

Access of family members of Blue Card holders to the employment market in EU Member States once their residence permit has been issued.

Country	Access of family members to employment	Eligible family members	Remarks	Web links with further information
Austria	Free access without language obligation.	Spouses, registered partners and unmarried minors including adoptive and step children.	Eligible family members obtain the residence title “Red-White-Red Card Plus”. Spouses and registered partners must be 21 years of age or older when applying.	www.migration.gv.at/en/types-of-immigration/permanent-immigration-red-white-red-card/family-reunification For further information: https://www.help.gv.at/Portal.Node/hlpd/public/content/12/Seite.120309.html https://www.help.gv.at/Portal.Node/hlpd/public/content/194/Seite.1940004.html#Familiennachzug www.migration.gv.at/en/service-and-links/laws-and-provisions.html#c2402
Belgium	The labour market situation shall not be taken into account for spouse and children during the period of validity of the Blue Card. The potential employer of family member does, however, have to apply for work permit “B” and work authorization from the competent regional authority.	Spouse and minor children, including adopted and custodial children, a legally registered partner and adult single children who are disabled.	Once the family member has the work permit “B”, (granted without a labour market test), he/she can start working for the specified employer only. The B permit has to be renewed after (max.) one year. Regional authorities issue work permits and Federal Public Service Employment regulates alien workers.	Federal Public Service Employment: http://www.emploi.belgique.be/defaultTab.aspx?id=4888#AutoAncher2 Flemish Region: http://werk.be/online-diensten/werknemers-buitenlandse-nationaliteit Walloon Region: http://emploi.wallonie.be/Emploi_Formation/Travailler/Obtenir_permis.html Brussels Capital Region: http://www.werk-economie-emploi.irisnet.be/en/-/membres-de-la-famille Information on Blue Card: http://www.werk.belgie.be/defaultTab.aspx?id=37215 Federal Public Service Employment: Flemish Region: http://werk.be/online-diensten/werknemers-buitenlandse-nationaliteit/europese-blauwe-kaart/gezinsleden

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Bulgaria	Immediate access.	Spouse; single children under 18 years, including adopted or dependent children; single children over 18 years that are dependent or require their personal care due to serious health problems.		<p>Right to family reunification of Blue Card holders http://ec.europa.eu/immigration/showContent.do?id=3854</p> <p>Information in Bulgarian: http://migration.mvr.bg</p> <p>http://migration.mvr.bg/NR/rdonlyres/COB87B8D-70EA-45C6-87EA-B72FE1E78035/0/zakonza4usdencitevBulgaria.pdf</p>
Croatia	Immediate access.	Spouse, common law partner, minor dependent (adopted) children.	Residence permit for family members of the Blue Card holder shall be granted for the same length as that of the Blue Card holder.	<p>Information on the Blue Card: The Aliens Act in English http://www.mup.hr/UserDocImages/engleska%20verzija/2014/Foreigners Act 13.pdf (see in particular Article 198; page 90)</p> <p>http://www.mvep.hr/en/consular-information/stay-of-aliens/granting-stay-in-croatia/</p>
Czech Republic	No work permit required.	Spouse, minor children, including adopted and custodial children and dependent adult children.	A long-term residence permit for the purpose of family reunification shall be granted.	<p>Information on the Blue Card: http://portal.mpsv.cz/sz/zahr_zam/modka/ciz#coje</p> <p>http://www.mvcr.cz/mvcren/article/third-country-nationals-long-term-residence.aspx?q=Y2hudW09Ng%3d%3d</p> <p>http://portal.mpsv.cz/sz/zahr_zam/zz_zamest_cizincu/zz_zvlastni</p>
Cyprus	No access as no Blue Cards are being issued.	Spouse over the age of 21, provided the marriage took place at least one year before submitting the application; unmarried minor dependent children of the sponsor and the spouse.	Cyprus implemented the Blue Card Directive with a “zero quota” clause. Until further notice, no applications are accepted for Blue Cards or family reunification of Blue Card holders and no family reunification rules apply.	<p>Relevant legislation in Greek: http://www.moi.gov.cy/moi/crmd/crmd.nsf/All/00AA70C2333B4DC8C2257A40002708B4/\$file/K%CE%95%CE%A6%CE%91%CE%9B%CE%91%CE%99%CE%9F%20105%20(19%202%202015)%20-FINAL%20doc.pdf?OpenElement</p>

