

## **BUSINESS IMMIGRATION ALERT**

The new wording of the Alien's Act and the Employment Act stipulates the following changes:

### **WORK PERMIT**

1) Local hires - The process of hiring foreign nationals in the Czech republic consisted of 3 consecutive steps so far. From now on the employer do not have to apply for a permission to hire foreigners. Therefore the process will consists of only 2 steps which will be the following:

Notifying the Labor Office about vacant positions (the vacancies are posted during 30 days);

If there is no Czech applicant for the position then the individual applications for work permit may follow (work permit is then issued in 30 days in Prague, in 60 days in Brno).

2) Local hires/Assignment - There will no longer be required the confirmation of medical examination which was one of the documents required for work permit application.

3) Local hires/Assignment - Till now the work permit could be issued for a maximum of 1 year. From now on the work permit may be issued for a maximum of 2 years and is renewable also for a maximum of 2 years.

### **VISA**

1) The first non-EU applicant need to support his/her visa applications, beyond other documents, with the extract from the criminal register of the state of his/her citizenship. It needs to an original of this document furnished with the apostille/superlegalization. However, this documents is not required when renewing the visa.

2) If the work permit is issued for a longer period of time than 1 year, for example for 2 years, the long-term visa may be also issued for the same period of time, i.e. for a maximum of 2 years. The expiration date of the long-term visa always match the expiration date of the work permit and also all submitted documents must match the same period of time.

We will certainly update the current checklists of documents for non-EU work permit/visa applicants.

Regarding the project of "green cards" we already briefly discussed with you in past there has been issued a list of states whose citizens are allowed to apply for these green cards (i.e. Australia, Montenegro, Croatia, Japan, Canada, Corea, New Zeland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, USA, Serbia and Ukraine). However, we do not see any special benefit from this proceeding for now. If there is any positive change in this process we will certainly keep you informed.