LAW NO. 10/L-023

ON CITIZENSHIP OF REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

The Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo;

Based on Article 65 (1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo,

Approves:

LAW ON CITIZENSHIP OF REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1
Purpose of the Law

The purpose of this Law shall be to define the ways of acquiring, registering, reacquiring, losing, and revoking the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo, as well as regulating other issues related to the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo.

Article 2
Scope

The provisions of this Law shall apply to the relevant authorities in the area of citizenship, as well as other persons whose activities are related to citizenship.

Article 3
Definitions

1. Expressions, terms and abbreviations used in this Law shall have the following meaning:

1.1. **Citizenship** - means a legal bond between the State of the Republic of Kosovo and a person which establishes mutual rights and obligations;

1.2. **Citizen** - means any person who has the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo;

1.3. **Foreign Citizen and Foreign Person** – means every person who is not a citizen of the Republic of Kosovo;

1.4. **Competent body** - means the Ministry of Internal Affairs;

1.5. **Person** – means a natural person;

1.6. **Naturalization** - means the acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo based on the application of a foreign person, according to this Law;

1.7. **Child** - means a person under the age of eighteen (18);

1.8. **Reacquisition of citizenship** - means the right of the person to regain lost citizenship, according to this Law;

1.9. **Member of Diaspora** - means every person who has or had a domicile or residence outside the Republic of Kosovo and who proves that he or she was born in the Republic of Kosovo, as well as his or her direct descendants, and kept family or economic relations with the Republic of Kosovo;

1.10. **Stateless person** – means a person who is not considered as a citizen by any State under the scope of its Law;

1.11. **A person with the refugee status** - means same as defined in the Law on Asylum;

1.12. **Family members of a refugee** – means as defined in the respective Law on Asylum.

Article 4
Multiple citizenship

1. A citizen of the Republic of Kosovo may also be a citizen of one or more other states.

2. The acquisition and holding of another citizenship shall not result in the loss of the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo.

CHAPTER II
ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP

Article 5
Ways of acquiring citizenship

1. Citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo shall be acquired:

1.1. by birth based on parentage;

1.2. by birth in the territory of the Republic of Kosovo;

1.3. by adoption;

1.4. by naturalization;

1.5. based on international treaties;

1.6. based on Articles 30 and 31 of this Law.

Article 6
Acquisition of citizenship by birth based on parentage

1. The child is born as a citizen of the Republic of Kosovo if, at the time of birth, at least one of the parents of the child is a citizen of the Republic of Kosovo.

2. In derogation from paragraph 1. of this Article, the child shall be entitled to be registered as a citizen of the Republic of Kosovo, if he/she proves that at the time of birth, at least one of the parents had a document of habitual resident status acquired based on parentage.

3. If the child under paragraphs 1. and 2. of this Article is born outside the territory of the Republic of Kosovo and one of the parents has citizenship different from that of Kosovo, both parents shall agree in writing that the child shall acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo. For children between the ages of 14 and 18, the child's consent shall be mandatory.

4. Regardless of the lack of the parent's consent under paragraph 3. of this Article, the child shall acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo, if he/she risks remaining stateless.

5. Children under paragraphs 1. and 2. of this Article born abroad, may exercise their right to register as a citizen by the age of 18.

6. In derogation from paragraph 5. of Article, this right can be exercised up to the age of 23, if such person risks remaining stateless.

7. The provisions of this Article shall not apply to children who were born before their parents acquired the citizenship of Kosovo or habitual resident status

8. The rules and procedures for implementing this Article shall be determined by a bylaw issued by the Minister of the ministry responsible for internal affairs.

Article 7
Acquisition of citizenship by birth in the territory of the Republic of Kosovo

1. A child born or found in the territory of the Republic of Kosovo whose parents are unknown or stateless shall acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo on the occasion of his/her birth, respectively when he/she is found.

2. If at least one parent of the child referred to in paragraph 1. of this Article is identified before the child reaches the age of fourteen (14) and the parent concerned is not a citizen of the Republic of Kosovo, the child shall forfeit the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo at the request of the parent provided that the child does not become stateless.

3. A child born in the territory of the Republic of Kosovo whose parents have another citizenship but who have a permanent residence permit in the Republic of Kosovo shall acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo upon the consent of both parents, in cases where he/she risk to remain statless.

4. The procedures for implementing this Article shall be determined by a bylaw issued by the Minister of the Ministry responsible for the internal affairs.

