Bid of the Republic of Austria for the relocation of the European Medicines Agency to Vienna
Summary

Vienna offers

- a location in the geographical centre of Europe
- excellent accessibility by air and rail
- a leading-edge life-science and academic research sector
- the highly efficient Austrian Regulatory Agency: AGES MEA
- pharmaceutical industry and expert professions at hand
- a choice of eight suitable office buildings for EMA
- a reliable ICT infrastructure
- first-class hotels and a powerful convention industry
- smoothly functioning public services
- a safe environment for city dwellers
- a reasonable office and housing price level
- more than 700 free places in international schools
- professional support for the relocation of EMA and its staff
- and above all: the most liveable city in the world
VIENNA will be a prime location for EMA

The Austrian Federal Government presents the candidature of Vienna as the future seat of the European Medicines Agency (EMA). We value EMA’s key role in protecting public and animal health in the Member States of the European Union. We want to offer the perfect conditions for the agency, its staff and its partners in the discharge of their important tasks from the first day onwards and over the long term.

We are convinced that Vienna combines all the relevant factors to make our city a prime future location for EMA, in particular world class life science research, companies and top international academic institutions in the field that provide the talent needed for EMA to thrive.

Vienna’s location in the heart of Europe comes with excellent connectivity and infrastructure that provide the ideal environment for EMA’s European and international activities, which in turn will be further supported by the availability of customised office locations for EMA’s specific requirements.

Vienna has been successful in attracting international organisations for decades. While each of them has different remits and requirements, they do have one thing in common: all of them already enjoy the excellent living and working conditions in Vienna that both the employees and visitors of EMA soon could also enjoy.
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Future office location of EMA

The City of Vienna has identified the best possible office locations for EMA in Vienna. The requirements for this market screening were:

- 26,450 m² office space available
- Perfect connection to public transport
- Perfect connection to an international airport
- Business hotels within walking distance
- Guaranteed ready for occupation in 2019

Within these requirements, six possible office opportunities and two unique historical buildings were found:

- Austria Campus
- Erdberger Lände – VIE26/VIE
- HoHo Seestadt Aspern
- QBC 2A + 2B
- Square Plus
- The Icon Vienna – Tower 88
- Haus am Schottenstor

1 Austria Campus (see page 6)
1020 Vienna, Walcherstrasse

The expansive local park and recreation area Prater – a green oasis in the heart of Vienna and home to the famous Riesenrad, Vienna’s giant ferris wheel – is within walking distance.

- Direct connection to Vienna International Airport
- Praterstern metro station (U1 and U2)
- Excellent connection to the motorway (A22, A23 and A4)

2 Erdberger Lände - VIE 26/VIE (see page 6)
1030 Vienna, Erdberger Lände

The Green Building is situated in the middle of a new urban district – directly on the Danube Canal and vis-à-vis the Prater recreation area. The excellent transport connections guarantee fast travel to the city centre as well as to the airport.

- Excellent connection to the motorway (A22, A23 and A4)
- Direct connection to Vienna International Airport (A4)
- Kardinal-Nagl-Platz metro station (U3)

3 HoHo - Seestadt Aspern (see page 6)
1220 Vienna, Seestadt Aspern

The lake park area of Seestadt, with its all-wood skyscraper HoHo, is located in the largest urban development area in Europe. Restaurants and shops are already situated on 3,200 m² in the Seestadt Aspern area of Vienna, and the first 2,600 housing units are occupied.
- The railway stations and airports of Vienna and Bratislava are within easy reach.
- Seestadt metro station (U2)
- Sustainable traffic and mobility planning in Seestadt

4 QBC 2A & 2B (see page 6) 1100 Vienna, Wiedner Gürtel

A new city district, Quartier Belvedere (QBC), is being developed close to Vienna’s city centre. The central location near the new Vienna Central Station/Wien Hauptbahnhof guarantees the best public transport connections to all parts of the city. The historical Belvedere Palace garden, just a short walk away, invites you to linger and enjoy its beauty.

- Direct public transport connection to Vienna International Airport
- Leisure, sports, health and cultural facilities in the immediate vicinity
- Metro station (U1)

5 Square Plus (see page 6) 1190 Vienna, Muthgasse

The building is located directly on the Heiligenstadt transport hub and guarantees optimal connections to locations in the entire city. One of Vienna’s most popular recreation areas, Danube Island, is in the immediate vicinity.

- Suburban railway station and Heiligenstadt metro station (U4)
- Excellent connection to the motorway (A22)

6 The Icon Vienna - Tower 88 (see page 8) 1100 Vienna, Wiedner Gürtel

An office centre with excellent transport connections is being built near the cultural centre Belvedere Palace, where Gustav Klimt’s famous painting “The Kiss” is exhibited.

- Direct proximity to Vienna Central Station/Wien Hauptbahnhof with direct connection to the airport
- Metro station (U1)
- Good connection to the motorway (A23)

7 Georg-Coch-Platz (see page 8) 1010 Vienna, Georg-Coch-Platz

Georg-Coch-Platz, in the heart of Vienna’s first district, is within walking distance of the Danube Canal, the Stadtpark, and St. Stephen’s Cathedral. It was built according to the plans of Otto Wagner in the Art Nouveau style.

- Right in the centre of Vienna
- Schwedenplatz (U1, U4) and Stubentor (U3) metro stations
- Good connection to the motorway (A22, A23, A4)

8 Haus am Schottentor (see page 8) 1010 Vienna, Schottengasse

The Haus am Schottentor is an elegant palace located on the famous Ringstrasse boulevard in Vienna within walking distance of many sights and attractions. The University of Vienna is right around the corner.
– Right in the centre of Vienna
– Schottentor metro station (U2)
– Good connection to the motorway (A22, A23, A4)

All of these eight properties can be delivered turn-key according to EMA requirements. The properties offer a modern, high quality office building standard (modern cooling, heating and ventilation systems).

Additional possible locations
Should the time plan be postponed, further suitable properties would additionally become available:

– Danube City Tower 2
  www.viennadc.at
– Forum Donaustadt
  www.forum-donaustadt.at
– Julius-Tandler-Platz
  www.althauquartier.at
– Komet Plaza/ VIO
  Schönbrunner Schlosstrasse
– Seeparkquartier
  www.aspern-seestadt.at
– Neu Marx | www.neumarx.at
– Triiiple | www.triiple.at
– Bank Austria Building
  Lassallestrasse 1
– Bank Austria Building
  Lassallestrasse 5

Vienna’s office market is generally very stable with a moderate rent level compared to other European cities, as you can see in the following chart of the prime rents (in EUR/m² per month) in a Europe-wide comparison.

The vacancy rate of approximately 5.3% has remained at almost the same level for many years now, indicating the strength of the Viennese office market. There are only minor differences between the submarkets of the Vienna office market, and prime rents are paid in the city centre and in high-rise buildings in a good location. A typical lease duration for office space in Vienna is 5 – 15 years, and the net ranges from 14.25 – 25.50 EUR/m² in modern office buildings (modern cooling and ventilation systems, raised floors, efficient building grid, sustainable development with moderate service charges). The service charges can be calculated using an average of 3.00 – 4.50 EUR/m².

