



Military Service in Different Countries

A Guide to Military Obligations Abroad

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Key Highlights

With the growing number of people obtaining alternative citizenships and residency permits with the further goal of acquiring citizenship, the question of fulfilling military obligations is becoming increasingly relevant. In this guide, we will review the military service legislation of several foreign countries to help better plan a migration strategy.

In this edition of the guide, we have added provisions on military service in Armenia, Moldova, Vanuatu, and São Tomé and Príncipe as countries of heightened interest.

Below you will find the key provisions on military service in the following countries:

Turkey

Kyrgyzstan

United Kingdom

Switzerland

Portugal

Vanuatu

Armenia

São Tomé and Príncipe

Moldova



TURKEY

LEGAL FRAMEWORK: LAW ON MILITARY SERVICE IN TURKEY NO. 7129 OF JUNE 25, 2019

Conscription Age (Art. 3)

- The primary conscription age is 21 years.
- Persons who acquire Turkish citizenship at the age of 22 or older are exempt from military service (Art. 43).
- For those who acquire citizenship through naturalization, the count begins from the date of entry into Turkey: if entry occurred before the age of 22, the person is considered obligated to perform military service (Art. 43).

For example: if a person entered Turkey at the age of 20 and received citizenship at the age of 30, they are still obligated to perform military service, as they began their legal migration path at age 20.

Having Citizenship of Another Country

If a person had not completed military service in their country of first citizenship before the age of 22, then after acquiring Turkish citizenship they are obligated to complete military service in Turkey.

If Military Service Was Completed in the Country of First Citizenship Prior to Acquiring Turkish Citizenship (Art. 43)

Persons who turned 22 before arriving in Turkey, or who have already completed military service in their country of origin and subsequently obtained Turkish citizenship, are not required to perform military service.



TURKEY—Service Procedure and Duration

Military Service Procedure in Turkey

- Annual publication of the list of conscripts (Art. 14).
- Conscripts are required to appear before the military commission with a passport and education document (Art. 19).
- Completion of a medical examination (Art. 15).
- During service, enlisted personnel are granted one day of leave for each month of active service (Art. 28).
- Periods of diagnosis and treatment in medical facilities are counted as military service (Art. 29).
- Upon completion of service, a confirming document is issued (Art. 34).

Duration of Service (Part 2, Art. 5)

- 6 months — non-commissioned officers and enlisted personnel.
- 12 months — reserve officers and reserve warrant officers.

* The President may decide to increase or halve the service periods. The period determined in this manner may not be less than six months.

Deferment from Military Service (Art. 20)

- Students of secondary schools, vocational schools, universities, and colleges — until the age of 28.
- Persons who have completed a master's degree program — annually until the age of 32.
- Persons suffering from chronic illnesses.
- Persons engaged in the development of innovative technologies or enrolled in doctoral programs — until the age of 35.

TURKEY—Exemption Fee and Procedure Abroad

Military Service Procedure Abroad

- Appear at the Turkish embassy in the country of residence with a passport, educational document, and proof of residency.
- A medical examination for those claiming unfitness is conducted at official hospitals as directed by the consulate; the report is submitted to the Ministry of National Defense.
- Upon payment of the military service exemption fee, a corresponding confirmation document is issued.
- Payment of the fee abroad is made in euros in an amount equivalent to the sum in liras.

* These provisions do not apply in the event of mobilization or declaration of war.

Military Service Exemption Fee (Art. 9)

- Turkish citizens within the country who have reached the age of 18.
- Turkish citizens residing abroad who have reached the age of 18.

Fee amount: calculated annually using the formula: monthly coefficient $\times$ 240,000. For 2024, the fee is 182,609 TL.

Application and Payment Procedure

- Applications are submitted at conscription offices (within Turkey) or at the consulate (abroad).
- Applications must be submitted in person; representation by power of attorney and postal submission are not permitted.
- After submitting the application, bank details for payment are provided.
- The original receipt along with three copies must be submitted to the application reception center.

