

# Mobility: Immigration alert

May 2023



## Serbia

### Serbia to introduce Single Permits for work and residence authorization

#### Executive summary

Effective 1 February 2024, the Serbian government is expected to begin accepting applications for the new Single Permit. Eligible individuals will no longer be required to obtain separate work and residence permits.

#### Key developments

In line with Directive [2011/98/EU](#), the Serbian parliament is currently debating proposed amendments to the country's regulations governing the issuance of work and residence authorization. If these amendments are adopted, the authorities will introduce a Single Permit, which will grant holders the right to work and reside in Serbia. These amendments, if approved, will go into effect on 1 February 2024, and the following will enter into force:

- ▶ In general, Single Permits issued to intra-company transferees and applicants on secondment will be valid for up to three years (up from one year currently for work permits and temporary residence permits (TRPs)).
- ▶ The government will process Single Permit applications in 15 days (down from 60 days cumulatively for work permits and TRPs).
- ▶ Employers that sponsor Single Permit applicants will be required to conduct a labor market test for four days (down from 10 days currently for employers that sponsor work permit and TRP applicants) prior to hiring these individuals.
- ▶ Single Permit holders will be able to change their job position or employer by notifying the immigration authorities, without canceling their existing permit. Currently, work permit

holders must cancel their existing permit and obtain a new one when changing their job position or employer.

- ▶ Single Permit holders will be able to submit extension applications until the date of (and no earlier than 90 days prior to) their permit's expiry. Currently, TRP holders must submit extension applications at least 30 days prior to their permit's expiry.
- ▶ Dependents of Single Permit holders who obtain residence authorization for family union purposes will be eligible to undertake work in Serbia. Currently, dependents of work permit and TRP holders who obtain residence authorization for family union purposes cannot undertake work.
- ▶ The Single Permit will be issued as a biometric document. Work permit and TRP stickers are issued as physical documents.
- ▶ Single Permit holders will be eligible to apply for permanent residence after residing in Serbia continuously for three years (down from five years currently for work permit and TRP holders).
- ▶ Individuals will be eligible to apply for Single Permits based on an employment contract with a Serbian company that is valid for a definite or indefinite period. Currently, individuals can apply for work permits based on an indefinite employment contract only in limited circumstances.

#### Impact on employers

The introduction of Single Permits is expected to grant Serbian employers greater access to international talent and reduce

the time and costs associated with sponsoring foreign nationals to obtain work and residence authorization in Serbia.

### Key steps

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

#### Stefan Strovjanovski

Partner - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration  
Tel: +38163490151  
Email: stefan.strovjanovski@rs.ey.com

#### Dragana Varagic Djokic

Partner - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration  
Tel: +38163491329  
Email: dragana.varagic-djokic@rs.ey.com

#### Jovan Petrovic

Senior Manager - People Advisory Services - Global Immigration  
Tel: +381112095758  
Email: jovan.petrovic@rs.ey.com

#### Ivana Karamarkovic

Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration  
Tel: +38168084262  
Email: ivana.karamarkovic@rs.ey.com

#### Mila Stijak

Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration  
Tel: +38168028852  
Email: mila.stijak@rs.ey.com

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