

Global Immigration alert

March 2025

Romania

Romania simplifies citizenship regulations

Executive summary

On 11 March 2025, the Romanian government approved a law that aims to reform the acquisition of Romanian citizenship. The amendments will establish new requirements for applicants and modernize the application process, with the goal of improving accessibility and efficiency.

Key developments

Law No. 14/2025 went into effect on 15 March 2025 and introduced the following changes:

- **Residency requirements:** Previously, applicants were required to have resided in Romania for at least eight years before becoming eligible to acquire Romanian citizenship. Under the new law, applicants may become eligible to apply for citizenship after five years. To qualify for citizenship after five years of residence, applicants must provide proof of their active participation in Romania's economy, relevant educational achievements, or contributions to Romanian culture, human rights, social causes or volunteer work. Additionally, they must meet one of the following criteria:
 - Hold a long-term residence permit in Romania or be married to a Romanian citizen
 - Be a citizen of an EU/EEA Member State or have been born in Romania to parents who were legally residing in the country at that time, while also meeting the general citizenship criteria
 - Have refugee status and demonstrate significant efforts to integrate into Romanian society, particularly through notable achievements in education, professional training or civic involvement

- **Implementation of biometric data collection for all applicants:** In general, applicants must submit facial images and fingerprints. There are exceptions available for children under 14 and individuals who are physically unable to provide them.
- **Transition from paper citizenship certificates to plastic cards:** Physical (paper) citizenship certificates will no longer be issued and are being replaced with plastic cards.
- **Implementation of language proficiency requirements for certain applicants:** Applicants must provide proof of Romanian language skills, demonstrating a minimum proficiency level of B1.
- **Launch of an electronic system for citizenship application management:** The government expects to launch a new electronic system in June 2026, which is designed to improve transparency and streamline the citizenship application process.

Impact on employers

Employers may inform impacted individuals of the changes in eligibility and application requirements.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.



Shape the future
with confidence

EY is building a better working world by creating new value for clients, people, society and the planet, while building trust in capital markets.

Enabled by data, AI and advanced technology, EY teams help clients shape the future with confidence and develop answers for the most pressing issues of today and tomorrow.

EY teams work across a full spectrum of services in assurance, consulting, tax, strategy and transactions. Fueled by sector insights, a globally connected, multi-disciplinary network and diverse ecosystem partners, EY teams can provide services in more than 150 countries and territories.

All in to shape the future with confidence.

EY refers to the global organization, and may refer to one or more, of the member firms of Ernst & Young Global Limited, each of which is a separate legal entity. Ernst & Young Global Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, does not provide services to clients. Information about how EY collects and uses personal data and a description of the rights individuals have under data protection legislation are available via ey.com/privacy. EY member firms do not practice law where prohibited by local laws. For more information about our organization, please visit ey.com.

© 2025 Ernst & Young LLP.
All Rights Reserved.

EYG no. 002395-25GbI

2101-3682263
ED None

This material has been prepared for general informational purposes only and is not intended to be relied upon as accounting, tax, legal or other professional advice. Please refer to your advisors for specific advice.

ey.com

Corina Mîndoiu

Partner - People Advisory Services
Tel: +40 21 402 40 00
Email: corina.mindoiu@ro.ey.com

Iulian Pasniciuc

Director - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +40 21 402 40 00
Email: iulian.pasniciuc@ro.ey.com

Silvia Sîrbu

Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +40 21 402 40 00
Email: silvia.Ssrbu@ro.ey.com

Ben Willis

Partner - People Advisory Services, EMEIA Immigration Leader
Tel: +44 20 7951 9589
Email: ben.willis@uk.ey.com

Seema Farazi

Partner - People Advisory Services, EMEIA Immigration Leader
Tel: +44 20 7951 7122
Email: seema.farazi@uk.ey.com