

The electronic residency title

The electronic residency title was introduced in all EU Member States on 1st September 2011. The purpose is to unify the residency title of the European Union for all third country citizens, as well as to significantly increase the connection between document owner and document by means of the use of biometric data and therefore protect against abusive use.

The previous form of residency in the passports and passport replacement papers will retain their entered validity until 31st August 2011 at the latest.

The validity of the electronic residency title is in accordance with the type of residency title or the certification concerning a right of residency and the decision of the foreigners' authority under the law of residency. In case of permanent residency titles, the usability of the card body is limited to ten years. After ten years, a new card must be issued.

However, here you must bear in mind that the card is only valid together with the passport or passport replacement paper which belongs to it.

Your passport photo and fingerprint are saved on the electronic residency title. The purpose is to prevent abuse of your residency title. Your identity is also protected by the biometric data recording.

For this reason, it is important that the passport photo is up to date and is in biometric form.

Further information concerning passport photo requirements can be obtained from:
www.bmi.bund.de

Together with your electronic residency title, you will also receive an online ID function.

With this function, you can provide evidence of your identity everywhere which offers these services on the Internet or at machines.

The online ID function can be used from the age of 16. However, you are free to decide whether you wish to use this function. The function can be turned on or off at any time.

In order to be able to provide evidence of your identity with the electronic residency title on the Internet, the electronic ID function must be switched on. For this, you also require a card reading device and the associated driver software.

For this purpose, you will receive a PIN letter from the German Federal Printing Office by post.

Following receipt of the PIN letter, you will receive a further letter from your foreigners' authority with an appointment, so that you can collect your residency title.

As the processing time of the electronic residency can take approximately 6 weeks, we would kindly request that you agree an appointment with your competent processing person in good time in order to extend your residency title.