



AD HOC QUERY ON 2021.57 Acceptable language versions of foreign documents supporting applications for visas and residence permits

Requested by EMN Czech Republic on 16 September 2021

Responses from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden (23 in Total)

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1. Background information

Third-country nationals applying for visas and residence permits that are granted by the Czech Republic's immigration authorities are obliged to submit various relevant supporting documents. This includes both (a) public documents issued by competent authorities of their countries of origin or other states where they reside or resided and (b) private documents related to the purpose of migrants' requested stay in the Czech Republic. In general, the Czech authorities processing the applications accept all such documents only if their original version is submitted together with an officially certified translation into Czech language. Czech is Czech Republic's only official language and all administrative proceedings are conducted in it. A certified translation of a document into Czech can only be issued by a court-appointed interpreter.

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There are also certain special cases in which this condition does not apply. Due to the close language similarity, the valid legislation stipulates an exemption for documents originally produced in Slovak language. Certain types of documents generally comprehensible in the original version are also accepted without translation, e.g. foreign bank account statements.

Since this general requirement creates an administrative burden and there is limited access to services of court-appointed interpreters into Czech in some countries, the Czech immigration authorities are occasionally invited to change this policy and accept at least also documents issued or written in English or their English translations. In order to compare our policy described above with other Member States' policies, we are kindly asking you to answer the following questions:

2. Questions

1. Does your Member State accept documents supporting applications for visas and residence permits that third-country nationals are (under your Member State's legislation) required to submit if these documents are not translated into your Member State's official language(s)? Y/N

2. If NO to 1, does your Member State accept the translations of documents originally issued or written in other languages into your Member State's official language(s) only if these translations are officially certified according to your Member State's relevant regulations?

3. If YES to 1, please specify which other language versions are accepted.

4. If YES to 1, please specify, which types of documents can be submitted in this(these) other language version(s) (e.g. all documents; birth certificate; marriage certificate (civil union certificate); extract from the penal register record (police clearance certificate); diploma; labour contract; professional qualification certificate; professional experience certificate; extract from the commercial register or a similar business register; rental agreement; accommodation agreement; etc.).

We would very much appreciate your responses by **18 October 2021**.

3. Responses

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¹ If possible at time of making the request, the Requesting EMN NCP should add their response(s) to the query. Otherwise, this should be done at the time of making the compilation.

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		Wider Dissemination ²	
	EMN NCP Austria	Yes	<p>1. For job seeker visas: Yes. For residence permits: No.</p> <p>2. The authority can request the translation in certified form (Art. 6 para 4 Regulation on the Implementation of the Settlement and Residence Act).</p> <p>3. For job seeker visas, documents and evidence that are not in German or English must also be presented in a translation in German or English at the request of the representation authority (Art. 5 para 2 Regulation on the Implementation of the Aliens Police Act).</p> <p>4. The regulation applies to the documents and evidence required for visas, including a birth certificate or equivalent document, evidence of accommodation, evidence of health insurance coverage that is liable in Austria and covers all risks, evidence of secure livelihood.</p>

² A default "Yes" is given for your response to be circulated further (e.g. to other EMN NCPs and their national network members). A "No" should be added here if you do not wish your response to be disseminated beyond other EMN NCPs. In case of "No" and wider dissemination beyond other EMN NCPs, then for the Compilation for Wider Dissemination the response should be removed and the following statement should be added in the relevant response box: "This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further."

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	<p>EMN NCP Belgium</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes. 2. 3. Generally, English is accepted. However, also other languages are accepted, as far as the competent authorities understand them (Spanish, for example, is sometimes accepted). If the authorities do not understand the document, they can ask for a translation. 4. Generally speaking, all supporting documents may be submitted in these other language versions. However, when they are not understandable for the authorities, translated documents are required from the beginning.
	<p>EMN NCP Bulgaria</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bulgaria accepts supporting documents that are not translated into Bulgarian when applying for short-stay visa (type “C”). When applying for long-stay visa (type “D”) and residence permits, the supporting documents should be translated into Bulgarian and should be officially certified according to the provisions of the Bulgarian national legislation. 2. Documents written in other languages are accepted only if they are translated into Bulgarian and officially certified according to the provisions of the Bulgarian national legislation. 3. All language versions are accepted for short-stay visa (type “C”). However, when applying for long-stay visa (type “D”) and residence permits, the supporting documents should be legalised and translated into Bulgarian.

