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Ad-Hoc Query on 2024.25 Conditions for acquiring citizenship by naturalisation

Requested by EMN NCP Czech Republic on 11 April 2024

Compilation produced on 3 June 2024

Responses from EMN NCP Austria, EMN NCP Belgium, EMN NCP Bulgaria, EMN NCP Croatia, EMN NCP Cyprus, EMN NCP Czech Republic, EMN NCP Estonia, EMN NCP Finland, EMN NCP France, EMN NCP Germany, EMN NCP Hungary, EMN NCP Ireland, EMN NCP Italy, EMN NCP Latvia, EMN NCP Lithuania, EMN NCP Luxembourg, EMN NCP Netherlands, EMN NCP Poland, EMN NCP Portugal, EMN NCP Slovakia, EMN NCP Slovenia, EMN NCP Spain (22 in Total)

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## 1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In connection with the findings of the current decision-making practice and also in connection with the rapid increase in the number of applicants for Czech citizenship in recent years, the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic is considering a revision of some of the conditions for granting citizenship in the future. For this reason, the Ministry of the Interior would like to gain knowledge about the conditions for granting citizenship in other EU Member States.

The issue of acquiring and losing state citizenship is regulated in the Czech Republic by the Act on Acquiring and Losing Citizenship of the Czech Republic, which came into force on 1 January 2014. The Act has significantly changed the conditions for granting citizenship, for example, allowing the possibility of dual or multiple citizenship, etc. During the period of its validity, the Act has not been amended in terms of the conditions for naturalisation.

To be granted citizenship of the Czech Republic, the applicant must be integrated into the Czech society. Further, the applicant must not represent a security threat to the Czech Republic, must fulfil the condition of permanent residence and the existence of actual residence in the Czech Republic for the required lengths of time and the condition of impunity in the Czech Republic or other countries. Moreover, the applicant must prove sufficient knowledge of the Czech language as well as knowledge of the constitutional system of the Czech Republic and orientation in the cultural, social, geographical and historical realities of the country. The condition of compliance with the applicant's civic obligations within a certain period (e.g. public health insurance, social security, etc.) and the condition of transparent proof of the amount and sources of income over a certain period, and the condition of no unjustified burden on the social system of the Czech Republic must be also met.

This ad-hoc query is meant to update the study on Pathways to citizenship for third-country nationals in the EU from 2020 and to build on several ad-hoc queries that were asked recently.

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**We would like to ask the following questions:**

- 1. Does your country require the applicant to lose his/her previous citizenship in connection with naturalisation? If NO, does this apply generally to all naturalised persons or are there any exceptions (e.g. depending on the naturalised person's previous nationality)?**
- 2. What length of permanent residence is usually required by the legislation of your country for each group of applicants for naturalisation?**
- 3. Does your country require for the naturalisation any proof of language knowledge in the form of an exam? If YES, at what level according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)? If NO, please indicate in what form (if any) language knowledge is required in your country for naturalisation purposes.**
- 4. Does your country require proof of the applicant's income or at least proof of work integration (e.g. employment contracts, proof of business activity, etc.) as part of the naturalisation process? If YES, please provide details on this condition, including the length of the period considered.**
- 5. Are there any rules in your country (local or temporal) setting a maximum number of applications for citizenship?**
- 6. What is the administrative fee in your Member State for applying for or being granted citizenship?**


We would very much appreciate your responses by **3 May 2024**.

## **2. RESPONSES**

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		<b>Wider Dissemination</b> <sup>2</sup>	
	<b>EMN NCP Austria</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. Yes. One of the principles underlying Austrian citizenship law is the avoidance of multiple citizenships. With a few exceptions, Austrian citizenship law therefore does not permit dual or multiple nationalities. The principle is expressed above all in the requirement for granting citizenship in Art. 10 para 3 of the Citizenship Act 1985. According to this, citizenship may not be granted to foreign nationals if they fail to take the necessary steps to leave their previous nationality, even though it is possible and reasonable for them to do so, or if they intentionally obtain the retention of their previous citizenship on the basis of their application or by other means.</p> <p>In order to make it possible or easier for persons applying for citizenship to leave their previous nationality, Art. 20 para 1 of the Citizenship Act initially provides for the assurance of conferral. This assurance establishes the legal entitlement of the foreign person to the conferral of citizenship, which is now only dependent on proof of their relinquishing their previous nationality. Proof of relinquishment must be provided within two years; subsequently Austrian citizenship must be granted (Art. 20 para 3</p>

<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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		<p>subpara 1 of the Citizenship Act; see Stiller, 2019, p. 71). The provincial governments are responsible for assessing whether it is possible and reasonable for the person applying for citizenship to leave the previous nationality (Art. 10 para 3 of the Citizenship Act). Accordingly, citizenship is also to be granted after assurance if a person proves that it is not possible or not reasonable for him/her to take the actions required to leave the previous State. This includes, for example, cases in which the legal system of the foreign State does not provide for the relinquishment of a person from that State. See also Stiller, 2019, p. 71.</p> <p>There is also the possibility of conferral (without prior assurance) combined with the obligation to leave the previous nationality. In addition, when in the special interests of the Republic of Austria citizenship is conferred upon an individual (Art. 10 para 6 Citizenship Act 1985), that person is not required to relinquish previous nationality.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>In the majority of cases, acquiring citizenship requires a period of several years of uninterrupted residence in Austria. The minimum residence period required depends on the specific basis for acquisition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Six years:</b> this period applies, for example, to individuals whose spouses are Austrian citizens and who meet other requirements (Art. 11a para 1 Citizenship Act 1985).</li> <li>• <b>10 years:</b> Art. 10 para 1 subpara 1 of the Citizenship Act 1985 requires foreigners to have had a period of lawful and uninterrupted residence in Austria of this length, and to have had settlement status for at least five of these years. Art. 10 is the main provision of the Citizenship Act 1985 and serves as the basis for acquiring citizenship in cases where no special provisions apply.</li> <li>• <b>10 years:</b> Under Art. 11a para 7 of the Citizenship Act 1985, individuals granted asylum status must have resided in Austria for at least 10 years. Such individuals do not require to have had the settlement status that Art. 10 para 1 subpara 1 of the Citizenship Act 1985 generally requires for those seeking Austrian citizenship. This means that persons granted asylum as referred to in</li> </ul>
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		<p>Art. 11a para 7 of the Citizenship Act 1985 have to provide evidence only of 10 years of uninterrupted and lawful residence but not settlement in Austria.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>15 years:</b> this period applies, for example, to individuals who have not become foreigners due to giving up their citizenship or having had it revoked, who have resided lawfully and continuously within the territory of Austria for the required period, and who are able to provide evidence of sustained integration in their personal and professional lives (Art. 12 para 1 subpara 1 (b) Citizenship Act 1985).</li> <li>• <b>30 years:</b> this period applies to individuals who have not become foreigners due to giving up their citizenship or having had it revoked, and who have been principally and continuously resident within the territory of Austria for the required period (Art. 12 para 1 subpara 1 (a) Citizenship Act 1985).</li> </ul> <p>These minimum periods of uninterrupted residence or principal residence are to be assessed as of the date of the competent authority's decision and thus must immediately precede the decision. The individual seeking to acquire Austrian citizenship must have been physically resident in Austria for the minimum period required by law. The mere presentation of a residence permit covering the period of time required is not sufficient.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>Yes. Art. 10a para 1 of the Citizenship Act 1985 requires evidence of adequate proficiency in German in accordance with Art. 7 para 2 subpara 2 of the Integration Act as a prerequisite for granting citizenship in all cases. Specifically, a level of proficiency in the German language is required that allows independent use of the language at the B1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.</p> <p>If citizenship is being sought in accordance with Art. 11a para 6 of the Citizenship Act 1985, a higher level of language proficiency is required. B2-level German proficiency is required in such cases: in return, the minimum residence period is then reduced to six years.</p>
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			<p>4.</p> <p>Yes. Citizenship may only be granted to a foreign person if their livelihood is sufficiently secured or if the foreign person cannot permanently or sufficiently secure their livelihood for actual reasons for which they are not responsible (disability or permanent serious illness).</p> <p>The person's means of subsistence is deemed to be sufficiently secured if fixed and regular own income from earnings, revenue, statutory maintenance claims or insurance benefits in the amount of the reference rates of Art. 293 of the General Social Insurance Act can be proven at the time of the decision on an average of 36 months from the last 6 years prior to the time of the application, whereby the last six months claimed must be immediately prior to the time of the application.</p> <p>However, fixed and regular own income is reduced by regular expenses such as rent and loan charges, garnishments and maintenance support to third parties who do not live in the same household. A one-off lump sum of currently around EUR 309.93 (as of 2022) for the above-mentioned expenses is not taken into account. Only those expenses that exceed EUR 309.93 reduce the income.</p> <p>The reference rates (as of 2024) according to Art. 293 General Social Insurance Act are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• for a single person: EUR 1,110.26</li><li>• for married couples/registered partners in a joint household: EUR 1,751.56;</li><li>• for each additional child: EUR 171.31.</li></ul> <p>The following documents are typically used as evidence of a secure means of subsistence: payslips, pay confirmation letters, employment agreements, preliminary agreements relating to employment matters, confirmations of pension or other insurance payments, evidence of childcare benefit receipts, or evidence that the applicant has sufficient assets (Art. 2 para 1 subpara 5 Citizenship Regulation).</p> <p>5.</p> <p>No.</p>
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		<p>6.</p> <p>The provincial administrative fees charged for conferral of citizenship vary from province to province. The range is the narrowest in Vienna, with the maximum fee, set at EUR 300, much lower than in any other province. Styria, is the province with the widest range of fees and the highest potential fee charged, at EUR 1,357.</p> <p>The federal fees due in such cases are uniform for all of Austria. The application fee is EUR 125.60. An additional federal fee is payable on conferral of citizenship, ranging between EUR 247.90 and EUR 1,115.30 depending on the basis of conferral.</p>
<p><b>EMN NCP Belgium</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p>1.</p> <p><u>Preliminary note:</u> In Belgium, there are two paths to acquire Belgian citizenship as an adult (over 18):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through the “declaration of acquisition”, laid out in Article 12bis of the Belgian Nationality Code. This is the main path to acquire citizenship.</li> <li>• Through “naturalisation”, laid out in Article 19 of the Belgian Nationality Code. This is a very specific and rarely used procedure, which requires the demonstration of extraordinary merits to Belgium in the scientific, sports, or socio-cultural field, and the possibility to thereby make a special contribution to the international reputation of Belgium; or being stateless (Article 19 Belgian Nationality Code).</li> </ul> <p>In Belgium, the term “naturalisation” refers to the latter procedure. However, it is the first procedure (“declaration of citizenship”) that is the main path to acquire citizenship and is therefore the most relevant for this query. For the sake of comprehensiveness, the questions in this AHQ will be answered based on both procedures.</p> <p>Regardless of the procedure used, there is no requirement to lose previous citizenship to acquire Belgian citizenship, as Belgium allows dual citizenship. It is the legislation of the country of the person’s previous nationality that determines whether the applicant for Belgian citizenship can also keep their previous nationality.</p>

