

Mobility: Immigration alert

March 2023



Portugal

Portugal begins accepting online Residence Permit applications from nationals of Portuguese-Speaking Countries

Executive summary

On 13 March 2023, the Immigration and Border Services (SEF) began accepting online applications for Portuguese Residence Permits from eligible nationals of Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) Member States.

Background

Pursuant to the implementation of the Mobility Agreement among the [CPLP](#) Member States in July 2021, the Portuguese government passed Law No. 18/2022 on 25 August 2022. The law introduced Residence Permits for nationals of the CPLP Member States, which authorize holders to work, reside or visit family members in Portugal for an initial validity period of one year. These permits may be extended for successive periods of two years.

Currently, these Residence Permits are available to nationals of CPLP Member States who submitted an Expression of Interest ("Manifestação de Interesse") application on or before 31 December 2022 or hold any valid Portuguese residence visa issued after 31 October 2022.

Key developments

All eligible individuals from CPLP Member States can now submit applications to obtain Residence Permits. Applicants over the age of 18 can complete the application process [online](#) by paying a fee of EUR 15 and will be issued the Residence Permit within 72 hours of completing the payment. Those aged 18 or under will be issued an appointment to complete the application process in person at an office of the SEF.

In the coming months, the Portuguese authorities are expected to begin accepting Residence Permit applications from nationals of CPLP Member States who submitted an Expression of Interest application on or after 1 January 2023 and those who do not have a Portuguese residence visa.

Impact on employers

The launch of the new online platform is expected to benefit employers who hire nationals of CPLP Member States by streamlining and expediting the immigration process.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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