

Overview of Changes to the Legislation in Poland

September 2023

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INSTYTUT NA RZECZ PAŃSTWA PRAWA

In September 2023, there were no significant changes in the Polish legislation regulating broadly defined foreigners' affairs.

Nevertheless, it's worth mentioning that there have been some changes related to the circulation of medicines within the territory of the Republic of Poland. This information may be useful for both Polish citizens and citizens of other countries, especially Ukrainian citizens. According to the law of July 13, 2023, amending the Act on Health Care Services Financed from Public Funds and the Act on the reimbursement of medicines, special dietary food and medical devices, the catalogue of individuals entitled to free supplies of medicines, special dietary food and medical devices have been expanded. The new regulations pertain to children up to the age of 18 and individuals over the age of 65. The list of medicines and details regarding these changes can be found in the announcement of the Minister of Health dated August 30, 2023, regarding the list of reimbursed medicines, special dietary food and medical devices at <https://dziennikmz.mz.gov.pl/legalact/2023/73/>.

It's also worth mentioning a novelty that is expected to come into effect in 2024, and which is already generating significant interest among foreigners, especially Ukrainian citizens. At the beginning of 2024, some changes in the rules for using visa-free travel are to be applied, known as "paid entry" to 30 European countries under the EU's ETIAS system. ETIAS is a new European travel information and authorization system that applies to citizens of 60 countries (including Ukraine) who are exempt from the visa requirement for short-term travel. Foreigners from these countries should obtain an ETIAS authorization before starting their journey. The fee for processing the application is 7 EUR. To obtain an ETIAS certificate, you must primarily have a valid biometric passport, pay the fee, and complete the relevant application. The authorization will be valid for 3 years or until the passport expires, whichever occurs earlier.

Important!

An ETIAS certificate is to be required for individuals from selected countries travelling under the visa-free regime. However, we encourage you to continue monitoring information in this regard as it is especially significant for a substantial group of foreigners.

• **We are there**