



EMN Ad-Hoc Query on Terms (and exceptions) for naturalization

Requested by Dylano DE WILDE on 18th April 2017

Residence

Responses from Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Norway (23 in total)

Disclaimer:

The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.

Background information:

According to Dutch Nationality Law (Rijkswet op het Nederlanderschap, artikel 8) naturalization can in general be granted after 5 years of legal residence in The Netherlands prior to the request. Momentarily an amendment is pending to prolong this term to 7 years. Parliament has requested the Minister for Migration to use the European Migration Network to make an inventory of the situation in other Member States.

The Netherlands applies shorter terms for the following categories:

- no term is applied for former Dutch nationals;
- a 3-year term for spouses and partners of nationals; by a national acknowledged paternity of minors; for adopted young-adults and for stateless persons;


The Netherlands is interested to see if this is also the case in other (Member) States.


Questions



1. In principle, how long should a foreigner legal reside in your MS before naturalization can be granted?
2. Are there exceptions to this term, more in particular for the following categories (Yes/No, If so, what is the term for the specific category); a. for refugees and their family members; b. for minors; c. for spouses and unmarried partners of a national; d. for young-adults with a permanent residence in your MS; e. for a foreign child adopted by a national; f. for stateless persons; g. for naturalization requests of citizens with residence in your country from countries which have historical links with your State , such as former colonies or neighboring countries; h. Non EU-citizens (third country nationals);i. EU citizens and if, which countries you favorite; j. for others, please describe;


Responses

	Country	Wider Disseminati on	Response
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	Austria	Yes	<p>1. In principle, a foreigner needs ten years of lawful and uninterrupted residence in Austria, of which he/she has to be settled for 5 years, before naturalization can be granted (Art. 10 para 1 sub-para 1 Citizenship Act).</p> <p>2. a. for refugees and their family members; Yes, a 6-year term of uninterrupted lawful residence applies (Art. 11a para 4 sub-para 1 Citizenship Act). b. for minors; Yes, a 6-year term of uninterrupted lawful residence applies for persons who were born on Austrian territory - regardless of their age (Art. 11a para 4 sub-para 3 Citizenship Act). To minors under 14 years old who are settled in Austria, naturalization can be granted if the father of the child is Austrian citizen (Art. 12 para 2 and Art. 60 Citizenship Act). c. for spouses and unmarried partners of a national; Spouses and registered same-sex partners: Yes, a 6-year term of uninterrupted lawful residence applies, if the couple has been married for 5 years and they are living together (Art. 11a para 1 Citizenship Act). There is no special provision for unmarried partners other than registered same-sex partners. d. for young-adults with a permanent residence in your MS; No. e. for a foreign child adopted by a national; Yes, naturalization can be granted without specified prior period of residence if the child is under 14 years old (Art. 11b para 1 Citizenship Act). f. for stateless persons; Stateless persons who were born in Austria can be granted Austrian citizenship after six years of lawful and uninterrupted residence in Austria (Art. 11a para 4 sub-para 3 Citizenship Act). Further, stateless persons above 18 years who have been born in Austria and are stateless since their birth can be naturalized after ten years of main residence in Austria of which uninterrupted 5 years need to lie immediately before the application for naturalization (Art. 14 para 1 Citizenship Act). g. for naturalization requests of citizens with residence in your country from countries which have historical links with your State , such as former colonies or neighboring countries; Yes, a provision is still in force, which allows to grant naturalization to persons who were citizens of one of the successor states of the Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy before 9th May 1945, had their main residence on the actual territory of Austria and who had to flee for reasons in connection with the Nazi regime (Art. 10 para 4 sub-para 2 Citizenship Act). h. Non EU-citizens (third-country nationals); No, not as a general category. The provisions mentioned in the other answers provided are to be applied. i. EU citizens and if, which countries you favorite; Yes, a 6-year-term applies for citizens of EEA member states - which include EU Member States (Art. 11a para 4 sub-para 2 Citizenship Act). j. for others, please describe; Former citizens: An alien residing in Austria, who had been Austrian citizen for an uninterrupted period of ten years and lost his/her citizenship not due to withdrawal does not have to show ten years of lawful and uninterrupted residence in Austria (Art. 10 para 4 sub-para 1 Citizenship Act). Persons born in Austria: A</p>
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			6-year term of uninterrupted lawful residence applies to persons who were born on Austrian territory - regardless of their age (Art. 11a para 4 sub-para 3 Citizenship Act).
	Belgium	Yes	<p>1. a) Residence requirements There are different possibilities to acquire Belgian nationality. For a foreigner who is not born in Belgium, there are two possibilities with different requirements: - A long track, after 10 years of residence; - A short track, after 5 years of residence (with more requirement in most cases); - A person born in Belgium and legally residing in Belgium since his/her birth; - There is also a naturalization procedure via the House of Representatives, which is exceptional and restricted to persons who have demonstrated 'exceptional merits' => in principle no condition on residence. Concerning the residence requirement of 5 or 10 years (short or long track), it is worth mentioning that the person concerned must have: - an unlimited residence permit at the time of the application; and - the legal stay requested for the period preceding the application (5 or 10 years) must be uninterrupted (covered by residence permits valid for periods exceeding three months - "short stays" are not taken into account).</p> <p>b) Other requirements Both in the short track and in the long track procedure, the person needs to prove its knowledge of one of the three official languages (Dutch, French or German at the A2 level of the common European framework of reference for languages). The other requirements differ: - Long track: if a person wants to acquire the Belgian nationality after ten years of legal residence, he/she needs prove, by all legal means, his/her participation 'to the economic and/or socio-cultural life of the host community' (in addition to the two requirements mentioned above on residence and language). - Short track: if a person wants to acquire the Belgian nationality after five years of legal residence, he/she needs to show (in addition to the requirements mentioned above on residence and language) - evidence of his/her civil integration (a certificate of advanced secondary education, a vocational training of at least 400 hours or an integration course) and of economic participation (having worked 468 days in the 5 years preceding the application).</p> <p>2. a. for refugees and their family members; No b. for minors; Yes. The procedures described above, concern adults. A child becomes legally Belgian before the age of 18 if certain legal conditions are fulfilled and, sometimes, as a result of a process carried out by the Belgian parent. This is known as the award of Belgian nationality. More information: https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/services/services_abroad/nationality/being_granted_belgian_nationality</p> <p>c. for spouses and unmarried partners of a national; Yes, for married partners living in Belgium with their</p>


