

Registering Residency For Holders Of EU Member State Passports.
(Including EU/EEE/Andorra /Switzerland)
By & copyright to Steve Robinson
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Please note that the links provided were correct at time of writing but you may need to search for newer links if the ones provided become inactive or alternatively you might need to copy the link & paste it into your address bar.

Note: I do from time to time come across members who (by their own admission) are simply too confused by the bureaucracy to read the info pieces for themselves & if you really feel it is beyond you then you might like to read 'Operation Payback Or How To Navigate the Immigration Minefield' & 'The Perils Of Using An Immigration Assistance Agent' both of which are in the files section of this group.

As you have a passport from an EU member state, you have (subject to the criteria below) the right to enter, work & reside anywhere within the European Union.

There is absolutely nothing in law that prohibits a holder of an EU member state passport from registering residency on their day of arrival in Portugal (As confirmed by the UK Embassy Facebook page Q&A videos in late 2020) but there is mention of a request (as opposed to requiring) that you do it not before 3 months & before 4 months & whilst some issuing officers will issue the Certificate of Registration (CRUE) as soon as you have arrived, others will insist you wait the full 3 months. - (This effect is sometimes referred to as AVBS aka Acute, Variable Bureaucracy Syndrome!) & there are several good reasons someone might need to register residency sooner rather than later such as needing to create as large a time window as possible to more easily facilitate a vehicle import or obtain reunification of family residency for a spouse or dependent who holds a non EU member state passport & details of that process can be found in 'Applying For Residence In Portugal (Type D6 Reunification Of Family)' in the files section of this group.

The official title of this Certificate of Registration document is "**Certificado de Registo de Cidadão da União Europeia**" & is commonly referred to as the CRUE. In most cases the CRUE will be valid for 5 years.

If you are required to wait 3 months & before 4 months you might have to accept that & go to your local Camara in that 3-4 month period & register your residency & obtain the CRUE with/from them. You need to provide your passport, address in Portugal a few Euros & possibly an Atestado De Residencia from your local Junta de Freguesia/Parish Council. Your proof of address in Portugal can be house/apartment deeds or lease, utility bill or similar with your name & address (in Portugal) on it or if you are being hosted by a friend or

family member then the issuing officer is usually happy to accept their confirmation of that fact & their CRUE, residency card or similar.

NOTE:

There are several pieces of EU legislation that refer to applicants needing to prove 'sufficient funds' & if the issuing officer makes that request then I suggest you provide whatever proof they require. Some issuing officers don't ask at all, some will apply the non EUMS passport rules for Type D visa variants (see the text in red right at the bottom of this document if you need the legalese) or require you to sign a declaration that states you have sufficient funds to maintain yourself & some have even been known to accept seeing a wallet full of cash.

When your CRUE is approaching expiration, you need to book an appointment with the immigration dept **6 months** before the CRUE is due to expire & be sure to ask for a current list of required documents that you will need to provide.

At that appointment you will be issued with a 10-year permanent residency photo ID card & that exercise is again repeated 10 years later & if your appointment is after the expiration of your CRUE, that appointment serves as your residency extension so be sure to keep a copy of that appointment with you at all times & be aware that if your residency card or document time expires your right to residency does not expire.

There is no requirement to take a Portuguese language test or prove proof of links to the Portuguese community or culture as part of the process of registering residency.

The image below is the heading on the CRUE that is issued by the Camara issuing officer and if you don't have this document then you are not a registered resident so be sure not to confuse the CRUE with other documents.



REPÚBLICA PORTUGUESA

CERTIFICADO DE REGISTO DE CIDADÃO DA UNIÃO EUROPEIA

(Lei n.º 37/2006, de 9 de Agosto)

NOTE:

Some Camaras require the applicant to get their Atestado de Residencia before they'll issue the CRUE however the easy answer to that is just to go with the flow & give them what they want. - If the person issuing the Atestado refuses to issue it before you have the Residencia & the person issuing the Residencia insists on the Atestado first just have one call the other & sort it out between them.

NOTE:

If you are a Portuguese citizen you do not go to the Camara to register residency & get a CRUE but rather go to any Conservatoria or Loja de Cidadao & simply provide proof of a Portuguese address & register as a resident Portuguese citizen & your new/updated citizen's card will be issued or posted to you.

Right to reside EU PPT holders & partners:

<https://www.sef.pt/pt/Pages/homepage.aspx?requestUrl=https://www.sef.pt/portal/v10/en/asp/apoiocliente/detalheApoio.aspx>

Once residency has been issued the holder is/are also entitled to NHS care & the process of registration is to be found in 'How To Register on The Portuguese National Health Service' in the files section of the group.

