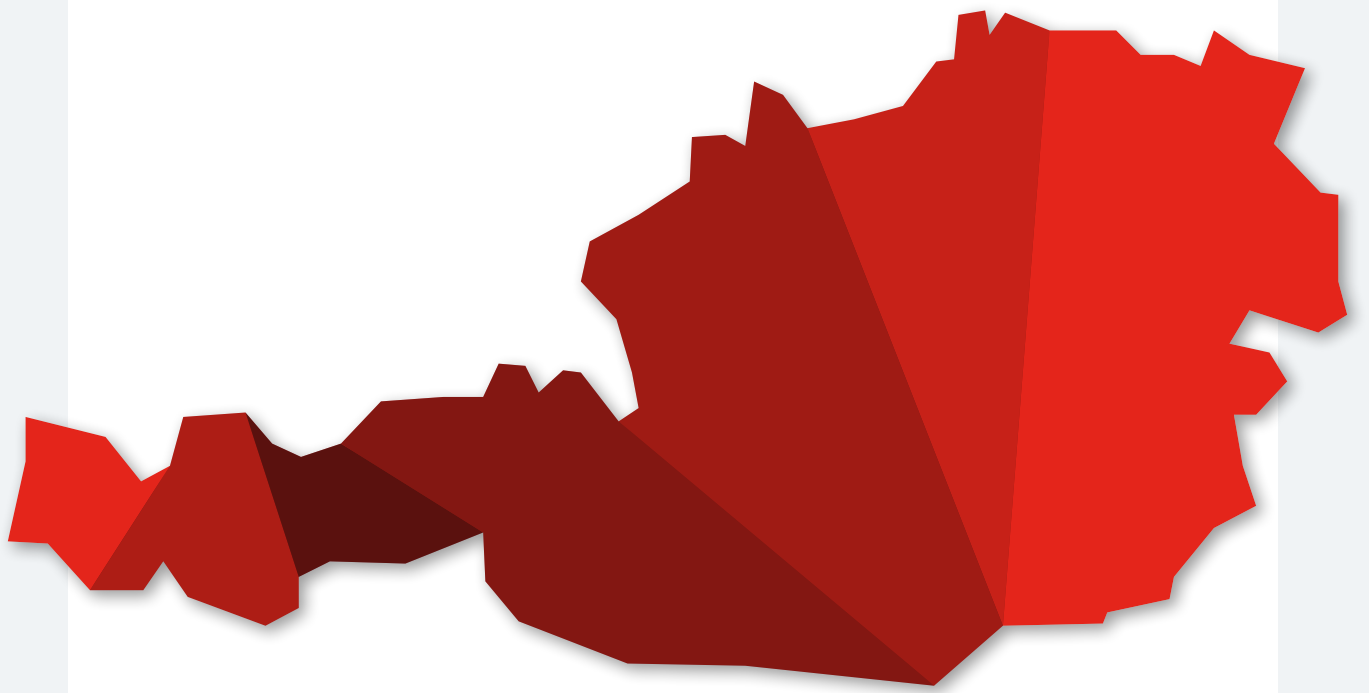
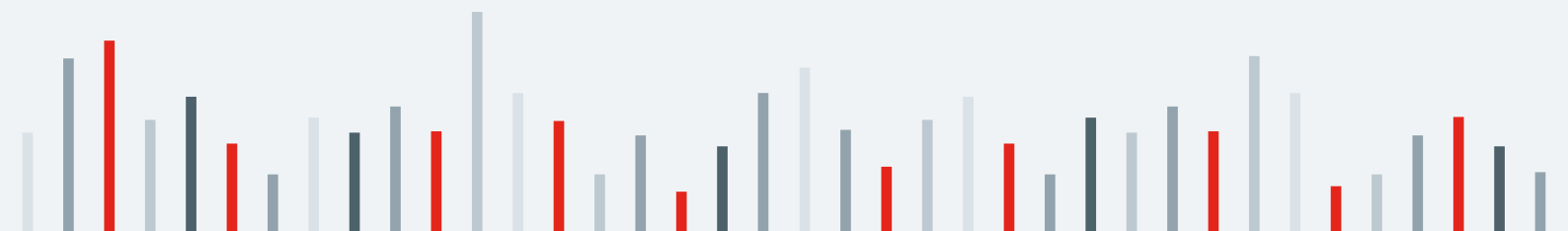


Expert Council for Integration

INTEGRATION REPORT



2023



CONTENTS

FOREWORD

Federal Minister for Women, Family, Integration and Media	2
Chairwoman of the Expert Council for Integration	4

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS	5
----------------------------	---

INTEGRATION IN NUMBERS	8
------------------------------	---

Immigration and population structure	9
--	---

Education and language	19
------------------------------	----

Work and social aspects	26
-------------------------------	----

Focus Chapter

YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE CONTEXT OF INTEGRATION	36
---	----

Young people with a migrant background as a target group for integration	37
---	----

Young people and education	40
----------------------------------	----

Integrating young people into the labour market	47
---	----

Young people and youth groups in the context of socio-emotional integration	50
--	----

Identity, values and gender roles	53
---	----

Young people with a migrant background and crime	55
--	----

CONCLUSIONS	57
-------------------	----

APPENDIX	62
----------------	----

From the National Action Plan to the Integration Report 2023	63
--	----

The members of the Expert Council for Integration	65
---	----

The Expert Council's concept of integration	69
---	----

List of abbreviations	70
-----------------------------	----

Glossary	71
----------------	----

Bibliography	75
--------------------	----

Data tables	77
-------------------	----

FOREWORD

by the Federal Minister for Women, Family,
Integration and Media



If immigrants are to be integrated successfully into Austrian society, they have to be provided with services but also – and in particular – they need to be willing to make an active contribution to life in this country. Immigrants must learn German, accept and uphold our country’s fundamental values and become able to support themselves quickly. In the spirit of a caring society, the state supports them in their efforts – but also places certain demands on them.

Austria has laid some firm foundations over the past few years for moving forward the integration of immigrants as best possible. The steps that have been taken and the strong network of structures that have been set up make it easier for them to start living independently – and, indeed, many immigrants make use of these services and work hard to become integrated. Nevertheless, we are still facing immense challenges when it comes to immigration, because its success also hinges to a large extent on how many people are to be integrated. 2022 saw another sharp rise in asylum applications to over 112,000, beating the previous record of around 88,000 from 2015. And the latest figures show that the refugees from 2015/16 are still a long way from becoming fully integrated. There are currently some 70,000 Ukrainians living in our country, having been forced out of their homeland because of the Russian war of aggression. The rigorous action taken to combat irregular migration means that asylum application numbers in Austria are currently falling, a positive trend from an integration perspective.

Those with a firm prospect of remaining in Austria will need to become able to support themselves quickly if they are to be successfully integrated in the country, so supporting the labour market integration of persons entitled to asylum or subsidiary protection and of displaced persons from Ukraine is a priority for integration work. There are currently a great many vacancies and opportunities on the Austrian labour market for both qualified professionals and those just starting out in their careers. Although many immigrants are able to integrate very smoothly into the labour market, the latest figures suggest that refugees and displaced persons from Ukraine still have a significant amount of catching-up to do. One major challenge in this regard is the steadily declining level of education that those entitled to asylum or subsidiary protection possess. Around 70% of those who were granted protection status in 2022 and who attended an Austrian Integration Fund course for the first time had alphabetisation needs.

These new circumstances require a paradigm shift in integration whereby immigrants have to acquire language skills rapidly and at the same time as seeking employment. In the workplace, they will then be able to use and consolidate what they have learnt on their German course. In other words, learning the language and entering the labour market have to go hand in hand rather than being viewed as separated. Integration work is thus focusing particularly on expanding the opportunities available for people to learn German and subject-specific language alongside their day job on evening and online courses. These flexible options are especially important for enabling women, above all those with childcare responsibilities, to participate in the courses. Since last year, over 30,000 places on German courses have been taken up by displaced persons from Ukraine alone. Job-specific online cours

es, e.g. for the food retail and hospitality sectors, are also put on. In addition, careers platforms that connect refugees and displaced persons from Ukraine directly with companies seeking staff have been set up to support labour market integration.

One further challenge posed by the increasing influx of people, particularly to major urban areas, is the emergence of segregated communities, a trend that is exacerbating social tensions. Segregation has a negative impact not only on society as a whole but also on the immigrants themselves if, for example, it hinders social dialogue and opportunities to participate in society. A report entitled "Gesellschaftlicher Zusammenhalt und Segregation - Eine Bestandsaufnahme zu Integration und Desintegration in Österreich" ("Social cohesion and segregation - taking stock of integration and disintegration in Austria") was unveiled on 27 April 2023 in response to this key issue. The publication marks both the implementation of a key step in the government's programme and the start of a process for combating the growth of parallel societies in Austria. It provides a comprehensive academic basis for tackling this highly pertinent issue over the long term. One of the first measures taken was to set preventing extremism and segregation as a new funding priority for integration support. Local authorities and the federal government must work together here. My ministry has therefore been in contact with towns, cities and municipalities facing particular integration challenges so that we can work on solutions together. Since segregation happens at local level, generally in urban areas, it is the towns, cities and municipalities that are chiefly responsible for combating these developments.

This year's Integration Report also places particular focus on young people with a migrant background because, in many ways, it is during this key phase in a person's life that the course is set for their future professional life. Here there is a need to take action early on, especially in the areas of education and training, and the German support classes that have already been set up are one particularly pertinent example. I would like to thank the Expert Council for all its hard work and dedication in tackling this crucial issue and exploring it in more detail as this year's focus topic.

My special thanks go to the Chairperson, Univ.-Prof. Dr. Katharina Pabel. By addressing integration-related themes from an academic perspective, the Integration Report furnishes some customarily thorough insights into the data, facts and figures of integration as a cross-cutting issue and thus lays the foundations for an evidence-based integration policy. I look forward to our continued fruitful collaboration and wish all readers an interesting and insightful reading.



MMag. Dr. Susanne Raab
Federal Minister for Women, Family, Integration and Media

Vienna, 2023

FOREWORD

by the Chairwoman of the Expert Council
for Integration



2022 saw more people come to Austria than at any time since the end of the Second World War. The particularly high number of immigrants was due mainly to the reception of Ukrainians seeking protection in Austria from the Russian war of aggression. However, the volume of immigrants from other EU member states, elsewhere in Europe (especially the Western Balkans) and third countries outside Europe also rose. Asylum applications were likewise up year on year in 2022. These high figures show that integration will remain a highly topical issue in the years to come. When deciding on integration policy, however, a distinction has to be made between the integration needs of various groups of new immigrants and those with a migrant background who are already living in Austria. This allows highly targeted measures to be taken, tailored to people's actual requirements.

In accordance with its mandate under the law, the Expert Council for Integration publishes this Integration Report to present the figures on immigrants collected in the course of the integration monitoring, explains them and places them in context. On this basis, the report analyses the integration-related trends and developments of 2022 and draws conclusions from them. This year's Integration Report also includes a focus on "young people in an integration context" and uses data, facts and figures to examine areas that are key to young people's integration: education and language-learning, the labour market, and social and identificational integration.

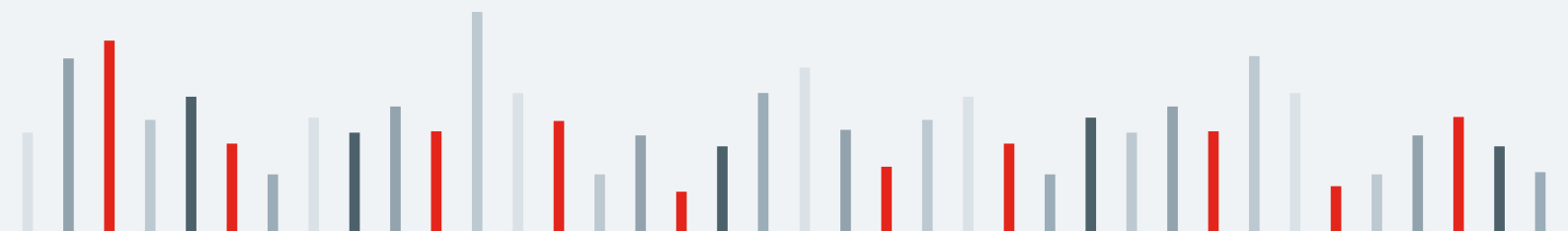
The Integration Report is prepared annually by the members of the Expert Council. As Chairperson of the Expert Council for Integration, I would like to thank all my colleagues for their committed and constructive contributions to this report. I am also grateful to the Advisory Committee on Integration for providing the integration monitoring data so reliably. This Integration Report would not have been possible without the organisational support of the members of the Directorate General for Integration of the Federal Chancellery. They, too, have my sincerest gratitude.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katharina Pabel." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Katharina Pabel
Chairwoman of the Expert Council for Integration

Vienna, 2023

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS



CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

Immigration to Austria was higher in the 2022 reporting period than at any other time since 1946. As the figures in this Integration Report show, this holds true for all forms of immigration: from other EU member states, from elsewhere in Europe (especially the Western Balkans) and from other third countries. Asylum applications also rose in 2022. Since the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine in February 2022, Austria has also taken in Ukrainians seeking sanctuary. The EU's Temporary Protection Directive affords them the status of displaced persons, which guarantees them the right of residence and full access to the labour market.

Following a fall in the number of displaced persons from Ukraine arriving in Austria from summer 2022 onwards, they are now being given counselling and, if necessary, training via the regular structures, which have been expanded and adapted accordingly. Although many of them possess training and qualifications that are in demand on the Austrian labour market, only relatively few Ukrainians have taken up employment so far. There could be several reasons for this, including inadequate German skills and a lack of available childcare as well as the hope of returning soon to Ukraine. However, experience of previous refugee movements indicates that the longer someone spends in their reception country, the less likely they are to go back to their country of origin. It has therefore always made sense from an integration perspective to help displaced Ukrainians to integrate in Austria as quickly as possible without restricting the opportunities of individual people to return home.¹

Another trend to which Austria's integration structures are responding is the lower level of education possessed by refugees to Austria in recent years, particularly those from the conflict regions of Afghanistan and Syria. Those persons entitled to asylum or subsidiary protection have greater alphabetisation needs than their predecessors, and this affects their integration process.

These developments show that the integration of immigrants, whether they have arrived through the regular channels, been displaced from their homeland or are entitled to asylum or subsidiary protection, will remain a task facing Austrian politics and society. In line with the concept adopted by the Expert Council, "integration" means participation, with as equal opportunities as possible, in the central areas of social life, such as the various stages of education, vocational training, employment and housing, to name but a few. Achieving and guaranteeing this requires measures to be in place to support integration just as much as it does efforts on the immigrants' part to become integrated.

The developments also make it clear that immigration can take some very different forms. Different groups of immigrants have different immigration requirements depending on why they have come, where they have come from, their age and their level of education, training and qualifications but also on their own individual experiences up to that point. At the same time, the society that the immigrants encounter on their arrival has become more diverse – not least due to earlier immigration movements. There is therefore all the more need to stress repeatedly that integration is a two-way process that requires both parts of the immigration society to put in an effort to make it work. As the concept of integration that underpins the Expert Council's work suggests, both sides – the people already here and those who

¹ See the Expert Council for Integration (2022), *Integration Report 2022*, pp. 68 ff.

have just arrived – need to develop plurality skills besides receiving and integrating skills. “Plurality skills” here means the ability to accept and deal with the diversity of lifestyles and cultures in a society based on the knowledge that a society also needs basic principles and underlying conditions that are accepted by all in order for it to function.

A functioning society with a strong immigration element must focus above all on its young people as it is they who will form and support that society in the future and take it forward. For them, equal opportunity in the various areas of society is both a promise for the future and an essential prerequisite to them being able to shape their own personal future and society’s as well. This is why the focus chapter in this year’s Integration Report looks at young people in an integration context and specifically at education, the labour market and the socio-emotional integration of young people with a migrant background in Austria. The latest data is used to explore various issues and draw conclusions that will inform future integration policy. The Expert Council has studied the topic of “young people in an integration context” in great detail over the past year, examining and discussing various aspects of it with external experts at its meetings. The work done by the Expert Council also focused on labour market integration, particularly for women and low-skilled workers.

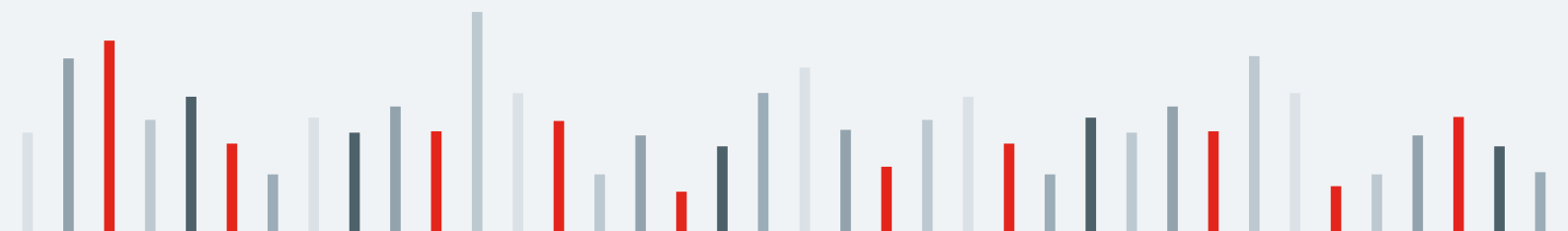
Before the focus chapter on the integration of young people, the following chapter opens with an overview of the latest available data on the integration situation in terms of demographics, education and the labour market. In line with its statutory mandate, the Expert Council has primarily covered and provided context for the data that is reported every year as part of the integration monitoring enshrined in law. The data presented here is supplemented by Statistics Austria’s “Migration & Integration” statistical yearbook, which is also published annually and which contains additional key figures vital for integration work.

INTEGRATION IN NUMBERS

Immigration and population structure

Education and language

Work and social aspects



IMMIGRATION AND POPULATION STRUCTURE

Austria's population is growing fast. The nine-million threshold was passed for the first time ever in 2022, with over 9.1 million people living in the country at the start of 2023. This population growth is due solely to immigration. It exerts its influence in two ways: (a) directly, because 2022, like the years before, saw much more immigration than emigration; and (b) indirectly, because young immigrants already in Austria had children and thus contributed to an increase in the birth rate. This made net migration positive while also reducing the birth deficit. Over the medium to long term, however, the inflow of people will also push up the death rate.

Immigration to Austria in 2022 – a comparison

Two recent years have been “outliers”. 2020, the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic, saw a sharp fall in international immigration, with the immigration trend then returning to “normal”, i.e. pre-Covid-19 levels, in 2021. In 2022, by contrast, immigration to Austria jumped by 60% due primarily to the number of displaced Ukrainians taken in.

A comparison of immigration figures since 1946 reveals that 2022 had the highest level of immigration, with a total of 261,937 people taking up or resuming residence in Austria in that year. This was 107,735 more people than in the previous year (2021: 154,202). Most of the immigrants were foreign nationals (2022: 246,265; 2021: 139,543). With 124,958 people emigrating over the same period, total net migration amounted to +136,979 people in 2022 (2021: +52,488). As in the past few years, net migration was positive in the case of foreign nationals (+143,236) but negative for Austrian citizens (-6,257).

In previous years, it was consistently the case that more male than female immigrants came to Austria (2021: 89,914 men; 64,288 women; 25,626 more men than women). By contrast, there was hardly any difference between the genders in 2022 (131,618 men; 130,319 women; 1,299 more men than women). There were more men than women in 2022 amongst immigrants from other EU/EU/EFTA states (55,470 men; 45,222 women; 10,248 more men than women), amongst asylum seekers and subsequently immigrating persons from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria (14,293 men; 4,684 women; 9,609 more men than women), and amongst nationals of other third countries (excluding Ukraine; 26,835 men; 21,322 women; 5,513 more men than women). Similarly, there were more men than women amongst Austrian citizens who moved or returned to the country in 2022 (9,115 men; 6,557 women; 2,558 more men than women). By contrast, women were clearly in the majority amongst the Ukrainian citizens who came to Austria for the first time in 2022 (25,905 men; 52,534 women; 26,629 more women than men).

Citizens of other EU/EFTA states make up the largest group of immigrants to Austria. They do not require a residence permit. This influx amounted to 100,692 people in 2022 (2021: 85,613, +15,079; Fig. 1). Most of those migrating from other EU/EFTA states take up employment or embark on a course of studies in Austria. As in the past few years, most of these people came to Austria from western EU states (2022: 38,300; especially Germany: 21,742) and from south-eastern EU member states (2022: 36,450; especially Bulgaria: 5,551 and Romania: 21,705; Fig. 1).

IMMIGRATION FROM ABROAD

2019 – 2022 by nationality and sex

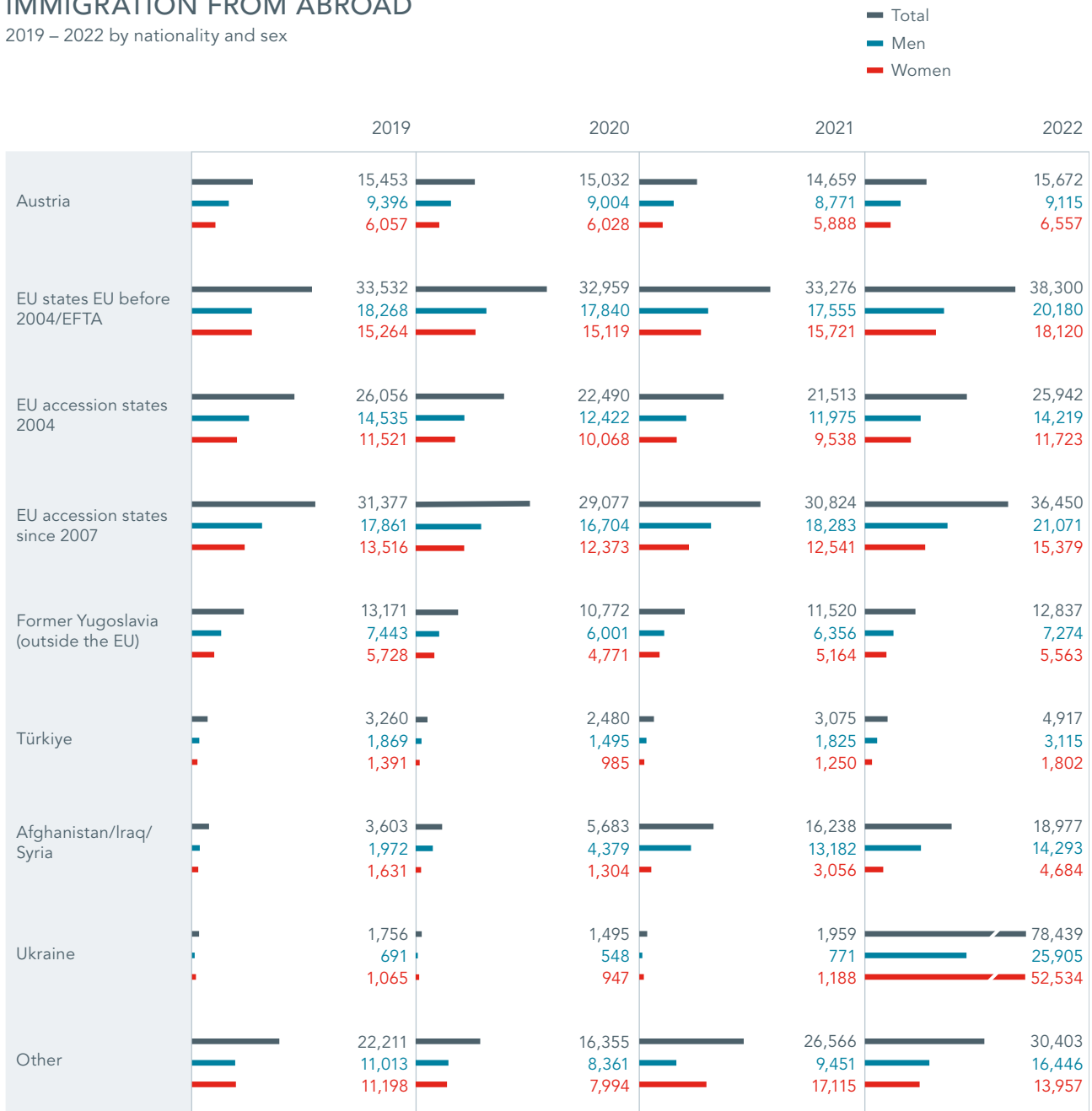


Fig. 1; Source: Statistics Austria (2023), Migration statistics; own presentation

An analysis of register data has shown that people who have immigrated from other EU states in recent years have generally entered gainful employment quickly. However, immigrants from other EU states spent only a relatively short time in Austria on average. Only 40% of the over-14-year olds that came to the country in 2015 and 2016 were still here in 2021. Even amongst those who arrived in Austria in 2019, only 50% were still resident here in 2021 (Fig. 2).

PROPORTION OF FOREIGN NATIONALS WHO HAVE IMMIGRATED SINCE 2015 AND WERE STILL LIVING IN AUSTRIA AS OF 2021

Persons over 14 by origin and year of immigration

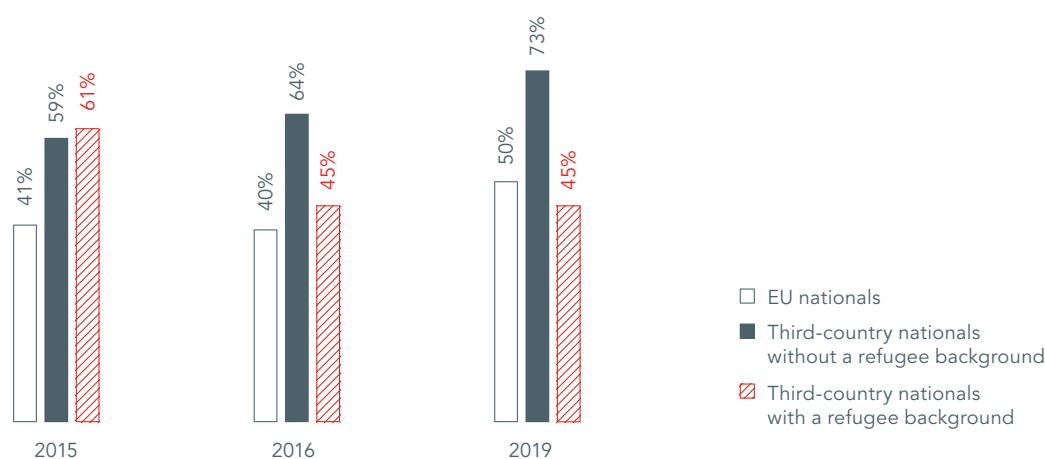


Fig. 2; Source: Endel, Florian; Kernbeiß, Günter; Münz, Rainer (2022), *Erwerbsverläufe von Migrant/innen III. Personen mit Fluchthintergrund, aus Drittstaaten und der Europäischen Union im Vergleich. Analyse der Zuwanderungsjahrgänge 2000, 2015 und 2016 und 2019*; own presentation

The second-largest number of immigrants to Austria in 2022 came from non-EU countries in Eastern Europe, chief amongst them Ukraine, whose citizens were given temporary residence rights EU-wide in March 2022. Austria took in 78,439 of them (2021: 1,959; Fig. 1) – mainly women, children and young people. Although displaced persons aged 15 or over have unrestricted access to the labour market, only a few of them entered employment in Austria. Data from the labour market administration and on basic welfare support (Fig. 5) shows that most of the Ukrainian nationals taken in during 2022 (aged 15 or over) have so far not taken a job in Austria.

