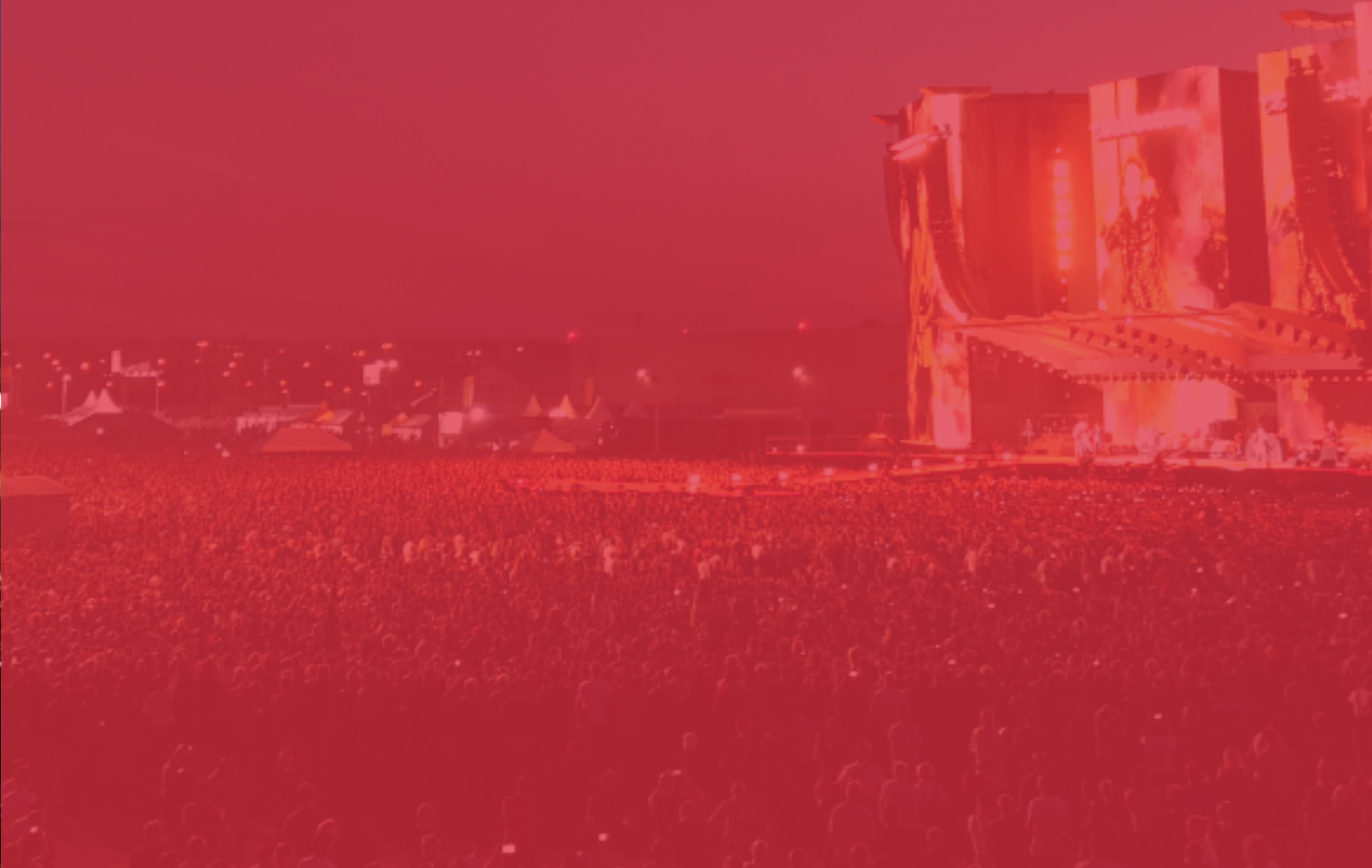


EU VISA AND WORK PERMIT GUIDE

**Touring artists,
cultural professionals
and promoters**



ULTIMATE ADVISOR FOR THIRD COUNTRY NATIONAL ARTISTS TRAVELLING TO EUROPEAN UNION

RICHARD TUCKER MUSIC FOUNDATION

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What do artists from third countries need to tour European Union countries?

If you are a performing artist, tour-manager, promoter or live performance organisation, sooner or later you might want to come and perform in Europe. Nowadays, artists and other cultural professionals are very mobile, performing abroad more often than in their country of origin. Performing abroad though, visas and other permits issues might occur. Since the establishment of Schengen Zone, and unification of legislative in European Union in the form of the Visa Code, it might be a bit easier, but some significant issue still stands.