NOTE:

The immigration dept have recently introduced/expanded it's 'My SEF' function to allow a number of processes to be conducted wholly or partly online & you can register & access that portal on the link below.

https://www.sef.pt/layouts/15/SEF.WebControls/LoginPage.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2Fpt%2FmySEF%2F_layouts%2F15%2FAuthenticate.aspx%3FSource%3d%252Fpt%252FmySEF&Source=%2Fpt%2FmySEF

Full Immigration Act:

https://dre.pt/pesquisa/-/search/538604/details/maximized?fbclid=IwAR0riFKBq-i1ot8em1EBwxSji8xqGNIJaLx0BjewkxDNspoWFkId_WpL18c

Note:

It is a legal requirement in Portugal that all over 16 years of age carry all identity documents such as passport or Portuguese issued ID card, CRUE, Residency document & NIF number etc with you at all times.

The residency registration criteria & processes for those with EEE/Andorra /Switzerland passports & family reunification for such are all similar to the above & full process & criteria on this link: [conteudo-detalle \(sef.pt\)](#)

NEWSFLASH NEWSFLASH NEWSFLASH

There are some grants (including very significant ones) & other funding opportunities (mostly from the EU) available to residents of Portugal with the appropriate skills, qualifications & experience in some cases such as almond farming in areas of restricted water supplies such as the Alentejo but don't expect these opportunities to be handed out like sweets in a candy shop because they're not & if you genuinely don't have the relevant skills, qualifications & experience then you will be refused & the link below will at least give you a point from which to start your research.

https://europa.eu/youreurope/business/finance-funding/getting-funding/eu-funding-programmes/index_en.htm

In February 2020 the Portuguese Government announce a new program where some residents can claim €2400-4800 per person to relocate to designated parts of the central zone & whilst you will need to do further research as this is a brand new program, the link below might hopefully give you a start.

<https://eportugal.gov.pt/en/noticias/programa-trabalhar-no-interior-incentiva-a-mobilizacao-geografica>

Also note that some areas in the interior regions including Pedrogao Grande are planning to offer restored homes & business premises at peppercorn rents to new immigrants who have the ability to work online and/or from home but we are currently awaiting further details of this new program.

Sufficient Funds

Some Camaras/issuing officers might require you to prove 'sufficient funds' & if you delve deeply enough into EU legislation you'll find that there is a threshold amount, but no-one knows exactly what it is because they're not permitted to specify a fixed figure. (see Article 8.4, 2004/38/EC)

"Member States may not lay down a fixed amount which they regard as "sufficient resources" but they must take into account the personal situation of the person concerned. In all cases this amount shall not be higher than the threshold below which nationals of the host Member State become eligible for social assistance, or, where this criterion is not applicable, higher than the minimum social security pension paid by the host Member State."

Elsewhere it states: 'Union citizens to whom point (b) of Article 7(1) applies present a valid identity card or passport and provide proof that they satisfy the conditions laid down therein; & also "National authorities can, when necessary, undertake checks as to the existence of the resources, their lawfulness, amount and availability. The resources do not have to be periodic and can be in the form of accumulated capital. The evidence of sufficient resources cannot be limited"

All that said, if you delve even deeper into the legislation you'll also find the info below (which appears to contradict the statement above) & whilst I'm not a lawyer it seems to me to mean there is or at least might be a set figure that appears to be related & possibly/probably equal to the minimum wage of the member state & my guess is that in most, if not all cases the issuing officer won't understand the legislation any better than I do.

Sufficient resources for residency, as taken from EU Document 52009DC0313 which tells Member States how to apply 2004/38/EC;

2.3.1. Sufficient resources;

"The notion of 'sufficient resources' must be interpreted in the light of the objective of the Directive, which is to facilitate free movement, as long as the beneficiaries of the right of residence do not become an unreasonable burden on the social assistance system of the host Member State.

The first step to assess the existence of sufficient resources should be whether the EU citizen (and family members who derive their right of residence from him or her) would meet the national criteria to be granted the basic social assistance benefit.

EU citizens have sufficient resources where the level of their resources is higher than the threshold under which a minimum subsistence benefit is granted in the host Member State.

Where this criterion is not applicable, the minimum social security pension should be taken into account.”

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/ALL/?uri=celex%3A52009DC0313&fbclid=IwAR3dauNgYSHoeLmS5NYILB54SHtSH-SEpaMERsfvgVCqbPzSOYZbzGgEqU>

Also see: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/ALL/?uri=celex%3A52009DC0313&fbclid=IwAR3h05nOzRyX8BkAWGMwL_CaA2iDF7fKB1LCeWoiv1I_itseh6JNFId9FQ