In a sample calculation of the identified office projects, the offered monthly rents (net rent + service charges excluding parking and VAT) including standard fit-out would therefore lie between approximately EUR 460,000 and EUR 621,000 for the total office space.
Accessibility and public transport

Vienna International Airport (VIE)
In 2016 Vienna International Airport reported 23.4 million passengers. Few airports are situated closer to the city centre, as it can be reached by CAT (City Airport Train) within just 16 minutes. A total of 75 airlines serve 181 destinations in 73 countries, including direct flights to all European capitals. With 37 direct connections, Vienna Airport is a hub for the CEE region. It ranks fifth among all European airports in terms of punctuality.

Rail connection
Major European trunk routes and interregional rail links all pass through Vienna, among them three pan-European mainline rail routes. The new, ultra-modern Hauptbahnhof (Vienna Main Station) opened in December 2014 and is one of the most advanced hubs in the entire trans-European rail network. It is used by around 150,000 people and more than 1,000 trains each day. It is also served by eight rapid transit train lines (S-Bahn), two bus routes, three tram routes and a subway line.

Port of Vienna
The Port of Vienna is the largest public dock on the Danube. One of Europe’s most technologically advanced container terminals, it has excellent links to the rail and road networks, waterways and Vienna International Airport, making it ideally placed as a high-performance hub for the international trade and logistics sectors.

Public means of transport
A city of short distances, Vienna provides optimal infrastructure. Public transportation is almost always on time independent of weather conditions. With 77 million kilometres travelled annually, public transportation operates at 90 second intervals at peak times. Vienna’s public transport operator Wiener Linien is responsible for some 179 underground, tram and bus lines serving a total network of 850 kilometres.

The subway system consists of five lines. The trains stop at 104 stations along 78.5 km of track. All platforms are equipped with electronic information displays that show the waiting time in addition to the destination. Vienna’s subway system is well equipped for guests with disabilities and special needs. All subway stations and trains are almost entirely wheelchair-accessible. Almost all stations have “guiding strips” for the visually impaired, showing the way to stairs, escalators and elevators. On weekdays, the underground trains (U-Bahn) run from about 5 a.m. in the morning to about midnight. Vienna’s subway lines operate 24 hours a day on Friday night, Saturday night and on the nights before holidays. The route of the U1 subway line will be expanded by another 4.6 km – or five new...
stations – by 2017. Work on the expansion of the U2 subway line will be under way until 2023. Both the extended U2 line and a new subway line are scheduled to open at the end of 2023.

“Late bus – the Night Line” – consisting of 26 night bus lines – operates daily from 12:30 a.m. to 5 a.m. in 30-minute cycles. On the weekends, the schedule is adapted to the continuous subway operation.

In 2016, Wiener Linien ridership stood at 954 million passengers. On average, some 2.6 million passengers per day use the Wiener Linien network, for which our public transport vehicles cover a distance of 212,000 kilometres – roughly the same distance as orbiting the earth 5 times.

The entire public transport network can be accessed for as little as one euro per day for the Wiener Linien annual pass. At the end of 2015, the number of annual pass holders (700,000) surpassed the number of registered vehicles (685,000) for the first time. Since then it has steadily been rising, reaching the record number of 733,000 at the beginning of 2017. As a recent Eurobarometer survey shows, satisfaction with public transport is highest in Vienna among the EU Cities reviewed – and the number of annual rides is expected to surpass the one billion mark soon.

Citybike
“Citybikes” can be rented at 121 stations. Citybikes may be rented out and returned at any of the public rental stations in Vienna (with a credit card – Master Card, Visa, JCB – or a bank card issued by an Austrian bank).

Cycling in Vienna
Not just Vienna’s public transportation system, but also its cycling infrastructure is internationally renowned for its high quality – and is very popular among the city’s residents, too. The number of routes accessible by bike has been steadily increasing for years – thanks in part to the expansion of the city’s approximately 1,350-kilometre bike path network, which ensures smooth travel in all parts of Vienna.
Accommodation for delegates and experts

Vienna for everybody/capacity
Visitors to Vienna have the pick of more than 33,500 hotel rooms in some 439 hotels and pensions. There is something for everybody, from five-star superior hotels to low-budget accommodations and noble former palaces to brand new hostels.

Vienna can offer localised hotel accommodation to EMA experts and delegates throughout the whole year. Vienna’s hotel capacities are growing steadily. A further nine hotels with 1,600 new hotel rooms are scheduled to open in Vienna by 2018.

Exclusive hotels
You will find exclusive hotels particularly along the Ringstrasse boulevard – which, after all, is where most of the elegant former palaces are located. Vienna’s first district is home to many luxury hotels, from five-star (such as the Bristol and Vienna Marriott) and five-star superior accommodations (such as the Imperial, Sacher Wien, Palais Coburg Residenz and Palais Hansen Kempinski Vienna) to high-level but non-classified hotels including the Grand Hotel Wien and Le Méridien. The Ritz-Carlton Vienna took up residence in several refurbished Ringstrasse mansion houses in 2012 and was joined in 2013 by the Palais Hansen Kempinski Vienna, which also occupies a traditional building on the same street. The new Hotel Park Hyatt Vienna opened in a restored historical property in the first district in the summer of 2014 next to the luxury shopper’s paradise “Goldenes Quartier.” The Grand Ferdinand, which occupies a 1950s-era building on the Ringstrasse boulevard, offers 188 rooms which strike the perfect balance between timeless elegance and contemporary mod cons. The Sofitel Vienna Stephansdom is located on the left bank of the Danube Canal in a spectacular high-rise designed by French star architect Jean Nouvel. The Meliá Vienna (opened in February 2014) has moved into Austria’s tallest building, the 250 meter, Dominique Perrault-designed DC Tower 1 in the 22nd district. The hotel restaurant and the bar on the top two floors promise truly breathtaking views of the city below.

Mid-range hotels
Vienna of course also offers a broad spectrum of good and fairly priced mid-range hotels. The number of 3-star hotels in particular has been steadily increasing in recent years, and there are now more than 170 throughout the city. Many of them have clear design ambitions of their
own and most are centrally located in addition. They might not be as glamorous as the exclusive addresses along the Ringstrasse boulevard, but they have one aspect in common with the city's best-known hotels: the world-famous charm that distinguishes Vienna and makes it a popular destination for tourists and business travellers alike.

Hostels and low-budget accommodations
Vienna's hostels and low-budget accommodations offer a more than satisfactory alternative for overnight guests. The German low budget chain Motel One operates four hotels in Vienna – the newest of them, located at Vienna's Main Station (Hauptbahnhof), offers 533 rooms. Meininger Hotels runs three hotels in the capital (one close to Hauptbahnhof and two in the second district), while Austrian hostel chain Wombat's has three premises, one of which is on the popular Naschmarkt.

