

# Founding a business in Austria



Comprehensive information on starting a business in Austria can be found here:

- [https://www.wko.at/gruendung/start?gad\\_source=1&gclid=EAlaIQobChMIyd2XkcnihgMV6IRoCR37txLMEAYASAAEgJM5vD\\_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds](https://www.wko.at/gruendung/start?gad_source=1&gclid=EAlaIQobChMIyd2XkcnihgMV6IRoCR37txLMEAYASAAEgJM5vD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds) (German only)
- <https://investinaustria.at/en/doing-business/starting-a-business-in-austria/> (English)
  - Extensive information and information folders about starting a business, legal forms, tax aspects and funding

# Legal forms of running a business in Austria



- Sole proprietorship
- Limited liability company (GmbH)
- Flexible company (FlexKapG)
- joint-stock company (AG)
- European company (Societas Europaea – SE)
- General partnership (Offene Gesellschaft – OG)
- Limited partnership (Kommanditgesellschaft – KG)
- Branch offices of foreign companies
- Private foundation

Further information: <https://investinaustria.at/en/doing-business/starting-a-business-in-austria/>

# Registration of a business in the Commercial Register



- For firms and corporations: You need to fill out the application form, then have it notarized and signed by the management.
- Subsequently, it is submitted directly to the Commercial Register Court in paper form or electronically

Further information:

[https://e-justice.europa.eu/106/EN/business\\_registers\\_in\\_eu\\_countries?AUSTRIA&member=1](https://e-justice.europa.eu/106/EN/business_registers_in_eu_countries?AUSTRIA&member=1)

<https://www.justiz.gv.at/service/datenbanken/firmenbuch.36f.de.html;jsessionid=A608C0355DA4216247418D73E7AB67F1.s2>

# Trade license



- a trade licence (Gewerbeberechtigung) is required to carry business operations in Austria
- It is issued by the public authorities (municipal authority or Magistrat, district administrative authority or Bezirkshauptmannschaft)
- Usually, a “managing director under trade law” (gewerberechtlichen Geschäftsführer) needs to be designated who is domiciled either in Austria or in an EU/EEA member state
- Responsible authority: district authority, municipal administration in cities and the municipal district office in Vienna must have appropriate professional qualifications proven by relevant educational certificates and/or practical experience

Further information: <https://startup.usp.gv.at/en/gruendung/gruendungsfahrplan/weitere-informationen/gewerbe/gewerbebeanmeldung>

# Further approval requirements



- **Trade facilities approval** for plants, buildings, rooms, open areas and other operational facilities used for carrying on a trade
  - Needed if risks, nuisances, or adverse effects can arise in connection with the trade facilities
- **Waste management obligations** for businesses that generate waste in their production
- **Environmental impact assessment** for large projects expected to cause potentially significant impacts on the environment

Further information: <https://startup.usp.gv.at/en/gruendung/gruendungsfahrplan/weitere-informationen/gewerbe/gewerbeanmeldung>

# Tax aspects



- **Corporate income tax:** profits of incorporated companies (GmbH, AG, SE) are subject to a 23% corporate tax rate (flat tax)
- minimum corporate income tax in fiscal years with a loss
- **Capital gains tax** on the distribution of profits by an Austrian GmbH, AG, SE: 27.5%
- **Taxation on the liquidation** of incorporated companies: 23%
- **Income tax** on the income of sole proprietors in form of a progressive tax rate, max. 50%
- **Taxes on employment** in form of ancillary wage costs (non-wage labor costs)
- **Value-added-tax (VAT)** applies to sales revenue generated by profit-oriented business entities: in general 20%, in some cases a reduced rate of 10% or 13% applies
- **Land acquisition tax:** 3.5% of the consideration (purchase price, assumption of debt)

Further information: <https://investinaustria.at/en/doing-business/tax-matters/>

# Industrial property rights and protection of intellectual property



- **Trademark protection** through Austrian national trademarks (responsible authority: Austrian Patent Office) or European Union Trademark
- Protection of **company name, company logos, design** and **internet domains**
- **Copyright** for the creation of works of literature, music, the fine arts, and cinematic art, ends 70 years following the death of the creator.

Further information: <https://www.patentamt.at/en/discoverip>

# Funding and support



- **14% research tax credit** applies to costs incurred for research and experimental development
- The **Environmental Funding in Austria (UFI)** for investments into environmental and climate protection measures: <https://www.umweltfoerderung.at/>
- The **Austrian Promotional Bank** offers an overview of the various funding programs available: <https://www.aws.at/en/>
- The **Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)** is a one-stop shop for funding research and innovation in Austria: <https://www.ffg.at/en>
- The **Austrian Hotel and Tourism Bank (ÖHT)** is a separate funding agency supporting investments with subsidised loans, guarantees and grants in the tourism sector: <https://www.oekb.at/en/tourism-services/top-tourism-credit.html>
- The **Funding Compass** provides an overview of all research and technology funding opportunities: <http://www.foerderkompass.at/>



# Regional support organizations in the Krems region



- **Riz up Krems** offers business know-how and is the point of contact for all founders and young entrepreneurs throughout Lower Austria:  
<https://www.riz-up.at/kontakt/krems-stadt/>
- **Kremser Wirtschaftsbeirat** is the contact for business in the Krems region:  
<https://www.kremserwirtschaftsbeirat.at/>
- **Austrian Economic Chamber (WKO)** – district office Krems is the local service provider with profound knowledge of the condition of the region:  
<https://www.wko.at/noe/bezirksstellen/bezirksstelle-krems>
- **Ecoplus** is a privately run agency that offers tailored services and strengthens technology-oriented location development around educational and research institutions, and provides access to regional funding and support innovative cooperation projects: <https://www.ecoplus.at/>

# Business support networks in Krems



- **Accent incubator** is the high-tech incubator of the province of Lower Austria, it offers support to founding teams, assists with the development of an individual IP strategy as well as a funding and financing strategy and offers access to business angel networks in Austria: <https://accent.at/en/about-us>
- **IMC University Founders service** supports start-ups with the Founders Lab, the Creative Pre-Incubator programme and the office facilities available for rent at the Open Innovation Lab: <https://www.fh-krems.ac.at/en/service-centers/career-services/for-founders/#overview>

# Relevant links



- Austrian Economic Chambers: [https://www.wko.at/gruendung/start?gad\\_source=1&gclid=EAlaIQobChMIyd2XkcnihgMV6IRoCR37txLMEAYASAAEgJM5vD\\_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds](https://www.wko.at/gruendung/start?gad_source=1&gclid=EAlaIQobChMIyd2XkcnihgMV6IRoCR37txLMEAYASAAEgJM5vD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds)
- IMC University Founders service: <https://www.fh-krems.ac.at/en/service-centers/career-services/for-founders/>
- Accent incubator: <https://accent.at/en>
- ABA – Austrian Business Agency: <https://investinaustria.at/en/doing-business/starting-a-business-in-austria/>
- Riz up start-up agency of Lower Austria: <https://www.riz-up.at/>
- Austrian promotional bank: <https://www.aws.at/en/>
- City of Krems: <https://www.stadtmarketing-krems.at/wirtschaft>