



Immigration News Highlights

2023-21, 23 May 2023



The KPMG team regularly monitors recent developments across the globe in the Immigration space and publishes them as Immigration News Highlights. Please find the key developments that occurred over the last week enumerated below. [Click here to find all issues of the Immigration News Highlights on the GMS Flash Alert: Immigration page.](#)

[Americas](#)

[Asia Pacific](#)

[Europe and Africa](#)



Americas

Canada

Processing times for Apostilles to be improved

The Canadian government has announced that it will join the Apostille Convention to improve the time required to authenticate certain documents. The Apostille Convention will become effective for Canada on 11 January 2024. An Apostille certificate issued by a Competent Authority in the nation where the document was originally issued will be given to everyone.

[Read More](#)

Canada

Youth mobility agreement signed between Canada and Finland

The government of Canada announced the signing of the Canada-Finland Youth Mobility Agreement on 19 May 2023. The agreement will be effective from 2024 onwards. With the implementation of this new agreement, youngsters from Canada and Finland between the ages of 18 and 35 will be able to work and travel abroad through International Experience Canada (IEC) or a comparable program in Finland.

[Read More](#)





Asia Pacific

Australia

[Australia increases working holiday visa age limit for UK citizens](#)

Australian authorities have made the decision to simplify the procedures for British nationals to get working vacation visas by raising the age requirement. Britons over 35 years old will be eligible to apply for the visa from any time 31 May 2023 and May 2025.

[Read More](#)

China

[China offers 144-Hour visa-free entry for Norwegian citizens](#)

The Government of China has decided to offer 144 hour visa-free entry for Norwegians. Norwegian nationals will no longer need a visa if they want to visit China for less than six days before leaving for another country.

[Read More](#)

Hong Kong

[Occupations on talent list expanded](#)

The authorities of Hong Kong have increased the number of occupations on its talent list. Foreign nationals employed in 51 specified occupations, including certain engineers, architects, and those in the innovation and technology industries are qualified to apply for the quality migrant admission scheme, general employment policy, admission scheme for mainland talents and professionals.

[Read More](#)

Kazakhstan

[Kazakhstan and China forge new travel alliance with mutual visa-free agreement](#)

The governments of Kazakhstan and China have signed the agreement, under which Chinese nationals may use their semi-service, regular, or temporary travel papers and Kazakh people may use their passports and a certificate of return to Kazakhstan for travel. With the signing of this agreement, the intentions to establish a visa-free system that were initially announced in April have finally come to function.

[Read More](#)

Vietnam

[Vietnam Announces New Open Door Policy; Extends E-Visa Validity To 90 Days](#)

The government of Vietnam has announced a new open-door policy and an extension of their e-visa validity. The extension will be up to 90 days, longer than the current 30 days. The National Assembly recently received a report from the government about the clarification of the Standing Committee's views on the revised foreigners' entry into, exit from, transit through, and residence in Vietnam law.

[Read More](#)



Europe and Africa



Bulgaria

[Bulgaria's new visa policy prohibits entry for travelers with unused Schengen visas](#)

Bulgaria has introduced a stricter visa policy prohibiting admission to the nation for anyone with valid Schengen visas who have not used them to enter a Schengen member state before arriving in Bulgaria. Regardless of country, the new rule is applicable to all non-EU citizens with a current Schengen visa as of 25 April 2023.

[Read More](#)

Denmark

[Denmark introduces new rates for family reunification & residence permit applications](#)

The Danish immigration service announced that the fee rates for family reunification and permanent residence permit applications have been updated. The fee for permanent residence permits issues for employment and education will now be EUR985.92, increased from the previous charge of EUR905.91. Similarly, fees for religious workers and their families will be EUR1,699.34, increased from EUR1,472.68. These new rates will be applicable from 17 May 2023 onwards.

[Read More](#)

Finland

[Finland updates advice on A1 certificate for short-term business travel](#)

The Finnish center for pensions updated its advice for its citizens on the requirement to apply for an A1 certificate when travelling abroad for short-term purposes. There will be no need to apply for a certificate for short-term business purposes, conferences, as well as recreational trips.

[Read More](#)

Germany

[German government publishes draft law for new citizenship rules](#)

The German government has published the draft law that introduces new rules to citizenship, and it is open for comments for the German states and associations. The new rule includes changes such as 5 years residency for foreigners to attain citizenship instead of the current 8 years. It may also be reduced to 3 years in cases of special integration efforts.

[Read More](#)

New Zealand

[Changes to partner of a worker work visa confirmed](#)

The government of New Zealand has announced that it has made changes to the partnership work visas supported by accredited employer work visa and essential skills work visa holders. From 31 May 2023 onwards, people who apply for a partner of a worker work visa will have to follow new conditions.

[Read More](#)

Norway

Minimum salary requirements increased

The government of Norway has raised the minimum salary requirements for work permit holders with higher education degrees. For jobs requiring a bachelor's degree, foreign nationals with work permits who are non-EU residents and possess a higher education degree must be paid NOK448,900 yearly. For jobs requiring a master's degree, the amount is NOK480,900 per year. Employees from outside the EU who operate in a sector covered by a collective agreement must be paid at the collective wage rate. Benefits cannot be included for in calculating the required minimum pay.

[Read More](#)

Switzerland

Switzerland grants visa-free travel to Kosovars starting on 2024

The Swiss federal council has announced that citizens of Kosovo will be able to enter Switzerland for short-term stays without a visa from 1 January 2024. This decision was made when the amendment to the Ordinance on Entry and Visa Issuance (VEV) which was passed by the Federal Council on 17 May 2023.

[Read More](#)



Thomas Wolf
Head of KPMG's Global
Immigration Network
T: +49 30 530 199-300
E: twolf@kpmg-law.com

[social.kpmg](#)



[Privacy](#) | [Legal](#)

© 2023 Copyright owned by one or more of the KPMG International entities. KPMG International entities provide no services to clients. All rights reserved.

KPMG is a global organization of independent professional services firms providing Audit, Tax and Advisory services. KPMG is the brand under which the member firms of KPMG International Limited ("KPMG International") operate and provide professional services. "KPMG" is used to refer to individual member firms within the KPMG organization or to one or more member firms collectively.

KPMG firms operate in 143 countries and territories with more than 265,000 partners and employees working in member firms around the world. Each KPMG firm is a legally distinct and separate entity and describes itself as such. Each KPMG member firm is responsible for its own obligations and liabilities. KPMG International Limited is a private English company limited by guarantee.

KPMG International Limited and its related entities do not provide services to clients. For more detail about our structure, please visit <https://kpmg.com/xx/en/home/misc/governance.html>.