Serviced apartments
Those who intend to spend more time in Vienna and prefer more independent surroundings will find fully equipped and serviced apartments (WIFI, kitchen, cleaning) in historical and modern settings; apartment sizes vary and rental rates are affordable. The option of a serviced apartment particularly serves the interests of those who need more time in their search for a family home.

- ViennaSuits
  www.viennasuites.at/Apartments
- Central Apartments Vienna
  www.central-apartments-vienna.com
- IG Serviced Apartments
  www.ig-serviced-apartments.com
- Wienwert
  wienwert.wien
- Room4Rent
  www.room4rent.at
R&D and scientific community

Some 190,000 students enrolled in a multitude of study programs ranging from European law and international management to the life sciences, engineering, translation studies and computer science make Vienna the most important talent pool in German-speaking Europe. This not only benefits academic research, but also the business side and the public sector. Vienna's strong research and development (R&D) focus is reflected in a 3.5% ratio of R&D expenditures to gross domestic product, compared with an EU average of <2%.

Vienna can look back on an extensive scientific tradition in medical research. Semmelweis, Freud, Billroth and Landsteiner are only a few in a long line of prominent names. The outstanding reputation of Vienna's medical schools continues to grow both in academia and at the business level due to the excellent and vibrant scientific, clinical and entrepreneurial environment prevailing in Austria.

Life sciences in Vienna
Austria's capital Vienna plays an outstanding role when it comes to education and research in the field of life sciences - not only at the national level, but also on an international scale.

Five universities, two universities of applied sciences and eleven non-university research institutions employ 12,000 individuals in the life sciences field. With about 33,000 students, Vienna is a hotspot for higher education in the life sciences in Europe.

A multitude of publications per year (4,816 in 2014) in peer-reviewed journals is evidence of the high-quality research performed in Vienna. Grants awarded by the European Research Council are another indicator for excellence: through 2017, Austrian-based researchers succeeded in attracting the remarkable number of 74 ERC grants in the life sciences.

Medical University of Vienna: the most prominent partner for medical and clinical research in Austria
The Medical University of Vienna is one of the longest-standing medical training and research institutions in Europe. With a staff of 5,500 educating 8,000 students, it is the largest medical training facility in German-speaking Europe today. It is also one of the most important medical research institutions in Europe and is closely linked with Europe's largest hospital, the Vienna General Hospital.

Furthermore, five excellent research clusters have been established at the Medical University campus, focusing on immunology, cancer, medical neuroscience, medical imaging and cardiovascular diseases.
The campus is complemented by the Center for Molecular Medicine (CeMM), an outstanding translational research institute of the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

With its 27 clinical departments, the Medical University of Vienna is a highly recognised partner for conducting all stages of clinical trials in almost any indication. A clinical trials coordination centre provides support and services to internal and external partners and stands for professional management of clinical studies.

Through 2030, some 2.2 billion euros will be invested to lift research, education and training at the Medical University of Vienna to the next level.

Vienna Biocenter – a hotspot for life sciences in Europe

Since 1988, the Vienna Biocenter has developed into one of the most outstanding and prominent life sciences clusters not only in Austria but also in Central Europe. This development was initiated by the foundation of a basic research institute by Boehringer Ingelheim – the Institute of Molecular Pathology (IMP). Besides the IMP, the campus currently hosts three basic research institutes (the Institute of Molecular Biotechnology – IMBA – and the Gregor Mendel Institute of Molecular Plant Biology – GMI – both of them associated with the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and the Max F. Perutz Laboratories, a joint research centre of the University of Vienna and the Medical University of Vienna), the Vienna Biocenter Core Facilities (VBCF) providing state-of-the-art scientific infrastructure, 16 companies, one university of applied sciences, one science communication association, a public relations agency and a business incubator.

Around 1,400 scientists and 700 students from more than 40 nations are currently working and studying at the Vienna Biocenter, together forming one of the leading international biomedical research centres worldwide.

Other prominent stakeholders of the Vienna region life sciences ecosystem

The University of Vienna is Austria’s oldest and largest academic institution. The Faculty of Life Sciences of the University of Vienna is characterised by a wide variety of disciplines, which include all aspects of life: its development, evolution, diversity and interaction with the environment, as well as the fields of pharmaceuticals and nutrition.

The University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences focuses mainly on agricultural and applied biotechnology, microbiology, food science, applied genetics and chemistry.

The University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna is the oldest such institution in German-speaking Europe and has special expertise in food and vector-borne diseases.

The Institute of Science and Technology Austria (IST Austria), the Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT), institutes of the Ludwig Boltzmann Gesellschaft as well as Christian Doppler Laboratories are additional institutions which to some extent focus strongly on the life sciences or medical research.
AGES MEA – The Austrian Regulatory Agency

“Agency for Health and Food Safety – Austrian Medicines & Medical Devices Agency”

AGES MEA is responsible for a wide variety of tasks in the licensing of pharmaceuticals, clinical testing of medicines and medical devices, pharmacovigilance and vigilance in the field of medical devices, as well as in the field of inspection. The Austrian Medicines Agency is located in Vienna, the capital of Austria.

A strong partner to the European Medicines Agency

The Austrian Medicines Agency is enthusiastic about the Austrian government’s decision to submit a bid to host the European Medicines Agency in Vienna. AGES MEA is already a very strong partner to EMA. It plays a key role with regard to rapporteurships in centralised applications for marketing authorisations for new medicines.

International ranking

Austria also plays a leading role when it comes to providing scientific advice: AGES MEA consistently ranks among the leading medicines agencies in the EU in terms of providing pharmaceutical companies with valuable support in developing new and life-saving medicines via the EU/EMA network. Together with the UK, Austria currently ranks first among all EU agencies with regard to scientific advice. Extensive know-how is available to serve the needs of all applicants and customers. There are significant capacities and, most importantly, a clear dedication to supporting EMA’s work in European drug regulation and market approvals in an even more pronounced way in the future, as well as to assuming a key role as EMA’s national partner and a leading player in the regulatory network. Concisely put, Austria already has a strong national medicines agency, which makes Austria an ideal candidate to host EMA in combination with all the other advantages the country has to offer.

The Austrian agency is not only a key player in EMA-related activities, however, but also offers impressive statistics for non-EMA related activities, such as mutually recognized products, decentralised procedures and the continued
diligent maintenance of medicinal products authorized by the Austrian agency.

Furthermore, Austria plays a significant role as a Reference Member State (RMS) in medicines product authorisation and evaluation via the mutual recognition and decentralised authorisation procedures (MRP/DCP). For many years now, AGES MEA has ranked among the top agencies in the EU with regard to MRP/DCP procedures. GxP inspections activities are also a mainstay of AGES MEA. The Austrian agency already contributes in a very relevant way to European inspection activities and is focused on broadening these activities to serve EMA's inspectorate even better in the future.

AGES MEA's impressive and significant contribution to EMA's work activities so far provides clear evidence of, and strongly underpins, the agency's focus on significantly contributing to promoting the European and national medicines market, ensuring safe and effective medicines and accelerating patient access to new, life-saving medicines.