There are organizations focused on helping the performing artists and managers to deal with visas and other problems linked to third country artists performing in Europe, such as [PEARLE*-LIVE EUROPE](#) and [Performing Arts Employers' Associations League Europe](#). Within the project EFA-RISE2 project run partly by funds from European Union, Pearle created "[The Ultimate Cookbook for cultural managers on visas for third country national artists travelling to the Schengen area](#)", a very helpful document with basic guidelines and information to understand the basics on visas and work permits for artists and other freelancers. You can also visit their website for more detailed information about the organization or about EFA-RISE projects.

ARTISTS MOBILITY INVITING ARTISTS, CULTURAL PROFESSIONALS, TOURING GROUPS, AND OTHERS FROM VISA-REQUIRED COUNTRIES TO EUROPEAN UNION

EU visa regulations: a stumbling block for performers from third countries

One of the main goals of the EU is to contribute to the flowering of the cultures of the Member States, while respecting their national and regional diversity and at the same time bringing their common cultural heritage to the fore. However, when it comes to inviting artists, cultural professionals, touring groups and others from countries requiring a visa, the cultural sector in Europe is not transparent.

The cultural organisations underline that the cultural sector in Europe desires transparent and easy application processes when inviting artists, cultural professionals, touring groups, and others from visa-required countries. A diverse cultural offer in Europe's concert halls and arenas, theatres and festivals, city events or other cultural initiatives, allows to attract audiences, generate income for the cultural and creative sectors, as well as for other economic sectors (tourism, bars, restaurants, hotels...) and public sources.

This is also the reason why on 19 December 2018 [80 organisations published a joint statement on the revision of the Visa code](#) to the European Institutions to take into consideration the specific needs of the sector to ensure for transparent and easy application processes when inviting artists, cultural professionals, touring groups, and others from visa-required countries.

The statement presents the specific issues on which it calls the European Institutions to take those into consideration. [ECOVIS](#) summarized what you need to do to organize live performance of third country artists in European Union (or Schengen Zone in general), and what the artists have to obtain to legally stay and perform in Europe, especially with regard to work permit exemptions in the following countries [Austria](#), [Bulgaria](#), [Czech Republic](#), [Estonia](#), [Finland](#), [Italy](#), [Lithuania](#), [Latvia](#), [Norway](#), [Poland](#), [Sweden](#) etc. In some aspects, our article might be focusing on some aspect in more detail than The Ultimate Cookbook, however there is no chance to cover the whole scope of information related to third country artists in European Union. In case you still have some questions after reading this article, please do not hesitate to contact our ECOVIS offices for more detailed information.

EU VISA AND RESIDING IN SCHENGEN ZONE

Residing in Schengen zone

All foreigners from third countries coming in Schengen zone need some type of visa. This rule is partially broken by the [Council Regulation \(EC\) No. 539/2001 of 15 March 2001](#), which is listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement. Those third country nationals not exempt from the visa's possession requirement, and intend to stay solely for residence purpose can obtain either short-term visa (Schengen visa) or long-term visa.

Short-term visas (Schengen visas, type C visas)

As with all visas, Schengen visas are only valid for a certain period of time. The period of validity is indicated on the visa sticker. Usually the Schengen visas are valid in ALL the 26 Schengen States. If you have obtained a multiple entry visa with a validity of at least 6 months, then you are authorised to spend 90 days in any 180-day period in the Schengen area. Schengen visas are harmonised for all the states in Schengen Zone, and the procedure to grant such visa is unified.

Long-term visas (type D visas)

Long-term visas (also called "national visas", [Czech business visa](#)), are granted solely by member states of Schengen Zone for the period exceeding 90 days. Even though it also includes a short-term visa, granting of long-term visa is governed by national legislations of member states. Long-term visa grant foreigner to reside in a member state, by which it was granted for the period stated in visa, and also entitle the foreigner to travel and reside in other states of Schengen Zone for the total period of 90 days. Long-term visas are granted on the presumption the foreigner intends to reside mainly in the state, where visas were granted.

WORK PERMITS AND EXEMPTIONS IN EU COUNTRIES

Do I need a work permit in EU countries as an artist?

If a foreigner from the third country intends to work in Schengen Zone, he is required to obtain a work permit in one of the member states of Schengen Zone; [Czech employee card](#). Without such work permit, the foreigner is working illegally and might be a subject to administrative expulsion. Such penalty might make it very difficult for the foreigner to obtain other work permit or visa in the future. But what about free occupations, such as artists, performers and other cultural professionals, working abroad all the time, staying in one place only for a short period of time?

