

Mobility: Immigration alert

September 2022



Poland

Eligible Ukrainian and Belarussian nationals may now apply for National Visas from within Poland

Executive summary

Certain Ukrainian and Belarussian nationals residing in Poland are now eligible to apply for Polish National Visas from within Poland and are not required to leave the country during the application process. This rule will remain in place until 31 December 2022.

Key issues

Effective 30 August 2022, Ukrainian nationals who hold valid Polish work authorization documents and are engaged in one of the following professions may apply for National Visas for Work Purposes from within Poland:

- ▶ International road transport driver
- ▶ Civil aircraft pilot or crew member

Belarussian nationals who hold valid Polish work authorization documents and are employed as international road transport drivers may also apply for National Visas for Work Purposes from within Poland. In addition, Belarussian nationals who are unable to return to Belarus due to security reasons (e.g., fear of reprisal) relating to the conflict in Ukraine may apply for Polish Humanitarian Visas if they were residing in Ukraine as of 24 February 2022 and arrived in Poland after this date due to the conflict in Ukraine. Belarussian nationals who currently reside in Poland and hold a Polish Humanitarian Visa may renew their visa from within Poland.

Eligible Ukrainian and Belarussian nationals must submit their applications to immigration service providers authorized by the Polish authorities, and applications will be adjudicated by the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Effective 22 September 2022, eligible Ukrainian and Belarussian nationals must register on the VFS Global website prior to submitting their applications and then travel to Warsaw, Poznań or Lublin to submit their applications.

Impact on employers

Polish companies that employ Ukrainian and Belarussian nationals as international road transport drivers and Ukrainian nationals as civil aircraft pilots or crew members, as well as Belarussian holders of National Humanitarian Visas, are expected to benefit from this temporary measure and see a reduction in disruptions to their business relating to these employees.

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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