AUDITOREA
TAX • ACCOUNTING • AUDIT

# Business registration in Austria



A trade in Austria may only be exercised if a trade license is available. The extract from the Trade Information System Austria-GISA (digital trade license, formerly trade certificate) serves as a proof of a trade license.

The intended exercise of a trade must be registered with the locally responsible trade authority.

There are **regulated** and **free** trades.

**Regulated trades** require a certificate of competence.

✓ For each **regulated trade** (§ 94 GewO 1994), the requirements for providing the **necessary proof of competence** are laid down in the relevant ordinances.

*Certificate of competence*
*The certificate of competence is a proof that the trade applicant has the technical and commercial knowledge, skills and experience to be able to exercise the particular trade autonomously.*

✓ If this certificate of competence cannot be delivered, the authority shall examine, whether the required knowledge, skills and experience, based on the documents on previous education, training and activities, are provided and, in case of a positive assessment, determine the existence of an **individual qualification** for the particular trade, limited to partial activities, if necessary.

*Determination of individual competence*
*For this purpose, the knowledge, skills and experience required for the exercise of the trade, must be proven by other means.*

✓ If **an entrepreneur** cannot provide a certificate of competence himself/herself, a managing director under trade law, who holds respective certificate of competence, must be appointed for at least 20 hours/week.

No certificate of competence is required for the exercise of a **free trade**.

*Your Auditorea team*

24.05.2021