

**GREECE****GENERAL OVERVIEW ON IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES**

This summary is designed to provide basic information about the VISA and WORK PERMIT application in Greece. As changes in the applicable laws and procedures may arise any time, the present report may be considered as a general guide and does not constitute legal advice. For current and detailed information regarding the applicable legislation/procedures as well as a tailor-made solution to the specific case, please contact the legal professional with whom you work at Vardikos & Vardikos.

The issue of entry and stay on Greek territory for reasons including the notion of immigration is determined by Law 4251/2014 “Code of Immigration and Social Integration” (Government Gazette 80/ issue A of 01/04/2014) as amended, supplemented and in effect today.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON VISAS

Greece is a member of the Schengen Agreement which provides for the cross border of Business/ Tourist visitors without inspection once initial entry has been made.

Visitors to the Schengen countries who are not exempted from the requirement to obtain a visa should obtain a Schengen visa for Business/Tourist purposes.

VISA OBLIGATION - EXEMPTIONS APPLIED BY GREECE IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 539/2001, AS AMENDED BY REGULATION (EC) No 2414/2001, REGULATION (EC) No 453/2003, REGULATION (EC) No 1932/2006, REGULATION (EC) No 1244/2009, REGULATION (EU) No 1091/2010 AND REGULATION (EU) No 1211/2010, AND REGULATION (EU) No509/2014

COUNTRY	ORDINARY PASSPORT	DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT	SERVICE PASSPORT
AFGHANISTAN	VISA	VISA	VISA
ALBANIA (NOTE 1)	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
ALGERIA	VISA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
ANDORRA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
ANGOLA	VISA	VISA	VISA
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
ARGENTINA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE

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ARMENIA	VISA	VISA-FREE	VISA
AUSTRALIA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
AUSTRIA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
AZERBAIJAN	VISA	VISA-FREE	VISA
BAHAMAS	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
BAHRAIN	VISA	VISA	VISA
BANGLADESH	VISA	VISA	VISA
BARBADOS	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
BELARUS	VISA	VISA	VISA
BELGIUM	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
BELIZE	VISA	VISA	VISA
BENIN	VISA	VISA	VISA
BHUTAN	VISA	VISA	VISA
BOLIVIA	VISA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA (NOTE 1)	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
BOTSWANA	VISA	VISA	VISA
BRAZIL	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
BRUNEI	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
BULGARIA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
BURKINA FASO	VISA	VISA	VISA
BURUNDI	VISA	VISA	VISA
CAMBODIA	VISA	VISA	VISA
CAMEROON	VISA	VISA	VISA
CANADA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA -FREE
CAPE VERDE	VISA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	VISA	VISA	VISA
CHAD	VISA	VISA	VISA
CHILE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
CHINA	VISA	VISA-FREE	VISA
COLOMBIA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
COMOROS	VISA	VISA	VISA
CONGO, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE	VISA	VISA	VISA
CONGO, REPUBLIC OF THE	VISA	VISA	VISA
COSTA RICA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
COTE D'IVOIRE	VISA	VISA	VISA
CROATIA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
CUBA	VISA	VISA	VISA
CYPRUS	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
CZECH REPUBLIC	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
DENMARK	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
DJIBOUTI	VISA	VISA	VISA
DOMINICA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	VISA	VISA	VISA
ECUADOR	VISA	VISA	VISA
EGYPT	VISA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
EL SALVADOR	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE

