As part of an ambitious and necessary plan to modernise and digitalise public services, the Portuguese Government has moved forward with the implementation of the new nationality platform – an essential tool that promises to have a highly positive impact on reducing pending processes and accelerating new requests to the IRN – Institute of Records and Notaries.

Main Objectives

Established on October 1st, this platform has the following main goals:

- Speeding up processing time: Aware of the delay in these processes, the aim is to reduce analysis and response times for requests;
- Reduction of bureaucracy: Reduce the need for in-person procedures, facilitating the digital submission of necessary documents;
- Simplification of the application process: The aim is to make the process more accessible and easier for applicants;

- Increased transparency: Real-time consultation of your process and access to the main data of your application allows the applicant to have better and clearer monitoring;
- Facilitating access to the process: The lack of need to consult the process in person and access to notifications in the process allows this perception;
- Data security: Guarantee of protection and confidentiality of information and documents entered into the platform;
- Reduction of administrative burden: Reduction of procedures and actions by the competent public services, namely, consular services and the Institute of Registries and Notaries;
- Promoting the digitalization of public services: There is clear concern and awareness of the need to simplify processes and procedures by investing in digital channels and platforms that allow not only faster work for those working on the processes, but also for the applicants themselves.

Application to new nationality applications

Since 1 December 2023, the online submission of nationality applications by lawyers and solicitors has become mandatory. For those who did not have a legal representative linked to the request, the submission of their process would be made in person, or sent by mail, to the various IRN services and agencies made available for this purpose.

From October 1, 2024, anyone wishing to submit their nationality application can now count on this new system at the Conservatória dos Registos Centrais in Lisbon and Arquivo Central in Porto – their documents will be digitized and the application will be immediately submitted and classified.

Application in pending processes

For applicants who already had their application submitted and pending with the IRN, a more agile and clear consultation of the status of their application is now possible, with the number of stages in the process reduced from seven to four. Namely:

- Phase 1: Submission – validation of receipt of the request and its classification;
- Phase 2: Analysis – the application is analyzed in various aspects, such as verification of the documentation provided and the legal requirements for granting nationality;
- Phase 3: Decision – A decision proposal is made based on the analysis obtained in the process;
- Phase 4: Conclusion – Once the application has been completed, the subsequent steps to register the applicant's birth with official Portuguese entities and issue the corresponding certificate follow.

Furthermore, the applicant can now confirm the name of the legal representative associated with his/her application, as well as the notifications contained therein.

It should also be noted that the change to the number of phases does not harm or compromise the processing time already elapsed, nor the phases reached so far.

Therefore, while the Portuguese Government's efforts and care in trying to reduce the volume of pending processes through the implementation of a system with a strong digital nature and practicality are to be applauded, it is still important to highlight that interaction with the responsible public entity remains equally important, and it is crucial to ensure a timely response to notifications in the process and their regular monitoring.

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