



## Access to the profession in Austria

### Architects – Chartered Engineering Consultants

(January 2010)

The access to the Austrian profession "Ziviltechniker" (comprises Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants) is regulated by a federal law called "Ziviltechnikerengesetz" (ZTG). To practice as Ziviltechniker, the following qualifications are required:

1. University (Mag., Dipl.Ing. or Master) or University of applied sciences degree in technological, scientific and mining areas, in areas connected with environmental and soil sciences.
2. Professional practice of at least three years (after graduation).  
The practice has to be passed as an employee or personally exercising a regulated trade or in the public service.
3. Licensing Examination ("Ziviltechnikerprüfung")

Access is open to applicants with Austrian nationality, applicants with nationality of an EU/EEA country or Switzerland and applicants with (a) family member(s) with nationality of an EU/EEA country.

#### LICENSING EXAMINATION:

The application for this examination - including all necessary documents - has to be filed with the regional Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants where the applicant has his/her main residence. If the applicant has no residence in Austria, he/she can choose one of the regional Chambers. The chamber passes the application together with an advisory opinion to the Federal Ministry for Economics, Family and Youth. The ministry decides about the application and assigns the candidate to an examination commission.

The Licensing Examination is a public oral examination and there are no remedies against the decision of the commission.

If the candidate fails the examination, he/she has the possibility of a second and a third try. Every candidate has to demonstrate in the Licensing Examination sufficient knowledge in the following areas:

- Austrian administrative law which includes especially the scope and basic knowledge of the different regulations;
- Business administration, especially basics in the fields of cost accounting, organisation, personnel matters, investing and financing etc.;
- Legal and professional regulations of the special professional field (e.g. architecture)
- Professional laws and ethics of the profession, which include especially knowledge about the Ziviltechnikerengesetz, Ziviltechnikerkammergesetz, ethic code etc.

Further candidates for the licence of a Geodetic Surveyor have to demonstrate further knowledge i.e. of the scientific basics and methods of the land surveying, Vermessungsgesetz (BGBl. Nr. 306/1968), Liegenschaftsteilungsgesetz (BGBl. Nr. 3/1930),

Grundbuchsrecht, Wasserrecht, Forstrecht, Baurecht, Raumordnung, Flurverfassung and the Austrian Civil Law and other regulations in connection with the above mentioned law acts.

**AUTHORISATION:**

The authorisation for professional activity ("Befugnis") is awarded by the Federal Ministry for Economics, Family and Youth. For either architecture or one of the more than 60 specialisations of Chartered Engineering Consultants a special authorisation is required. Both, natural persons and business associations of architects and chartered engineering consultants may hold an authorisation.

Before making use of the authorisation the applicant has to take the oath that he/she will observe the law, his other responsibilities and the duty to confidentiality.

**Areas of Specialisation:**

Architects are officially authorised to render architectural services.

Chartered Engineering Consultants are officially authorised to work in technological, scientific or mining areas and in the field of environmental and soil sciences.

**Scope of the Authorisation:**

The authorisation enables architects/chartered engineering consultants to provide planning, testing, supervising, consulting, co-ordinating and mediative services for their entire expert area.

They act as trustees, handle total planning projects and settle projects in a commercial and organizational manner. They draft reports and are entitled to act as representatives before authorities and public law corporations.

They draw up public documents in their areas of specialisation using a seal (=external sign of authorisation and certification).

Architects/Chartered Engineering Consultants are not entitled to the execution of workings.

Austrian Architects/Chartered Engineering Consultants are generally obliged to work freelance or to work for an association of Ziviltechniker, if they are partners or shareholders.

Should they wish to work employed in a private or public business (other than an association of Ziviltechniker) or exercise a regulated trade they will have to notify the competent Regional Chamber of Architects and Engineering Consultants and the authorisation will become inactive. During the employment status, which is a part of the awarded authorisation for professional practice, the Architects/Chartered Engineering Consultants are not entitled to perform activities of the authorisation, besides the Ziviltechniker is employed in a company in which he is partner or shareholder.

A written notification of the Chamber will turn the authorisation active again.

Austrian Architects/Chartered Engineering Consultants are obliged to a continuing professional development.

Ziviltechniker (Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants) are entitled to make use of various business forms, but authorisation, professional duties and liability are always assigned to the Ziviltechniker who offered his total planning services of all types to the client.

**TITLE:**

The academic titles of graduates are either

Dipl.-Ing (Diplomingenieur) or Mag. (Magister), Master

The professional titles "Architekt", "Ingenieurkonsulent", "Zivilingenieur", "Ziviltechniker" and "Zivilgeometer" are protected by the Austrian "Ziviltechnikergesetz". They can only be used by authorized Architects or Chartered Engineering Consultants.

