

# 18

## Compelling Reasons You Should Pursue Polish Citizenship



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EU passports are amongst the most powerful passports in the world. German citizens, for example, can travel to 157 countries without a visa. Other EU countries, including Poland, are not far behind.

To get an EU passport you need to be a citizen of one of the 28 EU member states.

## Since 2004, Polish citizenship equals access to the EU

This is why getting a Polish passport has become so attractive. Poland's citizenship laws are some of the most generous in the world. In most cases, all you need is one direct Polish ancestor. No wonder thousands of people from US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, UK, South Africa and many other countries apply every year.

In fact, there are over 20 million people of Polish heritage living outside of Poland so if you decide to proceed with your Polish citizenship application, you will be in good company. Here are the reasons you should seriously consider applying for Polish citizenship through descent.





### **NO NEED FOR VISAS OR PERMITS**

Depending on your nationality, you might be able to enter the EU without a visa but you won't be able to work, study or remain in the EU for more than 90 days unless you obtain a permit.

If you qualify, these tend to be expensive and take a long time to be issued.

But as an EU citizen, you can travel between the 28 member states freely, with no visas and remain there with no restrictions.



### **UNLIMITED WORKING & RESIDENTIAL RIGHTS**

Citizens of the European Union (EU), nationals of the European Economic Area and Switzerland, are entitled to stay, work and look for work in any EU member country.

The freedom of movement principle is one of the founding blocks of the EU and is enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

It is estimated that 2.5 % of EU citizens currently reside in another member state, enjoying progressive social protection and civic rights.



### **TRANSFER CITIZENSHIP TO DESCENDANTS**

That's right.

Once a Polish citizen, you can transfer your citizenship onto your children and grandchildren. There is no limit on generations and the only thing they will need to do is confirm their citizenship as adults.

Unless, of course, you confirmed their citizenship already before they turned 18.



### **SELECT ADVANTAGEOUS TAX REGIMENS**

With steady economic growth, social and political stability and a highly skilled, English-speaking work force, Poland offers a favourable investment climate.

The tax regimens for individuals and companies are becoming more and more attractive across the entire EU. The single market allows goods and services to be traded freely across borders within the EU.

The corporate tax rate in the EU currently stands at 21.30 percent, a record low.

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## SUBSIDISED EDUCATION & SCHOLARSHIPS

There are many reasons to study in the EU: reputable universities, opportunities for international networking and career development, famously diverse cities, high quality of life, and, of course, 28 different countries with free or very affordable tuition fees. Across the EU-28, the most popular subsidised degrees include social sciences, journalism, IT, business, administration and law. It is expected that by 2020, 40 % of people aged 30-34 in the EU will have a higher education qualification.

Erasmus+, a world-famous exchange program, gives students and academics the opportunity to develop their skills and boost their employment prospects. Over 3 million people have taken advantage of it since 2014. In the EU-28 there were 19.5 million tertiary students in 2015, 61 % of whom were studying for a bachelor's degree, 27.8 % for a master's degree and 3.7 % for a doctoral degree.

Germany, the most populous EU member state, had 3 million tertiary students, equal to over 15% of the total EU population, whereas France accounted for 12.4 %, the UK for 11.9 %, Spain for 10.1 %, Italy for 9.4 % and Poland for 8.5 % of the total number of students.

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## SET UP AND GROW YOUR SME IN THE EU

As an EU citizen, you can register a company and launch a branch of an existing EU-based business in any EU country, Iceland, Norway or Liechtenstein quickly and easily.

In most EU countries, you can set up a new company for less than EUR 100 in less than 3 working days, completing all procedures on line through a single administrative body. There are many different EU funds and initiatives available to support start-ups and SMEs, such as the Start-up Europe Club, European Investment Advisory Hub or the Start-up Europe Partnership platform.

If you're looking to increase the visibility of your business or seek funding, you can register your project on the European Investment Project Portal. The aim of these initiatives is to remove obstacles to investment, provide technical assistance and to make better use of financial resources.

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## CONSULAR PROTECTION BY EU MEMBER STATES

EU citizens in a non-EU country where their own national state has no representation is entitled to protection by the diplomatic or consular authorities of any other EU country.

This right is enshrined in article 46 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights. All 28-member states are represented diplomatically in only three countries, namely United States, China and Russia.

In the rest of the world, many EU citizens are unrepresented by their national embassy or consulate.

During emergencies EU member states must help EU citizens evacuate as if they were their own nationals. Protection also cover everyday situations, like a passport being stolen, a serious accident or illness.

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## ACCESS TO NATIONAL HEALTH CARE BENEFITS

Under the current EU laws, EU citizens benefit from reciprocal healthcare when they are in any of the European Union's 28-member states. These rights apply whether they are travelling temporarily between EU member states, for example, on holiday or studying abroad, residing permanently in another EU country, or when travelling to another EU member state to receive medical treatment.

The health systems in the EU are a central component of social protection enjoyed by EU citizens. Member states are responsible for providing safe, high quality and efficient healthcare to citizens on their territory.

