

# Immigration Changes

2020-09-24

Information prepared by the Employment Law practice, law firm Ellex Valiunas

## 1. Entry into Lithuania

Starting from 21 September 2020 until 21 March 2021, the citizens of Belarus will be entitled to obtain Lithuanian national visas under the simplified procedure.

In particular, during the said period the citizens of Belarus will be able to apply for the one-time Lithuanian national visa, which will be issued for the maximum duration of 6 months, allowing them to enter and settle in the territory of Lithuania (e.g. to look for employment, apply for the work-related immigration authorisation, etc.). These national visas will be issued if the citizens of Belarus, in addition to the general documents (e.g. applications, passports, etc.), submit the documents proving:

- a) Possession of sufficient funds and/or receipt of regular income to reside in Lithuania for no less than 3 months (i.e. at least EUR 1,821 for adult applicants and at least EUR 910.5 for minor applicants). These circumstances can be proved by submitting various documents, e.g. the bank account statement, the legal entity's undertaking to ensure receipt of such income, etc.
- b) A mediation letter of the legal entity or a free form notice on the motives for arrival in Lithuania for a long-term stay.
- c) Valid health insurance covering the period of stay in Lithuania.

Family members of the said Belarussian citizens (i.e. a spouse, a person with whom a registered partnership agreement has been concluded, a minor child (adopted child), including minor children of a spouse or a person with whom a registered partnership agreement has been concluded) will also be entitled to obtain such national visas under the simplified procedure.

## 2. Employment in Lithuania

Highly qualified employees are entitled to apply for the temporary residence permits ("Blue Cards") electronically through the MIGRIS system. The applicants will be required to arrive in Lithuania to provide biometric data only when the decision to issue the Blue Card is passed (within approx. 2-4 weeks).

Highly qualified employees are the ones who hold a higher education diploma or have at least 5 years of professional experience attested by the competent Lithuanian authorities and who are paid at least 1.5 average monthly salary in Lithuanian economy (currently no less than approx. EUR 2,082 gross).

## 3. Family reunification

Family members of the highly qualified employees are also entitled to apply for the temporary residence permit electronically through the MIGRIS system together with the Blue Card applicants. Family members will be required to arrive in Lithuania to provide biometrics only when the decision to issue the temporary residence permit is passed (within approx. 2-4 weeks).

## 4. COVID-19 restrictions

Foreigners arriving in Lithuania from the affected countries (with a COVID-19 incidence rate of more than 25 cases per 100,000 population over the last 14 days) are generally required to:

- a) provide a negative COVID-19 test that has been done within 72 hours before arrival in Lithuania;
- b) self-isolate for 14 days (for 10 days subject to receipt of a negative COVID-19 test result after at least 8 days in isolation);

- c) register online with the National Public Health Center.

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