Article 8
Acquisition of citizenship by adoption

An adopted child shall acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo if at least one of the adopting parents is a citizen of the Republic of Kosovo.

Article 9
General provisions for the naturalization of foreign persons

1. A foreign person shall acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo by naturalization if he/she fulfils the requirements outlined in this Law.

2. To acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo through naturalization, a foreigner must state in writing that he or she recognises the constitutional and legal order of the Republic of Kosovo.

3. Regardless of meeting the conditions specified in other provisions of this Law, with the exception of casis according to Article 16 of this law, no one shall acquire citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo if the granting of citizenship is in conflict with the interests of the Republic of Kosovo, especially those related to internal and external security or international relations of the Republic of Kosovo or if he/she has been convicted of a criminal offence by a final judgment, whether inside or outside the Republic of Kosovo.

4. The punishment for a criminal offence pursuant to paragraph 3. of this Article shall not include:

4.1. punishment for a criminal offence by a fine of up to one (1) year imprisonment;

4.2. punishment for a criminal offence by a foreign court if the offence is not considered a criminal offence in the Republic of Kosovo, or if the sentence was imposed based on a procedure which violates European criminal law standards, and in particular the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

Article 10
Naturalization of foreign persons

1. A foreign person shall acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo upon his/her application if at the time of application he/she fulfils the following conditions:

1.1. he/she is an adult;

1.2. has continuously resided for at least five (5) years in the Republic of Kosovo after obtaining a permanent residence permit;

1.3. proves that he/she is integrated into Kosovo society through social, cultural, scientific, economic or professional ties;

1.4. he/she possesses sufficient funds to finance his/her living and that of persons he/she is responsible for, without resorting to social assistance schemes;

1.5. he/she has fulfilled all financial obligations to the state; and

1.6. he/she proves elementary knowledge in reading and writing in one of the official languages of the Republic of Kosovo, and of its culture and social order.

2. In derogation from paragraph 1.2. of this Article, a foreign individual of legal age who holds a permanent residence permit in exceptional circumstances may acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo if he/she has continuously resided for two (2) years in the Republic of Kosovo after obtaining a permanent residence permit.

3. Individuals who have one of the official languages of the Republic of Kosovo as their mother tongue, and persons older than sixty-five (65) years shall be exempted from the obligation under paragraph 1., subparagraph 1.6. of this Article.

4. People with limited mental or sensory capacity shall not be subject to the criteria specified in Article 9, paragraph 2. and subparagraphs 1.3, 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6 of this Article.

5. Residence in the Republic of Kosovo shall be considered uninterrupted under paragraph 1., subparagraph 1.2. of this Article, even if the individual resides outside the Republic of Kosovo for periods no longer than ten (10) months. For periods longer than ten (10) months, the approval of the competent authority shall be required.

6. The procedure for acquiring citizenship under this Article shall be determined by a bylaw issued by the Minister of the Ministry responsible for internal affairs.

Article 11
Naturalization of a foreigner for special interest

1. A foreigner of adult age can acquire citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo even if he/she does not meet the conditions defined in paragraph 1. of Article 10 of this Law if this is in the special economic, social, cultural, sports, scientific, political or professional interest of the Republic of Kosovo, and for humanitarian reasons.

2. The acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo under this Article shall be done by a decree of the President of the Republic of Kosovo.

3. The procedure for acquiring citizenship under this Article shall be defined by a bylaw issued by the Office of the President of the Republic of Kosovo.

Article 12
Naturalization of spouse

1. A foreigner who is married to a citizen of the Republic of Kosovo shall acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo upon his/her application if at the time of application he/she fulfils the following conditions:

1.1. has been married to a citizen of the Republic of Kosovo for at least three (3) years, and in the case of marriage to a naturalized citizen, has at least three (3) years from the moment of naturalization;

1.2. has been regularly residing in the Republic of Kosovo for at least one (1) year with a valid residence permit.

2. The provisions from paragraph 1. of Article 10 of this Law shall also apply to the naturalization of the spouse, with the exception of sub-paragraph 1.2.

3. A foreigner, the spouse of a citizen of the Republic of Kosovo, shall not acquire citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo if the marriage has taken place in violation of the relevant family legislation.

Article 13
Naturalization of a child of the naturalized person

1. The child of a naturalized citizen shall be entitled to acquire citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo at the moment when his/her parent acquires citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo, even if the child does not meet the conditions specified in paragraph 1. of Article 10 of this Law.