Denmark	Denmark does <u>not</u> issue the Blue Card. (Opted out of EU Directive.)		Under legislation already in effect for several different work permits, (Positive List, Corporate Scheme, Pay Limit and Green Card) the spouse or partner is allowed to work for the duration of the main work permit.	http://www.nyidanmark.dk/en-us/coming_to_dk/work/work.htm http://www.nyidanmark.dk/en-us/coming_to_dk/work/accompanying-family-members.htm
Estonia	Immediate access.	Spouse, minor children and dependent adult children.	Family members are exempt from the annual quota on number of work permits set in Estonia.	https://www.politsei.ee/en/teenused/residence-permit/tahtajaline-elamislubade/abikaasa-juurde/index.dot https://www.politsei.ee/en/teenused/working-in-estonia For information on residence permits: http://www.politsei.ee/en/teenused/residence-permit
Finland	Free access .	Spouse, partner if they have lived together for at least two years or have a child in joint custody, a same sex partner in a registered partnership and unmarried children under 18 years.		http://www.migri.fi/moving_to_finland_to_be_with_a_family_member/right_to_employment
France	Automatic right to work.	Spouse at least 18 years old (partners are excluded) and minor legitimate children (natural or adopted).	Family members are entitled to a 'private and family life' residence permit which must be issued within 6 months of request. They do not have to go through normal family reunification procedure. France has additional work permits, e.g. 'competences and talents' and 'intra-company transfers', under which family members also have full rights to work.	http://www.immigration-professionnelle.gouv.fr/en/procedures/sheet/european-blue-card Further information in French: http://vosdroits.service-public.fr/particuliers/F2209.xhtml#N1028F http://www.immigration-professionnelle.gouv.fr/acteurs-%C3%A9conomiques/fiche/carte-bleue-europ%C3%A9enne http://www.immigration.gouv.fr/spip.php?page=dossiers_det_imm&numrubrique=286&numarticle=2737

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Germany	Spouse will automatically be granted a residence permit entitling him or her to take up any kind of employment.	Spouse when legally married and has min. age of 18. and children under 16 years may be granted residence permit as well as people between the ages of 16 and 18 in cases of hardship or if their prospects of integration are good. Where a parent with sole custody of a child under 16 immigrates to Germany, the child is entitled to a residence permit. Same sex registered partners are eligible in practice, but this is not provided for in law.	Must have sufficient living space before family is allowed to join.	http://www.bmi.bund.de/EN/Topics/Migration-Integration/Immigration/labour-migration/labour-migration_node.html http://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/for-qualified-professionals/working/guide/opportunities-for-family-members For further information: http://www.bamf.de/EN/Willkommen/willkommen-node.html http://www.ilga-europe.org/home/publications/policy_papers/green_paper_family_reunification
Greece	To be confirmed.			
Hungary	Immediate and unconditional access.	Spouse, minor children (including adopted and foster children) under parental custody and the children are dependent.		http://ec.europa.eu/immigration/tab2.do?searchFromTab2=true&searchByCountryCountryId=16&searchByUserUserProfileId=4&searchByUserSubProfileId=0&loadProfileByCountry=Find%20information&langDefault=7&sen&userLang=7&languageLocaleId=7 http://www.bmbah.hu/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=58&Itemid=812&lang=en http://www.bmbah.hu/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=54&Itemid=808&lang=en

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Ireland	Ireland does <u>not</u> issue the Blue Card. (Opted out of EU Directive.)		Under Ireland's work permit regulations, the spouse or de facto partner of an Critical Skills Employment Permit holder or Researcher is eligible to apply for a work permit that does not require a labour market test.	http://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/employment/migrant_workers/employment_permits/spousal_work_permit_scheme.html
Italy	Permitted to work without conditions and to be self-employed.	Spouse, both opposite and same sex, through marriage, minor children under 18 years including custodial and dependent children, dependent parents and relatives within third degree who are dependent and unable to work according to Italian law.	Need to prove that they have lived together in the same state of origin and available housing meets minimum required by law as well as annual income from legitimate sources not less than amount of annual social assistance if asking for reunification of one family member, double for two or three family members and triple for four or more family members. The residence permit should be granted within 90 days from application.	http://img.poliziadistato.it/docs/0554_initaliainregola_EnGLISH.pdf (page 14, section 3) https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/index.cfm?action=furl.go&go=/librarydoc/legislative-decree-2571998-no-286-on-consolidated-act-of-provisions-concerning-immigration-and-the-condition-of-third-country-nationals (legislative decree 286, 1998. See Art 30.2)

