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Italian Citizenship for Minors Born Abroad: New Rules Effective from 2026



New Rules
Effective from
2026 for minors
born abroad

The Budget Law for 2026, effective January 1, 2026, introduces some changes to the process of acquiring Italian citizenship for minors born abroad to Italian citizens by descent.

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What changes for those born abroad after May 25, 2025?

These changes affect the acquisition of Italian citizenship for children born abroad starting May 25, 2025, to at least one parent with Italian citizenship by descent:

1

Parents may submit a declaration of intent to acquire citizenship within three years of the child's birth (instead of the previous one-year period).

2

Declarations submitted within three years of the child's birth will be free of charge (the €250 fee to the Ministry of the Interior is no longer required).

Are these changes retroactive?

No, these changes are not retroactive.

The changes established by the Budget Law are not retroactive and are effective as of January 1, 2026. Therefore, the free application process will apply only to applications submitted on or after this date, and no refunds will be provided for applications submitted prior to January 1, 2026.

Declarations of intent to acquire Italian citizenship made by parents on behalf of minors born before May 25, 2025, must be submitted by May 31, 2026.

Minors Born Abroad Before May 25, 2025

Further extension of temporary protection permits for Ukrainian nationals until March 2027



As provided by the Decree-Law No. 201 of 31 December 2025, Ukrainian nationals under temporary protection have now a new window for further extension of their residence permits until 4 March 2027.

The decree clarifies that Ukrainian citizens holders of residence permits for special protection in Italy before 24 February 2022 may renew their permit until 4 March 2027, provided that they submit a renewal request to the competent authorities within the required timeframe.

The new provisions also ensure the continuation of temporary protection until the same date, for Ukrainian nationals displaced by the war who were granted protection under EU law Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/1460.



The possibility of converting these permits into work residence permits, based on the activities carried out, remains unchanged. However, it should be noted that residence permits issued under temporary protection may be revoked before their expiration if the European Union decides to terminate the temporary protection regime.



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What Is the “Certificato di Idoneità Alloggiativa” and Why Do You Need It for Your Immigration Process in Italy?

The Housing Suitability Certificate (Certificato di idoneità alloggiativa) is issued by the technical office of the competent Local Municipality (Comune) where the property is located. This document confirms whether the house is compliant with current health and safety regulations and determines the number of individuals allowed to live inside without overcrowding.

When do you need a Certificato di idoneità alloggiativa?

During your Immigration process to Italy, you may be required to submit the Certificate di idoneità Alloggiativa for the following cases:

Family procedures

Permesso di soggiorno UE di lungo periodo

Signing of the Contract of stay (entry for work)

Conversion of permit



Children under the age of 14 are not included in the calculation of the number of people lodging in the house.

What are the generic requirements to apply for the HSC?

Even though requirements and necessary documents to obtain the certificate may vary depending on the city hall where the application is submitted, generally speaking, the property must be properly equipped with heating, rooms must have sufficient lighting, and air exchange must be guaranteed by a suitable cleaning air system.

One of the most important criteria the applicant should consider when renting or purchasing a house is the size of the property for several people:

1 person –
at least 14
square
meters

2 people –
at least 28
square
meters

3 people –
at least 42
square
meters

4 people –
at least 56
square
meters

+10 square
meters, for
any other
additional
person



When it comes to required documents, they may differ depending on each Local Municipality (Comune) where the application needs to be submitted. However, the applicant should make sure to be in possession of an apartment contract duly registered at the Agenzia delle Entrate (Italian Revenue Office) and the property's documents, such as cadastral plans.

Moreover, it is important to consider that the main issue applicants may face when applying for an HSC is that the processing time to get this certificate can be quite long. In fact, in some cases, it may take up to 3 months to have the certificate issued.

EU visa-free travel monitoring: Key Risks to the Schengen Area

EU visa-free travel monitoring: The Eighth Report under the Visa Suspension Mechanism, published by the European Commission in December 2025, assesses whether third countries benefiting from visa-free access to the EU continue to comply with the conditions underpinning visa liberalisation. Covering developments in 2024 and major trends in 2025, the report highlights a range of migration and security risks affecting the Schengen area.



