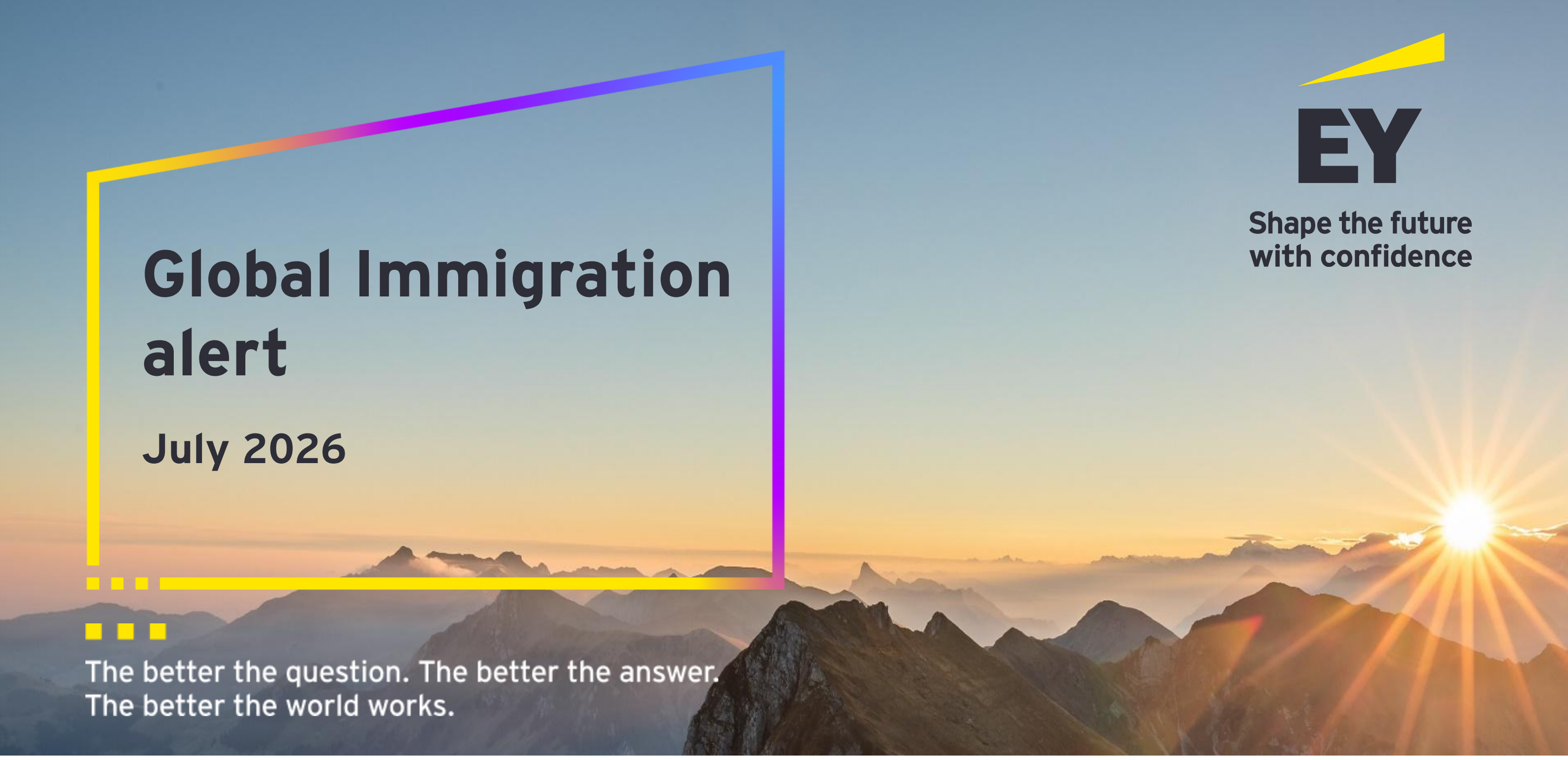

Slovakia

Slovakia to implement several changes to its immigration framework

Executive summary
Effective 15 July 2026, Slovakia will implement significant amendments to its immigration framework, introducing procedural changes for visas and residence permits, expanded digitalization measures, updates affecting temporary protection beneficiaries, and new requirements for appointments at the Foreign Police Department.

