

## Press Release

### **Reform of the Red-White-Red Card brings practical relief Simplified access to the Austrian labour market and extensive support for international skilled workers**

The reform of the Red-White-Red Card facilitates access to the Austrian labour market on the part of international skilled workers and thus enhances the attractiveness of the business location. The WORK in AUSTRIA department of the Austrian Business Agency (ABA) is the first contact point and competent partner to national companies and qualified international talents. ABA not only provides support in obtaining the Red-White-Red – Card but also information on the topic of living and working in Austria, ranging from the healthcare system to educational opportunities for the employee's children.

**Vienna, 9 December 2022** – The Red-White-Red Card enables third-country nationals to enter the Austrian labour market i.e., to settle and work in Austria. The reform of the Red-White-Red Card took effect on 1 October 2022. This legal change underlines the goal being pursued by the Austrian Federal Government of facilitating entry into the Austrian labour market and further enhancing the attractiveness of the business location by streamlining procedures, eliminating obstacles and adapting the obligation to provide proof to practical requirements.

#### **ABA is the first contact point for companies and skilled workers**

The Red-White-Red Card targets international skilled workers from countries outside of the EU who would like to work in Austria. The basic pre-requisite is a specific employment relationship with an Austrian company. There are various immigration options under the umbrella of the Red-White-Red Card for the different groups of people. Here is where ABA with its WORK in AUSTRIA department comes into play, because its increasingly important role as an advisory body is now enshrined in law.

ABA offers a broad range of services, ranging from comprehensive information on the Red-White-Red Card to individual consulting, according to Margit Kreuzhuber, Head of the WORK in AUSTRIA department at ABA: "We help companies, skilled workers and their family members in choosing the right Red-White-Red Card and in managing the related procedures. We collaborate closely with public authorities on this," she states. In the past year ABA already held more than 1,000 consultations on the topic of residing in and immigrating to Austria. The reform of the Red-White-Red Card and the expanded list of so-called shortage

occupations is expected to increase this number in the future. The information offering of ABA also encompasses all matters relating to "living and working in Austria" such as the tax and healthcare system, educational and professional development opportunities, the school system and application documents.

### **International skilled workers make an important contribution to economic output**

According to a recent study conducted by the Institute for Advanced Studies, international skilled workers make a major contribution to prosperity in Austria, generating € 38.7 billion or about 10% of total annual economic output. There has been a massive rise in the proportion of international experts in several sectors. For example, in the field of information and communications technology, the number of such employees more than doubled to 24,000 people between 2010 and 2020. "For this reason, directly cooperating with companies and skilled workers is of particular importance to us in order to counteract the shortage of skilled professionals and to bring know-how and innovation to Austria," says René Tritscher, Managing Director of Austrian Business Agency, the national agency promoting Austria as a business, work and film location.

### **Promoting Austria as a work location**

In addition to its consulting activities, WORK in AUSTRIA also promotes Austria in other countries as a work location. ABA is represented at selected trade shows and events in order to interest international skilled workers for Austria. For this purpose, ABA also cooperates with universities and holds road shows where international talents can get to know Austrian companies and establish contacts. "Companies in Austria can also advertise vacancies internationally via the ABA job portal and thus not only reach more people but above all a more diverse and global audience," Margit Kreuzhuber adds.

### **About the Austrian Business Agency (ABA)**

As a subsidiary of the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs, the Austrian business location consultancy Austrian Business Agency (ABA) strives to make Austria attractive to international companies, top talents and film producers. With its three business areas INVEST in AUSTRIA, WORK in AUSTRIA and FILM in AUSTRIA, ABA consults and supports international companies, skilled workers and film producers at no cost regarding all issues relating to the business, research and work location as well as to Austria as a film location. >> We simply make it easy.

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