

## SUMMARY OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS

### CASE A – DIRECT APPLICATION

**STAGE 1:** The applicant interested in obtaining an Italia Startup Visa to set up an innovative startup in Italy:

- a. downloads the application form for a “Certificate of No Impediment” from the Italia Startup Visa website ([italiastartupvisa.mise.gov.it](http://italiastartupvisa.mise.gov.it)). The applicant then completes the form, including his or her educational and employment history and detailed information regarding his or her business idea and model, the type of product or service he or she plans to develop, and the market. The applicant then sends the completed form via email to the Italia Startup Visa Technical Committee at the following address: [italiastartupvisa@mise.gov.it](mailto:italiastartupvisa@mise.gov.it), together with:
- b. documentary evidence from his or her funding body (business angel, venture capital, bank, certified incubator etc.) showing that he or she possesses proven financial resources of at least 50,000 euros to develop the innovative startup.

**STAGE 2:** The Italia Startup Visa Technical Committee:

- a. evaluates the merit of the application and checks the documentation demonstrating that the applicant has financial resources of at least 50,000 euros;
- b. if its evaluation is positive, obtains a provisional Certificate of No Impediment for entry to Italy on the applicant’s behalf. This certificate is issued via email by the local police headquarters (Questura) responsible for the locality where the applicant intends to set up his or her business.
- c. as soon as point b) has been completed, issues a Certificate of No Impediment (which also states that the Questura has issued a provisional Certificate of No Impediment for entry purposes) to the applicant. The Committee notifies the applicant and the applicant's diplomatic-consular mission via email and also informs the Italia Startup Visa contact points in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Interior Ministry and the Labour Ministry.

**STAGE 3:** After obtaining the Committee’s Certificate of No Impediment by email, the applicant delivers it to his or her competent embassy or consulate, along with:

- a. the application form for the Committee's Certificate of No Impediment and the documentation showing that he or she possesses the required minimum financial resources; moreover, he:
- b. provides evidence that he or she has found suitable accommodation (i.e. hotel booking), in accordance with Article 26 of Legislative Decree 286/1998;
- c. provides evidence (i.e. income tax return) that in the previous 12 months his or her income, from lawful sources, in his or her country of residence was higher than the

minimum level envisaged by the Italian law governing exemption from co-payment of health service costs (8,400 euros).

Doing so, he applies for an entry visa to Italy.

**STAGE 4:** The competent embassy or consulate mission:

- a. receives the visa application from the candidate, complete with the required documents (originals, not photocopies), and carries out the checks for which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its Consular Offices abroad are responsible;
- b. if all requirements are met, issues a “self-employment startup visa” and informs the Committee it has done so.

**STAGE 5:** No more than 8 days after his or her arrival in Italy, the applicant presents at the local post office, fills out the required documents for a residence permit and pays the necessary fees. The post office will issue a receipt of the application and notify the applicant of the day in which to go to the Questura to register the fingerprints, bringing 4 passport photographs and the receipt.

**STAGE 6:** One year later, the applicant:

- a. submits a formal application for the renewal of the residence permit to the Questura. The application must include:
- b. a certificate of incorporation and articles of association of the innovative startup;
- c. evidence that the applicant has an adequate annual income from lawful sources.

## **CASE B: APPLICATION THROUGH CERTIFIED INCUBATOR**

**STAGE 1:** The applicant interested in obtaining an Italia Startup Visa to set up an innovative startup in Italy:

- a. obtains an agreement from a certified incubator that said incubator is willing to host the applicant in its premises or structures so that he or she can start up an innovative enterprise. The applicant then downloads the “undertaking to host” form from the Italia Startup Visa Technical Committee’s website ([italiastartupvisa.mise.gov.it](http://italiastartupvisa.mise.gov.it)) and sends it to the incubator for completion. After obtaining the incubator’s “undertaking to host” completed form, the applicant sends it via email to the Italia Startup Visa Technical Committee at the following address: [italiastartupvisa@mise.gov.it](mailto:italiastartupvisa@mise.gov.it), together with:
- b. documentary evidence from his or her funding body (business angel, venture capital, bank, certified incubator etc.) showing that he or she possesses proven or certified financial resources of at least 50,000 euros to develop the innovative startup. In the case of funding from certified incubators, the value of any services in kind that the certified incubator intends to provide for the innovative startup may be included in the total amount.

**STAGE 2:** The Italia Startup Visa Technical Committee:

- a. receives the undertaking from the certified incubator electronically and checks the documentation demonstrating that the applicant has the minimum required financial resources;
- b. obtains via email a provisional Certificate of No Impediment for entry to Italy on behalf of the applicant. This certificate is issued via email by the Questura responsible for the locality where the applicant intends to set up his or her business;
- c. as point b) has been completed, issues a Certificate of No Impediment (which also states that the Questura has issued a provisional Certificate of No Impediment for entry purposes) to the applicant. The Committee notifies the applicant and the applicant's diplomatic-consular mission via email and also informs the Italia Startup Visa contact points in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Interior Ministry and the Labour Ministry.

**STAGE 3:** After obtaining the Committee’s Certificate of No Impediment by email, the applicant delivers it to his or her competent embassy or consulate, along with:

- a. the application form for the Committee's Certificate of No Impediment and the documentation showing that he or she possesses the required minimum financial resources; moreover, he:
- b. provides evidence that he or she has found suitable accommodation (i.e. hotel booking), in accordance with Article 26 of Legislative Decree 286/1998;
- c. provides evidence (i.e. income tax return) that in the previous 12 months his or her income, from lawful sources, in his or her country of residence was higher than the minimum level envisaged by the Italian law governing exemption from co-payment of health service costs (8,400 euros).

Doing so, he applies for an entry visa to Italy.

**STAGE 4:** The competent embassy or consulate mission:

- a. receives the visa application from the candidate, complete with the required documents (originals, not photocopies), and carries out the checks for which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its Consular Offices abroad are responsible;
- b. if all requirements are met, issues a “self-employment startup visa” and informs the Committee it has done so.

**STAGE 5:** No more than 8 days after his or her arrival in Italy, the applicant presents at the local post office, fills out the required documents for a residence permit and pays the necessary fees. The post office will issue a receipt of the application and notify the applicant of the day in which to go to the Questura to register the fingerprints, bringing 4 passport photographs and the receipt.

**STAGE 6:** One year later, the applicant:

- a. submits a formal application for the renewal of the residence permit to the Questura. The application must include:
- b. a certificate of incorporation and articles of association of the innovative startup;
- c. evidence that the applicant has an adequate annual income from lawful sources.