Hosting EMA in the heart of Europe will give the Austrian agency a clear mandate and impetus to grow and build up capacities particularly for EMA-related activities, as well as to serve as a reliable and efficient partner to EMA, the pharmaceutical industry, patients and all other stakeholders.

Members of the Austrian agency are also very active in the different EMA committees and working groups.

A reliable partner for the future

The Austrian Medicines Agency today employs around 280 highly specialized and well educated employees and is highly willing and prepared to pursue further growth. AGES MEA operates as an authority of the Republic of Austria, but also possesses a high level of agility due to its fundamental private legal structure. As it is self-financed, full flexibility exists to adapt the size of the Austrian agency to future European needs and to establish necessary collaborations. AGES MEA is able to recruit much faster and more effectively (as regards the compensation system, for example) than other Austrian federal services as it is not hampered by the usual rigid processes and systems.
Pharmaceutical industry

Thanks to its strategic location, most of the world’s top-ranked pharmaceutical companies according to sales maintain a strategic presence in Vienna. While many companies have set up regional headquarters to serve the Central and Eastern European market, some global players even carry out research and development or manufacturing in Austria. This includes companies like Boehringer Ingelheim, Novartis, Octapharma, Pfizer or Shire. Recent investment decisions confirm Austria’s relevance for this business sector. A growing biotech start-up community boosts home-grown innovations for a global market. Each year, more than ten new life science companies open their doors in Vienna and strive to occupy a variety of market niches.

Life sciences in Vienna at a glance
The Austrian capital city Vienna plays an outstanding role in the life sciences – not just at the national level, but also internationally. In 2014, a total of 480 companies, research institutions and other core organizations were active in the life science sector in Vienna, with a combined workforce of 35,730 people.

Biotech and pharmaceutical industry: facts & figures
In 2014, 216 biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies were active in Vienna, employing 13,950 people and generating 6.7 billion euros in revenue. Vienna is Austria’s driving force for the biotech and pharmaceutical industry: 64% of all Austrian firms in this sector are located here. In 2014, 91 pharmaceutical sales offices had some 4,750 employees and a turnover of 4.7 billion euros. This underscores the strategic importance the Austrian capital plays in this business within Europe.

Medicines tested in clinical trials in Austria
Austria has become a top location for drug development. In 2015, more than 300 clinical trials, most of them in oncology, were applied for in Austria, compared with 4,400 in the EU/EEA overall. Around 70% of clinical trials in Austria are carried out by the pharmaceutical industry (industry-sponsored), while 30% are implemented by academic researchers (academic-sponsored). About half of the clinical trials applied for in Austria are Phase III studies. Some 6,000 patients have participated in industry-sponsored trials, including about 1,500 in oncology.

Renowned research-based pharmaceutical companies
Boehringer Ingelheim’s Regional Center Vienna is responsible for business and clinical research in more than 30 countries in Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Israel and Switzerland.
So far, two innovative treatments developed in Vienna for non-small cell lung cancer as well as one for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis have been successfully introduced to the market. In Vienna, Boehringer Ingelheim runs its global drug discovery centre for new cancer medicines. One significant link providing orientation for stocking the pipeline is interaction with the company’s basic research institute, the Institute of Molecular Pathology (IMP), which is also located in Vienna.

Another noteworthy example is Novartis, which is the largest pharmaceutical company in Austria based on the number of employees. Novartis not only invested some 145 million euros in 2015 to upgrade its R&D production plant in Tyrol, but also increased its activities in connection with clinical studies.

As one of Austria’s leading life science companies, Pfizer continuously invests in clinical research. One prominent example is the PALLAS trial. This EUR 340 million Phase III study is designed to evaluate whether a specific CDK inhibitor is able to reduce the risk of breast cancer recurrence when taken in combination with endocrine therapy in the adjuvant setting.

Biopharmaceutical players investing in Vienna
Vienna and has 1,500 employees in Austria. Starting in 2021, the new large-scale biopharmaceutical facility will enable the production of active ingredients using cell cultures in order to meet growing in-house and contract manufacturing demands. Some 400 new jobs will be created. 80 researchers are working on immunotherapeutic approaches for various types of cancer.

Octapharma, a privately owned global human protein manufacturer, is dedicated to the safe and optimal use of human proteins from plasma and cell lines in order to improve patients’ lives. It is currently investing 20 million euros in the construction of a new lab and office building in Vienna. Octapharma employs almost 1,000 highly skilled employees in Austria.

Small and medium-sized enterprises engage in drug development
Vienna currently hosts 16 small and medium-sized biotech companies with clinical stage development programs. In addition to addressing rare diseases, these programs also focus on major unmet medical needs including antibiotics for multidrug resistant bacteria, vaccines for the chikungunya and Zika viruses, cancer and allergies.

Courageous entrepreneurs also strive to conquer a broad variety of market niches in the (bio)pharmaceutical sector. In recent years, more than ten life science start-ups have been established in Vienna each year.
Vienna - an ICT hub

In recent years, Vienna has established itself as an IT network hub. Based on a desire to play a pioneering role in the 21st century communication society, too, a thriving ICT scene developed in Austria – and particularly in Vienna – already at an early stage.

The Austrian government’s ambitious objectives – such as introducing e-government, pioneering the 5G mobile network, embracing e-health or providing test areas for autonomous driving – offer fertile ground for information and network technology experts. More than 12,000 IT companies in Vienna are a stark testament to how important the technology of the 21st century is for Austria. What’s more, over 80 percent of Viennese households are linked with broadband Internet, which shows how quickly the networking of households has caught on and how well accepted new media and Internet technology are.

Vienna is well equipped to serve as an ICT hub in the future thanks particularly to a large number of IT experts, excellent infrastructure that includes several data centres:

- Nessus GmbH: https://www.nessus.at/
- e-shelter facility service GmbH: https://www.e-shelter.de/de/location/datacenter-wien
- Atos IT Solutions and Services GmbH: https://atos.net/en/
- Next layerTelekommunikationsdienstleistungs- und BeratungsGmbH: https://www.nextlayer.at/

These data centres satisfy the Tier 3 and Tier 4 standards and hold ISO-9001, ISO-27001 or ISO-22301 security certifications, as well as important Internet exchanges such as InterXion Vienna (VIX2) or the University of Vienna (VIX1).

To help ensure that this remains the case in the future, the computer science department of the prominent technical university "TU Wien" trains 500 new IT experts each year. It is Austria’s preeminent research and training facility for computer science and business information systems, with research focal points in the areas of logic and computation, media informatics and visual computing, distributed and parallel systems, computer engineering and business informatics.
Quality of life and city of diversity

Vienna ranks first according to Mercer
In 2017, Vienna was named the world’s most livable city for the eighth time in a row by Mercer. Each year the international consultants conduct a quality of life survey in 230 major towns and cities worldwide. Criteria include the political, social and economic climate, medical services, education and infrastructure facilities including public transportation, power and water utilities. Also taken into consideration are leisure facilities such as restaurants, theatres (also in English language), cinemas and sports facilities, the availability of consumer goods ranging from food to automobiles, and environmental factors including green space and air quality.