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Latvia	Free access for spouse. The spouse of the Blue Card holder may work for any employer. He or she is not obliged to obtain a separate work permit.	Spouse and minor children including adopted and custodial children.	If family members <u>other than spouse</u> want to take employment they need to follow the normal work permit procedure. The vacancy should be registered in the State Employment Agency and available for EU citizens for at least one month. If it cannot be filled by an EU citizen, an employer should confirm an invitation to a third-country national and, if proven that this person has all necessary qualifications, a work permit will be issued and a new residence permit, stating that holder has right to employment with a particular employer.	http://dzivotlatvija.lv/en/gimene_en/temporary-residence-permit1-25/holder-of-the-blue-card-of-the-european-union1 http://dzivotlatvija.lv/en/gimene_en/employment1-25/employment1
Lithuania	Immediate access.	Spouse and minor children including adopted and custodial children.	Family members or EU Blue Card holders and other foreign workers who have a temporary residence permit in connection with family reunification are exempt from the obligation to obtain a work permit.	https://www.ldb.lt/en/Information/Services/Pages/Placementofforeigners.aspx Further information: http://www.migracija.lt/index.php?-849742125 http://www.migracija.lt/index.php?-1603162752

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Luxembourg	Entitled to access labour market as wage earners or independent workers*.	Spouse over 18 years of age, partner over 18 years of age in a civil partnership, unmarried children under 18 years of age. Direct ascendants or unmarried children over 18 years can also be allowed for socioeconomic reasons.	* During first year, family members are subject to a labour market test to check whether it is possible to hire a national or a European job seeker for the vacancy, whether the activity meets the national economic interest and if the family member has the required level of qualifications.	<p>Information in French: http://www.guichet.public.lu/citoyens/fr/travail-emploi/non-luxembourgeois/index.html</p> <p>Information in English: http://www.mae.lu/en/content/view/full/32695 http://www.legilux.public.lu/leg/a/archives/2012/0080/a080.pdf#page=2 www.mae.lu/en/Site-MAE/VISAS-Immigration/Long-term-stay-superior-to-three-months/Third-country-nationals</p>
Malta	No time limit applied with respect to access to labour market.	Spouse and minor children, including adopted and custodial children.	Family members shall be granted a residence permit within six months from application if all requirements for family reunification are fulfilled.	<p>http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=11773&l=1 (see article 14(3) and (5). http://www.mjha.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lp&itemid=22635&l=1 http://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Information/Services/Documents/Residence/CEA8-URP.pdf (page 7) www.mhas.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Information/Services/Documents/Residence/CEA8-URP.pdf</p>
Netherlands	Allowed to take up any work and employer does not need to have a work permit.	Spouse, unmarried partner (including same sex partner) in a sustainable and exclusive relationship, and minor children.	<p>Residence permit will be issued to family members with same expiry date as Blue Card holder.</p> <p>The Netherlands also has a highly skilled migrant programme, under which recognized family members are also free to work.</p>	<p>http://www.eubluecard.nl/family_members http://english.ind.nl/Brochures_en_Formulieren/index.aspx</p>

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Poland	Immediate access to the work market. Exempt from obligation to obtain a work permit.	Spouse, if the marriage is recognized under Polish law, a minor child, including an adopted child that is dependent on the Blue Card holder who exercises actual parental control.	Family members can be granted a special residence permit for a fixed period of time. Validity is maximum two years but it can be extended.	http://ec.europa.eu/immigration/what-do-i-need-before-leaving/poland/family-member_en# The Office for Foreigners - information in Polish: http://udsc.gov.pl/?document=264 (under construction)
Portugal	Permit to work and be self-employed.	Spouse, minor children including legally adopted and custodial children and children incapacitated and dependent. Adult children in care of the couple or one of the spouses, who are unmarried and studying at an educational institution in Portugal and younger siblings, provided under guardianship of Blue Card holder.	Application for family reunification shall be submitted within 30 days of entering the country.	http://www.imigrante.pt/PagesEN/DireitosDeveres.aspx http://www.imigrante.pt/PagesEN/DocumentosNecessarios/ConcessaoAR/14Art98N1.aspx Website of the Portuguese immigration and border service: http://www.sef.pt/portal/v10/PT/asp/apoioCliente/detalheApoio.aspx?fromIndex=0&id_Linha=6270 http://www.sef.pt/portal/V10/EN/asp/legislacao/legislacao_detalhe.aspx?id_linha=6262#0 (see Article 83; page 44) Weblink to law on residence of foreigners in Portuguese: http://www.sef.pt/documentos/35/LEI%2029_2012.pdf
Romania	May work and carry out economic activities.	A spouse, minor unmarried children including adopted children, who are in his/her care and for whom he/she exercises parental rights, (if custody is shared, the consent of the other holder of parental rights for family reunification is required).		http://igi.mai.gov.ro/detalii/pagina/en/FAMILY-REUNIFICATION-/75 http://igi.mai.gov.ro/home/index/en Further information on Romania: http://ori.mai.gov.ro