It is not yet known how many of the Ukrainians given temporary protection in Austria in 2022/2023 will stay in the country for either a lengthy period of time or permanently. What is clear, though, is that the vast majority of 2022's arrivals were still in the country in early 2023.² The longer someone has stayed in their new country, the less likely they are to return to their homeland. In spring 2023, only 13% of the displaced women who were surveyed said that they had an actual plan for their return (as against 30% in May 2022). 20% want to go back to Ukraine one day. Over half of the women surveyed are unsure whether they do ever want to return to Ukraine. 15% no longer wish to go back.³

In third place are nationals of third countries elsewhere in Europe (primarily countries of the former Yugoslavia outside the EU – 2022: 12,837; 2021: 11,520 – plus a very small number from Türkiye) who came to Austria through the regular channels

² On 11 January 2023, there were 68,124 displaced persons from Ukraine registered as living in Austria.

³ Dörfler-Bolt, Sonja and Kaindl, Markus (2023), *Ukraine-Vertriebene in Österreich ein Jahr nach Kriegsbeginn*, pp. 25–26.

as well as others who did so from other parts of the world. A total of 41,200 people immigrated from third countries via the regular channels in 2022.⁴

No complete information is available on people's reasons for immigrating to Austria. However, there are a number of indications in respect of immigrants from third countries, because they are issued with different individual residence permits depending on how, why and for how long they are coming to the country (Fig. 3).

A total of 55,258 immigrants from third countries⁵ were granted their first-ever residence permit in 2022 (2021: 47,892). The most common reason for this was humanitarian grounds (asylum, subsidiary protection) (2022: 27,709 people). However, some of these people had arrived in the country back in 2021 or earlier. Residence permits were also issued to a fairly large number of people who gained the right to settle due to marriage or family reunification (2022: 17,369; 2021: 14,457). Next by some margin were third-country nationals granted their first residence permit in order to enter gainful employment (2022: 5,437; 2021: 3,935) or embark on a course of studies (2022: 4,743). This means that, in the past few years, only very few people from third countries received their residence permit on account of their specific qualifications and professional experience. Labour-related migration thus does not play a significant role for people from third countries (i.e. outside the EU/EFTA) who are migrating to Austria. Integration into the labour market is therefore a slower process and – particularly in the case of women – happens less often.

FIRST-TIME RIGHT OF RESIDENCE

2012 – 2022 by reason for immigration

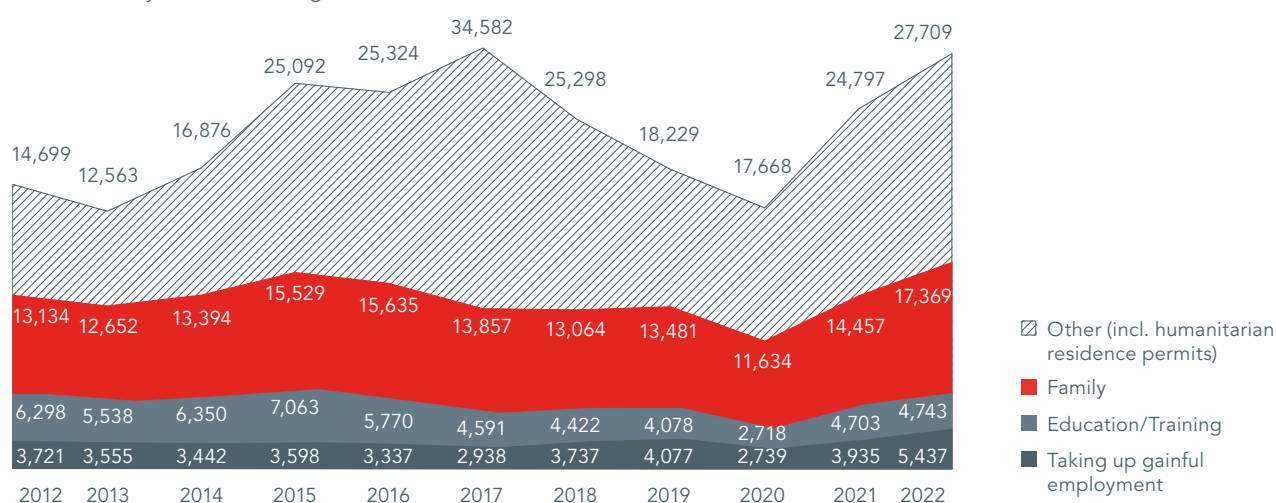


Fig. 3; Source: Eurostat (2023), First residence permits issued, by reason; own presentation

For a few years now, immigrants from third countries who went through the regular channels – i.e. did not come as asylum seekers – have been more likely to stay in Austria for a lengthy period of time or even permanently. Only 59% and 64% of the over-15-year olds that came to the country in 2015 and 2016, respectively, were still living here in 2021. Amongst those who arrived in 2019, this figure was as high as 73% in 2021 (Fig. 2).

⁴ Influx from third countries in 2022 excluding the influx of Ukrainian nationals and from the refugee countries of origin Afghanistan, Syria, the Russian Federation, Iran, Iraq or Somalia; Statistics Austria (2023), migration statistics.

⁵ Excluding Ukrainian nationals.

Asylum seekers, recognised refugees, persons entitled to protection

Following a peak in 2015/16 and a sharp fall in subsequent years, the number of asylum applications lodged in Austria has climbed back up sharply in the past two years (2022: 112,272; 2021: 39,930). However, the number of asylum applications does not paint a full picture of actual immigration. Of those who applied in 2015, 61% were still in the country in 2021, while the equivalent figure amongst the applicants from 2016 was a mere 45%. Of the people who submitted an asylum application in 2019, the majority (55%) had already moved on elsewhere by 2021, i.e. two years later (Fig. 2). Just over 112,000 people applied for asylum in Austria in 2022. Comparing these application figures with the much lower number of asylum seekers on basic welfare support reveals that around three quarters of those who applied for asylum in 2022 are likely to have moved on elsewhere later on that year. The net influx of Syrians, Afghans and Iraqis into Austria in 2022 amounted to 18,977 people, not many more than in 2021 (16,238).

Of greater relevance from an integration policy perspective than the number of asylum applications is how many people are granted refugee status, subsidiary or temporary protection, or the right of residence on humanitarian grounds and who stay in Austria for more than twelve months. Indications can be found in both employment statistics and data on recipients of financial benefits as part of the basic welfare support provided by the federal government. There were 30,221 people in this category at the start of 2022, a number that had risen to 92,929 one year later. This increase of 62,708 persons came primarily in the first half of 2022 and was caused mainly by the arrival of Ukrainian nationals, most of whom (aged 15 or over) were unable to take up gainful employment in Austria (e.g. because of a lack of childcare) or were unwilling to do so (e.g. because they had a firm intention to return or were continuing to work for their current employer remotely).

PERSONS RECEIVING BASIC WELFARE SUPPORT

2016 – 2023, on 1 Jan. of each year

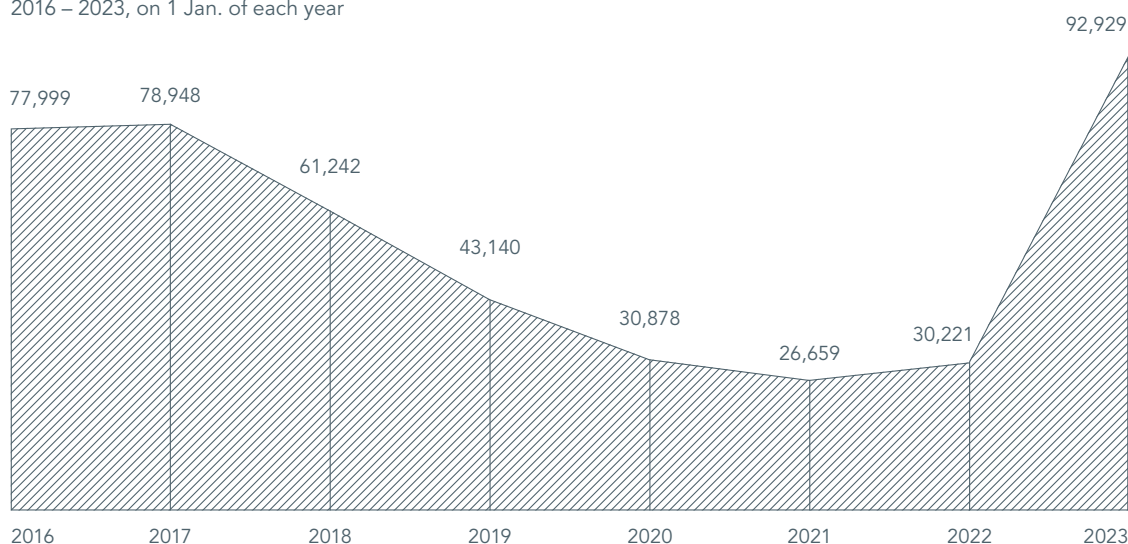
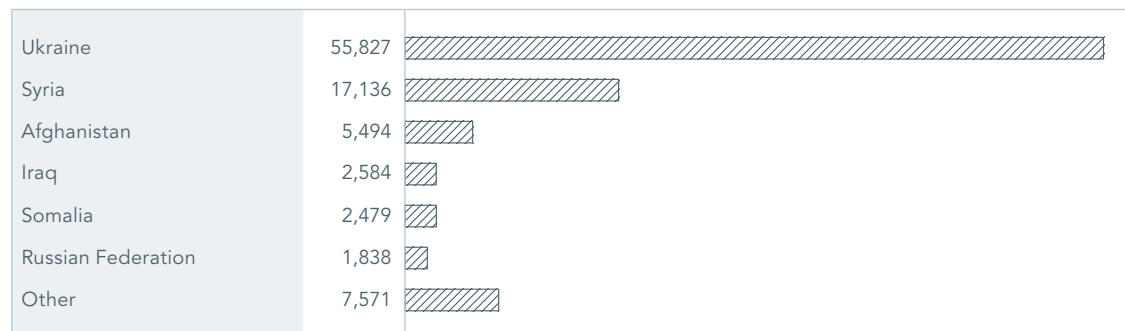


Fig. 4; Source: BMI (2023), Asylstatistik 2022; own presentation

There were 55,827 Ukrainian citizens receiving tangible basic welfare support at the end of 2022. By contrast, there were far fewer recipients from traditional (Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria: 25,218) and other countries of origin of refugees (Iran, Russian Federation, Somalia and others: 11,888). Overall, Ukrainian nationals accounted for some 60% of all recipients of basic welfare support at the end of 2022. In addition, nearly a quarter (23%) of them were asylum seekers whose cases were still being heard (21,572 people). The remaining 17% were recognised refugees, persons entitled to subsidiary protection and other entitled claimants (15,558) who were still receiving basic welfare support temporarily.

PERSONS RECEIVING BASIC WELFARE SUPPORT

31 Dec. 2022 by most common nationalities*



* including 21,552 asylum seekers.

Fig. 5; Source: BMI (2023), Asylstatistik 2022; own presentation

In summary:

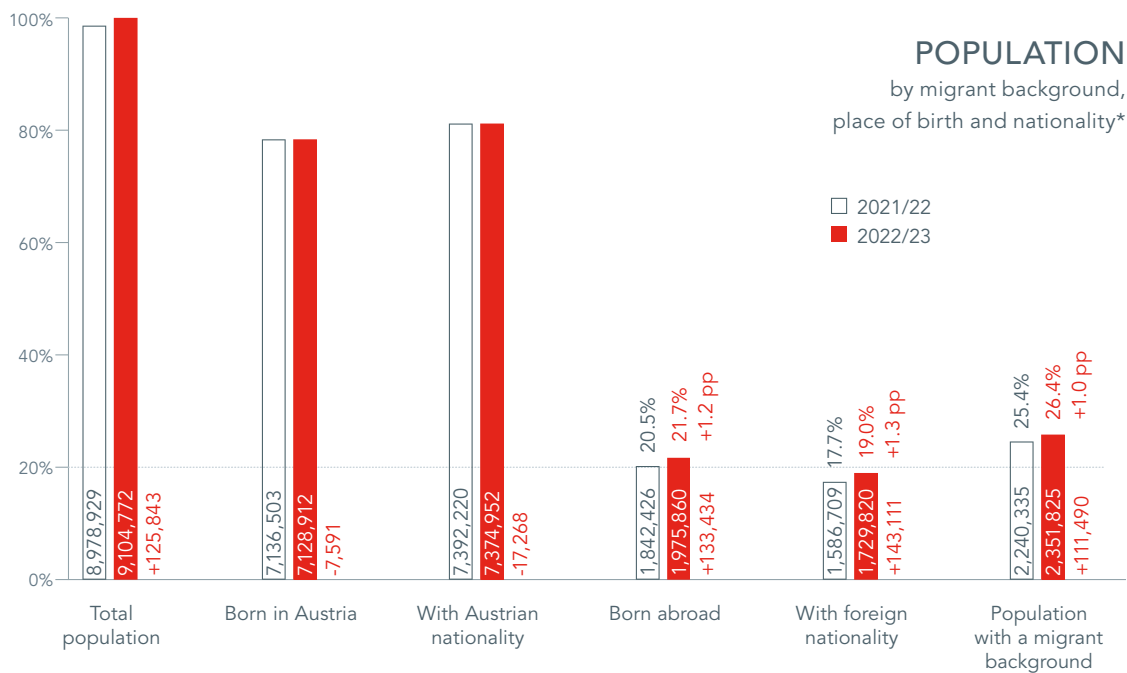
- People who come to Austria from other EU states soon enter gainful employment or embark on a course of studies. However, these immigrants spend only a relatively short time in the country on average.
- Family reunification, marriage migration and residence permits granted on humanitarian grounds are key issues for immigrants from non-EU countries. In the past few years, only very few people from third countries received their residence permit on account of their specific qualifications and professional experience.
- However, immigrants from third countries who went through the regular channels - i.e. did not come as asylum seekers - are more likely to stay in Austria for a lengthy period of time or even permanently.
- By contrast, the length of time that asylum seekers spend in the country has fallen sharply in recent years, with the vast majority moving on relatively soon.
- It is not yet known how many of the Ukrainians given temporary protection in Austria in 2022 will stay in the country for either a lengthy period of time or permanently. What is clear, however, is that the vast majority of those taken in during 2022 were still in the country in early 2023.
- The structure of immigration from third countries that has predominated in the past few years is inefficient from the point of view of labour market policy. The percentage of those who take up employment in Austria quickly is well under 50% on average.

- Following the simplifications introduced in 2022 in connection with the Red-White-Red Card, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of new ones issued. No fewer than 3,795 Red-White-Red Cards were issued between the start of 2023 and the end of June, 47% more than in the same period of 2022. How much more attractive this will make Austria as a destination country for qualified professionals in the long term remains to be seen.
- The considerable amount of immigration that is not primarily aligned with the needs of the Austrian labour market and is sometimes not even geared towards quickly taking up gainful employment poses an additional challenge from an integration policy perspective.

Impact of immigration on Austria's population

Austria's population grew by 125,843 to 9.1 million people in 2022. Given that deaths outstripped births once again, as they had in 2020 and 2021, this rise can only be explained by positive net migration (2022: +143,236). This brought about a disproportionately large increase in the number of people who were born abroad (1 January 2023: 1,975,860; +133,434 compared to 1 January 2022), the number of people with foreign citizenship (1 January 2023: 1,729,820; +143,111 compared to 1 January 2022), and the number of people with a migrant background (2022: 2,351,825; +111,490 compared to 2021).

At the same time, the number of people born in Austria fell (2022: -7,591), as did - to a somewhat greater degree, in fact - the number of people with Austrian citizenship (2022: -17,268; Fig. 6). This latter trend is due to the fact that more Austrian nationals died than were born (domestic birth deficit in 2022: -22,568) and more Austrians left the country than returned to it from abroad (domestic net migration: -6,257). The number of naturalisations in Austria, which has been stuck at a low level for many years, was unable to fully offset this trend.



* Figures for migrant background in the annual average of the respective earlier year, figures for nationality and country of birth in each case on 1 Jan. of the later year

Fig. 6; Source: Statistics Austria (2023), Population structure / Microcensus Labour Force Survey; own presentation

Over the past ten years, Austria's foreign-born population has grown from 1,364,771 (1 January 2013) to 1,975,860 (1 January 2023; Fig. 7, Fig. 8), an increase of 611,089 persons. The percentage of the total population who were born abroad has increased by 16.1% (1 January 2013) to 21.7% (1 January 2023) over the same period. Germany (2023: 258,550) continues to account for the highest percentage of Austrian residents born abroad, followed by Bosnia and Herzegovina (176,736), Türkiye (161,122), Romania (145,033) and Serbia (144,276). The largest increases from 2013 to 2023 involved immigrants from Ukraine (+71,612), Romania (+71,129) and Syria (+69,731), followed at a considerable distance by those from Germany (+52,682), Hungary (+40,749) and Afghanistan (+31,306). Whereas some of these increases were spread across the whole period, the rise in immigrants from Afghanistan and Syria came mainly after 2015, while that in immigrants from Ukraine can be attributed chiefly to the period from February 2022 onwards.

IMMIGRANT POPULATION (FIRST GENERATION)

2013 and 2023, by most common countries of birth

	2013		2023
Germany	205,868	Germany	258,550
Türkiye	159,185	Bosnia and Herzegovina	176,736
Bosnia and Herzegovina	151,705	Türkiye	161,122
Serbia	130,862	Romania	145,033
Romania	73,904	Serbia	144,276
Poland	63,242	Hungary	88,866
Hungary	48,137	Ukraine	80,417
Czechia	41,618	Poland	77,119
Croatia	39,005	Syria	73,931
Slovakia	29,963	Croatia	56,455
Russian Federation	29,420	Slovakia	47,034
Kosovo	28,150	Afghanistan	44,918
Italy	26,181	Russian Federation	40,532
Other	337,531	Other	580,871
Total	1,364,771	Total	1,975,860

Fig. 7; Source: Statistics Austria (2023), Population at the beginning of the year detailed by country of birth; own presentation

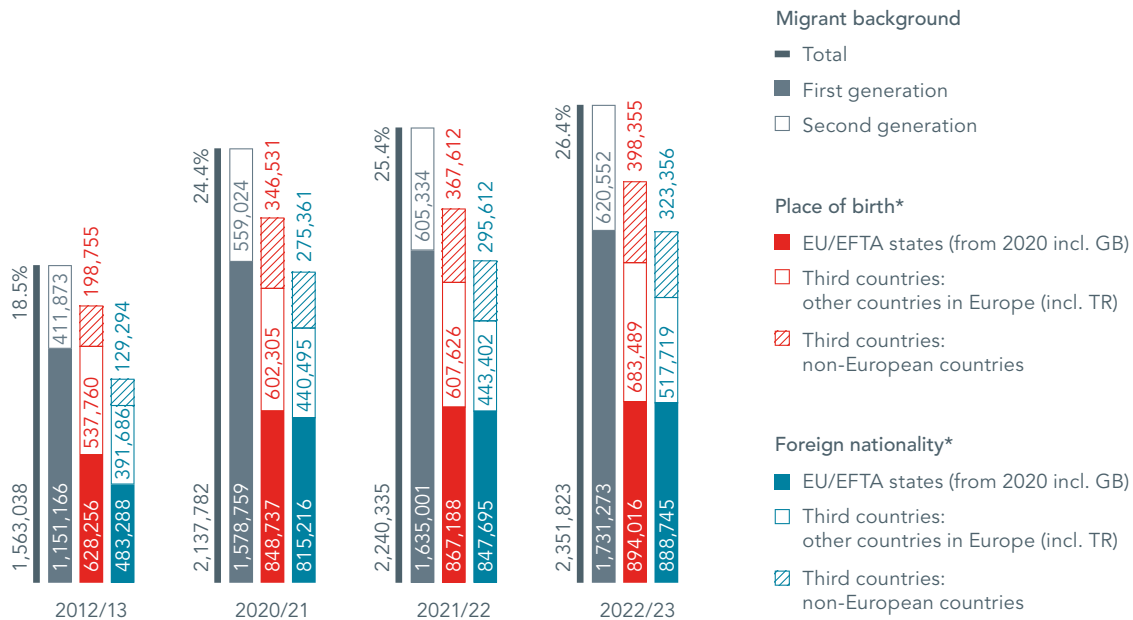
The population with a migrant background has also grown fairly significantly over the past ten years, from 1,563,038 (annual average for 2012) to 2,351,825 (annual average for 2022; Fig. 8) - an increase of +788,787 (50%). The size of this group as a percentage of the total population went up from 18.8% (2012) to 26.4% (2022). This means that over a quarter of Austrian residents born either in the country or abroad have parents of foreign origin. The percentage of people with a migrant background is much higher in most urban regions in Austria as well as in many rural areas popular with tourists.

There were 1,731,300 first-generation immigrants living in Austria in 2022 (Fig. 8). They were born abroad to non-Austrian parents ("first generation"). Of this total, 277,400 (16%) came to the country before 1990, 656,100 (38%) arrived between 1990 and 2009 and a further 631,200 (36%) between 2010 and 2019. The remaining 166,500 (10%; Fig. 9) immigrated between 2020 and 2022. Of the first-generation immigrants, 416,000 (24%) held Austrian citizenship in 2022. Most (76%) of the first generation still only held foreign citizenship (2022: 1,315,300).

A further 620,600 people (2022) were born in Austria but had parents who were both born abroad ("second generation"). Most (61%) of these second-generation immigrants had Austrian citizenship (375,800). Nevertheless, a significant minority (39%) of the second generation held foreign citizenship (2022: 244,800). The 250,000 or so people who were born abroad but whose mother and/or father were born in Austria do not count towards the population with a migrant background.

POPULATION

by migrant background, place of birth abroad and foreign nationality*



* Figures for migrant background in the annual average of the respective previous year,

Figures for nationality and country of birth on 1 Jan. of the later year in each case

Fig. 8; Source: Statistics Austria (2023), Population structure / Microcensus Labour Force Survey; own presentation

As with the Austrian-born adult population, there are also slightly more men than women amongst first-generation immigrants. Since female life expectancy is higher, this gap will widen further in the future as the migrant population gets older. As expected, there are slightly more men than women amongst second-generation immigrants because more boys than girls are born on average.

IMMIGRANT POPULATION WITH A MIGRANT BACKGROUND

2022 by year of immigration

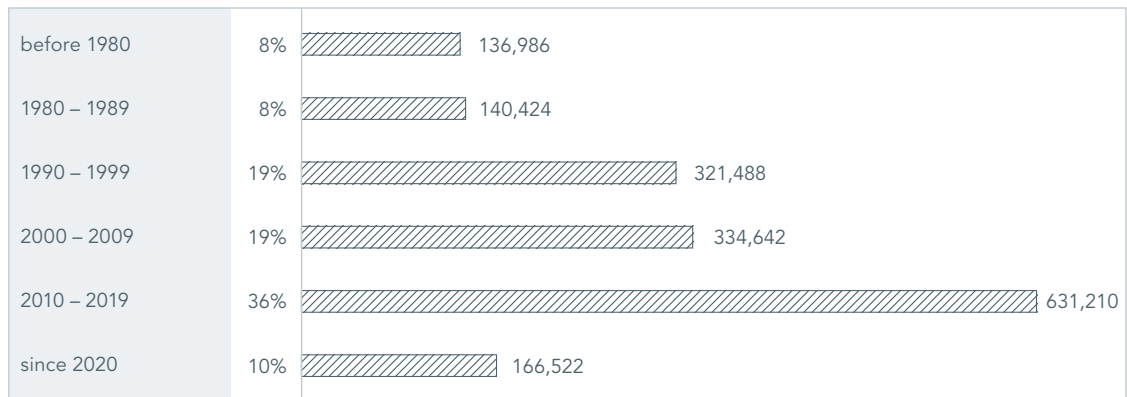


Fig. 9; Source: Statistics Austria (2023), Microcensus Labour Force Survey; own presentation

Naturalisations

There are various factors that determine whether immigrants and their children remain in Austria for either a lengthy period of time or permanently. However, their economic and social integration as well as the extent to which they identify with Austria always play a major role. Attaining citizenship is a key indicator of how integrated foreign migrants and their Austrian-born children have become.⁶ 2022 saw 10,899 Austrian residents become naturalised Austrians (2021: 9,723).⁷ The naturalisation of 0.7%⁸ of the foreigners resident in Austria corresponds to around 1% of the non-Austrian population who could in principle be naturalised and who meet the “length of stay” criterion. This rate of naturalisation is low compared to other countries with a similarly high level of immigration.

The people who became naturalised Austrian citizens in 2022 (10,899 in total) came from a wide range of countries. A fair percentage (over 5% of all newly naturalised Austrians) held Turkish, Syrian or Bosnian and Herzegovinian citizenship. The number of new female citizens was roughly equal to that of new male citizens (percentage of women: 51.2%), with children under 18 accounting for roughly a third (32.8%). Almost a third of the newly naturalised Austrians were born in the country (3,563 or 32.7%).

NATURALISATIONS IN AUSTRIA

2018 – 2022

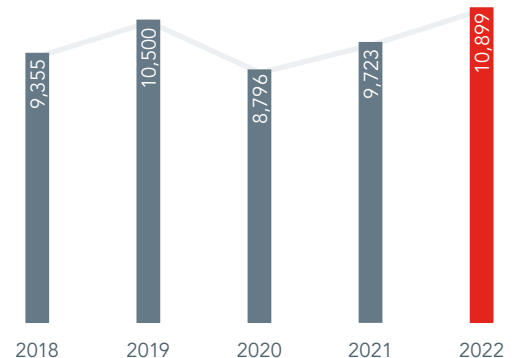


Fig. 10; Source: Statistics Austria (2023), Naturalised persons by selected characteristics since 2011; own presentation

⁶ Attainment of citizenship through naturalisation in accordance with Sections 10 to 25, Section 57, Section 58c and Section 64a of the Austrian Citizenship Act 1985 as amended.

⁷ A total of 20,606 people were naturalised in 2022 (2021: 16,171). However, 9,707 of these cases involved people living abroad permanently (2021: 6,448). The entitlement to naturalisation granted since September 2020 to the victims of political persecution under National Socialism (who lived in Austria or another successor state to the Austro-Hungarian Empire during National Socialism) and to their descendants resulted in a very sharp rise in naturalisations of people living abroad (particularly in GB, Israel and the US) from 2021 onwards.