The city’s international appeal stems from its cosmopolitan outlook, which in turn is a byproduct of its multicultural makeup. A walk through one of the capital’s markets such as Naschmarkt soon reveals this diversity, as does traditional Viennese cuisine, which is awash with delicious dishes shaped by all of the countries of the former Austro-Hungarian empire. Today the Austrian capital is home to people from 200 different countries. Over 600,000 people of international origin live in Vienna.

Vienna is one of the world’s safest cities.
According to the Eurobarometer survey, 87 percent of the city’s residents feel safe in Vienna. When asked if they feel safe in the area where they live, the number rises to an even more impressive 92 percent.

Half of the city’s total area is accounted for by gardens, parks, woods and agricultural land. Vienna is also the only major capital with a significant winegrowing industry, with 660 hectares of vineyards.

Vienna is the world capital of music
Every night around 10,000 music lovers are treated to live classical music – something no other city in the world can rival. Each year the Vienna concert schedule includes more than 15,000 events of various sizes and genres. 450 balls provide around 2,000 hours of dancefloor magic every year, and the Life Ball AIDS charity event has shot to international fame. No other city has been home to so many composers – Mozart, Mahler, Haydn, Beethoven and Johann Strauss, the king of the Viennese waltz, being a few of the best-known names in this area.

Vienna has around 100 museums
Among the treasures that await discovery are the world’s largest Bruegel collection and one of the most important Kunstkammer (chambers of arts and wonder) at the Vienna Museum of
Art History. The Upper Belvedere is home to the world famous painting “The Kiss” by Gustav Klimt. The Albertina collection is one of the leading art collections worldwide, while the MuseumsQuartier – with an area of 60,000 m² – is one of the ten largest cultural complexes on the planet.

The combination of high political and social stability, low-cost living space, excellent infrastructure and an excellent cultural offering speaks for the city. Mountain spring water straight from the tap, travelling through Vienna by metro for one euro a day, expansive parks and green areas that make up 50% of the city – all this and more will help you feel at home in Vienna right away.

Vienna – city of diversity
No matter whom you love, Vienna loves you!

As a growing city, Vienna is also an attractive destination for young people and families from all over the world thanks to its charming mixture of classic cultural offerings, exciting leisure activities and diverse recreation areas. Vienna is the new home of choice for people from all parts of the world, who enrich and influence the development of the city with their diverse cultural backgrounds. For centuries, Vienna has been a melting pot of nations and a colourful mix of new and old, tolerant and multicultural.

The city’s open and creative atmosphere welcomes all those who want to realise their own personal living concept in Vienna. For example:

- In 2010 the city also opened its wedding halls and all locations for dream weddings to those looking to enter into registered partnerships.
- Vienna’s anti-discrimination law goes well beyond the EU directives and is characterized by protection of all diversity characteristics in all areas of life.

LGBTIQ community
Vienna is home to a thriving and diverse LGBTIQ community. In addition to numerous bars and night clubs, various societies, groups and media in the city advocate for the interests of LGBTIQ persons at different levels.

In the antidiscrimination office for same-sex and transgender lifestyles (WASt), Vienna offers a consulting centre for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. Vienna is the second European city after Berlin with its own center for Rainbow Families.

Events for the LGBTIQ community
Vienna’s most visible signal to this community is the Life Ball – the world’s biggest Aids charity event – which has taken place at Vienna’s city hall since 1993. Each year hundreds of thousands of people march along the Ringstrasse boulevard in Vienna and celebrate diversity during the Rainbow Parade. The Rainbow Ball and the Rose Ball are recommended for those crazy about dancing.
Education in Vienna

**Perfect care for youngsters**

Parents in Vienna can rely on a well-developed educational infrastructure for all ages. There are 350 municipal/public kindergartens (for children up to age 6) and day-care centres in Vienna. Vienna has a capacity of 86,000 childcare places for the age group 0 – 6 years. With regard to opening hours and the number of closing days, 98 percent respond to the needs of parents in full-time employment.

The City of Vienna invests substantial financial resources in the subsidisation of childcare fees in both public and privately run childcare institutions. Parents only have to pay an income-adjusted contribution to the meal costs, as well as expenses for additional extracurricular activities such as early childhood foreign language or music tuition.

Foreign-language preschools are attached to a number of international schools; some regular preschools offer bilingual education.

**Bilingual day care centres & kindergartens:**

- The Children’s House – Vienna Montessori Kindergarten: [www.montessori-vienna.at](http://www.montessori-vienna.at)
- Privatkindergarten Schmetterling [www.schmetterling.at](http://www.schmetterling.at)
- Arche Noah [www.archenoah.vienna.at](http://www.archenoah.vienna.at)
- Kinderoase Weimar [www.kinderose-weimar.at](http://www.kinderose-weimar.at)
- United Children [www.unitedchildren.at](http://www.unitedchildren.at)

**English language day care centres & kindergartens:**

- American International School [www.ais.at](http://www.ais.at)
- Danube International School [www.danubeschool.com](http://www.danubeschool.com)
- International Montessori Preschool [www.montessori-preschool-vienna.com](http://www.montessori-preschool-vienna.com)
- International Private Children House [www.privat-kindergarten.com](http://www.privat-kindergarten.com)
- Vienna English Preschool [www.viennaenglishpreschool.com](http://www.viennaenglishpreschool.com)
- Vienna International School [www.vis.ac.at](http://www.vis.ac.at)
Suitable schools for everyone

In addition to 700 state schools – among them 20 bilingual schools – which are free of charge, a number of international schools offer international curricula (international baccalaureate) and tuition in languages other than German; some of them draw special focus on technical, business oriented or social science education, providing children of all ages with a high-quality educational offer.

The need of schooling for EMA’s staff member families is estimated at approximately 600 places in the segment up to the age of 18. Nine international schools in Vienna have a total capacity of 5,702 at their disposal, of which 732 are currently available (French: 366, English: 350, Swedish: 16). At least two international schools are developing plans to expand their capacity. Brookes Educational Group, a Canadian education provider, has recently decided to establish a school in Vienna by 2019 that will offer additional 500 places.

Further schools of interest:

- Grammar School Komensky (bilingual Czech/German): www.orgkomensky.at
- First private Polish school in Austria: www.uczymypolskiego.at

Universities and universities of applied sciences in Vienna

Vienna offers 18 universities and universities of applied sciences and arts with the widest possible range of specialisations, including some courses and master programmes in English. Three of them offer their services and classes completely in English. Vienna is home to 190,000 students.

