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Stuck in Italy Due to Health Problems?

Apply for a Medical Treatment Temporary Permit

Foreigners who are in particularly serious health conditions and for whom returning to the country of origin or provenance would constitute a serious health risks cannot be expelled from the country (art. 19 Decree 286/1998). In this case, it is possible to apply for a residence permit for medical treatment (permesso di soggiorno per cure mediche).

The application shall be filed directly at the Police Office and requires submission of a medical certificate (issued by a public hospital or private hospital accredited by the national health system) specifying:

- the medical diagnosis and type of illness;
- the illness is particularly serious;
- the medical treatment cannot be carried out in in the applicant's country or that returning to the country of origin or provenance could cause serious harm to the applicant's health;
- the projected length of the treatment and of hospitalization.

The permit is issued for **maximum one year** and it is renewable if the medical conditions continue to be in place.



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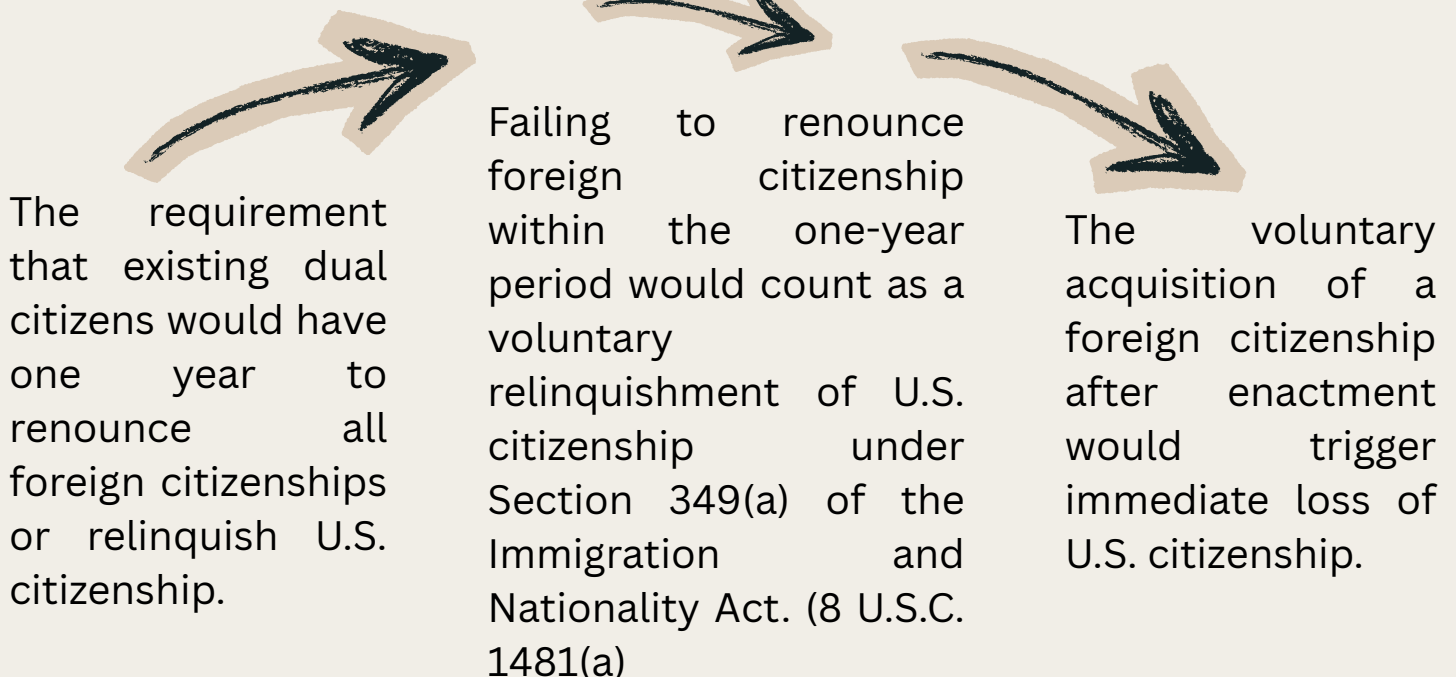


A Global Look at Citizenship Laws Amid the New U.S. Proposal Against Dual Citizenship

On December 1, 2025, Senator Bernie Moreno (R-OH) introduced the Exclusive Citizenship Act of 2025. The bill would prohibit any person from simultaneously holding U.S. citizenship and citizenship of another country. But in the last decades an increasing number of countries changed their legislations and accepted dual citizenship and 76% of 200 countries tolerate it.