⁸ Unadjusted naturalisation rate in relation to all foreign citizens registered as living in Austria (some of whom will not meet the minimum criteria for naturalisation).

EDUCATION AND LANGUAGE

Schools and kindergartens are places not only for formal education but also for social interaction. Children and young people learn to fit into a social structure and thus learn the basics of living together as a society. This also makes these institutions important centres of integration that are a particular focus of integration policy measures. The number of children and young people with a migrant background has been rising steadily over the past few years, and over a quarter of all pupils in Austria use a language other than German in their daily lives. Logging and classifying integration-related data on education helps to determine targeted measures for children and young people with a migrant background. It is worth noting that pupil numbers at the start of the 2021/22 school year did not yet include anyone displaced from Ukraine.

International performance assessment studies such as PISA regularly show that pupils with a migrant background achieve poorer results than their peers, something that is borne out by the findings from the latest round of the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS), which were published in May 2023. Children whose parents were born abroad possess much poorer reading skills at the end of their fourth year at school than their peers without a migrant background.⁹ The difference in performance has remained virtually unchanged since the PIRLS surveys in 2006 and 2016. The latest PIRLS puts children with a migrant background 52 points behind those without, a gap that is reduced to 26 points after a statistical check of social background. Around half of this performance difference is attributable to the socio-economic situation facing the children with a migrant background.¹⁰ Austria is amongst the EU countries with the strongest links between parents' social background and their children's reading ability. The parents' job status, level of education and language background all play a role. Experience from other EU countries suggests that regularly making time for extra reading can significantly improve the reading ability of pupils with a migrant background and/or for whom German is not an everyday language.¹¹

According to the authors of the Austrian part of the latest PIRLS, numerous reforms have been introduced at primary schools over the past 15 years in a bid to improve the language skills of children with a migrant background. The compulsory year at kindergarten was introduced in 2010 alongside the language support at kindergarten level that was already in place. In addition, German support classes and courses were set up in 2019 to improve the German skills of pupils who had difficulty following the language of instruction. The switch to remote learning caused by Covid-19 may have had an adverse impact on the achievements of children with a migrant background in particular. There is a correlation between the influence exerted by migrant background as a factor and that of multilingualism. Multilingual children in every EU country bar Malta have poorer reading skills than their monolingual peers. In Austria, meanwhile, multilingual children lag relatively far behind those who speak only one language.¹²

⁹ Schmich, Juliane et al. (Eds.) (2023), PIRLS 2021.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 42.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 77.

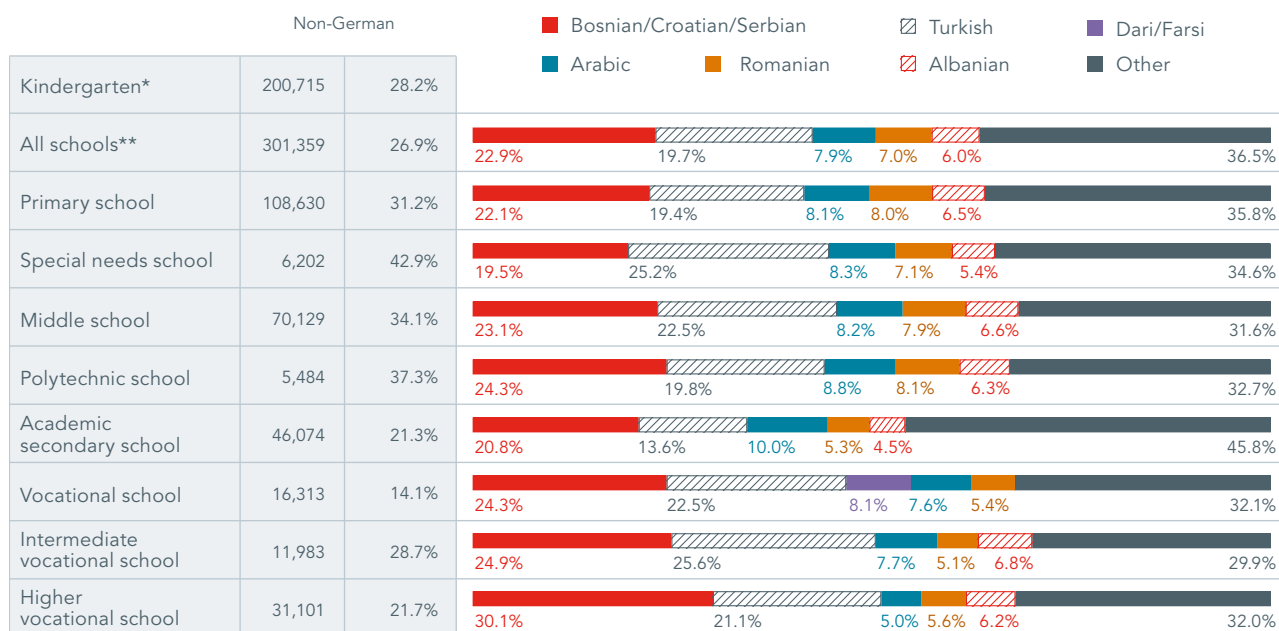
¹² *Ibid.*, p. 44.

Breakdown of pupils by integration-related characteristics

A total of 1,139,200 children and young people attended a school in the 2021/22 school year, 73% of whom have German as their primary everyday language. The remaining 27% spoke a different language on a daily basis – nothing is known about their level of German, unfortunately. The most common non-German language used by pupils as an everyday language was Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian at 23%, followed by Turkish at 20%. A comparison between schools reveals that the everyday languages used varied by school type. The highest percentages of pupils across Austria who did not use German as their everyday language were found at special needs schools (43%), polytechnic schools (37%) and middle schools (34%) in 2021/22. The relatively low percentage of academic secondary school pupils speaking a language other than German on a daily basis (21%) shows that children with a migrant background are less likely to move on to an upper secondary school than those without. However, the figures indicate that higher vocational schools are an important form of schooling for the educational advancement of children with a migrant background. The lowest percentage was that for vocational schools (14%), which shows that young people with a migrant background are less likely to opt for apprenticeship training. However, the figures for Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian and Turkish suggest that young people in these groups of immigrants – who have generally been living in the country for a relatively long time – are increasingly attending vocational schools and thus training as apprentices.

EVERYDAY LANGUAGE OF SCHOOLCHILDREN AND KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN

2021/22



* Excluding Styria, ** Including Austrian Federal Sports Academies as well as other general and vocational schools, schools with their own organisational charters, not including schools and academies in health care.

Fig. 11; Source: Statistics Austria (2022), School statistics and day care centre statistics; own presentation

At 8% in total, Arabic is now the third most common everyday language other than German that is spoken in Austria after Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian and Turkish. It was most common amongst pupils at academic secondary schools (10%) and least common amongst those at higher vocational schools (5%). In line with the demographic trends of the past few years, the biggest rises in percentage terms amongst the everyday languages spoken by pupils at Austrian schools involved Arabic, Romanian

and Albanian. There was only minimal variation from one school type to another in the percentages attributable to these languages. For instance, Albanian made up between 4% and 7% of the non-German everyday languages at all schools, while the figure for Romanian was consistently between 5% and 8%. The highest percentage recorded by a non-German everyday language at a particular type of school was 30% for Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian at higher vocational schools.

One trend that has been observed over the past few years is the slight decline in the use of German as the everyday language, while the use of other languages (except Turkish and Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian) has been rising slowly but steadily over the same period. This is because the pool of countries from which immigrants have arrived in recent years has become increasingly diverse. This is reflected in the growth of the "Other languages" category (which includes Dari/Farsi, Kurdish and Chechen) amongst the non-German everyday languages spoken by pupils at all schools. The actual percentage varies from one school type to another, however: it was 46% at academic secondary schools and 32% at higher vocational schools.

Another indicator relevant from an integration perspective is the number of pupils being taught outside regular classes ("non-regular pupils"). A total of 34,100 pupils were being taught as non-regular in the 2021/22 school year. This means that they did not speak German well enough to be able to follow regular lessons. Of this number, 10,400 held Austrian nationality (accounting for 1% of all Austrian pupils). The percentage of non-regular pupils was much higher amongst children with foreign citizenship (12%). Romanian citizens accounted for the highest percentage of non-regular pupils (3,200 or 18%), followed by Syrians (2,100 or 14%), Turks (2,100 or 14%), Iraqis (400 or 12%), Afghans (1,200 or 12%), Serbs (1,300 or 10%) and Bosnians and Herzegovinians (900 or 9%).

NON-REGULAR PUPILS

2021/22 by nationality

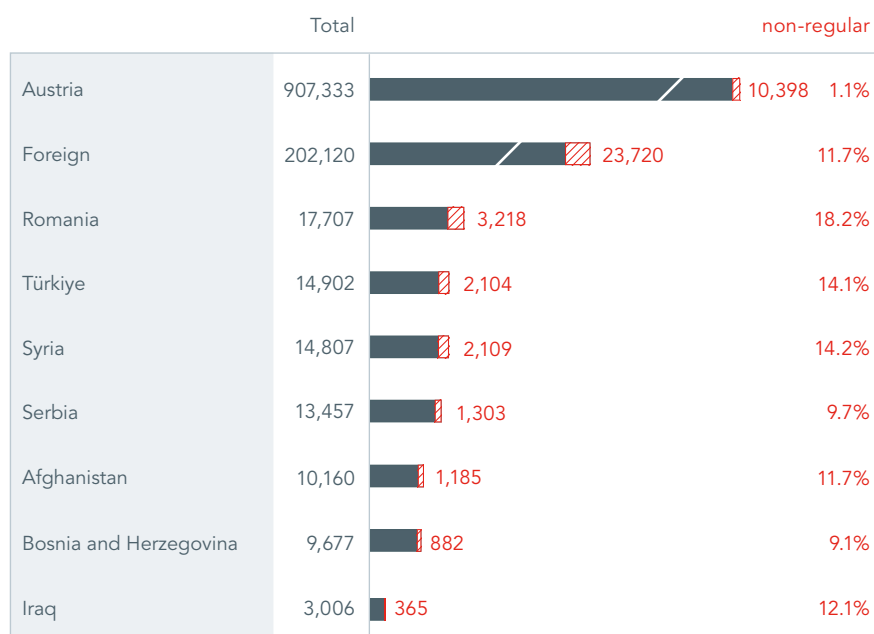


Fig. 12; Source: Integration monitoring according to the IntG (IntG); own presentation

Around 5% of pupils in Vienna had non-regular status, more than in any other federal province. In the country as a whole, non-regular pupils were most commonly in primary schools (28,800) and middle schools (3,200). At between 150 and 200 pupils, relatively few children and young people at higher vocational schools, schools for intermediate vocational education and special needs schools were taught as non-regular.

Since the 2018/19 school year, pupils who are unable to follow lessons due to their lack of German skills have been taught for up to four semesters in separate German support classes or in German support courses held in parallel with lessons. A total of 1.3% of all pupils (15,000) attended a German support class and 1.6% (18,800) a German training course in the 2021/22 school year. In Vienna, 5.0% of pupils attended either a German support class or training course, while this percentage was lowest in Burgenland at 1.5% or 500 children. Carinthia (1.7%), Tyrol (1.9%) and Lower Austria (2.0%) had similarly low percentages of pupils attending one of the two options.

PUPILS IN GERMAN SUPPORT CLASSES AND COURSES

Shares of total number 2021/22 by federal province

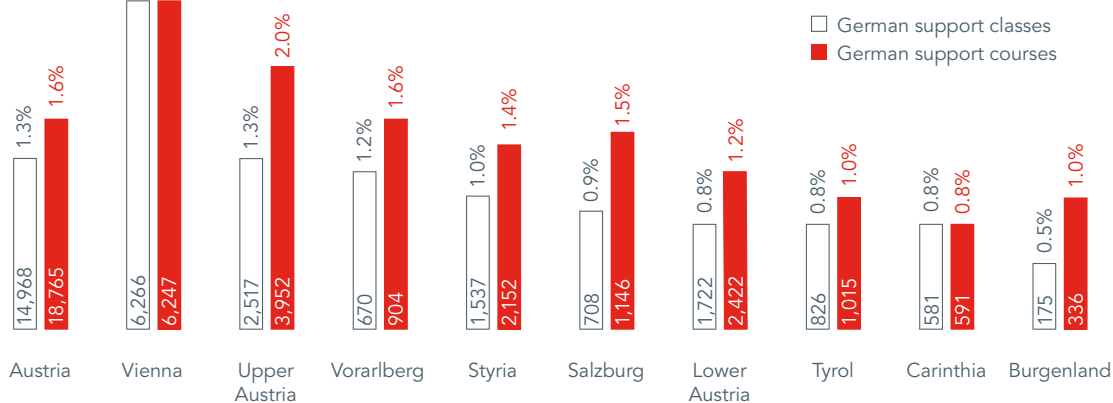


Fig. 13; Source: Integration monitoring according to the IntG; own presentation

The number of non-regular pupils who took German support classes in 2020/21 and then went on to attend school the following year (2021/22) provides an insight into how many children successfully transitioned to the regular lesson plan. 37.2% of the children who attended a general compulsory school were taught according to the regular lesson plan in the following year after taking a German support class. 22.4% went to another German support class the following year, while 34.5% took a German training course and 5.8% stopped attending school.¹³ At middle schools, 44.4% of children were taught according to the regular lesson plan the following year, while 23.7% took another German support class and 18.7% a German training course.

The aim of the German language support models is to improve the children's German language skills to such an extent that as many as possible can change from "non-regular" to "regular" status before the end of the four semesters. In 2020, the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) commissioned an external study to evaluate this.¹⁴ The goal was to find out which factors determine

13 Of the 5.8% of pupils who stopped attending school, some moved abroad, others switched to a foreign school, while the rest did so for unknown reasons.

14 Spiel, Christiane et al. (2022), Evaluation der Implementierung des Deutschfördermodells.

the length of stay in the German support models in order to be able to make appropriate improvements. To this end, they interviewed school administrators, teachers of German support classes and teachers at primary schools (693 persons in total). During the first surveys about the German support model at the schools, the implementing teachers mentioned challenges such as the maximum duration of German support of four semesters, the transition from the German-centred support classes to general teaching, school resources and teacher training. They also preferred integrative approaches over separate classes.

All three of the groups that were questioned advocated a longer stay in the German language support models. One recommendation was to divide up very large or heterogeneous classes in order to increase the quality of teaching. In addition, the change from non-regular to regular status should be made more flexible. For the most part, the teachers felt they were well prepared for the task of teaching and supporting German, yet they saw potential for improvement through access to training in German as a second language. The Expert Council believes the support measures are positive overall but would like to analyse in detail how effective they are. They should be continued in any case, but perhaps adapted to a certain extent, in view of the paramount importance of language competences for success in school and education.

Educational measures in integration

Since the Integration Act 2017 came into force, it has been mandatory for everyone over the age of 15 who is entitled to asylum or subsidiary protection to complete a values and orientation course. The courses are held in German and interpreted into the participants' languages of origin to ensure understanding despite the different levels of German. The courses, as of the beginning of 2022, last three days and cover the following topics: 1.) German language learning, education and the labour market 2.) Voluntary engagement and cultural aspects of social coexistence - this section now includes a separate emphasis on countering anti-Semitism - as well as 3.) Constitutional values and legal integration. In addition, guided tours are offered to places of interest and institutions that are important in terms of democratic politics, such as the parliament.

In 2022, 11,300 people took part in a values and orientation course. Of these, 8,400 (74%) were Syrian nationals. Rather far behind this, Afghan nationals are the second largest group of participants with 1,300 persons or 12%. Men made up the vast majority of participants with 79% or 8,900 people. The proportion of women in the values and orientation courses was 21% or 2,400 people.

PARTICIPANTS IN VALUES AND ORIENTATION COURSES

2022 by most common nationalities and sex



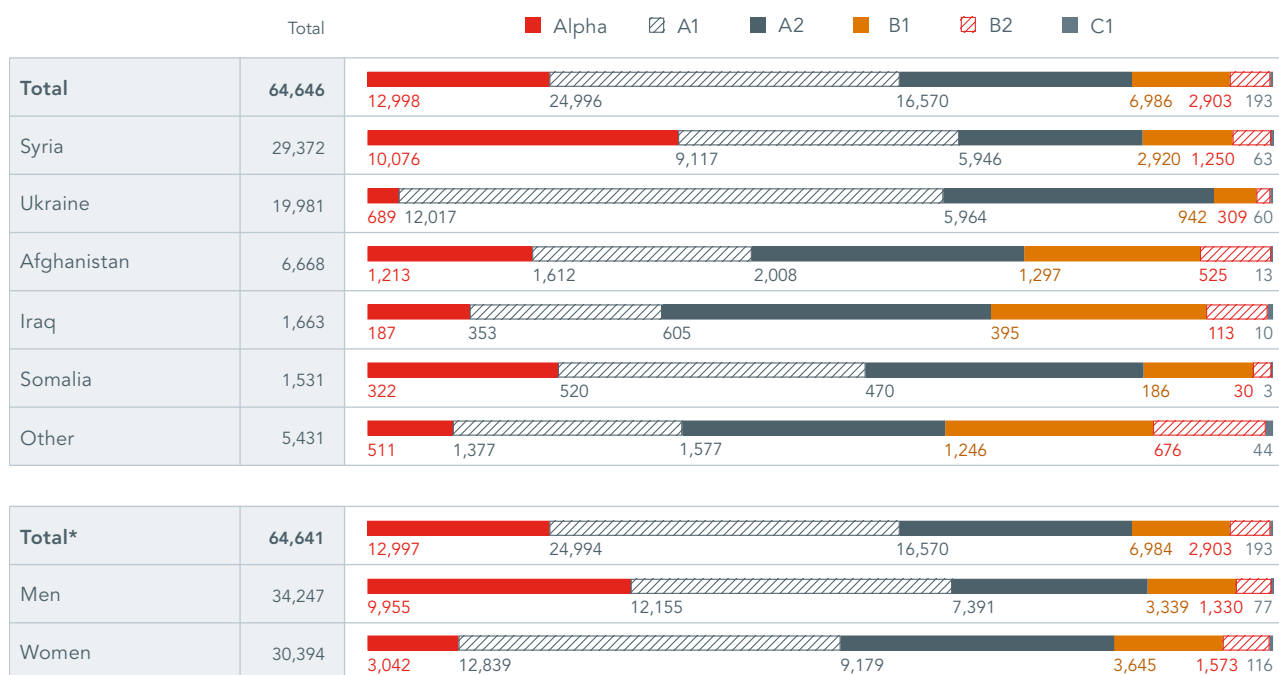
Fig. 14; Source: Integration monitoring according to the IntG; own presentation

In 2022, the Austrian Integration Fund (ÖIF) funded a total of 64,600 German language course places, about a fifth of these, just under 13,000, were for alphabetisation courses. Most places were taken by Syrians (29,400), followed by Ukrainians (20,000), Afghans (6,700), Iraqis (1,700) and Somalis (1,500). 5,400 German course places were allotted to persons with other nationalities.

Most course places were taken up at language levels A1 or A2 (25,000 and 16,600, respectively), fewer places in B1 and B2 courses (7,000 and 2,900, respectively) and only just under 200 places at C1 level. The gender relations in the courses were relatively balanced with 34,200 men to 30,400 women. The majority of the alphabetisation courses were taken up by Syrians (10,100), followed at some distance by Afghans (1,200). In third place are the 700 course places for Ukrainians, the majority of whom are literate but need to learn a new script. More than 300 alphabetisation course places were taken up by Somalis and almost 200 places by Iraqis.

GERMAN LESSONS TAKEN

2022 by most common nationalities, course levels and sex



* 5 spots were used by persons who indicated their sex to be non-binary

Fig. 15; Source: Austrian Integration Fund (ÖIF) (2023), special evaluation; own presentation

With regard to German courses, it is important to note that in recent years the share of newly arrived refugees with a very low level of education has risen sharply. This has had a major impact on the German courses offered and the process of integrating people with low skill levels. For example, 70% of persons recognised as entitled to asylum or subsidiary protection in 2022 who attended their first course at the Austrian Integration Fund (ÖIF) in 2022 had alphabetisation needs. This share has increased by half since 2019, and by as much as 80% for men. Slightly more than half of the course participants with alphabetisation needs could not read or write in any language, the remaining part consisted of people learning a second script. At 78%, the proportion of persons with alphabetisation needs was particularly high among the Syrian course participants with protection status in 2022. This is mainly due to the collapse of the school system in Syria as a result of the civil war and the

long history of flight of Syrians with protection status who have little or no basic education compared to previous cohorts.

Among the primary illiterates, many attended no school or only primary school, secondary illiterates mostly attended school only up to lower secondary level. In the past, experience has shown that illiterates have considerable difficulty learning German, but the situation is not much different for people learning a second script. This was shown in a 2019 study by the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF), which examined the outcomes at the end of the integration course in Germany. According to this survey, 64% of participants who were literate reached the intended course level B1, but only 18% of primary illiterate participants and 20% of people learning a second script did. The difference between these two groups with alphabetisation needs was only 2 percentage points.¹⁵

The challenges of integrating this particular target group in Austria become even clearer when we look more closely at the exam pass rate. Participants in alphabetisation courses rarely complete course examinations with a positive result, and repeating the course several times rarely leads to success either. Only 12% of those who participated in a alphabetisation course in 2016–2020 have already passed an exam at A2 level or higher, while 62% have not passed any exam at all. Only 30% of those who repeated a course several times passed the A2 or B1 exam. In contrast, Ukrainians, who rarely had alphabetisation needs, passed the A2 and B1 integration exams significantly more often (76% and 86% respectively) than Afghans (44% and 38%) or Syrians (44% and 49%).

When looking at the meagre success of the poorly educated in German courses, it should also be mentioned that better language skills do not automatically lead to higher levels of gainful employment. Participants in alphabetisation and A2 courses stated with roughly equal frequency (18% and 20% respectively) that they had already been employed since arriving in Austria. Only at B1 level and above did 36% say they had already been employed.

¹⁵ Tissot, Anna et al. (2019), *Evaluation der Integrationskurse (EvIk)*, p. 37.

WORK AND SOCIAL ASPECTS

Rapid integration into the labour market and the associated ability to sustain oneself is one of the primary goals in the process of the integration of migrants. This goal is facilitated by the shortage of labour since the Austrian economy recovered from the effects of the Covid pandemic. There are also demographic changes and the high number of retirements that they bring. Nevertheless, it is still necessary to provide immigrants with effective support so they can integrate into working life and realise their potential. The following is an overview of the labour market situation from an integration perspective.

Composition of the employed and labour market integration

According to social security data, an annual average of 3,913,600 people were employed in Austria in 2022, 108,700 (+2.9%) more than in the previous year. Of these, 927,000 or 23.7% were foreign workers – an increase of 87,400 (+10.4%) compared to the year before. Foreign workers accounted for 80% of the increase in employment. However, we must bear in mind that the social security data also includes persons who work in Austria but do not live here: in 2022, there were 138,900 cross-border commuters. This figure is relatively stable over the longer term. It shows that economic areas and labour markets do not end at national borders. However, the target group of integration policy measures are not cross-border commuters, but migrants legally residing in Austria.

A comparatively small number of employed foreigners had the nationality of one of the six main refugee countries of origin in recent years, namely 59,200 or 6.4% of the foreign labour force.¹⁶ This figure does not include displaced persons from Ukraine who fled to Austria after February 2022 in response to the Russian war of aggression and were immediately given free access to the labour market. On annual average, 10,300 Ukrainians were employed in 2022 (1.1% of all foreign employees). It should be noted that some of the Ukrainians remained employed by their original employers in Ukraine and worked through teleworking. A study by Dörfler-Bolt and Kaindl indicates this percentage to be 16% in 2023.¹⁷

With 299,300 persons, the heterogeneous group of third-country nationals accounted for 32.3% of employed foreigners. The number of workers from the 2004 EU accession states was slightly lower (251,400 persons or 27.1% of all foreign employees), followed by 174,400 workers (18.8%) from EU states before 2004/EFTA and the United Kingdom. Nationals from one of the three EU accession states since 2007 (Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia) represent a continuously growing number of foreign employees – their number increased to 142,700 persons or 15.4% of all foreign employed persons in 2022.

¹⁶ Refugee countries of origin: Afghanistan, Syria, Russian Federation, Iran, Iraq and Somalia. This is an approximation: on the one hand, not all nationals of these countries are refugees, on the other hand, some refugees with other nationalities were not included

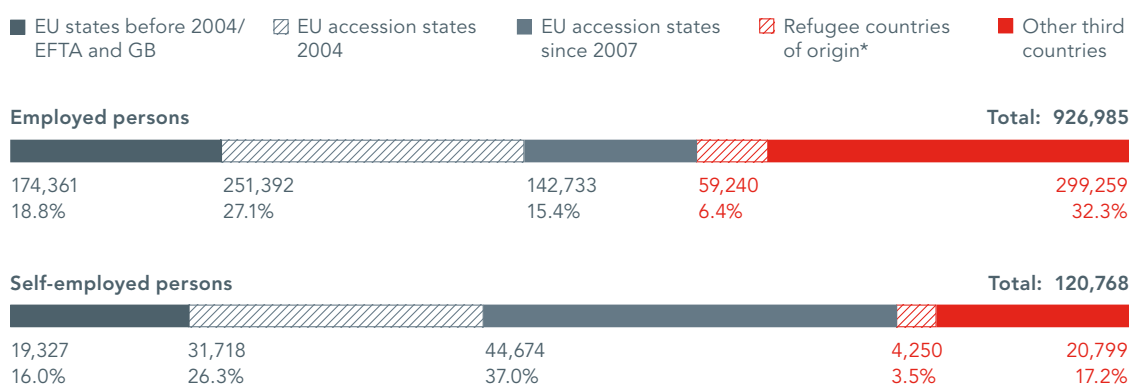
¹⁷ Dörfler-Bolt, Sonja and Kaindl, Markus (2023), *Ukraine-Vertriebene in Österreich ein Jahr nach Kriegsbeginn*, p. 18.

Gainful employment includes not only employed but also self-employed persons. In 2022, their number amounted to 498,800 people. Of these, about a quarter (24.2% or 120,800 persons) were of foreign nationality. With 44,700 persons (37.0%), nationals of the EU accession states since 2007 formed the largest category – not least because of 24-hour care, which is largely provided by women from Romania, Croatia and Bulgaria as self-employed persons (with a business licence for personal care). However, personal care is also an important field of self-employment for nationals from the 2004 EU accession states, especially Slovakia. It should be noted in this context that 24-hour care is often provided by weekly commuters who don't usually settle in Austria in the narrower sense. In 2022, a total of 31,700 persons or 26.3% of all foreign self-employed persons came from the 2004 EU accession states, more than half of them from Slovakia. The group of other third-country nationals was 20,800 persons (17.2%) and almost equal in size with the group from the EU states before 2004/EFTA/GB with 19,300 persons (16.0%). The share of foreign self-employed with a citizenship of a refugee country of origin was 4,200 people, or 3.5%. A comparatively small number of Ukrainians are self-employed (2022: 672). However, their number has increased significantly compared to the previous year (+13.3%) due to the influx of Ukrainian displaced persons.