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		<p>2.</p> <p><u>In the case of “declaration of acquisition”</u>, the minimum length of residence required is <b>5 years</b>. After 5 years of legal residence in Belgium, applicants can obtain Belgian citizenship if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They fulfil the requirements related to economic participation, social integration and linguistic integration; or</li> <li>• They fulfil the requirements related to social integration and linguistic integration, if they are married to a Belgian citizen and they lived together in Belgium for at least 3 years; or</li> <li>• They fulfil the requirements related to social integration and linguistic integration, if they are the parent of a Belgian minor; or</li> <li>• Due to disability or invalidity, they cannot engage in employment or economic activity, or are entitled to a pension.</li> </ul> <p>After <b>10 years</b> of legal residence in Belgium, applicants can obtain citizenship if they fulfil the requirements related to linguistic integration and integration in the host community. Applicants who were born in Belgium and lived in Belgium <b>since their birth</b> do not need to fulfill any additional requirement.</p> <p><u>In the case of naturalisation</u>, there is <b>no minimum length of residence</b> in Belgium if applicants fulfil the requirements for naturalisation (demonstrate extraordinary merits to Belgium in the scientific, sports, or socio-cultural field, and the possibility to make a special contribution to the international reputation of Belgium). Applicants for naturalisation on the basis of statelessness must have resided in Belgium legally for at least <b>two years</b>.</p> <p>In general, the minimum length of residence is calculated on the basis of <b>uninterrupted</b> legal residence: the applicant cannot have been absent from the territory either for more than 6 consecutive months or for a total duration exceeding one-fifth of the duration required by the procedure (which is 1 year for procedures lasting 5 years and 2 years for procedures lasting 10 years). In addition, at the moment of application, the applicant must be entitled to <b>unlimited</b> stay (permanent residence).</p>
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3.

In the case of “declaration of acquisition”: yes, for most categories of applicants. The criterion of linguistic integration applies to all persons over 18 years old born abroad wishing to acquire Belgian citizenship by declaration, except if (i) they have a recognised disability or handicap or have reached the age of retirement, or (ii) if they were born in Belgium and have lived there legally since their birth (see Q2). All other applicants must demonstrate at least **level A2** of the CEFR for one of the official languages of Belgium (Dutch, French, or German).

For those applicants that also must provide **proof of social integration** (see Q2), the latter evidence will in many cases also be able to serve as evidence for linguistic integration. Thus, a vocational training certificate, educational diploma, or education course, can be accepted as proof of linguistic proficiency. Those applicants that do not need to prove social integration can prove their linguistic proficiency (also at least level A2 CEFR) on the basis of an **exam** organized by the regional services for employment mediation and vocational training or an institution established, recognized, or subsidized by a Belgian community. The evidence of linguistic integration is regulated by Article 1 of the Royal decree implementing the law of 4 December 2012 amending the Belgian Nationality Code in order to make the acquisition of Belgian nationality migration-neutral.


In the case of naturalisation, there is no linguistic requirement.

4.

In the case of “declaration of acquisition”: yes, for some categories of applicants. Proof of economic participation is required for all persons over 18 years old born abroad wishing to acquire Belgian citizenship by declaration, except (i) if they are married to a Belgian citizen and have lived together in Belgium for at least three years, (ii) if they are the parent of a Belgian minor, (iii) if they have a recognised disability or handicap or have reached the age of retirement, or (iv) if they were born in Belgium and have lived there legally since their birth (see Q2).

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			<p>All other applicants must prove economic participation, either by showing that (i) they have been active as an <b>employee</b> and/or as a <b>statutory</b> appointed in public service for a minimum of 468 workdays during the past five years, or (ii) within the framework of a <b>self-employed</b> professional activity as a main occupation, they have paid the due quarterly social contributions for self-employed individuals in Belgium for at least six quarters in the past five years.</p> <p><u>In the case of naturalisation</u>, there is no requirement of economic participation.</p> <p>5. No.</p> <p>6. The non-refundable registration fee both for acquisition by declaration and for naturalisation amounts to <b>€150</b>. The re-acquisition of Belgian citizenship (acquiring it again after having lost it) is free. In 2019, a legislative proposal was introduced in Parliament to increase the fee from €150 to €1250. As of April 2024, this proposal is still pending in Parliament.</p>
	EMN NCP Bulgaria	Yes	<p>1. In view of the requirement specified in Art. 12, para. 1, item 6 of the Law on Bulgarian Citizenship (LBC), persons who apply for Bulgarian citizenship on the basis of general naturalisation should give up their previous citizenship after their application for acquiring Bulgarian citizenship is approved at a meeting of the Council on Citizenship at the Ministry of Justice.</p> <p>According to Art. 12, para. 2 of the Law on Bulgarian Citizenship, it is not required to give up previous citizenship for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. persons who are spouses of Bulgarian citizens;</li> <li>2. citizens of EU Member States, a state - party to the Agreement on the European Economic Area or the Swiss Confederation;</li> </ol>

