



# **European Migration Network**

## Ad-Hoc Query on Procedures for Naturalisation granted by residence

Requested by ES EMN NCP on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Compilation produced on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2009

Responses from [Czech Republic](#), [Finland](#), [Germany](#), [Greece](#), [Hungary](#), [Ireland](#), [Latvia](#), [Lithuania](#), [Netherlands](#), [Portugal](#), [Slovak Republic](#), [Slovenia](#), [Spain](#), [Sweden](#), [United Kingdom](#) (15 in Total)

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### **1. Background Information**

*The Ministry of Justice in Spain, is currently developing processes to improve and speed up procedures for obtaining Spanish nationality by residence, which possibly imply amendments to legislation. In this context we would be interested in information about the procedures in other Member States*


### **2. Responses<sup>1</sup>**

		Wider Dissemination? <sup>2</sup>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Required documentation. Whether the procedure is free of charge or not.</li> <li>2. Place for carrying out the procedures</li> <li>3. Grounds for denial ( lack of residence or integration, civic conduct)</li> </ol>
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<sup>1</sup> If possible at time of making the request, the Requesting EMN NCP should add their response(s) to the query. Otherwise, this should be done at the time of making the compilation.

<sup>2</sup> A default "Yes" is given for your response to be circulated further (e.g. to other EMN NCPs and their national network members). A "No" should be added here if you do not wish your response to be disseminated beyond other EMN NCPs. In case of "No" and wider dissemination beyond other EMN NCPs, then for the Compilation for Wider Dissemination the response should be removed and the following statement should be added in the relevant response box: "This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further."


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			4. Specificities for the denial of nationality for civic conduct. Level of requirements. Requirements for minors
	Czech Republic	Yes	<p><b>1. Required documentation. Whether the procedure is free of charge or not.</b></p> <p><u>Required documentation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) birth certificate (including that of a child if included in the application);</li> <li>b) agreement of the second parent to the change of citizenship of the child (in case that the applicant – see above – is only one of the parents);</li> <li>c) marital certificate, certificate of divorce, death certificate of spouse (if applicable);</li> <li>d) document that is to prove that by assuming the Czech citizenship he/she will lose his/her present citizenship or that he/she has already lost it (does not apply for stateless persons or refugees);</li> <li>e) abstract form the penal register;</li> <li>f) possibly (upon request of the Police) a certificate of revenue authority to prove that he/she pays his/her taxes and fees; copies of declaration of taxes, abstracts of the Companies Register, Trade Certificates or employment contracts, certificate of health-insurance company to prove that he/she pays health insurance, certificate of employer testifying payments of the income tax, social security and unemployment insurance.</li> </ul> <p><u>Charges:</u> The fee is 10,000 CZK (392 EUR).</p> <p><b>2. Place for carrying out the procedures</b></p> <p>The application is filed with the municipality office of the applicant's permanent address, and then submitted by the office to the Police for their position, and the Police convey it to the Ministry of the Interior. Further positions on the application from the Police and from intelligence services may be requested by the Ministry.</p> <p>The citizenship is granted by the Ministry in the form of declaration and the applicant is naturalized after he/she takes Oath of Citizenship before the secretary of municipality or head of diplomatic mission abroad.</p> <p><b>3. Grounds for denial (lack of residence or integration, civic conduct)</b></p> <p>Conditions for granting of the citizenship are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) at least 5 years of legal permanent residence;</li> <li>b) proof that by assuming the Czech citizenship the applicant will lose his/her present citizenship or that he/she has already lost it (does not apply for stateless persons or refugees);</li> <li>c) 5 years of penal integrity (this concerns premeditated criminal acts);</li> </ul>

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			<p>d) knowledge of Czech language (oral exam);</p> <p>e) fulfillment of duties stipulated by the Alien Act and regulations of public health insurance, social security, taxes and fees.</p> <p><b>4. Specificities for the denial of nationality for civic conduct. Level of requirements. Requirements for minors</b></p> <p>See 3 (c) and (e) supra for the requirements re the <u>civic conduct</u>.</p> <p>The <u>level of requirements</u> of the legal permanent residence may be lower (the requirement may be dispensed of) in case that the applicant is granted permanent residence permit and fulfils any of the following conditions:</p> <p>a) was born in the Czech Republic;</p> <p>b) has lived on the territory of the Czech Republic continuously for at least 10 years;</p> <p>c) once had Czech or Czechoslovak citizenship;</p> <p>d) has been adopted by a Czech citizen;</p> <p>e) his wife/her husband is a Czech citizen;</p> <p>f) at least one of his/her parents is a Czech citizen;</p> <p>g) settled in the Czech Republic before January 1, 1995 upon government invitation;</p> <p>h) is stateless or has refugee status in the Czech Republic.</p> <p>As for the <u>requirements for minors</u>, see 1 (a) and (b) supra for the requirements for minors. Besides, the application for the citizenship just for the child may be submitted by his/her legal representative.</p>
	<b>Finland</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. A foreigner may acquire Finnish citizenship upon application if his/her identity has been reliably established and he or she</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is of age (18 years) or married before the age of 18,</li> <li>• has resided in Finland long enough before applying for Finnish citizenship (min. the last six years without interruption or a total eight years since applicant's 15th birthday with the last two years continuously and without interruption),</li> <li>• has not committed a punishable act or been placed under a restraining order,</li> <li>• has not failed to pay any maintenance or other fees under public law,</li> <li>• can provide reliable evidence of his/her means of support, and</li> <li>• has a knowledge of Finnish or Swedish or of Finnish sign language (the applicant has passed level 3 examination or has passed a national language examination and shown satisfactory oral and written skills, or he or she has completed comprehensive school education with Finnish or Swedish as his or her native tongue or as a second language)</li> </ul> <p>There is a processing fee charged for the application. Fee is a fixed sum that remains the same regardless of any co-applicants. The fee must be paid at the same time as the application form is left with the police; if it is not paid the application will not be handled at all.</p> <p>2. There is a specific application form which can be downloaded from the internet at <a href="http://www.migri.fi">www.migri.fi</a> or acquired from the Police or the</p>

