



## **AD HOC QUERY ON 2021.69 Best practices of residence permit procedures**

**Requested by EMN NCP Hungary on 5 November 2021**

**Responses from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden (21 in Total)**

### **Disclaimer:**

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### **1. Background information**

Currently, under applicable Hungarian legislation in effect, with regard to permits that entitle their holders to residence in Hungary, there is a uniform rule on the amount of procedural fees to be paid for residence permits. Thus, the National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing of Hungary (hereinafter referred to as NDGAP) is required to make a decision on the submitted residence permit application within the time limit under legislation for which the procedural fee has been paid set for the given general type of case. There is no provision or reference to a “procedural fee for urgent cases” in the current applicable Hungarian legislation on aliens policing. However, with regards to the future, NDGAP is considering, the possibility that, if an applicant were to pay a higher fee, the authority could decide on his application within a shorter period of time, in a quasi urgent manner.

Furthermore, there is a uniform rule also on lodging and submitting residence permit applications, as per the following: Third-country nationals may submit an application for a first-time issuance of a residence permit, as a general rule, at a consulate of the state as per their nationality, permanent or habitual residence; their application

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shall be examined by the competent NDGAP regional directorate as per the applicant's place of accommodation. Applications for renewal of a residence permit or applications for the issuance/renewal of a national/EC/interim permanent residence permit, as well as applications for the replacement and exchange of documents, may be submitted at the competent NDGAP regional directorate as per the foreign national's place of accommodation/future residence in person or by the applicant/the person acting as the representative and on the behalf of the applicant/where applicable the employer of the applicant via the electronic application platform (even if his/her application is submitted electronically, the personal appearance of the client in person is a justified requisite for one time for the purpose of collecting his/her biometric data). Applications by persons enjoying the right of free movement and residence may also be submitted in person or via the electronic application platform. **At present, with regards to stays exceeding 90 days, the legislation on aliens policing does not provide for the possibility of submitting application forms and supporting documents via an external agent (e.g. a business organisation), within the territory of Hungary.** However, with regards to the future, in order to ease the administrative burden of the authorities, it is being considered whether the administrative tasks related to the submission of applications for residence permits in Hungary could be carried out by external actors, e.g. relocation companies, which, if they meet certain criteria, could be authorised to prepare and electronically submit applications, including the collecting and recording of biometric data of clients, in a specific procedure. With regards to these, NDGAP is asking for the kind assistance of other Member States in answering the following questions and provide information on their best practices and experience regarding this matter.

## 2. Questions

1. Does the legal framework of your Member State allow the possibility that applicants can benefit from an accelerated or fast-track procedure for handling residence permit applications? YES/NO. If your answer is YES, could you please indicate the legal framework for it?
2. If your answer is YES to Q.1, could you please describe the accelerated or fast-track procedure (e.g. its duration compared with the duration of handling regular residence permit applications) and indicate what are the conditions for using this procedure?
3. If your answer is YES to Q.1, do applicants have to pay an additional or higher procedural fee for this procedure?
4. If your answer is YES to Q.3: What is the cost of the additional or higher procedural fee for the accelerated or fast-track procedure for handling residence permits?
5. Are there any processing companies or enterprises (service providers) authorised in your Member State which manage the applications on behalf of the immigration authorities (e.g. undertaking the administrative tasks of collecting the personal data of the applicants, including their biometric data)?



We would very much appreciate your responses by **3 December 2021**.

## 3. Responses

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1




		Wider Dissemination <sup>2</sup>	
	EMN NCP Austria	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 Belgium	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No.</li> <li>2. N/A</li> <li>3. N/A</li> <li>4. N/A</li> <li>5. Yes. Belgian diplomatic and consular posts usually work with an external service provider that has one or more visa application centres in their jurisdiction. The tasks entrusted to these service providers are those described in the Visa Code. Belgian municipalities, by contrast, do not work with external service providers.</li> </ol>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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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	EMN NCP Bulgaria	Yes	1. No 2. 3. 4. 5. No
	EMN NCP Croatia	Yes	1. No. 2. N/A 3. N/A 4. N/A 5. No.
	EMN NCP Cyprus	Yes	1. Yes. in two cases A) In pursuance of the provisions of Regulation 6(2) of the Aliens and Immigration Regulations, the Minister of Interior, having notified the Council of Ministers, has decided to issue an Immigration Permit to third country applicants, in cases of investments that meet certain requirements. B) According to a decision of the Council of Ministers, applications for single (work) permit shall be examined within 4-6 weeks (instead of 4 months), in case the applicant will be employed by a foreign-interest company (company owned at least by 51% by a TCN)/