## **EU/EEA-CITIZENS<sup>1</sup> IN AUSTRIA:**

### **Provision of Services in Austria by Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants of EU/EEA Member countries and Switzerland:**

Citizens of an EU/EEA country and Switzerland are allowed to **provide cross border services occasionally and temporarily** if they fulfil the following criteria:

- Nationality of an EU/EEA country or Switzerland
- Authorisation to practice as an architect/chartered engineering consultant (in one of the areas of expertise of § 3 ZTG - degree in technological, scientific and mining areas, in areas connected with environmental and soil sciences) in an EU/EEA Member country or Switzerland and establishment in an EU/EEA country or Switzerland
- Formal professional qualification
- Practice as an authorized practising architect for at least two years during the last 10 years, if the profession is not regulated in the country where he/she is established.

A notification with the chamber is not requested, but the architect/chartered engineering consultant is obliged to supply the client with the following information:

- Register and identification number in this register
- Name and address of the responsible controlling authority in the country of establishment
- Professional body or similar organisation of which the architect/engineering consultant is part of
- Professional title / formal qualification
- UID Number
- Details about insurance protection concerning professional liability

### **Establishment in Austria:**

#### ***Requirements for architects:***

An Architect can apply for authorization to work as an architect in Austria and establish himself/herself in Austria **if he/she is citizen of an EU/EEA country (or is a family member of a person with nationality of an EU/EEA country) or Switzerland** and is **practising as authorized architect in his/her country of origin**. The authorization in Austria is awarded by the Federal Minister of Economics, Family and Youth.

Requirements for application:

1. Evidence of nationality
2. Proof of authorisation to practice as an architect by country of origin
3. Evidence of reliability, non-bankruptcy and non-violation of code of ethics / code of conduct by the responsible authorities in the country of origin (not older than three months)

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<sup>1</sup> EU = European Union  
EEA = European Economic Area

### **Requirements for chartered engineering consultants:**

A chartered engineering consultant can apply for authorization to work as chartered engineering consultant - in an area of expertise which is equivalent to the areas of expertise mentioned in § 3 ZTG (technological, scientific and mining areas, in areas connected with environmental and soil sciences) - in Austria and establish himself/herself in Austria **if he/she is citizen of an EU/EEA country (or is a family member of a person with nationality of an EU/EEA country) or Switzerland** and is **practising as authorized chartered engineering consultant in his/her country of origin**. The authorization is awarded by the Federal Minister of Economics, Family and Youth.

Requirements for application:

1. Evidence of nationality
2. Proof of authorisation to practice as a chartered engineering consultant by country of origin
3. Evidence of reliability, non-bankruptcy and non-violation of code of ethics / code of conduct by the responsible authorities in the country of origin (not older than three months)

The authorization will be awarded if the professional qualification is equivalent (according to Art. 11 lit e Directive 2005/36/EG)

Especially in the following cases the qualification is not seen as equivalent:

- The subjects of the applicant's education differ highly from the requested qualifications according to the Austrian ZTG
- The services belonging to the scope of authorization of a chartered engineering consultant are in the applicant's country of origin not in the scope of this profession and the applicant's education differs from the requested qualifications according to the Austrian ZTG.

If the applicant's qualification is not seen as equivalent this can be equalized by a training course with a duration of up to 2 years or verbal aptitude test.

### **Contact:**

The regional Chambers of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants will supply you with all the information you may need, such as information on insurance and building regulations. The chambers also offer a wide range of seminars and courses:

#### **Vienna, Lower Austria and Burgenland:**

Kammer der Architekten und Ingenieurkonsulenten für Wien, Niederösterreich und Burgenland  
1040 Wien, Karlsgasse 9/1  
Tel. 0043/1/5051781  
Fax 0043/1/5051781-70  
E-mail: [kammer@arching.at](mailto:kammer@arching.at)  
Internet: [www.arching.at/wien](http://www.arching.at/wien)

**Styria and Carinthia:**

Kammer der Architekten und Ingenieurkonsulenten für Steiermark und Kärnten  
8010 Graz, Schönaugasse 7/1  
Tel. 0043/316/82 63 44-0  
Fax 0043/316/826344/25  
E-mail: [office@ztkammer.at](mailto:office@ztkammer.at)  
Internet: [www.ztkammer.at](http://www.ztkammer.at)

**Upper Austria and Salzburg:**

Kammer der Architekten und Ingenieurkonsulenten für Oberösterreich und Salzburg  
4040 Linz, Kaarstraße 2/II  
Tel. 0043/732/738394-0  
Fax 0043/732/738394-4  
E-mail: [office@linz.aikammeros.org](mailto:office@linz.aikammeros.org)  
Internet: [www.aikammeros.org](http://www.aikammeros.org)

**Tyrol and Vorarlberg:**

Kammer der Architekten und Ingenieurkonsulenten für Tirol und Vorarlberg  
6020 Innsbruck, Rennweg 1  
Tel 0043/512/5885335  
Fax 0043/512/588335-6  
E-mail: [arch.ing.office@tirol.com](mailto:arch.ing.office@tirol.com)  
Internet: [www.kammerwest.at](http://www.kammerwest.at)