RESIDENCE STATUS

What's your status? Find out what you're allowed to do.

Your rights depend on the basis of your stay. Find your situation and check three things: how long you can stay, whether you can work, and what to do before your stay ends.

GOLDEN RULE **Apply for your next stay before your current one ends. After the deadline, it may be too late.**

	HOW LONG?	CAN I WORK?	BEFORE IT ENDS?
Visa-free travel biometric passport, no visa	Up to **90 days** in any 180-day period in the Schengen area.	Only with a work permit or an employer's declaration (oświadczenie).	Leave, or apply for temporary residence in MOS.
National visa (D) visa sticker marked D in your passport	Usually up to **1 year**. Check the dates on your visa.	If the purpose of your visa allows it and you have a permit or declaration.	Apply for temporary residence in MOS.
Temporary residence residence card for a fixed period	Up to **3 years**. The end date is on your card.	Depends on your permit – check the annotation on your card. Changing employer often requires changing the permit.	File a new application in MOS before your card expires.
Permanent or EU long-term resident permit with no time limit	**No limit.** The card is valid for 10 years (permanent) or 5 years (EU resident).	**Yes**, for any employer, without a work permit.	Before your card expires, apply to replace it.

Different rules apply to EU, EEA and Swiss citizens and to people with international protection. Ukrainian citizens – see overleaf.

UKRAINIAN CITIZENS

UKR status and the CUKR residence card

UKR status (PESEL UKR)

- Legal stay until **4 March 2027**.
- You can work – your employer notifies the district labour office (urząd pracy).
- Was your PESEL UKR issued without a photo ID, and you didn't update your details by 31.08.2026? Check your status with us.
- After 4 March 2027 you will need another basis of stay, e.g. a CUKR card.

CUKR residence card

- **Who:** you have a PESEL UKR now, you had it on 4 June 2025, and you have held UKR status continuously for at least 365 days.
- Apply online only, in MOS – **by 4 March 2027**.
- A 3-year card: full access to the labour market and to running your own business.
- Fees: 340 zł + 100 zł for the card.
- Note: you lose benefits linked to UKR status, e.g. free collective accommodation.

Check your documents

- [ ] The expiry date of your visa or residence card.
- [ ] Came without a visa? Count your days in the Schengen area.
- [ ] The annotations on your card, e.g. "dostęp do rynku pracy".
- [ ] Application pending? Keep your MOS confirmation.

Not sure what your status is?

We'll check it together – free consultations at Fundacja EGIDA.

Where ul. Ozimska 14-16 lok. 314 A, 45-057 Opole

E-mail sekretariat@fundacjaegida.eu

General information, legal status as of October 2026. Not a substitute for legal advice. Your situation may need an individual assessment.

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