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			<p>2. For A - The examination period of the application from the date of submission of the completed application is approximately two (2) months, while the regular procedure takes more than 12 months. In order for an applicant to be eligible, he/she must invest at least €300,000 in one of the following investment categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Investment in a house/apartment</li> <li>- Investment in real estate (excluding houses/apartments)</li> <li>- Investment in Cyprus Company's share capital, with business activities and personnel in the Republic</li> <li>- Investment in units of Cyprus Investment Organization of Collective Investments (forms of AIF, AIFLNP, RAIF)</li> </ul> <p>For B - As part of the national Strategy for Attracting Businesses for Activities or/and Expansion of their Activities in Cyprus, the examination period of the application from the date of submission of the completed application shall be between 4-6 weeks, while the regular procedure for single permit applications shall take up to 4 months. Eligible are employees of foreign-interest companies, registered in Cyprus, that meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Third country shareholders should own the majority of the company's shares.</li> <li>- The ultimate beneficial owner must invest at least € 200.000 in Cyprus, for the purposes of operating the company.</li> <li>- The establishment/ operation of independent offices in Cyprus, in suitable premises, separate from any private housing or other office, except in the case of business co-habitation.</li> </ul> <p>3. <b>No</b></p> <p>4. <b>N/A</b></p> <p>5. <b>No</b></p>
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	<p>EMN NCP Czech Republic</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. NO. In the Czech Republic, fast-tracking procedures for applicants for residence permits has only a non-legislative basis – migration programmes introduced by a government resolution. (Processing of an application within 30 days concerns only a small target-group of (a) highly qualified key personnel and top managers and their closest family members and (b) international students who are granted scholarship. No extra fees are being charged for fast-tracking).</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. N/A</p> <p>4. N/A</p> <p>5. According to the Czech migration legislation, only an intake of applications for residence permits abroad can be delegated to private service providers on the basis of a public law contract. (The company VFS Global currently operates visa centers collecting applications for single permits in several third countries where local Czech embassies do not have sufficient capacity to collect all applications themselves.) Subsequent processing of applications must be done exclusively by a state body (Ministry of the Interior).</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Estonia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. No, we do not have possibility for an accelerated or fast-track procedure. Processing the application will take up to 2 months.</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. N/A</p> <p>4. N/A</p> <p>5. No.</p>


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	<p>EMN NCP Finland</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. YES. The legal framework in Finland currently allows for an accelerated/fast-track procedure in which the application will be processed immediately after it has been submitted by the applicant (the application has to be paid before processing can start). A D visa has also been added to support the fast-track procedure. The D visa does not speed up the residence permit process itself, but allows for the applicant to travel to Finland immediately once the permit has been granted. The applicant will receive his/her residence permit card in Finland instead of waiting for it to arrive to a Mission close to his/her location. Both the fast-track residence permit procedure and the D visa are scheduled to be introduced in June 2022.</p> <p>2. In Finland, the fast-track procedure guarantees that the residence permit application will be processed within 14 days of submitting the application IF the application meets all requirements, the applicant has applied for a residence permit for the target group, the application is complete (no information/attachments are missing), the application has been paid and the applicant meets the general conditions for issuing a residence permit.</p> <p>The fast-track has several advantages compared to the normal permit procedure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The application is immediately ready to be processed once it has been submitted</li> <li>- The application can be processed before the verification of identity of the applicant</li> <li>- An external service provider can verify the identity of the applicant (and take the biometrics needed for the residence permit application)</li> <li>- After the permit has been issued, the applicant can enter Finland straight away with a D visa/visa-free and the permit card will be given in Finland</li> </ul> <p>In order for the application to be processed through the fast-track within 14 days of submitting the application, all the minimum conditions must be met. If any of the conditions are not met, the application will go through the normal procedure for processing residence permit applications.</p> <p>3. There are not additional/higher procedural fees for the use of the fast-track, but there will likely be other additional costs: To go through the fast-track the applicant must usually use the services of an external service provider (VFS) if possible. Therefore, the applicant usually pays a service fee for VFS to quickly get identified so that the Finnish Immigration Service is able to make a decision to the</p>
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			<p>application within 14 days. And if the applicant wants to apply for a D visa (optional) at the same time, there will be a separate application fee for that.</p> <p>4. VFS service fee (the amount depends on the country) and the D visa application fee (the amount has not been specified yet).</p> <p>5. In Finland, the application for a residence permit is filed with the Finnish Immigration Service. An application for a first residence permit is submitted abroad to a Finnish mission or to a mission of another Schengen State or to an external service provider, in the situation where the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland has agreed to outsource duties belonging to its mission. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland has authorized VFS Global to serve as an external service provider to receive applications for residence permits and to obtain biometric identifiers. The Finnish Immigration Service however is still responsible for processing the applications and decision making. There are relocation companies that operate in Finland, but they do not have official role in the residence permit process. Like legal counsels and representatives, relocation companies can provide aid and act as a representative of their client within the limits of the Aliens Act and Administrative Procedure Act of Finland. But their role is limited to the aforementioned and relocation companies cannot for example obtain biometric identifiers.</p>
	EMN NCP France	Yes	<p>1. No.</p> <p>France has not set up an accelerated procedure of this type (i.e procedural fees for accelerated processing times). Nevertheless, the dematerialization of residence permit applications, carried out as part of the Digital Administration for Foreign nationals in France (ANEF) project, has made it possible to accelerate the processing of applications and reduce the large number of people waiting at the prefectures for an appointment and/or to be allowed to file their application. Indeed, for certain reasons of stay (students long stay visas or residence permits, talent passports residence permits), it is no longer necessary to make an appointment at the prefecture to submit the application; the entire process is done online. In addition, prefectures are also setting up dedicated counters (in the</p>