Background information:

The EU visa waiver program allows nationals of certain third countries to enter the Schengen area without a visa for short stays of up to 90 days within any 180-day period. Visa-free access is granted only after a country has successfully completed a visa liberalisation dialogue with the EU and committed to meeting strict benchmarks, including effective border management, document security, migration control, anti-corruption measures, and respect for fundamental rights.

The EU Visa Waiver (Visa-Free) Regime

Importantly, visa-free travel does not grant a right to work or reside long-term in the EU and may be suspended if a country no longer complies with these conditions. For this reason, the EU closely monitors visa-free partners, particularly where citizenship by investment schemes could allow individuals to indirectly access the Schengen area without undergoing standard EU visa screening.



Key findings of the report

While visa liberalisation facilitates mobility and cooperation, the report confirms that visa-free travel can also generate significant challenges when benchmarks are not fully met. The assessment covers partners in the Western Balkans, the Eastern Partnership, as well as Latin America and the Eastern Caribbean, focusing on areas where specific concerns have been identified.

Key risks identified in the report include:

Insufficient alignment with EU visa policy

particularly in neighbouring visa-free countries, where divergences in visa-required country lists and visa issuance procedures facilitate irregular entry into the Schengen area.

The report highlights practices such as seasonal visa waivers, visa-free entry based on third-country residence permits, and the lack of biometric data collection as sources of increased migration and security risks.

Irregular migration flows via the Western Balkans route

which, despite an overall decrease since 2023, remain a persistent challenge. The report notes continued migrant smuggling activities,

increasing levels of violence linked to trafficking networks, and pressure on difficult-to-control land borders, notably along routes transiting Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Unfounded asylum applications lodged by nationals of visa-free countries

which typically have very low recognition rates and place a significant burden on Member States' asylum systems. The report recalls

that a substantial share of asylum applications in the EU continues to originate from visa-exempt countries, despite information campaigns and preventive measures implemented by some partners.

Insufficient alignment with EU visa policy

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Conclusions

Overall, the report reinforces that visa liberalisation is not a static achievement but a continuous policy process requiring sustained compliance and adaptation to evolving risks, within the framework of EU visa-free travel monitoring. It shows that shortcomings in visa policy alignment, migration management, asylum misuse, document integrity, readmission cooperation, and citizenship practices have direct and cumulative effects on the functioning of the Schengen area.

The Commission therefore signals a more rigorous and systematic approach to follow-up under EU visa-free travel monitoring, combining enhanced monitoring, country-specific recommendations, and, where necessary, the use of the revised Visa Suspension Mechanism. In this framework, visa-free access is explicitly framed as conditional and reversible, with the protection of the Schengen area's security, credibility, and mutual trust remaining the overriding policy objective.

MEET OUR TEAM

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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 **Stephanie Martin**, one of the most senior members of our immigration team.



Stephanie Martin

Senior Immigration Consultant

Stephanie has been with Mazzeschi S.r.l. since 2009 and is a Senior Immigration Consultant with over 16 years of experience assisting both corporate clients and private individuals. She is an Irish expat, mother-tongue English, graduated from Buckingham University, England with Ba (Hons) Degree in Business and Marketing Management and has been living in Italy for over 20 years. She manages high-volume corporate immigration cases, guiding multinational companies and their employees through Italy's complex immigration system with efficient and practical solutions.

She currently specializes and works with many mission visas and civilian contractors coming to Italy under special projects and agreements between the governments and military, MOD and Airforce. These cases are highly demanding, so meeting deadlines and finding quick solutions is fundamental. She enjoys working with her team and provides training to newcomers and junior associates.

“*Being an expat myself, I understand the difficulties that many clients face living in a new country especially when it comes to cultural differences, language barriers and lengthy complex Italian immigration procedures. I like to provide clear, coherent advice, I enjoy establishing a good working relationship with companies and clients while providing high level support and finding the best solution that simplifies the process to make the Italian adventure easier!*”



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