

My name is Ali. I come from Syria and I've been living in Austria for three and a half years. During my first year here in Austria I could hardly speak any German, only the words and phrases I studied by myself. I was wondering about Austrian conventionalities, as in Syria everything is considerably different. One substantial obstacle always used to be the German language. When having a doctor's appointment or an appointment at an office, I was always accompanied by a friend, who interpreted the things people said. During that time, a Danube Compass would have been very helpful and a big support for me.

At the beginning, life here in Austria was quite a struggle, but since my German has improved and I have become acquainted with local laws, rules and customs, I really feel like home. During my first couple of months here in Austria I was confronted with numerous disadvantages, but also many advantages. Anyway, let me just say one thing: THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING!

