

Changes coming to the conditions for the “Plus” artwork certificate...

Currently, holders of a regular or starter artwork certificate can use the lower income thresholds when subsequently applying for a Plus certificate. The new government proposal aims to change this. In principle, the lower thresholds would henceforth only apply to those who have previously been granted a Plus certificate and have therefore already met the higher income requirements.

The government describes this as a clarification of the original intention of the scheme. Whether this constitutes a clarification or a tightening of the rules is not entirely clear: in practice, it would impose stricter conditions on certain art workers. In practice, this also means that the transition from a starter or regular artwork certificate to a Plus certificate would no longer be treated in the same way, in terms of income requirements, as a renewal of a certificate.

What does this mean?

- First application for a Plus certificate: **more than €13,546 over 5 years or €5,418 over 2 years.**
- Renewal of a Plus certificate: **more than €4,515 over 5 years or €2,709 over 3 years.**

There is an exception for art workers who automatically received a regular artwork certificate in 2024 under the transitional arrangements because they previously held an artist visa. The lower thresholds will continue to apply to them.

Please note: This new ruling will enter into force **10 days after its publication in the Belgisch Staatsblad**. The publication date is not yet known, so the exact entry-into-force date is also not yet known.

This change is relevant to anyone who informs or advises art workers. Support organisations, federations and other advisors should therefore already take the proposed changes into account when advising on the transition from a starter or regular certificate to a Plus certificate.