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			<p>4. All types of documents can be submitted in other language versions. Most often, these are civil status certificates (birth, marriage, divorce, death, marital status), criminal record certificates, pension certificates, labour contracts, workplace references.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Croatia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. For visas: Yes.For residence permits: No.</p> <p>2. For visas: N/AFor residence permits: As a general rule, documents in foreign languages submitted by persons applying for the residence permits must be translated into Croatian, and their translations must be certified by a person or an institution authorized to issue translation certifications.</p> <p>3. For visas: Supporting documentation shall be acceptable in the official language of the receiving State as long as the content is comprehensible. If the consular officer cannot determine the content of the supporting documentation, due to the language in which it was issued, the applicant may be required to provide a certified translation of the document to some other language (Croatian - if available, English or some other world language).For residence permits: The competent authority can make an exception and admit documents in English at its own discretion if the content is comprehensible.</p> <p>4. For visas: The above-mentioned rule applies to all types of supporting documents with the exception of documents issued by Croatian legal entities.For residence permits: The above-named exception can be applied for documents like bank statements, health insurance, criminal record certificate etc.</p>

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	<p>EMN NCP Cyprus</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. N/A 3. Documents in English language are also accepted. 4. All documents.
	<p>EMN NCP Czech Republic</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NO. (Although some exceptions exist as it was explained above). 2. YES. 3. 4.
	<p>EMN NCP Estonia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes, but only in Russian or English and the translation has to be made by a sworn translator. In addition, a document that was issued in a foreign state must be legalised or certified with an apostille unless otherwise specified, i.e. the document has been issued in a country which Estonia has concluded legal aid agreement, the country is member of the 1976 Vienna Convention on the Issue of Multilingual Extracts from Civil Status Records, or the country implements the 1987 Brussels Convention Abolishing the Legalisation of Documents in the Member States of the European Communities. 2. n/a

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			<p>3. Only Russian or English are accepted. See answer to Q1.</p> <p>4. This applies to all public documents.</p>
	EMN NCP Finland	No	This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further.
	EMN NCP France	Yes	<p>1. No.</p> <p>2. Yes, to be accepted, the document must be written in French. If it is written in a foreign language, it must be accompanied by a translation into French by an approved/certified translator. Foreign nationals can consult a list of approved translators on the Cour de cassation website.</p> <p>3. N/A</p> <p>4. N/A</p>
	EMN NCP Germany	Yes	<p>1. NO. The official language for public administration purposes is German, and generally, all applications and supporting documents have to be submitted in German or with German translation. If a translation is not or only hard to obtain due to the local conditions, the German diplomatic mission can confirm the essential content of the foreign-language documents to the involved domestic authorities.</p>

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			<p>2. It is at the respective authority's discretion to decide if the translation is sufficient. In certain cases, an officially certified translation can be required.</p> <p>3. In spite of the fact that, as a general rule, all documents have to be submitted in German (see answer 1), the competent authority can admit foreign-language documents at its own discretion as long as the content is comprehensible. This can be the case particularly with English documents.</p> <p>4. In principle, the above-named exception can be applied for all kinds of documents.</p>
	EMN NCP Greece	Yes	<p>1. NO</p> <p>2. YES, only officially certified translations are accepted</p> <p>3.</p> <p>4.</p>
	EMN NCP Hungary	Yes	<p>1. The consulates of Hungary are responsible for issuing visas. Regarding supporting documents submitted by applicants in the visa procedure, the rules are set out by the competent diplomatic missions or consular offices where the application is presented. However the rules provided by the Visa Code Handbook are always taken into account. Especially the provisions regarding the translation of supporting documents in Part II point 6.1.2. Consulates should therefore inform applicants (e.g. on websites, notice boards) which documents need to be translated and into which language. The Visa Code</p>

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			<p>does not contain provisions on the language of the supporting documents as regards admissibility. Issuance of residence permits is the competence of the National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing. According to Hungarian national law, a public document issued abroad, or a private document certified by a foreign court, administrative authority, notary or other person vested with public authority, shall - unless otherwise provided by law, international treaty or reciprocal practice - have evidentiary value under Hungarian law only if it has been certified as authentic by the Hungarian diplomatic mission authority of the state of issuance. Unless otherwise provided by law, a document issued in a language other than Hungarian may be accepted only if accompanied by a certified Hungarian translation.</p> <p>2. Regarding residence permits, unless otherwise provided by law, a document issued in a language other than Hungarian may be accepted only if accompanied by a certified Hungarian translation.</p> <p>3. According to Hungarian national law, a public document issued abroad, or a private document certified by a foreign court, administrative authority, notary or other person vested with public authority, shall - unless otherwise provided by law, international treaty or reciprocal practice - have evidentiary value under Hungarian law only if it has been certified as authentic by the Hungarian diplomatic mission authority of the state of issuance.</p> <p>4. N/A</p>
	EMN NCP Italy	Yes	<p>1. As a rule, documentation should be legalized/apostilled (when applicable) and officially translated into Italian, especially if submitted for residence permit and other applications in the national Public Administration. With limitation to visa application procedures,</p>