Exceptions from work permits in EU countries exist

There are exceptions for the specific groups of people to work without work permit, if they fulfil conditions given by member states in Schengen zone.

But first of all, there is NONE unified regulation regarding those exceptions, it is solely up to member states, whether they grant such exception or not. National legislatures differ across the European Union, and it might not be easy to grasp. In many cases the key is that the performance of artist is only temporary, mostly only for a few days.

ECOVIS prepared a table of exceptions for artists including several member states of Schengen zone, where we focused mainly on activities of artists, cultural professionals and live performance organisations. As you can see in the table provided below, a number of countries have special rules for performing artists, when staying for a very short period of time. You can find our table of exceptions below.

Problems with long-term tours exceeding 90-days might occur...

If a tour is scheduled for the period exceeding 90 days, please note that the range of problems that might occur is a lot wider. While first 90 days shall be covered by the "Schengen visas" (short term C-type visas), after their expiration, additional visas will be needed. For long term D-type visas, every country within Schengen area has its own rules. While somewhere the procedure might be quick, in other states there might be further conditions to fulfil. A lot of Schengen countries need a specific "reason" for the D-type visa to be granted, such as a permanent residence (address where the foreigner is actually residing at), work contracts, business commitments or invitation from specific entities in that country. Please note, that purpose of D-type visas is not to exceed the 90 days period after the Schengen visas expire, but to provide foreigners with the possibility of working and living in the country issuing such long-term visas.

Performing without visas?

Under some circumstances, you can perform without holding a visa. You should be able to perform within the visa-free period if your country is listed as exemption of holding visa duty for crossing external borders in [Council Regulation \(EC\) No. 539/2001 of 15 March 2001](#), but you still have to remember, that a work permit is required to be managed in time, if the country does not have any exemptions for performers and artists. If your country does not provide any visa-free period in Schengen zone, you will always have to obtain a visa.

What are the consequences of overstaying in Schengen area?

There are various consequences of overstaying in Schengen area depending on the length of days you overstayed within the Schengen area. Also, the gravity of the consequences given may also depend on which Schengen country you are exiting from. Please note, that there is no unified law on penalties within member states of Schengen.

The first possible consequence for any traveler who overstays is to be charged a monetary fine. The amount of fine will depend on where you are exiting from and the number of days you have overstayed.

The next possible consequence is to be placed in the immigration hotlist. Since you have overstayed, then the immigration officers will definitely doubt your reasons for overstaying; hence will put you in the immigration hotlist. You may have difficulty renewing your Schengen visa if your name will be put on that list. You can also be banned from re-entering the Schengen area for up to 3 years directly.

The worst possible consequence is to be deported back to your country. Deportation only happens to travelers who have worked illegally or have done illegal transactions within the Schengen area. If you intend to work illegally and have been caught, expect to be deported right away with a ban of entry stamp on your passport.

How to prevent these consequences of overstaying in Schengen area?

Overstaying in Schengen zone never goes unnoticed, as every entry or departure of Schengen zone is registered by immigration authorities. If you are already overstaying in Schengen area unintentionally or for a medical reason, because of flight cancelation etc., you should seek assistance at your country's embassy or consulate in the Schengen area, where you will be asked for your reason for overstaying. You might be charged a monetary fine about 500 EUR (this might differ in every member state) if your reason is work or business, but they can provide you an amnesty and help you to leave Schengen zone without any further penalties as being placed on the immigration hotlist or being banned to re-enter Schengen area.

ECOVIS - ONE STOP SHOP FOR ARTISTS, CULTURAL PROFESSIONALS, TOUR PROMOTER AND LIVE PERFORMANCE ORGANISATIONS



How to manage a visa or work permit in Schengen countries?

Due to consequences of not having a valid visa listed above, we do highly recommend to manage your visas and work permits in sufficient lead. Visas are managed at embassies of the state, which you are planning to visit and the list of required documents should be available at webpage of the particular embassy. The work permit is handled at the appropriate migration office of the target state, which should be listed on the webpage of embassy as well.

The whole process of obtaining a visa or work permit can take up to 60 days, but we recommend managing visas or work permits at least 6 months before your planned trip begins because of obstacles that may occur during the process, especially if you are planning a tour which is longer than 90 days.

If you need assistance with obtaining visas and/or work permits, or you have additional questions on the matter, please do not hesitate to contact ECOVIS offices. In the table below, you can find the list of contact persons from ECOVIS offices in many of Schengen states, who are ready to help you and to provide you with more detailed information on this matter.

If you need more information, please contact us at any time:

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About ECOVIS ježek, advokátní kancelář s.r.o.

