



Table: Overview of the answers to the BE AHQ on time limit for applications for family reunification of TCNs.

Responses from Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, United Kingdom, Norway (24 in total)

Please note that this is a summary of the input of the MS and that the actual compilation should be verified for nuances and detailed information.









1. What is the current maximum time limit for applications for family reunification of third-country nationals in your country?










- No maximum set in law (but other provision may apply): 5 MS (AT, DE, IE, UK, NO)
- 21 days: 1 MS (HU)
- 1 month: 3 MS (HR, LV, PL)
- 2 months: 1 MS (EE)
- 3 months: 3 MS (NL, PT, SK)
- 4 months: 1 MS (LT)
- 6 months: 4 MS (BE, FR, IT, SI- or 7)
- 9 months: 6 MS (CY, CZ, FI, EL, LU, SE)








[See details in the table below.](#)

2. Did your country recently change this maximum time limit or does your country have plans to do so in the (near) future.

Most of the Member States did not recently change or have plans to change the maximum time limit for applications for family reunification of third-country nationals **EXCEPT** for **Belgium, Czech Republic, Ireland, Lithuania, and the Netherlands** ([see details in the table below](#)).

MS	Maximum time limit (general rule)	Extension or reduction of the time limit (exceptions to the general rule)	Notes	Recent or planned changes
AT 	No maximum		No special provision for the case of family reunification but the general provision of the General Administrative Procedures Act applies: maximum of 6 months for any application received.	
BE 	6 months	<i>Extension</i> possible for particularly complex applications.		Plan to increase the maximum time limit from 6 to 9 months.
HR 	30 days	<i>Extension</i> allowed up to 60 days if the applicant requests an extended investigation.	No difference made between the different cases of family reunification.	
CY 	9 months	- <i>Extension</i> possible up to 3 months for difficult cases. - <i>Reduction</i> possible to a maximum of 5 months for specific cases (LT resident, holder of an immigration permit, employee of a company of foreign interest).		
CZ 	9 months	<i>Reduction</i> for certain categories: 60 days – researcher; 120 days – LT resident; 180 days- EU Blue Card Holder.		Plan to change the time limit for the particular cases (90 days - EU Blue Card holder, 90 days - intra-corporate transferee permit holder, 90 days - a foreign investor). The other time limits shall remain the same.
EE 	2 months	<i>Extension</i> possible to eliminate shortcomings in the application.		
FI 	9 months			
FR 	6 months			

DE 	No maximum		There is an indicative 3 months time limit that applies for procedural matters.	
EL 	9 months	- <i>Extension</i> of up to 3 months in exceptional circumstances. - <i>Reduction</i> : 6 months - EU Blue Card Holder; 4 months- LT resident, with a possible extension of 3 months.		
HU 	21 days		Certain elements of procedure are not included in this maximum.	
IE 	No maximum		Average time: within 12 months.	The newly introduced International Protection Bill, to be enacted later in 2016, introduces new guidelines for family reunification which may impact on the time taken to issue family reunification decisions.
IT 	6 months			
LV 	30 days	<i>Extension</i> allowed up to 4 months for exceptional cases.		
LT 	4 months	<i>Reduction</i> : For a higher fee, accelerated procedure with a time limit of 2 months. <i>Reduction</i> : 2 months for highly qualified workers and investors who invest no less than 260 thousand EUR (1 month for a higher fee).		Time limits were shortened from 6 to 4 months and accelerated procedure introduced in 2014.
LU 	9 months	<i>Extension</i> allowed for exceptional circumstances. <i>Reduction</i> : 6 months - EU Blue Card Holder.		
NL 	90 days	<i>Extension</i> possible for other cases of family reunification (not for refugee or beneficiaries of international protection) from 3 to 6 months.		Plan to extend the time limit (for refugee/beneficiaries of international protection) to 9 months.
PL	1 month	<i>Extension</i> up to 2 months is possible in particular		

		complex case.		
PT 	3 months			
SK 	90 days	<i>Extension possible in specific cases.</i>		
SI 	6-7 months			
SE 	9 months			
UK 	No maximum		Average time: between 40 and 60 days.	
NO 	No maximum		Time varies depending on several factors. However, applicants are being informed about the expected processing time.	