In total in 2022, 4,412,400 people were gainfully employed (112,200 or 2.5% more than in the previous year), 11.3% of these were self-employed. The share of foreigners was 23.7%. In contrast, the share of foreigners in employment in the Labour Force Survey of Statistics Austria (microcensus) was significantly lower at 19%. This is due to the fact that this survey is based on households. Not only the nationality is collected, but also the place of birth. This makes it possible to also determine the proportion of first generation migrants. This is the relevant figure for integration policy. In 2022, the figure was 23.6% of the workforce (men 23.8%; women 23.3%). This value roughly corresponds to the share of foreigners in employment in the social security data, but this is a coincidence, because the first generation with a migrant background also includes naturalised persons with a place of birth abroad, and the number of foreigners includes both commuters not living in Austria and persons born in Austria without Austrian citizenship (= second generation).

FOREIGN EMPLOYEES AND SELF-EMPLOYED PERSONS

Annual average 2022 by nationality



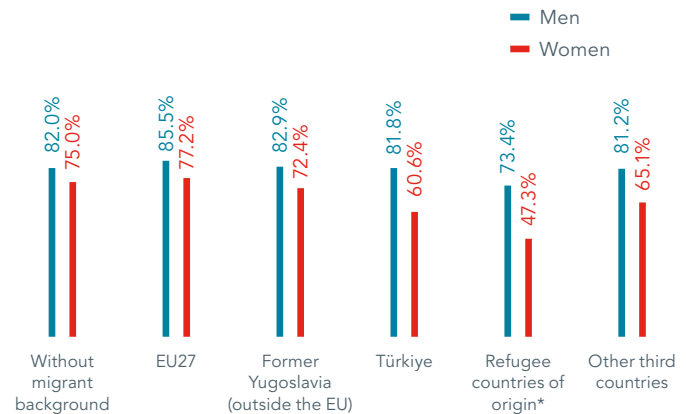
* Refugee countries of origin: Afghanistan, Syria, Russian Federation, Iran, Iraq and Somalia. This is an approximation: on the one hand, not all nationals of these countries are refugees, on the other hand, some refugees with other nationalities were not included;

Fig. 16; Source: BMAW (2022), Online Labour Market Information System AMIS; own presentation

The Labour Force Survey (Microcensus) can give us another important indicator of the degree of labour market integration of migrants in the form of the activity rate. This measures the proportion of people in a given age group who are working or actively seeking work. The activity rate is measured by calculating the sum of self-employed and employed persons plus the unemployed (labour force) as a share of the population. In 2022, the activity rate of 15–64-year olds was 77.8%. For people without a migrant background, it was slightly above the average at 78.5% and for migrants slightly below at 75.9%. However, labour market integration differs greatly by origin, sex and age. It was highest among foreign-born persons (first generation) who came from EU Member States at 81.0% and lowest among third-country nationals at 73.0%.

ACTIVITY RATE

2022 by sex and migrant background, 15–64 year olds



* Refugee countries of origin: Afghanistan, Syria, Russian Federation, Iran, Iraq and Somalia. This is an approximation: on the one hand, not all nationals of these countries are refugees, on the other hand, some refugees with other nationalities were not included

Fig. 17; Source: Statistics Austria (2023), Microcensus Labour Force Survey; own presentation

Among the immigrant groups, persons from refugee countries of origin had the lowest activity rate at 61.7%. In this group, the difference between the activity rates of men and women was particularly pronounced. Women with a migrant background from a refugee country of origin had an activity rate of 47.3%, 26.1 percentage points lower than men (73.4%). Women with a Turkish migrant background also had a low activity rate of 60.6%, in contrast to women from the former Yugoslavia (outside the EU), who had an activity rate of 72.4%, only slightly lower than women without a migrant background. The activity rate rises with longer duration of stay, so second generation immigrants have significantly higher rates than those of the first generation. The highest activity rate, 85.5%, is found among men with a migrant background from other EU member states.

The extent to which immigrants have been successful in finding suitable work can be seen from the employment rate - it measures the share of the employed (employed and self-employed) in the employable population (15–64-year olds). There are clear differences in the employment rate between the various immigration cohorts, both in terms of origin and the time of immigration. Among Syrian nationals who immigrated in 2019, two years later 15.5% were employed for at least three months within that year. Syrian refugees from the year of arrival in 2016 achieved an employment rate of 33.6% after five years, and 53.5% six years after arrival. In contrast, Afghans had a slightly higher employment rate from the very beginning: of the Afghans who immigrated in 2019, 19.0% were employed after two years. After five years (arrival in 2016), the figure was 38.6%, whereas after six years, at 52.4%, it was slightly lower than Syrian refugees with the same length of stay. The lower value after six years of residence compared to Syrian refugees can be explained by the fact that with longer residence, Afghan women also increasingly wanted to take up employment, i.e. the activity rate increased, but this was initially reflected in the number of unemployed and not yet in actual employment. In contrast, the activity rate of Syrian women was already higher in the first years, combined with one of the highest unemployment rates, which, however, was reduced over time, not least as a result of successful integration and retraining measures.

Turkish nationals from the 2015 and 2016 immigration cohorts recorded employment rates of 52.8% and 53.9% after just one and two years, respectively. The rate rose further to 62.5% and 63.3% after five and six years of residence, respectively. The cohort that immigrated in 2019 was faster to find gainful employment. Already after the first year of residence, the rate was 59.6% and rose to 64.0% after the second year, a value higher than that achieved by the 2015 and 2016 immigrant cohorts after five and six years, respectively. This suggests that recent Turkish immigration either had higher skill levels than previous cohorts, which would increase their job opportunities, and/or labour market conditions were more favourable, or the propensity to work was higher, especially among women. Given the skills shortages already evident in 2019, the combination of better qualifications and high demand is likely to have boosted the levels of gainful employment. The chances of integration are also better among nationals from the former Yugoslavia outside the EU than among refugees. They achieved an employment rate of 77.0% after five and six years in Austria, respectively (2000: 81.2%; 2015: 77.2%; 2016: 77.0%). Persons from the 2019 immigration year already achieved an activity rate of 76.0% after two years of residence.

EMPLOYMENT RATE

by nationality and year of arrival (at least 90 days in employment)

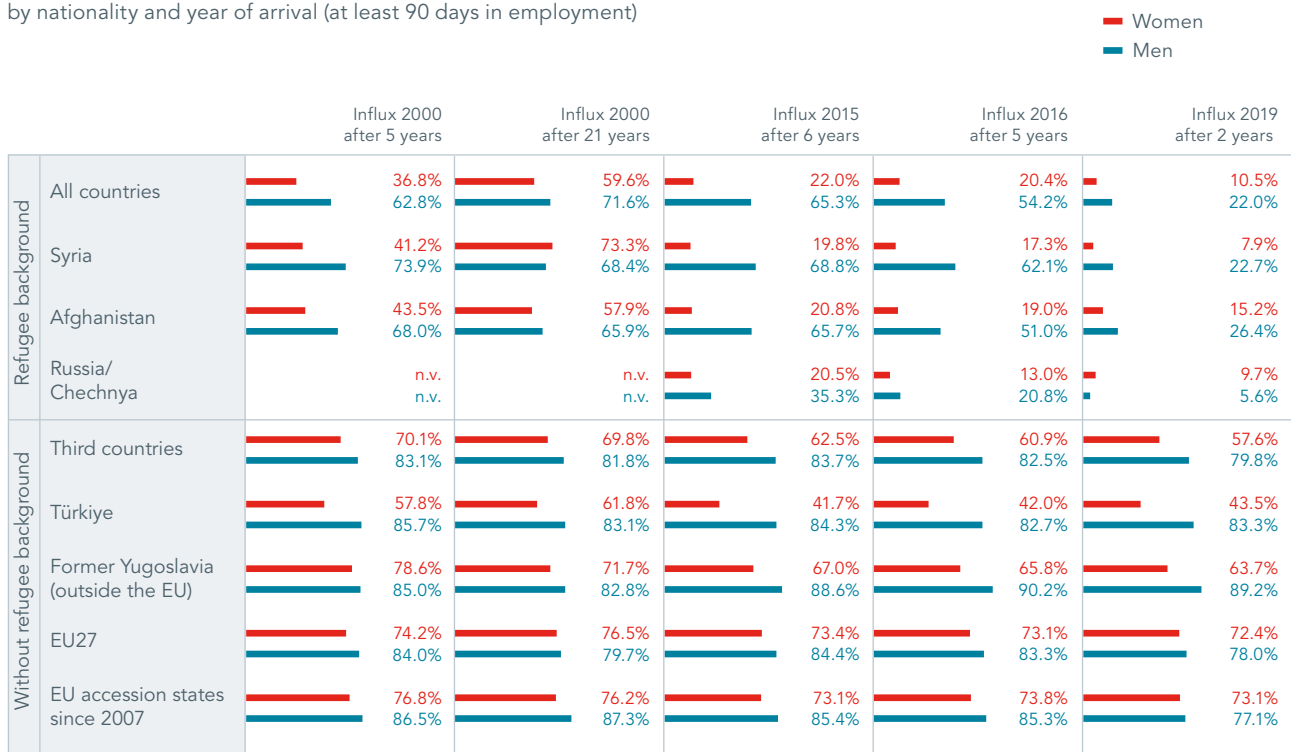


Fig. 18; Source: Endel, Florian; Kernbeiß, Günter; Münz, Rainer (2022), Erwerbsverläufe von Migrant/innen III. Personen mit Fluchthintergrund, aus Drittstaaten und der Europäischen Union im Vergleich. Analyse der Zuwanderungsjahrgänge 2000, 2015 und 2016 und 2019; own presentation

An analysis of employment rates by sex shows that employment of women with a refugee background is and was particularly rare. After 21 years of residence, their rate was 59.6% (men 71.6%); after six years, they had only reached a rate of 22.0% (men 65.3%). Syrian women had particularly low levels of labour market integration after five and six years, at around 17.3% and 19.8%, respectively. An exception is the immigration cohort before the refugee crisis in 2015 (year of arrival 2000), where the employment rate of Syrian women after 21 years was 73.3%, while that of men was lower at 68.4%. The employment rates of Russian/Chechen women are similarly low to those of other groups with fleeing experience; in contrast, Russian/Chechen men had strikingly low rates compared to men of other groups – their employment rate was 20.8% 5 years after arrival and 35.3% after 6 years. But Turkish women also have a low employment rate; the 2015 and 2016 immigration cohorts did not exceed 42% after 5 and 6 years, respectively.

Unemployment and taking up employment

Figures on unemployment, educational background and starting a job after being unemployed provide further insight into the process of the labour market integration of immigrants. The overall unemployment rate in Austria in 2022 was 6.3%, 1.7 percentage points lower than in the previous year. It was significantly lower among Austrians (5.4%) than among foreigners (9.1%). People from Syria had the highest unemployment rates (35.2%), followed by people from Afghanistan (20.6%). For these two groups of origin, the difference by gender is particularly pronounced: women from Syria had the highest rates with 47.5%, followed by women from Afghanistan with 39.6%. As already mentioned, Syrian women registered as job seekers with the Public Employment Service (AMS) much earlier and in greater numbers. This means that their activity rate was higher than that of Afghan women, but with the consequence of higher unemployment rates.

Syrian men also had higher unemployment rates in 2022 compared to Afghans: 31.9% versus 15.7%. The latter is due to the fact that a high percentage of Syrian men had better qualifications than Afghan men, which was associated with a longer search for a suitable job or with a training measure that improves the chance of finding an adequate job. As Afghan persons with fleeing experience on average had poorer educational opportunities in their country of origin and their opportunities of continuing their education in Austria is lower, they usually enter the labour market as unskilled workers. However, more recent figures from the Austrian Integration Fund (ÖIF) show that the later immigration of Syrian refugees also has a low level of education. This group of people often comes from refugee camps where there was limited or no access to education or work. As a result, a high proportion of young men and women from Syria now have alphabetisation needs, both in the Latin script and in their language of origin.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

2022 by sex and nationality

Nationality	Men	Women
Syria	31.9%	47.5%
Russian Federation	22.7%	17.8%
Serbia	21.7%	20.1%
Iraq	19.3%	35.5%
Afghanistan	15.7%	39.6%
Türkiye	12.2%	17.4%
Bulgaria	11.9%	13.8%
Romania	8.6%	10.6%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	8.4%	8.0%
Croatia	8.4%	8.1%
Poland	6.3%	8.5%
Austria	5.8%	4.9%
Germany	4.5%	4.5%

Fig. 19; Source: BMAW (2023), Online Labour Market Information system AMIS; own presentation

UNEMPLOYED OR REGISTERED JOBSEEKERS IN TRAINING

2022, by nationality or residence status and level of education

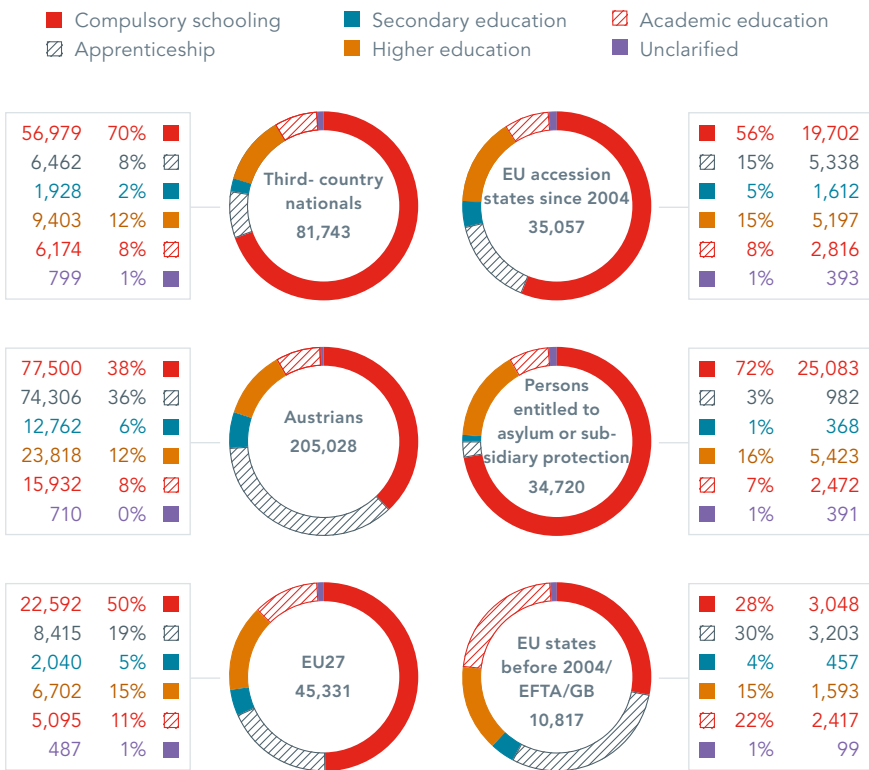


Fig. 20; Source: Integration monitoring according to the IntG; own presentation

The total number of jobseekers registered as unemployed or in training was 332,600 in 2022. This was a significant decrease compared to the previous year (-69,400 or -17.3%). By percentage, the largest reduction was achieved by Austrians, namely -19.9% (-50,900 persons). Nationals of other EU Member States had only slightly less of a reduction, relatively speaking, at -19.3% (-10,800). It was clearly more difficult to reduce unemployment among third-country nationals (-8.5% or -7,500).

In all categories, with the exception of persons from EU states before 2004/EFTA/GB, persons with a compulsory school leaving certification at most made up the largest group of unemployed jobseekers or jobseekers in training. The highest share of jobseekers with no more than compulsory schooling was recorded by persons entitled to asylum or subsidiary protection (72%); among the total of third-country nationals the share was 70%. This refers to 57,000 job-seeking third-country nationals, including 25,100 persons entitled to asylum or subsidiary protection. Among the EU27 nationals looking for work - 45,300 people in total - around half had at most a compulsory school leaving certification. The share of jobseekers with a compulsory school leaving certification at most among Austrians was significantly lower (38%). On the other hand, the share of persons with intermediate education (apprenticeship and intermediate technical college) was significantly higher with a total of 42%; also among jobseekers from the EU27, the share of intermediate qualification was comparatively high with 24%, and lowest among third-country nationals (10%). Academics had the lowest share (7-8%) of jobseekers among all groups of origin, except among jobseekers from EU states before 2004 EU/EFTA/GB, of whom 22% (2,417 persons) had a university education.

The transition rate from unemployment to employment is another indicator of the employment opportunities of migrants compared to natives. It is calculated as a share of exits from unemployment. In addition to the transition into employment, exits from unemployment can be into retirement, a move abroad or into the household, e.g. in order to fulfil care responsibilities. The transition rate to employment in 2022 for Austrian nationals was 58% (men: 61%; women: 55%). It has decreased among men compared to the previous year in the majority of the groups considered, while it has tended to increase among women.

TRANSITION TO EMPLOYMENT

2022 by sex and nationality
as a percentage of all outflows from unemployment

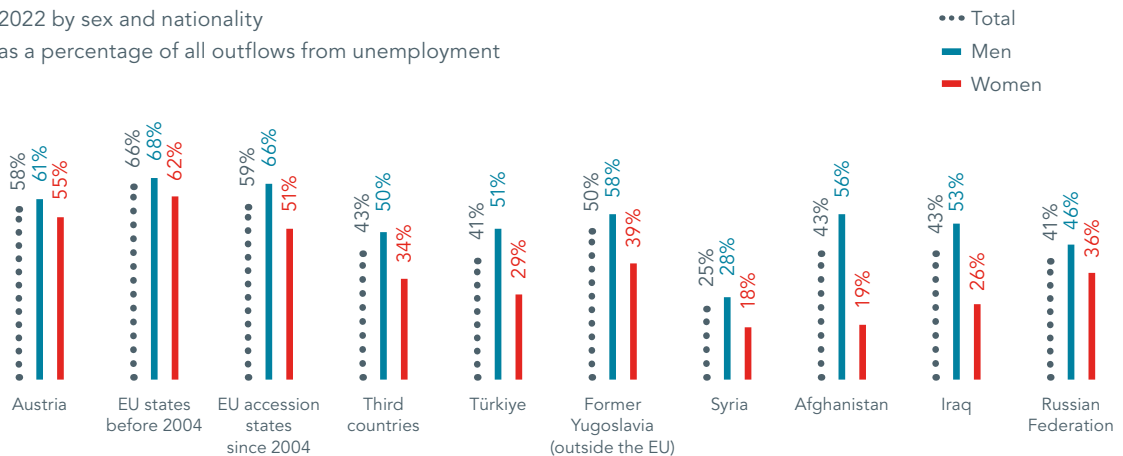


Fig. 21; Source: Integration monitoring according to the IntG; BMAW (2023), Online labour market information system AMIS; own presentation

Among the groups studied, the highest transition rate (66%) was among nationals of EU states before 2004 (men: 68%; women: 62%), and the lowest (25%) was among Syrians (men: 28%; women: 18%). A comparison of Syrian and Afghan nationals shows different dynamics. For Afghan men, the transition rate of 56% was twice as high as for Syrians (28%) – not least because people from Syria were able to get more training measures, which increased their retention in unemployment. The difference is particularly clear when compared to the previous year: the transition rate of Syrian men fell by 12 percentage points, that of Afghan men by only one percentage point. In contrast, there was hardly any difference between Syrian and Afghan women. Their transition rate increased by more than 2 percentage points, but from a much lower starting level: among Syrian women, the transition rate was 18% and among Afghan women 19%. While the transition rate of Turkish nationals remained the same and only shifted between the sexes, the transition rate of men with a nationality of a state of the former Yugoslavia outside the EU decreased by 4 percentage points, while the rate of women remained the same at 39%.

The average duration of a registration among the Austrian unemployed is significantly higher at just under nine months than among foreign unemployed at just under six months. Foreigners who left unemployment were unemployed for a significantly shorter period of time: Austrians on average five months and foreigners four months.

Social assistance/minimum benefits

The statistics on minimum benefits and social assistance include benefits to secure subsistence and housing needs outside of residential facilities, as well as protection in the event of illness, pregnancy and childbirth (primarily by including persons not covered by health insurance in the statutory health insurance scheme). Both nationals as well as certain groups of foreigners are eligible. This includes EU or EEA citizens who are staying in Austria as employees or who have been living in Austria for over five years. Third-country nationals are in principle only entitled to social assistance respectively minimum benefits if they have already lived legally in Austria for more than five years. Persons entitled to asylum are entitled to social assistance respectively minimum benefits from the time they are granted protection status as refugees. Neither asylum seekers nor Ukrainians with displaced person status have a right to social assistance. They receive financial support and/or accommodation from the federal government's basic welfare support programme.

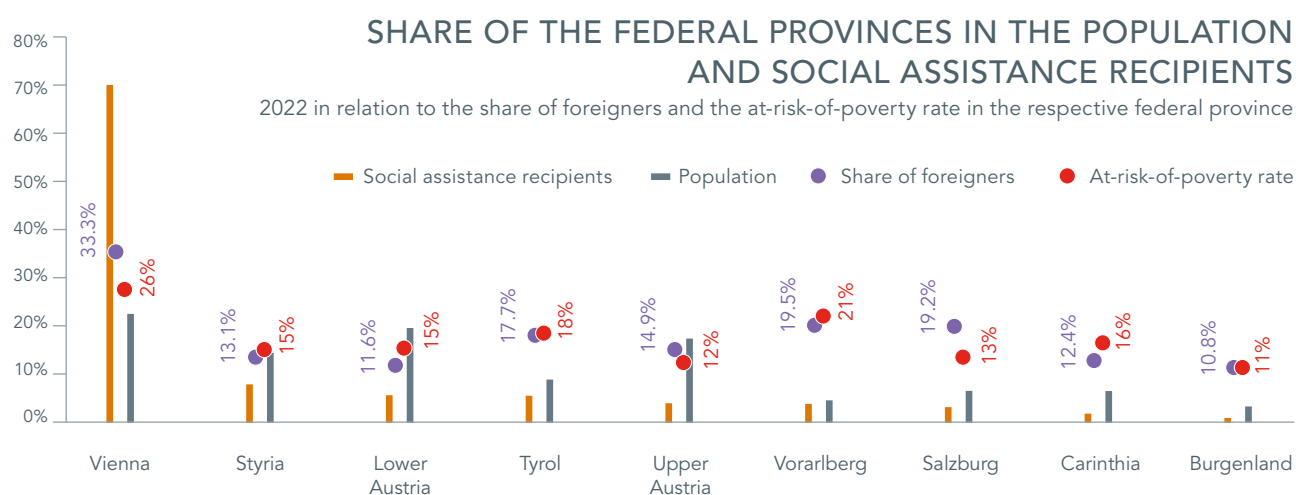


Fig. 22; Source: Statistics Austria (2023), *Population and social affairs; Integration monitoring according to the IntG; own presentation*

In total, 248,800 persons in Austria received benefits from social assistance or the minimum benefit system at least once in 2022. The number was down by 11,000 or 4.2% compared to the previous year. 68.3% of the recipients lived in Vienna, 7.5% in Styria and 5.5% in Lower Austria. However, comparisons between the federal provinces are only possible to a limited extent, as the counting method and scope of services differ.¹⁸ While the share of persons in the population at risk of poverty¹⁹ correlated strongly with the share of foreigners in some federal provinces (Vienna, Tyrol, Vorarlberg), this was not the case in Carinthia, Lower Austria or Styria: in these provinces, the risk of poverty among the Austrian-born population was relatively higher than among foreigners. The situation was different in Upper Austria and Salzburg: while the share of foreigners was above the average of the federal provinces (18.4%), the poverty risk of the population was noticeably lower, indicating that a high share of the foreign population was well off. Vienna occupies a special position in this context: on the one hand, there was a high proportion of well-off foreigners here – however, 60% of the minimum income recipients were of foreign nationality. This is probably related not least to the above-average influx of persons entitled to asylum or subsidiary protection to Vienna who are entitled to social assistance (42% of the recipients in Vienna).

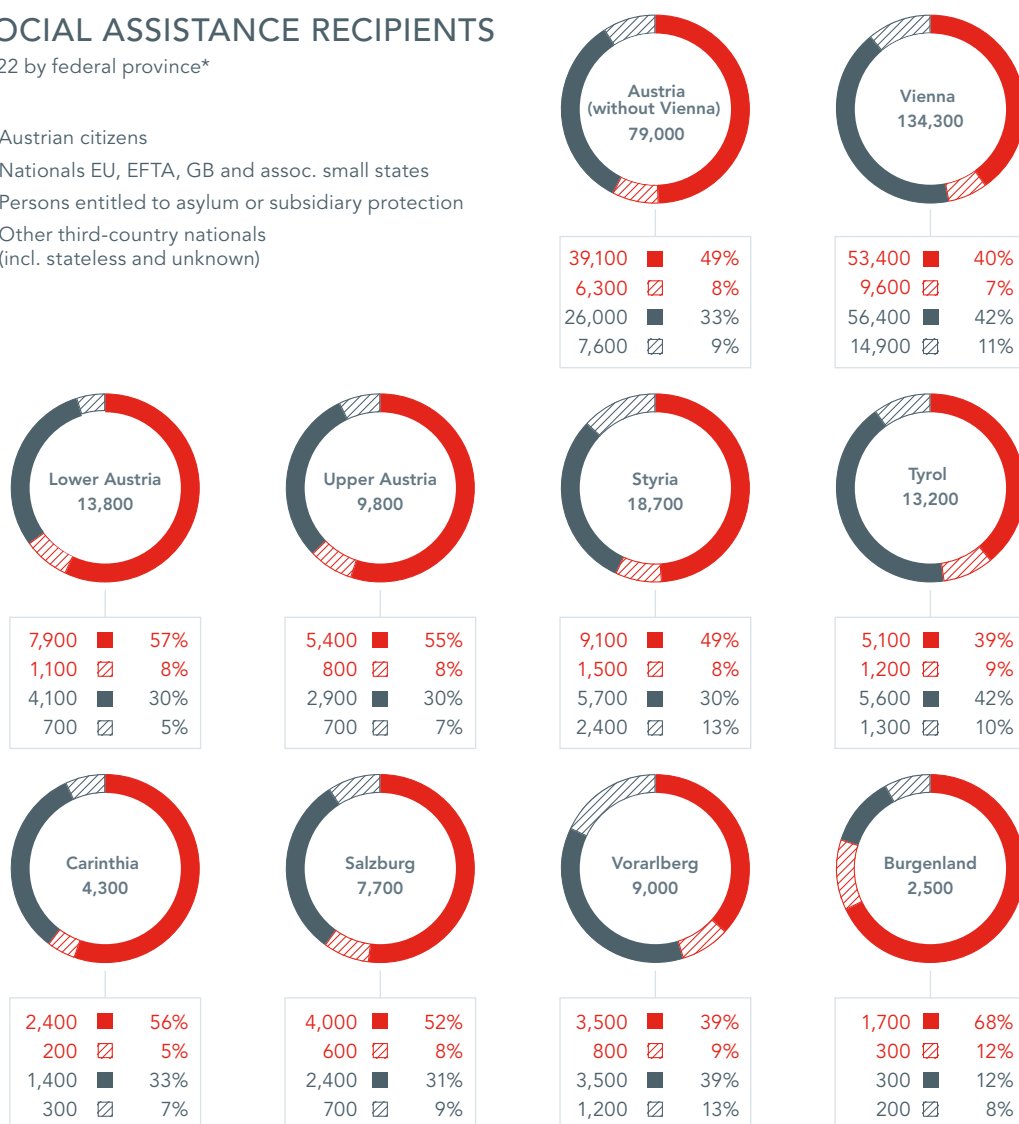
¹⁸ Within the framework of integration monitoring, Vienna reports annual averages, the other provinces report annual totals, which also include persons that have only been receiving assistance for a very short time.