The Czech law office in Prague ECOVIS ježek practices mainly in the area of Czech commercial law, Czech real estate law, representation at Czech courts, administrative bodies and arbitration courts, as well as Czech finance and banking law, and provides full-fledged advice in all areas, making it a suitable alternative for clients of international law offices. The international dimension of the Czech legal services provided is ensured through past experience and through co-operation with leading legal offices in most European countries, the US, and other jurisdictions. The Czech lawyers of the ECOVIS ježek team have many years of experience from leading international law offices and tax companies, in providing legal advice to multinational corporations, large Czech companies, but also to medium-sized companies and individual clients. For more information, go to www.ecovislegal.cz/en.

EXEMPTION FOR ARTISTS AND FOR OTHER SPECIFIC PERSONS OR GROUPS OF PERSONS

**Austria
Bulgaria
Czech Republic
Estonia
Finland
Italy
Lithuania
Latvia
Norway
Poland
Sweden**



EXEMPTION FOR ARTISTS AND FOR OTHER SPECIFIC PERSONS OR GROUPS OF PERSONS

EXEMPTION FROM WORK PERMIT FOR ARTISTS

There are few exemptions from work permit for specific persons or groups of persons in Czech Republic. Exemption for artists whose performance in the Czech Republic does not exceed 7 consecutive days or 30 days in the summary per calendar year.

EXEMPTION FROM WORK PERMIT FOR OTHER SPECIFIC PERSONS OR GROUPS OF PERSONS

First specific group where is an exemption is formed of family member of a member of the diplomatic mission, embassy or family member of an employee of an international government organization based on the territory of the Czech Republic.

Foreigner who has been granted asylum or additional protection is another group.

Next wide group is formed of Pedagogue, academic or research worker participating in a scientific meeting, pupil or student under the age of 26, athlete or person supplying goods or services in the Czech Republic or supplying or performing assembly on based on a commercial contract or performing warranty and repair work, whose performance in the territory of the Czech Republic does not exceed 7 consecutive days or 30 days in the aggregate per calendar year.

Fourth group include a member of the rescue unit providing assistance under an international agreement on mutual assistance in dealing with the consequences of accidents and natural disasters and in humanitarian aid cases.

A foreigner employed in international traffic if he is sent to work in the territory of the Czech Republic by his foreign employer.

Foreigner accredited in the media is sixth group.

A member of the military or civilian personnel of the sending State Armed Forces under a special law is next group with exemption.

A foreigner who is constantly preparing for the future profession in the Czech Republic.

Ninth group formed of a foreigner who pursues systematic educational or scientific work in the Czech Republic as a teaching staff member or university graduate or scientific, research or development worker in a public research institution or other research organization.

CZECH REPUBLIC

EXEMPTION FOR ARTISTS AND FOR OTHER SPECIFIC PERSONS OR GROUPS OF PERSONS

Spirituals from the Church registered in the Czech Republic or a religious society registered in the Czech Republic.

And last group with exemption is formed of a foreigner whose work in the territory of the Czech Republic is in the interest of the Czech Republic.

SOURCE

[Section 98 letter d\) of Czech Act No. 435/2004 on employment as amended](#)

CONTACT

If you need more information, please contact us at any time:

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Managing Partner

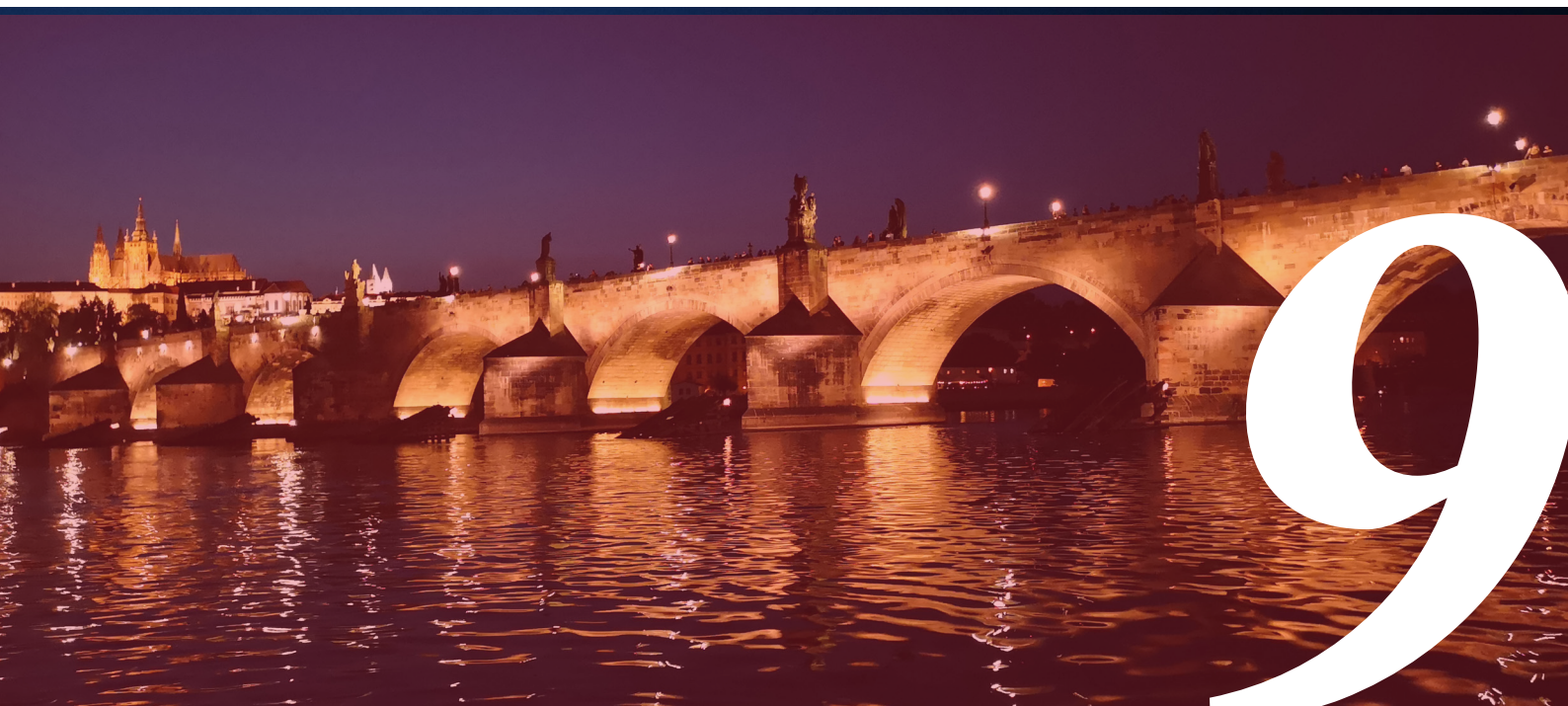
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BULGARIA

EXEMPTION FROM WORK PERMIT FOR ARTISTS AND FOR OTHER SPECIFIC PERSONS OR GROUPS OF PERSONS

EXEMPTION FROM WORK PERMIT FOR ARTISTS IN BULGARIA

There is no such exemption for performing artists in Bulgaria. The artists would have to apply for the residence and work permit issued by The Bulgarian Ministry of Interior. The process of issuing permits is easier for actors and performers if they prove their professional competence. In this case they may be employed by the Ministry of Culture. If the artist performs only temporarily (only in concert / performances, etc.) and does not conclude a contract of employment in Bulgaria, a simple residence permit (Schengen short-term or long-term visa) is sufficient.

EXEMPTION FOR OTHER SPECIFIC PERSONS OR GROUPS OF PERSONS

Lower requirements for issuing residence and work permits also apply to visiting teachers and lecturers, teachers in higher education establishments and secondary schools in Bulgaria, based on the decision of the competent authorities of the educational institutions and the regional inspectorates of the Ministry of Education and Science.

SOURCE

Labour Migration and Labour Mobility Act;
Article 74 of the Law on Copyright and Related Rights

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EXEMPTION FROM WORK PERMIT FOR ARTISTS AND FOR OTHER SPECIFIC PERSONS OR GROUPS OF PERSONS

EXEMPTION FOR ARTISTS

In Italy there are the following specific requirements for artists. A special work permit (so-called „visto d'ingresso per lavoro artistico“) is required, both for short-term and long-term stays. There are two specific situations. First situation is in the case of well-known artists or artists who are known to have a high level of professionalism and qualifications and who act as self-employed. In this first case, the so-called „visto di lavoro autonomo“ is required if the artist concludes an employment contract for a maximum of 90 days. Should the artist need to perform in Italy for a longer period, further documentations (such as self-declarations, working contract, nulla osta issued by the competent Police Headquarters) is required. In this case the artist cannot work for another employer than the one indicated in the request made by the artist for obtaining the visa. And second situation - artists performing a work performance based on agreement - may be hired for the purpose of performing under a special permit for paid work (so-called „nulla osta“) issued by the Ministry of Labor for a maximum period of 12 months. This period may be extended.

EXEMPTION FOR OTHER SPECIFIC PERSONS OR GROUPS OF PERSONS

Similar exemption applies for directors and company managers, university teachers, translators and interpreters, family collaborators, maritime workers.

