

PRO HR

IMMIGRATION UPDATE

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MOS 2.0 NOW ACTIVE. A NEW WAY OF SUBMITTING RESIDENCE PERMIT APPLICATIONS

As of 27 April 2026, residence applications submitted by foreign nationals must be filed exclusively in electronic form via the Case Handling Module (MOS) 2.0. This is currently the only valid method of submission.

The system enables the preparation and submission of applications for temporary residence permits, permanent residence permits and EU long-term residence permits entirely online. Importantly, the residence application in MOS 2.0 is initiated by the foreign national themselves.

To log into MOS 2.0, a foreign national must have an active trusted profile. After logging in, the appropriate form corresponding to the relevant residence basis must be selected. The form must be completed in Polish, with all personal data matching the information contained in the relevant travel document.

To submit an application, it is necessary to attach a current digital photograph, scans of all the pages of a valid travel document, and proof of payment of the applicable fees. The system also allows additional electronic documents to be uploaded.

In the case of foreign nationals applying for a temporary residence and work permit, or an EU Blue Card,

the employer's involvement is required for the application to be successfully submitted.

A link is sent to the employer's email address provided by the foreign national in the application, enabling the employer to complete Annex No 1 – a document containing information on the foreign national's employment. Annex No 1 must be signed electronically by the employer, either by a member of the management board or another authorised representative, or by a proxy acting on behalf of the employer.

Once the application has been successfully submitted, the system generates an electronic confirmation (UPO). If the application is found to be free of formal deficiencies, the foreign national will receive a certificate confirming the submission of the residence application. This document replaces the stamp previously affixed by the voivode in the foreign national's travel document.

It is worth noting that, aside from the electronic submission of the application, the remaining stages of the residence procedure follow the existing rules. After submission, the voivode will summon the foreign national to appear in person in order to present the original valid travel document, provide fingerprints and a specimen signature, and, if necessary, supplement any missing documents.

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR COMPLETING APPLICATIONS VIA MOS 2.0

The first residence permit applications submitted through MOS 2.0 are already behind us. We have prepared a few practical tips to help with completing the application form.

1. Applicant must make sure that it has access to the Trusted Profile, i.e. through online banking.
2. After logging into MOS 2.0 for the first time using the Trusted Profile, one must activate account by clicking the link sent to the e-mail address provided during login. Without activating the account, it is not possible to submit an application.
3. Documents should be prepared in advance - before starting to fill in the form, it is advisable to have all required attachments scanned and ready.
4. The application form is available in several languages (including Polish, English, Ukrainian, and Russian), but all information in the form must be entered exclusively in Polish, regardless of the language version selected.
5. We do not recommend submitting an "unfinished" form. The system will treat a field as completed even if only one letter is entered, but the office will later request that formal deficiencies be corrected.
6. The application must be completed personally by the foreign national submitting it. The data of the logged-in person (e.g. surname and PESEL number) are filled in automatically and cannot be changed - except in cases where a guardian submits an application on behalf of a child.
7. Only clear and legible files should be uploaded - blurry or incomplete scans of documents may result in a request to correct deficiencies and may prolong the procedure.
8. Do not leave the submission of the application until the last day. The system may become overloaded, so it is safer to submit the documents earlier.
9. The photo must meet the system requirements: exactly 684 × 883 pixels and no larger than 2.5 MB. If the file does not meet these requirements, the system will not allow you to continue.

CITIZENS OF THE USA AND OTHER SELECTED DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ARE TO BE EXEMPT FROM THE WORK PERMIT REQUIREMENT IN POLAND

The Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy is planning an amendment to the Act on the Conditions Governing the Admissibility of Employing Foreign Nationals in the Republic of Poland.

A key reform will involve introducing provisions allowing citizens of selected countries to be exempt from the requirement to obtain a work permit in Poland, enabling them to take up employment immediately upon arrival. Under the proposed framework, employers will only be required to submit a notification of employment after hiring. This model will be similar to the one currently applicable to Ukrainian citizens.

The countries listed by the Ministry whose citizens may soon benefit from this exemption include the United States, Australia, Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Singapore, the United Kingdom and Taiwan.

Furthermore, under the proposed reform, the notification mechanism is to be extended to other cases where a work permit exemption applies. As a result, employers may soon be required to submit a notification, for example, when employing a foreign national who is a university graduate or a full-time student.

The Ministry is also planning to amend the criteria for inclusion on the list of employers eligible for priority processing of work permit and visa applications. The draft legislation will introduce an additional criterion – the scale of investment (a declared investment value of at least PLN 100 million) in the case of projects under the Polish Investment Zone.

The draft amendment is expected to be adopted in the third quarter of 2026. Accordingly, we anticipate that the new legislation will enter into force at the end of 2026 or the beginning of 2027.

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