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			<p>consulates and embassy might accept some kind of documents without any translation. Official translation in Italian/English/French and local authorities legalization are mandatory if the issuing of a visa is directly related with such documents (e.g. marriage certificate for family reunion visa)</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3. With limitation to visa application procedures, consulates and embassy might accept some kind of documents without any translation. Official translation in Italian/English/French and local authorities legalization is mandatory if the issue of a visa is directly related with such documents (e.g. marriage certificate for family reunion visa).</p> <p>4. Some Italian consulates/embassies will accept, in the context of a visa application, the following documents in native language: bank statements, reference letters, contracts (i.e. work contracts, rent/lease contracts, professional qualifications certificates, letters of intent, and in general documentation issued by a private body). As a rule, documentation issued by a public body or by officially recognized educational institutions (i.e. vital records, educational diplomas, police clearance certificates) should be legalized/apostilled and officially translated into Italian/English/French.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Latvia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. N/a</p> <p>3. Documents can be submitted in Latvian, English, French, German and Russian. For documents in other languages a translation into one of above-mentioned languages shall be attached. Translation made outside of Latvia is subject to legalization, it means</p>

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			<p>it shall be a sworn translation. For translations carried out in Latvia only the name, surname and personal code of the person who has prepared a translation shall be indicated as well as a place and date of the translation (no sworn translation in these cases is required).</p> <p>4. All documents.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Lithuania</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Yes, in some cases. According to Article 43 of Order No. 1V-329 of 12 October 2005 of the Minister of the Interior Regarding the Procedure for Issuing Temporary Residence Permits and Article 23 of Order No. 1V-445 of 21 December 2005 of the Minister of the Interior Regarding the Procedure for Issuing Long-Term Residence Permits, when the application for a residence permit requires documents issued abroad, these documents must be translated into Lithuanian, and their translations must be certified by a person or an institution authorized to issue translation certifications. This requirement does not apply to travel documents, as well as temporary and long-term residence permits issued by another Member State. According to Article 44 of Order No. 1V-329 and Article 23 of Order No. 1V-445, if the original language is English, the following documents can be submitted without translating them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • documents confirming family relations; • certificates of marriage, divorce, or death of a family member; • bank statements proving that the foreigner has sufficient funds to cover living expenses in Lithuania; • criminal record (unless the criminal record contains entries of past crimes); • health insurance.

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			<p>If the original language of these documents is not English, the applicant may submit their certified English translations. It should be noted that the Migration Department and officials authorized by it may request and the applicant must then submit certified translations of these documents into the Lithuanian language.</p> <p>According to Order No. 1V-899/V-330 of 28 December 2017 of the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Foreign Affairs Regarding the Procedure for Issuing Visas, documents in foreign languages submitted by persons applying for the national visa must be translated into Lithuanian, and the translation must be certified by the translator's signature. The following documents may be submitted in the original English language or in a certified translation into the English language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• documents confirming family relations;• a bank record proving that the foreigner has sufficient funds or regular legitimate income to cover the living expenses in Lithuania and return to the country of origin. <p>The Migration Department may request translations of these documents into the Lithuanian language, certified by the translator's signature.</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. The documents listed in the answer to question 1 can be submitted in the English language.</p> <p>According to Order No. 1V-899/V-330 of 28 December 2017 of the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Foreign Affairs Regarding the Procedure for Issuing Visas, when applying for a national visa, the foreigner must submit, <i>inter alia</i>, a document that shows sufficient funds and/or legitimate regular income to cover the living expenses in Lithuania and return to the country of origin. According to Article 76.5, if necessary, this document must be translated into Lithuanian, <u>or another language</u> indicated by the visa</p>
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			<p>service official. Thus, in this case, the existing legal regulation also leaves the possibility of this document being submitted in foreign languages other than English.</p> <p>4. In case of applications for temporary and long-term residence permits: marriage certificate; divorce certificate; certificate of the death of a family member; bank statements proving that the foreigner has sufficient funds to cover living expenses in Lithuania; criminal record certificate; health insurance. In case of applications for a national visa: documents confirming family relations; a bank record proving that the foreigner has sufficient funds or regular legitimate income to cover the living expenses in Lithuania and return to the country of origin.</p>
	EMN NCP Luxembourg	Yes	<p>1. No. In Luxembourg all documents must be translated by official translators in the country of origin or in Luxembourg except if those documents are either in German, French (official languages in Luxembourg), or in English.</p> <p>2. Yes.</p> <p>3. N/A. See answer to question 1.</p> <p>4. N/A.</p>
	EMN NCP Malta	Yes	<p>1. No</p> <p>2. Yes</p>

