

# Mobility: Immigration alert

December 2023

## Estonia

Same-sex partners and spouses eligible for dependent permits and visas

### Executive summary

Effective 1 January 2024, foreign nationals in same-sex marriages and partnerships will be eligible to apply for residence permits and visas under the newly amended Aliens Act and Family Law Act.

### Background

On 20 June 2023, the Estonian Parliament legalized same-sex marriage by adopting amendments to the Family Law Act, implemented the Registered Partnership Act and guaranteed same-sex couples full adoption rights. The rights that apply to opposite-sex couples will be now extend to same-sex couples.

### Key developments

Starting 1 January 2024, any two consenting adults in Estonia will be able to marry, irrespective of their gender, and cohabitation agreements will be a legal alternative to marriage. Moreover, same-sex spouses and partners will be able to adopt their spouse/partner's child with the consent of the biological parent, who will still retain most of the rights and duties with respect to the child.

### Impact on employers

The new regulations are expected to benefit employers by streamlining the immigration process for employees who seek to have their same-sex partners/spouses accompany them on foreign work assignments. Organizations may update their internal policies as required to ensure continued compliance.

### 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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