SOURCE

[Article 27 m\), n\) and o\) of Legislative Decree no. 286/1998 \(„Testo Unico sull' Immigrazione“\).](#)

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POLAND

EXEMPTION FROM WORK PERMIT FOR ARTISTS AND FOR OTHER SPECIFIC PERSONS OR GROUPS OF PERSONS

EXEMPTION FROM WORK PERMIT FOR ARTISTS IN POLAND

An exemption is possible for a maximum of 30 days if the performance takes place in one year.

EXEMPTION FOR OTHER SPECIFIC PERSONS OR GROUPS OF PERSONS

1. Foreigners conducting training, taking part in professional internships, performing an advisory, supervisory or role demanding specific qualifications and skills in programs implemented as part of European Union activities,
2. Foreign language teachers,
3. Members of the armed forces or civilian staff who work in international structures soldiers located on the territory of the Republic of Poland, or who are delegated foreigners for the implementation of defense programs implemented on the basis of agreements to which the Republic of Poland is a party,
4. Permanent correspondent of foreign mass media,
5. Speakers occasional lectures, speeches or presentations about a special one scientific or artistic value,
6. Athletes performing work for an entity established on territory of the Republic of Poland in connection with sports competitions,
7. Working in connection with sports events of international importance, addressed by the appropriate international sports organization,



POLAND

EXEMPTION FOR OTHER SPECIFIC PERSONS OR GROUPS OF PERSONS

8. Clerics, members of monastery or other persons who perform work in connection with the performed function religious, in churches and religious associations and national inter-church organizations,
9. Students of full-time studies in the Republic of Poland or participants of full-time PhD studies in the Republic of Poland, students working as part of professional internships, students working as part of cooperation of public employment services and their foreign partners, university students or vocational school students in the Member States of the European Union or countries of the European Economic Area not belonging to the European Union or the Confederation Swiss,
10. Participants in cultural or educational exchanges, humanitarian or development assistance programs or students' summer work programs,
11. Graduates of Polish upper-secondary schools, full-time university studies, doctoral studies at Polish universities, at scientific institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences or research institutes,
12. Delegated by a foreign employer on the territory of the Republic of Poland to perform assembly, maintenance or repair works, delivered technologically complete devices, constructions, machines or other equipment, if the foreign employer is their producer, the receipt of ordered equipment, machines, other equipment or parts, made by the entrepreneur
13. Polish, training employees of a Polish employer who is a recipient of devices, constructions, machines or other equipment as regards its use or use, assembly and disassembly of trade fair stands, as well as care for them, if the exhibitor is a foreign employer who delegates them for this purpose,
14. Performing work for Members of the European Parliament in connection with their function.

SOURCE

[Regulation of Minister of Labour and Social Policy of April 21, 2015](#)

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LITHUANIA

EXEMPTION FROM WORK PERMIT FOR ARTISTS AND FOR OTHER SPECIFIC PERSONS OR GROUPS OF PERSONS

EXEMPTION FROM WORK PERMIT FOR ARTISTS IN LITHUANIA

The performer means an actor, singer, musician, dancer or another person who plays in, sings, reads, recites, or otherwise performs literary, artistic, folkloric works or circus acts. For the purpose of the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens of the Republic of Lithuania a “performer” shall also include a leader and conductor of an orchestra, ensemble or choir.

Moreover, the article 58 point 9 of the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens defines that the abovementioned performers shall be exempt from the obligation to obtain a work permit.

A performer who enters the Republic of Lithuania for the purpose of engaging in a performer’s activities shall be exempt from the obligation to obtain a work permit.

SOURCE

Article 58 point 9 + Article 45 point 4 of Law on the Legal Status of Aliens of the Republic of Lithuania; Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Copyright and Related Rights

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EXEMPTION FROM WORK PERMIT FOR ARTISTS AND FOR OTHER SPECIFIC PERSONS OR GROUPS OF PERSONS

EXEMPTION FROM WORK PERMIT FOR ARTISTS IN ESTONIA

A general exemption exists for employees whose work is of temporary nature and whose working time does not exceed 5 days within the period of 30 days (such foreigner might be asked to prove who is his/her employer and where is he/she paying taxes).