Key developments
Key changes include:

- *National visas:* Slovakia will revise its national visa validity periods and procedures. Under the new rules, incomplete applications will not be accepted and validity of national visas issued in connection with residence applications will increase to 120 days (up from 90 days). Additionally, the authority responsible for visa cancelations will be clarified.
- *Residence permit applications for employment purposes:* Applicants seeking residence permits for employment will have 15 days to supplement the required documents for a residence permit application for employment purposes.
- *Digitalization:* Applicants renewing their residence status electronically will be required to submit a complete application package at the time of filing. The authorities plan to use AI to validate supporting documents.
- *Student and EU national provisions:* The proposed rules highlight several changes, including a 90-day decision period for student-related applications, updated document requirements for EU nationals following a name change, a 10-year validity period for certain EU citizen residence documents, and carriers' obligations in connection with the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS).
- *Foreign Police appointment system:* New reservation categories, including "Biometric Capture" and "Information and Registry Office" have been introduced in the reservation system at the Foreign Police Department in Bratislava. As a result, procedures covered by the reservation system will no longer be processed without prior appointment.
- *Accommodation requirement:* Evidence of accommodation will continue to be a mandatory supporting document for residence permit applications, subject to certain exceptions (e.g., international transport workers). Effective 15 July 2026, a foreign national's affidavit confirming ownership of a property can be also evidenced by an electronic confirmation of accommodation, submitted by the property owner or accommodation provider through a dedicated electronic service established for this purpose.
- *Enhanced oversight of Business Residence Permits:* Authorities will introduce stricter assessment criteria for Business Residence Permit applications. In addition to evaluating the formal requirements, the immigration authorities will be required to examine the genuine economic contribution of the business activity in Slovakia as well as the authenticity of the business purpose. Furthermore, Business Residence Permit holders will be required to maintain a clean compliance record throughout the entire validity period of their permit. Any outstanding liabilities toward Slovak public authorities, including tax or health insurance obligations, may result in the revocation of permits. This represents a significant tightening of the current regime, under which the absence of such liabilities is generally assessed only at the time of application.
- *Extended job search period following termination of employment:* Foreign nationals who become unemployed will benefit from a longer period to secure new employment in Slovakia. Individuals holding a residence permit for less than two years will be granted up to three months to find a new position, while those who have held their permit for more than two years will have up to six months. During this period, affected individuals must notify the authorities of both the start and end of their unemployment. The amendment provides greater flexibility and legal certainty than the current framework, which generally provides only a 60-day grace period and allows authorities to initiate residence permit cancelation proceedings within that timeframe.

- *Extension of residence statuses for individuals affected by the conflict in Ukraine:* Due to the exceptional situation related to the armed conflict in Ukraine, temporary residence, permanent residence and tolerated stay statuses that expire during the declared exceptional situation will remain valid until two months after it is revoked, but no later than 15 July 2027.
- *Temporary protection (transition to residence statuses):*
    - Following the end of temporary protection, Slovakia will introduce measures to allow beneficiaries to transition smoothly to a residence status. The amendments will also adjust the validity framework for documents issued under temporary protection.
    - Individuals will be eligible to transition to residence for business, employment, study, or family reunification purposes if they have performed the relevant activity for at least six months before their temporary protection ended and continue that activity without interruption.
    - Applicants will generally be required to provide a valid travel document, evidence supporting the purpose of stay, a criminal record extract from Ukraine, and proof of accommodation in Slovakia.
    - Applications that do not include all required documents will not be accepted; however, the authorities will notify applicants of any missing documentation. While applications submitted in person may be supplemented with missing documents within 15 days of filing, electronic applications are expected to be complete upon submission.
    - The authorities are expected to notify applicants within 60 days whether the eligibility requirements have been met. If the requirements are met, the residence document should be issued within 30 days. The residence validity is set based on the purpose-of-stay evidence, but for a maximum of two years.

Impact on employers

These changes introduce new procedural updates for companies employing impacted individuals. Employers may stay abreast of further developments, update their internal processes and policies, and inform impacted employees as required.

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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SCORE 113130-26-GBL

2101-3682263
ED None