2. The application for the naturalization of a minor child shall be submitted by his/her parents at the time when the parent submits his/her own application or later.

3. To acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo by children from the age of fourteen (14) to eighteen (18) years, the prior consent of the child shall be required.

4. Paragraph 1. of this Article shall also apply to minor individuals adopted by naturalized citizens.

Article 14
Naturalization of persons with refugee status and stateless persons

1. A person with a refugee status and a stateless person may acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo by naturalization if he/she resides in the territory of the Republic of Kosovo for at least five (5) years from the day of the recognition of refugee or stateless person status.

2. Family members of the person referred to in paragraph 1. of this Article shall also be entitled to acquire citizenship. To acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo by children from the age of fourteen (14) to eighteen (18) years, the prior consent of the child shall be required.

3. The provisions under subparagraphs 1.1, 1.3 and 1.6 of paragraph 1. of Article 10 of this Law shall apply for the acquisition of citizenship by a stateless person or person with the status of a refugee other than children from paragraph 2. of this Article.

4. The procedure for acquiring citizenship under this Article shall be determined by a bylaw issued by the Minister of the Ministry responsible for the internal affairs.

Article 15
Naturalization of a member of the Republic of Kosovo diaspora

1. A member of the Republic of Kosovo diaspora shall acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo upon his/her application even if he/she does not fulfil the requirements set out in subparagraphs 1.1, 1.2 and 1.6 of paragraph 1. of Article 10 of this Law.

2. A member of the Republic of Kosovo diaspora shall be every person who has lawful residence outside of the Republic of Kosovo and who can prove that he/she was born in the Republic of Kosovo and that he/she has close family and economic relations with the Republic of Kosovo.

3. A member of the Republic of Kosovo diaspora shall be also every person who is a direct descendant of a person referred to in paragraph 2. of this Article and who proves that he/she maintains close family or economic relations in the Republic of Kosovo.

4. The criteria for determining close family and economic relations under paragraphs 2. and 3. of this Article shall be defined by a bylaw issued by the Minister of the Ministry responsible for internal affairs.

Article 16
Naturalization of a person who has lost the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo by release

1. A person who has lost the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo by release from citizenship, may reacquire the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo upon his/her application.

2. For the acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo pursuant to paragraph 1. of this Article, the person shall sign a written sworn declaration accepting the constitutional and legal order of the Republic of Kosovo, and shall also prove that he or she has not been convicted of a criminal offence by a final court decision outside the Republic of Kosovo, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4. of Article 9 of this Law.

3. To acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo by children from the age of fourteen (14) to eighteen (18) years, the prior consent of the child shall be required.

4. The child of a citizen, who reacquires citizenship by naturalization, shall be entitled to acquire citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo at the time when his/her parent acquires citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo, even if the child does not meet the conditions specified in paragraph 1. of Article 10 of this Law.

Article 17
Revocation of the decision on naturalization

1. The competent body shall revoke the decision on naturalization if it finds that the decision was issued on the basis of false statements or concealed facts.

2. In the event of naturalization under Articles 12 and 13 of this Law, the revocation of the decision on the naturalization of the parent shall result in the revocation of the decision on the naturalization of the spouse or naturalization of the minor child, if acquired based on his/her citizenship, except if as a result, the person would remain stateless.

3. Revocation under this Article shall result in losing the right to application for naturalization for five (5) years.

CHAPTER III
LOSS OF CITIZENSHIP

Article 18
Modalities of loss of citizenship

1. A citizen of the Republic of Kosovo shall not be deprived of his/her citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo except in the manner and under the conditions as determined in this Law.

2. The citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo shall be lost:

2.1. by release from citizenship;

2.2. by deprivation of citizenship;

2.3. based on international treaties.

Article 19
Release from citizenship

1. A citizen of the Republic of Kosovo shall be released from the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo upon his/her application if he/she fulfils the following requirements:

1.1. he/she holds the citizenship of another state or possesses a guarantee issued by the competent body of another state that he/she will acquire the citizenship of the state concerned;

1.2. he/she has fulfilled all financial obligations to the state and to the persons he/she is obliged by law to care for;

1.3. he/she is not subject to court proceedings for criminal offence and he/she is not serving a sentence.

2. The application for release from citizenship shall be rejected if the citizen requesting to be released from citizenship is a civil servant, judge, prosecutor, a member of the police or a member of the Security Force of the Republic of Kosovo or other security institutions.