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			<p>Finnish Immigration Service. The application is then left with the local police in Finland. If there are any co-applicants, they should be present when leaving the application to the local police station.</p> <p>3. The granting of Finnish citizenship by application is discretionary. Citizenship can be granted even if some requirements are not met. On the other hand, citizenship can be denied even if all requirements stipulated by law have been met. Citizenship can be denied even if all requirements stipulated by law have been met. Nationality may be denied if the applicant has committed a crime or has been under a restraining order. If not disqualify, the committed crime may postpone the naturalisation for a period of time. Also material failure to pay maintenance, taxes or fines may also disqualify the applicant from naturalisation. The seriousness of such failure will be based on whether the failure was due to applicant's unwillingness or an inability to pay.</p> <p>4. While considering the probity-condition, the fines that have followed the offences during the last six years are taken into account. Also prison sentences are take into account for a longer than six years period. The perpetration of crimes or being under a restraining order is not absolute barrier to citizenship if it is justified to depart from the probity-condition. Consideration will be given to facts like elapsed time, the severity of punishment and the quality of the act. In addition, repeated criminal offences may lead to rejection. An applicant may also be designated a waiting period after which his or her application will be reconsidered.</p> <p>A co-applicant under 15 years of age may be granted Finnish citizenship if his/her actual home and residence is in Finland. A co-applicant who is 15 years or older may be granted Finnish citizenship if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• he/she has been living in Finland for the last four years, or</li> <li>• he/she has been living in Finland for a total of six years since his/her seventh birthday.</li> </ul> <p>Other requirements are the same as for an applicant who is 18 years or older (see above).</p> <p>If a minor under 15 years of age has lodged an application for naturalisation, one must reside in Finland. There are no other requirements (such as knowledge of Finnish language).</p> <p>Minor who is 15 years or older should have resided in Finland for four years (or total of six years after one's 7<sup>th</sup> birthday with the last two years continuously and without interruption). He or she would also have to fulfil the language requirement mentioned above.</p> <p>As an applicant 15 years or older is subject to criminal liability, criminal offences committed would have the same effect as with adults. A minor as a co-applicant may be rejected or designated a waiting period regardless of his or her co-applicants with a positive decision. An applicant under 15 years of age could not be rejected due to civic conduction.</p>
	Germany	Yes	<p><b><u>Re 1. (Required documentation, fees in connection with the naturalisation process)</u></b></p> <p><i>Naturalisation from overseas</i></p>

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The naturalisation application must be submitted at the German diplomatic mission, which is responsible for the respective place of residence. The application form will also be available there.  
The information and documentation will be reviewed at the diplomatic mission and subsequently sent – together with an opinion - to the Federal Office of Administration.

*The following documents are required*

- original of the application form – completely filled in and signed
- certified copy of the birth certificate
- if you are married: a certified copy of the marriage certificate
- if necessary, proof as to which name you will carry after a divorce
- certified copies of certificates of the school (academic) and professional career
- a curriculum vitae hand-written and composed in German
- an up-to-date certificate of good conduct from the country of residence (original)
- certified copies of the main pages of your passport
- proof of the ties with Germany
- evidence concerning the income / or financial circumstances (proof of the capability to maintain livelihood)

If the documents are not written in German, a certified translation into German is required additionally.

**Expenses of naturalisation**

The fee for the naturalisation process will be levied by the relevant naturalisation authority.

Generally, the fee amounts to 255 € per person.

Minors - without own income - who are to be naturalised with their parents must only pay 51 €

Minors, who are to be naturalised without your parents, must pay 255 €

A small or no fee at all can be charged for reasons of equity.

In the case of low income a reduction of the naturalisation fee can therefore take place.

Expenses for representation by an attorney.

**Additional fees for decisions in nationality law**

- Naturalisation based on a legal entitlement for victims of National Socialism and their descendents 0 €
- Retention approval 255 €
- Redundancy from the German citizenship 51 €
- Renunciation of the German citizenship 0 €
- Certificate of citizenship 25 €
- Other certification (depending on effort) from 5 to 51 €
- A adverse decision generally costs 191 €