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EQUATORIAL GUINEA	VISA	VISA	VISA
ERITREA	VISA	VISA	VISA
ESTONIA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
ETHIOPIA	VISA	VISA	VISA
FIJI	VISA	VISA	VISA
FINLAND	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
FRANCE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
GABON	VISA	VISA	VISA
GAMBIA	VISA	VISA	VISA
GEORGIA(NOTE 1)	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
GERMANY	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
GHANA	VISA	VISA	VISA
GRENADA	VISA-FREE FOR 90 DAYS	VISA-FREE FOR 90 DAYS	VISA-FREE FOR 90 DAYS
GUATEMALA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
GUINEA	VISA	VISA	VISA
GUINEA-BISSAU	VISA	VISA	VISA
GUYANA	VISA	VISA	VISA
HAITI	VISA	VISA	VISA
HOLY SEE (THE VATICAN)	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
HONDURAS	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
HUNGARY	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
ICELAND	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
INDIA	VISA	VISA-FREE	VISA
INDONESIA	VISA	VISA-FREE FOR 30 DAYS	VISA-FREE FOR 30 DAYS
IRAN	VISA	VISA-FREE	VISA
IRAQ	VISA	VISA	VISA
IRELAND	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
ISRAEL	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
ITALY	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
JAMAICA	VISA	VISA	VISA
JAPAN	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
JORDAN	VISA	VISA - FREE	VISA
KAZAKHSTAN	VISA	VISA-FREE	VISA
KENYA	VISA	VISA	VISA
KIRIBATI	VISA-FREE	VISA -FREE	VISA -FREE
KOREA, NORTH	VISA	VISA	VISA
KOREA, SOUTH	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
KUWAIT	VISA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
KYRGYSTAN	VISA	VISA	VISA
LAOS	VISA	VISA	VISA
LATVIA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
LEBANON	VISA	VISA	VISA
LESOTHO	VISA	VISA	VISA
LIBERIA	VISA	VISA	VISA
LIBYA	VISA	VISA	VISA

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LIECHTENSTEIN	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
LITHUANIA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
LUXEMBOURG	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
MADAGASCAR	VISA	VISA	VISA
MALAWI	VISA	VISA	VISA
MALAYSIA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
MALDIVES	VISA	VISA	VISA
MALI	VISA	VISA	VISA
MALTA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
MARSHALL ISLANDS	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
MAURITANIA	VISA	VISA	VISA
MAURITIUS	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
MEXICO	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
MICRONESIA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
MOLDOVA (NOTE 1)	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
MONACO	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
MONGOLIA	VISA	VISA	VISA
MONTENEGRO (NOTE 1)	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
MOROCCO	VISA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
MOZAMBIQUE	VISA	VISA	VISA
MYANMAR	VISA	VISA	VISA
NAMIBIA	VISA	VISA	VISA
NAURU	VISA	VISA	VISA
NEPAL	VISA	VISA	VISA
NETHERLANDS	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
NEW ZEALAND	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
NICARAGUA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
NIGER	VISA	VISA	VISA
NIGERIA	VISA	VISA	VISA
NORTH MACEDONIA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
NORWAY	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
OMAN	VISA	VISA	VISA
PAKISTAN	VISA	VISA	VISA
PALAU	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
PANAMA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	VISA	VISA	VISA
PARAGUAY	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
PERU	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
PHILIPPINES	VISA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
POLAND	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
PORTUGAL	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
QATAR	VISA	VISA	VISA
ROMANIA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
RUSSIA	VISA	VISA-FREE	VISA
RWANDA	VISA	VISA	VISA
SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE

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SAINT LUCIA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
SAMOA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
SAN MARINO	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE	VISA	VISA	VISA
SAUDI ARABIA	VISA	VISA	VISA
SENEGAL	VISA	VISA	VISA
SERBIA (NOTES 1 & 2)	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
SEYCHELLES	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
SIERRA LEONE	VISA	VISA	VISA
SINGAPORE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
SLOVAKIA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
SLOVENIA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
SOLOMON ISLANDS	VISA-FREE FOR 90 DAYS	VISA-FREE FOR 90 DAYS	VISA-FREE FOR 90 DAYS
SOMALIA	VISA	VISA	VISA
SOUTH AFRICA	VISA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
SPAIN	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
SRI LANKA	VISA	VISA	VISA
SUDAN	VISA	VISA	VISA
SOUTH SUDAN	VISA	VISA	VISA
SURINAME	VISA	VISA	VISA
SWAZILAND	VISA	VISA	VISA
SWEDEN	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
SWITZERLAND	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
SYRIA	VISA	VISA	VISA
TAJIKISTAN	VISA	VISA	VISA
TANZANIA	VISA	VISA	VISA
THAILAND	VISA	VISA	VISA
TIMOR-LESTE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
TOGO	VISA	VISA	VISA
TONGA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
TUNISIA	VISA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
TURKEY (NOTE 4)	VISA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
TURKMENISTAN	VISA	VISA	VISA
TUVALU	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
UGANDA	VISA	VISA	VISA
UKRAINE(NOTE 1)	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
UNITED KINGDOM	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
USA	VISA-FREE	VISA	VISA
URUGUAY	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
UZBEKISTAN	VISA	VISA	VISA
VANUATU	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
VENEZUELA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE

