

Startup visa is actually a **Temporary Residence Permit (TRP)** for startup founders who want to kick-off their future unicorns in Latvia. Since 2004 Latvia is a member of EU, so TRP is much cooler than just a regular visa! Maximum of 5 founders can get TRP under the same business idea. Their spouses and children are eligible for TRP, too!

Before you START

While it's not mandatory, before you go to Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs (OCMA), we strongly recommend you to send the Free-form description of the planned commercial activity (No. 5 from Your Application Package) to us at startup@liaa.gov.lv. That way you can check if your startup idea qualifies.

Step 1 BOOK APPOINTMENT

You can apply for a TRP both inside Latvia - through any OCMA division and outside of Latvia - through the Latvian Embassy's Consular Section.

All the next steps are described for the application through OCMA. In case of an application through the Embassy, call the respective Embassy and learn about the process. While in principle the steps will be similar, some details, timeline, and fees may vary.

Prior to submitting your application package, you need to **book an appointment via phone or email**. The first-come-first-served principle does not work. You will be given an appointment number - it will come handy at Step 2.

See OCMA divisions [here](#)

Step 2 APPOINTMENT DAY – SUBMIT DOCUMENTS

Have appointment number ready, submit your **application package** and pay the stamp duty.
No cash transactions are allowed - pay with your credit/debit card. Payment by bank transfer is also an option.

Stamp duty for reviewing the application package:
30 days - EUR 100 (regular procedure)
10 working days - EUR 200
5 working days - EUR 400

Keep in mind:

- under the same commercial activity, TRP can be issued to a maximum of 5 foreign founders
- when applying for a TRP, a foreigner must have a valid Schengen visa for the application review period
- OCMA can prolong the application review if they need more time to process (even if you applied for 5 or 10 days fast-track)

Step 3 DECISION LETTER FROM OCMA

OCMA will email you a decision letter - or "Lēmums" - if you have any difficulties understanding it, please email us at startup@liaa.gov.lv for assistance.

Upon positive decision, you will be asked to submit some or all of the additional documents at OCMA in Latvia:

- annual health insurance policy
- medical certificate confirming you don't have tuberculosis in the active phase
- confirmation of your future place of residence in Latvia: rent agreement on your name or **statement** of a house owner that they allow you to live in their property

Step 4 ORDER YOUR TRP CARD

Submit additional documents (see Step 3) to OCMA, as well as your biometric data (finger prints) and order your TRP card. Pay the stamp duty for TRP card processing.

10 working days - EUR 14,23

2 working days - EUR 28,46

Step 5 PICK UP YOUR TRP CARD AT OCMA

Bring your decision letter and passport. Receive the TRP card. Congratulations - you are now the resident of Latvia and the EU!

Your Application Package

1. Valid passport (if you have two valid passports - for example, local and international, bring both). The passport(s) will be returned to you, copies will be made and remain with OCMA.
2. **Application** for requiring a residence permit. Please mind that ALL fields should be filled in, including the address: if it's not known yet, use a hotel or friend's address where you intend to stay when you come to finalize Step 3 and 4.
3. Document size photo 3x4 cm on white background.
4. Proof of subsistence. EUR 430 per month for 12 month = EUR 5,160. Bank statement confirming you have this amount will suffice.
5. Free-form description of the planned commercial activity in the next three years. Make sure three year activities are clearly listed.
6. Certificate of clean criminal record from the country of your origin, if you are not a resident of one of **these** countries.
7. Receipt of paid stamp duty (see Step 2).

REMEMBER!



TRP is issued for maximum 3 years but you need to renew your TRP card every year!

Special conditions to keep your TRP valid:

TRP Recipient is not allowed to be employed or be a member of the board of another company in Latvia. Being a shareholder is ok!

A Within 3 months from receiving a decision letter, you need to be registered as a member of the board in a newly established company

B Within 12 months attract an investment (EUR 30,000 from VC fund or EUR 15,000 from an accelerator/business angel)

OR

If you don't attract investment within 12 months, you will submit your progress report. Committee will then decide whether to prolong TRP or not.

Questions? Let us know at startup@liaa.gov.lv

Startup visa is regulated by **Immigration Law** Section 23, (1), 33); Section 23, (12) and Section 23 (13)