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			<p>prefecture or online) for certain categories of applicants to speed up the processing of these applications (students, talent passports, etc.).</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. N/A</p> <p>4. N/A</p> <p>5. No.</p>
	EMN NCP Germany	Yes	<p>1. YES. There is a fast-track procedure for skilled workers (Section 81a Residence Act, available in English at: <a href="https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_aufenthg/index.html">https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_aufenthg/index.html</a>)</p> <p>2. In the case of a concrete job offer, the future employer can initiate a fast-track procedure in authority of the skilled worker. There are seven steps for the fast-track procedure:</p> <p><b>Power of attorney</b> The future employee first grants a power of attorney to the employer in Germany.</p> <p><b>Contact with the local foreigners authority</b> The future employer then initiates the fast-track procedure at the relevant foreigners authority.</p> <p><b>Conclusion of an agreement</b> The foreigners authority concludes an agreement with the employer and the fee for the procedure is charged. At this point, the employer hands over all necessary documents, including the power of attorney and proof for the professional qualifications of the future employee to the competent foreigners authority.</p>



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			<p><b>Recognition of qualifications</b> Following the conclusion of the agreement, the competent foreigners authority forwards the documents to the responsible offices in order to have the qualifications of the international worker recognised. Any additionally necessary documents are requested from the employer who then has to collect them from the skilled worker. The recognition result should be available at most two months after the submission of all necessary documents (as opposed to up to four months in procedures without fast-track).</p> <p><b>Approval of the Federal Employment Agency</b> Where necessary, the competent foreigners authority obtains the approval of the Federal Employment Agency. The approval is deemed to have been granted if the Federal Employment Agency does not communicate anything contrary within one week (as opposed to two weeks in procedures without fast-track).</p> <p><b>Preliminary approval to visa</b> If all requirements are met, the competent foreigners authority issues a preliminary approval to the visa and hands it over to the employer who can then forward it to the future employee.</p> <p><b>Visa application</b> With the preliminary approval, the skilled worker can apply for a visa at the responsible German diplomatic mission abroad. The German diplomatic mission has to schedule an appointment for the visa application within three weeks. As a rule, the decision on the application is made within three weeks.</p> <p>For an overview of the fast-track procedure for skilled workers, also see <a href="https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/fileadmin/MiiG_Unternehmen/PDFs/Unternehmen/Gezielt_rekrutieren/200714_Grafik_Fachkraefteverfahren_ENG.pdf">https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/fileadmin/MiiG_Unternehmen/PDFs/Unternehmen/Gezielt_rekrutieren/200714_Grafik_Fachkraefteverfahren_ENG.pdf</a></p> <p>3. YES, there is a fee for the fast-track procedure which is to be paid by the future employer in Germany.</p>
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			<p>4. The fee is EUR 411.</p> <p>5. As mentioned in the answer to Q 2, the relevant foreigners authority coordinates the fast-track procedure. The recognition authorities are responsible for the recognition of foreign qualifications. Furthermore, the Federal Employment Agency takes part in the procedure. There are no external service providers involved within Germany. However, some German diplomatic missions abroad work with external service providers (as defined in Art. 43 Visa Code) who support the mission with certain administrative tasks like managing application dates and collecting the personal data of the applicants.</p>
	EMN NCP Ireland	Yes	<p>1. To reside in Ireland TCNs must first present at the border (immigration permission to land). Certain categories of TCNs must apply for pre-clearance before presenting at the border. If TCNs wish to stay longer than 90 days in the State they must register their immigration permission (registration). There is a fee of €300 for registration. At that point the Irish Residence Certificate is issued which includes the conditions attached to the immigration permission. No accelerated or fast-track procedure is available at any of these stages</p> <p>2. .</p> <p>3. .</p> <p>4. .</p> <p>5. No</p>
	EMN NCP Italy	Yes	<p>1. NO</p> <p>2. N.A</p>


