

Family members of an Italian citizen or of a citizen of another EU Country

Preferential treatment is granted to family members of an EU¹ citizen when they apply for the necessary visa.

Specific provisions on the subject are contained in the relevant Italian legislation (Legislative Decree no. 30/2007 which transposes Directive 2004/38/EC) and in EU Regulations (art. 2 par. 2 lett. a) and b) of the Visa Code and part III of the *Handbook for the processing of visa applications*).

Family members of EU citizens as listed in art. 2 of Legislative Decree no. 30/2007 (spouse, dependent relatives in the direct ascending line and those of their spouse, direct descendants who are under the age of 21 or are dependent, and those of their spouse), who accompany or join an EU citizen, are entitled to be granted an entry visa as a priority and free of charge. The documents that family members of an EU citizen need to submit when applying for a visa are listed in the above art. 2 and differ from those required of other ordinary applicants (i.e. it is not necessary to provide health insurance and proof of socio-economic status).

Other family members listed in art. 3 of the above Legislative Decree (e.g. siblings of the EU citizen or of their spouse) are not entitled to be issued with a visa but their applications shall be facilitated (as long as the applicants accompany or join the EU citizen), and the visa issued will incur a fee.

Any visa applications made by foreign family members of EU citizens for journeys that are not directly linked to the movement of the EU citizen (therefore when they do not accompany or join the EU family member) shall be dealt with as ordinary applications, and the visa shall be issued if the requirements and conditions provided for by the type of entry requested are met.

Once their status as EU family member has been checked, visa applicants subject to a visa requirement must be issued with a visa for the purpose of crossing external borders.

Other nationals included in Annex I of Council Regulation 539/2001, who are exempt from visa requirement, can travel without a visa.

Family members of an EU citizen must register as residents at the local *Comune* (town hall) within three months from their entry into the Italian territory and must apply for an EU family member residence card at the local *Questura* (Police Immigration Office) by providing the documents listed in art. 10 of Legislative Decree no. 30/2007 (i.e. valid passport, photo, certificate of registration issued by the *Comune*, documents attesting the existence of a family relationship with the EU citizen and, when required, a certificate attesting the status of dependent family member of a EU citizen).

For further information and details please visit:

http://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/travel/entry-exit/non-eu-family/index_it.htm

¹ EU countries are those that are members of the European Union (including those applying the Schengen Agreement) in addition to Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, but excluding Switzerland (to be treated as per Section b – part III of the *Handbook for the processing of visa applications*).