KYRGYZSTAN

LEGAL FRAMEWORK: LAW OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC NO. 43 "ON UNIVERSAL MILITARY DUTY OF CITIZENS OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC, ON MILITARY AND ALTERNATIVE SERVICE"

Key Provisions

Conscription Age (Art. 17)

From 18 to 25 years of age.

Possession of Another Country's Citizenship

The law does not regulate the situation where a conscript holds a second passport. The obligation to perform military service falls on the individual as a citizen of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Service in the Country of First Citizenship (Art. 34)

If, prior to acquiring Kyrgyz citizenship, the individual completed military service in their country of first citizenship — service in Kyrgyzstan is not required.

Length of Service (Part 1, Art. 29)

12 months.

Military Service Procedure

- Initial military registration — at age 16 (Part 2, Art. 13).
- Individuals are called up for active military service by Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic twice a year (Part 1, Art. 15).
- Appearance at the military enlistment office for a medical examination and a session of the draft board (Art. 15, 16).
- Direct completion of military service.
- Upon completion of service, the individual receives a military ID and is transferred to the reserve.

KYRGYZSTAN—Alternative Service and Exemptions

Length of Service (Art. 29, Part 1)

12 months.

Discharge from Military Service (Art. 31)

- Upon expiration of the term of military service.
- On health grounds.
- Loss of citizenship of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Right to Alternative Military Service (Art. 32, Part 2)

On family grounds:

- Married with one child.
- Only son in a family where both parents are of retirement age.
- Only son of a single mother (or father).
- Upon conscription on family grounds, a payment is required: 180 settlement indicators (18,000 soms — ~\$206 USD).

On grounds of membership in a religious organization that does not permit the use of weapons:

- Contribution upon conscription: 25,000 soms (~\$286 USD).

Deferment from Conscription (Art. 33)

- On health grounds.
- Continuation of education (students and postgraduate students).
- On family grounds (incapacitated parents / wife and two children).

Exemption from Military Service (Art. 34, Part 5)

Citizens who have reached the age of 25 without completing military or alternative service and without having a lawful deferment or exemption shall, upon a decision by state authorities regarding the offense of draft evasion, be enrolled in the second-category reserve after paying 250 settlement indicators (50,000 soms — ~\$571 USD).



UNITED KINGDOM

LEGAL FRAMEWORK: NATIONAL SERVICE ACT

Since 1960, in accordance with the National Service Act, compulsory military conscription was abolished. Currently, joining the British Army is possible exclusively on a voluntary basis.

SWITZERLAND

LEGAL FRAMEWORK: FEDERAL ACT ON COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE NO. 512.21.

Key Provisions

Age of Conscription (Art. 11)

18–24 years old.

Holding Foreign Citizenship (Art. 3)

Holding foreign citizenship does not exempt from military service obligations: a Swiss citizen is required to perform military service regardless of holding a second passport.

Service in the Country of First Citizenship (Art. 5)

If a person has performed military service in the country of their first citizenship, they are exempted from service in the Swiss Armed Forces, provided that a special treaty exists between Switzerland and the respective state.

* Swiss citizens residing abroad are not required to perform service in the Swiss Armed Forces during peacetime as long as they do not reside in Switzerland (Art. 22).

Military Service Procedure

- Undergoing a medical examination and submitting personal data to the military commissariat (full name, date of birth, residential address, native language, occupation, absence of criminal record).
- Passing a medical examination (Art. 15).
- Completing recruit school (Art. 56.92).
- Performing active military service (Art. 57).
- Service without weapons is permitted (Art. 22).
- Assignment of the rank of soldier and issuance of a military booklet.

* Alternative service is permitted, but lasts one and a half times longer than regular military service (up to 680 days).



SWITZERLAND—Service Procedure and Deferments

Service Duration (Art. 47)

Recruit School

124 days.

Active Military Service

245 days.

Upon Completion of Service

The person is transferred to the "reserve" with regular call-ups for military exercises (six exercises of 19 days each).