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			<p>3. N.A</p> <p>4. N.A</p> <p>5. There are companies that are authorized to collect personal data on behalf of immigration authorities but cannot collect biometric data.</p>
	EMN NCP Latvia	Yes	<p>1. Yes. According to the Immigration Law, if a foreigner is not entitled to stay in Latvia during the time period for examining the documents and preparing a residence permit, then the decision shall be taken within 5 or 10 working days - depending on the time that the foreigner is entitled to stay in Latvia, if a temporary residence permit is being requested and within 10 working days - if a permanent residence permit is requested. The same deadlines (5 and 10 working days) can be applied for those who only wish for their application to be examined sooner and are willing to pay increased state duty.</p> <p>2. Normally temporary residence permits' applications are examined within 30 days, counting from the day the documents are received at the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs. The EU Blue Card applications are examined within 10 working days. Accelerated procedure is available – 10 working days or 5 working days (5 working days for the EU Blue Card), but permanent residence permit – 10 working days. There are also exceptions, most notably for investors, who need additional checks – normal procedure for making the decision about issuing temporary residence permit is within 90 days, accelerated procedure – 45 days and 10 working days. The accelerated procedure for the foreigner is only applied if their residence permit is about to or already has expired, as well as if they simply wish their application to be examined sooner.</p> <p>3. Yes.</p>

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			<p>4. A fee for examination of the documents that go through the regular procedure is 100 or 70 euro, depending on the purpose of the temporary residence permit, for investors the fee is 150 euro. The accelerated procedure, having a 10 working day waiting period, has a fee of 200 euro, (300 euro for investors). The accelerated procedure that has a 5 working day waiting period has a fee of 400 euro (for investors the fee is 450 euro). For those requesting a permanent residence permit, the waiting period is 10 working days with a fee of 200 euro.</p> <p>5. No.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Lithuania</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. YES. Article 34<sup>1</sup> of the <a href="#">Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners</a> states the following: “1. At the request of a foreigner, an application for the issue or renewal of a residence permit may be examined and the document may be issued or renewed as a matter of urgency. When examining the foreigner’s application for the issue or renewal of a residence permit and issuing or renewing this document as a matter of urgency, the time limits laid down in Article 33(1) of this Law shall be halved. 2. In the cases specified in Article 40(2) of this Law, an application for the re-personalization of a temporary residence permit shall be examined at the request of a foreigner and the temporary residence permit shall be re-personalized as a matter of urgency within a period of half the time limit laid down in Article 33(3) of this Law. 3. At the request of a foreigner, an application for the renewal of a permanent residence permit may be examined and the permanent residence permit may be renewed as a matter of urgency within a period of half the time limit laid down in Article 33(2) of this Law. 4. The cases when a foreigner’s application for the issue or renewal of a residence permit is not examined as a matter of urgency shall be determined by the Minister of the Interior.” According to Article 61 of <a href="#">Order No. 1V-329 of 12 October 2005 of the Minister of the Interior Regarding the Approval of the Description of the Procedure for the Issue of Temporary Residence Permits to Foreigners in the Republic of Lithuania</a>, the foreigner’s application to issue or replace a</p>