			<p>Belgian spouse for at least 3 years. The person can obtain the nationality through the short track procedure (after 5 years of residence) without needing to prove their economic participation d. for young-adults with a permanent residence in your MS; No. (Unless - a person born in Belgium and legally residing in Belgium since his/her birth can acquire nationality.) e. for a foreign child adopted by a national; Yes (no term) f. for stateless persons; Yes, through the naturalization procedure after a legal stay of 2 years in Belgium g. for naturalization requests of citizens with residence in your country from countries which have historical links with your State , such as former colonies or neighboring countries; No h. Non EU-citizens (third country nationals); No i. EU citizens and if, which countries you favorite; No j. for others, please describe; - the foreigner is parent of a Belgian child - the foreigner can prove he or she cannot exercise an economic activity since he or she is invalid , disabled or retired In these cases, the persons can obtain the nationality through the short track procedure (after 5 years of residence). In the first case (parent of a Belgian child), the person does not need to prove its economic participation, in the second case the persons do not need to fulfil the requirements economic participation either, nor on concerning knowledge of one of the languages or civil integration.</p>
	Croatia	Yes	<p>1. 1. A foreigner can be granted naturalization if he/her has lived and has had a registered residence in the Republic of Croatia until the submission of the request for at least 8 years in continuation and has been granted foreigner status on his/her permanent residence.</p> <p>2. 2. a) – d) No. e) Not specified in the legislation. In practice this is a very complicated process in Croatia. f) - i) No.</p>
	Czech Republic	Yes	<p>1. Granting Czech citizenship is regulated by the Section 11 and following of the Act No. 186/2013 Coll., on Czech Citizenship and on Amendment to Some Other Acts (Act on Citizenship of the Czech Republic). According to this Act, citizenship of the Czech Republic can be granted to the applicant who has been lawfully permanently residing in the Czech Republic (according to the Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Czech Republic, as amended) as of the date of the application: a) for the period of at least 5 years, b) for the period of at least 3 years if the person is the citizen of the European Union, Switzerland or of the state which is the party state to the Agreement on the European Economic Area, or c) in cases of permanent residence and a total of 10 years of lawful residence.</p>


			<p>2. Fulfilment of the condition of the duration of permanent residence, as specified above, can be waived in cases of an applicant who has permanent residence in the territory and who meets at least one of the following options specified by the law: a) was born in the territory of the Czech Republic, b) was a citizen of the Czech Republic or of the Czech Socialist Republic, possibly until the year of 1968 a citizen of the Czechoslovak Republic or of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, c) at least one of the parents is a citizen of the Czech Republic, d) was adopted after reaching the age of 18 by the citizen of the Czech Republic, e) his/her spouse or a registered partner with whom this applicant lives in a common household is a citizen of the Czech Republic, f) is allowed to reside permanently in the territory of the Czech Republic for humanitarian reasons or other reasons worthy of special consideration or if the stay of this applicant in the territory is in the interest of the Czech Republic, g) is younger than 18 years on the day of the submission of the application, h) is a stateless person or a person who has been granted international protection in the form of asylum, if the validity of the decision to grant this form of protection still lasts. In this context it is important to say that in the framework of an administrative procedure for granting citizenship only the duration of permanent residence may be waived, not the existence of permanent residence itself. There is no legal claim to waive the condition of the duration of permanent residence in the Czech Republic. Even if some of the options for waiving the condition are fulfilled, it is on the consideration of the administrative authority, i.e. the Ministry of the Interior, whether the condition will be waived or not.</p>
	Estonia	Yes	<p>1. According to the Citizenship Act a person has to have lived in Estonia for at least eight years on the ground of a residence permit or by right of residence, of which at least five years on a permanent basis prior to the date on which he or she submits the application for Estonian citizenship.</p> <p>2. a. for refugees and their family members; No, but according to the Aliens Act the period of residence as an applicant for international protection immediately before the grant of international protection and the period of residence in Estonia as a person enjoying international protection shall be included into the period of residence in Estonia prior to the lodging of an application for a residence permit for a long-term resident. Therefore the period of being an asylum applicant is also included when calculating the required period to apply for citizenship. b. for minors; Yes, exceptions are made to minors. • According to § 13 of the Citizenship Act a minor under 15 years of age on whose behalf the application for Estonian citizenship is made in accordance with the law must reside permanently in Estonia on the basis of an</p>