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		<p><b>Re 2. (Description of the naturalisation process in Germany – naturalisation requirements)</b></p> <p><b>Legal framework on the subjects immigration/naturalisation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AufenthG: (German) Law Governing the Residence, Employment and Integration of Foreigners in the Federal Territory</li> <li>- FreizügG/EU: (German) General Law on the Freedom of Movement of EU Citizens</li> <li>- Zuwanderungsgesetz: (German) Act to Control and Restrict Immigration and to Regulate the Residence and Integration of EU Citizens and Foreigners</li> <li>- AufenthV: (German) Ordinance Governing Residence</li> <li>- IntV: (German) Regulation on the Implementation of Integration Courses for Foreigners and Ethnic German Repatriates (German) Ordinance on Integration Courses)</li> <li>- BeschVerfV: (German) Ordinance on the Official Procedures Enabling Resident Foreigners to Take up Employment</li> <li>- BeschV: (German) Ordinance on the Admission of Newly Immigrated Foreign Nationals for the Purpose of Taking up Employment</li> <li>- BVFG: (German) Law Regarding the Affairs of the Displaced and Refugees – German Federal Expellees Act</li> </ul> <p>- Directive Implementation Act: Act to Implement the Residence- and Asylum-Related Directives of the European Union</p> <p>Nationality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- StAG: (German) Law Governing Nationality</li> <li>- StAngRegG: (German) Law on the Regulation of Questions Regarding Citizenship</li> <li>- StAngRegG 2: Second (German) Law on the Regulation of Questions of Nationality</li> <li>- (German) Law to the European Convention of the 06.11.1997 Regarding Nationality</li> <li>- StaatenlMindÜbkAG: (German) Implementation Act to the Convention of 30. August 1961 for the Reduction of Statelessness and the Convention of 13. September 1973 to Reduce Cases of Statelessness</li> <li>- EinbTestV: (German) Ordinance on Naturalisation Tests and Naturalisation Courses (Ordinance on Naturalisation Tests)</li> <li>- StRAR-VwV: (German) General Administrative Provision for the Nationality Law</li> </ul> <p><i>Requirements for naturalisation</i></p> <p>The naturalisation must be applied for  Foreigners can submit the application themselves from their 16th birthday onward  In the case of younger foreigners, the legal representative - in most cases the parents – must submit the application.  Application forms are available at the naturalisation authorities.</p> <p>Essential prerequisites for this include amongst other:</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eight years of lawful and uninterrupted residence in Germany</li> <li>- Possession of a residence permit, EU residence permit or residence permit for special purposes or Union / EEA citizen entitled to free movement</li> <li>- Commitment to the Constitution</li> <li>- No anti-constitutional activities</li> <li>- General capability to maintain livelihood without any claim of benefits according to the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> Book of the German Social Code Book (SGB)</li> <li>- Impunity</li> <li>- Sufficient knowledge of German</li> <li>- Passed naturalisation examination</li> <li>- Generally, a renunciation of the previous nationality. Exceptions are, however, possible.</li> <li>- These requirements do not always have to be met. There are numerous exceptions.</li> </ul> <p>An <b>entitlement of naturalisation</b> exists, once these requirements are met.</p> <p>Naturalisation of spouses</p> <p>Spouses as well as registered partners are to be naturalised after three years of residence in Germany, if the marriage has existed for two years in Germany.</p> <p><b>Naturalisation of children</b></p> <p>With the birth of a child of foreign parents in Germany, the child will acquire the German citizenship if one parent part</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- has had its lawful residence nationally the past eight years and</li> <li>- is a Union citizen entitled to freedom of movement or similar national of an EEA country or is in the possession of an EU residence permit or a settlement permit.</li> </ul> <p>If the requirements are met, the foreign national's office must issue the naturalisation.</p> <p>Children, that have become German through this birthright and have simultaneously acquired the nationality of their parents, must choose a nationality after their legal majority up to their 23rd year of life.</p> <p>For children that are not yet 16 years of age, a co-naturalisation is generally possible after three years of residence.</p> <p><i>Discretionary naturalisation</i></p> <p>If a legal entitlement for naturalisation does not exist, the naturalisation may, however, still be possible. While the foreigner has no right to naturalisation, the authority can, nevertheless, approve the naturalisation.</p>
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		<p>The following basic requirements must be met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Required is the submission of an application</li> <li>2. Grounds for an extradition, such as for a criminal offense, may not exist.</li> <li>3. The means of subsistence (accommodation + maintenance) must be guaranteed.</li> </ol> <p>The applicant must be able to provide for himself and his family, either through own employment or other assets.</p> <p>If you receive public funds (such as German unemployment benefit II or social welfare) a naturalisation is only possible in exceptional cases. An exception would be given in the case of particular hardship. For instance then, if the foreign nationality had been waived in a running naturalization process and one had subsequently become unemployed involuntarily. Cases of hardship are also possible with elderly persons that had resided for many years and with disabled persons. In its discretionary decision, the naturalisation authority shall, in particular, take into account the extent of integration of the applicant in Germany, as well as language skills, work in unincorporated associations, work, etc.</p> <p><b><u>Re 3 (Grounds for denial of naturalisation)</u></b></p> <p>Capability to maintain livelihood</p> <p>A right of naturalisation does not exist, if either German unemployment benefits II or social welfare is received; it would suffice, if these benefits could be drawn.</p> <p>Naturalisation in the case of criminal offences</p> <p>A conviction for a serious crime makes the naturalisation impossible. This also applies - in principle – to convictions in other countries. After a period of several years, a naturalisation is once again possible, if the crime has been deleted from the Federal Central Registry. Minor convictions do not preclude naturalisation, if the following penalties had been imposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Educational measures or disciplinary measures in accordance with the (German) Juvenile Court Act</li> <li>- Fines of up to 180 daily rates or</li> <li>- Prison sentences of up to 6 months, if they were suspended and the penalty was issued after the expiry of the probation period.</li> </ul> <p>In the case of higher penalties, the naturalisation authority can still naturalise in individual instances. Convictions for crimes abroad must be made known to the naturalisation authority. The same applies to an ongoing investigation.</p> <p>Re 4. (Specific grounds for denial)</p>
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			See comments to point 3
	Greece	Yes	<p>1. Aliens who want to acquire the Greek citizenship by naturalization have to pay a relevant fee and they must fulfill the following preconditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- They must be adults at the time of the application</li> <li>- They must not have been irrevocably sentenced in the last ten years before the application for certain crimes.</li> <li>- They don't have any pending judgments for deportation against them.</li> <li>- They must have lawfully resided in Greece for a total of 10 years in the last twelve- year period.</li> <li>- They must have adequate knowledge of the Greek language, history and culture.</li> </ul> <p>Aliens submit an application to the Municipality of their residence accompanied by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Declaration of naturalization before the Mayor in the presence of two Greek nationals as witnesses.</li> <li>- An application fee</li> <li>- Copy of passport or other travel document</li> <li>- Residence permit or other evidence of legitimate residence in the country</li> <li>- Birth certificate</li> <li>- Income tax statement for the latest financial year.</li> </ul> <p>2. The application is submitted to the Municipality of residence of the interested party and if all the needed documents are included it is sent to Region for examination. If the all above mentioned preconditions are met the applicant is invited by the Region to submit more documentary evidence (criminal record certificate, certificate of non – deportation and any other information required). Then the file is forwarded to the Ministry of Interior, Decentralization and e-Government along with the opinion of the Police on matters of public order and security. Inside the Ministry there is a Naturalization Committee which is responsible to invite the alien to an interview to ascertain his/her knowledge of the Greek language, history and culture. After this and bearing in mind all the documentary evidence the Committee express its opinion to the Minister who is the competent for the final decision either positive or negative.</p> <p>3. The application is immediately being rejected if the alien does not fulfill the above mentioned preconditions or there is lack of the required documentation. However, the application still can be rejected even if all the preconditions are met, without justification.</p>
	Hungary	Yes	<p><b><u>1. Generally, the following documentation is required:</u></b> A person can be naturalized if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the petitioner has resided in Hungary continuously over a period of eight years prior to the submission of the petition ('Hungarian resident' shall mean - as of the day of registration of residence - a non-Hungarian citizen who resides in Hungary, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) has been granted immigrant or permanent resident status;</li> <li>b) has been granted refugee status; or</li> <li>c) exercises his/her right of free movement and residence in the territory of the Republic of Hungary in accordance with the provisions laid down in the Act on the Admission and Residence of Persons with the Right of Free Movement and Residence.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>


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			<p>oath or pledge of allegiance. The citizenship oath or pledge of allegiance shall be administered within two months of receipt of notice. The minister may grant an extension of this time limit upon request. If the citizenship oath or pledge of allegiance is not administered within a period of one year of the delivery of the notice for reasons within the petitioner's control, the resolution on naturalization or repatriation shall be rescinded.</p> <p>The <b>Office of Immigration and Nationality</b> responsible for preparing the decision to the minister and provide the delegated task of nationality, immigration and asylum and checking personal data and address records, and in the central immigration register or the central register of refugees the applicant's Hungarian address and the duration and title of his/her stay in Hungary.</p> <p><b>3.-4. Denial:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the petitioner <b>has not resided in Hungary continuously over a period of eight years</b> prior to the submission of the petition</li> <li>• according to Hungarian laws, the applicant has not a <b>clean criminal record</b> and is not <b>being indicted in any criminal proceedings</b> before the Hungarian court;</li> <li>• the applicant has not <b>sufficient means of subsistence and a place of abode in Hungary</b>;</li> <li>• his/her naturalization is considered to be a <b>threat to the interests of the Republic of Hungary</b>; and</li> <li>• the applicant does not provide proof that he/she has passed the <b>examination in basic constitutional studies</b> in the Hungarian language, <b>or that of being exempted</b> by virtue of this Act.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The application for naturalization should be denied among others if the applicant has not a clean criminal record and is not being indicted in any criminal proceedings before the Hungarian court; or</li> <li>• his/her naturalization is considered to be a threat to the interests of the Republic of Hungary</li> </ul> <p><b>Specificities for the denial of nationality for civic conduct:</b> The clean criminal record and the fact of not being indicted in any criminal proceedings are checked by the Office of Immigration and Nationality by checking the criminal register. The Office of Immigration and Nationality has the obligation to turn to the competent authorities (Police Headquarters or the National Security Office) for official position on the applicant. The Police Headquarters give detailed information for example on the committed crime or other events, whilst the National Security Office only declares whether it has objection or not to the naturalization. If the National Security Office does not recommend the naturalization of the person concerned, then on the basis of threatening the interest of the Republic of Hungary, the application is rejected with explanation. If a foreign certificate is needed on having a clean record, the Office of Immigration and Nationality – if the certificate can not be acquired officially – call the applicant to attach the official certificate on having a clean criminal record (edited by the authority territorially competent on the basis of place of residence). For minors, no special provision is prescribed by law.</p>
	<b>Ireland</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Along with a fully completed application form the following documentation must be submitted initially: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Copy of passport containing permission to remain stamps.</li> <li>- Certified copy of long form civil birth certificate, in the case of a refugee a birth affidavit will suffice along with evidence that they</li> </ul> </li> </ol>


