

Rules for mountain leaders from EU/foreign countries who want to provide services in Bulgaria

According to the UIMLA standard, an **International Mountain Leader** is a person who is qualified to lead, teach, support and train clients, paying or otherwise, to all areas in all seasons, including snow covered terrain, except for activities reserved for mountain guides. When providing cross border services Mountain Leader must comply with national laws related to the provision of services. Bellow you will find answers to questions that you should know before the start of providing services in Bulgaria

When in this questionnaire we make reference to EU citizens or EU member states we are also including citizens coming from Switzerland and EFTA countries.

The questions related to the profession of a mountain leader were answered by respective national authorities in Bulgaria

Contact details for the national authority: Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of Bulgaria, e-mail: edoc@tourism.government.bg, tel. + 359 2/9046809

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1. Mountain leader profession

Does the profession of the mountain leader exist in Bulgaria?

Other. According to the List of professions for vocational education and training, approved by the minister of education and science, only one profession of a mountain leader exists in Bulgaria.

According to the Ordinance № 3 of 7 march 2016 on the education, practical training and professional qualifications required for the acquisition of the licensed capacity to practice the profession of mountain leader (the Ordinance), the profession of "Mountain Leader" has the following levels in ascending order:

- 1. "Mountain leader" - first level;*
- 2. "Mountain leader" - second level ("Mountain/ Alpine guide")*

2. Entry requirements for mountain leaders from EU member states - prior declaration or other?

Do you require qualified mountain leaders from EU member states to send a prior declaration before they start temporarily providing services of a mountain leader in your country?

Yes

3. Entry requirements for mountain leaders from EU member states - prior declaration or other

What are the requirements and documents which a mountain leader from EU member states has to submit for the purpose of a prior declaration?

A mountain leader from the European Union may perform the profession "Mountain leader" on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria if he/she has acquired a mountain leader licence under the

legislation of its country and after recognition of the licensed capacity and/or qualification for "Mountain leader" and registration in the National Tourist Register.

An EU mountain leader may freely provide the relevant tourist services in the Republic of Bulgaria if he/she is:

- 1. legally established in another Member State for the purpose of performing the profession of "Mountain leader" on its territory;*
- 2. performed this profession in the Member State or several Member States of establishment for at least one of the last 10 years, where the profession is not regulated in these Member States.*

The requirement under the above point 2 shall not apply where the profession or the education and training required for its performing are regulated in the Member State of establishment.

In case of temporary or single practice of the profession "Mountain Leader" on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, before the first action, the EU mountain leader shall notify the Minister of Tourism in writing by means of a notification-declaration.

Together with the notification-declaration shall be submitted:

- 1. a copy of the applicant's identity and citizenship document;*
- 2. a certificate issued by the competent authority of the Member State that the applicant is legally established in its territory for the purpose of exercising the profession of mountain leader and that at the time of issue of the certificate no prohibition, including a temporary prohibition, has been imposed on him for exercising the profession;*
- 3. a copy of the document attesting the competence in the State in which it was acquired;*
- 4. evidence confirming the practice of the relevant activity for at least one of the last 10 years - in the cases the profession of a mountain leader is not regulated in these Member States.*

Do you recognise the professional certificate issued by UIMLA national association as a proof of necessary qualification?

If the professional qualification certificate is recognised in the Member State and the professional is authorized to carry out the activity of a mountain leader in that state, he is also authorized to provide activities on the temporary basis in Bulgaria (after a prior declaration).

Is it necessary to have the documents translated into your language?

Yes

Is it necessary to have the documents notarised?

No

Can the declaration be passed online? If so, please enter a link to it:

The declaration can be sent online: <https://e-turuslugi.com/form/34/68>

or

The declaration can be sent to the following e-mail of the Ministry of Tourism: edoc@tourism.government.bg

or

at the address of the Ministry of Tourism: Bulgaria, Sofia, 1 Saborna str.

The declaration is available for downloading here:

<https://www.tourism.government.bg/bg/kategorii/uslugi-v-turizma/registraciya-pri-vremenno-ili-e-dnokratno-uprazhnyavane-na-profesiyata>

Are there any special rules for mountain leaders coming from EU member states where the profession is not regulated (the state of the origin of mountain leader does not require any qualification)? If so, please describe them

Yes.

If the profession is not regulated in the Member state, the mountain leader has to have practiced this profession in the Member State or several Member States of establishment for at least one of the last 10 years.

He/she has to submit to the notification-declaration an evidence confirming the practice of the relevant activity in the Member State or several Member States of establishment for at least one of the last 10 years.

For more details see above.

Is there a fee for processing the prior declaration? If so, please specify how much.

No

How long does the procedure of prior declaration usually take?

Approximately 2 months. It depends on the accuracy of the submitted documents

(Applies to EU member states only) Do you apply the regime of the “European professional card” in order to manage a prior declaration for the practice of mountain leaders in your country?

No

Please specify what mountain leaders will receive at the end of the prior declaration procedure

Information for mountain leaders and the period for exercising the profession shall be published in the National Tourist Register.

Do you apply the same regime for mountain leaders from non-EU states?

No

The regime described above does not apply to non-EU states.

If 'No': please describe the requirements which mountain-leaders from non-EU states have to meet

If a foreign person wishes to operate as a mountain leader on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, mountain leaders from non-EU states have to acquire a licensed capacity for “Mountain Leader” under the same legal conditions as Bulgarian citizens. They have to meet the following conditions:

1. *A Bulgarian citizen (if the foreign person is with a permanent or temporary residence on the territory of Bulgaria);*
2. *has a minimum of secondary education;*
3. *has a professional qualification for the profession of the mountain leader in compliance with the state educational standard for acquiring the qualification (with an issued certificate of professional qualification) or with a professional qualification recognised in the Republic of Bulgaria by a foreign institution for vocational education or training;*
4. *has conducted a practical training of a minimum duration of 2 weeks with a registered in the National Tourist Register mountain leader or with a registered in the National Tourist Register tour operator offering mountain/sport and/or adventure tourism programmes;*
5. *has successfully passed an aptitude exam;*
6. *has not been disqualified from being a mountain leader;*
7. *has not been convicted by a final judgment, unless he/she has been rehabilitated.*

The candidate has to submit a written application-declaration, as well as:

1. *a copy of the secondary education diploma or a copy of the higher education diploma;*
2. *a copy of the certificate of professional qualification;*
3. *a proof of the practical training;*
4. *a certificate of no criminal record;*
5. *a photo (3,5 cm x 4,5 cm.)*

If the aptitude exam is successfully passed by the person he/she will be registered in the National tourist register.

Additional comments:

The profession of a mountain leader is a regulated profession in Bulgaria and it is included in the List of the regulated professions.