

Mobility: Immigration alert

July 2022



Latvia

New Digital Nomad Visa

Executive summary

The Latvian government recently began accepting applications for a new Digital Nomad Visa, which will permit eligible non-Latvian nationals to work remotely from within Latvia for an initial period of one year.

Background

In general, the term “digital nomads” refers to individuals who are employed and receive salaries and benefits in one country (i.e., the home country) but work remotely from another country or multiple other countries (i.e., the host country/countries). Digital nomads are typically not permitted to earn remuneration in the host country/countries.

The Latvian Parliament approved amendments in the country’s immigration laws introducing the new Digital Nomad Visa on 2 June 2022, and they went into effect on 29 June 2022. Regulations that provide greater clarity around eligibility criteria, application requirements and processing times are expected to be published later.

Eligibility criteria

Individuals employed by organizations registered in a [Member State](#) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), as well as self-employed individuals whose businesses are registered in an OECD Member State, are eligible to apply for the Digital Nomad Visa. All applicants must have received a monthly remuneration of at least 2.5 times the average monthly salary in Latvia in each of the six months leading up to the filing of their application. At the time

of application, individuals employed by an organization registered in an OECD Member State must have been employed with their current organization for at least six months.

Visa conditions

Digital Nomad Visa holders will be permitted to remain in Latvia for an initial period of one year, with the possibility of extending their visa for an additional year. Individuals who wish to remain in Latvia beyond the two-year validity period of their Digital Nomad Visa may:

- ▶ Apply for a residence permit or another visa (e.g., based on employment with an organization registered in Latvia) from within Latvia, provided they meet the eligibility criteria for the new immigration status for which they are applying
- ▶ Depart Latvia and remain outside of the country for at least six months after the expiry of their original visa and then apply for a new Digital Nomad Visa

Digital Nomad Visa holders are prohibited from receiving remuneration from Latvian sources and performing work or delivering services that generate revenue for Latvian entities. Those who violate these terms will forfeit their visas and become subject to penalties for noncompliance with Latvian laws, including but not limited to fines, deportation, and potential bars against re-entry and/or obtaining new Latvian visas in the future.

Application requirements

Applicants must submit the following documents along with their completed and signed Digital Nomad Visa application:

- ▶ A valid travel document (e.g., passport)
- ▶ Passport-size photos taken no more than six months prior to applying
- ▶ Proof that they hold a health insurance policy with a minimum coverage of EUR 42,600 that is valid in Latvia and other Schengen Member States
- ▶ Proof of their expected accommodation in Latvia
- ▶ Proof of payment of all visa application fees
- ▶ Proof that they were employed and met the minimum salary requirements in the six months prior to applying and a certification from the employer that the applicant's work responsibilities may be carried out remotely (for applicants employed with organizations registered in the OECD)
- ▶ A certificate issued by the tax authorities of the OECD Member State in which the applicant is registered as a self-employed person at the time of applying, confirming that they met the minimum remuneration requirements (for self-employed applicants with business registered in an OECD Member State)

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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