¹⁹ People are considered at risk of poverty if their equivalent net household income is below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold of 60% of the median.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS

2022 by federal province*

- Austrian citizens
- ▨ Nationals EU, EFTA, GB and assoc. small states
- Persons entitled to asylum or subsidiary protection
- ▨ Other third-country nationals (incl. stateless and unknown)



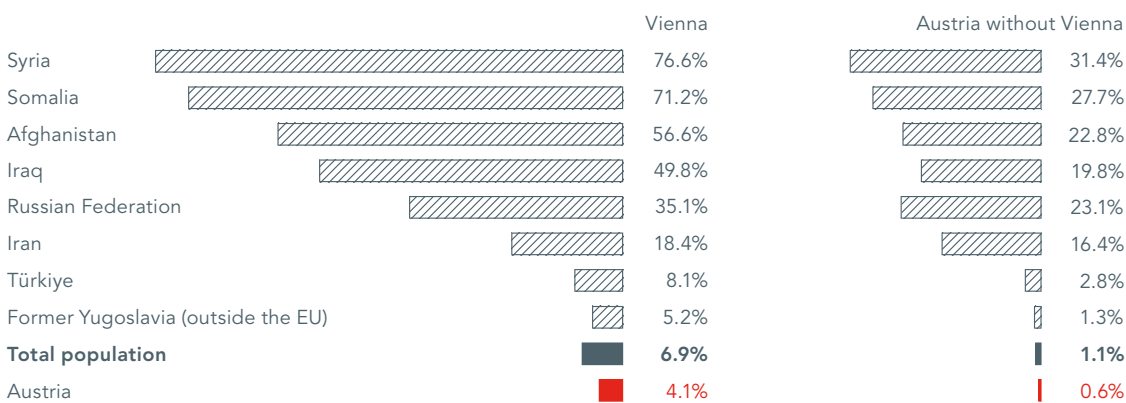
* Vienna based on annual average figures, other provinces based on annual totals
 Fig. 23; Source: Integration monitoring according to the IntG; own presentation

In Vorarlberg (61%) and Tyrol (61%), the share of foreigners among social assistance recipients was also particularly high – here again, this was to a large extent due to support of refugees. In all other federal provinces, the share of foreigners among social assistance recipients ranged from 32% in Burgenland to 51% in Styria. Among the recipients, however, there were also persons not capable of working, in most cases children under 14 years of age, as well as employed persons receiving benefits to compensate their very low income.

Welfare receipt rates remained high among nationals of refugee countries of origin, partly because many had only been living in Austria for a few months or years. The rates thus essentially reflect a lack of self-sustainability or integration into working life. Although to varying degrees, Syrians were the most frequent recipients of social assistance both in Vienna and in the other eight provinces taken together, followed by nationals of Somalia, Afghanistan, Iraq, the Russian Federation and Iran. Based on annual average figures in 2022, 77% of Syrian nationals in Vienna received social assistance. Somali nationals came second with a social assistance receipt rate of 71%, followed by Afghan nationals with 57%. In the eight other federal provinces together, the social assistance receipt rate of these three groups was less than half.

RATIO OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS

2022 by nationality*

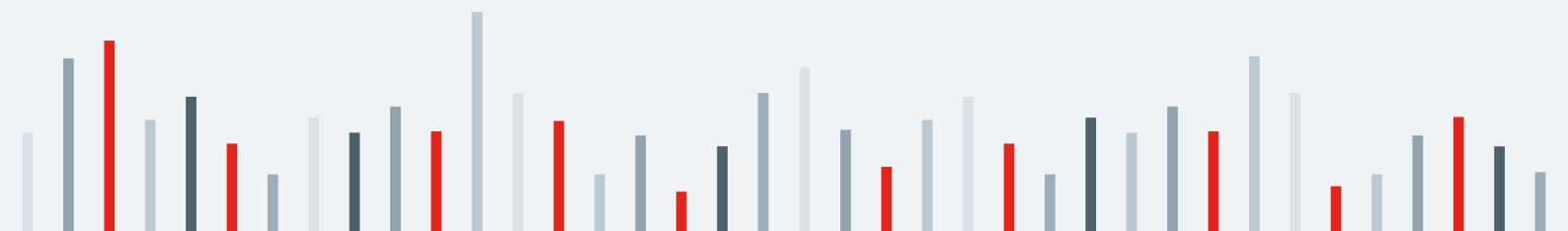


* Vienna based on annual average figures, other provinces based on annual totals

Fig. 24; Source: Data of the federal provinces recorded in the course of the integration monitoring according to the IntG; own presentation

FOCUS CHAPTER

YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE CONTEXT OF INTEGRATION



YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A MIGRANT BACKGROUND AS A TARGET GROUP FOR INTEGRATION

Young people face a variety of challenges they need to master as they move into adulthood. From coping with the demands of education, taking their first steps in the labour market to finding their own identity and dealing with social and emotional changes, young people go through an extremely challenging phase of their lives. The effects of the global crises of recent years, such as financial instability, the pandemic, climate change and political conflicts, influence the lives of young people in many ways. In addition to the specific demands – one only has to think of the multiple restrictions during the pandemic, which put a huge strain on young people in this particular phase of life – all of these crises can negatively influence the way young people perceive their future prospects. Young people with a migrant background face particular challenges.

In addition to the general process of growing up, which is often perceived as difficult, they may also be confronted with language barriers, cultural identity issues and the dynamics of tension between different cultures. At the same time, young people in Austria have different ways of dealing with diversity, as their age group has increasingly diverse cultural backgrounds compared to older generations. Successful integration enables young people, as well as other age groups, to both live their cultural origins and participate equally in society as a whole. Integration promotes equal opportunities, social participation and intercultural exchange.

There is no uniform definition of youth – the age frame referred to differs depending on the approach, whether from the perspective of the social sciences, developmental psychology or youth policy. Legally, too, different age limits are set for different issues (e.g. criminal liability, civil capacity to act or to contract). The Federal Youth Representation Act and the Federal Youth Promotion Act consider all youths up to the age of 30 to be “young people”. For the purposes of integration policy, it is not necessary to define a precise age frame for the target group of young people with a migrant background. The decisive factor is that these are young people who are typically on the threshold between school education, vocational training and entry into working life and who are confronted with the challenges associated with these changes, along with the other challenges of growing up.

Young people are a diverse target group whose integration needs differ according to gender, country of birth or parents' country of birth, and socio-economic status. The following figures and data are intended to provide an overview of this target group.

Data, figures and statistical facts

At the beginning of 2023, 948,906 youths and young adults aged 15 to 24 were living in Austria. Of these, 195,537 were born abroad. This was slightly more than one fifth of all members of this age group (20.6%). Of the persons with a place of birth abroad, more than two thirds (68.5%) came from a European country. A relative majority (42.6%) of the young immigrants came from another EU state, another 26.0% from a non-EU European state. Almost one third (31.5%) were born outside of Europe. Between 2013 and 2023, the number of young immigrants in Austria increased by +51,202 persons (+35.5%).

The most important country of origin of the young immigrants was Germany (2023: 23,073) followed by Syria (17,797), Romania (16,658), Ukraine (12,374) and Afghanistan (11,209). This means that at the beginning of 2023, about a quarter of all young immigrants living in Austria came from countries that were and are marked by war and violent conflicts (Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Ukraine). This is a considerable difference compared to the situation 10 years ago, when – besides Germany – Türkiye, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia were the main countries of origin of young immigrants. With the exception of Germany, these states no longer played a central role as countries of origin at the beginning of 2023. Fewer youths and young adults born in there were living in Austria in 2023 than 10 years earlier. In contrast, there were significantly more young immigrants from Syria (+17,214), Ukraine (+11,047), Romania (+7,635) and Afghanistan (+5,615) in 2023 (compared to 2013). Many immigrants from Afghanistan, Syria and other conflict areas came to the country as unaccompanied minors (2022 in total: 13,276 people).

In addition to the significant rise in immigration from conflict regions²⁰, another reason for the increase in young immigrants in Austria is the rise in foreign-born students. In the winter semester 2021/22²¹ their number was 32,196 (compared to 26,802 in WS 2011/12). The vast majority of them came from other EU states.

Among immigrants from European countries, female youths and young women were slightly in the majority (share of women from EU states: 50.5%, third countries: 52.8%). In contrast, there was a clear male surplus among youths and young adults of non-European origin (male share: 63.3%).

At the beginning of 2023, 214,364 youths and young adults (15-24 years) living in Austria had only a foreign citizenship. This was not quite a quarter of everyone in this age group (22.6%). Of these, three quarters (74.5%) were nationals of European countries (excluding Austria), of which a majority (45.4%) were nationals of another EU state, and a further 29.1% were nationals of another non-EU European state. A quarter (25.5%) were nationals of a non-European state.

In 2022, on average, about three out of ten youths and young adults living in Austria had a migrant background (29.4% of all people of the same age). This means that the proportion of people with a migrant background in this age group is slightly higher than in the population as a whole (2022: 26.4%). Slightly more than half of the youths and young adults with a migrant background were born abroad (first generation: 51.9%); slightly less than half were born in Austria, but both parents were born abroad (second generation: 48.1%).

²⁰ Asylum and subsidiary protection, temporary right of residence (Ukraine) and family reunification are the main means of access.

²¹ The latest figures for the winter semester 2022/23 were not yet available when this report was written.

Of the foreign-born youths and young adults (first generation), 10.4% held Austrian citizenship. 89.5% were exclusively foreign nationals. Among the Austrian-born youths and young adults with a migrant background (second generation), the share of Austrian citizens was 72.9%. Yet 27.1% only had a foreign nationality despite being born in Austria.

Integration needs

Neither an exclusively non-Austrian citizenship nor a migrant background (first or second generation) automatically mean that the young people in question need help with integration. Even the young people who immigrated to Austria do not always show a need for integration support. In addition, it must be differentiated individually in which area and to what extent there is a need for integration support (for example with regard to German language skills, qualification for the labour market or other aspects).

Although the need for integration may always vary from individual to individual, it is possible to identify groups of young people who regularly have integration needs and face specific challenges. This includes young people who have migrated to Austria from conflict areas. Some of them have had traumatic or at least extraordinarily stressful experiences, be it in the conflict areas from which they came or during their flight. These burdens do not disappear with their arrival in Austria, especially if the young people are worried about family members, friends or acquaintances who stayed behind in their country of origin. It should also be borne in mind that regular school attendance or continuous learning was often not possible either in the area of origin or during the flight, which is often a longer process with stops along the way. Unaccompanied minors are also confronted with having to cope not only with the flight on their own, but also with arriving and integrating in Austria. At the same time, they may be under pressure from their family back in their country of origin to quickly become (economically) successful in Austria. This may also have an impact on their utilisation of qualification measures. One specific group is young people from Ukraine who have come to Austria since the beginning of the Russian war of aggression on 24 February 2022. They bring special experiences and needs with them that also have an influence on the integration process. With this in mind, it also should not be overlooked that young people with a migrant background from the first and second generation without fleeing experience may also have a need for integration. In particular, young people with a migrant background who were already born in Austria (second generation) often face integration challenges, as data from the education sector suggests. Questions about cultural identity and self-image in society sometimes still occupy the minds of subsequent generations. Integration policy for young people must therefore be differentiated, as each of these groups has different attitudes and potentials. On the one hand, young people have a high potential for integration; on the other hand, they are also particularly susceptible to disintegrative influences due to their age. Various factors play a role in integrating young people with a migrant background. Of particular importance are education and language acquisition, the labour market and social and identity integration. The following chapter therefore focuses on analysing these central areas and provides an overview of young people in the context of integration.

YOUTH AND EDUCATION

In Austria, success in formal education determines later access to qualified work and thus also to economic independence and social status. Formal qualifications are not only a prerequisite for adequate remuneration, but also a prerequisite for entering the labour market in the first place through their signal function for employers that applicants have the skills required for a job.²² It therefore makes sense to discuss the question of the education of young people with a migrant background primarily in connection with indicators of the formal education system. In addition, more elusive factors at the social life and individual level also determine success in school and work, which will likewise be discussed below.

Questions about the educational status and educational careers of young people with a migrant background have three dimensions. Firstly, there are the formal and informal educational resources they bring with them from their home country, should they themselves have immigrated to Austria or fled; secondly, there is the formal educational status of young people with a migrant background here in Austria and their educational careers, broken down along socio-demographic markers such as (previous) nationality, mother tongue and language used in everyday life, the socio-economic situation of their parents, etc.; and thirdly, the aspirations within biographies and between generations that are translated into possible educational advancements.

School attendance of young people with non-German everyday language

As already mentioned in the section on education and language in the chapter “Integration in numbers”, the share of pupils with non-German everyday language was just under 27%, at the academic secondary school it was below average (21%), at the middle schools it was clearly above average at 34%. First language or everyday language are certainly not the only determinants of educational trajectories, but they are nevertheless a marker for the probability of attending a certain type of school. This is also reflected in the number of pupils who transfer to schools focused on teaching for the school leaving examination (Matura). In 2021/22, 85,000 pupils attended grade 8 (the last year of lower secondary level) and then moved on to upper secondary level. Almost 49,000 or 60% of the young people transferred to an academic secondary school or a higher vocational school. After lower secondary level, 63% of young people with German as their everyday language attended an upper cycle academic secondary school or higher vocational school; young people with a non-German everyday language did so at a significantly lower rate (45%).

About half (47%) of the Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian speakers transfer to an academic secondary school (900) or higher vocational school (1,900) after the lower secondary level. Of pupils with Arabic as their everyday language, 45% or 800 attended an upper cycle academic secondary school or higher vocational school after the lower secondary level. 43% of Romanian-speaking pupils transferred to a school that teaches for the school leaving exam (Matura). Of the 700 pupils who speak Farsi or Dari, about 300 or 40% attended an upper cycle academic secondary school or higher vocational school. Of the young people moving to upper secondary level, just under 5,000 speak Turkish at home, some 2,000 of whom (39%) go on to an

²² Severing, Eckart and Weiß, Reinhold (2014), *Weiterentwicklung von Berufen – Herausforderungen für die Berufsbildungsforschung*, pp. 7f.

academic secondary or higher vocational school after completing lower secondary level. Similarly, below-average percentages of pupils who speak Chechen day to day transitioned to a school that teaches for the school leaving exam (Matura). A total of 16% of pupils who do not speak German at home did not move on at all, either repeating eighth grade or abandoning their schooling altogether. This figure was three times higher than for pupils with German as their everyday language.

TRANSFERS FROM LOWER SECONDARY LEVEL TO UPPER CYCLE AT ACADEMIC SECONDARY AND HIGHER VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

2021/22 by everyday language

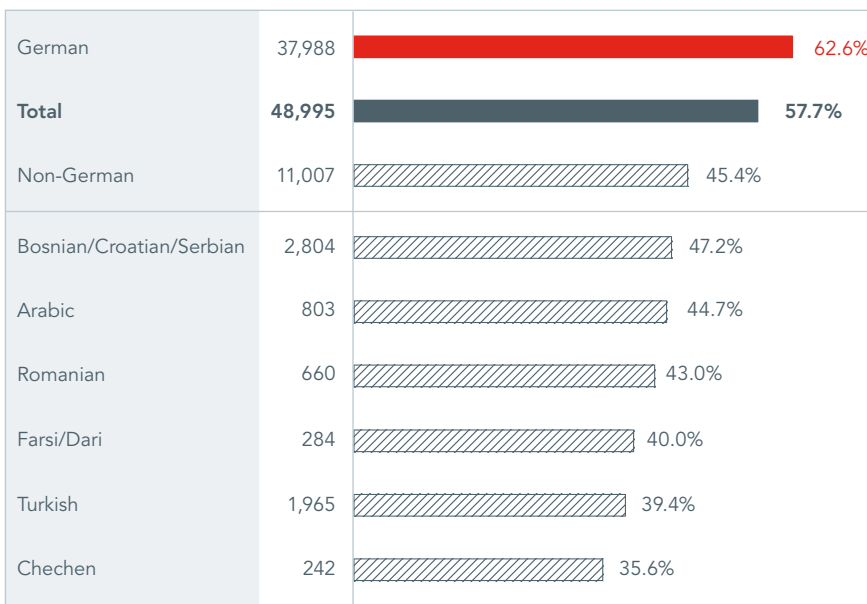


Fig. 25; Source: Statistics Austria (2022), School statistics; own presentation

Two aspects are important here. Firstly, pupils who do not speak German at home and who have already completed the lower cycle at an academic secondary school make the switch to its upper cycle just as seamlessly as their peers with German as an everyday language. Secondly, former pupils of special needs schools make up a particularly high percentage of non-German-speaking pupils who drop out of school or abandon their education prematurely.²³ Both these trends indicate that success or failure in one's educational life is decided early on and that it is hard to make up for a disadvantaged start later in life.

²³ From an integration perspective, it is important for children who need help with their language but do not have any cognitive impairment to receive bespoke support and not end up in a special needs school; see the Expert Council for Integration (2021), Integration Report 2021, p. 33.

Young people's alphabetisation needs and participation in German courses

People with a refugee background will generally be starting from a particularly challenging position. In this context, there have been signs over the past few years of greater alphabetisation needs amongst those attending an Austrian Integration Fund (ÖIF) German course, and this applies both to young people (15-25) and adults (over 25).²⁴ Young people made up around 40% (3,044) of the 7,485 people who were granted an entitlement to asylum or subsidiary protection in 2022 and attended an ÖIF German course. No less than 70% of both the young people and the adults (2,138 and 3,111 individuals respectively) had to complete a alphabetisation course first.

The overall increase in alphabetisation needs can chiefly be explained by the situation facing Syrian refugees, amongst whom the illiteracy rate was 78% in both age groups (1,906 young people and 2,704 adults). Back in 2015, these figures were much lower at 14% for young people and 29% for adults from Syria. There is a degree of variation between the age groups amongst Afghans, with 39% of young people and 53% of adults needing an alphabetisation course in 2022. Amongst other things, the rise in alphabetisation needs can be explained by the ongoing nature of the war, which has partially or completely disrupted children's schooling in Syria. The point in time at which someone flees their homeland is also significant. People with greater resources, who often boast a higher level of education as well as a result, are able to flee sooner and to places farther away than those with fewer resources and less education.

A total of 50,687 course places were offered at Alpha, A1, A2 and B1 levels in 2022, 24% of which were taken up by young people. Only 17% of the 32,870 examinations at A2 and B1 level were sat by young people, 16 percentage points fewer than in 2016. Thus, adults were more likely to sit for examinations, but more young people were likely to obtain positive results in them.²⁵ In 2022, the young people who took up the option of German course support and attended the corresponding course before sitting the examination had a pass rate of 61% at A2 level and 60% at B1 level. The equivalent figures for the adults, by contrast, were 48% and 46%, respectively.

Adults and young people with alphabetisation needs found it harder than those without to achieve higher levels of language skills, with young people performing somewhat better. Looking at the period from 2016 to 2020, only 10% of young people and 6% of adults out of the total of 14,884 people with asylum or subsidiary protection status who started out with alphabetisation needs achieved B1 level, and only 5% of the young people and 1.5% of the adults passed the corresponding examination. Only 0.2% of the young people and no adults achieved C1 level in their language learning.

Literate persons entering the course system are more likely to obtain higher-level qualifications or, at the very least, reach the level taught on their course without actually sitting the examination. Unlike amongst those with alphabetisation needs, age plays hardly any role in this group. Of the 18,961 first-time course attendees between 2016 and 2020, 0.3% of the young people and 0.3% of the adults achieved C1 level. Many more persons reached B2 level - 14% of young people and 11% of adults - although only 1% of each group passed the associated examination. A total

²⁴ The statements below are based on a special evaluation by the ÖIF (2023).

²⁵ Note that the basis used for calculation varies. In terms of course places, participants are divided into young people and adults based on their age on the day the course starts; for examinations, it is how old they are when the examination is held.

of 11% of young people and 9% of adults sat the B1 examination, with 19% of each group reaching the level taught on the course but opting not to sit the examination.

Of the 10,477 young people who passed through the system between 2016 and 2020, 80% attended one to three courses and the remaining 20% four or more. The equivalent split amongst the adults was 64% to 36%, indicating that they went to more courses on average. Considering both aspects together - the number of courses attended and the language levels reached - young people would appear to find it easier than adults to learn a language. They need fewer courses on average and achieve a higher standard of language skills.

Vocational schools and apprenticeships

As well as a greater likelihood of attending a special needs school and a growing number of young people with alphabetisation needs, it is also apparent that pupils who do not speak German at home are significantly under-represented at vocational schools. They made up just 14% of total pupil numbers at these schools in 2021/22, illustrating that young people with a migrant background are much less likely to start apprenticeship training than those without. Young people without any qualifications beyond those gained in compulsory schooling have much fewer opportunities on the labour market. In 2020, some 44% of those registered unemployed had no qualifications beyond their compulsory school leaving certification.²⁶ A mere 8% of all those in Austria who only completed compulsory schooling have a job two years after finishing, as against 50% with an apprenticeship. No less than 69% of those who only completed compulsory schooling are registered unemployed 18 months after finishing, compared to just 13% or so of those with an apprenticeship. What is more, apprenticeship graduates can earn over twice as much on average.²⁷ In this context, Biffi et al. have identified a lack of awareness amongst families with a migrant background in terms of both the importance of educational qualifications and achievements at school for the highly demanding dual-curriculum apprenticeship training and the potential that apprenticeship training offers for successful participation in the economy and a successful life in general.²⁸ The Compulsory Education or Training Act 2016 (Ausbildungspflichtgesetz; APfIG)²⁹ gives young people up to age 18 a relatively long time in which to access an apprenticeship or alternative training pathways, e.g. as part of an apprenticeship training in cooperation with several companies. This option is also available to those who have left school or formal education either temporarily or permanently. However, it is not taken up by everyone who is entitled or obliged to do so and is not available to young adults with similar needs due to the age limit.³⁰

26 Austrian Public Employment Service (AMS) (2020), *Arbeitsmarktdaten und Arbeitsmarktforschung. Arbeitsmarktdaten im Kontext von Bildungsabschlüssen.*

27 Statistics Austria (2023), *Kurzbericht über Ergebnisse des Bildungsbezogenen Erwerbskarrieremonitorings (BibEr)*, p. 9.

28 Biffi, Gudrun et al. (2014), *Der Einfluss sozialer Netzwerke auf die Bildungs- und Berufsentscheidungen von Jugendlichen mit Migrationshintergrund in Wien und Vorarlberg.*

29 Bundesgesetz, mit dem die Verpflichtung zu Bildung oder Ausbildung für Jugendliche geregelt wird (Ausbildungspflichtgesetz – APfIG), original version: Federal Law Gazette I No. 62/2016.

30 Daume, Dieter (2023), *Qualifizierung von Menschen mit geringem formalem Bildungsniveau ist der Schlüssel zur Deckung des künftigen Fachkräftebedarfs.*

This group is covered by the 2017 agreement on basic education and obtaining compulsory school leaving certification later in life under Art. 15a of the Federal Constitutional Law (B-VG). Adults and young people from a disadvantaged educational background and with few formal qualifications can access an extensive range of courses in both areas under the Austrian Initiative for Adult Education.³¹ Calculations based on findings from the PIAAC survey³² suggest that there are around 243,000 people in total in Austria who need to catch up on their basic education, including some 29,700 15–24-year olds.³³ Just over 8,500 people attended the courses offered in the 2021/22 school year (roughly 78% basic education and about 22% compulsory school leaving certification). Around 82% of participants were not Austrian citizens. In absolute terms, the list was headed by Afghans (1,523), followed by Austrians (1,491), Syrians (1,183), Somalis (546) and Turks (501). These figures highlight the significant need amongst (young) adults with a refugee background for catch-up education and/or training. They also suggest that, together with the alphabetisation and German support courses already mentioned, expanding these measures further could significantly improve the educational and training situation of the most educationally disadvantaged group, i.e. refugees whose education to date has been rudimentary and/or interrupted.

Educational paths, advancement and aspirations

The available indicators show that, on average, children and young people with a migrant background have a much less successful time at school and in education than those without, even though some individuals do have an extremely positive experience. Only a third of them on average met the necessary standards in educational standard assessments.³⁴ What reasons could there be for this, aside from the fact that young people with a refugee background have already had their education disrupted in their home country?

One reason is intergenerational, with the educational success enjoyed by children and young people heavily dependent on their parents' own level of education. This tends to be lower but also more mixed amongst immigrant parents than amongst those of Austrian-born children. In 2018, for instance, 32% of parents of Austrian-born primary school children held a university or equivalent qualification, while 21% had obtained the Matura, 43% had finished an apprenticeship or intermediate school, and a mere 3% had only completed compulsory schooling.³⁵ Amongst parents of children of German origin, the breakdown was as follows: 50% higher education qualifications, 13% school with Matura, 31% apprenticeship and intermediate school, and 6% compulsory schooling only. The situation for parents of children of Turkish origin is markedly different, with only 9% having completed higher education, 17% a school preparing for the Matura and 35% an apprenticeship. No less than 39% of them had left education after completing their compulsory schooling.

These figures are pertinent because education is often inherited from one generation to the next. This is partly because the Austrian education system does not have the capacity to make up for disadvantages resulting from someone's background (educationally disadvantaged parents, immigrant parents with insufficient German skills) to an adequate extent. Only 7% of the young adults in Austria whose parents had nothing beyond a compulsory school leaving certification held a higher educa

31 Austrian Initiative for Adult Education Steering Group (2019), *Programmplanungsdokument Initiative Erwachsenenbildung*, p. 6.

32 PIAAC (Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies) is an ongoing international study examining key skills (reading ability, everyday mathematics and adaptive problem-solving) that adults aged 16 to 65 need in order to play an active part in everyday society.

33 Austrian Initiative for Adult Education Steering Group (2019), *Programmplanungsdokument Initiative Erwachsenenbildung*, p. 11.