The main provisions of Sen. Moreno's proposal include:



The proposal clashes with the growing acceptance of dual citizenship by many states.



Dual citizenship is in fact on the rise: 76% of 200 countries tolerate it. Until the 1960s, dual citizenship was viewed as problematic in international law and by most states, but now ever more countries accept dual citizenship as an unavoidable consequence of gender equality (mothers as well as fathers can transmit their citizenship to the child by descent) and transnational migration (migrants and their children acquire the citizenship of the destination country while retaining the citizenship of the origin country).

As a result, ever fewer countries strip people of their citizenship when they acquire another, and ever more destination countries no longer require migrants to renounce their previous citizenship to naturalise.

By 2020, 76 per cent of 200 countries examined tolerate dual citizenship for emigrants, allowing their citizens to voluntarily acquire the citizenship of another country without automatically losing their citizenship of origin.

Dual citizenship acceptance for emigrants has progressed faster in the Americas, Europe and Oceania and more slowly in Africa and Asia (Vink et al, 2019). 61 per cent do not require immigrants to renounce their previous citizenship as a condition for naturalisation and 49 per cent tolerate dual citizenship for both their diasporas and immigrants.

Among the 22 per cent of countries that reject dual citizenship for either group, many still allow it when a person acquires it at birth rather than through naturalisation (Van der Baaren and Vink, 2021).



GLOBALCIT's dataset on modes of acquisition and loss of citizenship provides standardised descriptions of citizenship laws that allow for international comparison. The dataset breaks down citizenship laws into 28 modes of acquiring citizenship by birth or naturalisation and 15 modes of losing citizenship by renunciation or withdrawal. The GLOBALCIT Citizenship Law Dataset, v1.0 covers information on legislation in force in 190 states on 1 January 2020.

MARCO MAZZESCHI
FOUNDER &
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Name Change

Council of State Overturns Prefecture's Denial Approving Applicant's Request



Officials must balance personal identity and public interest

According to the Italian law, changing your name or surname is doable. Requests are approved when backed by solid, objectively relevant situations, properly documented and well-reasoned. Typical examples include names that are embarrassing, ridiculous, or tied to religion.

In recent months, the discretionary power of the authorities in granting name-change requests has returned to the spotlight, following a Prefecture's denial that was later overturned by the Council of State, reopening the jurisprudential debate.

The issue gained particular attention with a ruling of the Council of State (Third Section), published on May 27th, 2025.

Case in focus

The case concerned an Italian woman who, upon marrying under the laws of a foreign country (before she was

was officially recognized as an Italian citizen) had taken her husband's surname. Once her Italian citizenship was granted, however, she was assigned her maiden name, in line with Italian law which mandates the birth name to be used.

Faced with this discrepancy in her name between two countries, she applied to request a name change in Italy so to keep the married surname she had used for years.

Under current practice, married women may have their husband's surname mentioned in their passport (on page 4), but their official personal details remain those of their maiden name. Anyone who wishes to formally change their surname must file a request with the Prefecture.

What was the outcome before the Prefecture?

The Italian woman applied to the Prefecture, which rejected the request, arguing that surname changes are exceptional and must be justified by objectively significant reasons. According to the authorities, she should have challenged the decree granting her citizenship using the birth name.

Discretion remains, but authorities must exercise it by carefully weighing the law, the public interest, and the individual's personal and social identity, considering the applicant's expressed will very seriously.

So, does this mean authorities must approve every request?

