



HM Government

**IF YOU NEED SUPPORT
TO APPLY TO THE
EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME
THERE IS A NETWORK OF
ORGANISATIONS
TO HELP YOU**



**citizens
advice**

**Bournemouth
Christchurch
& Poole**

What we will cover



- The EU Settlement Scheme
- Project Background
- Who
- What
- How
- What to do if you need help

What is the EU Settlement Scheme



- Following the vote to leave the EU, EU nationals are required to register under the EU Settlement Scheme so that they can stay in the UK and maintain their rights.
- Current legislation mandates that this needs to be done before 30th June 2021
- Applicants must be resident in the UK before the end of 2020
- The EUSS application can be done online; it is free.

Project Background



The aim of our project is to provide **practical help and support to vulnerable EU citizens to apply for Settled or Pre-Settled Status** under the new EU Settlement Scheme. The project is funded by the Home Office, who have put £9m of grant funding in place for organisations such as ourselves, in order to reach and support vulnerable and at-risk people.

CABCP's role is to lead on the project and **provide a range of support options for the community**. Alongside DREC, we will be meeting and engaging with local communities about the project and **accepting referrals for assistance** from our caseworkers.

Our aim is to make the application process as accessible as possible for all the clients we meet.

EU & EEA



Austria	Estonia !	Italy	Portugal
Belgium	Finland	Latvia !	Romania
Bulgaria	France	Lithuania !	Slovakia
Croatia	Germany	Luxembourg	Slovenia
Cyprus	Greece	Malta	Spain
Czech Rep	Hungary	Netherlands	Sweden
Denmark	Ireland*	Poland	UK

*Republic of Ireland: Irish nationals are automatically settled when they arrive in the UK and they may also benefit from EEA rules.

! People from Latvia, Lithuania or Estonia may have an 'alien passport'. These passports are issued to people of Russian origin who moved to the Baltic States when those states were part of the former Soviet Union. They do not have the right to work in the UK and must apply for a visa.

The EEA is all of the EU states plus:

- Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway
- Swiss nationals are generally treated the same as EEA nationals

What will happen



If you or someone you work with/know apply, and are approved, you will be granted either settled or pre-settled status.

Pre-Settled Status - If you have less than five years continuous residence in the UK you will be eligible for pre-settled status. This means you can stay in the UK for a period of five years, until you are eligible for settled status.

Settled Status - If you have five years or more continuous residence in the UK, you will be eligible for settled status. This means there is no time limit on how long you can stay in the UK.

What will happen



Settled Status means that someone has permission to stay in the UK without time limit and is 'ordinarily resident' in the UK. A person who has settled status in the UK will usually lose it if they leave the UK for more than two years. People with settled status can live and work here, claim benefits, use the NHS and bring in family members (in some situations).

Pre-settled status gives fewer rights, eg. after December 2020 it will not be possible to claim some means-tested benefits like Universal Credit. You can get pre-settled status as long as you have been living here for 1 day in the previous 6 months. When you get to a total of 5 years in the UK you can re-apply to change to settled status.

What will happen



Staying in the UK after Brexit:

- EU Nationals can continue to claim benefits and get help with housing from the local council until 31 December 2020.
- After that date, some benefits like Universal Credit, Pension Credit and Child Benefit will stop if a person only has pre-settled status. They will not be able to apply for social housing from their local council, or council tax support.
- Benefits that are not means tested, such as PIP, DLA should continue for both settled and pre-settled persons.

How



- The application form is online, but a paper copy can be requested
- EU Citizens will need to prove their identity using one of the following – valid passport, national identity card, biometric residence card
- These can be scanned if you download the App – currently available on Android devices only
- You also need:
 - Proof of Residence – National Insurance Number
 - Details of any Convictions

How



Parents can apply for their child if they're under 21 and either:

- they're an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen
- they are not an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen, but you are - or your spouse or civil partner is

Or

- A child can also apply themselves.
- Parents can 'link' a child's application to theirs, using their application number.
- Parents will need to do this for each child they want to apply for.

Dorset and BCP



During 2019 -2020:

We assisted 2,575 people to apply to the scheme, and engaged with a further 20,563 people regarding the scheme

However:

Only 50% of projected EU Nationals in Dorset have applied

ONS upper estimate of EU Nationals in Dorset: 12,000

Whereas 97% of projected EU Nationals in BCP have applied

ONS upper estimate of EU Nationals in BCP: 30,000

Services We Provide



We will be here until the end of March 2021 to assist those who are vulnerable and need to apply to the scheme. We offer:

- Tailored Appointment Service for Application Assistance with Digital provision & Language support.
- Information Provision Sessions including Signposting
- Post-Application Support Clinics.
- OISC Level 2-3 support & Immigration Advice.

People At Risk



Our experience over the last year has allowed us to identify the following groups of people most at risk:

Very long-term residents;
Children of EU citizens;
People who lack evidence of their identity, residency and economic activity
People with permanent residence;
People who have been rejected for permanent residency or who were previously ineligible;
People with past criminal convictions, who were removed in the past, and people in prison;
People without a good social network ;
People who are expecting to return to the EU;
Those who may arrive shortly before the cut off date for eligibility

Some people will **struggle to navigate an application** due to **difficulties accessing or using the application.** This could be because of factors such as:

Language barriers;
Low levels of literacy;
Age;
Low digital literacy;
Conditions involving a cognitive disability;
Mental health problems ;
Physical health problems and disabilities

Applications may be **more difficult** for people who **already face social exclusion of some kind** or whose **independence or autonomy is reduced**, for example:

Children in care and recent care leavers;
Victims of domestic abuse;
Victims of modern slavery;
People living in poverty;
Homeless people and rough sleepers;
Migrant Roma communities

How Can You Help?



Communicate with your teams and clients

Encourage engagement with the project network

Disseminate information about the project



Referring Clients to the Project



Our aim is to make the application process as accessible as possible for all the clients we meet – **we are not turning anyone away.**

Referrals : **We accept referrals from any local organisation, including self referral.**

- Text message directly to our caseworkers number **07761092704**
- OR e-mail to euss.advice@citizensadvicebcp.org.uk
- **We are happy to organise group application events, outreach sessions at any specific location or to see people one on one at any of our pre arranged outreach locations – schedule can be shared**

Clients can text or e-mail directly, we are able to give advice to any client contacting us via phone or e-mail.

We can assist people who have completed the process but are not happy with result to review their entitlement and re-apply.

We can help people who need to be guided through application from the start or those who started the process on their own and got stuck.

We can explain the process of obtaining documents- i.e. passports, birth certificates for children applicants sponsored by parents etc.

If the situation is complex, we can refer to the resolution centre run by home office. If the case is OISC level 2 or above, we can refer more complex cases to our partnered tier 2 centre.

We can help clients who choose to remain anonymous with advice of how to complete the process independently from us.

Spreading the word



- Can you think of ways to get information out to EU Nationals living in your local area?
- Are there any specific communities / community groups / local employers / local businesses?
- Do you know of any particularly vulnerable individuals and groups?
- What other local agencies should we contact- or can you contact them for us?

We have leaflets available and are providing regular updates and briefings across Dorset BC&P.