

Global Immigration alert

September 2025

North Macedonia

North Macedonia simplifies temporary residence permit requirements

Executive summary

On 26 September 2025, North Macedonia introduced amendments to the Law on Foreigners, simplifying the procedures for obtaining temporary residence permits based on employment.

Key developments

The amendments introduce the following changes:

- **Simplified documentation requirements:** Applicants are no longer required to provide proof of accommodation funds. The criminal record requirement now applies only to the year prior to the application in the applicant's country of residence. Additionally, proof of submission of an employment intermediation request (i.e., an application to connect foreign nationals with potential employers) with the Employment Agency is no longer required.
- **Application submission:** Applications may be submitted by the foreign national, their employer (legal entity), or an authorized representative. A guarantee from the employer is required (e.g., a notarized statement confirming financial responsibility), with penalties applicable in the absence of such documentation.
- **Employment registration timeline:** Employers are now required to register the start of employment within 30 days of the work permit's issuance. This replaces the previous requirement, which allowed 90 days from the date when the Employment Agency approved the application.
- **Exemptions for certain categories:** Individuals applying for temporary residence as immediate family members of North Macedonian citizens, family members of a sponsor, or on the basis of employment are exempt from meeting financial and health insurance requirements.
- **Shortened documentation timeline:** Applicants now have seven days to submit missing documents after being notified of an incomplete application. Previously, they were given 15 business days from the date of receipt of the documentation to complete this step.
- **Extended renewal deadlines:** Requests to extend temporary residence permits may now be submitted between 90 days before and five days prior to the permit's expiration. Previously, requests could be submitted 30 days before expiration and up to 15 days after the permit had expired.
- **Strategic projects:** Foreign nationals involved in strategic projects (i.e., large-scale investments or initiatives that support national development and infrastructure) may obtain temporary residence without being subject to quotas. Extensions require documentation confirming continued project involvement and compliance with social security obligations.
- **Secondments:** The maximum duration for seconding employees has been reduced from 365 days to 180 days, with the possibility of extension. Exceptions apply to individuals with strategic partner status, who may be eligible for an initial one-year period with the possibility of further extension.
- **Exchange of information:** The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Employment Agency will now exchange information on the status of applications on a monthly basis. Previously, this communication was informal and infrequent, as it was not formally regulated. This new coordination aims to improve transparency, ensure both authorities have up-to-date information, and minimize communication issues.



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Impact on employers

These changes are expected to benefit employers by streamlining the application process for foreign nationals applying for temporary residence based on employment. Employers may review and adjust internal procedures to align with the updated documentation requirements, submission options and registration timelines.

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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