

Mobility: Immigration alert

February 2024



Poland

New draft law proposes changes to Residence Permit and Blue Card rules in Poland

Executive summary

On 9 February 2024, the Polish government published a draft law that would amend the Foreigners Act. The proposed amendments include the introduction of an electronic submission portal for residence permit applications and changes to existing Blue Card regulations. The legislative approval process for the draft law is expected to begin shortly, with the law likely to be passed by the Polish cabinet in the second quarter of 2024.

Key developments

The draft law, if approved, will introduce the following changes:

- ▶ **Residence permits:** Residence permit applicants will be required to submit their applications and supporting documents via the government's [electronic platform](#). They will still be required to visit the offices of the immigration authorities as part of the application process to submit their fingerprints and present their original documents. They will no longer receive a stamp in their passports after submitting their applications but will instead be issued a confirmation certificate.
- ▶ **Blue Cards**
 - ▶ Holders of EU Blue Cards issued by other EU Member States will be able to enter, stay and work in Poland for up to 90 days in a 180-day period and receive enhanced short-term mobility rights within the EU. They will also be able to apply for long-term mobility rights if they plan to stay in Poland for more than 90 days.
 - ▶ The processing time for Blue Card long-term mobility applications will be reduced to 30 days.
 - ▶ Blue Card holders will obtain the right to set up and run a business in Poland, in addition to the right to work.

▶ Other changes

- ▶ The rulings of the Court of Justice of the European Union will be implemented, and nationals of EU Member States residing in Poland with authorization to work will be able to stay in the country for longer if they lose their job.
- ▶ Several other regulations will be modified, including the requirements for: (a) holders of Blue Cards for IT specialists who seek to obtain long-term mobility rights within the EU; (b) Blue Card holders who seek to obtain EU long-term residence status; and (c) individuals who are applying for a Residence Card under the family reunification pathway.

Further details are expected to be released in the next months.

Impact on employers

The proposed amendments are expected to benefit employers and enable them to further attract highly qualified professionals by introducing expanded immigration benefits for third-country nationals and reducing application processing times.

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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