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			<p>have been granted refugee status (departmental letter).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Certified copy of marriage certificate and/or divorce papers.</li> <li>- If making an application based on Irish descent or Irish Association evidence of such a claim must be provided.</li> </ul> <p>Applications for Refugees : Nil.  Applications from Minors/Widows : €200.00.  All other applicants : €50.00</p> <p>If an applicant is unsuccessful then there is no charge.</p> <p>2. Centralised processing in office in Tipperary. Postal applications only at present.</p> <p>3. The Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act, 1956, as amended, provides that the Minister may, in his absolute discretion, grant an application for a certificate of naturalisation provided certain statutory conditions are fulfilled. The conditions are that the applicant must -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be of full age or be a minor born in the State</li> <li>• be of good character</li> <li>• have had a period of one year's continuous residency in the State immediately before the date of application and, during the eight years immediately preceding that period, have had a total residence in the State amounting to four years. In the context of naturalisation, certain periods of residence in the State are excluded. These include - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• periods of residence in respect of which an applicant does not have permission to remain in the State</li> <li>• periods granted for the purposes of study</li> <li>• periods granted for the purposes of seeking recognition as a refugee within the meaning of the Refugee Act, 1996.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• intend in good faith to continue to reside in the State after naturalisation</li> <li>• have made, either before a Judge of the District Court in open court or in such a manner as the Minister for special reasons allows, a declaration in the prescribed manner, of fidelity to the nation and loyalty to the State</li> </ul> <p>In addition to the Statutory requirements the Minister will generally expect applicants to be able to support themselves and their family without recourse to State supports.</p> <p>4. There are no guidelines relating to the judgement of good character. Enquiries are made with An Garda Síochána (national police force) to check if the person has come to the adverse attention of the Gardai (police officers) since arriving in the State.. A submission is prepared by officials in each case, the Minister evaluates this submission including any recommendations expressed by officials,. Once the Minister is satisfied that he has sufficient information to make a decision, he then decides in his absolute discretion whether to grant or refuse an application based upon all of the information presented to him. A Garda report is not generally received where applicant is a minor when application is being processed.</p>
	Latvia	Yes	<p>1. The procedure for obtaining citizenship is not free of charge. The state duty must be paid before submitting documents (20 LVL ~ 28 EUR).</p>


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			<p>The citizenship of Latvia through naturalization can be granted to persons who have been registered in the Residents' Register Office and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• who have reached the age of 15;</li> <li>• whose place of permanent residence, on the submission date of their application for naturalization, has been in Latvia for no less than five years counting from May 4, 1990 (for persons who entered Latvia after July 1, 1992, the five-year term shall be counted from the date of the issuance of their permanent residence permit);</li> <li>• who know the Latvian language and the history of Latvia, the basic principles of the Republic of Latvia Satversme (the Constitution) and the text of the national anthem;</li> <li>• who have a legal source of income;</li> <li>• who have submitted a statement of renunciation of their former citizenship and have received an expatriation permit from the country of their former citizenship, if such a permit is provided for by the laws of that country, or have received a document certifying the loss of citizenship.</li> </ul> <p>Children permanently residing in Latvia and up to the age of 16 can naturalize together with their parents.</p> <p><b>In order to acquire the citizenship of Latvia through naturalization a person:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is to submit the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a naturalization application,</li> <li>- a document on a legal source of income of the person or his/her supporter,</li> <li>- a receipt about the state duty having been paid (if a person is not exempt from paying the state duty).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>A person has to add three photos (3 x 4 cm) to these documents and produce his/her identity card (a passport).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• must pass examinations in the proficiency of the Latvian language and the knowledge of the basic principles of the Satversme (the Constitution) of the Republic of Latvia, the text of the national anthem and the history of Latvia;</li> <li>• must submit a statement of renunciation of their former citizenship and have received an expatriation permit from the country of their former citizenship, if such a permit is provided for by the laws of that country, or have received a document certifying the loss of citizenship.</li> </ul> <p>2. Naturalization applications are accepted and reviewed <a href="#">in any regional branch (its sub-branch)</a> of the Naturalization Board.</p> <p>3. In accordance with the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia February 2, 1999 Regulations No.34 <i>Procedure for the Acceptance and Review of Naturalization Applications</i>, the application shall be suspended in the following cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ø A person is called to account for having committed a criminal offence;</li> <li>Ø The person does not arrive to the examination of knowledge as prescribed by the Law of Citizenship having no valid reasons for doing so;</li> <li>Ø The person does not submit, without any valid reasons, a statement of renunciation from his/her citizenship and an expatriation permit, if such is provided for by the laws of state, or a document proving loss of citizenship within six months counting from the day the summons, has been received.</li> <li>Ø The person does not pass the examination of the proficiency in the Latvian language and the examination of the knowledge of the basic principles of the Satversme (the Constitution), the text of the national anthem and the history of</li> </ul>
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			<p>Latvia.</p> <p>The citizenship of Latvia through naturalization is not granted to persons who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• through the use of anti-constitutional methods have turned against independence of the Republic of Latvia, its democratic parliamentary state system or the existing state power in Latvia, if such has been established by a court decree;</li> <li>• after May 4, 1990, have propagated fascist, chauvinist, national-socialist, communist or other totalitarian ideas or have stirred up ethnic or racial hatred or discord, if such has been established by a court decree;</li> <li>• are officials of foreign state power, foreign state administrative or foreign state law enforcement institutions;</li> <li>• serve in the armed forces, internal forces, security service or the police (militia) of a foreign country.</li> </ul> <p>4. There is no provision in legislation of the Republic of Latvia that would deny application of citizenship due to lack of good civic conduct.</p> <p>In order to check the verity of the minor's conformity to the provisions of Article 3 of the Law on Citizenship, the Naturalization Board shall request information from the Ministry of Interior, if the child has reached the age of 14.</p>
	<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. The person who wishes to obtain the citizenship of Lithuania by residence (the residence requirement is 10 years), s/he must provide the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a copy of the person's identity card;</li> <li>- a copy of the birth certificate;</li> <li>- a document entitling to permanent residence in the Republic of Lithuania at the moment of submission of the application;</li> <li>- a document providing evidence that the person has been living in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania over the last 10 years;</li> <li>- a document attesting that the person has a legal source of support;</li> <li>- a document evidencing that the person has passed the examination in the state language and basic principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania;</li> </ul> <p>- If a person holding a citizenship of another state applies for the granting of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania he shall submit a written application for the renunciation of the citizenship of another state held when he is granted citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania. The procedure is free of charge.</p> <p>2. The applications to grant citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania are filed with the President of the Republic of Lithuania: the persons submit the applications via local migration services, and the migration services pass the applications on to the President. The Citizenship Commission, formed by the President, examines the requests to grant the citizenship. The Commission addresses the State Security Department and the Ministry of the Interior in order to receive their findings on whether there are any grounds to deny the Lithuanian citizenship. The citizenship is granted by the President's decree. The person must swear an oath to the Republic of Lithuania within one year from the day of entry into force of the Decree of the President of the Republic, whereby the person is granted citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania. This can be done at a Lithuanian diplomatic representation abroad or in the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania.</p> <p>3. Citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania shall not be granted to persons who:</p>