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			<p>permit will NOT be examined as a matter of urgency under the certain circumstances, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- State institutions (the State Border Guard Service, the Police, the territorial customs office, the State Labor Inspectorate, the Security Department) inform that they will not be able to provide their assessment and respond to the query within expedited terms;</li><li>- Missing data, such as when<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o the Migration Department has not received an answer to its query regarding the fulfilment of the tax obligations and the social security contributions of the foreigner or the company that wants to hire or internally transfer the foreigner;</li><li>o the required working permit or the decision on whether the foreigner has passed the labor market test have not been recorded in the Employment Service's information system;</li><li>o State or municipal institutions, agencies or companies have not submitted the data required for the issue of the residence permit;</li></ul></li><li>- Ongoing investigations, such as when<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o an investigation or an interrogation has been initiated to check whether the marriage or registered partnership or the adoption is fictitious;</li><li>o there is an ongoing investigation whether the company headed by or employing the foreigner or the receiving company are fictitious.</li></ul></li></ul> <p>2. When examining the foreigner's application for the issue or renewal of a residence permit and issuing or renewing this document as a matter of urgency, <u>the time limits laid down in Article 33.1 of the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners are halved</u>.</p> <p>Thus, for example, while the general time limit for the examination of applications for temporary residence permits is 4 months, it becomes 2 months under the accelerated procedure.</p> <p>Examining residence permit applications as a matter of urgency is possible when the foreigner requests it and when there are no circumstances listed in Order No. 1V-329 of 12 October 2005 of the Minister of the Interior as mentioned in the answer to Q1 (i.e. no information is missing, there are no ongoing investigations, all the required documents can be obtained in time, etc.).</p>
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			<p>3. YES.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>4. procedure</th> <th>Standard procedure</th> <th>Accelerated</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Application for the issue of temporary residence permit</td> <td>€120</td> <td>€240</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Application for the re-personalization of temporary residence permit</td> <td>€30</td> <td>€60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Application for the issue of permanent residence permit</td> <td>€90</td> <td>€180</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Application for the replacement of a permanent residence permit</td> <td>€30</td> <td>€60</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>5. No.</p>	4. procedure	Standard procedure	Accelerated	Application for the issue of temporary residence permit	€120	€240	Application for the re-personalization of temporary residence permit	€30	€60	Application for the issue of permanent residence permit	€90	€180	Application for the replacement of a permanent residence permit	€30	€60
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	EMN NCP Luxembourg	Yes	<p>1. No. In Luxembourg, there are not accelerated or fast-track procedures foreseen in the amended law of 29 August 2008 on free movement of persons and immigration to treat resident permit applications.</p> <p>2. N/A.</p> <p>3. N/A. In Luxembourg, there is no fee for the treatment of the application for an authorisation of stay</p> <p>4. N/A.</p> <p>5. No.</p>															
	EMN NCP Netherlands	Yes	<p>1. Yes. For long-term visa (&gt;90 days), there exists a type of fast-track procedure involving so-called 'recognised sponsorship' since the introduction of the Modern Migration Policy Act (Wet Modern Migratiebeleid, MoMi).<sup>[1]</sup> A recognised sponsor is an organisation that is interested in the entry of a</p>															