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Slovakia	Authorized to work and perform business activities.	Spouse, if the married couple is at least 18 years old; a single child younger than 18 years, and a single child that is dependent on the Blue Card holder or in need of care due to long term illness; a parent who is dependent on care and lacks appropriate family support in country of origin.	Temporary residence for the purpose of family unification is granted by the Police department until the end of the validity of the residence permit of the Blue Card holder, for a max. of five years.	http://ec.europa.eu/immigration/showContent.do?id=2925 http://www.emn.sk/phocadownload/documents/act_on_residence_of_aliens_21_10_2011_en.pdf (page 17, article 27.6) Information on residence permits http://www.mzv.sk/en/consular_info/residence_of_foreigners_in_territory_of_slovakia
Slovenia	Family members do not have immediate access to labour market.	Spouse, legally registered partner or long-term relationship partner, minor children under the age of 18 years, unmarried children and minor unmarried children of the spouse.	Family members are subjected to a labour market test. A prospective employer can apply for a permit on their behalf, but it will only be granted if the position cannot be filled by a Slovenian national or a EU/EEA citizen.	Employment and work of aliens act (Article 9; 27 and 31(9)) http://www.mddsz.gov.si/en/legislation/ Further information http://infotujci.si/index.php http://www.infotujci.si/v/53/employment-or-work-highly-qualified-employment-seasonal-work http://infotujci.si/v/11/Immediate-family-members http://www.infotujci.si/v/34/work-permit Information site for foreigners: http://english.ess.gov.si/the_info_point_for_foreigners
Spain	Free access to labour market.	Spouse or registered partner, unmarried children, including adopted children, direct descendants over 18 years with disabilities and children or other persons over 18 years with disabilities when the Blue Card holder is their legal guardian.	The legal working age is 16 years.	http://extranjeros.empleo.gob.es/es/InformacionInteres/FolletosInformativos/archivos/triptico_reagrupacion_familiar_eng.pdf http://extranjeros.empleo.gob.es/es/InformacionInteres/FolletosInformativos/archivos/triptico_tarjeta_azul_eng.pdf In Spanish: http://extranjeros.empleo.gob.es/es/InformacionInteres/InformacionProcedimientos/Ciudadanosnocomunitarios/hoja013/index.html

Sweden	Family members are granted a residence permit and work permit with no time limit in respect of access to the labour market.	Spouses, cohabiting partners and unmarried children under 18 years of age, including adopted children.	According to legislation on labour migration already in effect, family members of a third country national with a work permit may be granted a residence permit. At the same time, he or she will also be granted a work permit.	http://www.migrationsverket.se/info/518_en.html http://www.migrationsverket.se/info/7557_en.html
UK	The UK does not issue the Blue Card. (Opted out of EU Directive.)		Under the UK's Points Based system, family members are free to work.	http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/working/

Guidance note on using this table:

This table gives an overview of the family work authorization under the Blue Card regulations adopted by EU Member States in their national legislation as a result of the EU Blue Card Directive, 2009. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32009L0050:EN:NOT> . Three Member States (Denmark, Ireland and the UK) opted out of the Directive and therefore do not issue Blue Cards. They are included in the overview for completeness and because they have their own regulations on family member work authorization.

Several EU Member States (e.g. France, Italy, the Netherlands et al.) have additional work permit arrangements, other than the Blue Card, which also have provisions for family members to work. At the present time, these have not been included in this table.

Further information and links on family member work authorization in other countries worldwide are available via www.permitsfoundation.com

We welcome updates and corrections of this information.

Email: contact@permitsfoundation.com

This overview has been compiled as general information as an adjunct to our lobby activities. We cannot guarantee that it is up-to-date at all times. Permits Foundation accepts no responsibility for any loss resulting from reliance on this information. If you require specific advice about working or being an accompanying family member in a particular country, please contact the relevant immigration authorities or an immigration lawyer.

05 May 2015