



## Tourist Guides from Third States - Exercise of Trade in Austria

This information sheet gives an overview of the conditions under which tourist guides from third states (all states outside the EU/EEA) can carry out the commercial activity of a tourist guide in Austria:

In Austria, the business of a tourist guide is a regulated profession. The exercise of it is attached to certain conditions by the Austrian legal system. So, alien natural persons with place of residence in Austria are only allowed to carry out the business of a tourist guide like Austrians if

- they dispose of a **residence title** that allows them to carry out of a self-employed profession and
- the other requirements for the carrying out of the business (especially the **certificate of qualification**) are fulfilled.

As a result, working as a tourist guide in Austria for citizens from third states is on the whole only possible by means of an establishment (registration of business) in Austria. An **establishment of domicile permit** (residence title) in accordance with the Austrian Aliens Act that comprises the permit to exercise a self-employed profession as well as the submission of the **certificate of qualification** in accordance with the Austrian trade regulations is necessary for that, among others.

### Establishment of domicile permit

The first establishment of domicile permit is to be applied for abroad with the competent Austrian representation agency (embassy, consulate general) before entry into Austria. A certificate that confirms that the other requirements for the carrying out of the business in Austria are fulfilled (especially the certificate of qualification and/or the recognition of the training completed abroad by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Economics and Labour) has to be obtained from the business agency that is in charge of the prospective place of business in Austria.

### Certificate of qualification

Certificate showing proof of the fact that the businessman/businesswoman disposes of all the technical and commercial-law knowledge, the skills and the experience necessary to carry out a regulated business in Austria. International treaties can equate exam certificates acquired abroad with Austrian exam certificates, and otherwise the Austrian Minister of Economics and Labour will decide upon request whether the necessary knowledge and the necessary skills have been acquired or not in the individual case.

Contact for further enquiries<sup>1</sup>:  
Wirtschaftskammer Österreich  
Fachverband Freizeitbetriebe  
E: [freizeitbetriebe@wko.at](mailto:freizeitbetriebe@wko.at)

<sup>1</sup> No responsibility is accepted for all pieces of information contained in this information sheet in spite of their having been edited with care. Liability on the author's part shall be excluded. Version as of September 2008.