

Mobility: Immigration alert

December 2023



Finland

Two border crossing points with Russia reopened, others to remain closed

Executive summary

On 12 December 2023, the Finnish government announced that most crossing points on the land border between Finland and Russia will continue to remain closed until 14 January 2024 with the exception of Vaalimaa and Niirala, which will open on 14 December 2023.

Key developments

On 18 November 2023, Finland began closing its border crossing points with Russia [in phases](#), in response to the increase in undocumented asylum seekers entering from Russia. On 30 November 2023, it closed [Raja-Jooseppi](#), the last remaining crossing point. Since then until 13 December 2023, most cross-border movement was suspended, including for Finnish and non-Russian citizens and commercial traffic. Movement of goods via railway continued through the Vainikkala point.

On 14 December 2023, Vaalimaa and Niirala will open to individuals entering from Russia. Those who seek to apply for international protection may do so at these crossing points. Movement of goods via Vainikkala will continue.

The authorities may open other crossing points before or after the planned date, or close the entire eastern border again, based on how the situation evolves.

Impact on employers

Companies that employ impacted individuals may inform them of the change and stay updated with ongoing developments to minimize delays and mitigate business disruptions.

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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