



Global Immigration alert

July 2024

Hungary

Updated eligibility lists for National Cards and Guest Worker Permits

Executive summary

Effective 9 July 2024, the Hungarian immigration authorities expanded the list of countries whose citizens can apply for National Cards and [released](#) the list of countries whose nationals are eligible to apply for Guest Worker Permits.

Background

National Cards, previously available only to Serbian and Ukrainian nationals for work and residence purposes, are initially issued for up to two years and may be extended for another three years. These Cards allow holders to bring in dependents and switch to permanent residence status in Hungary.

Guest Worker Permits are granted to certain third-country nationals who are sponsored by “preferred employers” (i.e., companies considered strategic partners or outstanding export partners of the Hungarian government, or investors of national economic importance). These permits are initially issued for up to two years and can be extended. Holders are authorized to travel across the Schengen Area but are not allowed to bring in dependents or switch to permanent residence status in Hungary.

Key developments

On 9 July 2024, citizens of the following countries were added to the eligibility list for National Cards: Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Russia.

In addition, the authorities released the list of nationalities who can be employed based on a Guest Worker Permit: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Georgia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Philippines, Venezuela and Vietnam. This list does not apply to holders of other types of Guest Worker Permits (e.g., investment implementation or seasonal employment).

Impact on employers

These changes will benefit employers by providing them greater access to talent from outside the EU and EEA.

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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