		<p>Estonian residence permit or the right of residence. • A minor under 1 year of age on whose behalf the application for Estonian citizenship is made in accordance with the law must be staying in Estonia, but is not required to hold an Estonian residence permit or the right of residence in Estonia. • A minor under 15 years of age who has been assigned a guardian is granted Estonian citizenship at the application of the minor's guardian who is an Estonian citizen, provided the minor resides permanently in Estonia on the basis of an Estonian residence permit or the right of residence. • A minor under 1 year of age who has been assigned a guardian is granted Estonian citizenship at the application of the minor's guardian who is an Estonian citizen, provided the minor is staying in Estonia, regardless of whether or not the minor holds an Estonian residence permit or the right of residence in Estonia. • A minor under 15 years of age who was born in Estonia or who immediately after birth takes up permanent residence in Estonia together with his or her parent(s) is granted Estonian citizenship by naturalisation automatically as of the moment of his or her birth, provided his or her parents or single parent whom no state recognizes under valid laws as its citizen have or has lawfully resided in Estonia for at least five years by the moment of the child's birth. c. for spouses and unmarried partners of a national; No. d. for young-adults with a permanent residence in your MS; No. e. for a foreign child adopted by a national; Yes, according to the Citizenship Act at the written application of an adoptive parent who is an Estonian citizen, by decision of the governmental authority authorised by the Government of the Republic, a minor alien child is deemed to have acquired Estonian citizenship by birth, provided the adoptive parent was an Estonian citizen at the time of the birth of the child. If the written application is submitted by an adoptive parent who was not an Estonian citizen at the time of the birth of the child, a minor alien child, by decision of the governmental authority authorised by the Government of the Republic, is deemed to have acquired Estonian citizenship as of the date on which Estonian citizenship was granted to the adoptive parent. f. for stateless persons; Yes, according to Article 13 of the Citizenship Act a minor under 15 years of age who was born in Estonia or who immediately after birth takes up permanent residence in Estonia together with his or her parent(s) is granted Estonian citizenship by naturalisation as of the moment of his or her birth, provided his or her parents or single parent whom no state recognizes under valid laws as its citizen have or has lawfully resided in Estonia for at least five years by the moment of the child's birth. g. for naturalization requests of citizens with residence in your country from countries which have historical links with your State, such as former colonies or neighboring countries; Yes, according to the Citizenship Act the requirement of holding a long-term residence permit or the right of permanent residence does not apply in respect of applicants for Estonian citizenship who settled in Estonia or were born in Estonia before 1 July 1990. h.</p>
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			Non EU-citizens (third country nationals); No. i. EU citizens and if, which countries you favorite; No. j. for others, please describe; An exception from the time period specified in question 1 can be made with regard to persons whose achievements are of special merit to the Estonian state. Achievements of special merit may be achievements in the area of science, culture, sports or in other areas.
+	Finland	Yes	<p>1. For the last five years without interruption (continuous period of residence) or for a total of seven years after having reached the age of 15 (accumulated period of residence). Of these seven years, the person must have lived in Finland for the past two years without interruption. Continuous period of residence: http://www.migri.fi/finnish_citizenship/applying_for_citizenship/requirements/residence_period/calculating_residential_time Accumulated period of residence: http://www.migri.fi/finnish_citizenship/applying_for_citizenship/requirements/residence_period/trips_outside_finland</p> <p>2. a. for refugees and their family members; Yes Refugee status in Finland or a residence permit on the basis of subsidiary or humanitarian protection, it is enough to have lived in Finland for the past four years without interruption or for a total of six years after you reached the age of 15. Of these six years, the person must have lived in Finland for the past two years without interruption. Family members: same criteria if they have received a residence permit on the same grounds as the sponsor. b. for minors; Yes - The child under the age of 15 : no requirements concerning the period of residence, but the child's actual home and residence must be in Finland when the decision on the application is being made. - The child who has reached the age of 15: the past four years without interruption or for a total of six years since the child reached the age of seven. Of these six years, the child must have lived in Finland for the past two years without interruption. c. for spouses and unmarried partners of a national; Yes If the spouse is a Finnish citizen, it is enough to have lived in Finland for the last four years without interruption (continuous period of residence) or for a total of six years after having reached the age of 15. Of these six years, the person must have lived in Finland for the past two years without interruption (accumulated period of residence). In addition, you must live with your spouse, and must have done so for at least three years. If the spouse is deceased but he or she was a citizen of Finland, you must have lived with him or her for at least three years before his or her death. 'Spouse' refers to a husband, wife, common-law husband or wife, and persons living in a registered relationship d. for young-adults with a permanent residence in your MS -> Yes, see b. e. for a foreign child adopted by a national; Yes An adopted child</p>

			<p>under the age of 12 will automatically obtain Finnish citizenship if at least one of the adoptive parents is a citizen of Finland and the adoption is valid in Finland. The Register Office will automatically enter the citizenship in the population information system. An adoptive child of 12–17 years of age will obtain Finnish citizenship by declaration. The above only applies to children who have been adopted on or after 1 June 2003. f. for stateless persons; -> Yes, see a. g. for naturalization requests of citizens with residence in your country from countries which have historical links with your State, such as former colonies or neighboring countries; -> No h. Non EU-citizens (third country nationals) -> No i. EU citizens and if, which countries you favorite; <input type="checkbox"/> Yes For citizens of Iceland, (Norway), Sweden or Denmark it is enough to have lived in Finland for the past two years without interruption. j. for others, please describe; A former citizen of Finland may re-acquire Finnish citizenship by declaration without any requirements. It is not possible to regain Finnish citizenship by declaration if one lost it because one gave false information in earlier citizenship application and received citizenship on wrongful grounds.</p>
	France	Yes	<p>1. A third country national wishing to apply for naturalization has to prove a usual and regular residence of 5 years before filing the application</p> <p>2. a-For refugees, there is no minimum condition of residence b-For minors born in France, whose both parents are third country nationals and who has resided continuously or discontinuously for 5 years since he is 11, can as soon as he is 16, anticipate the application for naturalization by filling a declaration with the district court (tribunal d’instance). The parents of such a minor can file the same declaration for their child and with his approval, provided he is 13 and has resided in France since he is 8. c- For spouses of French nationals, they can apply for naturalization after 4 years following the marriage. They have to prove affective and material community of life since marriage and sufficient knowledge of French language. The required level is level B1 oral of CEFR. d-In those cases, article 21-7 of Civil Code requires a condition of continuous or discontinuous residence in France of 5 years since the age of 11 for children born in France from two foreign parents. e- In case of full adoption, children are French by blood so they are French since their birth without having to apply for it. For simple adoption, the child can apply for naturalization until he is 18. If he is not born in France and does not fulfil conditions for automatic naturalization, he has to file an application. Before he is 16, the adoptive parents can file the application on behalf of their child. As soon as he is 16, the child can file the application by himself. Some conditions are required: to reside in France at the time of filing the application (unless the child</p>