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			<p>1) have prepared, attempted or committed international crimes such as: aggression, acts of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes;</p> <p>2) have prepared, attempted or committed criminal acts against the State of Lithuania;</p> <p>3) before coming to reside in the Republic of Lithuania have been imposed in another state a sentence of deprivation of liberty for a premeditated crime for which the laws of the Republic of Lithuania also establish criminal liability or have been convicted in Lithuania for a premeditated crime punishable by a sentence of deprivation of liberty;</p> <p>4) according to the procedure established by laws have no right to be issued a document confirming the right to permanently reside in the Republic of Lithuania.</p> <p>Besides, persons are granted the citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania taking into account the interests of the Republic of Lithuania.</p> <p>4. Whether it is in the interest of the Republic of Lithuania to grant the person citizenship, is up to the President to decide. There are no guidelines for this requirement provided by the law.</p>								
	Netherlands	Yes	<p>There are two procedures for acquiring Dutch citizenship:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Option procedure. <a href="http://www.ind.nl/EN/verblijfwijzer/verblijfwijzer_mijnsituatie.asp?proc=komen&amp;procedure=Obtaining%20Dutch%20nationality&amp;procedurestapnaam=Conditions&amp;land=&amp;duur=1&amp;lang=en">http://www.ind.nl/EN/verblijfwijzer/verblijfwijzer_mijnsituatie.asp?proc=komen&amp;procedure=Obtaining%20Dutch%20nationality&amp;procedurestapnaam=Conditions&amp;land=&amp;duur=1&amp;lang=en</a></li> <li>• Naturalisation <a href="http://www.ind.nl/EN/verblijfwijzer/verblijfwijzer_mijnsituatie.asp?proc=komen&amp;procedure=Obtaining%20Dutch%20nationality&amp;procedurestapnaam=Conditions%20in%20respect%20of%20Naturalisation&amp;land=&amp;duur=1&amp;lang=en">http://www.ind.nl/EN/verblijfwijzer/verblijfwijzer_mijnsituatie.asp?proc=komen&amp;procedure=Obtaining%20Dutch%20nationality&amp;procedurestapnaam=Conditions%20in%20respect%20of%20Naturalisation&amp;land=&amp;duur=1&amp;lang=en</a></li> </ul> <p><b>1. Costs:</b> Between €144 and €482. As from next year (January 1<sup>st</sup> 2010), the costs are going to be between €517 and €669 The costs are expected to be paid at the same time as the submission of the application.</p> <p><b>Option procedure</b></p> <table> <tr> <td>1 person</td> <td>€139</td> </tr> <tr> <td>more than one person*</td> <td>€237</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Naturalisation</b></p> <p><i>High tariff**</i></p> <table> <tr> <td>1 person</td> <td>€366</td> </tr> <tr> <td>more than one person*</td> <td>€464</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>Low tariff**</i></p>	1 person	€139	more than one person*	€237	1 person	€366	more than one person*	€464
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			<p>1 person €243</p> <p>more than one person* €342</p> <p>* A joint tariff applies to married or cohabiting partners.  ** The low tariff is for <a href="#">people on low incomes</a>. The high tariff is for people with 'standard' incomes.</p> <p>Required documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• passport</li> <li>• residence permit</li> <li>• birth certificate</li> <li>• marriage certificate (if applicable)</li> </ul> <p>2. Option procedure: Application submitted at the municipality, assessment of the request by the municipality;  Naturalisation: Application submitted at the municipality, assessment of the request by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service.</p> <p>3. The following <u>conditions</u> apply (Article 8 and 9 RWN).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• full age (18 and older)</li> <li>• non-temporary stay in the kingdom</li> <li>• five years admission and main residence in the kingdom preceding the request (exception and a shortened period of three years)</li> <li>• integrated (knowledge of Dutch language and knowledge of state institution and society, checked by civic integration exam)</li> <li>• no danger for the public safety</li> <li>• renunciation of the initial nationality</li> <li>• attend the naturalisation ceremony and make the Declaration of Solidarity (in case citizenship has been granted)</li> </ul> <p>4. Not being subject to a custodial sentence, training order, community service order or large financial penalty during the last four years.</p>
	<b>Portugal</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. Generally, the documents required from foreign citizens of age, or legally emancipated, are as itemised below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>§ Birth certificate of the applicant</li> <li>§ Legal certificate confirming that the applicant has been legally residing in Portuguese territory for at least 6 years (document conveyed directly between official departments)</li> <li>§ Certificate of Criminal Record Status issued by the authorities of the country of origin, of the country of nationality and of those countries where the applicant has resided before. The Portuguese Certificate of Criminal Record Status is obtained directly between departments.</li> <li>§ Identification document (residence permit or passport).</li> </ul> <p>The procedure for obtaining Portuguese nationality is paid for.</p>

