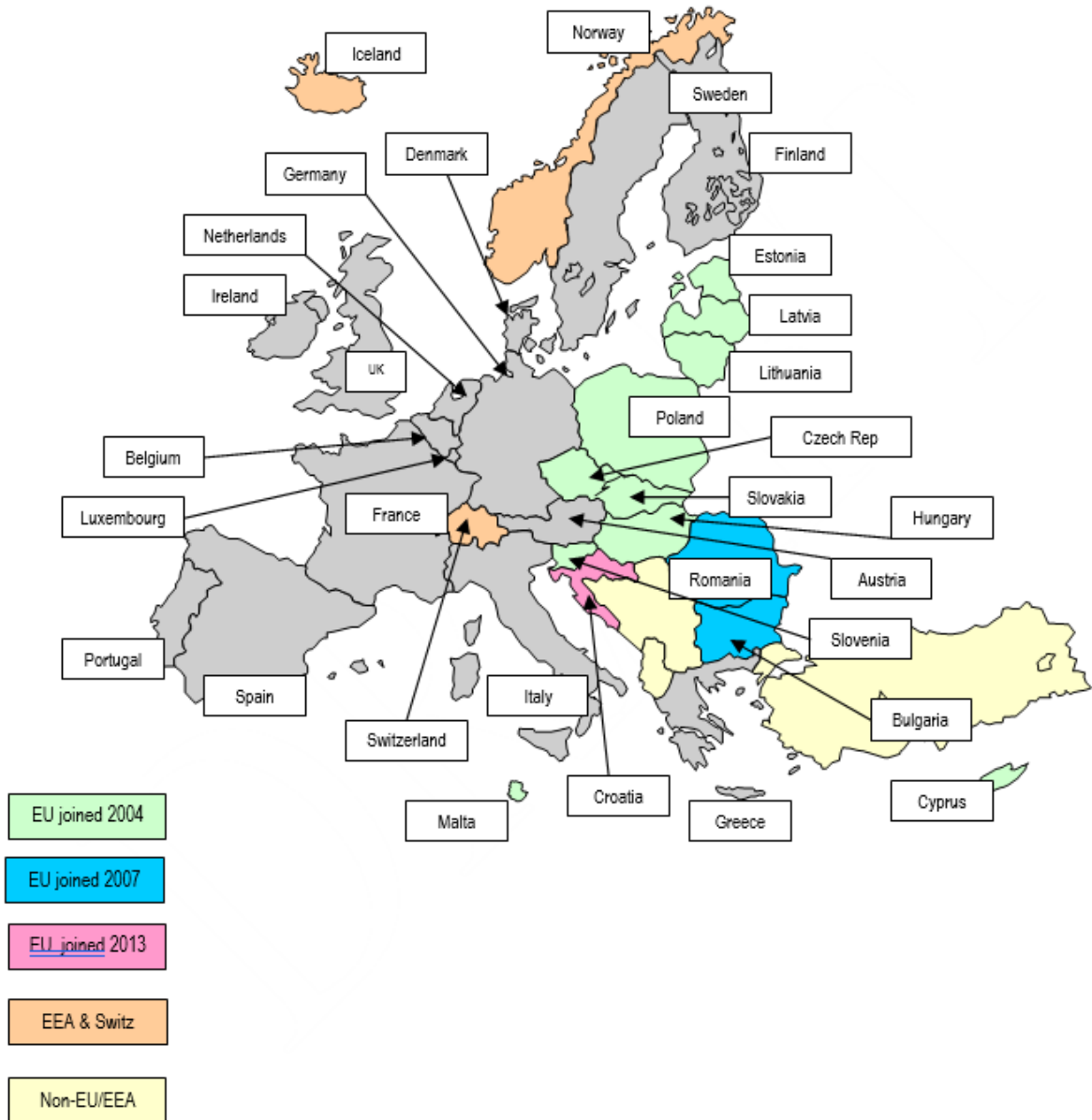


Council of European Dentists

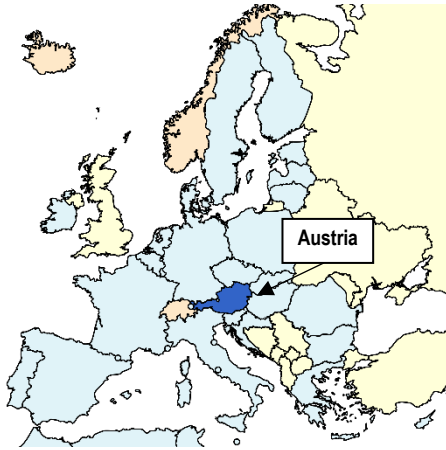
MANUAL OF DENTAL PRACTICE 2026

Austria





Austria



In the EU since	1995
Population (1.10.2025)	9.216.459
GDP PPP per capita (2025)	45.947
Currency	Euro € (EUR)
Official language	German

The Austrian healthcare system is based on a social insurance model founded on compulsory insurance. Austrian social insurance is based on the principle of solidarity and self-administration and is mainly financed via social insurance contributions which are financed by a combination of income-dependent social insurance contributions, taxpayers' money and private direct and indirect co-payments. Around three quarters of current health expenditure is covered by public funding.

Number of dentists (active)	4.524
(Active) dentist to population ratio (per 100.000 inhab)	49

Orthodontics is the first recognised specialty in Austria since its legal introduction in 2023. CPD is mandatory by law with no required number of credits.

Date of last revision: 14 April 2026

Government and healthcare in Austria

Austria is a democratic republic with a parliamentary system. The Federal President (Bundespräsident) is the head of state, elected by popular vote for a six-year term, while the Federal Chancellor (Bundeskanzler) serves as head of government.

The bicameral parliament is composed of a Federal Council or *Bundesrat* (64 members; from each state on the basis of population, with at least three representatives; members serve a four- or six-year term) and the National Council or *Nationalrat* (183 seats; for five-year terms) consisting of 9 federal states/provinces (*Länder*).

Austria's healthcare is based on a complex system with responsibilities for health system governance being divided between the federal, regional and local governments on the one hand and the social insurance on the other hand.

