



Global Immigration alert

May 2024

Ukraine

Consular services, including passport renewals, suspended for certain Ukrainian citizens living abroad

Executive summary

Effective 23 April 2024, all consular services, including renewals of passports, were temporarily suspended for male Ukrainian citizens aged between 18 and 60 who currently reside abroad.

Key developments

On 16 April 2024, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy signed the law on amendments to certain legislative acts concerning specific issues of military service, mobilization, and military registration No. 3633-IX (i.e., "the Law"), which will come into effect on 18 May 2024. The Law introduces additional obligations and restrictions on male Ukrainian citizens between the ages of 18 and 60. In particular, these individuals will be required to update their military records within 60 days from the date of the Law's entry into force. The Law also prescribes that consular services be provided to male Ukrainian citizens between the ages of 18 and 60 only if they have a valid military document.

After the president signed the Law, Cabinet Ministers of Ukraine implemented new rules for impacted individuals regarding the renewal and issuance of passports (for both internal use and international travel). Passports can now be obtained only at territorial bodies or subdivisions of the State Migration Service of Ukraine, which operate exclusively within the country. Currently, passports are not being sent to any Ukrainian embassies abroad. Other consular services for this category of citizens were also temporarily suspended.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that the decision to suspend consular services to men between the ages of 18 and

60 who are currently residing abroad is a temporary measure, aimed at resolving issues related to military registration of citizens of mobilization age who are abroad, and that these services will resume starting 18 May 2024 with due consideration of the Law. As of 18 May 2024, services for male citizens between the ages of 18 and 60 are expected to resume only for those who have updated their military records. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that citizens who are abroad will be able to update their records remotely. However, it remains unclear how this would be implemented in practice.

Some exceptions apply to the above rules. Consular services, including passport renewal, are currently being provided as usual to men between the ages of 18 and 60 living abroad who fall under the following categories: (1) persons with disabilities; (2) caregivers of individuals with disabilities; (3) parents of children with disabilities; (4) individuals impacted by Russia's military action in Ukraine who have traveled abroad for medical treatment.

Discussions are currently ongoing among representatives of various governmental departments regarding the adopted changes, and new developments may be announced at short notice. Several EU countries have confirmed that these changes will not affect Ukrainian citizens' temporary protection status and stay in the respective countries.

Impact on employers

These changes could potentially affect the validity of documents held by male Ukrainian citizens between the ages of 18 and 60 who are staying abroad, as it may be challenging for these individuals to renew their expired documents. In turn, this may impact the possibility of these individuals to be hired abroad, their transactions with banks and other financial institutions, and their international travel plans, among others.

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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EYG no. 004272-24Gbl

2101-3682263
ED None

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