3. The application may be rejected if the release from citizenship is contrary to the interests of the Republic of Kosovo, in particular interests related to internal and external security or the international relations of the Republic of Kosovo.

4. A child under the age of fourteen (14) shall lose the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo by release if this is requested by one of the parents who is not a citizen of the Republic of Kosovo, provided that the child holds the citizenship of another country or possesses a guarantee issued by the competent body of the other state that he/she shall acquire the citizenship of the state concerned. In this case, the other parent must give consent.

5. The procedure for being released from citizenship under this Article shall be determined by a bylaw issued by the Minister of the Ministry responsible for internal affairs.

Article 20
Revocation of the decision on release from citizenship

1. The competent body shall revoke the decision on the loss of citizenship if it finds that the decision was issued based on false statements or concealed facts.

2. The competent authority may revoke the decision on the loss of citizenship even if the promise of acquiring citizenship from another state is not fulfilled within a reasonable time, but not more than one (1) year from the receipt of evidence of the rejection of citizenship, and not more than two (2) years from the receipt of the decision on release.

3. The procedure for the implementation of this Article shall be determined by a bylaw issued by the Minister of the Ministry responsible for internal affairs

Article 21
The guarantee

1. Upon the request of the citizen who applies for release from citizenship, the competent body shall issue to the citizen concerned a guarantee whereby it guarantees that the citizen fulfils all requirements for being released from citizenship pursuant to Article 19, paragraph 1., subparagraphs 1.2 and 1.3 and the application for release from citizenship shall be approved if the citizen concerned provides evidence for the acquisition of the citizenship of another state or if he/she submits a guarantee issued by the competent body of another state guaranteeing that he/she will acquire the citizenship of the other state if he/she is released from the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo.

2. The guarantee shall be valid for a period of two (2) years from the day it was delivered to the citizen.

3.The provisions on revocation outlined in Article 20 of this Law shall apply mutatis mutandis to the revocation of the guarantee.

4. The procedure for the implementation of this Article shall be determined by a bylaw issued by the Minister of the Ministry responsible for internal affairs

Article 22
Loss of citizenship by deprivation

1. Notwithstanding the right of persons to citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo under Chapter II of this Law, the competent body may deprive a citizen of the Republic of Kosovo of his/her citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo, if the citizen holds another citizenship and if the citizen engages in activities which endanger the national security of the Republic of Kosovo.

2. The competent body may deprive a citizen of the Republic of Kosovo of his/her citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo on the basis on article 30, paragraph 2 of this law.

3. The following activities shall be considered to be a serious threat to the national security of the Republic of Kosovo, in particular:

3.1. when the citizen has intentionally joined an organization the purpose of which is to damage or destroy the constitutional order of the Republic of Kosovo;

3.2. the citizen engages in activities which aim at destroying or damaging the constitutional order of the Republic of Kosovo; or

3.3. the citizen is a member of the intelligence services, police or military forces or other security institutions of another state and has not obtained permission from the competent body or is not entitled to it by international treaty.

4. The decision for deprivation of the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo may also be issued without the person concerned attending the procedure.

5. The decision on loss of citizenship by deprivation shall become effective on the day when the decision is delivered to the person concerned. In the event the decision cannot be delivered because the competent body cannot identify the location of the person, the decision on the loss of citizenship by deprivation shall become effective on the day of its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Kosovo.

6. Against the decision on deprivation, an administrative dispute may be initiated before the competent court in accordance with the Law on Administrative Conflicts.

7. The procedure for deprivation from citizenship under this Article shall be determined by a bylaw issued by the Minister of the Ministry responsible for internal affairs.

CHAPTER IV
DEADLINES FOR REVIEWING APPLICATIONS AND APPEALS

Article 23
Submission of applications

1. Applications shall be submitted to the municipal administration in the territory of which the applicant resides or to the competent body.

2. In such an event, the municipal administration shall be obliged to forward the application submitted to the competent body.

3. If the applicant resides outside of the Republic of Kosovo, the application may be submitted to the nearest diplomatic representation or consulate of the Republic of Kosovo. The diplomatic or consular representation shall have the authority to forward the application submitted to the competent body.

4. The competent body may also define other forms of application requirements, including the electronic application.

Article 24
Deadlines for reviewing applications and appeals

1. Deadlines for reviewing applications/appeals from the day of receiving the application shall be as follows:

1.1. deadline to review applications for the acquisition of citizenship shall be one hundred and eighty (180) days;

1.2. deadline to review applications for the reacquisition of citizenship shall be thirty (30) days;

1.3. deadline to review the application for loss of citizenship by release shall be ninety (90) days;

1.4. deadline to review appeals shall be ninety (90) days.

