

**DECLARATION OF INTEGRATION**

Last name \_\_\_\_\_  
First name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Nationality \_\_\_\_\_

**Preamble**

You have submitted a claim for benefits under the means-tested minimum income scheme. We therefore expect you to make an effort to integrate into the existing society. In Austria, people of different origins and cultures live together peacefully. This is ensured by law and is important for its people. The state of Lower Austria would like to inform you about the fundamental rules for living together in Austria. We would also like to advise you about the integration measures we expect people living in Austria to undertake in order to ensure social harmony and a positive coexistence.

**Fundamental values and rules for living in Austria**

Living together as a society in Austria is based on the following fundamental values of the legal and societal system, which apply to all people in Austria and are explained in detail during the integration course organised by the Austrian Integration Fund (ÖIF):

- Austria is a liberal state committed to human dignity, freedom and equality. In Austria, everyone is free to live the way they choose within the framework of the law. In Austria, it is vital that women and men have equal rights under the law and in all areas of life.
- Austria is governed by the rule of law whose administration and courts function solely on the basis of laws. The police therefore act solely according to the law, just as all people in Austria are obliged to comply with its laws. The state

protects religious freedom as long as it is exercised within the framework of the law. Religious rules are not superior to the law in Austria. The state does not act according to the rules or writings of any religion, but only on the basis of laws.

- Austria is a democracy whose laws are based on the people. The laws are created through discussion and negotiation by representatives of the people, elected in free elections. Education is an essential prerequisite for active participation in political discussions and public discourse. Kindergarten, primary and secondary education is compulsory for boys and girls.
- Austria is a republic founded on the principle of social solidarity. It requires the hard work and commitment of each individual with the societal objective of the common good. As a society based on solidarity, every person in Austria has to make an effort to achieve financial independence as quickly as possible. Any abuse of state benefits shall be severely punished.
- Austria is a federal state. Its constitution and the values enshrined in its legal and social system form the framework for cultural diversity in Austria.
- Austria is a country with separation of powers whereby the functions of the government are divided among separate and independent bodies, which restrain the power of each other. This ensures that in Austria not one single person has absolute power over the state.

Any violation of these fundamental values may result in a legal penalty. This can include a fine, custodial sentence or even the withdrawal of your residence permit.

### **Integration measures**

Integration measures provide the basis for people living in Austria to make a living for themselves and their families as well as participate in social life. Any person who receives a residence permit to live in Austria must comply with the following integration initiatives:

- Learn German - Attendance of a German language course is mandatory.
- Acquire knowledge about the core values of our society by attending the integration course.
- Take all appropriate measures to improve social stability (accept job training opportunities, volunteer in the community or for charities, etc.)
- Acquire qualifications aimed at gainful employment and display a willingness to take up work.

Any violation of the laws or refusal to comply with the integration measures may result in a penalty. This may include a reduction in the amount of benefit received or other penalties.

I hereby declare that I have read and understood the content of this declaration of integration and agree to comply with the fundamental values of living together in Austria in full. I further agree to fulfil the integration obligations contained herein for myself as well as for the good of society as a whole and also make an effort of my own accord to ensure my integration.

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**Signature**

Applicant or legal representative

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Place, date