The Austrian health care system is characterised by the interaction of numerous actors from the different legislative and administrative levels (federal government, provinces, districts, local authorities) and from the self-administration sector (social insurance) due to the federalist structure of the state and the system of compulsory insurance.

The federal government is responsible for the statutory regulation of social health insurance (SHI) and most other areas of the health care system, including dentistry.

The Federal Health Agency and its Federal Target-Based Governance Commission (*Bundeszielsteuerungskommission*) which are composed of representatives of the federal government, the 9 federal states and the social insurance are responsible for the planning of the overarching topics of the health care system. On the regional level there exist 9 different State Target-Based Government Commissions (*Landes-Zielsteuerungskommissionen*) which are responsible for the detailed planning of the health system in each state.

		Year	Source
% GDP spent on all healthcare	11,2%	2023	OECD
% of this spent by government	76,7%	2023	OECD
% of publicly funded dental care	45%	2024	OECD

In Austria, entitlement to receive healthcare is through compulsory membership to health insurance organisations. More than 99 % of the population are covered through SHI funds. The catalogue of services under social insurance funds covers a broad package of treatments. The cost of certain dental treatments, not included under the catalogue, have to be borne by patients themselves. The use of services involves co-payments on the part of the patient.

The system is financed through income-dependent social insurance contributions paid by employees and employers (60 %), complemented by general taxation (40 %).

Public healthcare is mostly covered by the 3 big SHI funds which are the Austrian Social Health Insurance Fund (ÖGK), the Social Insurance Fund for the self-employed (trade, commerce, industry, farmers) (SVS) and the Social Insurance Fund for Public Service Wage and Salary Earners (including Austrian Railway and Mining Industries) (BVAEB).

