

# PRO HR

## IMMIGRATION UPDATE

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NOVEMBER 2025

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## OPENING ADDITIONAL BORDER CROSSINGS WITH BELARUS

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On 17 November 2025, Poland opened additional road border crossings with Belarus – Kuźnica Białostocka–Bruzgi and Bobrowniki–Bierestowica. The former has been opened for both passenger and freight traffic, but only for vehicles registered in the Member States of the European Union and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) – parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area – as well as in the Swiss Confederation. The latter crossing has been opened for passenger traffic only, excluding buses.

Previously, only two road border crossings were open on the Polish–Belarusian border: Terespol–Brest for passenger traffic and Kukuryki–Kozlovichi for freight traffic.

From 12 to 24 September 2025, the Polish authorities completely suspended border traffic with Belarus. This was due to the “Zapad 2025” military exercises being conducted the other side of the border. After the exercises were completed, border traffic was resumed.

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## HIGHER CONSULAR FEES FOR VISA ISSUING

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From 1 January 2026, foreign nationals applying for visas to Poland will pay higher fees for submitting an application for a national visa. The new fee will be 200 euros. The fee for processing a Schengen visa application (90 euros) will remain unchanged.

In addition to increased visa fees, other consular fees will also be adjusted. Higher rates will apply, among other things, to applications for a passport (new fee: 140 euros), an application for a temporary passport (new fee: 50 euros), and an application for a temporary Polish travel document for a foreign national (new fee: 50 euros).

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## ELECTRONIC RESIDENCE APPLICATIONS AS EARLY AS NEXT YEAR

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The draft amendment to the Act on Foreigners, providing for the introduction of an electronic procedure for submitting residence applications, will soon be sent to the President of Poland to be signed. The new procedures are expected to apply from the beginning of next year.

The electronic submission of applications will be possible once the Minister for Internal Affairs publishes the appropriate announcement. According to the ministry's statements, digitalisation will be introduced after launching the option for Ukrainian citizens with temporary protection in Poland to submit CUKR applications.

Online applications will be available for those applying for a temporary residence permit, a permanent residence permit, or an EU long-term residence permit.

Under the new rules:

- applications for residence permits will be submitted exclusively through the designated electronic tool – the Case Management Module (MOS);
- applications and their attachments, including documents submitted by employers (e.g. Annex No 1), will have to be signed electronically using a trusted profile or a qualified electronic signature; it will not be possible to submit an application if the required attachments are missing;
- once the application has been submitted via the MOS system, the foreign national will be summoned by the relevant voivodeship office to appear in person to provide biometric data;
- instead of a stamp placed in the passport confirming the submission of the application, foreign nationals will receive a separate certificate confirming that an application has been lodged.

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## THE INPOL APPOINTMENT CALENDAR HAS BEEN DISABLED. RESIDENCE APPLICATIONS IN WARSAW ARE UNDER NEW RULES

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As of 7 November 2025, the online INPOL appointment calendar used by foreign nationals to book appointments to submit residence applications at the Mazovian Voivodeship Office (Warsaw) has been disabled. The calendar has been switched off for all categories of applications – temporary residence, permanent residence, EU long-term residence, as well as family applications.

Currently, the only way to make an appointment at the Warsaw office is to submit an application through the Case Management Module (MOS) at the office's filing desk, or to send it by traditional post or electronically, and then wait to be summoned to provide fingerprints.

The estimated waiting time for an appointment is around five or six months, although the new rules are expected to shorten this waiting time.

The change has been introduced in connection with the planned amendment to the Act on Foreigners, which provides for the digitalisation of immigration procedures.

The removal of the appointment calendar also means an end to the practice of selling appointment times made using unauthorised bots or software offered by dishonest agents. Under the new system, the waiting time for an appointment will be the same for all applicants.

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# CONTACT US

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