Public universities:

- Vienna University
  www.univie.ac.at
- Technical University of Vienna
  www.tuwien.ac.at

- VIS – Vienna International School
  www.vis.ac.at
- AIS – American International School
  www.ais.at
- DIS – Danube International School
  www.danubeschool.com
- Amadeus International School of Vienna
  www.amadeus-vienna.com
- International Christian School of Vienna: www.ics.v.at
- Vienna Elementary School: www.ves.at
- Mayflower Christian Academy (MCA): www.mayflower-christian-academy.at
- Lycée Français de Vienne: www.lyceefrancais.at
- Swedish School of Vienna: www.svenskaskolan.at
- Grammar School Komensky (bilingual Czech/German): www.orgkomensky.at
- First private Polish school in Austria: www.uczymypolskiego.at
- University of Economics and Business
  www.wu.ac.at
- Medical University of Vienna
  www.meduniwien.ac.at
- University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna
  www.vetmeduni.ac.at
- University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences
  www.boku.ac.at
- University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna
  www.mdw.ac.at
- University of Applied Arts
  www.dieangewandte.at
- Academy of Fine Art in Vienna
  www.akbild.ac.at

Private English speaking universities and English speaking university of applied sciences:
- Webster University
  webster.ac.at
- Modul University
  www.modul.ac.at
- Lauder Business School
  lbs.ac.at

Universities of applied sciences and private universities:
- Fachhochschule des bfi Wien
  www.fh-vie.ac.at
- Fachhochschule Campus Wien
  www.fh-campuswien.ac.at
- Fachhochschule Technikum Wien
  www.technikum-wien.at
- Fachhochschule der WKW
  www.fh-wien.ac.at
- Sigmund Freud University Vienna
  www.sfu.ac.at
- Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna
  www.muk.ac.at
Housing in Vienna

Vienna is a fast-growing city of 1.9 million inhabitants and will surpass the two million mark in the coming years. As a result, the city is currently experiencing a major boom in infrastructure spending, urban expansion and real estate development.

Residential areas
An essential aspect of the high quality of life in Vienna is its well established and versatile offering of housing space. Extensive residential areas of upmarket cottages and detached houses on the outskirts – close to the Vienna Woods but still within a short tram ride of the city centre – are popular with the diplomatic community. Those who prefer urban areas are typically drawn to the bustling quarters bordering Vienna’s first district and their eclectic range of gastronomic and cultural attractions, as well as their historic building structure. Yet newcomers to the city can of course also find any other type of housing, ranging from the glamorous to the edgy.

Besides the Vienna Woods, which form part of what is the only UNESCO-recognised biosphere reserve directly bordering a major metropolis worldwide, Vienna features several other large recreational areas. These include the Danube Island, the public park “Prater” and the Lobau National Park. No matter which district you settle in, therefore, you will always be able to enjoy a walk in the nature close by.

Social housing
Social housing has a long tradition in Vienna, dating back to the famous policies and architectural highlights of the 1920s. Today, more than 60% of the city’s population lives in subsidised housing. With holdings of 220,000 flats, the local government is the biggest landlord in Europe. The city is also currently building high-standard housing to account for the rapidly growing population and thus bringing about 7,000 new, subsidised flats onto the market annually.

As a result, rent prices are among the lowest in Europe. International benchmarks typically place rents in Vienna at about one quarter to one third below the level of other major European cities – not counting London, where regular prices are between double and triple those in Vienna.

RENTAL PRICES FOR UNFURNISHED, FOUR-ROOM UPMARKET APARTMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Price (€)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Milan</td>
<td>2,649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amsterdam</td>
<td>2,331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copenhagen</td>
<td>2,422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stockholm</td>
<td>2,305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vienna</td>
<td>1,866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>5,401</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

www.emazingvienna.at
Health care in Austria

In Austria, health care is based on a social insurance model that guarantees equitable access to high-quality health services with roughly 8.6 million people, or 99.9% of the population, insured.

The Austrian health care system provides universal coverage for an extensive range of benefits and high-quality care. The system is characterised by unrestricted access to all levels of care and particularly free choice of providers.

There has traditionally been a strong emphasis on the inpatient sector, which led to the development of internationally renowned hospitals such as the Vienna General Hospital or the St. Anna children’s hospital with the Children’s Cancer Research Institute. With almost 8 hospital beds per 1,000 inhabitants, Austria ranks fifth in the world and ensures that the resources required to deliver services to patients in hospitals are available.

Hospitals in Vienna

Vienna has a high concentration of hospitals, with a total of 50 hospitals and some 14,800 beds.

Of these 50 hospitals, 29 are publicly owned, while 21 are privately owned (both non-profit, including particularly denominational ownership, and for-profit).

Of the 32 hospitals that offer emergency treatment, 22 are general hospitals and 10 offer specialised care (such as paediatric hospitals, orthopaedic facilities and trauma centres).

In 29 of 32 emergency hospitals, all patients with social insurance can receive all treatments that the social health insurer is obligated to cover, regardless of whether they are being treated in public or private hospitals.

Privately insured and self-paying patients also receive treatment in all emergency hospitals. They are permitted to freely choose their doctor in all hospitals, and higher standards are met with regard to accommodation and meals. Of these hospitals, six are private “sanatoriums” that generally cater to privately insured and self-paying patients with regard to the free choice of doctors (i.e. patients can bring their own doctors), accommodation and meals (but also treat socially insured patients; see above).

The high number of contracted specialists working in the outpatient sector is another characteristic of the Austrian health system, ensuring timely and easily accessible care of the highest quality.
To ensure that the Austrian health care system is optimally prepared for the coming decades, a particular priority in health policy is to strengthen primary care by applying a very comprehensive approach based on international best practices and evidence.

Innovation and expansion of services
Health governance pursues the main objective of ensuring and expanding access to and quality of medical treatment in Austria. To allow for innovation in the system and the expansion of the services provided, public expenditures for health care have been steadily increased (even during the recent economic crisis).

This has enabled the introduction of measures such as the inclusion of vaccines against 13 pathogens for children and adolescents free of charge in the range of public health care services and the abolishment of deductibles for hospital stays for young people.

Furthermore, the strong commitment to a comprehensive and resilient public health care system ensures that Austria is typically among the first countries to make innovative and orphan medicines publicly available.

Numerous medical universities with a long-standing tradition ensure that a high number of physicians are trained at an excellent level. This excellence is reflected in the outstanding career prospects faced by medical graduates, who are highly sought-after by the neighbouring countries. Despite the great demand from institutions abroad, Austria has the second-highest number of practising doctors per capita among the European countries.

The high value Austrians attach to health care has also led to the establishment of holistic wellness, spa and rehabilitation centres that increasingly attract medical tourists from all over the world.

Free choice of providers
Patients can choose their family physician and have free access to most other forms of medical care.

In contrast with many other countries, there is no obligation in Austria to enrol with a specific physician or consult a physician prior to accessing specialised treatment in the outpatient or hospital sector.
This high degree of choice has led to a variety of innovative care models both in the private and the public sectors, and enables specialised care models for international citizens (particularly staff of the United Nations in Vienna).

In conclusion, the Austrian health care system guarantees a high quality of health care provision, and there is a strong commitment to further health investment. This is reflected in the high level of patient satisfaction and the lowest number of unmet needs in Europe. Almost all respondents of the Special Eurobarometer 411 in Austria (96%) say that the overall quality of health care is very good.