			<p>was adopted by a French national whose usual residence is not in France); if the adoption was ruled outside France the decision had to be enforced in France; the adoptive parent had to be French at the time of the adoption, even if he has obtained another nationality after the adoption. f- No specific conditions. Same condition of residence of 5 years g - specific conditions exist for Algerian nationals who were French before the independence of Algeria in 1963, provided a declaration was filed before 30 March 1967 and through a reintegration process. h- No specific conditions. Same condition of residence of 5 years i - No specific conditions. Same condition of residence of 5 years j- The 5 years condition of usual residence in France can be reduced to 2 years for: - A third country national who completed successfully 2 years of studies in order to obtain a French diploma issued by a French higher school / establishment ; - A third country national who participated in France's influence / attractiveness ; - A third country national who has followed an exceptional integration pathway (through activities or actions in the civic, scientific, economic, cultural or sport fields). A third country national can also be exempted of the 5 years condition of residence if s/he fulfils one of the following conditions: - s/he has completed a military service in the French army ; - s/he has completed wartime service on a voluntary basis in French or allied armies; - h/she has provided exceptional services to France; - if his/her mother tongue is French or s/he has completed school for at least 5 years in an establishment teaching in French in another country whose French is the official or one of the official languages.</p>
	Germany	Yes	<p>1. To be entitled to naturalization, a foreigner must have been residing legally in Germany for 8 years, in cases of naturalization granted at the discretion of the authorities, a foreigner ought to have been residing legally for 8 years (additional requirements may apply). The length of residence can be reduced to 7 years if foreigners can furnish proof that they have participated successfully in an integration course and have achieved special integration accomplishments, and can be shortened to 6 years for foreigners who can furnish proof of proficiency in the German language above level B 1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.</p> <p>2. a. for refugees and their family members: yes, they must have been residing legally in Germany for 6 years. b. for minors: yes, they must have been residing legally in Germany for 3 years if the child below the age of 16 has been living in Germany in the same household as a German national who has custody of the child. Children under the age of six need to have spent half their life in Germany prior to naturalization. The same applies to children who are naturalized together with their foreigner parents. c.</p>

			<p>for spouses and unmarried partners of a national: yes, they must have been residing legally in Germany for 3 years and have been married to/ or been living in a registered partnership with the German national for two years; they must have been residing legally in Germany for less than 3 years if they have been living in a registered partnership with the German national for 3 years; (they must have been residing legally in Germany for 4 years and have been married to/living in a registered partnership for 2 years when they are being naturalized together with the foreign principal person entitled to naturalization). d. for Young adults with a permanent residence in your MS: no. e. for a foreign child adopted by a national: yes, with no prior residence requirement at the time a minor was legally adopted by a German national; foreign children must have been residing in Germany for 4 years; adopted children who have reached the age of 18 must have been residing in Germany for 3 years. f. for stateless persons: yes, 6 years. g. for naturalization requests of citizens with residence in your country from countries which have historical links with your State, such as former colonies or neighbouring countries: yes, no previous residence requirement for ethnic German resettlers (ethnic Germans from former settlement areas) or family members included in their admission notice. The residence requirement may be far less than 8 years for German nationals and their descendants depending on the circumstances in each individual case. h. Non EU-citizens (third country nationals): yes, far less than 8 years, but at least 3 years if there is a special public interest in naturalization (this also applies to EU nationals). i. EU citizens and if, which countries you favorite: yes, 4 years for German-speaking foreigners from Austria and Liechtenstein or from German-speaking areas in other European countries where German is the official or natural language.</p>
	Hungary	Yes	<p>1. Those persons who are not eligible for preferential naturalisation may apply for naturalisation after having been residing in Hungary for eight consecutive years.</p> <p>2. Persons who meet the following requirements may apply for preferential naturalisation after having been residing in Hungary for three consecutive years: - he/she has been living in a valid marriage with a Hungarian citizen for at least three years, or his/her marriage has been terminated with the spouse's death, - his/her minor child is a Hungarian citizen, - he/she was adopted by a Hungarian citizen (and he/she reached legal age in the meantime), - he/she was recognized as a refugee by a Hungarian authority, - he/she is stateless. Persons who meet the following requirements may apply for preferential naturalisation after having been residing in Hungary for five consecutive years: - he/she was born in the territory of Hungary, - he/she established residence in Hungary before reaching the legal age (18 in Hungary), In</p>




