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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB for the meeting of Transport, Telecommunications and Energy of 6 December 2024: Austrian Framework of Reference for Digital Competence - Information from Austria

Austrian Framework of Reference for Digital Competence
(Telecom Council, 6th December 2024)

The Austrian Framework of Reference for Digital Competence offers a solid foundation for citizens, companies, and educational institutions to enhance digital competences, fostering greater participation and prosperity.

Furthermore, it benefits a wide range of stakeholders, including individuals looking to improve their digital competences, educational institutions, companies, training providers, and interest groups. It enables them to have a clear understanding of digital competences while facilitating greater transparency and targeted qualification and allows a harmonised approach. Austrian Framework of Reference for Digital Competence serves as a trusted, shared benchmark— a common „currency" for digital competences.

Key aspects

A framework for digital competences was developed at the EU level for the first time in 2013 and is intended to capture, describe and subsequently also develop digital competences within the population. Several development steps later the current versions are DigComp 2.2 EU and the Austrian digital competence framework DigComp 2.3 AT which is based on the European framework.

The DigComp 2.3 AT competence framework was developed and updated in 2022 based on several years of field work and a systematic consultation process, in collaboration with representatives from central departments, the interdisciplinary Digital Competences Taskforce, the association fit4internet, a scientific working group as well as numerous experts. DigComp 2.3 AT describes digital competences in six competence areas, each of which is specified and explained in more detail by between three and six individual competences.

In addition to the six competence areas, the framework describes the development and characteristics of digital competences over a total of eight levels. This level structure means that the Austrian Framework of Reference for Digital Competence is consistent with the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), which also has eight levels, and the Austrian National Qualifications Framework (NQF), which is likewise aligned with the EQF. Each of the six competence areas is broken down into eight proficiency levels.

1	Elementary **Basic**	Support & Repetition
2	Solid **Basic**	Repetition & Routine
3	Profound **Independent**	Routine & Independence
4	Advanced **Independent**	Independence & Responsibility
5	Comprehensive **Advanced**	Guidance & Leadership
6	Profound **Advanced**	Leadership & Decision-Making Responsibility
7	Strategic **Highly Specialised**	Executive Leadership, Complexity & Strategy
8	Innovative **Highly Specialised**	Subject Matter Expertise, Research, Innovation & Development

Developments at European level The European Digital Competence Framework for Citizens (DigComp 2.2 EU) is currently being reviewed and revised at EU level in the form of expert consultations. Austria intends to continue its pioneering role, with further development set to take place at national level at the same time as the European updates.