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			<p>2. A specific form, duly filled in, together with the above-mentioned documents, can be delivered to the bureaus of the Central Civil Registry, or to any Local Civil Registry Office, or posted to the Central Civil Registry.</p> <p>The applications are then assessed by the Central Civil Registry services that ask for the relevant information from the Criminal Police (Polícia Judiciária) and from the Immigration and Borders Service (SEF).</p> <p>Once the procedure is concluded an opinion on the grounds for the request is issued, and then, provided the opinion is favourable, submitted to final decision by the Minister of Justice. In case of acceptance, a transcription of the applicant's birth certificate is made, thus creating a Portuguese Birth Registration, and the respective acquisition of Portuguese nationality by naturalization is registered on this Portuguese Birth Registration.</p> <p>3. In Portugal civil conduct does not, in itself, represent sufficient grounds for denial. The request can be denied if the interested party:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>§ Has not been living in Portugal for, at least, 6 years;</li> <li>§ Has no sufficient command of the Portuguese language;</li> <li>§ Has been convicted of a felony punishable with imprisonment penalty of 3 years of more, according to the Portuguese legal framework.</li> </ul> <p>The application may also be dismissed outright for lack of formal requirements legally demanded, or for lack of documents that prove the facts that ground the decision (with the exception of those documents that are obtained internally within the administration by the respective department).</p> <p>4. As mentioned in point 3, in Portugal civil conduct is not, in itself, grounds for rejecting the application. However, in terms of criminal liability, the application may get suspended for a period of 5 years, from the moment when a conviction for a felony committed by the interested party transits in <i>res judicatam</i>, provided such felony or felonies, in accordance to the Portuguese legal framework, is punishable with more than a year imprisonment, either individually or cumulatively.</p> <p>As regards minors, currently the Law allows naturalization of foreign underage citizens, who were born in Portuguese territory, who have sufficient command of the Portuguese language and one parent legally residing in the country for at least 5 years or, alternatively to this last requisite, if the minor concluded in this country the first cycle of basic learning. As for minors who are criminally liable (over 16 years of age) they must also supply a copy of their criminal record, in accordance to the afore-mentioned provisions.</p>
	Slovak Republic	Yes	<p>1. The administrative fees in SR for granting citizenship are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- granting the citizenship to a person over age of 18 – 663,50 EUR</li> <li>- granting the citizenship to a minor from 1-15 years of age – 99,50 EUR</li> <li>- granting the citizenship to a minor from 15-18 years of age – 132,50 EUR</li> </ul> <p>The fee is paid only after the conclusion of the procedure. If the request for citizenship has been denied no fee is paid, i.e. the procedure as such is free of charge.</p> <p>Generally the following documentation is required:</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- application for the citizenship (no special application form is available, the application has to be formulated by the applicant, containing first name, surname, birth identification number, if it has been issued, the date and place of birth, the address of permanent residence, reasons for applying for the Slovak citizenship)</li> <li>- brief CV of the applicant</li> <li>- identity document</li> <li>- birth certificate</li> <li>- document proving the status of the applicant (e.g. marriage certificate, certificate of divorce or death of the spouse) if applicable</li> <li>- document proving the authorised residence in the Slovak Republic and if this concerns a former citizen a certificate on the former permanent residence in the SR or an affidavits of this</li> <li>- criminal records extract not older than 6 months from each country the applicant has/had a citizenship and a criminal records extract from each country in which the applicant had a residence permit in last 15 years prior to submission of the application for the Slovak citizenship or another document proving the criminal records of the applicant issued by these countries</li> </ul> <p>Furthermore, those of the following documents that pertain to the applicant must be attached. The others must be replaced by affidavits in which the reasons that these documents do not pertain to the applicant shall establish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- confirmation by the tax office, customs office and the municipality of the payment of taxes and other fees</li> <li>- excerpt from the Commercial Register or Trade Register</li> <li>- statement of the applicant's employer confirming his/her employment and a copy of the employment contract</li> <li>- confirmation of the public health insurance payments of the applicant and the period of public health insurance coverage, issued by the relevant health insurance company</li> <li>- confirmation of the income tax payments, public health insurance payments, social insurance payments, and retirement pension contributions, issued by the employer of the applicant</li> <li>- confirmation of study</li> <li>- confirmation of pension drawing</li> <li>- confirmation issued by the Labour Office that the applicant is an unemployed person registered as a jobseeker</li> <li>- confirmation of sufficient income with respect to the applicant's stay and that of his/her close persons on the territory of the Slovak Republic, if he/she is voluntarily unemployed</li> </ul> <p>Upon submitting the application (if the applicant is over 14 years of age) the applicant must complete the applicant questionnaire.</p> <p>2. The Slovak citizenship is granted by the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic following the submitted application. The application for granting of Slovak citizenship has to be submitted in person at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the district authority at the regional seat pursuant to the place of the applicant's residence in SR</li> <li>- the district authority at the regional seat pursuant to the place of last residence of the applicant in SR or at the Bratislava District Authority (Obvodny urad) if the applicant never had residence in SR</li> <li>- a diplomatic mission of the SR; or</li> <li>- a consular authority of the SR abroad</li> </ul> <p>Despite the fact that the applicant must submit the application at the district authority or diplomatic mission of the Slovak Republic</p>
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abroad, it has to be address to the Ministry of the Interior of the SR which makes the decisions regarding the application. During the procedure the knowledge of the Slovak language of the applicant is checked by means of an interview (questions concerning the applicant, his/her person and his/her relatives, general questions on geography, history and developments in SR), reading of an unfamiliar text and summarising this text in writing in front of a Commission comprised of three persons (nominated by the head of the district authority, ambassador or consul). The district authority requests the positions/opinions of the municipality and/or the district police on the application and together with these documents is the application submitted to the Ministry of Interior (this is not applicable in cases when the application is submitted to the embassy or consulate who sends the application directly to the Ministry of Interior). Ministry of the Interior further decides in the matter. Within the procedure the Ministry of the Interior can request the position/opinion of the specific department of the Police Corps and if needed also the Slovak Information Service and also requests the criminal records transcription of the applicant. In the process of decision making the Ministry of the Interior takes into account the public interest, security aspects, and the positions/opinions of the above mentioned and other relevant institutions. The Ministry of the Interior decides on the application for granting Slovak citizenship not later than within 24 months from its filing.


3. The citizenship is denied in cases when the applicant:

- does not fulfil the condition of the permanent duration of the stay in SR which is 8 years (the decision can be denied or the procedure can be stopped)
- does not have a clean criminal record; (the criminal record is not considered clean if 1. The person has been convicted of a deliberate criminal offence in the past five years and the conviction was expunged less than five years ago; 2. The criminal prosecution against the person for a deliberate criminal offence was conditionally stayed and the probation period expired less than five years ago; 3. The criminal prosecution against the person for a deliberate criminal offence was stayed by a court decision on the approval of an out-of-court settlement, or by the prosecutor's decision on an out-of-court settlement, provided that the decision became effective less than five years ago)
- has been sentenced to deportation by a court judgment
- is in the process of criminal prosecution (the procedure is stopped and the relevant authorities inform themselves on the situation of the applicant)
- is in the process of extradition proceedings and a European warrant of arrest has not been issued, is under proceedings of administrative deportation or proceedings on withdrawal of the asylum status;
- have not demonstrated a command of Slovak language (see also answer 2)
- has not been fulfilling the obligations arising for foreign nationals from the legal order of the Slovak Republic (comprising legal obligations concerning public health insurance, social insurance, pension drawing, taxes, or other fees, employment of foreigners, etc.)
- a negative position/opinion is issued by the Police Corps and/or Slovak Information Service
- still holds the citizenship of the country which does not allow a double citizenship


Each application is considered individually on a case by case basis.