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		<p>3. citizens of countries with which Bulgaria has signed agreements establishing reciprocity. Persons who apply for naturalisation on any of these other legal grounds are not required to give up their previous citizenship, namely: Art. 13 (marriage to a Bulgarian citizen), Art. 13a (received refugee or asylum status, or humanitarian status), Art. 14 (stateless persons), Art. 15 (persons with Bulgarian origin or adopted by a Bulgarian citizen under the conditions of full adoption, or with a Bulgarian parent), Art. 16 of the LBC (if Bulgaria is interested in their naturalisation or if they have special merits to Bulgaria).</p> <p>2. According to Art. 12, para. 1, item 2 of the Law on Bulgarian Citizenship, persons who apply for Bulgarian citizenship on the basis of general naturalisation must have received a permanent or long-term residence permit in Bulgaria no less than 5 years before the date of applying for naturalisation. When implementing the conditions of Art. 13 (marriage to a Bulgarian citizen) of the Law on Bulgarian Citizenship, persons who are not a Bulgarian citizen, having no less than 3 years of marriage and continuing to be legally married to a Bulgarian citizen, may acquire Bulgarian citizenship if they have received a permanent or long-term residence permit in Bulgaria at least 3 years before the date of submitting the application for naturalisation. Art. 14 of the LBC provides for that a stateless person who wishes to become naturalised must also have received a permanent or long-term residence permit in Bulgaria no less than 3 years before the date of submitting the application for naturalisation. According to Art. 13a of the LBC, persons who have received a refugee or asylum status no less than 3 years before the date of submitting the application for naturalisation, as well as persons who have received humanitarian status no less than 5 years before the date of submitting the application for naturalisation, can acquire Bulgarian citizenship by naturalisation if they meet the conditions of Art. 12, para. 1, items 1, 3, 4, and 5 of the LBC. Persons who apply for naturalisation on any of these other legal grounds are not required to reside in Bulgaria, namely: Art. 15 (with Bulgarian origin or adopted by a Bulgarian citizen under the conditions of</p>
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		<p>full adoption or with a Bulgarian parent), Art. 16 of the LBC (if Bulgaria is interested in their naturalisation or if they have special merits to Bulgaria).</p> <p>3. Persons who apply for Bulgarian citizenship on any of the following grounds: common naturalisation, marriage to a Bulgarian citizen, stateless persons, with refugee status or with humanitarian status, should present a document proving command in Bulgarian language in accordance with the requirements of the national law. Persons who apply for naturalisation on one of these other legal grounds, namely: Art. 15 (with Bulgarian origin or adopted by a Bulgarian citizen under the conditions of full adoption, or with a Bulgarian parent), Art. 16 of the LBC (if Bulgaria is interested in their naturalisation or if they have special merits to Bulgaria), are not required to have a command in Bulgarian language.</p> <p>4. According to Art. 12, para. 1, item 4 of the Law on Bulgarian Citizenship, persons who apply for acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship need to meet any of the following conditions: common naturalisation, marriage to a Bulgarian citizen, stateless person, with refugee status or with humanitarian status, to have an income or an occupation that enables them to support themselves in Bulgaria. To prove the fulfilment of this condition, persons, at their discretion, can present a certificate from the employer that they works under an employment relationship or official's service, or from the relevant tax office for declared income for the previous year. In case they have a shareholding or are managers of a company, they can also declare data of the company and data as an individual for the previous year. It is not required to have an income or an occupation that enables them to support themselves in Bulgaria for persons who apply for naturalisation on any of these other legal grounds, namely: Art. 15 (with Bulgarian origin or adopted by Bulgarian citizen under the conditions of full adoption or with Bulgarian parent), Art. 16 of the LBC (if Bulgaria is interested in their naturalisation or if they have special merits to Bulgaria).</p>
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			<p>5. There is no legal limit to the number of times persons can apply for Bulgarian citizenship and there is no requirement that a certain period of time has passed since the procedure for their previous application was finalised.</p> <p>6. Depending on the grounds (for naturalisation, for starting the procedure for acquiring Bulgarian citizenship, as well as for the actions performed and documents issued in the procedure related to Bulgarian citizenship) fees are collected in amounts determined by the tariff of the Council of Ministers.</p>
	<b>EMN NCP Croatia</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. Pursuant to the Act on Croatian Citizenship ("Official Gazette", No. 53/91, 28/92, 113/93, 130/11, 110/15, 102/19 and 138/21), persons who acquire Croatian citizenship based on the provisions of Article 8 and 9 of the aforementioned Act (that is, on the basis of approved residence in the Republic of Croatia) must provide proof that their previous citizenship has ceased, so one of the conditions for acquiring Croatian citizenship is the release from existing citizenship. If the foreign country does not allow release or sets conditions for release that cannot be met, the statement of the person who submitted the request that he renounces foreign citizenship under the assumption of acquiring Croatian citizenship is sufficient. The Act prescribes the so-called privileged ways of acquiring Croatian citizenship, when dismissal from previous citizenship is not one of the prerequisites for acquiring Croatian citizenship, for example: on the basis of marriage/life partnership with a Croatian citizen, emigration from the Republic of Croatia, existence of interest in the Republic of Croatia, belonging to the Croatian nation and re-admission to Croatian citizenship.</p>

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		<p>2.</p> <p>The regular method of acquiring Croatian citizenship is prescribed by Article 8 of the Act on Croatian Citizenship, according to which it is necessary to have a registered residence for 8 years continuously until the application is submitted and an approved status of a foreigner with permanent residence in the Republic of Croatia.</p> <p>In order to acquire Croatian citizenship on the basis of Article 9 of the aforementioned Act (based on birth in the Republic of Croatia) and on the basis of Article 10 (marriage/partnership with a Croatian citizen), it is necessary to have an approved permanent residence in the Republic of Croatia.</p> <p>The spouse of a person who acquired Croatian citizenship based on the existence of a special interest in the Republic of Croatia (Article 12 of the aforementioned Act) and a person who reacquires Croatian citizenship (Article 15 of the same Act) must have an approved residence permit in the Republic of Croatia (temporary or permanent).</p> <p>3.</p> <p>Only for acquiring Croatian citizenship based on Article 8, Paragraph 1 of the Act on Croatian Citizenship ("Official Gazette", No. 53/91, 28/92, 113/93, 130/11, 110/15, 102/19 and 138/21 ) it is necessary, among other things, to prove knowledge of the Croatian language and the Latin alphabet.</p> <p>The aforementioned is proved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-certificate of passing the Croatian language and Latin alphabet exam at universities or university units that run programmes in the Croatian language and conduct exams, as well as certification from secondary schools, the National Center for External Evaluation of Education and adult education institutions that have consent to conduct exams in Croatian language and the Latin alphabet</li> <li>-certificate of completed primary education (class certificate), certificate of completed secondary education (class certificate, certificate of state matriculation certificate, certificate of final thesis) or</li> </ul>
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			<p>diploma of completed higher education in the Republic of Croatia</p> <p>- a certificate of completion of the course or a transcript of grades, i.e. a supplementary document on studies at a foreign higher education institution, at least B1 level of knowledge of the Croatian language. People over 60 years old do not have to prove knowledge of the Croatian language and the Latin alphabet.</p> <p>4. No.</p> <p>5. No.</p> <p>6. When submitting in the Republic of Croatia, no administrative fee is charged, while in the case of a positive decision, an administrative fee in the amount of EUR 139.36 is charged. When submitting a request at a diplomatic mission or consular office of the Republic of Croatia abroad, a consular fee in the amount of 185.81 euros is paid.</p>
	EMN NCP Cyprus	Yes	<p>1. No</p> <p>2. 8 years</p> <p>3. Yes at level B1</p>