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VIETNAM	VISA	VISA-FREE FOR STAY UP TO 90 DAYS IN A 180 DAY PERIOD	VISA
YEMEN	VISA	VISA	VISA
ZAMBIA	VISA	VISA	VISA
ZIMBABWE	VISA	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
ENTITIES AND TERRITORIAL AUTHORITIES THAT ARE NOT RECOGNISED AS STATES BY AT LEAST ONE MEMBER STATE			
PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY	VISA	VISA	VISA
TAIWAN (NOTE 6)	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE	VISA-FREE
KOSOVO (UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1244/10.06.1999)	VISA	VISA	VISA
BRITISH CITIZENS WHO ARE NOT NATIONALS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND FOR THE PURPOSES OF COMMUNITY LAW			
BRITISH NATIONALS (OVERSEAS)		VISA-FREE	
BRITISH OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CITIZENS WHO DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM		VISA-FREE	
BRITISH OVERSEAS CITIZENS		VISA-FREE	
BRITISH SUBJECTS WHO DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM		VISA-FREE	
BRITISH PROTECTED PERSONS		VISA-FREE	
REFUGEES AND STATELESS PERSONS			
REFUGEES		VISA	
STATELESS		VISA	
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA			
HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (NOTE 7)		VISA-FREE	
MACAO SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (NOTE 8)		VISA-FREE	

Notes

- (1) the visa requirement exemption should only apply to holders of biometric passports
- (2) the visa requirement exemption is not applied to holders of serbian passports issued by the serbian coordination directorate (in serbian: koordinaciona uprava)
- (4) the visa exemption applies to holders of service and special passports issued by Turkey
- (5) the visa exemption applies to holders of diplomatic and special passports issued by the UAE
- (6) the exemption from the visa requirement applies only to holders of passports issued by Taiwan which include an identity card number
- (7) the visa exemption applies only to holders of a "Hong Kong special administrative region" passport
- (8) the visa exemption applies only to holders of a "região administrativa especial de Macau" passport

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SCHENGEN SHORT-STAY VISAS

Uniform visas are the authorization or decision granted in the form of a sticker affixed by a Schengen Contracting Party to a passport, travel document or other document which entitles the holder to cross the border. It enables aliens, subject to the visa requirement, to present themselves at the external border of the Contracting Party which issued the visa or that of another Contracting Party and request, depending on the type of visa, transit or residence, provided that the other transit or entry conditions have been met. Mere possession of a visa does not entitle automatic right of entry (Regulation (EU) 2019/1155 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 amending Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code)).

TYPES OF SHORT-STAY VISAS

Airport Transit Visa (Type A):

This visa entitles aliens who are required to hold such a visa, to pass through the international transit area of airports, without actually entering the national territory of the country concerned, during a stop-over or transfer between two sections of an international flight. The requirement to have this visa is an exception to the general right to transit without a visa through the abovementioned international transit area.

Transit Visa (Type B):

This visa entitles aliens who are traveling from one third state to another third state to pass through the territories of the Contracting Parties.

This visa authorizes its holder to pass through once, twice or exceptionally several times, provided that no transit shall exceed five days.

Short-term or travel visas (Type C):

This visa entitles aliens who seek to enter the territories of the Contracting Parties, for reasons other than to immigrate, to carry out a continuous visit or several visits whose duration does not exceed three months in any half-year from the date of first entry. As a general rule, this visa may be issued for one or several entries.

