

Press release: 13 138-166/23

# 18.3% fewer naturalisations in the first half of 2023

## 28% of newly naturalised persons born in Austria

Vienna, 2023-08-22 – During the first half of 2023, Austrian citizenship was granted to 6 658 persons, including 833 (12.5%) residing abroad, as Statistics Austria reports. Thus, according to preliminary results, there were 18.3% fewer naturalisations than in the first half of 2022 (8 154 naturalisations).

“In the first half of 2023, the number of naturalisations was 6 658 and thus decreased by 18.3% compared to the same period of the previous year. The decline is primarily due to the lower number of naturalisations of victims of National Socialism and their descendants reported so far. They account for 806 of the newly naturalised persons in the first half of the year, down 66.7% from the first half year of 2022” says Tobias Thomas, Director General of Statistics Austria.

Thus, the trend of rising naturalisations observed since 2016 – only interrupted by the decline in the first year of the Corona pandemic in 2020 – did not continue. 806 persons were naturalised in the first half of 2023 as politically persecuted persons and their descendants (§58c StbG). Of these, 797 or 98.9% live abroad. Naturalisations of persons **residing in Austria**, however, saw an increase of 1.5% compared to the first half of 2022. Almost one-third of the persons naturalised in the first half of 2023 had already been **born in Austria** (1 886 or 28.3%). Half of the people naturalised in the first six months of 2023 were **women** (50.6%), about one-third were **minors** under 18 years of age (33.0%). About one-third (2 156 or 32.4%) of new Austrians were citizens of one of the following four countries before naturalisation: Syria (864 or 13.0% of all naturalised in the first half of 2023), Türkiye (540), Bosnia and Herzegovina (390) and Afghanistan (362). Those naturalised under §58c in the first half of 2023 were most often nationals of the following three countries: Israel (244, or 3.7% of all naturalised in the first half of 2023), United States (217) and United Kingdom (205).

In six **federal provinces**, more persons were naturalised in the first half of 2023 than in the same period of the previous year. The relative increases were highest in Burgenland (+25.9% to 141 naturalisations), followed by Styria (+22.2% to 595), Lower Austria (+21.7% to 1 009) and Upper Austria (+14.8% to 869). There were fewer naturalisations in Vienna (-14.8% to 1 927), Salzburg (-14.0% to 239) and Carinthia (-3.8% to 255) compared to the first half of 2022.

Almost two-thirds of all naturalisations in the first half of 2023 were based on a **legal entitlement** (4 355 persons or 65.4%). Among them, 2 816 persons were naturalised after at least six years of residence in Austria and for reasons particularly worthy of consideration (e.g. proven German language skills and sustained integration, birth in Austria, EEA citizenship or eligibility for asylum – §11a, para. 4, para. 6 and para. 7). 806 naturalisations were of politically persecuted persons and their descendants (§58c, para. 1 to para. 6), 333 on the basis of marriage to an Austrian (§11a, para. 1 and para. 2) and 211 on the basis of at least 15 years of residence in Austria and sustained integration (§12, para. 1, line 1). Another 477 persons were granted citizenship on a discretionary basis (7.2%), including 441 persons after at least ten years of residence (§10, para. 1). Under the title of extension of conferral, a total of 1 826 persons (27.4%) were naturalised, of whom 257 were spouses (§16) and 1 569 children (§17).

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

## Naturalisations in the first half (H1) of 2023

Place of residence	H1 2023	Change H1 2022 – H1 2023 in %	Of which:			Legal ground <sup>1</sup>			Q2 2023	Change Q2 2022 – Q2 2023 in %
			born in Austria	under 18 years	women	discretion	entitlement	extension		
<b>Austria and abroad</b>	<b>6 658</b>	<b>-18,3</b>	<b>1 886</b>	<b>2 195</b>	<b>3 368</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>4 355</b>	<b>1 826</b>	<b>3 366</b>	<b>2,2</b>
Austria	5 825	1,5	1 873	1 990	2 982	470	3 529	1 826	3 019	7,8
Burgenland	141	25,9	28	47	82	10	88	43	84	47,4
Carinthia	255	-3,8	87	83	125	26	161	68	141	6,8
Lower Austria	1 009	21,7	301	348	521	102	582	325	510	14,6
Upper Austria	869	14,8	302	322	442	77	513	279	413	9,5
Salzburg	239	-14,0	96	90	117	20	122	97	153	-3,2
Styria	595	22,2	173	190	313	62	367	166	394	65,5
Tyrol	460	5,7	183	180	210	47	255	158	270	78,8
Vorarlberg	330	5,4	119	117	164	16	200	114	190	68,1
Vienna	1 927	-14,8	584	613	1 008	110	1 241	576	864	-23,5
Abroad	833	-65,5	13	205	386	7	826	-	347	-29,5

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

1) Paragraph of the StbG 1985 as amended 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:** Statistics on naturalisations are based on the information from legally binding decisions of the offices of the provincial governments of Austria on granting of citizenship and are carried out on behalf of the Federal Ministry of the Interior. 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. Naturalisation statistics include naturalisations of persons residing in Austria as well as of persons residing abroad. Under the legal title of Section 58c of the Austrian Naturalisation Act (§58c StbG), persons that were politically persecuted by 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. For these, the date of naturalisation for statistical purposes is the date of issuance of the decision and not the date of receipt of the notification by the authorities. These naturalisations predominantly concern persons residing abroad. According to the responsible authorities, numerous notifications are still expected for the reporting year 2023, because issuing of notifications takes some time.

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

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