

ORGANISATION OF MIGRATION AND ASYLUM SYSTEM IN AUSTRIA

OVERVIEW

LAST UPDATED IN SEPTEMBER 2025



INTRODUCTION

This document provides an indicative overview of the organisation of the state migration and asylum system in **Austria**, including the organisation of the institutional and regulatory context and framework for dealing with third-country nationals coming for the purpose of legal immigration or for (international) protection. It is based on the information provided by Austria in **September 2025**.



OVERVIEW OF ORGANISATION OF LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

THE INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

The Federal Ministry of the Interior is the institution responsible for migration and asylum policy. The Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum is directly subordinate to the Federal Ministry of the Interior and is, *inter alia*, the first instance in asylum and aliens law procedures.

The Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs is responsible for external aspects of migration issues, for development cooperation and humanitarian aid, for processing and issuing visas, for receiving applications for residence permits abroad as well as the family reunification procedure. The provinces' settlement and residence authorities conduct the procedures and issue residence permits. The Federal Ministry of the Interior acts as the relevant higher authority in the field of settlement and residence.

In the Federal Chancellery, the Federal Minister for Integration coordinates the general integration policy and implements the Integration Act. The Austrian Integration Fund, as a fund of the Republic of Austria, is an important

partner in the implementation of integration measures (e.g. German, values and orientation courses).

The Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection is responsible, among other things, for matters including labour market policy and thus for employment policies applying to foreign nationals. The Public Employment Service has the task of enforcing the Act Governing the Employment of Foreign Nationals. Various bodies are responsible for the recognition of qualifications acquired abroad, including the Federal Ministry for Women, Science and Research for higher education qualifications, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs, Energy and Tourism for vocational training qualifications, the Federal Ministry of Education for school qualifications and the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection for health care professions.

THE LEGAL SYSTEM

The central pieces of legislation governing migration and asylum are: the Asylum Act 2005, the Aliens Police Act 2005, the Settlement and Residence Act, the Citizenship Act 1985, the Act Governing the Employment of Foreign Nationals, the Recognition and Assessment Act, the Integration Act and the acts on basic care at federal and provincial levels. Provisions of law applying to the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings are contained in the Criminal Code. Furthermore, the migration and asylum system is influenced by regulations and directives at EU level.

An appeal against a decision of an administrative authority may be lodged with an independent administrative court. Under certain conditions, a further appeal against the decision of an administrative court may be lodged with the Supreme Administrative Court or the Constitutional Court.



INSTITUTIONAL CHART

Refer to annex.

Austria

Institutional chart of the asylum and migration system*