In the case of certain aliens who frequently need to travel to one or several Schengen States, for example on business, short-stay visas may be issued for several visits, provided that the total length of these visits does not exceed three months in any half-year. This multiple entry visa may be valid for one year, and in exceptional cases, for more than a year for certain categories of persons.

Group Visa:

This is a transit visa or a visa limited to a maximum of thirty days, which may be affixed to a group passport, save where national legislation provides otherwise. This group must be socially or institutionally formed prior to the decision to travel, provided that the members of the group enter the territory, stay there and leave the territory as a group.

Group visas may be issued to groups of between 5 and 50 people. The person in charge of the group must possess an individual passport and, where necessary, an individual visa.

Visas with limited territorial validity (LTV):

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This visa is affixed in exceptional cases to a passport, travel document or other document which entitles the holder to cross the border, where the visit is authorized only in the national territory of one or more Contracting Parties, provided that both entry and exit are through the territory of this or these Contracting Parties.

LONG-STAY VISAS

Cases of entries aimed at **long stay**, for reasons that include the notion of immigration, shall be exclusively governed by the national law of the member states, according to article 18 of the Convention Implementing the Schengen Agreement, as modified by Council Regulation (EC) 1091/2001 of 28 May 2001 on freedom of movement with a long-stay visa (Official Journal L150 of 06/06/2001, pg. 4). In such cases, visas granted by the member states (for stays exceeding three months) shall be national visas (valid in principle exclusively for the country that granted it), and shall be issued for the reasons explicitly set out by the member state's national immigration policy under the terms and conditions and on the basis of specific supporting documents provided for in these interpretative provisions.

In particular, pursuant to Article 5 par. 7 of the abovementioned Law, national visas are issued based on the relevant legislative provisions on residence permits and their length depends on the projected stay, according to each case.

Consular authorities can grant:

A) either a **National Single-Entry Visa, type D**, for a maximum length of ninety days and valid for three months,

B) or a **National Multiple Entry Visa (Type D+C)** of a maximum length of ninety days and valid for three months, also valid as a short-stay visa, provided that:

- the conditions laid down in each case are fulfilled;
- the applicants submit the required general and special supporting documents, which must necessarily be translated according to the requirements of each Consular Authority and authenticated with the Apostille stamp;
- a no hit comes up against a compulsory check on the Schengen Information System (SIS), and that no objections are raised on the part of other EU member states during the consultation procedure, where it is deemed necessary;
- no substantiated proof to the contrary come up from the interview with the applicant, and that
- the public health, public order, international relations and security of our country are not jeopardised.

On being issued a national entry visa, third country nationals must be informed that, following their arrival to Greece and definitely before the date of expiry of their entry visa, they are under the obligation to submit a relevant application and necessary supporting documents to the Municipality or Community of their place of residence or stay, in order to be given the corresponding residence permits.

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A residence permit is an authorisation issued by the competent Greek authority that grants its holder – a third-country national – the right to legal residence in Greece; it also ensures the right to re-enter our country, providing the holder with a right to free movement within the Schengen area for a period of ninety days during any half-year (article 21 of the Convention Implementing the Schengen Agreement).

LONG-STAY VISAS WHICH ARE CONCURRENTLY VALID AS SHORT-STAY VISAS (VISAS TYPE D + C)

Under current community law, third-country nationals who have been issued a national long-stay visa (Type D) by a member state that fully applies the Schengen acquis, and are under an obligation to hold a short-stay visa, depending on their nationality, may be allowed to transit through the territory of another member state in order to reach the country that has granted them the long-stay visa. This (type D) visa does not authorise its holder to cross the external borders or move freely within the Schengen area until they are granted a residence permit. However, on the basis of relevant community legislation, and in order to help certain types of applicants who by the very nature of their capacity and employment are considered to fulfill the conditions of Article 5 (1) indents a, c, d, and e, of the Convention Implementing the Schengen Agreement to a great extent, and who need, following their entry to our country to move freely and without any obstacles into the single Schengen area, it is possible, as determined by the competent authorities, for the person who applies for a national visa, if they fall within certain categories, to be issued a long-stay visa that is concurrently valid as a short-stay visa (Visas type D+C).

