



# Overview of Changes to the Legislation in Poland

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**INSTYTUT NA RZECZ PAŃSTWA PRAWA**

In the past month, there were no significant changes in the Polish legislation concerning foreign affairs. However, it is worth mentioning few issues that may be relevant for Ukrainian citizens staying in Poland. Firstly, it concerns information that will largely apply to foreigners applying for temporary residence based on work in a profession requiring high qualifications. According to the Announcement of the President of the Central Office of Statistics of 20 July 2023 regarding the average monthly salary in the enterprise sector including profit shares, the average monthly salary in the second quarter of 2023 amounted to 7,365.35 PLN. This information is significant because individuals who meet specific conditions can apply for the abovementioned permit. One of these conditions is that the annual gross salary due to the foreigner (resulting from monthly or yearly remuneration) specified in the contract is not lower than 150% of the average national salary in the year preceding the conclusion of the contract, as announced by the President of the Central Office of Statistics.

It is also worth to mention that on 24 July 2023 the President of the Republic of Poland signed the Act on Local Government, Social Forms of Housing Development, Real Estate Management, Civil Law Transactions Tax and some other acts. One of the many changes introduced by this Act is the abolition of the Civil Law Transactions Tax (so called PCC tax). The abolition of the Civil Law Transactions Tax applies to the sale of the ownership right to an apartment or single-family house if the buyer did not previously own any other residential property. Such a change has great significance for individuals intending to purchase their first property, especially foreigners who decide to buy their first property in Poland. The Act has already been signed by the President and awaits publication in the Official Journal (Dziennik Ustaw).

Referring to the changes concerning the purchase of apartments, it is worth noting that as of 1 July 2023, the government program called "Safe Credit 2%" has been launched and is actively operating. The essence of the program is a mortgage loan provided on preferential terms for a period of 10 years: fixed interest rate at 2 percent + the bank's margin. The preferential credit in the form of government subsidies is available to individuals who meet all the conditions of this program outlined in the Act of May 26, 2023, on state aid for housing savings (these conditions include, among others, not owning any real estate and meeting the appropriate age criteria).

It should be emphasized that during the discussed period, no new changes were introduced regarding the so-called Special Act of 12 March 2022 (Law on assistance to Ukrainian citizens in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of this country). This means that the previously discussed provisions continue to be in effect.

It is also worth reminding that as of 1 July 2023, the state of epidemic threat in the territory of the Republic of Poland has been lifted. As a consequence, on 31 July 2023, all residency documents that expired after 14 March 2020, and were automatically extended by the so-called COVID law, have lost their validity. These documents were valid until the 30th day after the lifting of the state of epidemic threat. However, in most cases, this does not apply to Ukrainian citizens whose stay is regulated by the Special Act, and they can still legally stay in the territory of the Republic of Poland.

The broadly understood law on foreigners is a highly dynamic field in Poland. Therefore, we encourage you to follow information on reliable and verified sources.

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