Unmet need for medical examination
(in % of total population)

Source: OECD Health at a Glance 2016
Mobility within the EU

EU or EEA citizens (EU countries plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and Swiss nationals benefit from the freedom of establishment and freedom of movement for workers. Citizens from the European Economic Area (EEA) as well as Swiss nationals and their families are free to immigrate to any country of the European Union or the EEA.

Workers from these countries therefore have free access to the labour market in Austria and do not require any further authorisation to pursue employment here.

If EU and Swiss citizens or their family members intend to stay in Austria for more than three months, permanent residence has to be registered with the responsible residence authorities within four months after their arrival in Austria.

**EU and Swiss citizens**
EU and Swiss citizens may reside in Austria for more than three months if they

- are employed or self-employed in Austria
- have adequate means of subsistence to support themselves and their dependants and have sufficient health insurance coverage for themselves and their family members

- attend an Austrian school or recognised education facility as a main purpose of their stay and earn a secure living and have sufficient health insurance coverage.

**EEA and Swiss family members**
EEA or Swiss family members may reside in Austria for more than three months if they are:

- spouses or registered partners
- direct descendants of an EEA national or his/her spouse or his/her registered partner aged 21 years or younger, or else older, provided they actually receive financial support
- related to the EEA national or his/her spouse or his/her registered partner in a direct ascending line, provided they actually receive financial support
- life partners in a proven long-term relationship
- other relatives of the sponsor having already received financial support from the sponsor in their country of origin, or having already lived in the same household with sponsor in their country of origin, or are in need of personal care by the sponsor due to serious health conditions.
For EEA or Swiss citizens who have a right of residence in Austria, a registration certificate will be issued as a formal documentation of the application.

EEA or Swiss nationals with a right of residence under EU law shall obtain the right of long-term residence after five years of lawful residence in Austria without interruption. Upon application, they shall be issued a “Long-Term Residence Certificate”.

For family members of EEA citizens, Swiss citizens or Austrians who have exercised their right to free movement within the EEA or Switzerland and who are not EEA or Swiss citizens, a residence card can be issued. After five years of permanent and legal residence in Austria, a permanent residence card can be issued.

**Family members from third countries**

Third-country family members of EEA or Swiss citizens may reside in Austria for more than three months if they are:

- spouses or registered partners
- family members of EEA or Swiss citizens or their spouses or registered partners in a direct descending line (children, grandchildren) until they reach the age of 21 and beyond, provided they actually receive financial support

The responsible residence authority can be either:

- the state governor (Landeshauptmann)
- the administrative district authority (Bezirksverwaltungsbehörde) authorised by the state governor:
  - the district administration (Bezirkshauptmannschaft)
  - in statutory cities: the magistrate (Magistrat)
  - in Vienna: Municipal Department 35 (MA 35)

Further information can be found on the following website: [http://www.migration.gv.at/en/](http://www.migration.gv.at/en/)
Expat and relocation support

Expat Center Vienna
Vienna hosts expatriates from all over the world. To help these expats and their families get off to the best start in their new home, the City of Vienna and the Vienna Business Agency joined forces already in 2010 as one of the first cities in Europe to establish the Expat Center Vienna. This is THE first contact point for all needs and questions an expatriate might have about living and working in Vienna. Located centrally in the heart of the city and staffed by a multilingual team of experts from various fields, the centre provides information and guidance on a broad range of topics every new arrival might be confronted with while settling in Vienna. Regardless of what the topic is – from looking for a first apartment in Vienna to issues with matters such as schooling or leisure activities to finding the right new networks to connect to in the city: the team at the Expat Center provides cost-free, independent and unbiased advice and personal consulting to all clients on whatever their needs and questions might be.

Personalised advice
The Expat Center offers factsheets and brochures on many of the most common topics, but of course can also be contacted by telephone, e-mail and for personal consulting. Whenever form of contact clients choose, they can always rely on getting the same high standard of personalised advice. The staff members will listen carefully to the client's issues so as to understand his or her personal situation and will then provide the client with all information and contacts needed to manage this situation. And if it ever comes to the point at which our highly experienced team is unable to meet a client's needs straight away, the client can always rely on a proven network of other experienced and multilingual experts such as real estate agents and moving companies, as well as lawyers, tax advisors and other professionals who will be happy to provide further assistance.

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATIONS BY HOME COUNTRY 2016

Source: Expat Center Vienna, 2016
Today the multilingual team (12 languages spoken) of the Expat Center provides its services to more than 1,000 expatriates every year. Should EMA relocate to Vienna, the City of Vienna would increase the capacity of the Expat Center in order to safeguard the best possible support for EMA employees.

To integrate EMA employees into the process at a very early stage with minimum personal effort, furthermore, Austrian experts could travel to London and present all relevant aspects connected with relocation to Vienna at a “relocation fair”.

Due to its long tradition as an international hub, of course, Vienna also has a vibrant scene of other non-governmental organisations to ensure that expatriates do not get homesick. From international sports clubs and leisure groups to professional networking organisations or women’s groups – every possible form of socialising opportunity is catered to, both in the form of online or social media groups as well as in real life. The experts of the Expat Center Vienna can provide their clients with individual information on all these possibilities and make the necessary connections.

Support by the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs
At the national level, the experienced staff of the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs as well as other parts of the central administration provide efficient support to the international organisations and their staff with regard to issues of security, respect for diplomatic immunity and the handling of administrative and protocol issues.

Socialising possibilities
In addition to these services, the team of the Expat Center Vienna also organises a range of activities through the “Expat Club Vienna,” which is also free of charge. Members of the international community can use the club to network with internationally minded locals at monthly events that range from company visits to waltzing courses.
Privileges and immunities

Protocol No. 7 applicable to EMA
Protocol (No. 7) on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Union (OJ C 326, October 26, 2012, p. 266) and the Modalities of Application of the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Communities between the Austrian Federal Government and the Commission of the European Communities, signed in Brussels on January 20, 2000, would be applicable to EMA and its staff members. These instruments grant, inter alia, exemption from direct taxes and inviolability of the seat of EMA, functional immunity and privileges for its staff, including exemption from income tax on pensions paid by the EU and exemption from indirect taxes (value-added tax and excise tax) for goods and services for invoice amounts exceeding 73 euros.

Headquarters agreement
Once the decision on the future seat of EMA is taken, complementary provisions would be negotiated in a separate headquarters agreement. For example, the Headquarters Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Austrian Federal Law Gazette III No. 10/2011, provides for, among others aspects, the freedom to acquire immovable property under the same conditions as Austrian nationals, the right to import one motor vehicle every four years for personal use free of duty, the right to participate in any branch of the social insurance (health, accident and pension insurance) and unemployment insurance systems, and access to the UN Commissary for staff, as well as diplomatic privileges and immunities for senior staff members.