Deferment from Military Service

On Medical Grounds

If approved, military service is replaced by payment of a tax.

For Personal Reasons (Art. 90)

For Medical Reasons (Unfitness) (Art. 15)

PORTUGAL

LEGAL FRAMEWORK: MILITARY SERVICE LAW NO. 2135

Key Provisions

Conscription Age (Art. 5)

18–45 years old.

Dual Citizenship

The law does not regulate the situation where a conscript holds a second passport. The obligation to perform military service applies to the individual as a Portuguese citizen.

If Served in Country of First Citizenship (Art. 26)

If a person has already completed military service in the country of their first citizenship, service in the Portuguese armed forces is not required.

Duration of Service (Art. 40)

2 years.

Military Service Procedure

Since 2004, compulsory military service has been abolished by Law 174/1999; however, the obligation to attend the National Defense Day (established annually by an act of the National Defense Center) remains. Military service in Portugal is voluntary. Exceptions:

- Special conscription — if the armed forces face a personnel shortage, citizens may be called up for a period of up to 4 months.
- Mobilization.

Deferment from Military Service

- On health grounds — up to 2 years (if a medical contraindication exists that is curable) (Art. 14, para. 3).
- For education — for the duration of studies (Art. 24, para. 1).
- For family circumstances (having dependents under 16 years old / supporting elderly family members) (Art. 21, para. 1).
- Residing outside Portugal for more than 3 months entitles a person to a deferment or full exemption from military service (Art. 25).

VANUATU

Legal framework: Constitution of the Republic of Vanuatu, 1980; Police Act; Orders and Regulations of the Vanuatu Mobile Force (VMF Regulations).

General Provisions

Vanuatu does not have armed forces in the traditional sense. There is no compulsory military conscription in the country. Defence and security functions are carried out by the Vanuatu Mobile Force (VMF) – a paramilitary unit within the Vanuatu Police Force (VPF).

Age for Enlistment

Candidates are accepted between the ages of 18 and 25.

Holding Citizenship of Another Country

Since military service is voluntary, holding such citizenship does not entail any additional service obligations.

Procedure for Enlisting in Military Service

- Submission of application: forms are available at all provincial police stations; on Efate Island – at the VMF headquarters in Port Vila.
- Submission of documents: identity document (passport), educational certificate of at least Year 10 level.
- Candidate selection over a two-month period; the final list is published based on competitive results.
- Passing a medical examination and physical fitness test.
- Basic military training (combat, counter-insurgency, counter-terrorism, search and rescue operations).
- Active service in the VMF.
- Upon completion of the contract, the servicemember is issued a confirming document.

VANUATU—Procedure, VMF Functions and International Cooperation

Candidate Requirements

- Vanuatu citizenship.
- Age between 18 and 25 years.
- Education of at least Year 10.
- No criminal record.
- Specialised skills are welcomed (engineering, logistics, music, etc.).

Core Functions of the VMF

Primary Function (in the absence of an external threat)

- Assisting the regular police in maintaining law and order.
- Conducting riot control, counter-insurgency, and counter-terrorism operations.
- Search and rescue operations.
- Providing VIP protection.
- Performing ceremonial duties (guard of honour, ceremonial escort, etc.).

Secondary Function (in the presence of an external threat)

Providing a first line of limited defence against external aggression.

International Defence Cooperation

The VMF receives training and support from partner states: Australia, China, France, New Zealand, and the United States. A bilateral security agreement with Australia (December 2022) was annulled by the new Vanuatu government in early 2025. In August 2025, the parties initialled a new agreement — "Nakamal" — worth 500 million dollars, covering security, economic development, and climate resilience. A "shiprider" agreement with the United States allows Vanuatu maritime police officers to participate in joint patrols of the country's EEZ.

Participation in Peacekeeping Missions

- In 1994, the VMF deployed 50 officers to Papua New Guinea for the first time as part of a peacekeeping mission.
- Vanuatu police officers participated in the Bougainville Peace Monitoring Group (from 1998) and the International Peace Monitoring Team (IPMT) in the Solomon Islands (from 2000).

