

LEGISLATION AMENDMENTS: REGISTRATION OF IMMIGRANTS AND NEW INITIATIVES IN THE SPHERE OF MIGRATION AND DIGITALIZATION

Important!

Starting 1 January 2026, Kazakhstan launched the eResidency and QazETA projects intended for the provision of certain services to foreigners in the digital form.

From the mid 2026, Kazakhstan will put into effect the requirements relating to the procedure for registration of immigrants from the countries enjoying the visa-free entry regime with Kazakhstan with the internal affairs authority in case of a long-term stay in the country.

Digital Identification Program (eResidency)

eResidency (<https://eresidency.gov.kz/>) is a state program focused on digital identification of foreigners and granting of access to them to certain state and financial online services of Kazakhstan without the necessity to personally arrive in the country.

Persons reaching the age of 18 may participate in the program. The program provides for assignment of IIN and creation of a digital ID card used for interactions with governmental agencies, financial institutions, and other services available within the eResidency program. It is also possible to obtain an electronic digital signature, remotely open a bank account, use payment cards of local banks, connect eSIM with a local subscriber number, execute insurance products, and access certain financial and payment services.

At the moment of writing this Legal Update, remote opening of bank accounts for e-residents is available at Freedom Bank and RBK Bank. It is planned to expand the list of participant banks and add Bank CenterCredit and Bereke Bank. Relevant information regarding services and partners is available on the eResidency application and official website of the program.

The digital identification status is granted for 12 months from the date of activation and requires annual extension. If failing to undergo the extension procedure, the eResidency status suspends, which may entail limited access to certain services of the program, including the possibility to open new accounts and receive services from the program partners. In this case, services relating to the previously opened bank accounts are provided in accordance with conditions and internal rules of relevant banks. eSIM functions in case of complying with conditions of the communications operator and timely balance refill.

Foreigners who have already obtained the digital ID card may register legal entities in the AIFC jurisdiction. Introduction of automatic filing of applications for registration of legal entities in the AIFC using eResidency is expected to take place in the first quarter of 2026. The program does not provide for registration of legal entities in the general jurisdiction of Kazakhstan using IIN obtained via the eResidency program.

The fee for the eResidency membership is USD 499 per year.

Digital Migration Platform QazETA and electronic travel authorizations

QazETA is a state digital platform granting access to foreigners to migration and related state services of Kazakhstan. The stated purposes and objectives of the platform include as follows:

- creation of a single digital channel of interaction between foreigners and governmental agencies of Kazakhstan ("one stop" principle) in the course of their entry, stay and use of certain state services;
- support of foreigners at all stages of interaction with state services: from entry planning up to obtainment of certain services when staying in the country;
- simplification of the procedures for entry and stay in the Kazakhstan territory;
- enhancement of transparency and efficiency of migration processes;
- reduction of the terms of considering applications; and
- transfer of basic migration services into digital and mobile form.

To date, QazETA functions as a pilot project gradually introduced into everyday life. At the current stage, the platform offers the services on execution of electronic visas, electronic travel authorization, acquisition of the status of e-resident of Kazakhstan, and obtainment of information certificates by foreigners confirming crossing of the state border, including for the purpose of verification of IMEI numbers of mobile devices.

Electronic travel authorization (ETA) is intended for the citizens of countries exempted from visa requirements of Kazakhstan and accordingly executed in the electronic form. An application for ETA must be filed by a foreigner on QazETA mobile application not later than 72 hours prior to the contemplated travel. The effective term of ETA is 180 days and the actual term of stay of a foreigner in Kazakhstan is determined in accordance with requirements of the migration legislation. Presence of ETA does not guarantee entry to Kazakhstan, since the final decision on admission is made by the authorized governmental agencies when passing border control. During the pilot period of the project, obtainment of ETA is a recommendation and, once the pilot period ends, it is planned to gradually come to an obligation to obtain ETA for relevant categories of foreigners.

Later it is planned to add new functions to QazETA, including taking of medical insurance, introduction of mechanisms of expedited passing of border control for the holders of ETA, payment of service fees and connection to other digital services.

■ **Mandatory Registration of Foreigners in case of Visa-Free Entry**

In July 2025, a requirement was added to the Population Migration Law that immigrants entering Kazakhstan for a term of more than 30 calendar days must register with the internal affairs authority not later than the 30th day of the date of entry. In furtherance of this requirement, a relevant ministry developed and will introduce the procedure for such registration starting 1 July 2026.

A foreigner will be registered at the place of stay via the information system of migration police (IS MP), for which purpose the immigrant will have to submit the following information:

- surname, name, patronymic;
- date of birth;
- passport data;
- information about the host party; and
- residential address.

For the purposes of registration, the places of stay of an immigrant are residential houses, apartments, dormitories, hotels, rest-houses, sanatoria, as well as buildings and premises used for dwelling of people.

After submitting the required information, a person providing a place for residence of an immigrant will receive a notice on a mobile application regarding registration and will confirm his/her consent or reject registration. Once the said person confirms registration, a certificate of registration will be formed in the personal account of an immigrant in IS MP.

Immigrant registration may be rejected in cases, as follows:

- establishing that information submitted for registration is unreliable;
- immigrant has violated the terms of stay in Kazakhstan; and/or
- person who provided the place of residence rejected registration at the stated address.

In case of changes in the place of stay, an immigrant must register at a new place of residence within 5 business days of the date of changing the address. When registering at the new place of residence, registration at the former place of residence will be automatically terminated.

To date, the said requirement applies to the citizens of the EAEU member states, specifically, Russian Federation, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Armenia, and Republic of Belarus.

Should you have any additional questions in connection with this Legal Update, we would be happy to provide more detailed information.

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