

Mobility: Immigration alert

December 2022



Croatia

Croatia to join the Schengen Area on 1 January 2023

Executive summary

On 8 December 2022, the Council of the European Union (EU) announced its [decision](#) to admit Croatia into the Schengen Area. Checks on travelers crossing Croatia's internal land and sea borders with Schengen Member States will be lifted on 1 January 2023, while those on travelers crossing internal Schengen air borders will be lifted on 26 March 2023. Croatia will also begin issuing Schengen Visas to eligible travelers and be able to make full use of the [Schengen Information System](#) as of 1 January 2023.

The Schengen Area

The Schengen Area currently comprises 26 countries, including 22 of the 27 [EU Member States](#) and the Member States of the European Free Trade Association (i.e., Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland). In general, third-country nationals (i.e., nationals of countries outside the EU and EEA) who seek to enter the Schengen Area for business or leisure for up to 90 days cumulatively in any 180-day period may do so without first obtaining a work authorization document issued by a Schengen Member State. Depending on their nationality, they may require a Schengen C Visa. Third-country nationals who seek to enter the Schengen Area to perform work activities, or for more than 90 days in any 180-day period, may require a Schengen D Visa.

Croatia's admission

On 1 January 2023, Croatia will become the 27th Member State of the Schengen Area. Individuals who obtain Croatian short-stay visas before 1 January 2023 will be able to use these visas to travel to other Schengen Member States for up to 90 days in any 180-day period while their visas remain valid.

Impact on employers

Croatia's entry into the Schengen Area is expected to further facilitate the free movement of business travelers across the Area and create new business opportunities for companies based in the Area.

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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