Compulsory Military Service and Exemptions

Compulsory military service does not exist in Vanuatu. All citizens, including dual nationals, are exempt from any obligation to perform military service. Service in the VMF is entirely voluntary.

Conclusion

Vanuatu is one of the few countries in the world with no standing army and no compulsory military service. For individuals planning to obtain Vanuatu citizenship, the issue of military obligation is not relevant: the country's legislation provides for neither compulsory conscription nor any sanctions for failing to perform military service.

ARMENIA

Legal framework: Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Military Service and the Status of Military Personnel" dated November 15, 2017 (as amended on February 12, 2024); Law of the RA "On Alternative Service"; Constitution of the Republic of Armenia of 1995 (as amended in 2015).

Conscription age (Art. 19 of the Law "On Military Service")

- Primary conscription age – from 18 to 27 years (enlisted and non-commissioned officers).
- First-category reserve officers – up to 35 years of age.
- From February 12, 2024: men who obtained RA citizenship after the age of 27 are subject to conscription until the age of 37.

Important: the law has no retroactive effect. Persons who obtained RA citizenship before February 12, 2024 are not subject to the 2024 amendments.

Holding citizenship of another country

Dual citizenship does not exempt from military obligation. An Armenian citizen is considered primarily as a citizen of the RA and bears military obligation on an equal basis with permanent residents of the country.

If military service was completed in the country of first citizenship

- Persons who completed military service in the armed forces of a foreign state for a period of at least 12 months prior to obtaining RA citizenship are exempt from mandatory military service in Armenia.
- Persons who completed alternative civilian service in a foreign state for a period of at least 18 months prior to obtaining RA citizenship are also exempt.

Note: if a person held Armenian citizenship from birth and subsequently served in foreign armed forces – this does not exempt them from military obligation in the RA.

ARMENIA—Procedure and Service Term

- Initial military registration — at age 16 at the territorial military commissariat at the place of residence.
- Obligation to notify the commissariat of any change of residence; when residing abroad — to notify the embassy or consulate of the Republic of Armenia.
- Conscription is announced by Decree of the President of the Republic of Armenia twice a year: in April–June and October–December.
- Appearance at the military commissariat at the place of registration within the timeframe specified in the summons.
- Passing the medical examination of the Republican Draft Commission.
- If found fit — assignment to a military unit.
- Upon completion of service — discharge to the reserve and registration as a reservist (up to age 50).

Service Term (Part 4, Article 5 of the Law)

- 18 months — enlisted and non-commissioned officers (in peacetime).
- 24 months — reserve officers.

Options for Fulfilling Military Obligation (2024 Amendments)

For persons who have not completed military service (primarily the 27–37 age category), the following options are available:

Full Term

24 months of service with no monetary contribution.

12 Months

12 months of service + 2.5 million Armenian drams (~\$6,200 USD).

6 Months

6 months of service + 5 million Armenian drams (~\$12,400 USD).

1 Month

1 month of service + 8 million Armenian drams (~\$19,800 USD).

Full Exemption

15 million Armenian drams (~\$37,000 USD).

* USD amounts are based on the 2024 exchange rate and are subject to change. Partial payment options do not apply to persons subject to conscription for the first time.

ARMENIA—Deferrals, Exemptions, and Liability

- On health grounds — for the period of temporary incapacity.
- On family grounds: having two or more children; spouse's pregnancy with a second child; sole breadwinner for disabled dependents; only son in a family that lost a servicemember.
- On educational grounds: enrollment in accredited educational institutions in Armenia, generally up to age 26 (since 2017, the general academic deferral has been abolished; students must sign a 3-year service contract after university or are drafted on general grounds).
- Admission to one of the top 50 universities in the world according to the Shanghai Academic Ranking (subject to subsequent employment in Armenia for at least 3 years).
- Enrollment in priority STEM programs at certain universities — by decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.
- Outstanding achievements in science, culture, or sports.

