

Corrected press release: 12.742-040/22

Number of naturalisations in 2021 rises by 80% to 16 171; almost 40% of the newly naturalised are descendants of victims of the Nazi regime

Vienna, 2022-02-17 – According to Statistics Austria, a total of 16 171 persons were granted Austrian citizenship in 2021, including 6 448 persons residing abroad. The number of naturalisations of persons residing in Austria in 2021 was 9 723, 10.5% higher than in 2020 (8 796 persons), but 7.4% lower than in 2019 (10 500 persons), the last year before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. This results in a provisional naturalisation rate of 0.6% for 2021, the same as the 2020 rate and slightly lower than the 2019 rate (0.7%).

Overall, the number of naturalisations in 2021 was significantly higher than in previous years, at 16 171, almost entirely due to the introduction of the possibility of naturalising descendants of descendants of victims of the Nazi regime. Since 1 September 2020, these people, most of whom live abroad, have the option of naturalisation without having to give up their previous nationality (Citizenship Law section 58c para. 1a and para. 1b). In 2021, 6 427 persons received Austrian citizenship under this legal title, which corresponded to 39.7% of all naturalisations in that year.

A fifth (21.0%) of all 2021 naturalized people were already born in Austria. 8 169 (50.5%) of those naturalised were women, while the proportion of children under the age of 18 was 30.1% (4 870 people).

Persons naturalised under section 58c most often are citizens of Israel (2 612 or 16.2%), the United States (1 630 or 10.1%) and the United Kingdom (1 152 or 7.1%). Among those naturalised for another reason, the most common previous citizenships were Turkey (1 101 or 6.8%), Bosnia and Herzegovina (921 or 5.7%) and Serbia (782 or 4.8%).

For more detailed information please refer to the [German version](#).