

Mobility: Immigration alert

December 2022



Ireland

Ireland agrees in principle to create new single-permit system for third-country nationals

Executive summary

On 15 December 2022, the Irish government agreed in principle to introduce a streamlined, single-permit system for third-country nationals who seek to work and reside in Ireland. An Inter Departmental Working Group (IDWG) will be established with the goal of evaluating the feasibility of implementing the new system.

Background

In December 2011, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union (EU) issued Directive 2011/98/EU (the [Single Permit Directive](#)) with the objective of introducing single permits for third-country nationals (i.e., nationals of countries outside the EU and EEA) who seek to work and reside in EU Member States. In April 2022, the European Commission issued a proposed [Directive](#) to provide further clarification regarding the single application procedure.

Currently, third-country nationals who seek to work and reside in Ireland must apply separately for work authorization from the Irish Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and residence authorization from the Department of Justice. Those who require visas to enter Ireland based on their nationality (i.e., visa nationals) must also obtain entry visas prior to travel.

Key developments

If the new streamlined system is implemented, eligible third-country nationals will be able to file a single application to obtain Irish work and residence authorization. If the application is approved, they will be issued one authorization document instead of two. Further details are awaited regarding whether visa nationals would be required to apply for entry visas separately. The IDWG is expected to deliver an opinion within six months on whether, and how, to implement the new system.

Impact on employers

The new single-permit system, if adopted, would provide Irish employers with greater access to global talent to meet local labor market needs. It would also attract further investments and simplify the immigration application process for eligible third-country nationals.

Key steps

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

EY | Building a better working world

EY exists to build a better working world, helping create long-term value for clients, people and society and build trust in the capital markets.

Enabled by data and technology, diverse EY teams in over 150 countries provide trust through assurance and help clients grow, transform and operate.

Working across assurance, consulting, law, strategy, tax and transactions, EY teams ask better questions to find new answers for the complex issues facing our world today.

EY refers to the global organization, and may refer to one or more, of the member firms of Ernst & Young Global Limited, each of which is a separate legal entity. Ernst & Young Global Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, does not provide services to clients. Information about how EY collects and uses personal data and a description of the rights individuals have under data protection legislation are available via ey.com/privacy. EY member firms do not practice law where prohibited by local laws. For more information about our organization, please visit ey.com.

Ernst & Young LLP is a client-serving member firm of Ernst & Young Global Limited operating in the US.

© 2022 Ernst & Young LLP.
All Rights Reserved.

EYG no. 011157-22GbI

2101-3682263
ED None

ey.com

Michael Rooney
Partner - People Advisory Services
Tel: +353 1 221 2857
Email: michael.rooney@ie.ey.com

Jim Ryan
Partner - People Advisory Services
Tel: +353 1 221 2434
Email: jim.ryan@ie.ey.com

Rachel Dillon
Partner - People Advisory Services
Tel: +353 1 221 2554
Email: rachel.dillon@ie.ey.com

Sinead Langan
Director - Global Immigration, Irish Immigration Leader
Tel: +353 1 221 2443
Email: sinead.langan@ie.ey.com

Aislinn Stanton
Senior Manager - Global Immigration
Tel: +353 1 221 1602
Email: aislinn.stanton@ie.ey.com