Exemption from Military Service

- On health grounds — declared unfit by the Republican Draft Commission.
- Completion of military or alternative service in foreign armed forces prior to obtaining RA citizenship (subject to compliance with the required terms — see above).
- Brothers of fallen servicemembers under certain conditions.

Alternative Service

- Duration — 27 months (one and a half times the length of military service).
- Granted on religious or ethical grounds upon application to the territorial commissariat.
- Application is reviewed within 30 days.

Voluntary Military Service for Women

- Since June 2023, women are entitled to undergo voluntary mandatory military service.
- Duration of voluntary service — 6 months; upon completion, 1 million Armenian drams is paid out.
- Opportunity to continue participation in the "Defender of the Homeland" program for an additional 5 years.

ARMENIA—Liability for Draft Evasion and Conclusion

- Draft evasion is a criminal offense under the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.
- Current penalty: imprisonment for a term of 2 to 5 years.
- A bill tightening penalties to 3–6 years has been approved by the government (as of 2025, it is under consideration by Parliament).
- As of 2024, approximately 10,000 Armenian citizens are wanted for draft evasion, of whom around 5,000 are individuals under the age of 27.
- Upon entry into Armenia, conscripts are checked against databases for any pending criminal cases.

Conclusion

Persons planning to acquire Armenian citizenship are strongly advised to determine their draft status in advance, taking into account their age, military service history, and date of citizenship acquisition: evasion of military obligations entails criminal liability and effectively precludes the possibility of visiting Armenia.

SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

Legal framework: Constitution of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe of 1975 (amended in 1990 and 2003); Citizenship Law (Lei da Nacionalidade) No. 07/2022 of 10 March 2022.

General Provisions

São Tomé and Príncipe is a small island state in the Gulf of Guinea, home to one of the smallest armies in Africa. The country's armed forces — Forças Armadas de São Tomé e Príncipe (FASTP) — number approximately 300–500 personnel and include the Army (Exército), Coast Guard (Guarda Costeira), Presidential Guard (Guarda Presidencial), and National Guard (Guarda Nacional). The country has no air force.

Conscription Age (Constitution, Art. 64)

The minimum age for compulsory military service is 18 years. Voluntary service is permitted from age 17 with written parental or legal guardian consent. In practice, compulsory conscription is not enforced: FASTP is staffed on a voluntary basis (CIA World Factbook, 2024).

Dual Citizenship

Under Article 3 of the Constitution (2003 amendment) and Citizenship Law No. 07/2022, citizens of São Tomé and Príncipe who acquire citizenship of another state retain their original citizenship. The law does not provide specific regulations governing military service for persons holding dual citizenship.

Military Service Enlistment Procedure

- Submission of an application to FASTP headquarters in the capital São Tomé.
- Completion of a competitive selection process.
- Medical examination and physical fitness assessment.
- Completion of basic military training (tactics, physical training, military strategy, first aid, international humanitarian law).
- Specialized training by unit profile, if required.
- Active service in one of the FASTP units.

Conclusion: Despite the constitutional basis for military conscription, São Tomé and Príncipe operates de facto as a state with fully voluntary military service. Compulsory conscription is not enforced in practice. For individuals planning to obtain citizenship of São Tomé and Príncipe, the issue of compulsory military service is not a relevant concern.

MOLDOVA

Legal framework: Constitution of the Republic of Moldova of 1994 (Art. 57); Law "On the Preparation of Citizens for the Defense of the Homeland" No. 1245-XV of July 18, 2002 (as amended on 19.12.2024); Law "On the Status of Military Personnel" No. 162-XVI of July 22, 2005; Law "On Alternative Service" No. 156/2007; Law "On Citizenship of the Republic of Moldova" No. 1024 of June 2, 2000.

General Provisions

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Moldova (Forțele Armate ale Republicii Moldova) were established on September 3, 1992, and comprise three branches: the National Army (ground forces), the Air Force (of limited composition), and the Carabinieri Corps (General Inspectorate of Carabinieri). The Supreme Commander-in-Chief is the President of the Republic of Moldova. Total strength is approximately 6,500 professional servicemen and around 2,000 conscripts annually. The defense budget amounts to approximately USD 112 million (2024), corresponding to roughly 0.55% of GDP.

