



## Amendment to the Civil Registry Laws 2002 – 2023

### Revision of the requirements for the obtainment of the citizenship of the Republic of Cyprus

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2023, the House of Representatives approved a proposal of law to revise the criteria for granting the Cyprus Citizenship to non-Cypriots, under the provisions of the Civil Registry Laws 2002 – 2023 (hereinafter the “Law”).

The revision of the Law was driven by the necessity to streamline the existing framework by amending certain provisions and associated requirements, and by reinforcing the safeguards in place, correcting, in that way, inadequacies that were identified in the past.

The changes were implemented by the publication of the Law in the official Gazette of the Republic of Cyprus on the 19th of December 2023.

#### Amendments to the Law

The applicant is required to:

- a) have completed at least 7 years of legal, physical presence in the Republic of Cyprus, within a period of 10 years prior to the submission of the application to the competent Governmental Authority; and
- b) *[having completed requirement ‘a’]*, have a continuous and legal stay in the Republic of Cyprus for a period of 12 months prior to the submission of the application. It is important to note that periods of absence of up to 90 days, do not disrupt the said 12-month period; and
- c) be of good character; and

- d) have a certificate of knowledge of the Greek language (Level B1), obtained through written examinations to be set by the responsible Governmental Authority; and
- e) have basic knowledge of the social and political status of the Republic of Cyprus, to be proven through written examinations to be set by the responsible Governmental Authority; and
- f) have a place of residence in the Republic of Cyprus, and steady and sufficient financial means to support themselves stay in the Republic of Cyprus; and
- g) have the intention to reside in the Republic of Cyprus.

It is important to advise that, any periods of stay in the Republic of Cyprus as a student, applicant or holder of international protection, or holder of subsidiary or temporary protection, are not taken into account towards the accumulation of the required number of years.

### Highly Skilled Employees

Moreover, it is noteworthy that special provisions were introduced for high skilled employees of companies listed in the decision of the Council of Ministers with no. 92.018 dated 15/10/2021 and includes the following:

- Companies of foreign interests, duly registered and operating from the Republic of Cyprus, with suitable office spaces
- Cypriot shipping companies
- Cypriot high-tech / innovation companies, related to the aerospace industry, computers, information technology and communication, pharmaceuticals, biomedical equipment, research and development equipment, electrical machinery, chemicals, non-electrical machinery
- Cypriot pharmaceutical companies, or Cypriot companies active in the fields of biogenetics and biotechnology
- Companies admitted in the registry of Companies of Foreign Interests, as held at the Civil Registry and Migration Department

‘High Skilled Employees’ are considered the following individuals:

- Individuals, holding a temporary residence permit, as employees of a company registered in the registry of Companies of Foreign Interests, as held at the Civil Registry and Migration Department, employed as ‘Directors’, ‘Specialists’ or ‘Key personnel’.
- Individuals, holding any type of immigration status in Cyprus, provided that they are remunerated with a minimum of €2,500 monthly gross, holding a position justified by their academic qualifications, or past employment experience.

Furthermore, applicants who would be applying under the said special provisions should:

- a) at the time of the submission of the application and at the time of the examination of the application must be an employee of a company that is mentioned above; and
- b) have completed at least 4 years of legal, physical presence in the Republic of Cyprus, within a period of 10 years prior to the submission of the application to the competent Governmental Authority. Periods of absence of up to 90 days per year do not disrupt the period of stay in the Republic of Cyprus and count towards the accumulation of the required number of years; and
- c) *[having completed requirement ‘b)’]*, have a continuous and legal stay in the Republic of Cyprus for a period of 12 months prior to the submission of the application. It is important to note that periods of absence of up

- to 90 days, do not disrupt the said 12-month period and can be counted towards the total; and
- d) have a certificate of knowledge of the Greek language (Level A2), obtained through written examinations to be set by the responsible Governmental Authority; and
- e) have basic knowledge of the social and political status of the Republic of Cyprus, to be proven via a process to be implemented by the competent Governmental Authority; and
- f) be of good character; and
- g) have a place of residence in the Republic of Cyprus, and steady and sufficient financial means to support themselves stay in the Republic of Cyprus; and
- h) have the intention to reside in the Republic of Cyprus.

OR

- a) at the time of the submission of the application and at the time of the examination of the application must be an employee of a company that is mentioned above; and
- b) have completed at least 3 years of legal, physical presence in the Republic of Cyprus, within a period of 10 years prior to the submission of the application to the competent Governmental Authority. Periods of absence of up to 90 days per year do not disrupt the period of stay in the Republic of Cyprus and count towards the accumulation of the required number of years; and
- c) *[having completed requirement 'b)']*, have a continuous and legal stay in the Republic of Cyprus for a period of 12 months prior to the submission of the application. It is important to note that periods of absence of up to 90 days, do not disrupt the said 12-month period and can be counted towards the total; and
- d) have a certificate of knowledge of the Greek language (Level B1), obtained through written examinations to be set by the responsible Governmental Authority; and
- e) have basic knowledge of the social and political status of the Republic of Cyprus, to be proven via a process to be implemented by the competent Governmental Authority; and
- f) be of good character; and
- g) have a place of residence in the Republic of Cyprus, and steady and sufficient financial means to support themselves stay in the Republic of Cyprus; and
- h) have the intention to reside in the Republic of Cyprus.

Spouses / civil partners of the applicants can also apply under the same conditions applicable to high skilled employees. The spouse's / civil partner's application may be submitted simultaneously with the submission of the application of the high skilled employee.

As the Law has been introduced just recently, further clarifications are expected, which would address any areas of ambiguity.

Kind regards,

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**Get in touch**



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