Welcome to this session about the SAP ERP Austrian country version.

In this lesson, you will get an overview of the country specifics in Financials and Human Capital Management. You will learn how SAP manages legal changes for rollout, and you will hear about the documentation paths in the SAP system.
After completing this session, you will be able to:

- Discuss Austrian localization requirements
- Outline Austrian localization features in SAP ERP (country version Austria)
- Explain Austrian localization features in Financials and Human Capital Management
- Describe the solution support and rollout strategy for Austria
This session will give you insights on Austrian requirements that must be addressed by any ERP software provider. These requirements enable businesses to run compliantly.

- We will briefly discuss features offered by the Austrian country version in the areas of Finance and Human Capital Management.
- We will also touch upon support and discuss some recommendations for those who are planning to use the Austrian country version.
Country Version Austria

Quick Facts

Let's start with some quick facts about the Austrian country version.
Key Strengths:
- Available as SAP standard before SAP ERP 3.1I and is a trusted name in the marketplace
- Provides legal compliance features for business transactions
- Standard and simplified rollout strategy for legal changes

Challenges:
- Finance/Logistics (VAT, payments)
- Human Capital Management (payroll)
- Legal changes:
  - Often unplanned
  - Effective on short notice

Key Strengths:
- The Austrian country version has been a market leader for decades. It is in maintenance in all higher releases, up to the latest SAP ERP 6.0 enhancement package. The country version is mature and trusted in the marketplace.
- It provides legal compliance features for various business transactions, enabling your business to run better. Development and support for these features is provided by highly skilled teams located in India and Germany; these are some of the most experienced research and development teams in the SAP Labs network across the world.
- The Austrian country version is now operational at most of the top corporations in Austria across various industries, including global business giants that have subsidiaries in Austria.

Challenge:
- Legal changes in Austria are often unplanned and released on short notice. Such changes are monitored by local experts and implemented accordingly in the Austrian country version.
Austrian Requirements

Legal Complexity and Language Support

Now let's take a deeper look into Austrian legislation complexity and language requirements.
There are three major criteria that determine the complexity of a country version: law complexity, law frequency, and the country’s official language(s).

Austrian laws in the areas of Finance and Logistics are of medium complexity. This is mainly due to country-specific taxes and tax rules, as well as special tax scenarios such as tax reporting.

Austrian laws in the area of Human Capital Management are of medium complexity. The most important topics are related to social and pension insurance.
The second criteria relates to the frequency of legal changes in Austria.

Both the Financials area and the Human Capital Management area are very dynamic; that is, most legal changes are expected at the beginning of the year and become less frequent during the year.
The third criteria relates to the official language of a country. The Austrian country version is provided in German, which is Austria’s official language.
Let's have a look at legal compliance requirements in Austria. We will focus on the Financials part of the Austrian country version.
The VAT report is an official periodic report that must be provided to the tax authorities. The rules and periods are based on Austrian tax legislation. The Austrian country version supports VAT reporting by providing an advance return on sales and purchases. The VAT reporting program also facilitates automatic transfer posting of tax payable, and fills out the tax return if required.

Companies or institutions with “mixed businesses” (that is, companies that carry out operations that are subject to VAT and deductible, as well as operations that are tax exempted and/or not deductible) can only deduct VAT at a percentage corresponding to the volume of deductible operations. These companies have to apply the pro-rata VAT method to determine tax deductions.

You have to post acquisition tax for deliveries that originate in another EU country. You usually do this when you post the invoice. However, if you have posted a goods receipt without an invoice receipt, you can post the acquisition tax based on the goods receipt. You do this using the program that analyzes the GR/IR clearing account.

SAP also support the other tax formats, such as U30 (advance return for tax on sales/purchases) and ZM (EC sales list).
The Austrian country version supports payment formats in the outgoing payment area, as well as in the upload phase of bank statements.

The payment program enables XML generation of the new standard European SEPA direct debits and SEPA credit transfers.

The V3 Format, which is EDIFACT-based, is also supported in the Austrian country version.
Another important area of the Austrian country version is reporting, based on GL accounts, to close fiscal years.

The country version supports a financial statement as part of the yearly closing activities, and also supports a profit & loss statement that is compliant with Austrian legislation. Based on the financial statement, cash flow reports can be generated using items not directly related to cash (such as depreciation expenses).

The Foreign Trade Declaration is used to prepare balance-of-payment reporting in Austria. The corresponding report provides an output list and, if specified, it generates the corresponding DME files in XML format.

As of January 1, 2006, companies that have receivables and payables abroad and that provide or procure services and transactions abroad must report their foreign trade transactions directly to the relevant authority. This report allows companies (non-banks) to report on the following items:

- Services and transfers
The report generates an electronic file of services and transfers. This file is transmitted to the Austrian Statistics Office on a quarterly basis.