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			<p>4. Yes for the period under examination</p> <p>5. No</p> <p>6. 500 euros</p>
	<b>EMN NCP Czech Republic</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. The Czech Republic does not require a person to lose his/her previous citizenship (citizenships) to be granted citizenship of the Czech Republic, no matter if it is the citizenship of another EU or EEC Member State or the citizenship of a so-called third state.</p> <p>2. The Czech Republic generally requires that an applicant for Czech citizenship who is a citizen of a third country must have been granted permanent residence for 5 years on the date of application. For applicants who are citizens of an EU Member State or an EEC Member State, permanent residence in the Czech Republic for 3 years is required.</p> <p>3. The Czech Republic generally requires applicants between 15-65 years of age, to be granted citizenship, to prove their knowledge of the Czech language in the form of an exam conducted by a certified educational institution. The level of knowledge required corresponds to level B1 according to CEFR. Applicants who prove that they have studied at a primary, secondary or higher education</p>

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		<p>institution for at least 3 years, and the language of education is Czech, do not have to conduct the language exam and the condition of language knowledge is automatically fulfilled.</p> <p>4. The Czech Republic requires applicants over 18 years of age to prove the sources and amount of income used for their subsistence needs in 3 years before the citizenship application. The income must be transparent and should not be disproportionate to the applicant's normal costs of living. The existence of income from gainful employment is taken into account also to demonstrate the applicant's labour integration.</p> <p>5. The Czech Republic does not limit the maximum annual number of applications for Czech citizenship.</p> <p>6. The administrative fee for applying for citizenship in the Czech Republic by an adult applicant is set at CZK 2,000 (approx. EUR 80). In the case of an applicant who is a minor or an applicant who is an asylum seeker, the administrative fee is CZK 500 (approx. EUR 20).</p>
 EMN NCP Estonia	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. Yes.</p> <p>2. According to the Citizenship Act an alien who wishes to acquire Estonian citizenship must hold a long-term residence permit or the right of permanent residence. The person has to live in Estonia prior to the date on which they submit an application for Estonian citizenship, for at least eight years on the basis of a residence permit or by right of residence, of which at least five years on a permanent basis.</p>

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		<p>The Citizenship Act stipulates an exemption from the above-mentioned requirement. If a person who applies for Estonian citizenship after having turned 15 years of age, and who has, prior to attaining that age, stayed in Estonia for a period of at least eight years, regardless of whether they held a residence permit or enjoyed the right of residence during that period the following rules are applied instead:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) they have not established a permanent residence in any other country;</li> <li>2) at the time of being granted Estonian citizenship, they hold a valid residence permit or enjoy the right of residence; and</li> <li>3) they have resided in Estonia for six months after the day following the date of registration of their application for Estonian citizenship in accordance with the respective residence permit or the right of residence.</li> </ol> <p>Additional exemptions apply to children under the age of 15.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>Yes, in order to acquire Estonian citizenship, the person has to be proficient in the Estonian language. According to the Citizenship Act proficiency in the Estonian language denotes general proficiency in basic Estonian needed in everyday life which corresponds to the proficiency level B-1 provided in the Language Act or to an equivalent level.</p> <p>(2) The proficiency requirements in the Estonian language for a person who wishes to acquire Estonian citizenship are the following: 1) they are able to cope in most everyday situations; 2) they are able to describe experiences, events, dreams and goals and can briefly give reasons for and explain their views and intentions; 3) they are able to fully understand the gist on familiar topics such as work, school and leisure; 4) they are able to compose a simple text on a topic which they are familiar with or takes an interest in.</p> <p>(3) Proficiency in the Estonian language is assessed by way of examination. The rules for holding examinations is established by the Government of the Republic.</p> <p>(4) Persons who pass the examination are issued a respective certificate.</p>
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		<p>(5) Persons who have acquired a basic, secondary or higher education in the Estonian language are not required to take the examination.</p> <p>Adults with restricted active legal capacity and persons who for health reasons are unable to take the language exam are exempt from taking the language exam. Persons who, for health reasons, are unable to fully comply with the requirements of the language exam take the examination to an extent and in a manner that the state of their health allows (subject to the expert committee's decision).</p> <p>4.</p> <p>Yes, the applicant has to have permanent income and has to submit a proof of permanent income when submitting the application for citizenship.</p> <p>According to the Citizenship Act the legal permanent income is deemed to include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) remuneration earned lawfully under a contract of employment, contract of service, civil law contract or membership;</li> <li>2) income obtained from lawful business activity or property;</li> <li>3) pension;</li> <li>4) grants;</li> <li>5) maintenance payments;</li> <li>6) benefits paid under a law;</li> <li>7) maintenance provided by a family member with a permanent legal income.</li> </ol> <p>5.</p> <p>No.</p> <p>6.</p> <p>A state fee of 13 euros is paid for the review of an application for Estonian citizenship and for review of an application to resume Estonian citizenship.</p> <p>Persons less than 18 years of age are exempt from payment of a state fee for the review of an application for Estonian citizenship.</p> <p>The Police and Border Guard Board and consular officers have the right to exempt a person from payment of the state fee for reviewing the application or to reduce the state fee rate payable by a</p>
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			person based on the economic situation of the person or on the reasoned request of a state or local authority.
<b>+</b>	<b>EMN NCP Finland</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. NO. This applies generally to all naturalised persons.</p> <p>2. A person can become a Finnish citizen if the he/she has lived in Finland for the past five years without interruption (continuous period of residence), or he/she has lived in Finland for seven years in total, with the last two years without interruption (accumulated period of residence).</p> <p>3. YES. To obtain Finnish citizenship, a person must have at least satisfactory skills (CEFR: B1) in spoken and written Finnish or spoken and written Swedish. Language skills can be demonstrated in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certificates of language proficiency (The National Certificate of Language Proficiency (YKI) in Finnish or Swedish completed at level 3 or higher) or The Civil Service Language Proficiency Certificate with at least satisfactory oral and written skills in Finnish or Swedish.</li> <li>• Upper secondary school</li> <li>• Vocational qualifications</li> <li>• Higher education in Finland</li> <li>• Certificate of proficiency in sign language</li> </ul> <p>Additional information on the above-mentioned ways to demonstrate language skills: Language skills   Maahanmuuttovirasto (migri.fi)</p>

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			<p>4. YES. When a person applies for Finnish citizenship, he/she must provide a reliable account on how he/she has earned enough money to live in Finland during the required period of residence (e.g. the past 5 years). All current and past income sources should be mentioned in the application (paid employment, entrepreneurship, benefits, other sources of income. More information: Means of support   Maahanmuuttovirasto (migri.fi)</p> <p>5. NO.</p> <p>6. The fee for an electronic citizenship application is 490 €. The fee for a paper application is 690 €. A child's application is free of charge if he/she applies for Finnish citizenship together with their guardian.</p>
■	EMN NCP France	Yes	<p>1. No. France does not require applicants to lose their previous nationality when they get French nationality, regardless of their previous nationality.</p> <p>2. Under article 21-17 of the French Civil Code, naturalisation can only be granted to foreign nationals who can prove that they have been habitually resident in France for five years prior to submitting their application. However, the Civil Code provides for cases where this five-year period (residence requirement) may be reduced or waived.</p>