SCHENGEN VISA DOCUMENTS

In order to be granted a short-stay visa, interested applicants must fill out a copy of the harmonized uniform-visa application form (pursuant to EC Council Decision 354/2002), accompanied by a recent photograph of the applicant. As a general rule, the applicant shall be called on to appear in person in order to verbally justify the grounds for the application.

For more information concerning the procedure and the required supporting documentation, you are advised to refer directly to the Greek Consular Authorities in your country of residence.

REJECTION OF VISA APPLICATION

The decisions regarding rejections of visa applications by diplomatic and consular authorities need to be specially justified, including the cases mentioned in the following categories of third country nationals and subject to public order and security considerations:

1. Third country nationals, family members of a Greek citizen.
2. Third country nationals, family members of a national of another European Union member-state.

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3. Third country nationals whose entry, residence, accommodation and employment in Greece is required according to community law.

4. Recognized refugees and their family members.

5. Third country nationals who are employed by companies established in another European Union member-state and come to Greece to carry out a task or project within the framework of their relevant contractual obligations.

REFUSAL OF ENTRY

According to the General Provisions of the Common Consular Instructions, “mere possession of a uniform visa does not confer automatic right of entry”.

Furthermore, and according to the abovementioned Law Article 4 paragraph 2, the Greek border authorities can reasonably prohibit the entry of a third country national in Greece if they find out that the person belongs to at least one of the following categories:

1. They don't possess a valid passport or travel document accepted by Greece and permitting them to cross the borders.
2. They don't hold a valid VISA, in the case where it is required.
3. They don't have the required documents to justify the purpose of their journey as well as the financial means that are necessary for their subsistence.
4. They are registered in the Schengen Information System.
5. Their entry may jeopardise public order and security or public health.
6. Their passport can't guarantee their return to the country of origin.
7. They submitted forged documentation and/or the border authorities can't establish the validity of the supporting documents.
8. They are involved in trafficking.

RESIDENCE PERMITS

A residence permit is an authorization issued by the competent Greek authority that grants its holder – a third-country national – the right to legal residence in Greece; it also ensures the right to re-enter our country, providing the holder with a right to free movement within the Schengen area for a period of ninety days during any half-year (article 21 of the Convention Implementing the Schengen Agreement).

The following Categories of residence permits exist along with the types of permits included therein:

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A. RESIDENCE PERMITS FOR EMPLOYMENT

A1. Dependent employment or provision of services of work

A third country national may enter Greece for employment under a dependent employment relation, with a specific employer and for a specific type of employment. The applications are filled exclusively by the intending employer at their Municipality of residence (or registered office in case of corporate entity).

A2. Seasonal employment

Seasonal employment of third- country nationals is their employment in Greece for a period of up to 6 months, in a field of activity relating to temporary, seasonal employment.

A3. Employees of special purpose

The following individuals shall be allowed to enter the country, having previously obtained a visa:

- Third-country nationals who are members of boards of directors, managers, legal representatives and senior executives (general managers, managers and deputy managers) of domestic companies, subsidiaries and branches of foreign companies lawfully practicing commercial activities in Greece;
- Foreign employees and legal representatives employed solely by companies that have come under the provisions of Law 3427/2005 (GG 312 A), Law 378/1968 (GG 82 A) and article 27 and 25 of Law 27/1975 (GG77 A), as replaced by article 4 of Law 2234/1994 (GG 142 A), as well as by undertakings under legislative decree 2687/1953 (GG 317 A);
- Third-country nationals who are technicians employed in industries or mines under the terms provided for in Law 448/1968 (GG 130 A);
- Athletes and coaches
- Authors and Artists
- Foreign press correspondents
- Ministers of known religions
- Teachers of foreign schools established in Greece
- Members of schools of Archaeology

A4. Highly qualified employment EU Blue Card

The EU Blue Card gives to the highly-qualified employees from third countries the right to live and work in Greece, on the premises that they have high professional qualifications and an employment contract or a binding job offer with a salary higher than the average one.