4. Please see the answer to question number 3. In cases of minors the Ministry of Interior has the same procedures as for the adults. The application of a minor who reached the age of 14 is considered individually. The application of a minor younger than 14 years of age is considered together with the application of his/her parents. If the application of the parent is denied the application of this minor is denied


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			as well.
	Slovenia	Yes	<p><b>1.-</b> The procedure for obtaining <u>Slovenian nationality by residence</u> is not free of charge. The fee of 3,55 EUR for the application and fee of 141,80 EUR for issuing the decision of citizenship shall be paid. Generally, the following documentation is required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Birth Certificate of the interested party.</li> <li>– Marriage Certificate of the interested party.</li> <li>– Curriculum Vitae.</li> <li>– Temporary or permanent residence permit.</li> <li>– Nationality Certificate or valid Passport.</li> <li>– Certificate of the interested party of being released of current nationality, or proof that interested party will obtain release if he/she acquires citizenship of the Republic of Slovenia, if applicable.</li> <li>– Evidence of impunity issued by an authority competent for criminal records in the state of applicant residence, unless the interested party is a minor</li> <li>– Documents proving the means of subsistence enabling material and social security.</li> <li>– Certificate that the interested party has a command of the Slovenian language for the purposes of everyday communication, which can be proved with a certificate verifying that he/she successfully passed a basic level exam.</li> <li>– An administrative unit is authorised to obtain ex officio, without the consent of the interested party, the certificate of not having criminal record on the territory of Republic of Slovenia, issued by the Ministry of Justice and to verify that the person's naturalisation poses no threat to the public order, security or defence of the State. The consent of the interested party is obligatory when obtaining the certificate of settled all tax obligations.</li> </ul> <p><b>2.-</b> The procedure is initiated at administrative unit. The administrative unit in the territory of which the person has a registered permanent or temporary residence in competent for decision-making in the procedures of acquisition of citizenship by residence. It is competent for reviewing the documentation submitted and obtaining all documents needed for making legal decision. The decision by the administrative unit in which it was decided that the person would be granted citizenship shall be submitted for revision to the Ministry of Interior. In the revision procedure, Ministry of the Interior shall give its consent to the decision by the administrative unit or shall abolish the decision and decide independently on the matter if it determines that the facts in the first degree were determined incompletely or falsely, that essential violation of the procedures rules occurred, or that a material regulation was falsely used in the procedure.</p> <p>Lastly, an administrative unit is responsible for carrying out the swearing of loyalty to the free democratic constitutional order, founded in the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia and as well for entering the date of person's granting the Slovenian nationality by residence into the Citizenship Register.</p> <p><b>3 -</b>The applicant for nationality fails to certify having legally resided in the Republic of Slovenia the time required for this purpose.</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The applicant fails to certify sufficient Slovenian language skills due to not successfully passed basic level exam in Slovenian.</li> <li>-The applicant fails to certify good civic conduct: has sufficiently relevant police and/or criminal records.</li> <li>-Other reasons for denial: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- lack of temporary or permanent residence permit.</li> <li>- lack of certificate of the interested party of being released of current nationality, or proof that interested party will obtain release if he/she acquires citizenship of the Republic of Slovenia, if applicable.</li> <li>- lack of required amount of means of subsistence enabling material and social security.</li> <li>- lack of certificate of settled all tax obligations.</li> <li>- existence of evidence that person's naturalisation poses threat to the public order, security or defence of the State.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>4.-</b> In order to deny the application for nationality due to lack of good civic conduct the duration and seriousness of the criminal and police records are taken into consideration. If an applicant has been sentenced to an unconditional prison sentence longer than three months or if he/she has been sentenced to a conditional prison sentence with a trial period longer than one year, is a reason for deny the application.</p> <p>For minor applicants denial of application for nationality due to lack of good civic conduct is not possible.</p>
	<b>Spain</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p><b>1.-</b> The procedure for obtaining <u>Spanish nationality by residence</u> is free of charge. Generally, the following documentation is required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Legal residence card or, in the case of European citizens, other types of certification as to legal residence.</li> <li>- Passport.</li> <li>- Birth certificate of the interested party.</li> <li>- Certificate of not having any criminal record in the country of which one is a citizen, unless the interested party is a minor.</li> <li>- Documents proving the means of subsistence for residing in Spain.</li> <li>- Additional documents which the interested party may wish to present in relation with the proceedings or as required by the Judge in charge of the Civil Registry.</li> <li>- Residence certificate.</li> <li>- The General Directorate of Registries and Notaries is authorised to obtain ex officio, without the consent of the interested party, the certificate of not having any criminal record issued by the Central Register of Convicts and Defaulters and to verify the place of census registration.</li> </ul> <p><b>2.-</b> The procedure is initiated at the Civil Registry of the place of residence of the applicant for nationality. Procedures carried out there include the ratification of the interested party and the integration examination before</p>


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			<p>the Judge in charge. The Judge remits the file, its corresponding documentation and a non-binding, statutory report in favour or against the granting of nationality, after the remittance of the decision of the Public Prosecutor to the General Directorate of Registries and Notaries (DGRN) of the Ministry of Justice.</p> <p>Within the DGRN, the General Sub-Directorate for Nationality and Civil Status is the competent body for continuing the procedures, reviewing the documentation submitted and obtaining any other documents or carrying out further steps as necessary to concede or deny nationality by residence.</p> <p>Lastly, the Civil Registry is responsible for carrying out the swearing of loyalty to the Spanish Constitution and resigning to the applicant's previous nationality, if applicable, as well as for inscribing the person's birth and corresponding annotation of the date of granting the Spanish nationality by residence.</p> <p><b>3.-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The applicant for nationality fails to certify having legally resided in Spain the time required for this purpose.</li> <li>- The applicant fails to certify sufficient integration in Spain due to not speaking the Spanish language and/or is unfamiliar with indispensable sociocultural aspects, customs, etc.</li> <li>- The applicant fails to certify good civic conduct: has sufficiently relevant police and/or criminal records</li> </ul> <p><b>4.-</b> In order to deny the application for nationality due to lack of good civic conduct the duration and seriousness of the criminal and police records, legal resolutions emitted, collaboration of the applicant in providing documentation related with the aforementioned records and other circumstances which certify the applicant's accommodation to a standard of conduct demanded of the society at large are taken into consideration. Doubts arise as to what extent should be made known and taken into consideration the records of minor applicants, or those who were minors at the time the records arose, in the procedures for granting nationality by residence.</p>
	Sweden	Yes	<p>1. Applying for Swedish citizenship (naturalisation) costs SEK 1,500. Submitting notification of Swedish citizenship costs SEK 175-475 depending on the type of case. Stateless persons who have been granted refugee status or travel documents by the Migration Board do not have to pay anything.</p> <p>Generally the following documentation is required when you apply for a Swedish citizenship:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A registration certificate from the Swedish Tax authority</li> <li>- Passport or a national id-card (from your native country)</li> <li>- A certificate from your employer</li> </ul> <p>When a person applies for Swedish citizenship, the Migration Board collects data from the enforcement service (debts), the Social Insurance Office (maintenance/alimony debts), the National Police Board (crimes or suspected offences) and the Swedish Security</p>