34 See Expert Council for Integration (2020), *Integration Report 2020*, pp. 56–57.

35 Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) (2021), *Nationaler Bildungsbericht Österreich 2021*, pp. 174 ff.

tion qualification in 2016.³⁶ Alongside “first language other than German”, therefore, “parents with nothing beyond a compulsory school leaving certification” and “low job status of parents” are seen as the main risk factors for their children’s educational success. Although a mere 4% of children with a migrant background were affected by all three risks in 2018, a much higher percentage were exposed to one or two of them. As might be expected, this applied in particular to “first language other than German” as the second major reason for struggles at school. Given how much influence an adequate understanding of the language of instruction has on educational success, however, this figure is key.³⁷ As well as educationally disadvantaged parents, the literature also identifies insufficient language skills – or, more precisely, a lack of competence in the language of instruction – as a decisive barrier to a successful time at school. Having their ability in their language of instruction deemed inadequate often has an impact on the entire school life of the pupils concerned, who may be held back a year or transferred to lower-level schools as a result.³⁸ Austria has been tackling this problem with free compulsory kindergarten places and, since the 2018/19 school year, with the German support classes and training courses that run alongside regular lessons.³⁹

Another important factor for educational success and/or advancement from one generation to the next is the educational aspirations held by the children and young people themselves and/or by their parents and families. These tend to be high, researchers have found. However, they also note that some young people with a migrant background exhibit a marked discrepancy between their idealistic and their realistic aspirations.⁴⁰ On the one hand, a high level of ambition helps to reduce the educational gap between young people with a migrant background and those without. On the other, it can also lead young people to drop out of the education and training system entirely if they fail to achieve unrealistically lofty aims. This is one reason why a relatively large number of young people with a migrant background abandon their education prematurely.⁴¹ Researchers have identified several key factors influencing the young people who enjoy success and advancement in their education: a significant focus on education within the family combined with a strong family unit, inspiration and support; support from teachers, who spot and encourage areas of potential; the availability of language training and mentoring schemes; and motivation, discipline and resilience on the part of the individuals themselves. A family environment that generally embraces gender equality is also important in the case of young women.⁴² Girls and boys are fairly likely to be afforded the same educational opportunities in “modern family contexts”.⁴³

36 Statistics Austria (2018), *Vererbung von Bildungschancen*, p. 1.

37 Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (2021), *Nationaler Bildungsbericht Österreich 2021*, p. 176.

38 Westphal, Manuela (2011), *Bildungserfolg von Migrantinnen in Deutschland*, p. 6.

39 Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (2019), *Deutschförderklassen und Deutschförderkurse. Leitfaden für Schulleiterinnen und Schulleiter*, p. 3.

40 Astleithner, Franz et al. (2021), *Zwischen Wunsch und Wirklichkeit: Zum Zusammenhang von sozialer Herkunft, Migration und Bildungsaspirationen*.

41 *Ibid.*, p. 19.

42 Westphal, Manuela (2011), *Bildungserfolg von Migrantinnen in Deutschland*, p. 7.

43 Kuschej, Hermann et al. (2023), *Bildungsaspirationen von jugendlichen Migrant/innen*, p. 10.

Summary and measures

In summary, it is fair to say that developing their skills in German – and particularly enabling them to follow it in lessons – has to be the main priority in order to continue to improve the educational success and advancement of young people with a migrant background. By providing free compulsory kindergarten places and German support in schools, Austria has already introduced some significant measures in this regard. The effectiveness of these instruments should be evaluated, and they should be expanded if this is appropriate – either way, though, they should be retained. To provide early support in particular to children with a migrant background who do not speak German as their first language, introducing a second compulsory year at kindergarten and having children start kindergarten from the age of two wherever possible would appear to be important steps in improving their educational opportunities. This is something that the Expert Council has already proposed on several occasions.⁴⁴ Evidence suggests that children who are lagging behind with their German are unlikely to be able to catch up in the space of a year at kindergarten, especially if they only spend half-days there. The literature identifies several key measures relating to the provision of German support: teacher training and continuing professional development to strengthen the role that they play in supporting specific target groups; providing more systematic and context-specific advice on education and advancement, especially at schools; and encouraging immigrant parents to get involved in school life. Broader access to the services available to young adults in compulsory education and a greater number of modular education and training systems – particularly for apprenticeship training – could enable those who abandon their education prematurely to get back into the education system and train for a qualification as well as allowing young people whose education has been disrupted by their displacement to access educational and life opportunities at a later stage. The further expansion of the opportunities for basic education and/or for obtaining the compulsory school leaving certification later in life within the framework of the relevant agreement of 2017 under Art. 15a B-VG should also be considered in this context. The fact that it is available to young adults makes this option an expedient and highly promising measure, particularly for the most educationally disadvantaged group of people – refugees who were unable to gain a basic education of this kind in their homeland because its education systems had collapsed.

44 See e.g. Expert Council for Integration (2021), *Integration Report 2021*, pp. 78–79.

INTEGRATING YOUNG PEOPLE INTO THE LABOUR MARKET

In Austria in 2022 as a whole, there were an annual average of 445,800 15-25-year olds working for an employer (255,200 young men and 190,600 young women), 24.1% of whom were foreign nationals (107,400; 64,800 men and 42,600 women). In addition, 8,300 were self-employed or assisted family members (5,800 men and 2,500 women). Within this group, the percentage of foreigners (27.5%) was somewhat higher amongst salaried employees due to the important role that working for a family member plays amongst migrants. In total, therefore, 454,100 15-25-year olds were in gainful employment, working either for themselves or for an employer. Of this number, 109,700 (24.2%) were foreign nationals. Viewed over an extended time horizon, young people make up 10% of all those in gainful employment, whether they are Austrian or foreign nationals (2022: Austrians 10.2%, foreigners 10.5%). This also applies to the unemployment rate. In 2022, 9.9% of all unemployed people in Austria were aged between 15 and 25. Amongst the foreigners without a job, the percentage of young people was slightly lower at 9.3%. 15-25-year olds made up 16% of the working-age population (aged 15 to 65). Young people account for a smaller percentage of people in the labour force than of the working-age population because many young people go on to higher-level schools or universities after completing their compulsory schooling.

Of the 25,500 unemployed 15-25-year olds in 2022 (14,900 male and 10,600 female), 8,600 (33.7%) were foreign nationals. Comparing this figure with the number of unemployed young people with a migrant background from the microcensus reveals that, at 22,100, it is similar to that broken down by nationality. There is a roughly equal split between young first- and second-generation generation.

At 35.6%, young men made up a slightly higher percentage of foreign unemployed nationals than young women (30.9%). Nevertheless, the unemployment rate amongst 15-25-year olds foreigners (7.4%) was only marginally higher than the rate for this age group as a whole (5.4%), a very low figure compared to the situation in other countries. This is thanks to the high take-up of dual vocational training, particularly amongst young Austrians, which is - after all - also counted as employment. This is one of the reasons why, at 4.8%, the unemployment rate amongst 15-25-year old Austrians is much lower than for foreigners in the same age bracket (7.4%). There is less of a difference in the unemployment rate between 15-25-year old Austrian and foreign women than there is between young men in the same age group (2.4 as against 2.8 percentage points). Nevertheless, it is becoming clear that, although young foreign nationals tend to be well integrated into working life, there are some groups who find it harder to get a foothold in the labour market. This is likely to be due in part to their lower level of education - for one thing, they are less likely to have a school-leaving qualification as many attend a special needs school; for another, fewer of them go on to further education after completing their compulsory schooling. The activity rate amongst 15-25-year olds in the labour force (total number of employed and unemployed people as a percentage of the population of the same age) also shows that they get a job more quickly than young Austrians (48.1% compared to 45.2%), e.g. working as labourers after completing their compulsory schooling. There is a more noticeable difference amongst young men than young women (young men 54.4% versus 50.3%; young women 40.9% versus 39.7%). This means that young foreigners have less opportunity for gainful employment than their Austrian counterparts in both the short and the medium-to-long term, particu

larly if they do not undertake any continuing education or training as they get older. Integration policy should therefore focus not only on encouraging young people with a migrant background to stay longer in the school system but also on promoting employment that offers opportunities for advancement. This suggestion is prompted by the above-average percentage of young women and men who are employed in industries and jobs with limited career prospects. For instance, foreign women and girls aged 15 to 25, who make up 22.4% of the female population on average, account for 43.5% of those working in other economic services (frequently contract work and cleaning), followed by tourism at 39.3% – the typical industry for young people to enter, in some cases via an apprenticeship – and working in private homes at 37.7%. The order is slightly different for young males. Top of the list in terms of foreign workers is working in private homes at 54.5%, followed by tourism (52.5%), other economic services (50.5%), and education and teaching (36.6%).

NEETS

2022 by migrant background

	15 – 24 year olds total	Proportion of NEETs in group of origin	NEETs total	Proportion of NEETs total
Without migrant background	632,693	6.4%	40,465	55.8%
With migrant background	267,877	12.0%	32,110	44.2%
First generation	140,424	13.7%	19,228	26.5%
Second generation	127,454	10.1%	12,882	17.7%
EU states before 2007/EFTA/GB	49,515	6.6%**	3,263 **	4.5% **
EU accession states since 2007	33,428	16.1%**	5,390 **	7.4% **
Former Yugoslavia (outside the EU)	68,287	11.2%	7,713	10.6%
Türkiye	40,667	16.6%	6,788	9.4%
Refugee countries of origin*	39,691	11.4%**	4,546 **	6.3% **
Other third countries	36,289	12.2%**	4,411 **	6.1% **

* Refugee countries of origin: Afghanistan, Syria, Russian Federation, Iran, Iraq and Somalia. This is an approximation: on the one hand, not all nationals of these countries are refugees, on the other hand, some refugees with other nationalities were not included; ** Figures with less than an extrapolated 6,000 persons are very much subject to random fluctuations.

Fig. 26; Source: Statistics Austria (2023), Microcensus Labour Force Survey; own presentation

Another indicator that is relevant from an integration policy perspective because it is generally mentioned in connection with young people with a migrant background is the number of 15-25-year olds not in education, employment or training (“NEETs”). The OECD coined this term in the early 2000s to highlight the lack of education and employment amongst certain groups of young people and young adults. Based on this data and according to the microcensus (Household Survey), there were 72,600 young people aged 15 to 25 who were not working or in some form of education or training in 2022. Young people with a migrant background accounted for 44.2% of NEETs and were thus significantly over-represented compared with their peers. In the case of both young people with a migrant background and those without, however, NEETs made up a relatively small percentage of the total population aged 15 to 25: 6.4% (40,500) and 12% (32,100) of 15-25-year olds without and with a migrant background respectively. In the latter category, the percentage of first-generation immigrants was higher than second-generation immigrants (13.7% or 19,200 as against 10.1% or 12,900). However, there are marked differences when it comes to background: young people with fleeing experience make up almost as high a percentage (just over 11%) as those from countries of the former Yugoslavia outside the EU. Young people with a Turkish

migrant background made up the highest percentage of NEETs (16.6%), followed closely by those who immigrated from the accession states since 2007. This suggests that integration policy requires close coordination between the education and employment system and associations focused on supporting young people from the traditional countries of immigration in order to develop suitable pathways into education and the labour market. Extracurricular youth work has a special role to play here.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND YOUTH GROUPS IN THE CONTEXT OF SOCIO- EMOTIONAL INTEGRATION

Many young people with a migrant background are well integrated in Austria, while others have needs in this regard and are facing challenges in many respects. Besides education and the labour market, therefore, socio-emotional integration, a sense of belonging, processes of finding one's identity, sets of values and gender roles are also key. A number of these specific factors will thus be analysed individually in the following section. Being "socially integrated" chiefly means participating actively in society, from engaging in regular dialogue with the majority society through to making use of education and employment opportunities. Social integration happens on both an individual and a social/institutional level.

A sense of belonging to society as a whole is a key indicator for assessing social integration. As well as making it easier to integrate into a society, feelings of belonging and a favourable attitude towards democracy also keep a democracy legitimate, stable and able to function. People's sense of belonging also reveals information about what cultural and collective identities they are drawn towards. Young people in particular find themselves in a process of identifying with or setting themselves apart from other social groups. The question of "belonging" is a complex one, however, and young people with a migrant background will generally feel multiple such affiliations. Thus most young people feel a bond with both Austria and their country of origin or, as appropriate, that of their parents. In a research report prepared by the Austrian Integration Fund (ÖIF), 47% of young people with a Turkish, Syrian, Afghan or former Yugoslavian migrant background said that they identified "completely" or "more so" with Austria when they were surveyed in August 2021, while 9% identified more strongly with their family's country of origin and 35% picked the "both" option. 70% of young people said that they were in favour of the Austrian lifestyle, with 72% feeling "part of Austria" and 64% regarding it as their country of origin. The survey shows that young people with a migrant background have a relatively high degree of trust in Austria's institutions, especially in the Austrian state (61%), its economy (59%) and its health service (68%). Trust in Austria's political institutions, by contrast, is much lower by comparison.⁴⁵

Opinions vary depending on the young people's background. In a previous study of young people of Muslim origin in Vienna, the majority (between 75% and almost 100%) firmly believed that democracy was the best form of government, including a large number of people who had no previous experience of democratic systems. The majorities were somewhat smaller amongst young people with a Syrian, Afghan or Chechen migrant background. However, some people in the groups of young Muslims also expressed problematic views on homosexuality, the role of religion and gender equality. For instance, 77% of the young people from Afghanistan, 58% of those from Syria and 52% of those from Türkiye felt that men should make all the major decisions.⁴⁶

45 Austrian Integration Fund (2023), *Werte und Einstellungen junger Migrant/innen*, pp. 10–11 and 21.

46 Güngör, Kenan et al. (2019), *Junge Menschen mit muslimischer Prägung in Wien*, pp. 56–57, 78 and 82–85.

Sub-milieus of young people in urban areas

The study entitled “Jugendliche Submilieus in urbanen Räumen” (“Sub-milieus of young people in urban areas”) by GÜNGÖR et al., which formed part of the report “Gesellschaftlicher Zusammenhalt und Segregation” (“Social cohesion and segregation – taking stock of integration and disintegration in Austria”)⁴⁷ published in April 2023, painted a comprehensive picture of the structures and dynamics of existing groupings of young people by putting these groups in the public eye.

The groups of young people that exist at present are characterised in particular by loose structures and a high degree of fluidity, and it is possible to try out different identities and societal roles within them. Despite the fluidity between the various groupings of young people, there is nevertheless a link between one’s socio-economic background and what scene one is part of. Belonging to youth groups does not remove the existing social stratification. Factors that determine group membership include socio-spatial factors such as residential block, neighbourhood, parks and school, as well as interests, values, age, migrant background and integration history. The change from one youth scene to another takes place primarily within the socio-economic lower class to lower middle class. There is barely any vertical mobility, i.e. advancement to socio-economically higher social strata. The extent to which young people can use the social capital resulting from their social environment is relevant in terms of social participation and prosperity. This shows that young people from socially underprivileged environments do not have the social capital at their disposal that would enable them to advance socially.

It must be remembered that people are anchored in different environments to different extents. This is also reflected in the fact that the majority of existing youth groups are ethnoculturally mixed. One reason for this is that the countries of origin of persons with a migrant background are increasingly diversifying. Due to the diversity of languages of origin, German is very often used as the language of communication within these groups – often in the form of a multi-ethnic youth language or an ethnolect. This means that the dominance of individual languages of origin tends to decrease. Muslim, Arab and Chechen groups of youths are often associated with poverty and social disadvantage by experts, while this is less often the case for groups with an ex-Yugoslavian background.

Public space is of great importance especially for young people from underprivileged environments. It creates space away from the school and family environment, where new interethnic contacts and friendships are made. A gender-specific difference in leisure behaviour can be observed, as public spaces are primarily used by male youths. Female youths with a migrant background spend a much larger proportion of their free time at home than male youths and use services such as youth centres less often. School-based social work is more appropriate in reaching these.

In certain youth groups characterised by Muslim influence, self-identification with “being Muslim” plays an essential role in the sense of belonging. This identification can be both a vague common background and of relevance in terms of guiding actions. A confrontational commitment to Islam is made for self-assurance, while in many cases, it is also used to constitute a common identity for Muslims via which they want to distinguish themselves from non-Muslims. It is striking that the term “Muslim” is increasingly used to define boundaries and social orientation, and less to express a person’s own religiosity. If the social, cultural or religious discrepancy between the young people’s environment and the majority society is large, a feeling of alienation towards the majority society can arise. There is a fear of growing alien

⁴⁷ Austrian Integration Fund/Federal Chancellery (Eds.) (2023), *Gesellschaftlicher Zusammenhalt und Segregation*, pp. 108 ff.

ation among young people disadvantaged in socio-economic terms, especially if this is linked to a basic attitude in society that is hostile to Islam.

A decrease in sympathies for jihadism and extremist terror can be seen overall. However, the rigid understanding of Islam, which is hostile to equality and plurality and can be observed in some groups, is problematic. Some Turkish and Chechen sub-milieus are increasingly turning to ethnic, ultra-nationalist authoritarianism. These potential conflicts are also what led to the riots in Vienna's Favoriten district in 2020, which lasted for several days.

IDENTITY, VALUES AND GENDER ROLES

In their adolescence, young people with a migrant background as well as unaccompanied refugee minors can experience the diversity of the cultural codes they grow up with in Austria, i.e. those of their origin and those of the majority society. Experience from project work with young people often shows a disjointed self-image or unstable personal development among adolescents if they are not given adequate strategies in enculturation or acculturation to accept the cultural differences and to reconcile or link these.⁴⁸ In this case, there is often compensation for the cultural codes that have not been agreed, which can cause painful tendencies towards division further down the line. If there is no option of latching onto the majority society, the culture of origin can become an idealised place or an anchor for finding identity that excludes the culture of the majority society.⁴⁹ Many young people succeed in using the confrontation with different codes as added value, whereas others need support for this.

The period of adolescence is a phase that enables young people to participate in the change of norms and living conditions⁵⁰ and in which the individual's attitude towards culture can be formed. The phase of adolescence can accordingly be seen as a resource.⁵¹ At the same time, young people in this phase of life can be particularly vulnerable and confronted with instabilities and identity crises.⁵² Likewise, polarisation and tendencies towards division are characteristic of this developmental phase. Some of the internal processes by which young people open up to other cultural codes and get used to a new environment (such as detachment from their family or acculturation) can trigger anxiety, feelings of loneliness, abandonment or powerlessness. These feelings can intensify in the context of migration or integration, as the social circumstances or acculturation processes demand a double sense of detachment among young people at the same time, i.e., detachment from the culture of origin and entry into the second culture and detachment from the family. This is why migration processes are also referred to as "cultural adolescence".⁵³ This means that as strangers, young people as well as adults are dependent on the friendly acceptance of the locals, especially when there is a lack of confirmation through family or work and the already unstable identity structures of young people are additionally destabilised.⁵⁴

The idealisation of the country and culture of origin can be accompanied by the unquestioned adoption and internalisation of cultural codes (habits, customs, gender roles). The conflicts in identity intensified by migration are often accompanied by polarisation, with the result that cultural attitudes perceived as deviant and destabilising for one's own community are usually warded off. It can therefore be assumed that the feeling of anchoring or the roots which young people need for their stable identity development is offset by retreating into the community. The search for iden

48 Enculturation is understood as growing into a certain culture, acculturation as the adoption of cultural elements.

49 Streeck-Fischer, Annette (2023), *Spaltungsprozesse bei Jugendlichen mit Migrationshintergrund*, p. 47.

50 Saric, Emina (2021), *Ehre, Scham und Schande*, p. 110.

51 Erdheim, Mario (1988), *Psychoanalyse und Unbewusstheit in der Kultur*, p. 171.

52 Streeck-Fischer, Annette (2023), *Spaltungsprozesse bei Jugendlichen mit Migrationshintergrund (Processes of division among young people with a migrant background)*, p. 45.

53 Machleidt, Wielant (2013), *Migration, Kultur und psychische Gesundheit*.

54 "The process of individuation takes place twice for young migrants - as adolescents and as migrants. If their integration into society fails, these young people form a melting pot for dangerous developments with malignant processes of division - both towards dissociality, militancy or drugs, as well towards a descent into destructive parallel worlds." Streeck-Fischer, Annette (2023), p. 47.

tification markers can ultimately also lead to a radical environment in which young people get a sense of being chosen or singled out. Such environments can lead to radicalisation or extremist attitudes or violence.

Retreat into a traditional understanding of roles

If traditional and conservative values are cultivated in communities that can serve as places of retreat in the integration process, these are sometimes perceived as stabilising. A traditional, heteronormative segregation of the sexes can e.g. also become entrenched and typically male or female stereotypes can be passed on. Such contexts are characterised by a male hierarchy that is presented as the result of historical and socio-cultural processes, and is not considered socially mediated, but rather a biologically based and objectively unchangeable fundamental truth. Those affected by such power relations, which in this sense can be described as culture based on honour, patriarchal and collectivist in character, learn in this way to follow the prevailing patterns of thought and to perceive their environment accordingly.⁵⁵

Girls and boys are brought up and educated in different ways, with girls taught how they should behave and what honourable femininity means. Behavioural norms that have become strongly imprinted in the female behavioural pattern include e.g. taking care of the in-laws, being constantly available in the household, being responsible and in charge of raising the children and helping with all other household chores.⁵⁶ For young people with such a traditional role model, especially girls, successful integration into the educational system and the labour market can be more difficult and result in the social marginalisation of young people, a lack of prospects and the risk of poverty, especially in old age. These factors play a major role in the integration process and should always be kept in mind so that negative emotions such as anger or rage do not gain the upper hand, and development in adolescence instead leans towards positive participation in culture and society. Different offers are suitable for this purpose, both in school and in open youth work, which have a stabilising effect on young people through peer-educative and psychosocial programmes.

These types of offers should contribute towards ensuring that young people, regardless of their social, cultural or religious background, have age-appropriate knowledge about gender roles and gender inequalities and how these can be changed. Furthermore, they should be empowered to deal constructively with gender differences and conflicts or misunderstandings that arise from these in everyday life, as well as to recognise patriarchal role assignments, set their own boundaries and find ways of self-determination.⁵⁷ Positive role models who encourage and motivate through their personal stories are also of central importance in this context. Projects that make an important contribution to this include HEROES, which promotes gender equality through preventive approaches working with men, and "Zusammen:Österreich" ("Together:Austria"), where integration ambassadors talk about their own personal development during school visits.

55 See Chapter D in Austrian Integration Fund/Federal Chancellery (Eds.) (2023), *Gesellschaftlicher Zusammenhalt und Segregation (Social cohesion and segregation)*, p. 178.

56 Saric, Emina (2021), *Ehre, Scham und Schande (Honour, Shame and Disgrace)*, p. 40.

57 See Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) (2019), "Reflective gender pedagogy and equality" policy statement.

YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A MIGRANT BACKGROUND AND CRIME

The number of police investigations against young people in Austria increased by 75% between 1975 and 2021. There was a shift in the structure of offences from offences against life and limb to offences against the Narcotic Substances Act and offences against liberty.⁵⁸ As a result, the proportion of juvenile suspects and convicts under the age of 21 with foreign citizenship increased significantly between 2002 and 2021. The number of alternative “diversionary” arrangements (mediation, community service, as well as conditional sentences) also rose sharply.⁵⁹

The number of convictions is an important indicator in the field of youth crime. The age group of under-21s who have been convicted of criminal offences has seen a significant decrease in total over a ten-year comparison, from 10,232 convictions in 2012 to 6,982 in 2022. The proportion of foreign convicts in this number rose from 26% to 38% during this same period. The most frequent offences that resulted in a conviction were offences against property of others, plus offences against life and limb and against the Narcotic Substances Act. A look at the gender ratio shows that the majority of convicts in 2022 were male, with only 8% of convicts with Austrian citizenship and 3% of those with foreign citizenship being female.⁶⁰ The decrease in convictions despite an increase in police investigations can also be attributed to the aforementioned increased use of alternative arrangements.

Measures such as (non-custodial) diversion or conditional sentences are mostly unknown in migrants’ countries of origin and are not perceived as punishments intended to bring about prevention. They are also frequently seen as an acquittal by parents of the first and second generation and therefore have little effect. The courts, advocacy and social services will need to raise awareness and show commitment to counteract this problem.⁶¹

Once convicts are sent to prison, it is the task of the juvenile justice system to prepare the young people for life after prison. This is difficult in an environment that is not conducive to learning, where the conditions leading up to the situation are often poor, such as a lack of school-leaving qualifications, poor alphabetisation and the resulting difficult integration into the labour market, stigmatisation, traumatic experiences as well as huge strains in psychosocial, addiction-specific and economic terms. The strain to which young immigrant people are exposed is almost always significantly higher because some of them lack socialisation within the receiving society.⁶² Domestic violence has also increased since the COVID pandemic, both in families with and without a migrant background, which is an additional hurdle for young people in detention to overcome.⁶³

⁵⁸ Offences against liberty include trespass, kidnapping, deprivation of liberty, coercion, threat, violation of personal life and privacy.

⁵⁹ Grafl, Christian (2023), *Jugendkriminalität gestern – heute – morgen*.

⁶⁰ Statistics Austria (2023), *Conviction statistics*.

⁶¹ Grafl, Christian (2023), *Jugendkriminalität gestern – heute – morgen*.

⁶² Hammerschick, Walter (2023), *Macht Bildung im Jugendstrafvollzug noch Sinn?*

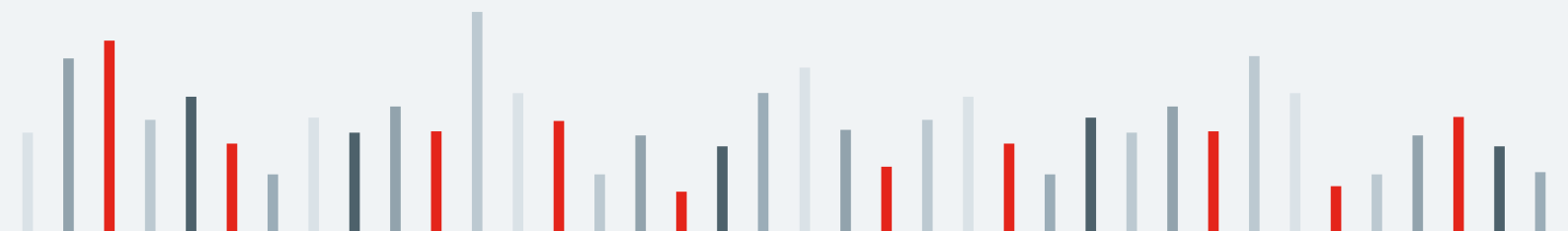
⁶³ Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (2021), *Eliminating Gender-based Violence: Governance and Survivor/Victim-centred Approaches*, p. 9 et ff.

All young people are offered equal educational measures in the juvenile detention system (including school, work, apprenticeship training, therapy and social pedagogy) as well as suitable courses for people with inadequate German language skills.⁶⁴ The daily routine is the same for all young people - those with a migrant background (including the second generation) are also offered compulsory short programmes in the area of values and norm concepts.⁶⁵ The work with role models who can also communicate with the young people in their language of origin proves to be particularly effective. In the area of values education, the involvement of parents - especially mothers - is also promising. Job opportunities and accommodation for the period following imprisonment are also being prepared in order to facilitate reintegration into society.

