

Mobility: Immigration alert

October 2023



Norway

Pilot program to expedite work permit processing times

Executive summary

The City of Oslo recently completed a pilot program that leverages technology to expedite work permit application processing (“the Pilot”). The City of Oslo is expected to pursue efforts to use the technology on a permanent basis to reduce overall immigration application processing times, with the eventual goal of using the technology on a national scale.

Key developments

On 26 September 2023, the City of Oslo announced that the Pilot had been successful in processing work permit applications for non-EU/EEA nationals in three days, down from the current processing time, which, in some cases, can be up to nine months.

The Pilot is led by the City of Oslo in collaboration with Oslo Business Region (the official business development agency of the Oslo municipality), the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration, the Oslo Police District, the Norwegian Tax Administration, the University of Oslo and several Norwegian technology companies. The Pilot leverages the EU Digital Identity Wallet (EUDI) technology and is designed to support Norwegian employers that hire talent from outside the EU and EEA.

Norway must adopt new regulations and build out the underlying technology further before rolling out the solution nationally. As a result, it is expected that the implementation of the technology on a national scale will take time. If adopted,

companies would be required to prequalify for expedited application processing.

Impact on employers

The pilot program, and potential for future implementation of fast-track immigration processing, are a welcome sign to employers that the Norwegian authorities are focused on supporting employers with attracting and retaining 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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