			<p>case of a minor child the requirement for periods of time set out above may be reduced if his/her application for naturalisation is submitted together with that of his/her parent or if his/her parent has already acquired Hungarian citizenship. The application for naturalisation of a minor child adopted by a Hungarian citizen may be submitted by the adoptive parent regardless of the child's place of residence.</p>
	Italy	Yes	<p>1. Ten years of legal residence is required to apply for naturalization in Italy. In addition the Law (91/1992) asks migrants to provide sufficient incomes and the absence of criminal records.</p> <p>2. a. for refugees and their family members: Yes, refugees can apply after 5 years of legal residence in Italy (art. 16 comma 2 of Legge 91/1992). Family members follow the same rules of who applies for naturalization to be married with a citizen. b. for minors: No, children born in Italy from foreign people are not Italian, but they have to reach 18 years to apply for naturalization and have to prove their residence in the country during the entire life. A reform of citizenship rules addressed to minors is currently pending in Italy. c. for spouses and unmarried partners of a national: Naturalization can be applied for marriage with an Italian citizen. The terms for this specific request depend on the place of residence. If the spouses are resident in Italy, the required period is 2 years of residence after the marriage; If, on the other hand, they are resident abroad, 3 years must pass after the date of marriage. In the case of children born or adopted by the couple, timing is reduced to half. No, unmarried partners have not the right to citizenship. d. for young-adults with a permanent residence in your MS; No, the term is 10 years of legal residence in Italy. e. for a foreign child adopted by a national: Yes, he becomes Italian with the adoption (Art. 3 Law 91/1992). f. for stateless persons: Yes, the term is 5 years of legal residence in Italy (art. 16 of Law 91/1992). g. for naturalization requests of citizens with residence in your country from countries which have historical links with your State, such as former colonies or neighboring countries: No, there are no exceptions for citizens of countries which have historical links with Italy. h. Non EU-citizens (third country nationals): No, the term is 10 years of legal residence in Italy. i. EU citizens and if, which countries you favorite: Yes, 4 years of legal residence in Italy. j. for others, please describe</p>
	Latvia	Yes	<p>1. In Latvia a foreigner must reside in Latvia for at least 10 years (5 years with temporary residence permit and 5 years with permanent residence permit). For foreign nationals or stateless persons the five-</p>

year period is counted from the day of receipt of the permanent residence permit or permanent residence certificate.



2. Exceptions: a. refugees and their family members – 5 years, as they receive permanent residence permit; b. for minors 1. If one of the parents acquires or has acquired Latvian citizenship through naturalisation, upon a request of the person to be naturalised the children of such person who are up to 15 years of age and whose permanent place of residence is in Latvia shall also acquire Latvian citizenship (condition does not require five year permanent place of residence for children). 2. A child who is born in Latvia after 21 August 1991 and whose both parents are stateless persons or non-citizens until reaching the age of 15 years has a right to be recognized as a Latvian citizen on the basis of an application by one of the parents submitted to the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs. The following conditions should exist at the same time: the permanent place of residence of the child is in Latvia; the permanent place of residence of the parent with whom the child is living has been in Latvia for not less than last five years. 3. A child who is born in Latvia after 21 August 1991 and whose both parents are stateless persons or non-citizens after reaching the age of 15 years till the age of 18 years has a right to be recognized as a Latvian citizen on the basis of his/her own application. Child's permanent place of residence for not less than last five years until the submission of the application should be in Latvia. 4. The right to be registered as a Latvian citizen also has a child who has been found in the territory of Latvia and whose parents are unknown, or other child left without parental care who is under extra-familial care in Latvia, except a child for whose parents the custody rights have been suspended; an orphan who is under extra-familial care in Latvia. Condition does not require five year permanent place of residence of a child. c. for spouses and unmarried partners of a national – No exceptions; d. for young-adults with a permanent residence in your MS – No exceptions; e. foreign child adopted by Latvian citizen got the right be registered as a Latvian citizen. Condition does not require five year permanent place of residence; f. for stateless persons (see point b 2.2.2.-3); g. a person who belongs to the constituent nation (Latvians) or autochthon population (Livs) or a person who was a Latvian citizen on 17 June 1940, or a descendant of such person has a right to be registered as a Latvian citizen. Condition does not require five year permanent place of residence. But the following conditions should be certified: a) that in 1881 or later person's ancestor had been permanently living in the territory of Latvia as it existed until 17 June 1940; b) person confirms belonging to the constituent nation (Latvians) or autochthon population (Livs), by submitting a documentary confirmation on the fact that he/she or at least one of the parents or grandparents belongs to the constituent nation or autochthon population. Such confirmation may be



