

Global Immigration alert

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Ireland

Ireland opens new immigration pathway for eligible beneficiaries of Temporary Protection

Executive summary

On 30 September 2026, Ireland opened applications for the new Temporary Protection Transition Scheme, which enables eligible beneficiaries of Temporary Protection displaced from the conflict in Ukraine to apply for an alternative residence and work authorization on a Stamp 4 basis.

Successful applicants will receive an initial two-year permission, renewable for further two-year periods. This period will count as reckonable residence toward Irish citizenship by naturalization. Applications must be submitted by 30 March 2027.

Background

The EU Temporary Protection Directive is currently due to remain in effect until 4 March 2028. Ireland introduced the new scheme to provide greater certainty to eligible individuals displaced from Ukraine who wish to continue living and working in Ireland after Temporary Protection ends.

The scheme does not replace Temporary Protection. Individuals who do not apply, do not qualify or whose applications are refused will remain covered by Temporary Protection while the Directive remains in effect.

Key developments

Applications opened on 30 September 2026 and will close on 30 March 2027. Applications submitted after the closing date will not be accepted. Eligible applicants must apply through the Irish Immigration Service [online portal](#).

To qualify, an individual or principal family applicant must:

- Be over 18 years of age and have resided in Ireland as a beneficiary of Temporary Protection continuously for at least one year before the scheme opened.
- Have been continuously employed or self-employed during the six months immediately preceding the scheme's opening and remain employed or self-employed when applying.

- Have average gross annual salary of at least € 29,432 from employment or self-employment. Social welfare payments and savings cannot be used to meet the threshold.
- Be living in independent accommodation when applying and provide evidence of that arrangement.
- Meet the scheme's good-character and conduct requirements.

Eligible family members may apply with a qualifying principal applicant.

Temporary Protection remains active while an application is being considered. If approved, the applicant forfeits Temporary Protection and must register the new permission within 90 days of receiving the approval. A successful applicant with Stamp 4 residence and work authorization may work without an employment permit and may establish and operate a business.

Impact on employers

The scheme offers eligible employees greater certainty regarding their longer-term residence and work authorization in Ireland. The Stamp 4 permission allows successful applicants to work without a separate employment permit and provides reckonable residence for naturalization purposes.

Employers may wish to inform potentially eligible employees about the 30 March 2027 deadline and the documentary requirements. Employment records may be relevant because applicants must demonstrate continuous employment and qualifying gross earnings.

Employees should also understand that Stamp 4 approval ends their Temporary Protection status and may affect rights linked specifically to that status.

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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