

Cyprus: Remote Work Visa Introduced

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Country



At a Glance

- Foreign nationals (either self-employed or working for an employer who is abroad) seeking to work remotely in Cyprus can now apply for a Remote Work Visa, valid for up to one year, and renewable for an additional two years.
- Applicants must earn at least EUR 3,500 per month, either from employment or from client service.
- This new category provides an immigration pathway for remote workers, which was previously not available.

The situation

Foreign nationals (either self-employed or working for an employer who is abroad) seeking to work remotely in Cyprus can now apply for a Remote Work Visa.

A closer look

- **Validity.** The visa is valid for up to one year, and renewable for an additional two years.
- **Other criteria.** Applicants must have health insurance; a clean criminal record; and access to EUR 3,500 per month, either from employment or from client service, with an additional 20% increase in case of an accompanying spouse and 15% increase for each dependent child (i.e., a family of four would require EUR 5,250 per month).
- **Dependents.** Dependents are eligible for dependent visa status but would not be authorized to work or engage in economic activity.

Impact

This new category provides an immigration pathway for remote workers, which was previously not available.

Background

- **Continuing trend.** Although digital nomad visas and permits are not being introduced as rapidly as when the trend first started, we still see such tailored digital nomad statuses being introduced over the past months, with more in the pipeline in Europe and other regions.
- **Remote work visa warning.** In countries where remote work is unregulated, workers and employers may unknowingly put themselves at risk of noncompliance with many aspects of the law, exposing them to possible fines or other penalties, depending on the country. Importantly, noncompliance with regulations could result in employers losing their rights to hire foreign labor. Additionally, this type of work arrangement may have employment or tax law impacts. It will become increasingly important as such policies are developed (and in many countries where remote work is unregulated) for employers to analyze strategies and assess risks associated with implementing and/or continuing remote work policies with a trusted immigration partner.

Looking ahead

Remote work and non-traditional non-sponsored statuses remain of high interest to corporate and public stakeholders globally. As the pandemic continues to impact mobility worldwide, countries continue to seek innovative measures to boost post-COVID-19 economic remobilization. Additionally, as the remote work trends continue at a slower pace, governments want to keep up with the competition for sought-after talent by introducing remote work policies in line with neighboring states. Fragomen will report on related developments.

This alert is for informational purposes only. If you have any questions, please contact the global immigration professional with whom you work at Fragomen or send an email to emea@fragomen.com.