All persons covered by health insurance get the electronic health insurance card (e-Card).

A growing number of dental practitioners are non-contracted under the social security system.

Most oral care is provided through private practices with a limited number of services provided in public clinics run by health insurance funds or private clinics and in public hospitals.

Coverage of oral healthcare under the public health system in Austria is comparatively high compared to the EU average. The package of benefits is however limited to the following treatments carried out by contracted dentists: 2 annual basic check-ups, dental extraction, dental scaling, plaque removal, some fillings, emergency and root canal treatments, some prosthetic and fixed orthodontic treatments. Coverage also includes early detection of periodontitis every two years. Regular oral hygiene is not covered by all SHI funds.

Treatments by non-contracted dentists are reimbursed by the health insurance fund up to 80% of the fee which it would have paid for the service of contracted dentists. This does not amount to the full final costs charged.

Approximately 39 % of the population use private voluntary health insurance to cover some of their health care costs with a 17 % rise in recent years.

Additionally, approximately 5 % of the population use private voluntary health insurance to cover some of their dental care costs with a similar rise in recent years.

Oral health prevention and promotion initiatives are carried out by regional authorities (Länder).

Education, Training and Registration

Undergraduate Education and Training

Access to studies in dentistry in Austria is open to students having completed secondary education and having obtained proof of general university entrance qualification such as the *Reifeprüfung* (Matura) or an equivalent secondary school leaving certificate. Studies in dentistry have a limited number of study places and admission is highly competitive.

Year of data	2026
Number of schools	5
Student intake (public universities via MedAT)	144
Total student intake (with private universities)	250
Number of graduates a year	approx. 170-200
Gender balance (% of female students)	53 %
Duration of studies	6

For studying dentistry, you have to pass the admission test (entitled Med-AT-Z), which assesses scientific knowledge, cognitive skills and manual dexterity for all 3 public universities. The number of study places is fixed annually by the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research.

A proof of knowledge of the German language at level C1 as well as the prior study of Latin is required for admission.

Diploma programmes in dentistry are available in 3 public universities, including MedUni Vienna, MedUni Graz and MedUni Innsbruck and 2 private universities in Krems and Vienna.

Undergraduate dental programmes are offered by Medical Universities in Austria, and for the practical training supplemented by Departments of Dental Medicine and Oral Health, Departments of Dental, Oral and Maxillofacial Medicine and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at University clinics of dentistry.

Studies last 6 years and are divided into 3 sub-sections: the first semesters are dedicated to basic training, which is largely identical to the human medicine curriculum; followed by semesters focused on specialist knowledge and the corresponding practical skills and abilities. A 72-week clinical training period with patients is an integral part of the dental medicine program.

Graduates are awarded the academic degree “Dr. med. dent”. Quality assurance of dental education is carried out by the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research.

Registration

Cost of registration	€ 21,0
Yearly association membership fee	~ € 3.000

Following graduation, dentists must register with the Austrian Dental Chamber, the competent authority, via their regional organisations (*Landeszahnärztekammern*).

This includes incoming EU or EEA dentists or graduates. If educational training has been completed outside the EEA and Switzerland, notification to one of the 3 Austrian Medical Universities is required. For further information, please consult the relevant government [page](#).

The annual fee for membership in the Austrian Dental Chamber is a certain percentage of the income of the dentist, which is different in every region. All dentists have to be a member of the Austrian Dental Chamber to be allowed to practise dentistry.

Vocational Training (VT)

Vocational training is not mandatory in Austria and is integrated into the 6 years of undergraduate training.

Language requirements

Yes, knowledge of the **German language at level C1** is required to be registered in the list of dental practitioners. It has to be proven by a certificate or the language test offered by the Austrian Dental Chamber.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Continuing Professional Development is mandatory by law for dentists in Austria. All registered practitioners are obliged to participate regularly in CPD activities to maintain and update their professional knowledge and skills.

