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Naturalisations in the first half of 2022 plus 61 % Almost 30 % of the newly naturalised are descendants of Nazi victims

Vienna, 2022-08-18 – During the first half of 2022, Austrian citizenship was granted to 8 158 persons, including 2 417 (29.6 %) persons residing abroad, as Statistics Austria reports. There were thus 61.3 % more naturalisations than in the first half of 2021 (5 057 naturalisations) and 52.5 % more than in the comparable period before the start of the COVID 19 pandemic, the first half of 2019 (5 349 naturalisations).

“In the first half of 2022, the number of naturalisations rose strongly by 61.3 % compared to the same period of the previous year. The strong increase is primarily due to naturalisations of victims of National Socialism and their descendants, who account for almost 30 % of the newly naturalised persons in the first half of the year,” says Tobias Thomas, Director General of Statistics Austria.

Under the legal title §58c StbG, politically persecuted persons of the Nazi regime and, since 1 September 2020, their descendants, have the possibility of naturalisation without having to give up their previous citizenship in return. In the first half of 2022, 2 421 persons (of whom 2 396 live abroad) were granted Austrian citizenship under §58c, which corresponds to 29.7 % of all naturalisations in this half-year. Persons who were naturalised under this title are most frequently nationals of the following three states: Israel (939 or 11.5 % of all naturalised in H1 2022), United States (546 or 6.7 %) and United Kingdom (525 or 6.4 %). Those naturalised for other reasons (5 737 in total) were previously most likely to be nationals of Turkey (603 or 7.4 %), Syria (531 or 6.5 %) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (469 or 5.7 %). Half of the naturalisations in H1 2022 were of **women** (50.3 %), and about a third were of **juveniles** under 18 (31.9 %). Almost a quarter of the newly naturalised persons were **born in Austria** (1 923 or 23.6 %).

In all federal provinces, more persons were naturalised in the first half of 2022 than in the same period of the previous year. The relative increases were highest in Vorarlberg (+59.7 % to 313 naturalisations), followed by Vienna (+43.0 % to 2 265) and Styria (+38.0 % to 487). Also compared to H1 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic, there were more naturalisations in seven provinces, led by Carinthia (+81.5 % to 265 naturalisations). Only in Vienna (-3.5 % to 2 265) and Upper Austria (-1.2 % to 757) were fewer naturalisations compared to 2019.

Almost three quarters of all naturalisations in the first half of 2022 were based on a legal claim (5 909 persons or 72.4 %). Among them, 2 717 persons were naturalised after at least six years of residence in Austria and for reasons worthy of special consideration (e.g. proven German language skills and sustainable integration, birth in Austria, EEA citizenship or entitlement to asylum - §11a, para. 4, para. 6 as well as para. 7), 2 421 politically persecuted persons and their descendants (§58c, para. 1 to para. 6), 343 persons on the basis of marriage to an Austrian (§11a, para. 1 and para. 2) and 258 persons on the basis of residence in Austria for at least 15 years and sustainable integration (§12, para. 1, line 1). A further 513 persons were granted citizenship on a discretionary basis (6.3 %), including 496 persons after at least ten years of residence (§10, para. 1). A total of 1 736 persons or 21.3 % were naturalised under the title of extension of conferral, of whom 210 were spouses (§16) and 1 526 children (§17).

For detailed results and further information please refer to our [website](#).

Naturalisations in the first half of 2022

Place of residence	H1 2022	Change H1 2021 – H1 2022 in %	Of which:			Legal ground ¹			Q2 2022	Change Q2 2021 – Q2 2022 in %
			born in Austria	under 18 years	women	discretion	entitlement	extension		
Austria incl. abroad	8 158	61.3	1 923	2 602	4 104	513	5 909	1 736	3 293	24.0
Burgenland	112	25.8	25	26	64	14	80	18	57	18.8
Carinthia	265	29.9	80	83	133	32	146	87	132	55.3
Lower Austria	829	17.1	267	268	443	74	522	233	445	20.6
Upper Austria	757	18.5	317	303	384	79	403	275	377	8.6
Salzburg	278	9.9	114	90	141	34	151	93	158	23.4
Styria	487	38.0	159	158	215	65	286	136	238	33.0
Tyrol	435	28.7	156	151	197	58	255	122	151	-1.9
Vorarlberg	313	59.7	122	124	144	24	179	110	113	20.2
Vienna	2 265	43.0	659	700	1 228	130	1 473	662	1 130	26.4
Abroad	2 417	248.8	24	699	1 155	3	2 414	-	492	37.8

S: STATISTIK AUSTRIA, Statistics on Naturalisations. Preliminary results.

1) Paragraph of the StbG 1985 as amended 2022 in force from 01.05.2022; discretion: §10 – entitlement: §§ 11a, 12-14, 25, 57, 58c, 64a – extension: §§ 16, 17. All paragraphs are only applied if all other requirements for naturalisation are met.

Information on methodology, definitions: The statistics on naturalisations are based on the information from the legally binding decisions of the offices of the provincial governments of Austria on the granting of citizenship and are carried out on behalf of the Federal Ministry of the Interior. The statistics on naturalisations document all types of acquisition of citizenship under the Naturalisation Act 1985, as amended in 2022 (sections 10 to 17, 25, 57, 58c and 64a), which are effected by a declaration of intent by the acquirer and a subsequent official act, but not automatic types of acquisition such as birth or legitimation of an illegitimate child. The naturalisation statistics include both naturalisations of persons residing in Austria and of persons residing abroad. In the case of naturalisations pursuant to Section 58c (politically persecuted persons and their descendants), the "statistical effective date of naturalisation" is the date of issuance of the decision and not the date of receipt of the notification by the authorities. These naturalisations mainly concern persons residing abroad.

If you have any questions on this topic, please contact:

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