

Mobility: Immigration alert

January 2022



Romania

Digital nomads may now extend their stay in Romania beyond 90 days

Executive summary

Effective 17 January 2022, digital nomads can extend their stay in Romania beyond 90 days, by applying for and obtaining a temporary residence permit.

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 (i.e., the host country). Digital nomads are typically not permitted to earn remuneration in the host country, as the purpose of admitting digital nomads is to attract foreign spending to the host country on a temporary basis without permitting the digital nomads to enter into the host country’s local labor market.

Romania defines digital nomads as foreign nationals who are employed by companies registered outside of Romania and provide services to non-Romanian entities using only information and communication technologies (e.g., laptops, phones). Digital nomads are prohibited from receiving remuneration from Romanian sources and performing work or delivering services that generate revenue for Romanian entities.

Key issues

Prior to 17 January 2022, digital nomads were issued short-stay visas and only permitted to remain in Romania for up to 90 days in a 6-month period. They may now extend their stay beyond 90 days and remain for an additional period of up to 6 months, by applying for and obtaining a temporary residence permit. Thereafter, digital nomads can apply to

renew their temporary residence permits in six-month increments. These renewal requests will be adjudicated on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Romanian immigration authorities.

Dependent family members may accompany digital nomads and enter Romania as visitors for up to 90 days in a 6-month period. However, these dependents are ineligible to work in Romania, whether remotely or for the benefit of a Romanian entity, unless they obtain authorization to work in Romania independently of the primary traveler.

Eligibility criteria

To be considered eligible for long-stay visas or temporary residence permits as digital nomads, foreigners must prove that:

- ▶ They received a monthly income that equals or exceeds three times the average monthly income in Romania in each of the six months immediately preceding the filing of their application
- ▶ They will receive a monthly income that equals or exceeds three times the average monthly income in Romania throughout their stay in Romania as digital nomads
- ▶ Their work activities in Romania will be carried out using information and communication technologies exclusively

Key steps

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

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