What's new in the conversion into Law of Decree-Law 146/2025

(Urgent Provisions on the Regular Entry of Foreign Workers and Citizens and Immigration Management)

On December 1, 2025, Law No. 179/2025 was published in the Official Gazette No. 279. The provision converts into law, with some amendments, Decree-Law No. 146 of October 3, 2025, on urgent provisions on the regular entry of foreign workers and citizens, as well as on the management of immigration. Decree-Law No. 146/2025 was published in the Official Gazette (Gazzetta Ufficiale) on October 3, 2025, and entered into force on October 4, 2025. Decree-laws must be converted into law within 60 days or they automatically lapse; during the conversion process, Parliament may amend the provisions (see here for the key changes introduced by means of the Decree-Law – 146/2025).

Below are the key amendments which have been introduced during the conversion process:

- The special provision that allows up to 10,000 foreign workers per year (to be employed specifically to assist elderly individuals over 80 years old or persons with disabilities), to enter the country outside the standard immigration quotas, has been extended until 2028. Furthermore, the provision now includes babysitters to be employed to take care of children from birth to six years old. It is to be noted that the work permit application in this cases has to go through authorised employment agencies or employers' associations.
- The deadline for the employer to confirm the work permit (nulla osta) upon the worker applying for the visa has been extended from seven to fifteen days.
- The deadline for the employer and the employee to sign the contract of stay upon the worker's entry with the visa has been extended from eight to fifteen days.



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EU's Political Agreement on the Safe Third Country Framework

Safe Third Country Framework in the EU:

The European Commission welcomed a provisional political agreement between the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union on new rules to facilitate the application of the safe third country.



The agreement aims to accelerate asylum procedures, reduce pressure on asylum systems, and limit incentives for irregular migration, while preserving legal safeguards and respect for fundamental rights.

What is the EU “safe third country” concept?

The concept of safe third country allows Member States to consider an asylum application inadmissible when the applicant could receive effective protection in a third country considered safe.

Under the proposal, a connection between the applicant and the safe third country (hereinafter referred to as STC) will no longer be mandatory. Member States may apply the concept if one of the following conditions is met:

- there is a connection between the applicant and the STC;
- the applicant transited through a STC before reaching the EU;
- where there is no connection or transit, there is an agreement with the STC that includes safeguards for transferred asylum seekers (this option does not apply to unaccompanied minors).

Strong safeguards remain in place, including protection against refoulement and risks of persecution or inhuman or degrading treatment. Appeals against inadmissibility decisions will no longer automatically allow applicants to remain in the Member State pending appeal, although a right to remain may still be requested.



Entry into force and application of the Safe Third Country Framework

Following formal adoption by the European Parliament and the Council, the regulation will enter into force 20 days after its publication in the Official Journal of the EU. The new rules are expected to apply from June 2026.

Why does this matter to Italy?



The new rules are particularly relevant for Italy (along with other EU Member States such as Spain, Greece and Cyprus) due to the high number of migration arrivals and asylum applications these countries regularly face. The updated framework is intended to support national authorities in managing this pressure more effectively by enabling faster processing of asylum claims, while continuing to ensure compliance with EU legal safeguards and fundamental rights.

MEET OUR TEAM

MAZZESCHI

In our Meet Our Team section, we introduce one of our colleagues each month, so you can get to know the people behind our services. This edition features **Filippo Testi**, one of the most senior members of our immigration team.



Filippo Testi

Senior Immigration Consultant

Filippo is a Senior Immigration Consultant, and he is amongst our most senior team members, as he has been working at Studio Mazzeschi since 2009, assisting international clients and companies with immigration procedures in Italy, with a special focus on corporate immigration and private clients. He speaks fluent English.

Thanks to his natural inclination for fashion and art, before joining Mazzeschi he had some experiences in the fashion field and worked for ten years in contemporary art galleries,

which helped him developing his expertise in managing international VIP clients. With a remarkable attention to detail and a strategic mindset, he approaches every aspect of his work with precision and care. His ability to navigate the complexities of high-stakes situations and manage even the most demanding clients speaks to his professionalism and adaptability.

“

Our work is a daily fight with the Italian immigration legislation that keeps changing frequently and against the immigration authorities that are often demanding and uncooperative. With our expertise, we do our best to turn the Italian immigration process of our clients into an easy transition, guaranteeing a smooth experience.

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MAZZESCHI

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