

Mobility: Immigration alert

November 2023



Hungary

Immigration bill proposes new categories of work and residence permits

Executive summary

On 15 November 2023, the Hungarian government introduced a new immigration bill in the parliament, which aims to amend the existing regulations for third-country nationals. If approved, the bill will come into force on 1 September 2024.

Key developments

The proposed bill, if approved, will implement the following changes:

- ▶ Two separate categories of permits will be available for third-country nationals who seek to work in Hungary: one for skilled (“white collar”) workers and another for guest (“blue collar”) workers. Currently, these individuals must apply for combined work and residence permits, which are not categorized based on type of employment.
- ▶ Permits for skilled workers will authorize holders to reside in Hungary for up to three years (compared to two years for holders of combined work and residence permits). They will also be able to sponsor dependents and apply for permanent residence if they meet relevant criteria.
- ▶ Holders of guest worker permits will be subject to a maximum duration of stay, will not be able to sponsor family members and will not be eligible to apply for permanent residence.
- ▶ A new type of permit, valid for 10 years, will be introduced for individuals who make qualifying investments in Hungary of at least EUR 250,000.
- ▶ Changes will be made to immigration processes to reduce application processing times.

Impact on employers

The proposed regulations are expected to streamline the immigration processes for qualifying third-country nationals who seek to work and reside in Hungary. Employers may take into account the implications of the proposal and prepare for long-term changes accordingly.

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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ey.com

Veronika Olah
Partner - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +3630 559 1221
Email: veronika.olah@hu.ey.com

Gabor Garab
Senior Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +3670 501 8461
Email: gabor.garab@hu.ey.com