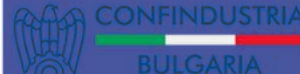


Join the webinar
with **Simona Belcheva**
Immigration & Investment
Lawyer, Tzvetkova &
Partners Law Firm

Procedure changes for
issuing
EU Blue Card



March, 10th
11:00 AM
online





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LAW FIRM

1. Main changes - Labor Migration
and Labor Mobility Act

2. Foreigners in Republic of Bulgaria
Act

3. Amendments to other laws – Health
Insurance Act and Bulgarian Personal
Documents Act

4. Summary of the procedure and next
steps



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1. Main changes - Labor Migration
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Labor Migration and Labor Mobility Act



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Legislative amendments

- Addition of alternative ways to prove professional qualification
- Validity period
- Application procedure
- Procedural deadlines
- Health Insurance
- Conditions for changing employers
- Remote work
- Others

Benefits

- ✓ Electronic submission of documents
- ✓ Access for more candidates with proven knowledge, skills and experience
- ✓ Maximum initial validity of 5 years
- ✓ Health insurance for employees.
- ✓ Remote work regulation
- ✓ Others

Labor Migration and Labor Mobility Act



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- **Highly qualified employment**
- **High professional qualification:**
- Education - a diploma, certificate or other official document, the training should last at least three academic years, it should be conducted by an educational institution recognized as a higher education institution by the respective country.
- Professional experience of at least 5 years - official documents issued by relevant authorities. Experience at a level comparable to an acquired higher education.
- Professional experience for specific positions - only for positions included in the list.

Labor Migration and Labor Mobility Act



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Terms and features of employment contracts

Terms

- Minimum term – 6 months
- Maximum term – 5 years
- Term for exercising activities only on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria – 12 months

Limitations

1. International protection
2. Temporary protection
3. International agreement
4. Expulsion
5. Agreements between the European Union and the Republic of Bulgaria, on the one hand, and third countries, on the other hand

Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria Act



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General changes

- Electronic application - the employer or a person authorized by him or by the foreigner after creating technical conditions in the Directorate "Migration" or at the regional directorates of the Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Access to the labor market for more people - all categories of people who have a long-term residence permit can apply for an EU Blue Card by changing their reason for residence

Terms and procedure

- Maximum and minimum terms
- Administrative deadlines
- Procedural deadlines

Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria Act



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	Before	After the changes
Maximum term	4 years	5 years
Forwarding the documents - Migration Directorate	14 days	10 days
Reviewing the documents - Employment agency	14 days	10 days
Reviewing the documents - National Security	14 days	10 days
Extension of the process	1 month	15 days
Instructions	7 days	10 days

Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria Act



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Change of employer

- During the first 12 months - submits an application for a change of employer on paper or electronically.
- After the expiration of 12 months - can change his employer after submitting a notification form.

Blue card from another member state

- Legal residence – to have resided legally for at least 12 months in the first member state
- Procedure - has the right to start work in the Republic of Bulgaria no later than 30 days after the date of submission of the application

Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria Act



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Remote work

- Work within the registered address - notification
- Work outside the range of registered address - notification and change of card

Secondment

- 90 days within a period of 180 days
- Performance of official activity
- Posting of holders of Blue Cards issued in other member states

More changes

- Cumulation of terms for long-term residence
- Unemployment
- Address - declaration



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3. Amendments to other laws – Health Insurance Act and Bulgarian Personal Documents Act

4. Summary of the procedure and next steps

Health Insurance Act



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Two new points added in the law:

- A new point was created in Art. 33, which stipulates that foreign nationals who have been issued a residence and work permit of the "EU Blue Card" type must be insured in the National Health Insurance Scheme;
- A new point was created in Art. 34, para. 2, which stipulates that the rights of those insured in the health insurance system arise from the date of obtaining a residence and work permit of the "EU Blue Card" type.

Health Insurance Act

- Foreigners are covered and will have access to the Bulgarian health system;
- Upon arrival in the country, foreigners were required to present medical insurance for covered risks for the duration of the issued permit. The changes eliminate this requirement;
- The basis for insurance arises from the moment the foreigner receives the residence card.



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Bulgarian Personal Documents



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- Foreigners are no longer required to change their residence cards when changing employers;
- The requirement that the employer and place of work appear in the "remark" field in the personal identity documents of EU Blue Card type permit holders has been removed;
- The relevant note will be placed according to the provisions of the Law on Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria, when applicable.

Summary



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1. Selection of candidates and collection of documents

- Correspondence, interview and negotiation of the future terms of the employment relationship;
- Collection of the relevant documents;
- Translation and legalization;
- Preparation of set of documents.

Summary



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2. Submitting an application by the employer

- Application before Migration Directorate or to the relevant institutions;
- The Employment Agency and the State National Security Agency submit their opinions within 10 days;
- Possible instructions in some cases;
- The employer receives a positive statement on granting access to the labor market for the employee.

Summary



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3. Visa application by the applicant

- Notification from employer to employee;
- Application for visa type D;
- Submission in another country - when there is no embassy in the relevant country or in humanitarian and urgent cases;

Summary



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4. Arrival of the candidate in Bulgaria and completion of the procedure

- Application at Migration Directorate presenting a copy of the visa and stamp of entry into the country;
- The employer receives confirmation;
- Application for a card;
- Notification to Labor Inspection.

Next steps

- technical conditions for electronic application, so that foreigners and employers can submit documents electronically to the relevant institutions.

- Approval of a list of positions to specify for which positions the exception for experience as an alternative to higher education will apply.



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