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		<p>Under article 21-18 of the Civil Code, the five-year period is reduced to two years in the following cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For foreign nationals who have successfully completed two years of higher education with a view to obtaining a diploma awarded by a French university or higher education establishment;</li> <li>- For foreign nationals who have rendered or may render significant services to France on account of their abilities and talents;</li> <li>- For foreign nationals who present an exceptional integration record, assessed on the basis of their activities or achievements in the civic, scientific, economic, cultural or sporting fields.</li> </ul> <p>Under articles 21-19 and 21-20 of the French Civil Code, foreign nationals may also be naturalised without having to complete any period of residence prior to their application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Foreign nationals who have completed effective military service in a French army unit or who, in wartime, voluntarily enlisted in the French or allied armies;</li> <li>- Foreign nationals who have rendered exceptional services to France or whose naturalisation is of exceptional interest to France;</li> <li>- Foreign nationals who have been granted refugee status;</li> <li>- Persons belonging to the French cultural and linguistic community, if they are nationals of territories or States where French is the official language or one of the official languages, or if French is their mother tongue, or if they have been educated for at least five years in an establishment providing instruction in French.</li> </ul> <p>3.</p> <p>YES. France requires proof of the required level of oral and written language skills for the acquisition of French nationality in the form of a state-recognised diploma.</p> <p>The diplomas required to acquire French nationality are the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1° The national 'brevet' diploma (secondary school diploma);</li> <li>2° A diploma issued by a French authority, in France or abroad, certifying a level at least equal to level 3 of the national classification of levels of training;</li> </ol>
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		<p>3° A diploma attesting to a level of knowledge of the French language at least equivalent to level B1 of the European Framework of Reference for Languages.</p> <p>In the absence of such a diploma, the applicant may prove possession of the required level by producing a certificate issued less than two years beforehand following a certified or internationally recognised language test. This language test must include separate tests assessing the applicant's level of oral and written comprehension and expression. The applicant's level of oral expression is assessed by the organisation issuing the certificate during an interview. These certificates are essentially issued following one of the following tests:</p> <p>1° France Education International's Test of French Knowledge (<i>Test de Connaissance du Français, TCF</i>) ;</p> <p>2° Or the French evaluation test (<i>Test d'évaluation du français, TEF</i>) from the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry.</p> <p>At present, to become French by naturalisation, applicants must prove that they have a level of knowledge of the French language equivalent to B1 oral and written as defined by the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).</p> <p>The recent law to control immigration and improve integration (Law no. 2024-42 of 26 January 2024) raised the minimum level of French required for naturalisation to level B2 of the CEFR, both oral and written. This measure will be applicable following a decree, by 1 January 2026 at the latest. The new assessment procedures will also be laid down by decree, by 1 January 2026 at the latest.</p> <p>4.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• trimestrielles de revenu et attestations fiscales des 3 dernières années (régime social des indépendants)</li> <li>• Si commerçant ou artisan: extrait d'immatriculation du Registre du Commerce ou des Métiers, les status de la société</li> </ul>
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		<p>YES. As part of an application for naturalisation, the applicant must provide proof of professional integration, which is an essential condition for assimilation into the French community under article 21-24 of the Civil Code.</p> <p>Professional integration means that the applicant must have a stable and sufficient income to support themselves and their tax household. It is assessed on the basis of the applicant's entire professional career and not just his or her specific situation at the time of application.</p> <p>Depending on the applicant's situation, the following documents may be required when applying for naturalisation in order to provide proof of professional integration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tax notifications or income tax notifications for the last 3 years (if applicable) ;</li> <li>- Employment certificate (if possible for the last 3 years) or career record;</li> <li>- Employment contract stating salary, starting date and job title;</li> <li>- Last 3 payslips;</li> <li>- November and December pay slips for the last 3 years (if applicable).</li> <li>- Certificate from the French family allowance fund, showing recent benefits received.</li> <li>- If liberal profession or self-employed: Certificate of registration with the professional association, last 3 quarterly income declarations and tax certificates for the last 3 years (social security scheme for the self-employed).</li> <li>- for trader or craftsman: registration certificate from the French Register of Commerce or Trades, the company's statutes and proof of income</li> </ul> <p>5. NO</p> <p>6. In metropolitan France, the naturalisation application process generally costs €55. This fee is paid using a tax stamp.</p>
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	<b>EMN NCP Germany</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Germany recently decided on amending its citizenship law. The new legislation is going to come into effect on 26. June 2024 and includes several changes concerning the requirements for naturalisation. From 26. June 2024, Germany generally allows multiple citizenship. Until the amendment comes into effect, the previous nationality can only be kept under certain circumstances, e. g. if the previous citizenship is an EU citizenship or if the foreigner is unable to give up his or her previous citizenship. The regulations concerning naturalisation are set in the German Nationality Act, available in English online here: <a href="http://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_stag/englisch_stag.html#p0060">www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_stag/englisch_stag.html#p0060</a>.</li> <li>2. From 26. June 2024, the required time during which the applicant must have legally ordinarily resided in Germany is reduced from eight to five years. Additionally, the applicant must have a permanent right of residence by the time of their application. The Nationality Act foresees a shortened qualifying period on the basis of special integration efforts which is going to be reduced from six to three years.</li> <li>3. Yes. Apart from certain exceptions, the general requirement for naturalisation is German knowledge on level B1 CEFR.</li> <li>4. Yes. The applicants must be able to support themselves and their dependents without recourse to benefits (certain exceptions apply).</li> <li>5. No, there is no such limit.</li> </ol>

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			6. Naturalisation costs EUR 255 per person. A fee of EUR 51 applies to minors who are to be naturalised with their parents.
	<b>EMN NCP Hungary</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. No</p> <p>2. As general rule, a minimum of 8 years of permanent residence is required. A minimum of 3 years of permanent residence is required in the following cases: the applicant has been the spouse of a Hungarian national for 3 years; the applicant has a child who is a Hungarian national; the applicant is a refugee or a stateless person. In case of starting permanent residence as a minor or being born in Hungary, a minimum of 5 years of permanent residence is required.</p> <p>3. Yes. The citizenship test contains a written and an oral part. Both parts require a B2 level knowledge of the Hungarian language.</p> <p>4. Yes The applicant must provide proof of means of subsistence in Hungary (such as employment contracts, regular income, tax documentation) covering the 3 previous calendar years before the applications.</p>

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			<p>All the data are cross-checked in the relevant national databases.</p> <p>5. No.</p> <p>6. Since 1 January 2024, the application fee is HUF 133. 400 (50% of the Hungarian minimum wage)</p>
■	<b>EMN NCP Ireland</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. No. There is no requirement for a third-country national to renounce any of their existing citizenships to acquire Irish citizenship. The basic principles of Irish nationality and citizenship law are set out in the Constitution of Ireland. The Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act 1956 (as amended) governs the acquisition of citizenship, including naturalisation of third country nationals. The Minister for Justice has absolute discretion when considering applications.</p> <p>2. To apply for naturalisation an applicant must have a total 'reckonable residence' of 5 years during the previous 9 years, including one year of continuous residence prior to the application. Under Sections 15, 15A and 15B of the Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act 1956 (as amended) applicants are required to have one year's continuous residence in the State immediately prior to the date of application. During the 8 years immediately preceding that period, applicants must have a total residence in the State of 4 years. From 31 July 2023, children born in the State to non-Irish parents must accumulate three years of residence in Ireland before an application for naturalisation can be made on their behalf. This is broken</p>

