



# Global Immigration alert

May 2024

## Austria

### Proposal to allow eligible Ukrainian nationals and residents to switch to Red-White-Red Plus Cards

#### Executive summary

Austria's governing parties recently agreed on a proposal to enable eligible Ukrainian nationals and residents to switch to a Red-White-Red Plus Card. The proposed changes must be passed by the parliament before they go into effect.

#### Background

Red-White-Red Plus Cards authorize eligible third-country nationals (i.e., nationals of countries outside the EU and EEA) and their qualifying dependents to work and reside in Austria for an initial period of up to two years and can be renewed indefinitely in two-year increments. Holders may be self-employed or employed by a company located in Austria.

#### Key developments

If approved, the proposed changes will authorize eligible Ukrainian nationals and residents to switch to a Red-White-Red Plus Card provided they:

- ▶ Arrived in Austria following the outbreak of the armed conflict in Ukraine (i.e., after 20 February 2022)
- ▶ Are currently residing in Austria on a Blue Card for displaced people (i.e., an identification card for displaced persons)
- ▶ Were in a fully insured employment relationship (i.e., had a local employment contract and were registered with Austrian social health insurance) for at least 12 months in the 24 months prior to filing their application
- ▶ Submit proof that they realistically expect to receive the following minimum monthly net salary when the Card is issued (and not when they apply for it): (i) EUR 1,218 for individual applicants; (ii) EUR 1,921 for applicants who seek to sponsor their spouse or registered partner; (iii) one of

the preceding amounts plus an additional EUR 188 per dependent child

- ▶ Possess German language skills at the A1 level or above, certified by an authorized institute (e.g., ÖSD, ÖIF)

If these changes are approved, eligible dependents (i.e., spouses, registered partners and children, including adopted children and stepchildren) who are currently residing in Austria on a Blue Card for displaced people will also be able to switch to a Red-White-Red Card Plus.

#### Impact on employers

The proposed changes are expected to benefit Austrian employers by increasing their access to skilled employees.

#### 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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EYG no. 005229-24Gbl

2101-3682263  
ED None

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