

*Tired of the classic dual career challenges?
Dreaming of building something on your own?*

*Heard about freelancing and/or starting your own portable business?
Wait a minute, is that the same or two pairs of shoes? Are there legal differences here in Austria?
Where to start?!?*

VIE LESA invited Christoph Krones from KRONES, a lawyer with comprehensive know-how and personal commitment plus a strong supporter of VIE LESA's vision to help us get the legal (Austrian) facts straight on this important topic and guide us through this potential career path for expat spouses.

This is the first of a series of articles over the next few weeks – come back for more!

FREELANCING IN AUSTRIA: SOLID BASI(C)S (1)

To start with, there are two statutory employment relationships, which can almost be compared with the status of self-employment. Those two are the so called “freelance contractors” and the “new self-employed”.

Both help companies and employees to save labour costs, which tend to be not really low in Austria. Employees, for whom these two employment relationships mentioned before are relevant, have to be aware of, that most of the time they are not protected by Austrian labour law. Nevertheless, statutory, they are protected if they are facing social problems.

Since freelancing wasn't really known some years ago, you will not find legal definitions on freelancing in Austrian labour law. That's why you will find regulations concerning self-employment in various parts of the Austrian labour law.

A legal definition of “self-employed workers” doesn't exist in Austria. There are only legal definitions, which try to circumscribe freelancing. Most important the “freie Dienstvertrag” (“free service contract”) and the “Werkvertrag” (“contract of work”).

So the most important info to “take home” with you from this article **FREELANCING IN AUSTRIA: SOLID BASI(C)S (1)** : If you want to become a freelancer in Austria, you will have to embrace the legal terms of “freelance contractors” and the “new self-employed” and further with the “freie Dienstvertrag” (“free service contract”) and the “Werkvertrag” (“contract of work”).

Next time we will be looking into more details of what is important to become a freelancer in Austria and what you have to be aware of.

Krones Christoph, lawyer

Legal advice of a new style. It is important for us to keep an eye on the essentials for an economically sensible, tailor-made solution – adapted to the needs of our clients, not the other way round. Comprehensive know-how and personal commitment. *VIE LESA members will benefit from a discount.*

Website: <http://www.krones-law.at/>