EXEMPTION FOR OTHER SPECIFIC PERSONS OR GROUPS OF PERSONS

The right to work of an alien who is staying temporarily in Estonia follows directly from the Aliens Act and short-term employment does not have to be registered with the Police and Border Guard Board in the following cases:

1. an alien who performs directing or supervisory functions of a legal person or a branch of a foreign company registered in Estonia throughout the duration of his or her temporary right to stay;
2. an alien who owns a visa or a residence permit issued by a competent agency of a member state of the Schengen Convention and who has the right to work in that member state if:
3. the alien's employment in Estonia is related to the establishment of an undertaking in Estonia;
4. the alien has a legal basis for staying in Estonia;
5. a journalist accredited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who has a legal basis for staying in Estonia and whose working time does not exceed 270 days during 365 consecutive days;



ESTONIA

EXEMPTION FOR OTHER SPECIFIC PERSONS OR GROUPS OF PERSONS

6. an alien whose work is of a temporary nature and whose working time does not exceed five days within the period of 30 days;

7. an alien who has the right to stay in Estonia arising from the expiry of the period of validity of the temporary residence permit.

SOURCE

[The Aliens Act](#)

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EXEMPTION FROM WORK PERMIT FOR ARTISTS AND FOR OTHER SPECIFIC PERSONS OR GROUPS OF PERSONS

EXEMPTION FROM WORK PERMIT FOR ARTISTS IN LATVIA

There might be few exemptions from work permit for specific persons or groups of persons in Latvia. Exemption for artists whose performance in Latvia does not exceed 14 days in the summary per calendar year.

SOURCE

[Latvian Immigration Act](#)

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EXEMPTION FROM WORK PERMIT FOR ARTISTS AND FOR OTHER SPECIFIC PERSONS OR GROUPS OF PERSONS

EXEMPTION FROM WORK PERMIT FOR ARTISTS IN NORWAY

An exemption exists for the period of 14 working/performing days within one year.

EXEMPTION FOR OTHER SPECIFIC PERSONS OR GROUPS OF PERSONS

1. Researchers and lecturers with at least bachelor's degree who are to work in Norway for up to three months do not need a residence permit.
2. Some employees of international companies do not need a residence permit if they are to work in Norway for up to three months if the employee is employed by an foreign branch of international company that has branch in Norway and the employee is participating in training in the Norwegian branch of the company.
3. Commercial and business travelers do not need a residence permit if they are to work in Norway for up to three months.
4. Medical practitioners do not need a residence permit if they are to work in Norway for up to three months.
5. Religious preachers do not need a residence permit if they are to work in Norway for up to three months.
6. Some professional athletes and members of their accompanying support network do not need a residence permit if they are to work in Norway for up to three months. The athlete must work as an athlete for a living and he cannot have an employer in Norway.
7. Journalists, photographers and other employees of foreign media institutions do not need a residence permit if they are to work in Norway for up to three months.
8. In some cases, personnel on aircrafts, staff on foreign trains, busses or trucks in international traffic do not need a residence permit, if they are working on flights into and out of Norway.

NORWAY

EXEMPTION FOR OTHER SPECIFIC PERSONS OR GROUPS OF PERSONS

9. Tour guides accompanying foreign travel companies do not need a residence permit if they are to work in Norway for up to three months.

SOURCE

[Regulations of 15 October 2009 on the entry of foreign nationals into the Kingdom of Norway and their stay in the realm \(immigration regulations\)](#)

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EXEMPTION FROM WORK PERMIT FOR ARTISTS AND FOR OTHER SPECIFIC PERSONS OR GROUPS OF PERSONS

EXEMPTION FROM WORK PERMIT FOR ARTISTS IN SWEDEN

An exemption exists for the period of 14 performing days within one year, but invitation from the established arranger is obligatory.

EXEMPTION FOR OTHER SPECIFIC PERSONS OR GROUPS OF PERSONS

1. Specialists in an international corporation who work temporarily in Sweden for the corporation for a total of less than one year. The exception does not apply to specialists who are subject to the ICT regulations. This means that specialists residing outside the EU are exempted from the work permit requirement if they work in Sweden for less than 90 days.

2. Employees who participate in practical experience, internal training or other skills development at a company in an international group for up to three months altogether over the period of 12 months.

3. People who participate in training, testing, preparation or completion of deliveries, or similar activities within the framework of a business transaction for up to three months altogether over the period of 12 months.

4. Diplomats and consular officials, as well as their families and staff. The exemption generally applies to the current mission only.

5. Fitters or technical instructors in connection with urgent installation or repair of machinery for up to two months. The work must be an emergency – in other words, an unexpected event that requires immediate measures. Scheduled or foreseeable work does not qualify for the exemption.

6. Swedish Migration Agency People who have a temporary gig for a radio or television broadcast by Sveriges Radio AB, Sveriges Television AB, Sveriges Utbildningsradio AB or Nordisk Television AB (TV4-gruppen/TV4 AB) for up to one month after entering Sweden.