If you are a public healthcare patient in the EU and require treatment that is not available in your home country, you may be able to use the Treatment Abroad Scheme to get the treatment in another country in the EU, the European Economic Area (the EEA also includes Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) or Switzerland.

You can also apply for the European Health Insurance Card, entitling you to receive medical care if you become ill or have an accident.

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## PUBLIC SERVICE POSITIONS & RIGHTS TO VOTE

All citizens of the EU have the right to vote and to stand as a candidate at elections to the European Parliament in the EU country in which they reside, under the same conditions as nationals of that country.

They are also entitled to vote and to stand as a candidate at municipal elections in the EU country in which they reside. EU citizens are entitled to be recruited under the same conditions as nationals of the country in which they are seeking work and cannot be asked to meet any additional requirements.

This means citizens can apply for any job vacancy advertised in any EU country. Some public service posts may be restricted to nationals of a particular country where the job in question involves safeguarding public order or the interests of the state, for example, the armed forces and police.

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## SOCIAL SECURITY &

The way social security, healthcare and other benefits is organised differs greatly across the EU member states. Every EU country is free to design and maintain its social security system.

However, the EU rules determine under which country's system EU citizens should be insured when two or more countries are involved - for instance, if you live or work abroad in the EU.

The EU recognises the entitlement to social security benefits and services providing protection as far as maternity, illness, housing, unemployment or old age.

All citizens in the EU are entitled to social security benefits in accordance with EU and national laws.

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## IDENTITY

With an EU passport, you can call yourself European. Not that there is anything wrong with being Australian, Canadian or American of course but European heritage gives you prestige and cultural benefits.

Sentimental value that comes from reconnecting with your European roots cannot be quantified, yet is one of the most beneficial parts of reclaiming EU citizenship by descent.

## CONNECTION TO YOUR HERITAGE & FAMILY HISTORY

This is probably the least tangible but the most important benefit of EU citizenship through descent. Discovering information on your Polish ancestors will reinforce your sense of belonging to a common European space and identity.

Cultural heritage has a universal value for us as individuals, communities and societies. It is important to preserve and pass on to future generations. It fosters a sense of communal understanding and allows you to be heard, engaged and empowered.

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## SAFETY

Health and safety laws are very strict throughout Europe. The EU has one of the world's toughest product and food safety regulations. National authorities send information about dangerous products found on the market to the rapid alert system for dangerous non-food products. The EU is also committed to the detection of unsafe products before they are sold to consumers.

In the EU, employers ensure free health and safety measures for workers. The EU ensures safety of medicines, protection of the environment, behaviour of multinational companies, dangers of international crime, quality of imported products is met with a cohesive response.

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## PRIVACY

According to some estimates, the annual value of European citizens' personal data could reach €1 trillion by 2020. The EU has been concerned about how our data is collected and managed for some time and has recently introduced General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). It represents one of the most robust data privacy laws in the world, protecting citizens' fundamental rights to privacy. GDPR covers data collection, storage and usage and allows individuals to move their personal data from one service provider to another.

EU regulations offer a layer of privacy regarding taxation that is not available in many parts of the world. Privacy laws in Poland are even stricter than elsewhere in Europe and many people value this level of personal protection above anything else.

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## **FAST TRACKING THROUGH CUSTOMS**

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## **PLAN B**

In today's dynamic and somewhat unstable political environment, an EU passport allows unlimited travel, safe passage and consular assistance for you and your family in situations beyond your control. Priceless!

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## **CAREER OPPORTUNITIES & EMPLOYMENT FLEXIBILITY**

European employers look for mobile, culturally aware, bilingual professionals with experience in international settings. They prefer to work with dual citizens as they do not need complicated permits or visas.

Business owners with dual citizenship benefit from the single economic EU zone without facing the restrictions applied by non-EU citizens.

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## **STAY LONGER... OR FOREVER**

There are many, many benefits of Polish (EU) citizenship.

In fact, so many that we put together this eBook, just for you.

Informing yourself about what it really means to hold Polish citizenship in terms of useful and practical advantages should probably be the first step for you.

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## KNOWING THE EU

Citizenship of the European Union was established with the Maastricht treaty in 1993. It is supplementary to national citizenship and includes the right to vote in European elections, the right to free movement, as well as residence and employment across the EU. European citizenship does not replace national citizenship – it is an additional status and set of rights and obligations.

The EU is an integrated market in which citizens, as well as goods and services, can move freely across borders. After four rounds of enlargement, the European Union currently has 28 member states. These are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom. If you have citizenship of any of the EU member countries, you are automatically an EU citizen.

## ABOUT POLARON

Since 2003 we have handled over 7,000 individual cases and have worked with clients from 15 countries, including the US, Australia, Canada, South Africa, UK and Israel.

Our team includes specialist project managers, international researchers and translators. We have offices in Poland, Australia, UK & Germany and are available around the clock. Over the years we have established an invaluable network of partner organisations and government bodies, including consulates and archival institutions, to ensure your case is managed professionally.

Polaron's role in the process is to support you in your journey, help prepare your application and provide information, translations and guidance as you go through it. We are with you every step of the way.

## QUESTIONS?

[Contact us](#)