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			<p>Service (security checks).</p> <p>2. The Migration Board is the body that considers applications for Swedish citizenship and takes decisions (naturalisation).</p> <p>Notification forms in the case of non-Nordic citizens are sent to the Migration Board. If you are a citizen of Denmark, Finland, Iceland or Norway, you send your notification to the county administrative board (länsstyrelsen) in the area where you live.</p> <p>3. If you wish to become a Swedish citizen by application, you must meet the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You must be able to prove your identity.</li> <li>• You must be at least 18 years of age 18.</li> <li>• You must have a permanent residence permit. or - if you are a citizen of the European Economic Area (EEA) - a permanent right of residence. This does not apply to citizens of the Nordic countries. For citizens of the EEA countries, limited residence permits of at least five years' duration are equated with a Swedish permanent residence right.</li> <li>• You must have been living in Sweden for at least five years, or for at least four years if you are stateless or a refugee. If you are a Danish, Finnish, Icelandic or Norwegian citizen, two years will suffice.</li> <li>• You must have a clean record in Sweden.</li> </ul> <p>4. One of the conditions for acquiring Swedish citizenship by application is that you have kept a clean record during your stay here. If you have committed a criminal offence, however, you can still become a Swedish citizen, although you will have to wait for a while depending on how serious the crime was and what punishment you were given. When we examine someone's conduct we consider how they have behaved so far and how we believe they are likely to behave in the future.</p> <p>The time that must elapse after a criminal conviction before you can be granted Swedish citizenship is called the qualifying period (karenstid). This is normally calculated from the date of the crime, but if you have been given a lengthy prison sentence the time is calculated from the date when the sentence has been served. Before convicted persons can be granted Swedish citizenship, they must have served their prison sentence, their probationary period in the event of a conditional release must have been completed and any fines they may have been sentenced to must have been paid.</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>Qualifying periods</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>Qualifying period</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Penalty</b></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>30-day fine*</td> <td>1 year after the crime</td> </tr> <tr> <td>60-day fine</td> <td>2 years after the crime</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100-day fine</td> <td>3 years after the crime</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Conditional sentence</td> <td>At least 3 years after the sentence became legally valid (went into</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>Qualifying periods</b>	<b>Qualifying period</b>	<b>Penalty</b>		30-day fine*	1 year after the crime	60-day fine	2 years after the crime	100-day fine	3 years after the crime	Conditional sentence	At least 3 years after the sentence became legally valid (went into
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			<p>effect)</p> <p>Probation At least 4 years from the day the probationary period began</p> <p>Prison for 1 month 4 years after the crime</p> <p>Prison for 4 months 5 years after the crime</p> <p>Prison for 8 months 6 years after the crime</p> <p>Prison for 1 year 7 years after the crime</p> <p>Prison for 2 years 8 years after the sentence has been served</p> <p>Prison for 4 years 9 years after the sentence has been served</p> <p>Prison for 6 years 10 years after the sentence has been served</p> <p>* fine based on the defendant's daily income</p> <p>The qualifying period is longer in the case of conditional sentences or probationary periods linked to a prison sentence or to a fine of 60 days' income or more. If you have committed a crime on more than one occasion, the qualifying period may be longer than in the table above.</p> <p>If there is some other form of misconduct on your record sheet, we examine the qualifying period individually.</p> <p>For minors over the age of 15 we in principal apply the same qualifying periods. Some exeptions can be made for children who are born in Sweden or have come to Sweden as very young.</p>
	<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>1. All those applying for naturalisation are required to pay a fee. This is currently £720, but a joint fee for a husband and wife or civil partners living at the same address is £850.</p> <p>The requirements for naturalisation are as follows: The person applying must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. be aged 18 or over; <b>and</b></li> <li>b. not be of unsound mind; <b>and</b></li> <li>c. be of good character; <b>and</b></li> <li>d. have sufficient knowledge of English, Welsh or Scottish Gaelic; <b>and</b></li> <li>e. have sufficient knowledge about life in the United Kingdom; <b>and</b></li> <li>f. intend to have his or her home (or main home if there is more than one) in the United Kingdom. The person applying may, however, live abroad if he or she plans to go into, or continue in Crown service working directly for the Government of the</li> </ul>

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			<p>United Kingdom, if he or she plans to work with an international organisation of which the United Kingdom is a member, or work for a company or association established in the United Kingdom; <b>and</b></p> <p>g. meet the residential requirements set out below.</p> <p>The residential requirements are that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the person applying was in the United Kingdom at the beginning of the five-year period that ended on the date the application is received; <b>and</b></li> <li>b. in that five-year period, he or she was not outside the United Kingdom for more than 450 days; <b>and</b></li> <li>c. in the last twelve months of that five-year period, he or she was not outside the United Kingdom for more than 90 days; <b>and</b></li> <li>d. in the last 12 months of that five-year period, his or her stay in the United Kingdom was not subject to any time limit under the immigration laws; <b>and</b></li> <li>e. he or she was not, at any time in that five-year period, in the United Kingdom in breach of the immigration laws.</li> </ol> <p>A person who is married to or the civil partner of a British citizen needs to meet the same requirements, but only needs to have been resident in the United Kingdom for three years (with not more than 270 days absence). The future intentions requirement, and the requirement to have been free of immigration restrictions for 12 months before applying do not apply.</p> <p>Documentation is required to establish that these requirements are met. These are principally: evidence of identity (usually passport), evidence that the residence requirements are met (usually passports), marriage or civil partnership certificate, confirmation of immigration status, evidence that the person has either passed the “citizenship test” or completed a course.</p> <p><b>2. Place for carrying out the procedures</b></p> <p>All applications are considered by the Nationality Group of the UK Border Agency , in Liverpool. Applications can be submitted in two ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- by making a postal application</li> <li>- by submitting the application at a local register office, where the form and documents will be checked and forwarded.</li> </ul> <p>Once the application has been approved, the person becomes a citizen on swearing an oath and pledge at a citizenship ceremony. Ceremonies are held locally and administered by register offices.</p> <p><b>3. Grounds for denial ( lack of residence or integration, civic conduct)</b></p> <p>Applications can be refused for a number of reasons, such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the applicant had excess absences in the qualifying period (there is some discretion to waive absences over the permitted limits)</li> <li>- the applicant was not free of immigration time restrictions</li> <li>- the applicant had been in breach of the immigration rules in the residential qualifying period</li> <li>- the applicant was not of good character</li> <li>- the applicant did not have sufficient knowledge of language or life in the United Kingdom</li> <li>- the applicant’s future intentions were not clearly in the UK (this does not apply to spouses and civil partners of British citizens).</li> </ul>
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			<p><b>4. Specificities for the denial of nationality for civic conduct. Level of requirements. Requirements for minors</b></p> <p>Applications from those over the age of 10 are subject to criminal records checks. We would not normally expect to grant citizenship to a person with a conviction that is not spent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act. This includes those who have been to prison and those with non-custodial sentences. Checks are also made with other government departments, to see if there are any factors that would prevent a person from meeting the good character requirement.</p>
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