2. In the case of applications according to paragraf 1, subparagraphs 1.1 and 1.2 of this Article, the administrative silence shall not apply according to the relevant Law on General Administrative Procedure.

Article 25
The right to appeal

1. An appeal shall be permitted against each final decision under this Law in accordance with the rules defined in the relevant Law on General Administrative Procedure.

2. The superior body examining appeals according to this Article shall be the Citizenship Appeals Commission.

3. The Government shall define the composition of the commission and the mandate of the commission members by a bylaw. The work and procedure of the Appeals Commission shall be based on the rules defined for collegial bodies in the relevant Law on General Administrative Procedure.

Article 26
Register of citizens

1. The competent body shall establish and maintain the register of citizens of the Republic of Kosovo.

2. The register of citizens shall record all citizens of the Republic of Kosovo and the modality of acquisition of citizenship as well as all citizens who have lost and reacquired the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo, including the modality and reasons for the loss of citizenship.

3. Personal data recorded in the register of citizens shall be maintained, used and processed in accordance with the provisions of the releant Law on data protection.

Article 27
International cooperation

1. The competent body may communicate to another state the citizenship status of the Republic of Kosovo of a person if the following requirements are fulfilled:

1.1. the data is requested by a body of another state which is competent for citizenship and the data will be communicated to this body only;

1.2. the competent body of another state requests the citizenship status of the citizen of the Republic of Kosovo for purposes of citizenship, and for any other purpose which is undoubtedly in favour of the person whose data are being requested; and

1.3. the state, the body of which requests the citizenship status and states where it will be used, guarantees the protection of citizenship status for foreign citizens.

Article 28
Proof of citizenship

The citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo shall be proved by the birth certificate, citizenship certificate, identity card, or passport.

Article 29
Fees

1. The Minister responsible for internal affairs shall, by a Decision, determine the amount of fees for services according to this Law.

2. The fee from paragraph 1. of this Article shall be set to the extent and only for those services that incur an additional cost and shall not be greater than the average cost for such services.

CHAPTER V
TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Article 30
The status of permanent residents of the Republic of Kosovo

1. Any person who is registered as a permanent resident of Kosovo pursuant to UNMIK Regulation No. 2000/13 on the Central Civil Registry shall be considered a citizen of the Republic of Kosovo and shall be registered as such in the register of citizens.

2. The competent authority may verify the legality of the registration of a person as a permanent resident of the Republic of Kosovo. In case it is found that the person has not fulfilled the legal conditions for registration as a permanent resident of the Republic of Kosovo, the person concerned shall lose the status of a citizen of the Republic of Kosovo and shall be removed from the citizen registry

3. The loss of citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo according to paragraph 2. of this Article shall not prevent the person concerned from acquiring the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo based on origin, adoption, birth within the territory of the Republic of Kosovo, or through naturalization in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

4. The Minister of the Ministry responsible for the internal affairs shall, by a bylaw, define the criteria and procedures for the implementation of this Article.

Article 31
Registration and determination of citizenship

1. The Republic of Kosovo shall recognize the right to citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo, regardless of their current place of residence and the citizenship they hold, to all citizens of the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia who were permanent residents of Kosovo as of 1 January 1998, and their direct descendants.

2. Registration of persons determined under paragraph 1. of this Article in the register of citizens shall be done at the request of the person who meets the conditions outlined in this Article.

3. The Minister of the Ministry responsible for internal affairs shall set by a bylaw the evidencies and procedures based on which the possession of the citizenship of the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and permanent residence in Kosovo as of 1 January 1998 is proven.

CHAPTER VI
FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 32
Bylaws

1. Bylaws that are in force shall be implemented, provided that they are not in contradiction with this Law, until the approval of bylaws governing the implementation of this Law.

2. The Minister responsible for internal afairs shall issue bylaws necessary for the implementation of this Law within one (1) year from the entry into force of this Law.

Article 33
Applicable law

Law 04/L-215 on the Citizenship of Kosovo shall be repealed upon the entry into force of this Law.

Article 34
Entry into force

This Law shall enter into force fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Kosovo.

Law No. 10/L-023
23 April 2026

Promulgated by Decree No. DL-31/2026 dated 04.05.2026, Acting President of the Republic of Kosovo Albulena Haxhiu