

# **(Over?)Regulation in liberal professions**

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# **(Over?)Regulation in liberal professions:**

**Does it also contribute to  
consumers and employees  
well being?**



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## Liberal professions in Austria: IHS regulation indices

Liberal profession	Entry (rank)	Conduct (rank)	Total (rank)
Accountants	4.2 (1.)	2.0 (3.)	6.2 (2.)
Lawyers	4.1 (1.)	3.3 (3.)	7.3 (2.)
Notaries	5.4 (2.)	4.2 (6.)	9.6 (4.)
Architects	3.9 (1.)	1.2 (5.)	5.1 (3.)
Pharmacists	3.6 (7.)	3.7 (7.)	7.3 (7.)



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## Conditional tasks

- o „Außerstreitverfahren“  
(non-adversary proceedings)
  - e.g. present costs: 43 € (court costs)
  - future costs(?): ~1.700 € (rack rent)
  - ~17.000 € (majority vote+many defendants)
- o Prostheticians as alternative to dentists
- o Drugstores as competitor to pharmacists
  - e.g. for vitamin preparations

## **Qualification requirements**

- o Auditors: 12 years
- o Lawyers: 10 years
- o Notaries: 13 years
- o Architects: 12 years

## Suggestions:

- o Improve the supply
- o Improve the career prospects of young practitioners and graduates
- o Abolish professional group privileges
- o Increase transparency with regard to the offer, choice and prices
- o Increased co-determination possibilities for workers' and consumer representatives

