



## NATIONALITY LAW

### *Tenth Amendment. What Changes?*

**T**he Organic Law no. 1/2024, of 5 March, introduced the tenth amendment to the Nationality Law, Law no. 37/81, of 3 October.

This update strengthens the criteria and procedures for acquiring Portuguese nationality, with the aim of ensuring greater legal certainty and social cohesion.

In this note we highlight the most important points of Organic Law no. 1/2024.

#### CRITERIA FOR CONNECTION TO THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY

The law establishes stricter criteria for determining the existence of effective ties to the national community.

Including sufficient knowledge of the Portuguese language and the absence of a prison sentence of three years or more, with the sentence becoming final, as well as non-involvement in activities that represent a danger to national security or defense, namely activities related to the practice of terrorism, violent or highly organized crime.

## GRANTING NATIONALITY TO DESCENDANTS OF SEPHARDIC JEWS

This amendment allows nationality to be granted by naturalization to descendants of Portuguese Sephardic Jews who demonstrate a tradition of belonging to this community, through proven objective requirements of connection to Portugal, such as surnames, family language and residence in Portuguese territory for a minimum period of at least three years, consecutive or interpolated.

## COLLECTION OF BIOMETRIC DATA

The possibility of collecting biometric data from those interested in nationality processes has been introduced as an additional measure to verify the reliability of the information submitted.

## PROCEDURAL CHANGES

Changes have been made to the procedures relating to filiation established at the age of majority and the counting of the time limit for acquiring nationality.

## PENDING APPLICATIONS

The law lays down transitional provisions for nationality applications pending at the time of its entry into force.

This legislative change reflects Portugal's commitment to promoting social cohesion, community integration and national security.

## FINAL NOTES

The government is now responsible for making the necessary regulatory changes within 90 days of the publication of this law, so that it can be effectively implemented within the stipulated timeframe.

With these measures, Portugal reaffirms its commitment to the values of justice and inclusion, ensuring that the process of acquiring nationality is fair, transparent and aligned with the interests of the country and its citizens.

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