However, there is no legally defined number of credits, hours activities or learning outcomes.

CPD is overseen by the Austrian Dental Chamber, which defines requirements, accredits CPD activities and may request proof of compliance. CPD can include formal courses, congress participation, workshops, webinars and other recognised educational activities. A minimum of 66 % of credits have to be completed via verified CPD activities.

The professional code of conduct emphasises the ethical obligation of lifelong learning.

Around 90 % of dentists take part in the training programs by the Austrian Dental Chamber including a minimum number of credits.

Specialist Training Requirements

Orthodontics was introduced as an official specialty in the autumn of 2023. This was the first specialty to be recognised in Austria. Studies last 3 years. There are several possible ways to be recognized as an orthodontic specialist in Austria, some of which are based on national regulations.

Specialist orthodontic training (*Fachzahnarzt für Kieferorthopädie*) has been available since 1st September, 2023. The professional title is incorporated under the EU Directive at the end of 2025.

Workforce

Dentists

The number of practising dentists has seen a progressive rise in Austria. However, a decreasing trend in the number of dentists practising under the social security system and an increase of fully private practitioners has been noticed.

There are approximately 3.900 private practices, 300 public and hospital practices and 300 university practices.

Additionally, there has been a recent rise of non-contracted dentists (30 %). Treatments by non-contracted dentists are reimbursed at a maximum rate of 80 % compared to reimbursement levels of treatments by contracted dentists under healthcare insurance schemes.

The Austrian Dental Chamber also highlights a continuing shortage of dental assistants across the country.

Year of data	2025
Total Registered	5.610
In active practice (2026)	4.524
Dentist to population ratio (per 100.000 inhab) *	49
Percentage female	47 %
Foreign-trained dentists	1.632
*Active dentists only	

Movement of dentists across borders

According to the Austrian Dental Chamber, a significant proportion of dental students in Austria are German nationals, reflecting both the shared German language and more accessible entry routes to undergraduate dental programmes in Austria than in Germany.

Consequently, a number of dental graduates from Austrian universities travel back to Germany to practice.

Specialists

No dental specialties were formally recognised before 2023. However, orthodontics was introduced as an official specialty in the autumn of 2023.

Orthodontic specialist training does not entail any professional restrictions for other practicing orthodontists at a national level. All dentists who have been registered in the Austrian Dental Chamber's list of dental practitioners are entitled to practice orthodontics (regardless of whether they hold the specialist title of *Fachzahnarzt für Kieferorthopädie* or not).

Year of data	2025
Orthodontists	260

After this legal introduction, examinations for dentists acting as orthodontists before 2023 have been organised by the Austrian Dental Chamber. Applications can be submitted until the interim regulation ends on August 31st, 2027.

Auxiliaries

In Austria, dental assistants (*Zahnärztliche Assistenz*), dental technicians (*Zahntechnik*) and prophylaxis assistants (*Prophylaxeassistenz*) are recognised and widely practiced professions in Austria.

Dental assistants and prophylaxis assistants are however not officially registered on a national level. Numbers stated below are therefore an estimation.

Year of data	2025
Technicians	~ 700
Dental assistants	~ 12.000
Prophylaxis assistants	~ 4.500

Dental Technicians (*Zahntechnik*)

Education or training is over a 4-year period and is provided by qualified technicians. As a "special profession" there is a registerable qualification which dental technicians must hold before they can practice. The register or list is administered by local trade federations, which also have federal and state groups.

The permitted acts of dental technicians are the production of prostheses (crowns, bridges, dentures and repairs). They are not allowed to work in the mouth of a patient or to have direct contact with them without a dentist present.

90 % of technicians work in dental laboratories which are separate from dental practices and invoice dentists for the work carried out. 10 % work directly with the dentist.