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			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. 4.
	EMN NCP Netherlands	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. 3. Besides Dutch, German, French, and English versions are also accepted. 4. All documents relevant to the relevant application (i.e. breeder documents and supporting documents) [1] [1] IND, 'Legalisatie en vertaling van documenten', Legalisatie en vertaling van documenten Immigratie- en Naturalisatiedienst (IND), last accessed on 28 September 2021.
	EMN NCP Poland	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. According to Article 8(1) to (3) of the Foreigners Act of 12 December 2013: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applications for the matters regulated by the Act shall be drawn up in Polish. 2. Documents drawn up in a foreign language used as evidence in proceedings under the Act shall be filed together with their translation into Polish, made by a sworn translator. 3. Applications submitted in the proceedings before the Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs or the consulate and documents drawn up in a foreign language serving as evidence in proceedings under the law before the Minister responsible

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			<p>for Foreign Affairs or the consulate shall be submitted in the Polish language or the language designated by those authorities.</p> <p>In practical procedures for granting residence permits, a translation of the travel document of the foreigner whose original foreigner is in principle obliged to present (present) at the time of application is submitted is not required to be produced. However, Polish consular authorities abroad accept required documents supporting applications for visas also when they are not officially translated into Polish – as long as these documents are submitted in an official language of a hosting country or in English.</p> <p>2. Documents drawn up in a foreign language used as evidence in proceedings under the Foreigners Act shall be filed together with their translation into Polish, carried out by a sworn translator</p> <p>3. Applications for a visa lodged before the Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs or the consulate and documents drawn up in a foreign language serving as evidence in proceedings under the Foreign Affairs Act before the Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs or the consulate, it shall be filed in the Polish language or the language indicated by the said authorities. However Polish consular authorities abroad accept required documents supporting applications for visas issued in an official language of a hosting country or, alternatively, in English.</p> <p>4. In the visa application processes, Polish consular authorities abroad accept all documents issued in an official language of a hosting country or, alternatively, in English.</p>
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	<p>EMN NCP Slovakia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Yes.</p> <p>2. NA</p> <p>3. According to the Article 126 paragraph 4 of the Act on Residence of Foreigners: Applications and documents required in the proceedings hereunder issued in foreign language must be presented by the foreigner in official translations into national language as an original or certified copy; he/she may also present documents issued or certified by the respective authorities of the Czech Republic in Czech language. A foreigner may submit applications and documents issued in foreign language also officially translated into Czech language. As regards translations done abroad, the foreigner shall submit the consulate's confirmation that the translation has been done by an authorised person.</p> <p>4. All the documents which have to be submitted together with the application can be in Czech language (as described in question 3).</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Slovenia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Yes.</p> <p>2. /</p> <p>3. For residence permits: All foreign languages are accepted, but only under condition that the official conducting the proceedings knows a foreign language.</p> <p>For visas: depends on location. In all locations, translations in English are accepted. In addition, documentation is accepted in the host country's official language if indicated on the web page of the consulate.</p>

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			<p>4. For all documents, which in accordance with the General Administrative Procedure Act, which applies to all administrative procedures, an authenticated translation shall also be enclosed with a document composed in a foreign language, if necessary. There is no such need if the official conducting the procedure knows a foreign language. Documents issued by foreign authorities and which are considered public documents in the place in which they have been issued shall have, subject to the condition of reciprocity, the same probative value as domestic public documents, if they are authenticated in accordance with regulations. The condition of reciprocity shall not apply to certificates.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Spain</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. N</p> <p>2. Public documents not included in the scope of the Regulation (EU) 2016/1191, issued by the authorities of the Member States, must be submitted duly translated and legalized, without prejudice to the existence of other applicable systems between Member States that exempt them from said requirement. The private documents must be duly translated into Spanish, except in those cases expressly provided for in which the contribution of documentation in another language is allowed. Legalized translation will be required if so establishes the specific regulations that regulate the effects of these documents in Spain or by reasons of legal certaint</p> <p>3.</p> <p>4.</p>

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	<p>EMN NCP Sweden</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Yes.</p> <p>2. -</p> <p>3. The Swedish Migration Agency encourages applicants to enclose copies translated into Swedish or English of the documents they wish to invoke in order to be granted a residence permit. According to Swedish law, however, there is no requirement that documents submitted to an authority must be translated into Swedish or another language. It is the authority's responsibility to translate the document. In practice, this means that if documents are submitted in languages other than Swedish or English at a Swedish mission abroad, local employees who master the language make a note of these documents about their contents. If documents in languages other than Swedish or English are received by the Swedish Migration Agency, the language competence available at the responsible unit is used in the first instance and in the second instance the document is sent for translation to translation agencies.</p> <p>4. The above-mentioned rule, that documents can be submitted in any language, applies to all types of documents.</p>
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