



Information note on the implementation of the Specific Residence Authorisation policy

New procedure

If you have a valid THPN status you are eligible to apply for a Specific Residence Authorisation (SRA). If your status will expire by 31 December 2018 or later, you may apply for SRA instead of THPN.

As of the 15 November 2018 THPN will no longer continue to be renewed by the Office of the Refugee Commissioner (RefCom). The new SRA procedure will be administered by Identity Malta Agency.

Identity Malta Agency shall be sending a letter to the THPN holders whose certificate will expire by the 31 December. As of January 2019, Identity Malta will start processing applications of THPN holders whose certificate will expire in 2019.

When should I apply?

The transition from THPN to SRA will start on the 15th November 2018. This means that Identity Malta Agency shall start accepting applications for SRA from valid THPN holders from the 15 November 2018 onwards.

Where should I apply?

In order to apply, you are to go to the **offices of Identity Malta Agency in Hal Far (near Hal Far Hangar) during the timeframe indicated in the timetable below**, and apply for the conversion of your THPN status to SRA status by filling in the application form attached to the policy document.

SRA status will be granted for a period of 2 years without the need for individual assessment, provided that you have not been convicted of serious crimes, or you are not considered to be a threat to national security, public order and/or the public interest. This means that before SRA is automatically granted, the Immigration Police will verify your case and communicate the approval to Identity Malta Agency.

After 2 years, and upon application for renewal, your case will be individually assessed on the basis of the established criteria and guidelines contained in the policy document.

Data to be collected by Identity Malta

When you submit your application, Identity Malta Agency will collect and record your personal information, including information you may have already given to RefCom in the past when you renewed your THPN certificate (such as telephone number, email address, physical address etc.). This will be done because of data protection reasons: your file at RefCom cannot be automatically shared with Identity Malta Agency.

What documents do I need to take with me to Identity Malta Agency?

If you are a holder of a valid THPN certificate and are applying to convert your THPN status to SRA you will need:

- Identity document / residence card
- Original THPN certificate issued by RefCom

If you are submitting a new application for SRA (after the 1 January 2019), you will need all the relevant documentation supporting your fulfilment of the policy criteria (see document *Policy regarding Specific Residence Authorisation*). For additional information on documents to be submitted please refer to *Annex 1 Information Leaflet – Specific Residence Authorisation*.

How much does it cost?

THPN holders may wish to apply for the authorisation for **2 years**. Application fee is of **€27.50 per applicant per year**.

I had THPN status in the past but I did not renew it. Can I apply for SRA?

If you had THPN status at some point but failed to renew your certificate, you may apply for SRA after the 1 January 2019. However, you should be aware that Identity Malta Agency will consider your application as a new application for SRA and your case will be individually examined according to the criteria and guidelines established in the policy document.

What if RefCom has not renewed my THPN status?

In such circumstances RefCom shall inform Identity Malta of the decision. Should you apply for SRA, Identity Malta Agency will consider your application as a new application for SRA and this will be processed after the 1 January 2019, according to the criteria and guidelines established in the policy document.

I never had a THPN status. Can I apply for SRA?

If you never held THPN status you may apply for SRA provided that you fulfil the criteria established by the Specific Residence Authorisation policy (refer to policy document for more information).

Timetable for transition from THPN to SRA

Expiry Date of THPN certificate	Date to submit application
12 - 15 November 2018	Monday 19 November 2018
16 - 23 November 2018	Tuesday 20 November 2018
26 – 30 November 2018, 3 – 17 December 2018	Wednesday 21 November 2018
19 – 28 December 2018	Thursday 22 November 2018
1 January – 31 December 2019	After 1 January 2019

Address:

*Identity Malta Agency
Expatriate Unit
Specific Residence Authorisation Section
Birzebbugia Road, Birzebbugia
Hal-Far*

Telephone number:

(+356) 25904841

Email:

expatriates.ima@gov.mt

Customer Care Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday 07.30 – 14.30

Submission of SRA applications Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday 07.30 - 12.30