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			<p>third-country national (i.e. migrant workers, students, exchange/ au pair, or researchers in accordance with the EU Directive 2016/801), and that is recognised as such by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (Immigratie- en Naturalisatiedienst - IND). Organisations that wish to be recognised as a sponsor must apply to the IND and fulfill a number of conditions and duties (see Q3 below for further details). If the organisation is approved by the IND, it is subsequently listed in the public register of recognised sponsors.<sup>[2]</sup> Thereafter, recognised sponsors can apply for a residence permit for third-country nationals whom they wish to employ or admit through a type of fast-track procedure.<sup>[3]</sup></p> <p>It should be noted that no fast-track procedure exists for individuals who wish to expedite their application for a long-term residence permit in return for a higher procedural fee.</p> <p>NB: For short-term visa, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs works with external companies such as <a href="#">VFS Global</a><sup>[4]</sup> or <a href="#">TLS contact</a><sup>[5]</sup> to process applications in the country of origin or stay of third-country nationals. These companies offer premium services, including a fast-track procedure in return for a higher fee. However, since this AHQ 2021.69 is concerned residence permits for stays exceeding 90 days, this will not be further elaborated upon.</p> <p><sup>[1]</sup> Parliamentary Papers II, 2013, no 165.</p> <p><sup>[2]</sup> See: Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND), Public Register Recognised Sponsors, <a href="https://ind.nl/Paginas/Openbaar-register-erkende-referenten.aspx">https://ind.nl/Paginas/Openbaar-register-erkende-referenten.aspx</a>, last accessed 1 December 2021.</p> <p><sup>[3]</sup></p> <p>Section B1/3.3.3</p> <p>.</p> <p>of the Aliens Act Implementation Guidelines (Vc) 2000.</p> <p><sup>[4]</sup> <a href="https://visaorigin.vfsglobal.com/en/nzl/en/nld">https://visaorigin.vfsglobal.com/en/nzl/en/nld</a></p> <p><sup>[5]</sup> <a href="https://nl.tlscontact.com/">https://nl.tlscontact.com/</a></p> <p>2. As mentioned in Q1 above, organisations that are recognised sponsors may file the application for a residence permit on behalf of a third-country national. Recognised sponsors may also file the application through a special digital portal (instead of only by mail), and the number of documents that must be sent to the IND is fewer than in cases where the third-country national applies personally. This is because the recognised sponsor already thoroughly checks the third-country</p>
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			<p>national and his/her relevant documentation. The IND aims to decide on applications filed by recognised sponsors within two weeks (instead of 90 days or 60 days, as in other cases).[1]</p> <p>Organisations that wish to be recognised as a sponsor by the IND must submit an application and fulfill a number of conditions (i.e. a registration in the Trade Register, the submission of a Certificate of Good Behavior (Verklaring Omtrent Gedrag - VOG), guaranteed solvability and continuity, trustworthiness of the organisation and its directors, and compliance with a Code of Conduct). In addition, there are certain specific requirements for the categories of residence permits for students, exchange or au pair, and researchers. [2]</p> <p>Furthermore, recognised sponsors have legal duties with which they must continuously comply. These are the duty of care (carefully selecting and recruiting third-country nationals and informing them of the requirements for entry and stay in the Netherlands), the duty of administration (collecting and keeping administrative documents), and the duty of information (reporting changes relating to the status of the third-country national and/or the organisation (e.g. if the organisation is moving or filing for bankruptcy).[3]</p> <p>[1]</p> <p>Section B1/3.4.1.4 of the Aliens Act Implementation Guidelines (Vc) 2000</p> <p>.</p> <p>[2] Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND), General conditions recognition as sponsor, <a href="https://ind.nl/Paginas/Algemene-voorwaarden-erkenning-als-referent.aspx">https://ind.nl/Paginas/Algemene-voorwaarden-erkenning-als-referent.aspx</a>, last accessed 1 December 2021; see also section B1/2.1 and B1/3.2 of the Aliens Act Implementation Guidelines (Vc) 2000.</p> <p>[3] Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND), 'Which duties apply to a recognised sponsor', <a href="https://ind.nl/Paginas/Animatievideo-Aan-welke-plichten-moet-een-erkend-referent-voldoen.aspx">https://ind.nl/Paginas/Animatievideo-Aan-welke-plichten-moet-een-erkend-referent-voldoen.aspx</a>, last accessed 1 December 2021.</p> <p>3. Organisations filing the application for a residence permit on behalf of a third-country national must pay a fee (leges) in order to be registered as a 'recognised sponsor' with the IND (for more details, see Q4 below).[1] The fee for applying for a residence permit in individual cases is not higher than in other cases (i.e. when the third-country national him- or herself applies for the permit).</p> <p>[1] Section B1/3.3.3 of the Aliens Act Implementation Guidelines (Vc) 2000.</p>
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			<p>4. The fee which organisations must pay to become a 'recognised sponsor' is €4125. In cases where an organisation applies for the category 'labour' and consists of 50 or less employees, the fee is €2062. In some special cases, the fee is also €2062.<sup>[1]</sup>  <sup>[1]</sup> i.e. if the organisation is already recognised as sponsor and merges with another entity, recognised as a sponsor and has been overtaken by another recognised sponsor, or if the organisation is already recognised as a sponsor, but the legal form/status of the organisation changes; see: Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND): 'Leges: costs of an application', <a href="https://ind.nl/Paginas/Kosten.aspx">https://ind.nl/Paginas/Kosten.aspx</a>, last accessed 1 December 2021.</p> <p>5. No. The IND remains responsible for processing and managing the applications for residence permits filed by recognised sponsors.<sup>[1]</sup>  <sup>[1]</sup> However, note that the recognised sponsor is the entity that checks whether the third-country national fulfills the requirements for a residence permit and collects all the necessary information. Consequently, the individual documents which have been submitted as proof are not sent to the IND, rather the IND trusts the recognised sponsor to select and check third-country nationals with due care.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Poland</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. No.                  2. N/a                  3. N/a                  4. N/a                  5. No and currently we do not have any plans for adopting such a solution.</p>

