

INTEGRATION DECLARATION

Last name
First name
Date of birth
Nationality

Preamble

The Republic of Austria provides integration measures for the rapid integration of persons entitled to asylum or subsidiary protection and third-country nationals. Successful integration requires the participation and active cooperation of persons entitled to asylum or subsidiary protection and third-country nationals in the measures offered. The fundamental values of Austria, a European, democratic country, must be acknowledged, respected and adhered to as a prerequisite for successful integration.

Fundamental values of coexistence in Austria

Social coexistence is based primarily on the following fundamental values of the legal and social system which are directed toward all people in Austria and explained in depth in the Values and Orientation Course (*Werte- und Orientierungskurs*) provided by the Austrian Integration Fund (ÖIF):

- Austria is a liberal state committed to human dignity, freedom and equality. In Austria, individual freedom and self-determination are exercised within the framework of the law. The equal status of men and women in Austria is enshrined in law and applies to all areas of life.
- Austria is a state governed by the rule of law whose administration and courts operate solely on the basis of the law. The police therefore also act exclusively in accordance with the law, and all people in Austria are required to abide by the law. The state protects religious freedom on condition that religion is practiced within the framework of the law. Religious rules are always secondary to the law in Austria. The state does not act according to the rules or texts of a religion, but only on the basis of laws.
- Austria is a democracy whose laws come from the people. The people's representatives, who are chosen in free elections, debate and pass these laws. Education is a vital prerequisite for being able to participate in political discussions with a sense of self-determination. Young girls and boys are required to attend kindergarten and school.
- Austria is a republic founded on the principle of social solidarity. It is based on the effort and commitment of every single person and works toward the common good. In the context of a caring society, every person in Austria must earn their own living whenever possible or make their contribution to rapidly achieving a state of self-reliance. The abuse of the state benefits system is severely dealt with.
- Austria is a federal state composed of nine provincial states. Its constitution and the derived values of the legal and social system form the framework for cultural diversity in Austria.
- Austria is a state whose powers are distributed among various bodies and institutions that exercise mutual control over each other. It is therefore impossible in Austria for all state power to be held by a single person.

Violations of these fundamental values may result in sanctions under the law. These range from fines and terms of imprisonment to the withdrawal of the right of residence.

Integration measures

The goal of all integration measures for persons entitled to asylum or subsidiary protection and third-country nationals is to rapidly develop self-reliance and actively participate in Austria's social, economic and cultural life. The Republic of Austria provides integration measures for all persons who are bound by the relevant obligations under federal law. The completion of these measures is of fundamental importance to the integration process.

Pursuant to Section 6 of the Federal Integration Act (*Integrationsgesetz*), Federal Law Gazette I No. 68/2017 in its current version, persons entitled to asylum or subsidiary protection are obliged to adhere to the fundamental values of the legal and social system within the framework of an Integration Declaration (*Integrationserklärung*). They are obliged to fully participate and cooperate in, and complete, the following reasonable integration measures:

- German language courses pursuant to Section 4 of the Federal Integration Act;
- Values and Orientation Courses pursuant to Section 5 of the Federal Integration Act.

Persons entitled to asylum or subsidiary protection and third-country nationals who claim social benefits to support their general subsistence and meet their need for housing (Section 2 (1) of the Social Assistance (Principles) Act (*Sozialhilfegrundsatzgesetz*)), must commit to adhering to the fundamental values of the legal and social system within the framework of an Integration Declaration and, while drawing social benefits, which are linked to a willingness to work, are required to

- complete a B1 integration test (*Integrationsprüfung*) set by the Austrian Integration Fund (ÖIF);
- fully participate in, duly cooperate with and complete a Values and Orientation Course pursuant to Sections 5 and 16a of the Federal Integration Act.

Violations of these obligations are subject to sanctions and may result in a reduction of state benefits.

I hereby declare that I fully acknowledge and will uphold the fundamental values of coexistence in Austria and that I have noted and understood the content of the Integration Declaration in its entirety. I will fulfill the integration obligations contained herein for my personal well-being and the well-being of society as a whole and will cooperate independently in my integration process.

Name in block capitals and signature

Place, date

Stamp

Legal notice:
Refusal to sign this Integration Declaration will result in sanctions pursuant to Section 16c (1) of the Federal Integration Act in conjunction with Section 9 (3) of the Social Assistance (Principles) Act. Changes to the drawing of state benefits may result in changes to obligations under integration law.

