

Mobility: Immigration alert

June 2023



Montenegro

Montenegro begins issuing visas and residence permits to digital nomads

Executive summary

The Montenegrin immigration authorities confirmed in late May 2023 that they are now issuing temporary residence permits (TRPs) and D Visas to eligible digital nomads.

Background

In general, the term “digital nomads” refers to individuals who are employed and receive salaries and benefits in one country (i.e., the home country) but work remotely from another country or multiple other countries (i.e., the host country/countries). Digital nomads are typically not permitted to earn remuneration in the host country/countries.

Key developments

Individuals who require a visa to enter Montenegro (i.e., visa nationals) and seek to work as a digital nomad from within Montenegro for up to 180 days in a year may apply for a D Visa at the Montenegrin embassy or consulate in their country of citizenship or residence. D Visa holders who seek to work as a digital nomad from within Montenegro for 180 days or more, and individuals who are lawfully in Montenegro using only their valid passport and seek to work as a digital nomad from within Montenegro, may apply for a TRP at the offices of the immigration authorities in Montenegro.

Digital nomads must submit proof that they are working with an employer located outside Montenegro at the time of filing the D Visa or TRP application and have sufficient funds and medical insurance coverage, among other things.

Digital nomads who hold D Visas or TRPs are exempt from the requirement to pay personal income tax in Montenegro and may bring in qualifying dependents, who will be issued dependent permits that enable them to reside in Montenegro. Those who hold digital nomad status and seek to set up their own company in Montenegro or undertake work for a Montenegrin employer must obtain another immigration status prior to doing so.

Impact on employers

Montenegro joins a growing list of countries that have introduced visas and/or permits for remote workers following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Non-Montenegrin employers that allow teleworking may consider Montenegro as a potential destination for their employees who are seeking to work remotely.

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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