			<p>replaced by a certification regarding belonging to a community of Latvians at his/her place of residence outside Latvia; c) person confirms fluency in the Latvian language. Person who was a Latvian citizen on 17 June 1940, or a descendant of such person in order to be registered as a Latvian citizen must provide documentary evidence on the fact that, from 17 June 1940 until 4 May 1990, he/she has left Latvia escaping from the U.S.S.R. or German occupation regime or has been deported, and due to the referred to reasons has not returned to Latvia for permanent residence until 4 May 1990. h. Non EU-citizens (third country nationals) – No exceptions; i. EU citizens – No exceptions; j. A person who does not have the right to naturalize in accordance with the general procedures provided for in Citizenship law, may be admitted to Latvian citizenship on the basis of special meritorious service for the benefit of Latvia by a decision of the State parliament (condition does not require five year permanent place of residence, person must conform certain State security requirements specified in the Citizenship law).</p>
	Lithuania	Yes	<p>1. In principle in Lithuania, a foreigners must have resided for at least 10 years before he or she is eligible for naturalization.</p> <p>2. There are some exception to the general rule of 10 years residence: - Stateless persons (if born in Lithuania) - 5 years residence - Spouses of nationals - 7 years residence - Adopted child (if adopted by a national) - from the day of adoption - Minor until 14 years old (if one of parents acquires Lithuanian citizenship and the child has no other citizenship) - immediately. For all other groups (refugees, foreigners from countries with historical links, EU citizens) a 10 years residence requirement applies.</p>
	Luxembourg	Yes	<p>1. In Luxembourg, in accordance with article 14 (1) 1) of the Law of 8 March 2017 on Luxembourgish Nationality the TCN must legally reside 5 years in the country. The law also adds as a condition that during the last year before the application the residence in the country must be uninterrupted.</p> <p>2. a. for refugees and their family members. No. Article 31 (1) of the Law of 8 March 2017, grants the option for the beneficiaries of refugee status, subsidiary protection and statelessness if they have legally resided 5 years in the country. The last year before the application the residence in the country must be uninterrupted. The period between the filing of the application for international protection or for the recognition of statelessness is considered as regular residence (article 82). If the family members are not beneficiaries of international protection (refugee or subsidiary protection status) or recognised stateless</p>

			<p>persons the period of 5 years is calculated from the moment that the residence permit was granted. for minors: No. The minor can opt for the Luxembourgish nationality when s/he becomes 12 years old and has lived regularly in Luxembourg for at least 5 consecutive years and that the TCN parent has resided in the country at least 12 months before the birth of the child. However, it is important to mention that special norms exist regarding the acquisition of the Luxembourgish nationality by minors through three paths: filiation, adoption or by reasons of birth. In these three cases there is no condition of residence. The law considers that the child is Luxembourgish if: - one of the parents has the Luxembourgish nationality at the moment of birth; -the child is born in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and one of his/her parents or adopting parents is not Luxembourgish but s/he was born in Luxembourg (doble ius solis); - the child is born in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg but s/he cannot acquire a foreign nationality because his/her parents are stateless. Also the minor becomes Luxembourger if: -if one of the parents acquires Luxembourgish nationality; -the child was adopted by a Luxembourgish national; -the child has been adopted by a stateless persons who is a legal resident in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg. b. for spouses and unmarried partners of a national: Yes. Article 25 (1) of the Law on Luxembourgish Nationality aucune condition de durée de residence au pays n'est exigée en cas de mariage. However in case that they do not live in Luxembourg, the TCN spouses cannot apply for the option before at least three years of marriage (Article 25(2)). Unmarried partners of Luxembourgish nationals must fulfil the residence condition of 5 years. c. for young-adults with a permanent residence in your MS: No. A young adult who has become a legal resident before his/her 18th birthday if s/he has resided 5 years in the country. The last year before the application for the option the residence in the country must be uninterrupted (article 30 (1)). d. for a TCN child adopted by a national: See answer to point b. e. for stateless persons: No. See answer to point a). f. for naturalization requesters from TCN from countries which have historical links with the (Member) States, such as former colonies or neighboring countries: No. g. Recovery of nationality: No residence condition is required. The recovery procedure is open to all persons who has lost the Luxembourgish nationality independently if s/he is a Luxembourger of origin or if s/he has obtained it by naturalization, option or recovery. In Luxembourg, the possibility of recovery of nationality is also foreseen if the person has an ancestor who was Luxembourgish on 01 January 1900. This possibility is limited in time so the application, proving being the descendent of a Luxembourgish national, has to be submitted until 31 December 2018 and the person must submit the recovery statement before the Registrar until 31 December 2020 (article 89 (1)).</p>
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	Malta	No	
	Netherlands	Yes	<p>1. In the Netherlands, in principle, this is done after 5-years of legal residence.</p> <p>2. c. for spouses and unmarried partners of a national; Yes, a 3-year term. e. for a TCN child adopted by a national; Yes, a 3-year term. f. for stateless persons; Yes, a 3-year term. Regarding the other categories, there is no exception to the 5-year term.</p>
	Portugal	Yes	<p>1. Law requires, for purposes of citizenship acquisition through naturalization, legal residence in the Portuguese territory for at least six years.</p> <p>2. Law requires, for purposes of citizenship acquisition through naturalization, legal residence in the Portuguese territory for at least six years.</p> <p>3. Yes, there are the below mentioned exceptions: Citizenship by naturalisation is granted to minors, born in the Portuguese territory to foreign parents, providing that one of the parents resides legally in the Portuguese territory for at least five years at the time the request is submitted. Citizenship by naturalisation with residence time exemption is also granted to individuals as follows: (1) those who, having had and lost Portuguese citizenship, never have acquired another citizenship; (2) those born abroad with, at least, one ancestor up to the second degree who holds and never has lost Portuguese citizenship; (3) those born in the Portuguese territory to foreign parents who remained usually in the national territory along the ten years immediately prior to the request; (4) those who, not being stateless, have never lost Portuguese citizenship; those considered Portuguese descendants, the members of the Portuguese ascendancy communities and foreigners that have served or are called to serve significantly the Portuguese State or the national community; and (5) Portuguese Sephardic Jews' descendants. Please note, that there are other time exceptions, but these refer to citizenship acquisition through marriage or adoption (acquisition for option).</p> <p>4. Yes, there are the below mentioned exceptions: Citizenship by naturalisation is granted to minors, born in the Portuguese territory to foreign parents, providing that one of the parents resides legally in the Portuguese territory for at least five years at the time the request is submitted. Citizenship by</p>