Article 57 of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova explicitly states that the defense of the Homeland is a sacred right and duty of every citizen. Compulsory military service is fully enforced in practice: in 2024–2025, between 1,200 and 1,400 persons were called up twice a year. Moldova maintains a constitutionally neutral status and is not a NATO member, but is actively developing partnership with the Alliance and a number of EU states.

Conscription Age (Art. 28 of Law No. 1245)

- Male citizens of the Republic of Moldova between the ages of 18 and 27 who are deemed fit for service and have no right to deferment or exemption are subject to compulsory military service.
- Citizens who have not been called up for compulsory military service before reaching the age of 27 are transferred to the reserve of the Armed Forces without completing compulsory service.
- Male citizens are registered with military administrative centers from the age of 16.
- Reserve officers may be called up for military training at an older age, depending on their military rank.

MOLDOVA—Citizenship, Procedure, and Terms of Service

Holding Foreign Citizenship

The Republic of Moldova permits multiple citizenship. Under the Citizenship Law No. 1024 (2000), holding foreign citizenship does not exempt a Moldovan citizen from military obligations.

Key provision: a person holding citizenship of another state is subject to conscription in the Republic of Moldova if they lawfully and permanently reside on its territory — regardless of any exemption from military service in that other state.

Therefore, for individuals who have acquired Moldovan citizenship by descent (Art. 12, para. 2 of Law No. 1024) and permanently reside abroad, the risk of forced conscription is minimal in practice. However, upon entering Moldova and registering a place of residence, such a person formally falls within the scope of conscription legislation.

Military Service in the Country of Primary Citizenship

Law No. 1245 does not explicitly provide for automatic exemption from Moldovan military obligations on the grounds of having completed military service abroad. However, exemption grounds may be applied by analogy through the institution of permanent residence abroad (see the "Exemptions" section).

Recommendation: individuals who have already completed military service in their country of primary citizenship and are planning to obtain Moldovan citizenship are advised to clarify their individual conscription status with the territorial military administrative center or the Moldovan military attaché in their country of residence.

Military Service Procedure —Conscription Campaign (Arts. 28–30 of Law No. 1245)

- Conscription is conducted twice a year by Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Moldova: spring–summer campaign (April–July) and autumn–winter campaign (October–January).
- A summons is sent by the military administrative center to the conscript's registered address.
- All conscripts are required to appear at the territorial military administrative center within the specified timeframe.

Conscription Process

- Registration for military service (from age 16) at the territorial military administrative center; issuance of a conscript certificate.
- Passage of a medical examination; determination of fitness category.
- Review by the conscription board; determination of type of service (standard — 12 months, reduced — 3 months, alternative civilian — 12 months).
- Assignment to a military unit and completion of military service.
- Upon completion of service — discharge to the reserve and enrollment in the Armed Forces reserve (up to age 50, with an obligation to participate in periodic military training exercises upon summons by the Ministry of Defence).

Terms of Military Service (Arts. 33 –35 of Law No. 1245)

- Standard military service — 12 months: for citizens without a completed higher education degree.
- Reduced military service — 3 months: for individuals who have completed a higher education institution (including graduates of a university military department training program).
- Contract-based service: voluntary, on a contractual basis; forms the foundation of the professional army. Approximately 14% of conscripts sign a contract for continued service after discharge to the reserve.

MOLDOVA—Deferments and Exemptions from Military Service

Deferment from Conscription (Art. 31 of Law No. 1245)

- Education: enrollment in accredited educational institutions (secondary vocational, higher education) — for the entire period of study, but not beyond the age of 27.
- Family circumstances: having dependents including children, incapacitated parents, siblings; being the only son in a family with incapacitated parents; having two or more children.
- Health condition: temporary incapacity — for the duration of treatment (subject to repeated medical examination).
- Public service: prosecutors, judges, and certain other officials — for the duration of their appointment.
- Study abroad: for citizens enrolled in foreign educational institutions — for the duration of their studies.

