Living (and working) in the Netherlands for EU citizens

What is the aim of this publication? Do you want to live (and work) in the Netherlands? In most cases, EU citizens do not need a residence document or work permit. You can read about the following in this publication:

• whether you will need a residence document or work permit;
• if so, how you can apply for a residence document;
• where you can get more information.
Citizen of an EU/EER country or Switzerland

If you have a nationality of a country that belongs to the European Union (EU), the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland, no residence permit is needed for you to live in the Netherlands. Your passport (or ID card) of the country, of which you hold the nationality, is evidence enough that you are permitted to stay in the Netherlands and to work here. You are not required to report to the IND (Immigration and Naturalisation Service) and also you do not apply to the IND for a proof of lawful residence.

Your employer does not need to apply for a work permit for you if you want to work in the Netherlands.

Citizen Service Number

Are you planning to stay for longer than four months in the Netherlands? Then you will need to register with your local municipal personal records database. You can do this by going to the town hall in the municipality where you live. You will then be issued with a Citizen Service Number. Your employer will be able to organise various different matters with this number, for example your registration with the Tax and Customs Administration. Your General Practitioner, hospitals and pharmacist may also ask you for your Citizen Service Number. For further information look at the website of the municipality where you live or via www.burgerservicenummer.nl.

Are you planning to stay for less than four months in the Netherlands? Then you are not required to register with your local municipality. However, if you would still like to be issued with a Citizen Service Number, then you can register with one of the municipalities which has a desk for non-residents. For further information go to www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/persoonsgegevens. You can also call the government information service on telephone number 1400.

Family members

Are you a family member or relative of a person who has the nationality of one of the EU or EEA countries or Switzerland, but you yourself have a different nationality? Then you will need to apply to the IND for a residence document. To do so, you can use the application form ‘Application for Verification against EU Law (certificate of lawful residence)’. In this case, the person with whom you apply your stay (the person with the nationality of one of the EU or EEA countries or Switzerland), has to register with the IND. To do so, you can use the form ‘Registration for citizens of the Union (proof of entitlement to residency status)’.

In certain cases you can also use the application form ‘Application for Verification against EU Law (certificate of lawful residence)’ if you are a family member or relative of a Dutch citizen who has lived together with you in an EU/EER country or Switzerland. Read further under: Applying for a residence document.

Long-term residence: five years or longer in the Netherlands

If you stay in the Netherlands rightfully for five years or longer continuously, then you can apply for the residence document ‘Permanent residence for nationals of the Union’. This also applies if you are a family member of a person who has the nationality of one of the EU/EER countries or Switzerland, but you yourself have a different nationality. In order to apply for this residence document you can use the application form ‘Application for a Permanent Residence Document for Nationals of the Union and their Family Members’. The other conditions applying to this residence document are also included with the application form. Read further under: Applying for a residence document.

Applying for a residence document

You can download the application forms ‘Application for Verification against EU Law (certificate of lawful residence)’ and ‘Application for a Permanent Residence Document for Nationals of the Union and their Family Members’ via www.ind.nl.

You should submit your ‘Application for Verification against EU Law (certificate of lawful residence)’ to an IND Desk. You can only do this by first making an appointment. To make an appointment, you can call the IND’s general telephone number. You should submit your ‘Application for a Permanent Residence Documents for Nationals of the Union and their Family Members’ in writing. The address for sending in your application is given in the application form.

There is no information given in this publication about the costs. If you would like to know in advance what the costs will be, then you can look on the website www.ind.nl or call by telephone.
More information

Do you still have questions after reading this publication? You can contact the IND in the following ways.

Internet
You can indicate your specific situation on www.ind.nl. You will then be provided with the information that you need to prepare your application.

Twitter
You can ask general questions on Twitter via @IND_NL. The IND responds on working days from 09:00 to 17:00 hours. Because of privacy reasons do not mention your V-number and other personal information. The IND does not respond to file-specific questions and remarks.

Letter or email

General questions
Immigratie- en Naturalisatiedienst
Postbus 17
9560 AA Ter Apel

E-mail: klantinformatiecentrum@ind.nl
Or use the e-mail form on www.ind.nl.

Telephone
The IND is available on 088 043 04 30 (normal charges apply). From abroad, please call +31 88 043 04 30.

Do you have a question about the progress of an ongoing application? Please have the following details to hand:
- V-number, if known
- Surname and first name (and maiden name if applicable)
- Place of birth and date of birth
- Nationality

Visit
You can also go to one of the IND desks. Visit www.ind.nl for information about the IND desks.

Complaints
If you want to make a complaint about the way the IND treated you, you can use the complaint form on www.ind.nl

For complaints you can also call +31 88 043 04 70.

Questions about legalisation?
For information about the legalisation of documents (birth certificate, marriage certificate), you can call number 1400 (Central government Information). Via internet: www.government.nl.

Processing of personal data
The Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) processes personal data when it processes your application, notification, or request. This means that if needed the IND will request data from you yourself and other organisations or persons. The IND also uses and stores data and shares them with other organisations. When doing so, the IND strictly adheres to the stipulations of privacy legislation. For instance, the IND must treat data safely and with due care. The law also gives rights. At your request, you are allowed to see which data on you the IND processes. You can also get information on why the IND does so and to whom your data have been passed on. On www.ind.nl you can read how the IND processes your data and which rights you have. You can also read how to use your rights.