

Mobility: Immigration alert

May 2021



Romania

Draft law to create a long-term “Digital Nomad” visa

Executive summary

The Romanian Government has drafted a proposed law to introduce a long-term visa that would allow foreign nationals to enter Romania and work or deliver services remotely to clients and companies located outside of Romania.

Background

The draft law was recently introduced to the Romanian Parliament in response to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the resulting demand for remote work opportunities worldwide, and recent studies concluding that Bucharest is an attractive location from which foreigners can work remotely, as a result of low cost of living and prices, combined with extensive access to high-speed internet. The law, if passed, would seek to attract foreign spending and investment in Romania, and to counteract some of the negative economic impacts of COVID-19.

Eligibility criteria and key features

While details of the new law are not yet final, the digital nomad visa would be available to foreigners who have a valid employment contract with a non-Romanian company or own a company that is registered outside of Romania and has been active for at least one year. In order to avail of the digital nomad visa, applicants would need to

demonstrate that: (i) their proposed work or services can be completed or delivered remotely from Romania, (ii) they will possess health insurance that covers the costs of medical treatment in Romania for the duration of their proposed stay, (iii) they received an average monthly income of at least EUR 1,150 (or its equivalent in another currency) during the six months immediately preceding the date on which they applied for the visa, (iv) they will have sufficient funds to cover their living expenses while in Romania as a digital nomad, and (v) they do not have a criminal history, and were never convicted of a criminal offense in any jurisdiction at any time.

At this time, the draft law does not explicitly include language regarding the entry of family members of the digital nomad. However, like with other long-term Romanian visas, it is expected that the digital nomad visa will eventually allow principal applicants to enter Romania together with qualifying family members, subject to certain conditions.

Next 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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