**Other investments**
- The report generates DME files of other investments in XML format. You can upload these files to the OeNB web site or submit to the Austrian Central Bank.
Next, let’s have a look at Human Capital Management in the Austrian country version.
The payroll program is run at a specific point in time, not only to calculate an employee’s basic remuneration, but also any special payments, overtime payments, or bonuses that must be effected for the period in question.

The system calculates the gross and net pay, which comprises the individual payments and deductions that are calculated during a payroll period and are received by an employee. These payments and deductions are included in the calculation of the remuneration using different wage types. After the remuneration payroll, you can carry out various subsequent activities.
You can perform the following activities:

- Generate a personal calendar for each employee. This calendar shows you an employee’s absences during specified time periods.
- Evaluate the personal calendar according to different criteria by using a report.
- Create reimbursement requests for continued remuneration and the flat rate according to par. 8 of the EFZG (Continued Remuneration Law), and then transfer them to the appropriate social insurance agency using Electronic Data Transfer (ELDA).
- Manage the continued remuneration amount that the employer must pay for insured employees in Social Insurance A.
- Calculate work and remuneration confirmations for sick pay and maternity pay and transfer them to the appropriate social insurance agencies using ELDA.
The Statement of Employment report creates employment statements for selected employees if their final full-time employment relationship with unemployment insurance ends in the selected period. The statements of confirmation are issued as SAPscript forms.

The program allows you record and print all types of sickness certificates—for general practitioners, specialists, dentists, and vacation—for your employees and their family members. For each quarter, you can record up to 15 sickness certificates for each employee or family member. In the infotype, you can display and edit the sickness certificate that has been recorded and printed for an employee or family member in a certain quarter. This means that the display is limited to the data for the individual person.
To support you, there are a number of informative SAP Notes available in the SAP Notes repository. The repository also includes FAQs for various functionality points and some installation guidance.

Legal changes that are unplanned during the year are rolled out smoothly via SAP Solution Notes, which can be applied directly in the customer’s systems.

Additionally, legal changes are supported by special rollout procedures, for example, Country Legal Change packages.

The SAP Service Marketplace also hosts a dedicated Austria page that contains the latest updates on the Austrian country version. The SAP Service Marketplace is directly accessible by the customers.
Finally, let’s briefly talk about the legal change rollout process at SAP.
SAP may continuously provide legal changes to its country versions to support SAP provides two options for customers to implement HCM legal changes: HR Support Packages (HRSP) and Country Legal Change (CLC) packages.

HRSPs are released every month and provide HR customers around the globe with the latest legal requirements and corrections. They include all updates for international functions and country versions.

CLC packages represent a new method of delivering HCM legal changes. They are offered in addition to HRSPs. CLC packages include country-specific legal changes—one CLC package per country—and they enable customers to decide when to implement legal changes for their country versions, thereby reducing test efforts and risks significantly.

Legal changes in Financials and Human Capital management re released monthly via Support Packages.

In addition, in the HCM area, all legal changes are released monthly per country: one CLC package per country hrlegalchanges.

You can find the upcoming legal changes that SAP is planning to deliver under the quick link legalchanges.
In the Legal Change report, you can find information on planned legal changes for laws that go into effect in SAP ERP Financials, SAP ERP Operations, and SAP ERP Human Capital Management.

The Legal Change report includes all current legal changes. The legal change files include a short description of the planned legal change and a link to the corresponding SAP announcement note, where you can find detailed information the calendar week/year in which the planned legal changes are assumed to be provided, and whether the legal change is already available.
Country Version Austria
Recommendations

- Not a “do-it-yourself” system
- Expert knowledge required for global templates
- Upgrade to minimum Support Package for the Austrian country version
- User training

Here are some recommendations for those new to country version Austria.

- First and foremost, the Austrian country version is not a “do-it-yourself” system. Because of the level of complexity involved, we recommend that you have experts on board, right from the beginning.
- There is definitely some expert knowledge required for global templates, so you can avoid surprises.
- We strongly recommend that the customer upgrade to the most recent Support Package for country version Austria.
- Lastly, user training is a critical part of a successful implementation of the Austrian country version.
Lesson Summary

You should now be able to:

- Discuss Austrian localization requirements
- Outline Austrian localization features in SAP ERP (country version Austria)
- Explain Austrian localization features in Financials and Human Capital Management
- Describe the solution support and rollout strategy for Austria
For more information on the topics discussed in this lesson, see the following references:

- Important SAP Notes for Austria:
  - IBAN Mass Generation: 1403282
  - EC VAT 2010: Austria - EC Sales List 1402487
  - Intra-EC Supplies of Services: 1403538
  - EC VAT 2010 / EC Sales List enhancement for FI-CA: 1488136
- [http://service.sap.com/GKB](http://service.sap.com/GKB)
Thank You!

Contact information

SAP Globalization Services:
globalization@sap.com

You can contact SAP Globalization Services if you have questions or comments. Thank you for your patience and attention during this session.