			<p>naturalisation with residence time exemption is also granted to individuals as follows: (1) those who, having had and lost Portuguese citizenship, never have acquired another citizenship; (2) those born abroad with, at least, one ancestor up to the second degree who holds and never has lost Portuguese citizenship; (3) those born in the Portuguese territory to foreign parents who remained usually in the national territory along the ten years immediately prior to the request; (4) those who, not being stateless, have never lost Portuguese citizenship; those considered Portuguese descendants, the members of the Portuguese ascendancy communities and foreigners that have served ore are called to serve significantly the Portuguese State or the national community; and (5) Portuguese Sephardic Jews' descendants. Please note, that there are other time exceptions, but these refer to citizenship acquisition through marriage or adoption (acquisition for option).</p>
	Slovak Republic	Yes	<p>1. For granting of the Slovak citizenship a foreigner has to have a permanent residence in the territory of the Slovak Republic for at least 8 consecutive years directly prior to submitting the application.</p> <p>2. The following categories may be exempted from this rule, having residence in the territory of the Slovak Republic but failing to comply with the requirement of 8 consecutive years of permanent residence: -a person who has been granted asylum at least 4 years prior to submitting the application for Slovak citizenship; -a minor who have had a continuous permanent residence in the territory of the Slovak Republic for at least 3 years before reaching 18 years of age; -a minor whose legal representative or guardian is a Slovak citizen or a legal entity appointed by the Slovak court and s/he has had a continuous residence in the territory of the Slovak Republic for at least 2 years directly prior to submitting the application for Slovak citizenship; the length of the residence period does not apply to children younger than 2 years of age; -a spouse of a Slovak citizen, provided that the marriage still lasts and the two have lived together in a common household in the territory of the Slovak Republic for at least 5 years directly prior to submitting the application for citizenship of the Slovak Republic; -a foreign child who has been adopted under Slovak law by an adoptive parent who is a Slovak citizen or by adoptive parents one of whom is a Slovak citizen, acquires the citizenship by the adoption; - stateless persons who have had continuous residence in Slovakia for at least 3 years prior to submitting the application for Slovak citizenship; -a person who represents a significant benefit for the Slovak Republic in the field of economy, science, technology, social affairs, culture or sports, or if granting the Slovak citizenship is in the interest of the Slovak Republic; in this event, compliance with the requirement of Slovak language</p>

			<p>command is not required; -a person who was born in the territory of the Slovak Republic and have had permanent residence in Slovakia for at least 3 years directly prior to submitting the application for Slovak citizenship; -a person who have had continuous residence in Slovakia for at least 10 years and had been granted permanent residence at the time of submitting the application for Slovak citizenship; -person who have been issued a certificate of a Slovak Living Abroad and have had continuous residence in the territory of the Slovak Republic for at least 3 years directly prior to submitting the application for Slovak citizenship. In specific cases Slovak citizenship may be granted to an applicant: Who was released from the state union with the Slovak Republic and had continuous residence in the territory of the Slovak republic at least 2 years directly prior to submitting the application for Slovak citizenship. Whose Slovak or former Czechoslovak citizenship was terminated or who lost such citizenship pursuant to previous legislation.</p>
	Slovenia	Yes	<p>1. According to the Slovenian Citizenship Law naturalization can in general be granted after 10 years of actually living in Slovenia, of which the 5 years prior the request and the foreigner must have a legal status of alien.</p> <p>2. a. for refugees and their family members; Yes, 5 years b. for minors; Yes, 1 year c. for spouses and unmarried partners of a national; Yes, 1 year d. for young-adults with a permanent residence in your MS; No e. for a foreign child adopted by a national; Yes, 1 year f. for stateless persons; Yes. 5 years g. for naturalization requests of citizens with residence in your country from countries which have historical links with your State , such as former colonies or neighboring countries; No h. Non EU-citizens (third country nationals); No i. EU citizens and if, which countries you favorite; No j. for others, please describe; - Slovenian expatriate and his descendants to the fourth generation: 1 year - a person who lost Slovenian citizenship due to release or renunciation of citizenship: 6 months - a person who successfully completed at least a higher education programme in Republic of Slovenia: 7 years, of which 1 year prior the request - a special interest of the Republic of Slovenia: 1 year</p>
	Spain	Yes	<p>1. 10 years (according to the Spanish Civil Code, article 22.1)</p> <p>2. According to the same article 22 of Spanish Civil Code: a) yes, 5 years b) No. But if born in Spanish territory, 1 year of residence c) For spouses married during 1 year, 1 year of legal residence (not for</p>