Privileged tax treatment
Furthermore, Austrian tax law provides for privileged tax treatment of highly skilled scientists and researchers moving to Austria. This tax treatment could apply not only to staff members of the EMA, but also to the relocations of staff members of its stakeholders. Highly skilled scientists and researchers are therefore eligible to request an allowance for relocations to Austria (Zuzugsfreibetrag) unless they had their centre of vital interests in Austria in the past five years. The total grant amounts to 30% of the applicant’s income related to scientific activities and subject to the standard taxation rate. The allowance covers all relocation-related expenses (e.g. housing search, issuing of documents, language courses). If granted, the taxpayer is entitled to claim the allowed deductions for up to five years (60 months). However, the benefits will expire earlier in the event of certain conditions (e.g. change of profession, emigration).
Vienna - Dynamic Business Location

Vienna has a lot to offer, especially as a location for foreign companies interested in relocating to this capital at the heart of Europe jointly with EMA.

Vienna is one of the five most prosperous regions in the European Union and enjoys an excellent international reputation.

As a thriving metropolis and the second-largest German-speaking city after Berlin, Vienna is marked by rapid population growth. The city on the Danube has an extremely high level of economic output. Although only a fifth of Austria’s population lives in Vienna, the city generates around one quarter of the country’s total economic output.

The intercultural understanding that has grown over time and the many years of international cooperation make the city an ideal hub between east and west. Vienna is a centre of international trade at the crossroads of Europe, with more than 130,000 companies.

Demand for highly qualified staff

Vienna is also an investment hotspot for foreign companies. The investment-friendly climate makes Vienna a good location for innovation and successful investments. The total volume of direct investment by foreign companies is more than 90 billion euros. This means that 65% of Austrian foreign capital is invested in Vienna. The main investors come from Germany, Italy and the United States.

Vienna has a population of 1.9 million inhabitants. Half of the Viennese population has a migration background. This is a good source for the recruitment of multilingual staff.

One strength of Vienna’s economy is the strong focus on services. Service providers account for more than 85% of Vienna’s total economic output of 84 billion euros. Viennese service providers such as banks, law firms, IT and real estate companies offer a historically matured
understanding of foreign cultures. All these service providers act in a reliable way, internationally and in coordination with strong companies in the areas of transportation, telecommunications, information technology or research and development (R&D). They contribute to service exports totalling 13 billion euros.

Vienna is an economic hub in the centre of Europe, with 220 corporations maintaining regional headquarters in the city. Some 380 international headquarters are located in Austria overall. That means that around 60% of all Austrian headquarters are based in Vienna. Along with political stability, security and transparent laws, this makes Vienna the preferred hub for international companies that have a permanent need for multilingual, well-educated employees.

Pool of highly skilled workforce
Vienna is a city of science – this is reflected in the fact that it is home to the largest university in German-speaking Europe. Every year, around 20,000 people graduate from Vienna’s universities and 3,700 from universities of applied science. More than 50% of them complete a degree in technology, business or science, forming an almost limitless pool of highly skilled workers in Vienna.

Service providers for foreign companies
The Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Austrian Business Agency (ABA) and the Vienna Business Agency (VBA) will support foreign companies on their way to Vienna free of charge right from the start of their journey.

The ABA serves companies that are considering moving to Austria and provides all the necessary contacts required in Austria. It offers customised information about Austria as a business location, sectors, technologies and markets, and political and economic conditions.

The VBA helps foreign companies to find and select the right location in Vienna, gives advice on funding and financing issues and forwards such information, provides support in the search for staff and offers excellent contacts to lawyers and tax advisers.

The experts of the Chamber of Commerce of Vienna, specialised in life science, provide professional counselling and multilingual services. The Viennese Chamber offers guidance in all economic activities and entrepreneurial matters – from labour law through tax law to tariff information. What’s more, they highlight opportunities to make full use of networks in politics, industry and educational facilities.
Medical conferences and conventions

Vienna has established an outstanding reputation as a conference destination and has held top positions in relevant rankings for many years. The latest ranking published by the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) showed Vienna fourth among conference destinations worldwide in 2015.

In 2016, Vienna hosted a total of 4,084 conferences and corporate events, which generated induced economic impact of more than one billion euros. This includes 739 international congresses, which have the greatest impact on the overall results of the meetings industry in Vienna. Accounting for just 18% of all meetings in 2016, this segment contributed 51% of all participants, 75% of overnights and 80% of economic impact.

Convention locations

Inviting locations, high quality services and an excellent reputation give Vienna an important advantage in the highly competitive meetings industry. In addition to excellent accessibility and top services for event organizers, more than 150 impressive venues in Vienna provide the ideal setting for unique events. The majority of them are located in the city center, within easy reach – particularly using public transportation.

- 3 convention centers (Hofburg Vienna, Austria Center Vienna, Messe Wien Exhibition & Congress Center)
- Around 100 conference hotels in different categories
- 30 sites at 13 universities
- Historic palaces & museums
- Theaters, concert halls & opera houses
- Contemporary locations & former industrial buildings
- Clubs & bars

Medical congresses in Vienna

In recent years, Vienna has developed into a top location for medical congresses. 181 national and 118 international congresses in the field of human medicine were held in Vienna in 2016. These congresses have enhanced Austria’s reputation among the international medical community.

![Graph showing participants by field](graph.png)

- Radiotherapy and Oncology: 5,000 participants
- Neuropsychopharmacology: 8,000 participants
- Radiocentology: 14,000 participants
- Radiology: 22,000 participants
International organisations and NGOs in Vienna

The hosting of international organisations has been a core element of Austria’s foreign policy since the 1970s. Vienna is a leading base of international institutions together with New York, Geneva, Brussels and The Hague. Vienna is also one of the four headquarters of the United Nations. Altogether some 40 international organisations have established headquarters or detached offices in Vienna, the biggest entities being the UNOV, the IAEA, UNIDO, the CTBTO, the OSCE and OPEC. More than 6,000 expatriate employees of international organisations and accredited diplomats form the core of Vienna’s international community and contribute to the international flavour of the city. The Austrian Federal Government and the City of Vienna cooperate closely to make the city as attractive and as liveable as possible for international organisations and their staff members and families. With regard to EU institutions, the European Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) is headquartered in Vienna.

Civil society and NGOs
As civil society very often interacts with international organisations and other international actors in the form of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), Austria has traditionally given incentives to NGOs to locate their headquarters in this country. The aim is to further encourage the work and environment of international organisations.

The Federal Law on the Granting of Privileges to Non-Governmental International Organisations provides a fitting legal framework: upon request by an organisation, the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs may grant legal status as an “international non-governmental organisation” by decree.

Since 2016, furthermore, NGOs have had the opportunity to apply for recognition as “quasi-international organisations”, provided that they fulfil the requirements stipulated by law. The legal status of a quasi-international organisation entails, inter alia, certain tax exemptions.

Presence of international media
Due not least to the presence of international organisations, a large number of international news agencies, TV channels and print media are represented in Vienna; their branch offices and correspondents cover events in Austria as well as in Central and Eastern Europe and dispatch news to European countries, the United States, China, Russia and the Arab region.
Contents:

- Federal Chancellery of the Republic of Austria
- Federal Ministry of Health and Women's Affairs
- Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs
- Federal Ministry of Finance
- Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy
- Vienna Business Agency
- Vienna Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Further information can be found on the following website:

www.emazingvienna.at

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