

APRIL 14, 2021

## Sb Newsletter

# CHANGES IN THE PROCEDURES FOR RESIDENCE OF FOREIGNERS, THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS, IN BULGARIA

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Law for amendment and supplement of  
the Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria act



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**The Law for amendment and supplement of the Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria act was promulgated on 12th of March 2021.**

**The amendments are aimed at bringing the Bulgarian legislation in line with European legislation in the field of legal migration.**

**Some of the changes come into force on 16th of March 2021, another - with deferred effect - from 1st of June 2021**

## AMENDMENTS EFFECTIVE MARCH 16, 2021

### 1. STARTUP VISA

An entirely new provision introduces Startup Visa already in Bulgaria. With this innovation, entrepreneurs coming from countries outside the European Union to start a business in Bulgaria will have a faster opportunity to reside in the country. Whether a person meets the conditions for an entrepreneur will be determined by the Ministry of Economy.

ACCENT:

**Startup visa for a high-tech or innovative project now in Bulgaria**

To issue a Startup Visa, an individual must:

- To have a certificate for high-tech and / or innovative project issued by the Ministry of Economy
- Become a partner or shareholder in a Bulgarian company after the issuance of a long-term residence visa
- To own at least 50% of the company's capital

## 2.SHORT-STAY VISA FOR MULTIPLE ENTRY

A new provision allows a foreigner from third countries to obtain a visa for short-term residence, but with the possibility of multiple entry into Bulgaria. Thus, the foreigner will be able to enter the country repeatedly for a period of 90 days within each 180-day period.

Short-term multiple-entry visas will be with validity period:

- 1 year - provided that the foreigner has received three visas within the last two years
- 2 years - provided that in the last two years the foreigner has used the previous multiple-entry visa with a validity period of up to one year
- 5 years - when in the last three years the foreigner has lawfully used a previous multiple-entry visa valid for up to two years

## AMENDMENTS EFFECTIVE JUNE 01, 2021

### 3."SINGLE RESIDENCE AND WORK PERMIT" PROCEDURE

A significant change occurs in the procedure for issuing a "Single Residence and Work Permit". The criteria for selection of employees eliminate the requirement that the employer has carried out a preliminary study of the labour market in Bulgaria.

The amendment will facilitate the procedure for applying for access to the labor market for foreigners, third-country nationals.

ACCENT:

**Without prior study of the labour market in the selection of employees from third countries**

## 4.PROCEDURE FOR ISSUING RESIDENCE PERMITS

The application for a residence permit for foreigners of the type "Single residence and work permit", Intra-corporate transfer permit, Seasonal worker permit and "EU Blue Card" will be submitted to the Directorate "Migration" or to the department / sector / group "Migration" at the regional directorates of the Ministry of Interior.

Until now, the documents were submitted to the National Employment Agency.

## 5. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES

An entirely new provision sets out administrative penalties for non-compliance with the procedure for hiring foreigners, third-country nationals, to work in Bulgaria.

If the Directorate "Migration" is not notified of the termination of employment of a foreigner, as provided by law, as well as if a foreigner who holds a valid visa but does not have a residence permit, fines should be imposed as follows:

- BGN 1,000 fine for an employer - an individual
- BGN 3,000 property sanction for the employer - legal entity. In case of repeated violation, the amount of the sanction is BGN 9,000.

### ACCENT:

**Up to BGN 3,000 fine if the Directorate "Migration" is not notified of the termination of employment of a foreigner**

**We have experience and can assist you with the issuance of:**

- **Visas - short and long-term**
- **Startup visas**
- **EU blue card**
- **Single Residence and Work Permit**
- **Other residence and Work Permits**

**Send an inquiry or contact us at:**



**office@sb-bg.com**



**+359 888 886 550**





# CONTACTS

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
CONTACT OUR  
SPECIALISTS



+ 359 2 439 41 40



+ 359 888 886 550



office@sb-bg.com



Sofia 1606, 30-32' Totleben Blvd.

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