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			<p>down between one year of continuous residence immediately prior to the date of application and two years residence in the previous eight years.</p> <p>Applicants who are applying for naturalisation on the basis of marriage to or civil partnership with an Irish citizen must have been married to/in a civil partnership with an Irish citizen for three years and be currently and have been living together in an ongoing marriage/civil partnership of not less than three years. In addition, third country nationals must also fulfil a residence requirement of three years legal residence in the previous five years <u>on the island of Ireland</u> (this includes Ireland and Northern Ireland) including one year of residence prior to the date of application, and a further two years in the previous four years.</p> <p>The requirement for continuous residence is specific to the year prior to the date of application. However, applicants can be absent from the State during this period for up to 70 days either as one period or an aggregate of periods. An additional period of 30 days absence from the State due to exceptional circumstances may also be considered e.g. exceptional circumstances relating to the applicant or a family member in the context of health requirements, employment, study and/or voluntary service abroad. Determining whether circumstances are accepted as exceptional is at the discretion of the Minister.</p> <p>For the remainder of the residence requirement, it must be clear by any objective assessment that Ireland is the primary residence of the applicant for that period.</p> <p>In order to fulfil the legal residence requirements, third country nationals calculate the total reckonable residence for the naturalisation application from their history of immigration permission stamps which are reckonable for naturalisation purposes. Not all immigration permission stamps (e.g. student immigration permission) are eligible as reckonable residence for naturalisation.</p> <p>Persons with refugee status may be eligible for naturalisation after 3 years' residence. Refugees are not required to complete the residency calculator.</p> <p>Since January 2022, the Department of Justice has introduced a points-based system for a scorecard approach for applicants to prove their identity and residence requirements. Applicants prove residence by providing proofs of residence with a predetermined score value, and must reach a score of 150</p>
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			<p>points for each year of residence required. For example, an Employment Detail Summary from the Irish Revenue Commissioners has a value of 100 points and a credit card statement or utility bill has a value of 50 points. See guidance document here: <a href="https://www.irishimmigration.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Citizenship-Guidance-Document-April-2024.pdf">https://www.irishimmigration.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Citizenship-Guidance-Document-April-2024.pdf</a></p> <p>3. No, Ireland does not require any proof of language knowledge in the form of an exam for the purposes of naturalisation.</p> <p>4. No. Ireland does not require proof of applicants' income or proof of work integration as part of the naturalisation process. However employment records may be used as proofs of residence in the scorecard approach (see answer to question 2). The eligibility criteria are available at the link below: <a href="https://www.irishimmigration.ie/how-to-become-a-citizen/become-an-irish-citizen-by-naturalisation/#eligibility">https://www.irishimmigration.ie/how-to-become-a-citizen/become-an-irish-citizen-by-naturalisation/#eligibility</a></p> <p>5. No. Ireland does not set a maximum number of applications for citizenship.</p> <p>6. The application fee for naturalisation is €175. If the application is approved, a certification fee must be paid to receive the Certificate of Naturalisation. The cost of these are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• €950 – Adult</li><li>• €200 – Minor</li><li>• €200 – Widow, Widower or Surviving Civil Partner of an Irish citizen</li><li>• €0 – Recognised refugee or stateless person</li></ul>
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			<p>age pension. According to this legislation (Article 3 of Decree Law No. 382 of 1989, converted with amendments by Law No. 8/1990), holders of old-age pensions with taxable income up to € 8,263.31, increased up to € 11,362.05 of total income in the presence of a dependent spouse and at the rate of an additional € 516.00 for each dependent child or family member, are exempt from participation in health care spending. Thus, the required income is equal to the amount above mentioned.</p> <p>As for the second parameter (participation in public finance), only personal income tax (IRPEF) taxable income is indicated, for which the relevant tax obligations have been fulfilled in Italy (those abroad are not taken into account), obtained from the income tax statements submitted in the last three years to the Internal Revenue Service, unless the law exempts from submission. Therefore, the required income must be ascertainable for the three years prior to the submission of the application.</p> <p>5. No</p> <p>6. <i>Under Article 9-bis of Law No. 91/1992, the citizenship contribution is 250 euros.</i></p>
	<b>EMN NCP Latvia</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. No (please see comments down below). According to the Law on Citizenship in Latvia, dual citizenship can be established with members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the European Union, and the Free Trade Association, as well as Australia, New Zealand and Brazil, or the citizenship of a country with which the Republic of Latvia has concluded an agreement on dual citizenship. If the person has the citizenship of one of the countries not mentioned above, then after successfully passing the test of Latvian language skills, the basic provisions of the Constitution of Latvia, the text of the national anthem and the basics of Latvian history and culture, the person receives a letter of</p>

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		<p>guarantee from the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, that Latvia guarantees citizenship. Person must renounce the citizenship of his country.</p> <p>2. A person from the age of 15 who has lived in Latvia permanently for at least the last 5 years and can prove this with documentary evidence on the day of submission of the application is admitted to Latvian citizenship under the naturalization procedure.</p> <p>3. Yes. According to the provisions of the Citizenship Law, a person in the process of naturalization from the age of 15 takes two tests - a test of Latvian language skills and a test of knowledge of the basic provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, the text of the national anthem, and the basics of Latvian history and culture. The Latvian language proficiency test model has been developed for a complex test of level 2 language skills according to the 6-level system created by the Council of Europe and the Association of European Language Testers (ALTE), which corresponds to the B1 level. The language proficiency test provides a comprehensive assessment of a person's language skills. Various tasks are offered to prove one's skills in all four types of linguistic activity (listening, reading, writing, speaking). Persons from the age of 65 are exempted from written work. Persons who have obtained basic education in Latvian, learning more than half of the basic education program in it, do not need to take the test. A person who has obtained a higher education in Latvian in a Latvian educational institution, as well as a person who has taken the centralized exam in Latvian at the end of the 9th or 12th grade and obtained the percentage assessment of Latvian language proficiency, does not need to confirm the language proficiency test again.</p>
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		<p>The validity period of the diploma and certificate at the time of submission of the naturalization application is five years. Persons with disabilities have certain exemptions from the Latvian language proficiency test.</p> <p>4. Yes. The application for obtaining citizenship through naturalization must be accompanied by a statement about the legal source of livelihood of the person or his dependent (for example, a statement from the workplace, a pensioner's certificate, a statement from the State Social Insurance Agency about receiving benefits, or a statement from the bank about a positive account balance, a statement from an educational institution for receiving a scholarship, etc.).</p> <p>5. Latvia does not limit the maximum number of applications for obtaining Latvian citizenship through naturalization.</p> <p>6. State fee is 28.46 euro. Reduced State fee is 4.27 euro. The reduced state fee of 4.27 euros is paid by - members of poor families or poor persons living alone, unemployed people registered with the state employment agency, members of families with three or more minor children, old-age and long-term pensioners, disabled persons of the second and third group, state-accredited general and professional education students of institutions, full-time students of state-accredited higher education institutions.</p> <p>Politically repressed persons, group 1 disabled persons, orphans, children left without parental support, persons admitted to state and municipal social care institutions are exempt from the state fee.</p>
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	<b>EMN NCP Lithuania</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. Yes. According to Article 12 of the Constitution, no one can be a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania and another state at the same time, except for individual cases provided for by law. Article 7 of the Law on Citizenship details those exceptional cases when a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania may be a citizen of another state at the same time. The text of the law is available in English at &lt;<a href="https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/7d4f43a1d63b11e69c5d8175b5879c31?jfwid=-37w5trmn5">https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/7d4f43a1d63b11e69c5d8175b5879c31?jfwid=-37w5trmn5</a>&gt;. On May 12, 2024, a referendum will be held in Lithuania regarding the amendment of Article 12 of the Constitution.</p> <p>2. Typically, 10 years of residence. In the case of stateless persons - 5 years of continuous residence. In the case of foreign spouses of citizens - 7 years of joint continuous residence with the spouse. In the case of foreign spouses of citizens who were Soviet exiles, political prisoners or their child born in exile - 5 years of joint continuous residence with the spouse. In the case of persons who lived in the Republic of Lithuania for more than one year after being married to a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania, who later died - 5 years of continuous residence.</p> <p>3. Typically, yes.</p>


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			<p>In accordance with Article 18 of the Law on Citizenship, individuals applying for citizenship through naturalization must present a certificate confirming their successful completion of the state language exam. Passing the state language exam for acquiring Lithuanian citizenship is equivalent to attaining A2 level proficiency in the Lithuanian language.</p> <p>4. Yes In accordance with Article 18 of the Law on Citizenship, the individual applying for citizenship through naturalization must have a legal source of livelihood. The law does not specify what proof is sufficient (typically - an employment contract). This requirement does not apply to foreign spouses of citizens.</p> <p>5. No</p> <p>6. Since July 2023, the fee for processing applications for citizenship through naturalization has been set at 120 euros.</p>
	<b>EMN NCP Luxemb ourg</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. NO. In Luxembourg the principle of dual nationality is recognized by the amended law of 8 March 2017 on Luxembourg nationality. There are no exceptions foreseen in the law.</p> <p>2. The length of legal residence is five years (this applies for the normal naturalization procedure and for the option procedures). However, the last year the presence of the applicant must be continued in the territory.</p>