Exemption from Compulsory Military Service (Art. 32 of Law No. 1245)

- Citizens recognized as unfit for military service in peacetime on health grounds (by decision of the Central Military Medical Commission).
- Citizens who have completed a full course of military training at the department of military education of an accredited higher education institution (abbreviated military training).
- Citizens exempted from military obligations on grounds of conscientious conviction (subject to completion of alternative civilian service).
- Citizens whose father (mother) or brother (sister) died in the performance of military duty.
- Citizens permanently residing abroad: persons who were not conscripted before reaching the age of 27 and who have a permanent place of residence outside Moldova are transferred to the reserve without completing compulsory service. This provision is the key norm for individuals who have obtained Moldovan citizenship by descent (Art. 12, para. 2 of Law No. 1024) and reside abroad: in practice, the risk of forced conscription for such persons is absent.

Alternative Civilian Service (Law No. 156/2007)

- The right to perform alternative service is granted to citizens who, on grounds of conscientious conviction, are unable to fulfill military obligations while bearing arms.
- The duration of alternative service is 12 months (equal to the term of compulsory military service).
- An application must be submitted no later than 2 months before the start of the relevant conscription campaign to the draft commission of the territorial military-administrative center. The application must be accompanied by a statement of reasoning substantiating the applicant's position.
- Applications are reviewed by the draft commission; approximately 50% of applications are rejected due to insufficient substantiation of the stated convictions.
- Alternative service is performed in state-run social institutions (hospitals, residential care homes, social welfare facilities).

MOLDOVA—Liability and International Cooperation

Liability for Evasion of Military Duty

- Failure to appear at a military administrative center upon summons results in an administrative offense report and a fine.
- In 2024, approximately 8,700 administrative offense reports were filed in connection with failure to appear upon summons.
- Systematic evasion of conscription may result in criminal liability under the legislation of the Republic of Moldova.

International Defense Cooperation

Moldova holds constitutional status of permanent neutrality (Art. 11 of the Constitution) and is not a NATO member. Nevertheless, the country actively develops defense cooperation:

European Union

Moldova is an EU candidate country (since 2022); cooperation within the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy.

NATO

Partnership without membership; training, exchange, and army modernization programs supported by Alliance member states.

Bilateral Agreements

Romania, France, Germany, Poland, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, Ukraine, and a number of other states supply weapons, equipment, and provide training for personnel of the National Army.

United Nations

Officers of the Moldovan army participate in UN peacekeeping missions.

Conclusion: The Republic of Moldova has an active system of mandatory military service for men aged 18–27 residing on its territory. The key feature relevant to individuals who have acquired Moldovan citizenship by descent (Part 2, Art. 12 of Law No. 1024): the law ties conscription obligations to permanent lawful residence on the territory of the Republic of Moldova. For citizens permanently residing abroad, the practical risk of forced conscription is absent — upon reaching the age of 27, such a person is transferred to the reserve without completing active military service. When planning entry and extended stays in Moldova, individuals of conscription age (18–27 years) are advised to clarify their conscription status in advance.

How REVERA Can Help

We provide a full range of legal services in digital law, financial law, construction and tax regulation in Kazakhstan



Assess the applicability of new laws

Analysis of the impact of legislative changes on the business and processes of the company



Conduct a legal audit

Comprehensive review of the company's compliance with current requirements of RK legislation



Develop data and AI policies

Preparation of internal documents on personal data protection and the use of AI systems



Support fintech and banking projects

Legal support for projects in the field of digital assets, DFA and financial technologies



Prepare for tax changes

Tax analysis of international structures taking into account the updated list of DTT countries



Ensure compliance

Implementation of comprehensive compliance systems for banking, digital and construction legislation

We Can Help You



Zadesenskaya Yaroslavna
Head of Sub practice –
Private Clients

y.zadesenskaya@revera.legal