



Mobility: Immigration alert

December 2023

Estonia

Same-sex partners and spouses eligible for dependent permits and visas

Executive summary

Effective 1 January 2024, foreign nationals in same-sex marriages and partnerships will be eligible to apply for residence permits and visas under the newly amended Aliens Act and Family Law Act.

Background

On 20 June 2023, the Estonian Parliament legalized same-sex marriage by adopting amendments to the Family Law Act, implemented the Registered Partnership Act and guaranteed same-sex couples full adoption rights. The rights that apply to opposite-sex couples will be now extend to same-sex couples.

Key developments

Starting 1 January 2024, any two consenting adults in Estonia will be able to marry, irrespective of their gender, and cohabitation agreements will be a legal alternative to marriage. Moreover, same-sex spouses and partners will be able to adopt their spouse/partner's child with the consent of the biological parent, who will still retain most of the rights and duties with respect to the child.

Impact on employers

The new regulations are expected to benefit employers by streamlining the immigration process for employees who seek to have their same-sex partners/spouses accompany them on foreign work assignments. Organizations may update their internal policies as required to ensure continued compliance.

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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