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A5. Temporary travel for the provision of services -Issuance of residence permits to third-country nationals traveling from an undertaking established outside the EU to another entity that belongs to the undertaking or to the same group of undertakings which is established in Greece or in other Member States

Third-country nationals lawfully employed in an undertaking established outside the European Union who must travel to Greece in order to provide a specific service, in the context of a relevant contractual commitment between the said undertaking and a party active in Greece, shall be issued with a residence permit, provided that they meet the following special conditions as provided in the 3/2018 circular of the General Secretariat for Migration Policy.

A6. Investment Activity

Third-country nationals may enter Greece in order to make an investment, which shall contribute to the growth of the national economy.

Depending on the amount invested, resident permit is granted to the following individuals;

- Officers, legal and financial advisors
- Experts and assistants providing services during the actualization of the investment
- Sub-professionals

The permit is granted on the premises that the Corporations Department of the Ministry of Finance and Development provides with a positive, justified proposal concerning the expedience of issuing the residence permit to the third-country national in relation to the investment.

B. RESIDENCE PERMITS FOR EXCEPTIONAL REASONS

- Humanitarian reasons
- Public interest
- Trafficking victims
- **Financially independent individuals**

The General Secretary of the Periphery grants staying permit valid for one year to a citizen of a third country, if the latter is granted special visa and has sufficient assets, in the form of an annual steady income, which covers the costs of his living conditions. The staying permit can be renewed every year, if the requirements set by the law are fulfilled. The citizen of the third country can be accompanied by his family members, to whom, upon filling an application, individual staying permit is granted, valid for the same time period as the staying permit granted to the citizen who bears the living costs. The sufficient assets, covering the living costs, can be either of the ownership of the citizen himself or of the ownership of all the family members jointly.

- **Real Estate Owners (Golden Visa Program)**

A residence permit valid for five years is granted to a non-EU citizen, provided that the later has obtained a visa and:

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1. Legally owns, either personally or through a legal entity (the applicant must wholly own its shares) real property in Greece (of minimum value €250,000), or
2. Has, at minimum, a ten-year time-sharing contract under Law 1652/1986, or
3. Has a 10-year lease of hotel accommodations or furnished tourist accommodation in tourist accommodation complexes

The applicant may hold more than one property in the total value 250.000 Euro and can rent out or sell the property, according to the respective property laws of Greece.

Further investment options available under the Golden Visa program

1. Investment of at least 400,000 euros in a company based or headquartered in Greece (excluding portfolio investment companies and real estate investment companies).
2. Investment of a minimum of 400,000 euros in a real estate investment company aimed at investing exclusively in Greece, by acquiring shares in a share capital increase.
3. Investment of at least 400,000 euros in a business holdings company for acquiring shares exclusively in companies based or headquartered in Greece.
4. Acquisition of Greek government bonds from a local credit institution, spending a minimum of 400,000 euros with a maturity date at least three years ahead.
5. Placing a minimum of 400,000 euros in a time deposit at a Greek credit institution for a fixed term of at least 12 months with a fixed order for renewal.
6. Investing a minimum total of 800,000 euros in shares, corporate bonds or Greek government bonds that trade in regulated markets.
7. Investment in shares costing at least 400,000 euros in an alternative investments corporation set up in Greece or in another EU country aimed at investing exclusively in real estate in Greece, under certain conditions.

C. RESIDENCE PERMIT FOR FAMILY REUNIFICATION

- Family members of a third country national
- Individual residence permit for family members of a third country national
- Family members of a Greek nationals or EU citizen
- Ad personam right of residence for family members of Greek nationals

D. INDEFINITE-TERM RESIDENCE PERMIT

- Long-term resident permit
- Second generation residence permit
- Ten-year residence permit

E. Residence permit for studies, voluntary work, research and vocational training

- Studies

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- Voluntary work
- Scientific Research
- Vocational training

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