7. Professional athletes and functionaries who participate in international competitions for up to three months over the period of 12 months.

8. Railway personnel and lorry drivers in international commercial traffic who are employed outside Sweden. Drivers and staff of tourist buses for up to three months.

9. Representatives who work temporarily as salespeople, journalists, etc., for a company that does not have a branch or office in Sweden.

10. Caregivers employed for a person who is visiting Sweden for up to three months.

EXEMPTION FROM WORK PERMIT FOR ARTISTS IN SWEDEN

11. Visiting research fellows or teachers at higher education institutions who participate in research, teaching or lecturing activities for up to three months altogether over the period of 12 months.

12. People who work temporarily in Sweden as a contractor or the equivalent. In order for the exception to be applicable, the person must live in an EU/EEA country or Switzerland without being a citizen there, and have a permit that entitles him/her to work and reside in that country. It is also required that the person is employed by a company in the country in question and will work temporarily in Sweden for the company. The exception applies during the period of temporary work.

13. Witnesses or plaintiffs in a criminal investigation who have obtained a residence permit as a result.

14. For the period of deployment for a person who is part of an aid effort for a disaster or accident in Sweden.

SOURCE

[Swedish Migration Agency - Exemptions from the work permit requirements](#)
[Swedish Migration Agency - Work permits for performers](#)

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FINLAND

EXEMPTION FROM WORK PERMIT FOR ARTISTS AND FOR OTHER SPECIFIC PERSONS OR GROUPS OF PERSONS

EXEMPTION FROM WORK PERMIT FOR ARTISTS IN FINLAND

An exemption exists for the period of 90 days, but only in case the artist has been invited or has a contract of employment in Finland.

EXEMPTION FOR OTHER SPECIFIC PERSONS OR GROUPS OF PERSONS

You do not need a residence permit for an employed person or any other residence permit if you have been invited to work in Finland or you have signed a contract to work in Finland and you will work for a maximum of 90 days if you work as:

- 1) an interpreter, a teacher, a specialist or a sports judge or referee
- 2) a professional artist, coach or athlete, or a member of an assistance or support team for such a person
- 3) researcher and you come to Finland on the basis of a hosting agreement, made in another Member State in accordance with the Researchers' Directive, to carry out a scientific research project as defined in said directive.
- 4) product demonstrator or a film worker and your employer does not have an office in Finland.

SOURCE

[Finnish Migration Service - Right to work without a work permit](#)

CONTACT

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AUSTRIA

EXEMPTION FROM WORK PERMIT FOR ARTISTS AND FOR OTHER SPECIFIC PERSONS OR GROUPS OF PERSONS IN AUSTRIA

EXEMPTION FROM WORK PERMIT FOR ARTISTS IN AUSTRIA

For artists in Austria is exemption under the Section 3 Paragraph 4 of the Act on the Employment of Foreign Nationals, for one day or up to four weeks. The performance like theater play, film production or circus includes four weeks time period without needing employment permit for all members with respect to preparatory work. In these cases, the employment of foreign artists must be informally notified by the organizer or producer to the responsible local employment office (AMS). Irrespective of this, it should be clarified before entering the country with the responsible Austrian Embassy whether and for which persons a visa is required.

Artistic activity up to 6 months

If the stay for performance is longer but doesn't exceeds 6 months, artists need an employment permit and visa D. If you are not allowed to visa-free-entry you need to apply for a certificate of assurance too. For visa-free-entry artists employment permit is sufficient. Applications must be sent to competent AMS. The visa is issued on the basis of a positive security certificate or employment permit. In the first case from Austrian embassy abroad (it does not have to be the country of origin), in the second case by the foreign police department in the country.



Artistic activity over 6 months

Artists who intend to stay in Austria longer than 6 months must have a residence permit from local competent authority (Immigration service centre). The residence permit already includes the work permit. The Employment Office verifies and checks the conditions of application under the Act on the Employment of Foreign Nationals. This applies above all to the remuneration offered, which may not be lower than that of domestic artists in the same sector. If the application is rejected you lodge the office a complaint. The Employment Office does not examine the artistic achievements or the quality of the performance but focus on the type of employment. Unfortunately "art" is not defined in the Act on the Employment of Foreign Nationals. We can find there only examples of artistic activities such as acting, music, dance, painting etc.

SOURCE

[AUSLÄNDISCHE KÜNSTLERINNEN UND KÜNSTLER, ArbeitsmarktService, Stand 01/2018](#)

[Artist Mobility - Information zur Einreise, Aufenthalt und Erwerbstätigkeit ausländischer Künstlerinnen und Künstler in Österreich](#)

CONTACT

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