

# Mobility: Immigration alert

March 2024



## Finland

### Proposal to tighten requirements for permanent residence permits

#### Executive summary

On 1 March 2024, the Finnish government announced that a project has been established to tighten the requirements to obtain permanent residence permits. The proposal will be presented to the Finnish parliament in spring 2025.

#### Key developments

The project, if approved, aims to extend the period of stay required to obtain permanent residence to six years (up from four years currently) and restrict the issuance of permanent residence permits to third-country nationals (i.e., nationals of countries outside the EU, EEA and Switzerland) who demonstrate that they have successfully integrated into Finnish society.

Individuals may be exempt from the six-year requirement if they meet the following requirements:

- ▶ They receive an annual income of at least EUR 40,000 or hold a master's degree obtained (or recognized) in Finland, and have worked in Finland for at least two years without interruption and without availing social benefits.
- ▶ They possess "especially good" Finnish or Swedish language skills (i.e., a high degree of proficiency, as determined by the immigration authorities), have worked in Finland uninterrupted for at least three years and have not availed unemployment security or social assistance (and if they have, they must have done so for a short period or on a temporary basis).

#### Impact on employers

If the proposal is approved, third-country nationals will be subject to heightened eligibility and application requirements to obtain a permanent residence permit.

#### 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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