⁶⁴ Ombudsman Board (2022), *Jugend in Haft. Wahrnehmungsbericht 2022*, pp. 17ff. and Ombudsman Board (2017), *Sonderbericht. Kinder und ihre Rechte in öffentlichen Einrichtungen 2017*, p. 87.

⁶⁵ Hammerschick, Walter (2023), *Macht Bildung im Jugendstrafvollzug noch Sinn?*; Bogyi, Gertrude (2023), *Straffällig gewordene Jugendliche unter dem Aspekt traumatischer Erfahrungen*.

CONCLUSIONS



CONCLUSIONS

Integration of young people appears to be of particular importance from the perspective of society as a whole. The issue involves giving young people with a migrant background opportunities to build a good future in Austria and to develop a life according to their own notions. Such opportunities include the ability for young people and young adults to participate in working life or to create the conditions required for this through appropriate training or qualifications. Not only does this help their own personal development as well as their ability to support and care for themselves, it also contributes towards economic prosperity in Austria and to the long-term maintenance of the social security systems. Yet it is also about social and emotional-identificatory integration, which is the basis for a sense of belonging and social cohesion. This is in turn encouraged through participation in Austrian society as a whole and in the areas of education and the labour market in particular.

A successful educational career with qualifications such as apprenticeship, further education or studies provides the basis for a successful entry into working life. Evaluation of the corresponding data shows that young people with a migrant background are more likely to leave school with no qualifications than young people with no migrant background, are less likely to continue on to upper secondary schools and less likely to use the dual training system and complete an apprenticeship. The performance they achieve during their school career is also weaker on average than that of pupils with no migrant background. In addition, more young people with a migrant background belong to the NEET group than is the case for those without.

This finding, which is a common one throughout the integration reports of the past years, has prompted the Expert Council for Integration to point out once again that the needs of young people with a migrant background in education and training institutions, including those of vocational education and training, should be taken into account to a greater extent. This is also of crucial importance from a demographic point of view, as the proportion of young people with a migrant background is continuously increasing. Irrespective of efforts to promote skilled immigration into the Austrian labour market, it is important to exploit the existing potential of young people already living in Austria in view of demographic change and the increasing demand for labour.

The goal of integration policy in the field of education must be that more young people with a migrant background attend forms of secondary school, pass the “Matura” school leaving examination or complete apprenticeship training. The main focus with regard to further promoting the educational success and educational advancement of young people with a migrant background should be on building up German language skills. Ideally, children should already have an adequate knowledge of German to be able to follow lessons when they enter primary school. The kindergarten plays an essential role in this as a key institution in children’s early education.

Initial studies on the German support classes and German support courses in schools have shown potential for improvement that should be implemented. A comprehensive and fundamental evaluation is still pending of the support model for German support classes and courses, which also incorporates the perspective of the pupils and systematically records the progress of the pupils' German language skills. In view of the paramount importance of language skills for school and educational success, support measures should be maintained and analysed in detail with regard to their effectiveness before being adapted accordingly.

The Expert Council for Integration advocates more systematic and context-related educational and career counselling as early as the school stage, and especially during the transition from school to training or the labour market, in order to inform young people and young adults in particular with a migrant background as well as their parents about the opportunities and possibilities of different training and qualifications and their importance for personal advancement. Parents have a major influence on the successful educational and professional careers of their children and usually also have major expectations with respect to these. Immigrant parents should be even more involved therefore in matters related to their children's school careers. It is their responsibility to support their children's school careers and provide equal educational opportunities for their sons and daughters. Girls and young women in particular should also be encouraged to pursue educational paths in fields less frequently chosen by them, such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects (STEM). Despite forward-looking occupational fields and high career opportunities, women continue to be underrepresented in the STEM sector, especially those with a migrant background. The Expert Council for Integration welcomes measures that enable girls and young women to gain a foothold in these professions.

Expansion of the range of modular training systems available – above all in the area of apprenticeship training – and other offers within the framework of compulsory training are advisable precisely because it has been shown that success or the lack of success in educational and professional careers are decided early in life. These types of offers can enable early dropouts to re-enter the education system and receive qualified training. Close coordination between both the education and employment system and associations with a focus on supporting young people with a migrant background helps to develop target group-specific pathways into the education and labour markets. Extracurricular youth work has a special role to play here. However, offers such as modular training systems also provide young people with educational biographies interrupted by fleeing with subsequent access to educational and professional opportunities. In this context, offers for basic education or for catching up on compulsory school leaving certification are particularly important for refugees, who form the group with the lowest level of education. These existing offers should be advertised further and expanded as needed.

A solid education subsequently facilitates the transition into working life and taking up appropriate employment. Immigrants currently have increasingly good opportunities on the labour market due to the favourable economic situation in Austria and the demographic development. Data from integration monitoring show that migrants benefit from this situation, but to a lesser extent than people without a migrant background. A look at the progression observed with labour market integration of refugees from different cohorts shows that they are also increasingly taking up gainful employment. However, the share of those who are integrated into the labour market is only increasing slowly. In addition to other factors, it must be remembered that the proportion of refugees with very low levels of education has risen sharply in recent years, which is due in particular to a lack of educational opportunities in the countries of origin and the time they spend fleeing, which is often

prolonged. As important as it is that well-functioning structures for learning German and primary or secondary alphabetisation have been created in Austria, attention must also be paid at the same time to the fact that certain groups do not reach the objectives of different levels of German courses despite continued repetition. At the same time, it is evident that the labour market can certainly take on people with rather poor German skills and that many want to seize this opportunity. This situation requires flexible German course offerings that are tailored to both the needs of the immigrants and the needs of the labour market. The increase in online course offerings and extra-occupational German courses are essential elements in ensuring flexibility. The Austrian Integration Fund (ÖIF) has been offering its own online German learning units for people with a low level of German since May 2023, teaching subject-specific vocabulary for entry-level jobs and preparing German learners for a job application based on actual job advertisements.

Institutions involved in helping people onto the labour market and the Public Employment Service in particular are called upon to adapt to this changed situation and to push for the people with very little knowledge of German to be placed in employment. Those displaced from Ukraine should also increasingly find their way into employment, despite still having little knowledge of German in some cases. The majority of the displaced persons have been in the country since spring 2022. Despite favourable framework conditions in Austria, there is a need to catch up in employment integration. German language skills can be acquired in parallel with employment here also. The wait-and-see attitude of some displaced persons is understandable due to unclear prospects regarding their return, but studies show that the probability of return decreases with increasing lengths of stay in the receiving country. The skills and work experience acquired in Austria also benefit the displaced persons following any potential return to Ukraine.

One example of good practice is the career platforms organised by the Austrian Integration Fund (ÖIF). At information events held together with local cooperation companies, at ÖIF German course providers and at ÖIF integration centres, those taking part in ÖIF German courses are informed about job opportunities and entry-level positions in the respective companies with a high demand for labour and have the opportunity to participate in initial job interviews on the spot. The Public Employment Service regularly organises job fairs throughout Austria, where refugees and displaced persons are introduced to companies and national placement offers are also presented. Offering German courses in companies can also be a means of counteracting labour shortages and supporting persons entitled to asylum or subsidiary protection as well as people displaced from Ukraine in their rapid labour market integration. The ÖIF supports corresponding pilot projects in companies in the fields of tourism, healthcare and industry. The German courses are adapted to the working hours of the companies and should be continued if the evaluation is positive. Many companies have also developed concepts to better integrate employees with little knowledge of German, e.g. by using translation programmes and working increasingly with images instead of written descriptions.

In addition to the focus on integration into educational structures and the labour market, the socio-emotional level of integration is particularly important for young people. As outlined again in this report, tensions and conflicts can arise among young people with a migrant background in adolescence due to values of the country of origin being incompatible with those in Austria. If these conflicts are not resolved, those affected may be more susceptible to disintegrative tendencies. Projects that challenge problematic or derogatory attitudes – especially unequal gender roles – and lead to behavioural change make an important contribution in this area. Immigrant parents should be more aware of their key role in the integration process of their children in this context also and have a positive influence over this.

The successful integration of young people with a migrant background in an increasingly diverse society is crucial for social coexistence, for social prosperity and for building a prosperous future. Schools and other educational institutions are key locations where integration can take place. The diversity of countries of origin and of everyday languages spoken that are not German is particularly evident there. The ability to perceive, accept and deal with this diversity of lifestyle cultures can and must be further developed in educational institutions among all pupils, as well as among teaching staff and parents in order to develop plurality competence.

APPENDIX

From the National Action Plan
to the Integration Report 2023

The members of the Expert Council for Integration

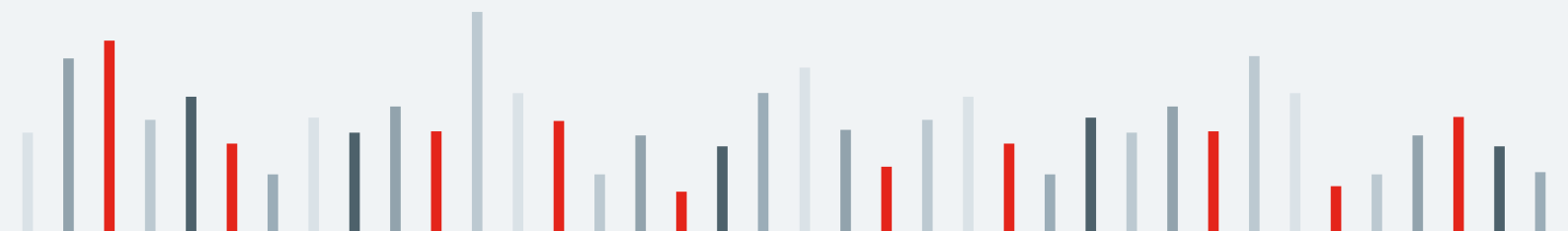
The Expert Council's concept of integration

List of abbreviations

Glossary

Bibliography

Data tables



FROM THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO THE INTEGRATION REPORT 2023



National Action Plan for Integration (NAP.I)			
EXPERT COUNCIL FOR INTEGRATION WORKING PROGRAMME Volume 1	STATISTICAL YEARBOOK REPORT ON INDICATORS Volume 2	ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INTEGRATION ESTABLISHMENT Volume 3	
Integration Report 2023	migration & integration 2023	Integration database	Integration Report 2023
Integration Report 2022	migration & integration 2022	Integration database	Integration Report 2022
Integration in the context of the COVID pandemic	migration & integration 2021	Integration database	Integration Report 2021
10 years of the Expert Council for Integration - 10 years of the Integration Report	migration & integration 2020	Integration database	Integration Report 2020
Integration in Austria - statistics, developments, priorities	migration & integration 2019	Integration database	Integration Report 2019
Figures, trends and analyses - A focus on the integration of women	migration & integration 2018	Integration database	Integration Report 2018
Evaluating refugee integration - Refocussing on regular integration	migration & integration 2017	Integration database	Integration report 2017



National Action Plan for Integration (NAP.I)			
EXPERT COUNCIL FOR INTEGRATION	STATISTICAL YEARBOOK	ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INTEGRATION	
WORKING PROGRAMME Volume 1	REPORT ON INDICATORS Volume 2	ESTABLISHMENT Volume 3	
Interim evaluation of the 50 Action Points	Migration & integration 2016	Integration database	Integration Report 2016
50 action points plan a plan for the integration of persons entitled to asylum or subsidiary protection in Austria	Migration & integration 2015	Integration database	Integration Report 2015
Achievements to date and guiding principles for the future	Migration & integration 2014	Integration database	Integration Report 2014
Integration issues in focus	Migration & integration 2013	Integration database	Integration Report 2013
Perspectives and recommendations for action	migration & integration 2012	Integration database	Integration Report 2012
20-point programme	Migration & integration 2011	Conclusion about previous measures	Integration Report 2011

THE MEMBERS OF THE EXPERT COUNCIL FOR INTEGRATION

Chairwoman



Univ.-Prof. Dr. Katharina Pabel

After holding positions at the universities of Bonn, Graz and Vienna University of Economics and Business, from 2010 to 2020 Dr. Pabel was university professor for public law at the University of Linz and (from 2015 to 2019) Dean of the Faculty of Law. Since 2020 she has been university professor at the Institute for European and International Law at Vienna University of Economics and Business. She has been Chair of the University Council of the University of Linz since 2023. She is the author of numerous specialist publications on various fields of constitutional and administrative law, with a special research focus on national and international human rights protection. Since February 2018 she has chaired the Expert Council for Integration.

Members



Univ.-Prof. iR. Mag. Dr. habil. Gudrun Biffli

Prof. Biffli is an associate member of the Department for Migration and Globalisation at the Danube University Krems. From 2008 to September 2017 she was the Chair of Migration Research, Head of the Department of Migration and Globalisation, and she was Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Globalisation from 2010 to 2015. From 1975 to 2009 she worked as an economic researcher at the Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO). Her research focuses on the labour market, education, migration, gender, industrial relations and institutional change as well as work-related sickness. Prof. Biffli has been a member of the Statistics Council at Statistics Austria since 2010 (and was the Chairwoman from 2015 to 2020), she is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board at the Sir Peter Ustinov Institute for Prejudice Research and Prevention, and member of the "Expert group on migration" at the OECD.



Rasha Corti

Rasha Corti, born 20 July, 1982 in Raqqa. After graduating from high school in Raqqa, she studied literature in Aleppo and trained as a television presenter in Cairo. While studying she worked at the French Cultural Centre in Damascus and produced documentaries about Syria for various broadcasting services (BBC, Al Jazeera). She moved to Vienna in 2009, where she now works as a tour guide and translator. She is also actively involved in various integration projects and as a fellow at the Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP).



Mag. Dr. Eva Grabherr

Mag. Dr. Grabherr majored in history and Jewish studies at the universities of Innsbruck and Vienna and completed her doctorate at the Department for Hebrew and Jewish Studies of the University College London. From 1989 to 1990, she was a university lecturer at the University of Hull (GB) and from 1990 to 1996 she was director for the setup of the Jewish Museum Hohenems. Between 1996 and 2001 she conducted research, taught in Vienna, London and Innsbruck and organised exhibitions and projects on the subjects of Jewish studies, museology, Austrian history and contemporary politics. She has served as the director of the project office "okay.zusammen leben" for immigration and integration in Vorarlberg since 2001. Furthermore, she holds lectures and seminars, also in the context of the migration management course at the Danube University Krems.



Mag. Nalan Gündüz

Mag. Gündüz studied law at the University of Innsbruck and held various positions in public service between 2008 and 2022: as an officer at the Federal Ministry of the Interior, as the first integration representative at the Austrian Embassy in Ankara, and as head of unit in the Integration Section at the Federal Chancellery. In addition, Nalan Gündüz was involved in various integration projects in Vienna and Graz (priorities: education, young people, women, people of Turkish origin in Austria) and moderated various discussion events. Since March 2022, she has been the director of the Austrian fund to strengthen and promote women and girls, which was founded in the same year.



Dipl.-Soz. wiss. Kenan Güngör

Kenan Güngör, Dipl. Soz., is the owner of the office for society, organisation and development [think.difference] in Vienna. As one of the most renowned experts on integration and diversity issues in Austria, he advises and supports governmental and non-governmental organisations on a federal, state and municipal level. Among other things, he has headed multiple studies and integration-related model processes at the federal province and city levels. As a strategic consultant he advised, among others, the City of Vienna for several years on integration and diversity-related issues and was visiting professor at the University of Vienna. He was the chairman of the Expert_Forum Prevention, De-radicalisation & Democratic Culture of the City of Vienna and in this role supervises a comprehensive prevention programme to make schools in Vienna free from violence and fear. Primary areas of focus: social shift, integration, participation, diversity, integration policy strategic development & communication, organisational development, urban sociology, youth, identity, conflict analysis, devaluation and radicalisation.



Mag. Martin Hofmann

Martin Hofmann is an expert on migration research and policy development at the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) based in Vienna. He is an advisor to the Director General of ICMPD on migration policy and development. Prior to that, he coordinated the ICMPD programmes on legal migration and integration. He has been part of a variety of EU and national projects in the fields of migration, migration management and integration. His work focuses on comparative studies and publications in the areas of immigration, irregular migration, people smuggling, integration, asylum and migration policy development in the national and European context.



Univ.-Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Mazal

Prof. Mazal was born in Vienna, studied law at the University of Vienna, where he received his doctorate in 1981 and has been a professor at the Institute of Labour and Social Law since 1992. In addition to wide-ranging teaching, research and publication activities amongst others in Vienna, Graz, Linz, Innsbruck, Beijing and Kyoto on topics of labour law, social law, medical law and family matters, Prof. Mazal is currently Vice Chairman of the Institute for Labour and Social Law at the University of Vienna, Head of the Austrian Institute for Family Studies (OIF) at the University of Vienna.



Dir. Dr. Arno Melitopoulos

Dr. Melitopoulos has been Head of the Health System and Quality Division at Österreichische Gesundheitskasse since January 2020; from August 2011 till 2019 he was Director of Tiroler Gebietskrankenkasse (TGKK) Previously he was Managing Director of Gesundheit Österreich GmbH (GÖG) in Vienna from 2008 to 2011. From 2005 to 2008, Dr. Melitopoulos was Head of the Strategy and Law Department in TGKK and simultaneously Managing Director of the Tiroler Gesundheitsfonds (TGF) from 2006. Between 2003 and 2005 he was an advisor to the Minister of Health on the 2005 health reform. Dr. Melitopoulos is a university lecturer in social law, public health and health system studies. As of 2023, he is a member of the University Council of the Medical University of Innsbruck.



Univ.-Prof. Dr. Rainer Münz

Rainer Münz currently teaches at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna and at the Central European University Vienna. From 2015 to 2019 he was Senior Advisor for Migration and Demographics at the European Political Strategy Centre, the think tank of EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker. From 2015 to 2019 he was Chairman of the Migration Advisory Board of the UN International Organization for Migration (IOM) and since 2014 he is one of the people responsible for the World Bank programme "Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development" (KNOMAD) Prior to this, Rainer Münz headed the research department of Erste Group and was a senior fellow

at the Brussels-based Think Tank Bruegel, at the Hamburg Institute of International Economics (HWWI), and at the Migration Policy Institute (Washington DC). In the years 2000 and 2001, he was a member of the commission to reform the immigration policy of the German federal government (Süssmuth Kommission). From 2008 to 2010, Rainer Münz was a member of the reflection group "Horizon 2020 - 2030" of the European Union (known as the "EU-Group of Wise Men").



Prof. Emina Saric, MA

Prof. Emina Saric, MA, born in 1969 in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, studied German philology in Sarajevo, completed Montessori training at the University College of Teacher Education Styria, and gender studies at the University of Graz. Chairwoman of the supervisory board of the Austrian Fund for the Documentation of Religiously Motivated Political Extremism. Many years of project work in German as a second/foreign language and in intercultural learning. In 2011 she cofounded the women-focused counselling centre Diwan, where she worked until 2018 as counsellor and deputy director. She currently teaches at the Training Centre for Social Professions (Ausbildungszentrum für Sozialberufe), works as a lecturer and education manager at the Private University College of Teacher Education Augustinum in Graz and is active in the association for men and gender issues in Graz as head of the project "Heroes Steiermark". For her work she received the Intercultural Achievement Award 2020, the special prize "Integration in Austria", the Human Rights Award of the Federal Province of Styria 2021 and the Golden Award of the Province of Styria as well as the Austrian State Prize for Women 2022.



Dr. Hans Winkler

Hans Winkler is an independent journalist and columnist for the daily newspaper Die Presse and guest columnist for the Kleine Zeitung and other media. From 1995 to 2007 he was head of the Vienna editorial office as well as deputy editor-in-chief of the Kleine Zeitung. He studied law at the University of Graz.



Mag. Renate Winter

Mag. Renate Winter became a judge in Austria in 1981. Her areas of expertise include women's and youth rights, war crimes, crimes against humanity, gender issues, organised crime and restorative justice. As part of the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), Mag. Winter served as an international judge at the Supreme Court of Kosovo. In 2002, she was appointed to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, of which she was President. In 2013, she was appointed a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and elected its President. Mag. Winter has worked in more than 40 countries as a judicial advisor to governments and international bodies. Until February 2021 she was Vice-President of the CRC and team leader of an EU project to promote the rule of law in Georgia. Mag. Winter is currently a member of the Residual Court of Sierra Leone (RSCSL) and Consul for the Luxembourg Ministry of Education, Children and Youth, where she is involved in developing new youth protection and criminal law.

THE EXPERT COUNCIL'S CONCEPT OF INTEGRATION

The Expert Council considers integration in the immigration society to be empirically measurable and consciously promoted participation in the central areas of social life which must be based on equality as much as possible. This includes in pre-school institutions, school education, vocational training, employment and housing, in voluntary work, in politics and in the various protection and welfare systems in the legal and welfare state, as well as in the recognition of and identification with Austrian values.

Integration-promoting measures are considered to be all efforts made to facilitate equal opportunities for participation and to counter-act existing fears and prejudices. Knowledge of German, school and vocational qualifications, but also educational and symbolic political measures are essential in order to increase the participation chances of immigrants. On the other hand, the Expert Council for Integration regards the increasing integration competence of the government's basic institutional structures (which must also be consciously promoted) as another important prerequisite for successful integration. Schools, the Public Employment Service (AMS), the authorities, hospitals, civil society and other important institutions should be increasingly empowered to develop intercultural (communication) competence.

Thus, on a conceptual scale, the Expert Council does not place the concept of integration between assimilation on the one hand and integration as a patchwork of different population groups that possess and live their own systems of culture and values on the other, but rather sees integration as a concept that overrides these ideas. In its understanding of the term, the Expert Council for Integration also rejects a vaguely defined and ideologically loaded idea of culture. A static and essentialist concept of culture would not do justice to the reality of a pluralistic and changing immigration society. At the "end of the road" there is neither a perfectly assimilated society, nor a patchwork of different social groups that has become alien to itself, but rather a plural coexistence that has to be renegotiated again and again. Both sides of this immigration society must therefore develop not only skills of receiving and integrating, but also a sort of competence of plurality, as society will become more similar and yet more diverse over time. Accordingly, we must continue to see integration as a mutual process, and it takes effort to make it work.

The immigrants are just as responsible for successful integration as the receiving population. Both sides of the immigration society operate within a politically stipulated integration framework that can promote and prevent processes. The necessary adjustment efforts are not symmetrically distributed, because the logic of quantities alone places more demands on the immigrant population than on the receiving society. This should be clarified in order to avoid false expectations and misunderstandings. Nevertheless, this also applies to the receiving society: "making space" as a prerequisite for "taking space". The integration process cannot function without a mutual willingness to open up and without mutual acceptance of the supposed "others". A constructive integration policy must always take this into account.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AMIS

Arbeitsmarktinformationssystem
(Labour market information system)

AMS

Arbeitsmarktservice
(Austrian Public Employment Service)

BKA

Bundeskanzleramt
(Austrian Federal Chancellery)

BMAW

Bundesministerium für Arbeit und
Wirtschaft (Austrian Federal Ministry
of Labour and Economy)

BMBWF

Bundesministerium für Bildung,
Wissenschaft und Forschung
(Austrian Federal Ministry of Education,
Science and Research)

BMI

Bundesministerium für Inneres
(Federal Ministry of the Interior)

Covid-19

Coronavirus disease 2019

EFTA

European Free Trade Association

EU

European Union

EUROSTAT

European Statistical Office

EEA

European Economic Area

GB

United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland (Def.: ISO 3166-1-
Code)

ICMPD

International Centre for
Migration Policy Development

IntG

Integrationsgesetz (Integration Act)

NAPI

Nationaler Aktionsplan für Integration
(Austrian National Action Plan
for Integration)

NEET

Not in Education, Employment
or Training

OECD

Organisation for Economic
Cooperation and Development

ÖIF

Österreichischer Integrationsfonds
(Austrian Integration Fund)

UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner
for Refugees

GLOSSARY

Asylum procedure

The first step in the asylum procedure is to determine whether Austria or another EU state is responsible for dealing with the asylum application (admission procedure or Dublin procedure). If Austria's responsibility is confirmed, the procedure must be continued in Austria. An accelerated procedure ("fast-track procedure") is used when an asylum seeker submits an asylum application from a safe country of origin. Safe countries of origin are countries in which no political persecution or inhuman or degrading punishments take place.⁶⁶

Asylum seekers

The term asylum seeker refers to a person in an ongoing asylum procedure. Asylum seekers are legal residents of Austria for the duration of the proceedings, although they generally have to stay within the district area assigned to them during the admission procedure.

Austrian Integration Act (IntG)

The Integration Act regulates the central framework conditions in the areas of language and orientation for integrating persons entitled to asylum and subsidiary protection, for legally settled third-country nationals and displaced persons. It governs integration offerings and obligations to cooperate. Integration offerings for persons entitled to asylum or subsidiary protection include German training and values courses; legally settled third-country nationals must prove their knowledge of German within the framework of the Integration Agreement and displaced persons can attend German and orientation courses.

Displaced persons

Displaced persons, within the meaning of Austrian law, are persons who are granted temporary residence on the federal territory for the duration of an armed conflict or other circumstances affecting the safety of entire population groups. In the wake of the war in Ukraine, and to implement the EU's Temporary Protection Directive, displaced persons from Ukraine are granted such temporary protection, which is documented after registration with an ID card for displaced persons (Blue Card).

Educational aspirations

Educational aspirations are understood to be the expectations of parents and young people regarding success at school, school-leaving qualifications and future careers. Young people's educational and career decisions are strongly influenced by their parents. It can be assumed that educational paths depend on both socio-demographic and motivational factors.⁶⁷

German support classes and courses

For pupils who are unable to follow lessons due to a lack of knowledge of the language of instruction, the status "non-regular pupil" can be assigned following a standardised test procedure. Classification as a non-regular pupil is allowed for a maximum of two years. Non-regular pupils with insufficient knowledge of the language of instruction receive intensive language training during this period based on an individual curriculum, but at the same time attend regular classes in selected subjects (e.g. sports, art, music, etc.) depending on specific and organisational requirements. After the first semester of such a German support class, the language level is re-evaluated

Integration monitoring

The Integration Act introduced integration monitoring in 2017, according to which the responsible members of the Advisory Committee on Integration make legally mandated, non-personal data available annually for the purpose of enabling cross-competency linkages. The data includes the areas: asylum and residence, school education and adult education, apprenticeship training, welfare benefits, labour market, German lessons, values and orientation courses, and science. In the Integration Report, the Expert Council for Integration discusses and contextualises annual developments on the basis of the integration monitoring.