			<p>unmarried partners) d) No e) adopted or under institutional placement during 2 consecutive years, 1 year of legal residence f) No g) Yes, 2 years (Latin American countries, Andorra, Equatorial Guinea, Philippines, Portugal, Sephardim citizens) h) No (except those with historical links: 2 years as said before) i) Not as EU countries. But Portugal has a special 2 years term because of historical links j) 1 year for those who has not made use of the possibility to opt to Spanish nationality in term, 1 year for widowers of a Spanish national if at the moment of the death there were no legal or factual separation, and 1 year for those born outside Spanish territory and whose father or mother were originally Spanish nationals.</p>
	Sweden	Yes	<p>1. The period of required residency varies. In most cases the person is required to have been resident in Sweden for at least five years. For more information see question 2.</p> <p>2. a. Refugees (according to the Geneva Convention) are required to have been resident in Sweden for at least four years. b. A child can become a Swedish citizen through notification if the Child has lived in Sweden with a residence permit for settlement for three years or, if the child is stateless, for two years. c. If the person is married to, living in a registered partnership with or cohabiting with a Swedish citizen, he/she can apply for Swedish citizenship after three years. d. Young adults can get naturalization by notification (a simpler procedure) if he/she has turned 18 but are under 21 and has lived in Sweden since the day he/she turned 13, for stateless persons the day he/she turned 15. e. No stipulated time. A child who is not yet 12 years of age and who has been adopted by a Swedish citizen automatically receives Swedish citizenship upon adoption if: •the child has been adopted as the result of a decision made in Sweden or in another Nordic country •the child has been adopted as the result of a decision made abroad and approved in Sweden by the Swedish Intercountry Adoptions Authority •the adoption is valid under Swedish law. A child who has reached the age of 12 before the adoption may become a Swedish citizen by application. f. Four years of residence. g. Nordic Citizens - two years of residence. h. See question 1. i. See question 1. j. -</p>
	Switzerland	Yes	<p>1. Regular naturalization: People who have been resident in Switzerland for twelve years – the years spent in this country between the completed 10th and 20th years are counted double for this purpose – may apply for naturalisation. Our State Secretariat examines whether applicants are integrated in the Swiss way of life, are familiar with Swiss customs and traditions, comply with the Swiss rule of law, and</p>

			<p>do not endanger Switzerland's internal or external security. In particular, this examination is based on cantonal and communal reports. If the requirements provided by federal law are satisfied, applicants are entitled to obtain a federal naturalisation permit from the State Secretariat for Migration. Naturalisation proceeds in three stages. Thus the federal naturalisation permit only constitutes the Confederation's "green light" for the acquisition of Swiss nationality. However, the cantons and communities have their own, additional residence requirements which applicants have to satisfy. Swiss citizenship is only acquired by those applicants who, after obtaining the federal naturalisation permit, have also been naturalised by their communities and cantons. As a rule, there is no legally protected right to being naturalised by a community and a canton. Facilitated naturalization: Foreign spouses of Swiss nationals who have lived in Switzerland for a year may apply for facilitated naturalisation after three years of marriage, provided they have lived in Switzerland for a total of five years. People who have close ties with Switzerland may apply for facilitated naturalisation even if they are resident abroad. In such cases, however, they must have been married to a Swiss spouse for at least six years.</p> <p>2. 2. Are there exceptions to this term, more in particular for the following categories (Yes/No, If so, what is the term for the specific category); a. for refugees and their family members; no b. for minors; no; look the general description for minors above c. for spouses and unmarried partners of a national; no; look the general description for spouses of a national above (facilitated naturalization) d. for young-adults with a permanent residence in your MS; no; look the general description above concerning the young-adults between the completed 10th and 20th year (Lifetime in Switzerland is double counted) e. for a foreign child adopted by a national; yes: if a minor foreign child is adopted by a Swiss citizen, the child acquires the cantonal and communal citizenship of the adoptive parent and thus also acquires Swiss citizenship. f. for stateless persons; yes, concerning the children: a stateless minor child may apply for simplified naturalisation if he or she has lived in Switzerland for a total of five years, one year of which must be immediately before the application is made g. for naturalization requests of citizens with residence in your country from countries which have historical links with your State , such as former colonies or neighboring countries; no h. Non EU-citizens (third country nationals); no i. EU citizens and if, which countries are you</p>
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			favorite; j. for others, please describe; no
	United Kingdom	Yes	<p>1. 5 years.</p> <p>2. a. No. b. There may be exceptions, including automatic acquisition of citizenship. This would depend on the minor's parents. A full list can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/583385/MN1_Guide_January_2017.pdf c. If their spouse is a British citizen, the term is 3 years. d. No. e. This is considered on a case by case basis. f. If a person is stateless, the term is 3 years. g. No. h. No. i. If the applicant has had permanent residence status for the last 12 months in an EU country, they may apply.</p>
	Norway	Yes	<p>1. .</p> <p>2. A foreigner must have stayed in Norway for a total of seven of the past ten years and have held residence permits that were each valid for at least one year. The requirements for Norwegian citizenship are not the same for everyone. An applicant's age, when she/he came to Norway and who she/he is married to, can affect how long she/he must have lived in Norway before he/she can apply. If an applicant was born in Norway or came here before reaching the age of 18, there is a shorter residence period requirement. She/he must have stayed in Norway for a total of five of the past seven years and have held residence permits that were each valid for at least one year. https://www.udi.no/en/word-definitions/calculating-the-residence-period-in-citizenship-cases-residence-permits/</p> <p>3. .</p> <p>4. There are exceptions for the following categories: b. for minors; If an applicant was born in Norway or came here before reaching the age of 18, there is a shorter residence period requirement. She/he must have stayed in Norway for a total of five of the past seven years and have held residence permits that were each valid for at least one year. If one of the parents is a Norwegian citizen by naturalization, only two years are required if the child is two years old or more and there are no requirements if the child is younger than two years old. c. for spouses and unmarried partners of a national; Years residing together with Norwegian spouse/unmarried partner is added to time residing in Norway holding residence permits.</p>

			<p>Most applicants fulfil the requirements after 3 years and 6 months. e. for a foreign child adopted by a national; Child is a Norwegian citizen from the date when the adoption is formalized in Norway. f. for stateless persons; Three years, but only one year for minors born in Norway if the parents have permanent residence permits and the application for the child is sent before the first year after the child is born. g. for naturalization requests of citizens with residence in your country from countries which have historical links with your State, such as former colonies or neighboring countries; Citizens of Nordic countries and former Norwegian citizens, two years.</p>
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