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	<p>EMN NCP Portugal</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No</li> <li>2. NA</li> <li>3. NA</li> <li>4. NA</li> <li>5. No.</li> </ol>
	<p>EMN NCP Slovakia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. There is no possibility of accelerated procedure for handling residence applications in the Slovak Republic (SR). Time limits to handle the applications are set by the law.</p> <p>The general time frame based on national legislation to decide on the application for temporary residence by the relevant foreign police department is within 90 days from the day when the complete application was received. In this regard the Act on Residence of Foreigners lists exceptions when the foreign police department takes the decision within 30 days from the day when the complete application was received. These cases are when the TCN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- is applying for temporary residence for the purpose of seasonal employment (under certain conditions),</li> <li>- is applying for temporary residence for the purpose of study</li> <li>- is applying for temporary residence for the purpose of research and development</li> <li>- is applying for temporary residence for the purpose of special activities</li> <li>- is applying for temporary residence as a person with acknowledged status of a Slovak living abroad</li> <li>- represents or works for a foreign investor in the Slovak Republic and at the same time is the citizen of the member state of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development</li> <li>- represents or works for an important foreign investor in the Slovak Republic</li> <li>- represents or works for a business services centre or a technology centre</li> </ul>


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			<p>Also in cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- from the date of receiving the confirmation on the possibility to fill in a vacancy from Labour Office in case of the foreign national who will perform employment from a shortage occupations list</li><li>- of spouse or child younger than 18 years of age of a TCN who represents or works for a foreign investor in the Slovak Republic and at the same time is the citizen of the member state of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, who represents or works for an important foreign investor in the Slovak Republic or who represents or works for a business service centre or technology centre</li><li>- temporary residence for the purpose of business in case of realization of innovative business (under certain conditions)</li><li>- applying for EU Blue Card</li></ul> <p>In case of permanent residence for 5 years the relevant foreign police department takes the decision on the application within 90 days from the reception of the complete application. The Act on Residence of Foreigners also in this case lists some exceptions when the decision is taken within 30 days from reception the application. It is the case when the permanent residence is granted in the interest of the Slovak Republic when this concerns a TCN who represents or works for an important foreign investor in the Slovak Republic or his/her child.</p> <p>The time limit to take the decision on the permanent residence for unlimited period of time is 90 days from the reception of the complete application. The exception to decide within 30 days from the reception of the complete application concerns TCN who represents or works for an important foreign investor in the Slovak Republic, his/her spouse or child.</p> <p>The long-term residence is in all cases decided by the relevant foreign police department within 90 days from the reception of the complete application.</p> <p>2. See response to question 1.</p> <p>3. No.</p>
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			<p>4. NA</p> <p>5. No.</p>
	EMN NCP Slovenia	Yes	<p>1. Yes. The Foreigners Act does not provide for accelerated procedures as such, but merely that applications for a temporary residence permit are given priority for certain purposes of residence. In accordance with Article 38(9) of the Foreigners Act the competent authorities shall give priority to applications for residence permits to researchers, higher education lecturers, higher education teachers and higher education associates. In accordance with Article 44(4) of the Foreigners Act the competent authorities shall give priority to processing applications for a temporary residence permit for study purposes.</p> <p>2. The Foreigners Act does not lay down special conditions for priority treatment, but contains only a general clause according to which all the above-mentioned applications must be given priority.</p> <p>3. No.</p> <p>4. N/A</p> <p>5. External service providers are not be used in the framework of procedures conducted by the competent authorities on the territory of the Republic of Slovenia. In 2018, Slovenian Embassy in Pristina and the Slovenian Embassy in Sarajevo started a pilot project in cooperation with external service providers regarding the collection of biometric data. Fingerprint data, which the outsourcing company collects, are sent securely to the Embassy, which forwards this data to competent authorities in Slovenia.</p>

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	EMN NCP Sweden	Yes	1. No 2. Not applicable 3. Not applicable 4. Not applicable 5. No
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