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		<p>3. Yes. The language exam is foreseen only for the national language (Luxembourgish). The test consists of two parts: oral expression and hearing. In the oral expression part, the level required is A2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). In the listening part, the level required is B1 of the CEFR. The candidate will pass the examination if they pass the oral expression exam (half or more of the total points). If the candidate obtains less than half of the points in the oral expression exam, then the results will be averaged with the results of the hearing exam. If the result is equal or superior to half of the points the candidate will have passed the language test (article 15 (1) and (2) of the Nationality Law).</p> <p>4. No.</p> <p>5. No. Luxembourg does not have any limitation or quota for the number of applications for acquisition of citizenship.</p> <p>6. The naturalization procedure is free of charge.</p>
	EMN NCP Netherlands	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>1. Yes. It is required that the applicant renounces their previous nationality when acquiring Dutch nationality. This is the main rule. However, there are some exceptions, which are specified in Article 9 of the Netherlands Nationality Act (<i>Rijkswet op het Nederlanderschap</i>, RWN) and Paragraph 3, 9-1-b of the Guidelines for the Application of the Netherlands Nationality Act (<i>Handleiding voor de toepassing</i></p>

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			<p><i>van de Rijkswet op het Nederlanderschap</i>, HRWN). The renunciation rule does not apply when renunciation cannot reasonably be required (due to regulations in the country of the applicant's previous nationality). In addition, among others, the following categories of applicants are exempted: the applicant is registered partner or married to a Dutch citizen when they become a Dutch citizen, the applicant has an asylum residence permit, the applicant is born in the Kingdom of the Netherlands and also lives here now or the applicant has the nationality of a country that the Netherlands has not recognised.</p> <p>2. One of the conditions that apply to naturalisation is having lived in the Kingdom of the Netherlands for at least 5 consecutive years with a valid residence permit.[1] Nonetheless, there are some exceptions, which are specified in Article 8 of the Netherlands Nationality Act (<i>Rijkswet op het Nederlanderschap</i>, RWN).</p> <p>[1] IND, 'Becoming a Dutch national through naturalisation', <a href="https://ind.nl/en/dutch-citizenship/becoming-a-dutch-national-through-naturalisation#requirements">https://ind.nl/en/dutch-citizenship/becoming-a-dutch-national-through-naturalisation#requirements</a>, last accessed on 15 April 2024.</p> <p>3. Yes. One of the conditions that apply to naturalisation is having passed the civic integration exam or being exempted from the civic integration exam (because of already being able to read, write, speak and understand Dutch to a sufficient level).[1] When it comes to naturalisation, level A2 of the CEFR is minimally required.[2]</p>
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		<p>[1] IND, 'Becoming a Dutch national through naturalisation', <a href="https://ind.nl/en/dutch-citizenship/becoming-a-dutch-national-through-naturalisation#requirements">https://ind.nl/en/dutch-citizenship/becoming-a-dutch-national-through-naturalisation#requirements</a>, last accessed on 15 April 2024.</p> <p>[2] DUO, 'Naturaliseren', <a href="https://www.inburgeren.nl/u-gaat-inburgeren/naturaliseren.jsp">https://www.inburgeren.nl/u-gaat-inburgeren/naturaliseren.jsp</a>, last accessed on 15 April 2024.</p> <p>4. No. Proof of income or work integration is not required, but when it comes to integration, the applicant is required to have passed the civic integration exam (or have been exempted from the civic integration exam). The civic integration program consists of Dutch language and society courses.[1]</p> <p>[1] IND, 'Civic integration for more secure residence permit and naturalisation', <a href="https://ind.nl/en/living-in-the-netherlands-with-a-residence-permit/civic-integration-for-more-secure-residence-permit-and-naturalisation">https://ind.nl/en/living-in-the-netherlands-with-a-residence-permit/civic-integration-for-more-secure-residence-permit-and-naturalisation</a>, last accessed on 15 April 2024.</p> <p>5. No.</p> <p>6. Costs for applying to become a Dutch citizen by naturalisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request for naturalisation for 1 person: € 1023,00</li> <li>• Request for naturalisation together with a partner: € 1305,00</li> <li>• Child under 18 becoming a Dutch citizen together with a parent: € 151,00</li> <li>• Request for naturalisation by stateless person or holder of an asylum residence permit: € 760,00</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request for naturalisation by stateless person or holder of an asylum residence permit together with a partner: € 1044,00</li> <li>Request for naturalisation by a Moluccan: € 0,-.[1]</li> </ul> <p>[1] IND, 'Fees: costs of an application', <a href="https://ind.nl/en/fees-costs-of-an-application#costs-for-an-application-to-become-a-dutch-citizen">https://ind.nl/en/fees-costs-of-an-application#costs-for-an-application-to-become-a-dutch-citizen</a>, last accessed on 15 April 2024.</p>
EMN NCP Poland	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poland does not require a person to lose foreigner's previous citizenship (citizenships) before granting Polish citizenship, no matter if it is the citizenship of another EU or EEC Member State or the citizenship of a third country.</li> <li>General note: answers to Q2, 3, 4 and 6 apply to two ways of acquiring Polish citizenship – recognition as a Polish citizen and granting citizenship by the President of the Republic of Poland. Recognition as a Polish citizen (administrative decision taken by the Voivode – regional authority): generally 2 years of permanent residence for all foreigners before application for Polish citizenship. Exception: 1 year for foreigners of Polish origin Granting Polish citizenship by the President - no prerequisites</li> <li>YES - Recognition as a Polish citizen - the proof of language knowledge is required (a state certificate of proficiency in the Polish language at the B1 level). Exam is organised by the Ministry of Education. NO - Granting Polish citizenship by the President – no prerequisites</li> </ol>


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			<p>4. YES - Recognition as a Polish citizen - a stable and regular source of income without specifying the time is required NO - Granting Polish citizenship by the President – no prerequisites</p> <p>5. NO</p> <p>6. Recognition as a Polish citizen – 219 PLN (approx. 50 EUR) Granting Polish citizenship by the President – no fee</p>
	<b>EMN NCP Portugal</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. Yes. Portugal does not require a person to renounce his or her previous nationality(ies) in order to be granted citizenship of the Portuguese Republic, whether it be the nationality of another EU or EEC Member State or the nationality of a so-called third country.</p> <p>2. Portugal requires that an applicant for ordinary naturalisation (who is either a citizen of an EU or EEC member state or a third country) must have been a legal resident for 5 years at the time of application.</p> <p>3. Portugal generally requires all applicants, to be granted citizenship by ordinary naturalisation, to prove their knowledge of the Portuguese language in the form of an exam conducted by a certified educational institution. The level of knowledge required corresponds to level A2 according to CEFR. Knowledge of Portuguese may also be demonstrated by one of the following means: a) a diploma issued by a public, private or cooperative educational establishment recognised by law, provided that the holder has successfully completed the Portuguese curricular unit/discipline for at least two school</p>

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			<p>years. b) a qualification attesting the completion of level A2 or higher, issued by a public educational establishment, employment and training centres and protocol centres of the IEFP - Instituto do Emprego e da Formação Profissional, I.P. (Institute of Employment and Professional Training). In the case of people with serious health problems or disabilities with a degree of incapacity duly attested by a multipurpose medical certificate issued in accordance with Portuguese law, or people aged 60 or over who cannot read or write, the evidence of knowledge of Portuguese must be appropriate to their ability to demonstrate knowledge of this language. Knowledge of Portuguese is presumed in the case of applicants who are nationals of Portuguese-speaking countries.</p> <p>4. Portugal does not require applicants to provide evidence of the sources and amount of their resources.</p> <p>5. Portugal does not limit the maximum annual number of applications for Portuguese citizenship.</p> <p>6. The administrative fee for an application for ordinary naturalisation in Portugal by an adult applicant is set at EUR 250.</p>
	EMN NCP Slovakia	Yes	<p>1. No, except of citizens of Russian Federation (based on a bilateral agreement between Russia and Slovakia on prevention of dual citizenship).</p> <p>2. Slovak citizenship may be granted to an applicant who has had continuous <b>permanent residence</b> in the territory of the Slovak Republic for at least <b>eight years</b> immediately preceding the submission of the application for Slovak citizenship.</p>

