



Ad-Hoc Query on registration certificate

Requested by HU EMN NCP on 26th November 2013

Compilation produced on 29th January 2014

Responses from [Austria](#), [Belgium](#), [Bulgaria](#), [Estonia](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Hungary](#), [Italy](#), [Latvia](#), [Lithuania](#), [Luxembourg](#), [Poland](#), [Portugal](#), [Slovak Republic](#), [Slovenia](#), [United Kingdom](#) plus [Norway](#) (17 in Total)

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1. Background Information

Based on the provisions of Free Movement Directive (2004/38/EC) EU citizens have the right to free movement and residence after three months when registering at the relevant authorities of the host Member State. Although this right to stay is unlimited as long as the conditions set out by the Free Movement Directive are fulfilled, the documents issued as a result of registration might be issued with a definite validity time.

In Hungary after registration EU citizens receive a registration certificate that has no validity period written on it, therefore is valid for an indefinite period, yet it results in statistical problems when identifying how many of these registered EU citizens leave the country on a permanent basis.





Based on the above described problem we would like NCPs to answer the following question:

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1. Do documents issued for EU citizens according to Directive 2004/38/EC have validity period, and if yes, what validity periods are applied in these cases?

The HU EMN NCP would very much appreciate if we could receive your responses by **23th December 2013.**









2. Responses

		Wider Dissemination?	
	Austria	No	This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further.
	Belgium	Yes	<p><u>Background information:</u> Documents issued to EU citizens are available in paper format or electronic format. Beneficiaries are invited to opt for one option or the other, knowing that the paper format is for free while the electronic format is a paid-for-product. The paper format has no period of validity contrary to the electronic format.</p> <p><u>Answer to question:</u> Registration certificate and permanent resident documents issued to EU citizens have a period of validity of 5 years (if issued in electronic format but no period of validity if issued in paper format).</p> <p>Permanent resident documents issued to family members of EU citizens (F & F+ cards) have a period of validity of 5 years (as family members of EU citizens can't choose between paper and electronic formats).</p>
	Bulgaria	Yes	EU citizens' registration certificates have a validity period of up to 5 years and 10 years respectively for prolonged (5 years) and permanent residence.
	Estonia	Yes	<p>Yes, in Estonia the validity period of ID-cards issued to EU citizens is fixed. According to Identity documents act § 20 (1) and (2) an identity card shall be issued to a citizen of the European Union with a period of validity of up to five years. The period of validity of an identity card held by a citizen of the European Union shall not exceed the period of validity of the permission to stay in Estonia issued to him/her on the basis of the right of residence (up to 5 years). A person having permanent right of residence holds still an ID-card with a period of validity of up to five years.</p> <p>Please find an example of an ID-card here.</p>

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	France	Yes	<p>EU citizens do not have to register at the French competent authorities (<i>mairie</i> of the commune of residence). The provisions of Articles L.121-2 and R.121-5 of the Code on Entry and Residence of Foreigners and Right of Asylum (=CESEDA), which ensure that EU citizens have to register at the competent authorities, have not been implemented. This is due to the fact that no model of registration certificate has been published.</p> <p>However, EU citizens may apply for a specific residence permit if they meet the criteria. This residence permit may be issued upon arrival in France or during their stay. The period of validity of the residence permit issued depends on the purpose of stay (student: 1 year; workers/inactives: depending on the length of the stay and the situation for a maximum of 5 years; right to permanent residence: 10 years).</p>
	Germany	Yes	<p>In order to fulfil the obligations to register according to Art. 8, para. 1, of the Directive 2004/38/EC, EU citizens have to comply with the general obligation for inhabitants to notify at the registration office. The validity of the registration confirmation is not limited. Furthermore, EU citizens only receive on request a certificate on the right of permanent residence in accordance with Art. 19 of the Directive 2004/38/EC which is also without any time limit of the validity.</p>
	Hungary	Yes	<p>In Hungary after registration EU citizens receive a registration certificate that has no validity period written on it, therefore is valid for an indefinite period. When acquiring permanent residence, the permanent residence card is also issued for an indefinite period for EU citizens.</p>
	Italy	Yes	<p>In Italy, the certificate of regular residence is emitted by the Municipality's Registry Office. There is no expiry date on the certificate, and it is valid until the necessary requisites persist. When the EU citizen acquires the right of permanent residence, he/she obtains a certificate which is valid for an indefinite period.</p>
	Latvia	Yes	<p>Latvia issues two kinds of registration certificates: 1) A5 paper form without a term of validity or 2) eID card with a validity for 5 years. It is up to the person which kind of certificate s/he chooses to receive. Most of applicants choose the eID format due to the more practical format and various possibilities to use the card to receive e-services. The permanent residence card is issued only in the form of eID card with a validity for 10 years. However, Latvia considers a possibility to restrict this term until 5 years that would correspond to the term of validity of eID cards, issued to citizens of Latvia.</p>
	Lithuania	Yes	<p>In Lithuania a registration certificate to EU citizens and a residence card to family members of EU citizen who are not nationals of EU Member State are valid for 5 years <u>or</u> for the planned period of residence in Lithuania, where this period is shorter than five years. A certificate to reside permanently in Lithuania has no validity period. Family member of EU national who is not an EU national is issued with EU residence card which is valid for 10 years (and is to be replaced).</p>

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	Luxembourg	Yes	In Luxembourg after registration EU citizens receive a registration certificate that has no validity period written on it, therefore is valid for an indefinite period. When acquiring permanent residence, the permanent residence card is also issued for an indefinite period for EU citizens.
	Poland	Yes	In Poland registration certificates and documents certifying the permanent residence right issued to EU citizens have no validity period written on them, therefore are valid for an indefinite period.
	Portugal	Yes	PT registration certificate indicates the validity of the document: five years or a minor period if applicable. The permanent residence card is issued for a period of five years.
	Slovak Republic	Yes	In line with the Act on Residence of Aliens a Union citizen fulfilling the conditions for residence for a period longer than 3 months, whose right to residence was registered by the police department can apply at the police department for the issuance of the document of residence entitled the "Residence Card of EU Citizen" with a five year period of validity. The police department shall issue the document of residence to the Union citizen within 30 days. Union citizen after fulfilling the conditions set by the law may apply for a permanent residence in the SR. In case of granting the permanent residence the police department based on the application and following the fulfilment of the conditions set by the law issues a document of residence entitled the "Residence Card of EU Citizen" with a 10 year period of validity.
	Slovenia	Yes	After registration EU citizen receive a registration certificate that has validity period for 1 year and it is written on it. After 1 year a registration certificate needs to be renewed. When EU citizen granting a permanent residence (after 5 years of legally residing in Slovenia) a permanent residence card is issued for an indefinite period and it is written on it as well.
	Sweden	Yes	In Sweden EU citizens receive a registration certificate with no validity period. When acquiring the right of permanent residence, a permanent residence certificate is issued without any period of validity.
	United Kingdom	Yes	EEA residence cards issued to non-EEA nationals are valid for 5 years. Permanent residence cards issued to non EEA nationals are valid for 10 years. All the documents issued to EEA nationals - registration certificates, accession worker cards (for Bulgarians and Romanians) and documents certifying permanent residence have no expiry dates.
	Norway	Yes	Norway does NOT include a date of validity for documents issued for EU citizens according to Directive 2004/38/EC. Proof of registration for EU citizens only includes the date for registration with no stipulation of time of validity. This is in accordance with the

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		Norwegian immigration regulations.
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