Dental Assistants (*Zahnärztliche Assistenz*)

Dental Assistants are governed by the Austrian Dental Law and the Kollektivvertrag (the labour agreement between the Union and the Austrian Dental Chamber) and follow a 3 years training under the authority of a dentist. They are paid by salary.

Prophylaxis assistants (*Prophylaxeassistenz*)

Trained dental assistants with at least two years' experience can undertake a prophylaxis assistant (PAss) course.

This part-time programme consists of 144 hours of practical and theoretical training and prepares participants to master all aspects of professional oral hygiene and preventive care under supervision. Upon successful completion of documented practical assessment and a final examination, graduates receive the professional title of "Prophylaxeassistent/Prophylaxeassistentin."

Officially there are no dental hygienists established in Austria.

Other Useful Information

Main national associations

National dental associations and information centres
Austrian Dental Chamber - Österreichische Zahnärztekammer
Kohlmarkt 11/6 1010 Wien AUSTRIA Tel: +43 (0)505 11-0 Email: office@zahnaerztekammer.at Website: www.zahnaerztekammer.at

Competent authorities

Austrian Dental Chamber - Österreichische Zahnärztekammer
Kohlmarkt 11/6 1010 Wien AUSTRIA Tel: +43 (0)505 11-0 Email: office@zahnaerztekammer.at Website: www.zahnaerztekammer.at

Main Professional Journal
Österreichische Zahnärzte-Zeitung
Österreichische Zahnärztekammer Kohlmarkt 11/6 1010 Wien AUSTRIA Tel: +43 (0)505 11-0 Email: office@zahnaerztekammer.at Website: https://www.zahnaerztekammer.at/zahnaerztinnen-und-zahnaerzte/oezz

Dental Schools:

Public Universities	
<p>Medical University of Innsbruck - Department of Dental, Oral and Maxillofacial Medicine and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery</p> <p>Fritz-Pregl-Straße 3, 4. OG 6020 Innsbruck Austria</p> <p>Phone: +43 (0)512 9003 E-mail: zahnmedizin@i-med.ac.at Website : https://i-med.ac.at/studium/zahnmedizin.html</p> <p>Yearly graduating dentists: 31 Number of students: 254</p>	<p>Medical University of Vienna - University Clinic of Dentistry</p> <p>Medical University of Vienna Spitalgasse 23 1090 Wien Austria</p> <p>Phone: +43 (0)1 40160-0 Website: https://www.meduniwien.ac.at</p> <p>Universitätsklinik für ZMK Wien Währinger Straße 25a, 1090 Wien Austria</p> <p>Phone: +43 (0)1 40160-0 E-mail: studienabteilung@meduniwien.ac.at Website: www.unizahnklinik-wien.at</p> <p>Yearly graduating dentists: 75 (2024/25) Number of students: 695</p>
<p>Medical University of Graz – Department of Dental Medicine and Oral Health</p> <p>Medical University of Graz Neue Stiftingtalstraße 6 8010 Graz Austria</p> <p>Phone: +43 (0)316 385-0 Email: studium@medunigraz.at Website: https://www.medunigraz.at</p> <p>Universitätsklinik für Zahnmedizin und Mundgesundheit Billrothgasse 4 8010 Graz Austria</p> <p>Phone: +43 (0)316 385 13280 Email: zahnmedizin@uniklinikum.kages.at</p>	
Private Universities	
<p>Danube Private University - Krems</p> <p>Steiner Landstraße 124, 3500 Krems an der Donau Austria</p> <p>Phone : +43 (0)676 842 419 305 Email: info@dp-uni.ac.at Website: https://www.dp-uni.ac.at/en/</p> <p>Number of students: 617</p>	<p>Sigmund Freud Private University - Vienna</p> <p>Campus Prater, Freudplatz 1 1020 Wien</p> <p>Phone: +43 (0)1 798 40 98 E-Mail: rektorat@sfu.ac.at Website: https://www.sfu.ac.at</p> <p>Yearly graduating dentists: 45 Number of students: 270</p>