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			<p>The law grants an exception to the length of residence requirement to an applicant who has been granted residence in Slovakia but has not had continuous permanent residence for eight years, for example, if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• he/she has contracted a marriage with a Slovak citizen, the marriage has been ongoing and he/she has been living in a common household in the territory of the Slovak Republic for at least five years immediately preceding the application for citizenship;</li><li>• is a person who has made a significant contribution to the Slovak Republic in the economic, scientific, technical, social, cultural or sporting fields, or for any other reason in the interest of the Slovak Republic;</li><li>• has continuous permanent residence in the territory of the Slovak Republic beginning at least three years before reaching the age of 18;</li><li>• is a minor child whose legal representative or guardian is a citizen of the Slovak Republic or a legal entity appointed by a court of the Slovak Republic, and has had continuous residence in the territory of the Slovak Republic for at least two years immediately preceding the application for Slovak citizenship; the length of residence does not apply to minor children under the age of two;</li><li>• has been an asylum holder for at least four years immediately preceding submission of the application;</li><li>• was born in the territory of the Slovak Republic and has been a permanent resident here for at least three years immediately preceding the application for citizenship;</li><li>• has resided continuously in the territory of the Slovak Republic for at least ten years and has already been granted a permanent residence permit at the time of the application for Slovak citizenship;</li><li>• is stateless and has resided continuously in the territory of the Slovak Republic for at least three years immediately preceding the application for Slovak citizenship;</li><li>• has been released from the Slovak citizenship;</li></ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• was not a citizen of the Slovak Republic and at least one of his parents, grandparents or great-grandparents was a Czechoslovak citizen born in the territory of the Slovak Republic.</li> </ul> <p>The exception also applies to a person who has been granted the status of a Slovak living abroad and has either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• continuous residence in the territory of the Slovak Republic for at least three years immediately preceding the application for citizenship, or</li> <li>• he/she has been granted residence in the territory of Slovakia and has made a significant contribution to the community of Slovaks living abroad from which he/she comes in the economic, scientific, technical, cultural, social or sporting fields.</li> </ul> <p>The condition is that the person holds a certificate of a Slovak living abroad at the time of applying for citizenship. The certificate loses its validity on the date of obtaining permanent residence (long-term residence) in the territory of the Slovak Republic.</p> <p>An exemption from the eight-year permanent residence requirement also applies to an applicant who has lost Slovak citizenship by acquiring foreign citizenship in the period from 17 July 2010 to 31 March 2022, if he or she has acquired citizenship of the state in which he or she has been permitted or registered to reside for at least five years.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>Compliance with this condition is verified directly when applying for citizenship by filling in the 'Applicant's Questionnaire'. According to the law, the authority responsible for examining the applicant is the one who receives his/her application, i.e. the district office in the seat of the region, the diplomatic mission or the consular office of the Slovak Republic.</p> <p>Proficiency in the Slovak language is verified in a manner appropriate to the applicant's state of health, the applicant's education and the applicant's age. In the case of a minor child, proficiency in the Slovak language is usually verified in the presence of a legal representative, guardian or custodian.</p>
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For this purpose, a three-member commission appointed by the head of the district office in the seat of the region, the ambassador or the consul shall be set up. At the interview, the applicant shall be asked questions concerning his/her person and persons close to him/her and questions of a general nature, in particular on the history, geography and socio-political development of the Slovak Republic. The applicant must read aloud a randomly selected Slovak-language press article of at least 500 words. After reading it, he/she has 30 minutes to write what he/she remembers about the article. The applicant's state of health shall be taken into account when verifying his/her knowledge of Slovak. A record of the process and outcome of the Slovak language proficiency test is made on the same day so that there is a written record of the outcome of the interview.

4.

Among other documents the applicant has to accompany his/her citizenship application with:

- confirmation from the tax office, customs office and municipality that taxes and fees have been paid;
- the employer's employment certificate and a copy of the employment contract;
- confirmation from the health insurance company of payment of public health insurance premiums and the duration of the insurance relationship;
- employer's confirmation of payment of income tax and of payment of public health insurance, social insurance and old-age pension insurance premiums;
- proof of studies;
- proof of receipt of a pension;
- confirmation of the source of income sufficient to finance the stay of the applicant and persons close to him/her in the territory of the Slovak Republic, if he/she is voluntarily unemployed (e.g. bank statement).

Those documents which do not concern the applicant must be replaced by an affidavit stating the reasons for not submitting them.


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		<p>5. No.</p> <p>6. The following administrative fees are levied in connection with the granting of citizenship:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• granting Slovak citizenship to a person over 18 years of age: EUR 1000</li> <li>• granting Slovak citizenship to a child: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. up to 15 years of age: EUR 140</li> <li>2. from 15 years to 18 years: EUR 210/220 (higher fee applies when submitting the application abroad)</li> </ol> </li> <li>• granting Slovak citizenship to former Slovak or Czechoslovak citizens and those who opt to revert to their former citizenship under international law: EUR 30</li> <li>• granting Slovak citizenship to Czech citizens born after 1 January 1993: EUR 30</li> <li>• granting Slovak citizenship to a person at least one of whose parents or grandparents was a Czechoslovak citizen: EUR 30</li> <li>• granting Slovak citizenship to a person who has been issued with a valid certificate proving their status as a Slovak living abroad: EUR 560/600 (higher fee applies when submitting the application abroad)</li> </ul> <p>Exemption from the fee: Foreigners who have been granted asylum, Ukrainian displaced persons from the Chernobyl area, foreigners over the age of 65, people receiving invalidity pension, persons with severe disabilities and foreigners who have lost the citizenship of the Slovak Republic after 1 January 1993 are exempt from the fees.</p> <p>The fee will be collected only upon receipt of the citizenship certificate.</p>
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 <b>EMN NCP Slovenia</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. Yes. Certain categories of persons may retain their previous citizenship during the naturalization process (persons of Slovenian origin, persons with international protection status, minors, citizens of EU member states under the condition of reciprocity).</p> <p>2. The general condition is 10 years of actual life in Slovenia, of which the last 5 years have been continuous and the legal status of an alien. Exceptions: - a person of Slovenian origin: 1 year of actual life in Slovenia, - a person married to a citizen of the Republic of Slovenia: 1 year of actual continuous life in Slovenia, - a person with international protection status: 5 years of actual continuous life in Slovenia, - a stateless person: 5 years of actual continuous life in Slovenia, - a person who has attended and successfully completed at least a higher education programme in the Republic of Slovenia: 7 years of actual life in Slovenia, of which the last 1 year has been continuous.</p> <p>3. Yes, A2 level knowledge is required.</p> <p>4. Yes, a person must demonstrate that he/she has guaranteed assets at least in the amount of the basic minimum income specified by social security regulations. The assets in the amount of the basic minimum income must also be guaranteed for every person that he/she has to support. The fulfillment of the condition is considered for a period of two years before the application for naturalization is submitted.</p>
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			<p>5. No.</p> <p>6. The administrative fee is currently EUR 194.80.</p>
	<b>EMN NCP Spain</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. Yes, applicants must renounce their previous nationality after being granted the Spanish one, except for Latin Americans, Portuguese, Andorrans, Filipinos, and Ecuadorian Guineans.</p> <p>2. Ten years is the period required in general; however, Latin Americans, Portuguese, Andorrans, Filipinos, and Ecuadorian Guineans have a reduced period of two years. Refugees are required 5 years. A reduced period of 1 year is applicable for persons born in Spain, married or widowed to a Spanish citizen, tutored by a Spanish institution, or born abroad from a father/mother or grandfather/grandmother originally Spanish.</p> <p>3. Yes, level A2 is required.</p> <p>4. No.</p> <p>5. No.</p>

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