IMMIGRATION

Entrepreneur residence permit

Residence authorization for entrepreneurs

By **Aray Asociados Editorial Team** Published March 31, 2025

The content of this page is for general guidance only. Only the regulations in force at the time the application is filed apply.

DURATION AND RENEWAL	UPDATED
The initial residence authorization is valid for 3 years.	**November 14, 2026**

Topics: Entrepreneurship · Work · Internationalization

On this page

01 Description
02 Advantages
03 Who can apply? (including family members)
04 Requirements
05 Required documents
06 Application process
07 Duration and renewal
08 FAQ
09 Applicable law

01 Description

This residence authorization is for non-EU foreign nationals who wish to launch an innovative business project of general interest in Spain. It is governed by the special international mobility regime, separate from the general immigration rules (régimen general de extranjería).

02 Advantages

- No separate work authorization is needed, because the residence permit itself allows you to run your business.
- You can apply from Spain if you are already there legally.
- Family members can be included as dependents from the start.
- Access to the favorable international mobility regime and shorter administrative deadlines.

03 Who can apply? (including family members)

- ✓ This authorization is available to adult foreign nationals launching a business project considered innovative and of interest to Spain.
- ✓ The main applicant must be the entrepreneur who will personally carry out the project.
- ✓ Close family members may accompany the applicant from the start: spouse or unmarried partner (pareja de hecho), minor children or dependent adult children, and dependent ascendants.

04 Requirements

For the residence authorization filed from Spain:

- ✓ Not be a citizen of an EU or EEA Member State or of Switzerland.
- ✓ Not be in Spain unlawfully at the time of the application.
- ✓ Have no criminal record in Spain or in your countries of residence over the last 5 years.
- ✓ Have public health insurance, or private health insurance with a company authorized to operate in Spain.
- ✓ Have sufficient financial resources for yourself and your family members during your stay.
- ✓ Submit a favorable report on the innovative nature of the project.

For the visa filed from your home country:

- ✓ Meet the general requirements above.

- ✓ Be outside Spain at the time of the application.

05 Required documents

- ☐ Complete, valid passport.
- ☐ Proof of sufficient financial means.
- ☐ Criminal record certificate from your country of residence over the last 5 years.
- ☐ Health insurance valid in Spain for the entire stay.
- ☐ Detailed business plan describing the business model, the product or service, the market analysis and the innovative added value.
- ☐ Favorable report issued by ENISA or by the competent body designated by the State.

If family members are included:

- ☐ Proof of the family relationship.
- ☐ Proof of financial dependency, where applicable.

06 Application process

1 **Gathering the documents**

The applicant must gather all the required documents, including the favorable report on the business project.

2 **Filing the application**

If you apply from Spain, the application may be filed online with the Large Companies and Strategic Groups Unit (Unidad de Grandes Empresas y Colectivos Estratégicos, UGE-CE). If you apply from abroad, the visa must be processed at the competent Spanish consulate.

3 **Decision and visa issuance**

The authorities have a maximum of 20 days to decide. Administrative silence (silencio administrativo) has positive effects, meaning the application is deemed granted.

4 **Entry into Spain and final steps**

If you applied for a visa, once it is issued you may enter Spain and apply for the foreigner identity card (Tarjeta de Identidad de Extranjero, TIE) within the first month.

07 Duration and renewal

The initial residence authorization is valid for 3 years.

It may be renewed for successive 2-year periods, provided the conditions on which it was granted continue to be met, particularly the continuation of the project and sufficient financial means.

08 FAQ

What counts as an innovative project of general interest?

The BOE (Spain's Official State Gazette) provides that the project must represent a significant improvement or contribution to the Spanish economy. Its innovative nature is assessed in a favorable technical report issued by ENISA or the competent designated body.

Can I apply for this authorization from Spain if I have a tourist visa?

Yes, provided you are in Spain legally and can submit all the documents, including the favorable report on the project.

Can I take a salaried job in addition to running my project?

No. This authorization is tied exclusively to carrying out the business project you declared.

What happens if the project does not get off the ground or fails?

If the business activity on which the authorization was based is not maintained, the authorization cannot be renewed, as provided in the BOE.

09 Applicable law

- Ley 14/2013, de 27 de septiembre, de apoyo a los emprendedores y su internacionalización
- Real Decreto 1155/2024, de 18 de diciembre, por el que se desarrolla la Ley 14/2013
- Ley Orgánica 4/2000, de 11 de enero, en lo que no contradiga el régimen especial

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