Migrant background first and second generation

According to Statistics Austria, persons have a migrant background when both parents were born abroad. This group can then be divided into an immigrating generation (or first generation, i.e. persons who themselves were born abroad) and a second generation (i.e. children of two parents born abroad but who themselves were born in Austria). This definition of migrant background follows the "Recommendations for the 2020 censuses of population and housing" of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).⁶⁸

67 Kuschej, Hermann et al. (2023), *Bildungaspirationen junger Migrant/innen*, pp. 13–14.

68 Statistics Austria (2023), *Population in private households by foreign background*.

National Action Plan for Integration (NAP.I)

The NAP.I represents the overall integration strategy of the Austrian government. Its aim is to optimise, pool and systematically develop the measures for successful integration of the Republic of Austria, the federal provinces, cities, municipalities, employers and industry associations, and civil society organisations. The National Action Plan is the basis for further measures in the seven key areas of action: Language and education, work and employment, rule of law and values, health and social issues, intercultural dialogue, sport and leisure, housing and the regional dimension of integration.

Naturalisations

Austrian citizenship can be obtained by birth, by conferral, or by extension of the conferral. For Austrian citizenship to be conferred, at a minimum the general conditions for naturalisation must be fulfilled and an application submitted. The additional conditions for conferral depend on whether the citizenship is conferred based on a legal claim or whether the decision is at the discretion of the competent authority.

Non-regular pupils

See German support classes and German support courses.

Persons entitled to asylum or recognised refugees

Persons entitled to asylum or recognised (Convention) refugees are persons whose asylum application has been approved. Asylum applications must be approved if the requirements of the Geneva Refugee Convention (GRC) are fulfilled. If asylum seekers can demonstrate that they are facing individual persecution in their country of origin on the grounds of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political conviction and that they are unable to rely on the protection of their country of origin, they are entitled to asylum. They are granted a residence permit in Austria, initially limited to three years ("temporary asylum"). This is extended indefinitely if the requirements for revocation proceedings are not met, or if such proceedings are discontinued. For example, the asylum status must be revoked if the reasons for flight are no longer applicable or if the individual has committed a serious crime. Persons entitled to asylum are equated in many respects with Austrian citizens; they have access to the labour market, to welfare benefits and to higher education.

Persons entitled to Subsidiary Protection

When a person cannot establish a persecution within the meaning of the GRC (see entitled to asylum and recognised refugees), his or her asylum application shall be rejected. According to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), which has been ratified by Austria and even has constitutional status, a person cannot be deported if his or her life or health is threatened in the country of origin as a result of war or torture ("refoulement ban"). These persons are designated as persons entitled to subsidiary protection and receive a one-year temporary right of residence, which can be extended (several times) by two years in each case. The status may be deprived under certain circumstances (e. g. due to a crime). Persons entitled to subsidiary protection do not have to have the same rights as those entitled to asylum, in some cases they may be worse off.

Residence permit

Third-country nationals who reside or wish to reside in Austria for longer than six months or as holders of an "ICT" residence permit from another member state require a residence permit. However, if they are entitled to residence under European Union law, they do not require a residence permit. Nationals of an EU/EEA state or of Switzerland do not require a residence permit. However, they must apply for a confirmation of registration within four months of their arrival. Residence permits are always granted for a specific purpose.

Temporary Protection Directive

On 3 March 2022, the member states of the EU activated the Temporary Protection Directive (2001/55/EC) for the first time to provide protection to refugees from Ukraine. Temporary protection is a mechanism that can be applied in the event of a mass movement of people in order to immediately and collectively (i.e. without prior verification of individual applications) grant protection to persons who cannot return to their country of origin. In Austria, the Temporary Protection Directive was implemented through the federal government's regulation on a temporary right of residence for displaced persons from Ukraine (Displaced Persons Ordinance).

Third-country nationals

Third-country nationals are persons who are neither EU citizens, citizens of other EEA states (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway), nor Swiss.

Values and orientation courses

At the centre of the values and orientation courses is the transfer of Austrian values and lifestyle to third-country nationals - in recent years especially persons entitled to asylum or subsidiary protection from the refugee cohort of 2015/2016. The taught contents include the fundamental values of the Austrian constitution, such as equal rights for men and women, human dignity, the separation of religion and state, democracy, freedom of opinion, the rule of law, but also everyday knowledge of life in Austria. Since June 2017 participation is obligatory by law. The three-day values and orientation courses are held in all federal provinces in the new Integration Centres of the Austrian Integration Fund.

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DATA TABLES

Data table 1:

Immigration from abroad 2019 to 2022 by nationality and sex

Nationality	2019			2020			2021			2022		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Austria	15,453	9,396	6,057	15,032	9,004	6,028	14,659	8,771	5,888	15,672	9,115	6,557
EU states	33,532	18,268	15,264	32,959	17,840	15,119	33,276	17,555	15,721	38,300	20,180	18,120
EU before 2004/EFTA	26,056	14,535	11,521	22,490	12,422	10,068	21,513	11,975	9,538	25,942	14,219	11,723
EU accession states 2004	31,377	17,861	13,516	29,077	16,704	12,373	30,824	18,283	12,541	36,450	21,071	15,379
EU accession states since 2007	13,171	7,443	5,728	10,772	6,001	4,771	11,520	6,356	5,164	12,837	7,274	5,563
Former Yugoslavia (outside the EU)	3,260	1,869	1,391	2,480	1,495	985	3,075	1,825	1,250	4,917	3,115	1,802
Türkiye	3,603	1,972	1,631	5,683	4,379	1,304	16,238	13,182	3,056	18,977	14,293	4,684
Afghanistan/Iraq/Syria	1,756	691	1,065	1,495	548	947	1,959	771	1,188	78,439	25,905	52,534
Ukraine	22,211	11,013	11,198	16,355	8,361	7,994	26,566	9,451	17,115	30,403	16,446	13,957

Source: Statistics Austria (2023), Migration statistics; own presentation

Data table 2:

Proportion of foreign nationals who have immigrated since 2015 and were still living in Austria as of 2021 Persons over 14 by origin and year of immigration

Origin	2015	2016	2019
EU nationals	41%	40%	50%
Third-country nationals without a refugee background	59%	64%	73%
Third-country nationals with a refugee background	61%	45%	45%

Source: Endel, Florian; Kernbeiß, Günter; Münz, Rainer (2022), Erwerbsverläufe von Migrant/innen III. Personen mit Fluchthintergrund, aus Drittstaaten und der Europäischen Union im Vergleich. Analyse der Zuwanderungsjahrgänge 2000, 2015 und 2016 und 2019; own presentation

Data table 3:

First-time right of residence 2012 to 2022 by reason for immigration

Reason for immigration	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Taking up gainful employment	3,721	3,555	3,442	3,598	3,337	2,938	3,737	4,077	2,739	3,935	5,437
Education/Training	6,298	5,538	6,350	7,063	5,770	4,591	4,422	4,078	2,718	4,703	4,743
Family	13,134	12,652	13,394	15,529	15,635	13,857	13,064	13,481	11,634	14,457	17,369
Other (incl. humanitarian residence permits)	14,699	12,563	16,876	25,092	25,324	34,582	25,298	18,229	17,668	24,797	27,709

Source: Eurostat (2023), First residence permits issued, by reason; own presentation

Data table 4:

Persons receiving basic welfare support 2016 to 2023, on 1 Jan. of each year

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
77,999	78,948	61,242	43,140	30,878	26,659	30,221	92,929

Source: BMI (2023), Asylstatistik 2022; own presentation

Data table 5:

Persons receiving basic welfare support, 31 Dec. 2022 by most common nationalities*

Nationality	Number
Ukraine	55,827
Syria	17,136
Afghanistan	5,494
Iraq	2,584
Somalia	2,479
Russian Federation	1,838
Other	7,571

* including 21,552 asylum seekers. Source: BMI (2023), Asylstatistik 2022; own presentation

Data table 6:

Population by place of birth, nationality and migrant background*

Place of birth, nationality and migrant background*	2021/22		2022/23		Change	
	Number	Share	Number	Share	Number	Share
Total population	8,978,929	-	9,104,772	-	+125,843	-
Born in Austria	7,136,503	-	7,128,912	-	-7,591	-1.2pp
Born abroad	1,842,426	20.5%	1,975,860	21.7%	+133,434	+1.2pp
With Austrian nationality	7,392,220	-	7,374,952	-	-17,268	-1.3pp
With foreign nationality	1,586,709	17.7%	1,729,820	19.0%	+143,111	+1.3pp
Population with a migrant background	2,240,335	25.4%	2,351,825	26.4%	+111,490	+1.0pp

* Figures for migrant background in the annual average of the respective earlier year, figures for nationality and country of birth in each case on 1 Jan. of the later year. Source: Statistics Austria (2023), Population structure / Microcensus Labour Force Survey; own presentation

Data table 7a:

Immigrant population (first generation), 2013 by most common countries of birth

Country of birth	2013
Germany	205,868
Türkiye	151,705
Bosnia and Herzegovina	159,185
Serbia	73,904
Romania	130,862
Poland	48,137
Hungary	41,618
Czechia	63,242
Croatia	39,005
Slovakia	29,963
Russian Federation	29,420
Kosovo	28,150
Italy	26,181
Other	337,531
Total	1,364,771

Source: Statistics Austria (2023), Population at the beginning of the year detailed by country of birth; own presentation

Data table 7b:

Immigrant population (first generation), 2023 by most common countries of birth

Country of birth	2023
Germany	258,550
Bosnia and Herzegovina	176,736
Türkiye	161,122
Romania	145,033
Serbia	144,276
Hungary	88,866
Ukraine	80,417
Poland	77,119
Syria	73,931
Croatia	56,455
Slovakia	47,034
Afghanistan	44,918
Russian Federation	40,532
Other	580,871
Total	1,975,860

Source: Statistics Austria (2023), Population at the beginning of the year detailed by country of birth; own presentation

Data table 8:

Population by migrant background, place of birth abroad and foreign nationality*

Migrant background, place of birth abroad and foreign nationality*	2012/13	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Migrant background total number	1,563,038	2,137,782	2,240,335	2,351,823
Migrant background total share	18.5%	24.4%	25.4%	26.4%
Migrant background first generation	1,151,166	1,578,759	1,635,001	1,731,273
Migrant background second generation	411,873	559,024	605,334	620,552
Place of birth* EU/EFTA states (from 2020 incl. GB)	628,256	848,737	867,188	894,016
Place of birth* Third countries: other countries in Europe (incl. TR)	537,760	602,305	607,626	683,489
Place of birth* Third countries: non-European countries	198,755	346,531	367,612	398,355
Foreign nationality* EU/EFTA states (from 2020 incl. GB)	483,288	815,216	847,695	888,745
Foreign nationality* Third countries: other countries in Europe (incl. TR)	391,686	440,495	443,402	517,719
Foreign nationality* Third countries: non-European countries	129,294	275,361	295,612	323,356

* Figures for migrant background in the annual average of the respective previous year. Figures for nationality and country of birth on 1 Jan. of the later year in each case. Source: Statistics Austria (2023), Population structure / Microcensus Labour Force Survey; own presentation

Data table 9:

Immigrant population with a migrant background 2022 by year of immigration

before 1980	1980–1989	1990–1999	2000–2009	2010–2019	from 2020
136,986	140,424	321,488	334,642	631,210	166,522
8%	8%	19%	19%	36%	10%

Source: Statistics Austria (2023), Microcensus Labour Force Survey; own presentation

Data table 10:

Naturalisations in Austria 2018 to 2022

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
9,355	10,500	8,796	9,723	10,899

Source: Statistics Austria (2023), Naturalised persons by selected characteristics since 2011; own presentation

Data table 11:

Everyday language of schoolchildren and kindergarten children 2021/22

Kindergarten/School type	Non-German		Bosnian/ Croatian/ Serbian	Turkish	Dari/Farsi	Arabic	Romanian	Albanian	Other
	Number	Share	Share	Share	Share	Share	Share	Share	Share
Kindergarten*	200,715	28.2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All schools**	301,359	26.9%	22.9%	19.7%	-	7.9%	7.0%	6.0%	36.5%
Primary school	108,630	31.2%	22.1%	19.4%	-	8.1%	8.0%	6.5%	35.8%
Special needs school	6,202	42.9%	19.5%	25.2%	-	8.3%	7.1%	5.4%	34.6%
Middle school	70,129	34.1%	23.1%	22.5%	-	8.2%	7.9%	6.6%	31.6%
Polytechnic school	5,484	37.3%	24.3%	19.8%	-	8.8%	8.1%	6.3%	32.7%
Academic secondary school	46,074	21.3%	20.8%	13.6%	-	10.0%	5.3%	4.5%	45.8%
Vocational school	16,313	14.1%	24.3%	22.5%	8.1%	7.6%	5.4%	-	32.1%
Intermediate vocational school	11,983	28.7%	24.9%	25.6%	-	7.7%	5.1%	6.8%	29.9%
Higher vocational school	31,101	21.7%	30.1%	21.1%	-	5.0%	5.6%	6.2%	32.0%

* Excluding Styria, ** Including Austrian Federal Sports Academies as well as other general and vocational schools, schools with their own organisational charters, not including schools and academies in health care. Source: Statistics Austria (2022), School statistics and day care centre statistics; own presentation

Data table 12:

Non-regular pupils 2021/22 by nationality

Nationality	Total	Non-regular total	Non-regular share
Austria	907,333	10,398	1.1%
Foreign	202,120	23,720	11.7%
Romania	17,707	3,218	18.2%
Türkiye	14,902	2,104	14.1%
Syria	14,807	2,109	14.2%
Serbia	13,457	1,303	9.7%
Afghanistan	10,160	1,185	11.7%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	9,677	882	9.1%
Iraq	3,006	365	12.1%

Source: Integration monitoring according to the Integration Act (IntG); own presentation

Data table 13:

Pupils in german support classes and courses, shares of total number 2021/22 by federal province

Federal province	German support classes		German support courses	
	Number	Share	Number	Share
Austria	14,968	1.3%	18,765	1.6%
Vienna	6,266	2.5%	6,247	2.5%
Upper Austria	2,517	1.3%	3,952	2.0%
Vorarlberg	670	1.2%	904	1.6%
Styria	1,537	1.0%	2,152	1.4%
Salzburg	708	0.9%	1,146	1.5%
Lower Austria	1,722	0.8%	2,422	1.2%
Tyrol	826	0.8%	1,015	1.0%
Carinthia	581	0.8%	591	0.8%
Burgenland	175	0.5%	336	1.0%

Source: Integration monitoring according to the IntG; own presentation

Data table 14a:

Participants in values and orientation courses 2022 by most common nationalities

Nationality	Number	Share
Syria	8,378	74.1%
Afghanistan	1,331	11.8%
Somalia	342	3.0%
Iraq	251	2.2%
Iran	225	2.0%
Other	784	6.9%
Total	11,311	100%

Source: Integration monitoring according to the IntG; own presentation

Data table 14b:

Participants in values and orientation courses 2022 by sex

Sex	Number	Share
Women	2,422	21.4%
Men	8,889	78.6%
Total	11,311	100%

Source: Integration monitoring according to the IntG; own presentation

Data table 15a:

German lessons taken in 2022 by most common nationalities and course levels

Nationality	Total	Alpha	A1	A2	B1	B2	C1
Syria	29,372	10,076	9,117	5,946	2,920	1,250	63
Ukraine	19,981	689	12,017	5,964	942	309	60
Afghanistan	6,668	1,213	1,612	2,008	1,297	525	13
Iraq	1,663	187	353	605	395	113	10
Somalia	1,531	322	520	470	186	30	3
Other	5,431	511	1,377	1,577	1,246	676	44
Total	64,646	12,998	24,996	16,570	6,986	2,903	193

* 5 spots were used by persons who indicated their sex to be non-binary. Source: Austrian Integration Fund (ÖIF) (2023), special evaluation; own presentation

Data table 15b:

German lessons taken in 2022 by sex and course levels

Sex	Total	Alpha	A1	A2	B1	B2	C1
Men	34,247	9,955	12,155	7,391	3,339	1,330	77
Women	30,394	3,042	12,839	9,179	3,645	1,573	116
Total*	64,646	12,998	24,996	16,570	6,986	2,903	193

* 5 spots were used by persons who indicated their sex to be non-binary. Source: Austrian Integration Fund (ÖIF) (2023), special evaluation; own presentation

Data table 16:

Foreign employees and self-employed persons, annual average 2022 by nationality

Nationality	Employed persons		Self-employed persons	
	Number	Share	Number	Share
EU states before 2004/ EFTA and GB	174,361	18.8%	19,327	16.0%
EU accession states 2004	251,392	27.1%	31,718	26.3%
EU accession states since 2007	142,733	15.4%	44,674	37.0%
Refugee countries of origin*	59,240	6.4%	4,250	3.5%
Other third countries	299,259	32.3%	20,799	17.2%
Total	926,985	100%	120,768	100%

* Refugee countries of origin: Afghanistan, Syria, Russian Federation, Iran, Iraq and Somalia. This is an approximation: on the one hand, not all nationals of these countries are refugees, on the other hand, some refugees with other nationalities were not included. Source: BMAW (2022), Online Labour Market Information System AMIS; own presentation

Data table 17:

Activity rate 2022 by sex and migrant background, 15–64-year olds

Migrant background	Men	Women
Without migrant background	82.0%	75.0%
EU27	85.5%	77.2%
Former Yugoslavia (outside the EU)	82.9%	72.4%
Türkiye	81.8%	60.6%
Refugee countries of origin*	73.4%	47.3%
Other third countries	81.2%	65.1%

* Refugee countries of origin: Afghanistan, Syria, Russian Federation, Iran, Iraq and Somalia. This is an approximation: on the one hand, not all nationals of these countries are refugees, on the other hand, some refugees with other nationalities were not included. Source: Statistics Austria (2023), Microcensus Labour Force Survey; own presentation

Data table 18a:

Employment rate by nationality and year of arrival (at least 90 days in employment)

Refugee background	Influx 2000 after 5 years		Influx 2000 after 21 years		Influx 2015 after 6 years		Influx 2016 after 5 years		Influx 2019 after 2 years	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
All countries	36.8%	62.8%	59.6%	71.6%	22.0%	65.3%	20.4%	54.2%	10.5%	22.0%
Syria	41.2%	73.9%	73.3%	68.4%	19.8%	68.8%	17.3%	62.1%	7.9%	22.7%
Afghanistan	43.5%	68.0%	57.9%	65.9%	20.8%	65.7%	19.0%	51.0%	15.2%	26.4%
Russia/Chechnya	-	-	-	-	20.5%	35.3%	13.0%	20.8%	9.7%	5.6%

Source: Endel, Florian; Kernbeiß, Günter; Münz, Rainer (2022), Erwerbsverläufe von Migrant/innen III. Personen mit Fluchthintergrund, aus Drittstaaten und der Europäischen Union im Vergleich. Analyse der Zuwanderungsjahrgänge 2000, 2015 und 2016 und 2019; own presentation

Data table 18b:

Employment rate by nationality and year of arrival (at least 90 days in employment)

Without refugee background	Influx 2000 after 5 years		Influx 2000 after 21 years		Influx 2015 after 6 years		Influx 2016 after 5 years		Influx 2019 after 2 years	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Third countries	70.1%	83.1%	69.8%	81.8%	62.5%	83.7%	60.9%	82.5%	57.6%	79.8%
Türkiye	57.8%	85.7%	61.8%	83.1%	41.7%	84.3%	42.0%	82.7%	43.5%	83.3%
Former Yugoslavia (outside the EU)	78.6%	85.0%	71.7%	82.8%	67.0%	88.6%	65.8%	90.2%	63.7%	89.2%
EU27	74.2%	84.0%	76.5%	79.7%	73.4%	84.4%	73.1%	83.3%	72.4%	78.0%
EU accession states since 2007	76.8%	86.5%	76.2%	87.3%	73.1%	85.4%	73.8%	85.3%	73.1%	77.1%

Source: Endel, Florian; Kernbeiß, Günter; Münz, Rainer (2022), Erwerbsverläufe von Migrant/innen III. Personen mit Fluchthintergrund, aus Drittstaaten und der Europäischen Union im Vergleich. Analyse der Zuwanderungsjahrgänge 2000, 2015 und 2016 und 2019; own presentation

Data table 19:

Unemployment rates 2022 by sex and nationality

Nationality	Men	Women
Syria	31.9%	47.5%
Russian Federation	22.7%	17.8%
Serbia	21.7%	20.1%
Iraq	19.3%	35.5%
Afghanistan	15.7%	39.6%
Türkiye	12.2%	17.4%
Bulgaria	11.9%	13.8%
Romania	8.6%	10.6%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	8.4%	8.0%
Croatia	8.4%	8.1%
Poland	6.3%	8.5%
Austria	5.8%	4.9%
Germany	4.5%	4.5%

Source: BMAW (2023), Online Labour Market Information system AMIS; own presentation

Data table 20:

Unemployed or registered jobseekers in training 2022 by nationality or residence status and level of education

Nationality	Total		Compulsory schooling		Apprenticeship		Secondary education		Higher education		Academic education		Unclarified	
	Number	Share	Number	Share	Number	Share	Number	Share	Number	Share	Number	Share	Number	Share
Third-country nationals	81,743		56,979	70%	6,462	8%	1,928	2%	9,403	12%	6,174	8%	799	1%
Austrians	205,028		77,500	38%	74,306	36%	12,762	6%	23,818	12%	15,932	8%	710	0%
EU27	45,331		22,592	50%	8,415	19%	2,040	5%	6,702	15%	5,095	11%	487	1%
EU accession states since 2004	35,057		19,702	56%	5,338	15%	1,612	5%	5,197	15%	2,816	8%	393	1%
Persons entitled to asylum or subsidiary protection	34,720		25,083	72%	982	3%	368	1%	5,423	16%	2,472	7%	391	1%
EU states before 2004/ EFTA/GB	10,817		3,048	28%	3,203	30%	457	4%	1,593	15%	2,417	22%	99	1%

Source: Integration monitoring according to the IntG; own presentation

Data table 21:

Transition to employment 2022 by sex and nationality as a percentage of all outflows from unemployment

Nationality	Total	Men	Women
Austria	58%	61%	55%
EU states before 2004	66%	68%	62%
EU accession states since 2004	59%	66%	51%
Third countries	43%	50%	34%
Türkiye	41%	51%	29%
Former Yugoslavia (outside the EU)	50%	58%	39%
Syria	25%	28%	18%
Afghanistan	43%	56%	19%
Iraq	43%	53%	26%
Russian Federation	41%	46%	36%

Source: Integration monitoring according to the IntG; BMAW (2023), Online labour market information system AMIS; own presentation

Data table 22:

Share of the federal provinces in the population and social assistance recipients 2022 in relation to the share of foreigners and the at-risk-of-poverty rate in the respective federal province

Federal province	Social assistance recipients	Population	Share of foreigners	At-risk-of-poverty rate
Vienna	68.2%	21.7%	33.3%	26%
Styria	7.5%	13.9%	13.1%	15%
Lower Austria	5.5%	18.9%	11.6%	15%
Tyrol	5.3%	8.5%	17.7%	18%
Upper Austria	3.9%	16.7%	14.9%	12%
Vorarlberg	3.6%	4.5%	19.5%	21%
Salzburg	3.1%	6.3%	19.2%	13%
Carinthia	1.7%	6.3%	12.4%	16%
Burgenland	1.0%	3.3%	10.8%	11%

Source: Statistics Austria (2023), Population and social affairs; Integration monitoring according to the IntG; own presentation

Data table 23:

Social assistance recipients 2022 by federal province*

Federal province	Total Number	Austrian citizens		Nationals EU, EFTA, GB and assoc. small states		Persons entitled to asylum or subsidiary protection		Other third-country nationals (incl. stateless and unknown)	
		Number	Share	Number	Share	Number	Share	Number	Share
Austria (without Vienna)	79,000	39,100	49%	6,300	8%	26,000	33%	7,600	9%
Vienna	134,300	53,400	40%	9,600	7%	56,400	42%	14,900	11%
Lower Austria	13,800	7,900	57%	1,100	8%	4,100	30%	700	5%
Upper Austria	9,800	5,400	55%	800	8%	2,900	30%	700	7%
Styria	18,700	9,100	49%	1,500	8%	5,700	30%	2,400	13%
Tyrol	13,200	5,100	39%	1,200	9%	5,600	42%	1,300	10%
Carinthia	4,300	2,400	56%	200	5%	1,400	33%	300	7%
Salzburg	7,700	4,000	52%	600	8%	2,400	31%	700	9%
Vorarlberg	9,000	3,500	39%	800	9%	3,500	39%	1,200	13%
Burgenland	2,500	1,700	68%	300	12%	300	12%	200	8%

* Vienna based on annual average figures, other provinces based on annual totals. Source: Integration monitoring according to the IntG; own presentation

Data table 24:

Ratio of social assistance recipients 2022 by nationality*

Nationality	Vienna	Austria without Vienna
Syria	76.6%	31.4%
Somalia	71.2%	27.7%
Afghanistan	56.6%	22.8%
Iraq	49.8%	19.8%
Russian Federation	35.1%	23.1%
Iran	18.4%	16.4%
Türkiye	8.1%	2.8%
Former Yugoslavia (outside the EU)	5.2%	1.3%
Total population	6.9%	1.1%
Austria	4.1%	0.6%

* Vienna based on annual average figures, other provinces based on annual totals. Source: Data of the federal provinces recorded in the course of the integration monitoring according to the IntG; own presentation

Data table 25:

Transfers from lower secondary level to upper cycle at academic secondary and higher vocational schools 2021/22 by everyday language

Everyday language	Number	Share
German	37,988	62.6%
Total	48,995	57.7%
Non-German	11,007	45.4%
Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian	2,804	47.2%
Arabic	803	44.7%
Romanian	660	43.0%
Farsi/Dari	284	40.0%
Turkish	1,965	39.4%
Chechen	242	35.6%

Source: Statistics Austria (2022), School statistics; own presentation

Data table 26:

NEETs 2022 by migrant background

Migrant background	15–24-year olds total	Proportion of NEETs in group of origin	NEETs total	Proportion of NEETs total
Without migrant background	632,693	6.4%	40,465	55.8%
With migrant background	267,877	12.0%	32,110	44.2%
First generation	140,424	13.7%	19,228	26.5%
Second generation	127,454	10.1%	12,882	17.7%
EU states before 2007/EFTA/GB	49,515	6.6%**	3,263**	4.5%**
EU accession states since 2007	33,428	16.1%**	5,390**	7.4%**
Former Yugoslavia (outside the EU)	68,287	11.2%	7,713	10.6%
Türkiye	40,667	16.6%	6,788	9.4%
Refugee countries of origin*	39,691	11.4%**	4,546**	6.3%**
Other third countries	36,289	12.2%**	4,411**	6.1%**

* Refugee countries of origin: Afghanistan, Syria, Russian Federation, Iran, Iraq and Somalia. This is an approximation: on the one hand, not all nationals of these countries are refugees, on the other hand, some refugees with other nationalities were not included; ** Figures with less than an extrapolated 6,000 persons are very much subject to random fluctuations. Source: Statistics Austria (2023), Microcensus Labour Force Survey; own presentation

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Integration Report 2023

