of health and social work (37.1%) accounted for the largest share, followed by engineering, manufacturing and construction (17.3%) and business, administration and law (11.4%). More than half (51.7%) had an academic education recognised or assessed.

2022 Implementation

In 2022, a special focus was placed on the recognition of Ukrainian refugees. In particular, this involves the recognition of health and care qualifications acquired abroad in order to be able to employ these persons in these occupational fields.

However, concrete figures on this are not available as of February 2023.

2023 Implementation

Statistics Austria published data in 2023, stating that from the reporting period 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022, 7 149 applications for recognition or assessment were concluded positively. The field of health and social work (40.6%) accounted for the largest share, followed by engineering, manufacturing and construction (17.4%) and business, administration and law (11.0%). More than half (53.5%) had an academic education recognised or assessed.

2024 Implementation

In March 2024, Statistics Austria published data, stating that from the reporting period 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023, 13 302 applications for recognition or assessment were submitted. The majority (73.9%) were submitted to offices in federal ministries, 8 526 applications were concluded positively and 930 negatively in this

reporting period. The field of health and social work (39.1%) accounted for the largest share, followed by engineering, manufacturing and construction (15.4%) and business, administration and law (11.0%). More than half (55.0%) had an academic education recognised or assessed.

Bodies responsible

- Federal Chancellery of Austria
- Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs (until 2020)

Target group

Learners

Learners with migrant background, including refugees

Thematic categories

Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications

Comprehensive national qualification frameworks

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

European and international dimensions of VET

International qualifications

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[The federal Act on the simplification of procedures to recognise and assess foreign educational and professional qualifications \(in German and English\)](#)

[The federal recognition portal](#)

[Statistics of Recognition and assessment of foreign educational qualifications and professional qualifications by the Statistics Austria \(only in German\):](#)

Related policy developments

2024 Implementation

Qualification profile for validation experts

Since the validation strategy should encourage qualification providers to include validation elements in assessment procedures, the Ministry of Education took the initiative to draw up a qualification profile for validation experts.

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2024 Implementation**National strategy on validation of non-formal and informal learning**

Following a national consultation process, the national strategy for validating non-formal and informal learning was finalised and adopted in November 2017.

**Type of development**

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“...” Cite as

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