



Obtaining of Portuguese Nationality by Sephardic origin





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Historical reasons for the Portuguese Nationality Law.

The designation of the Sephardic Jews refers to the descendants of the traditional Jewish communities of the Iberian Peninsula. The presence of these communities in the peninsula has its beginning even before the formation of the Iberian Christian kingdoms, as is the case of Portugal.

After the Edict of the Alhambra in 1492, these communities were persecuted by the Spanish Inquisition and many of its members took refuge in Portugal, who in 1496 were also expelled from that country.

The Law nº 37/81 of October 3rd "Nationality Law" and the Decree Law nº 237ª/2006 of December 14th "Regulamento da Nacionalidade Portuguesa", updated by DL 43/2013, DL 30-A/2015 and DL 71/2017, which have as main objective to recognize the Portuguese nationality to those persons who prove their Portuguese Sephardic origin and the procedure to follow, describe the process and steps to complete the procedure successfully. In essence, the law reflects the same spirit of the Spanish legislation whose deadline expired last October 2019.

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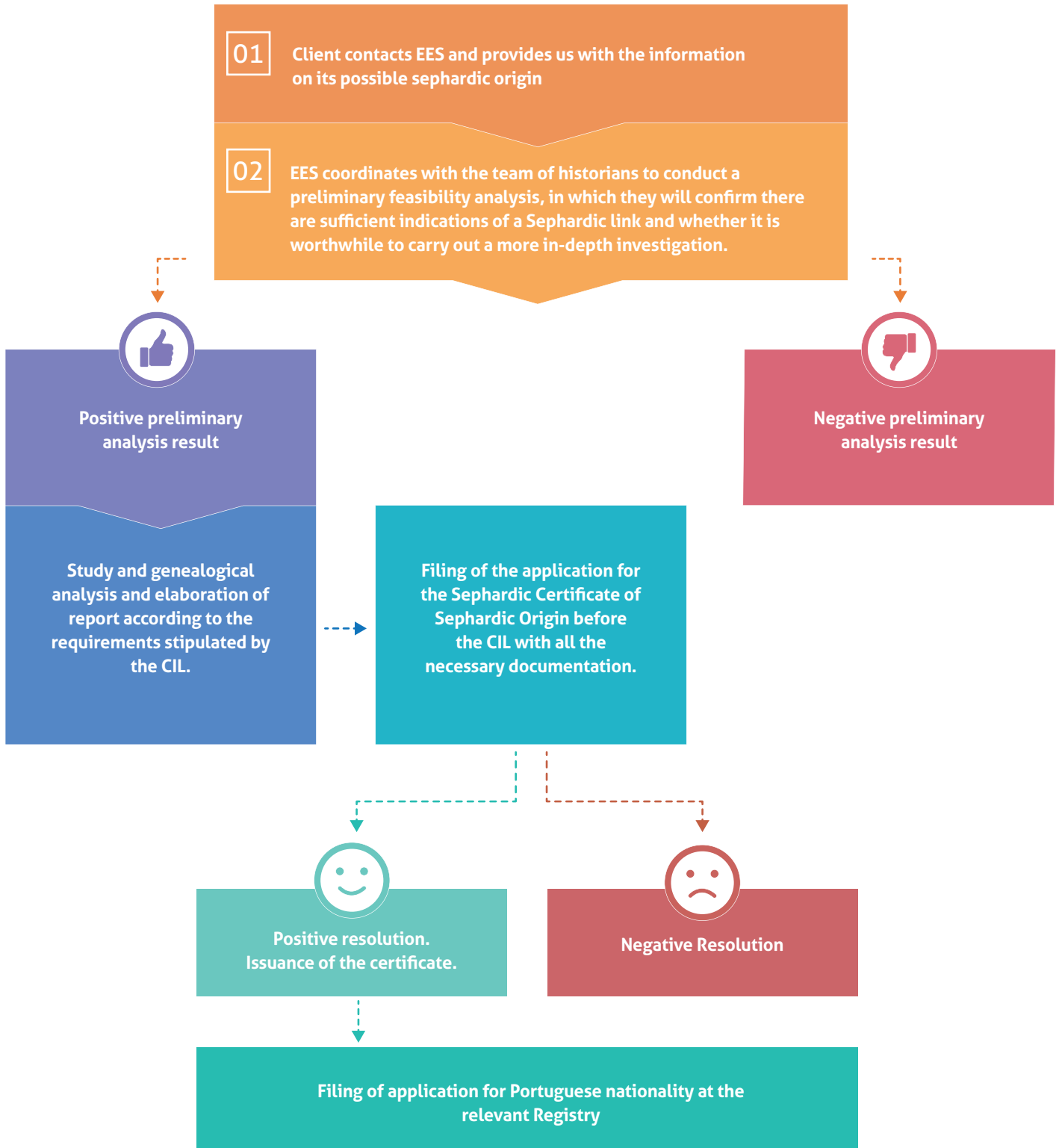
General requirements:

The Portuguese Administration, in application of Law No. 37/81 of October 3, may grant Portuguese citizenship through naturalization to the descendants of Sephardic Jews, when they meet the following requirements:

- Adult or legally emancipated.
- Not having been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment of three years or more under Portuguese law.
- To have sufficiently accredited for its links with a Sephardic Jewish community of Portuguese origin.

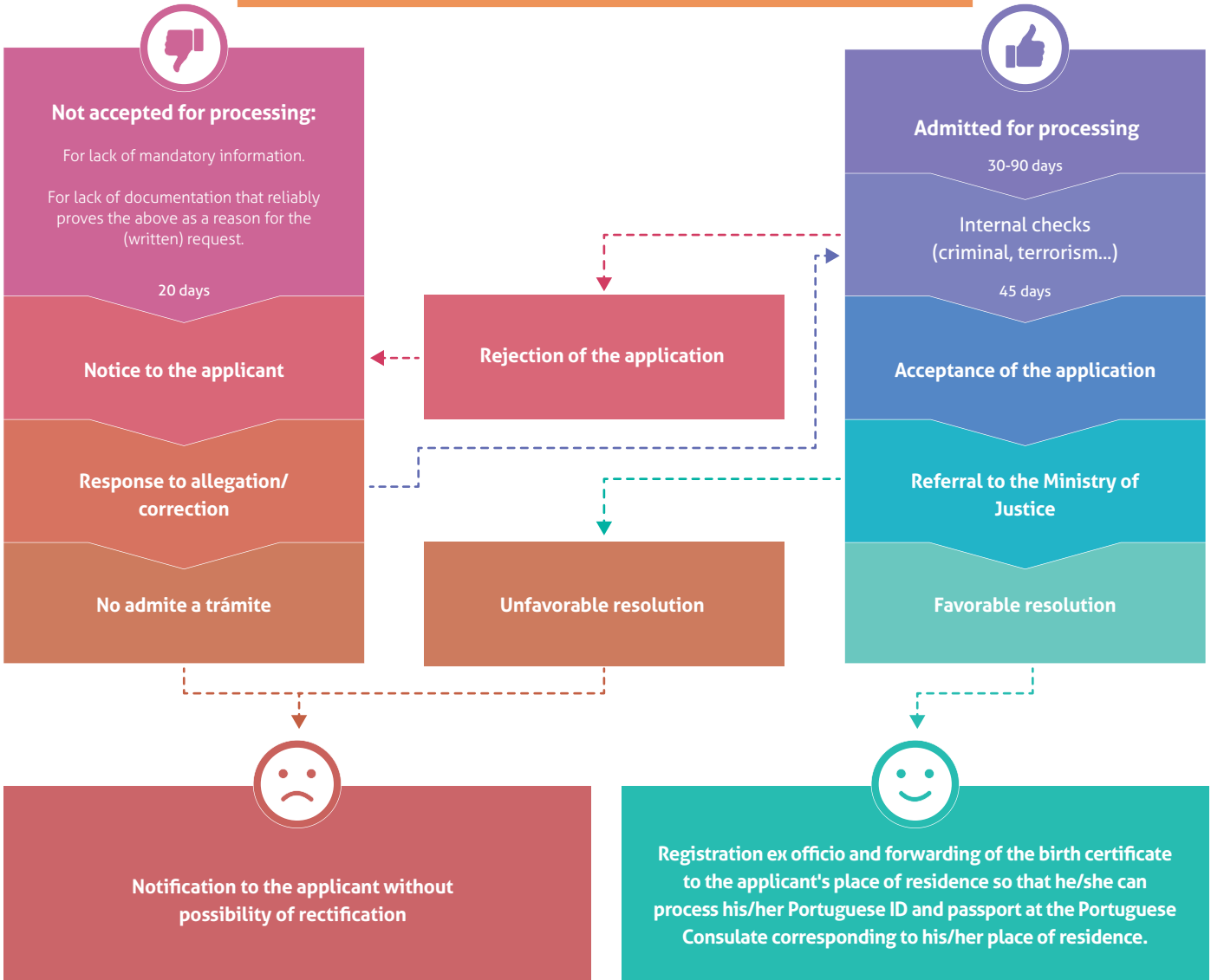
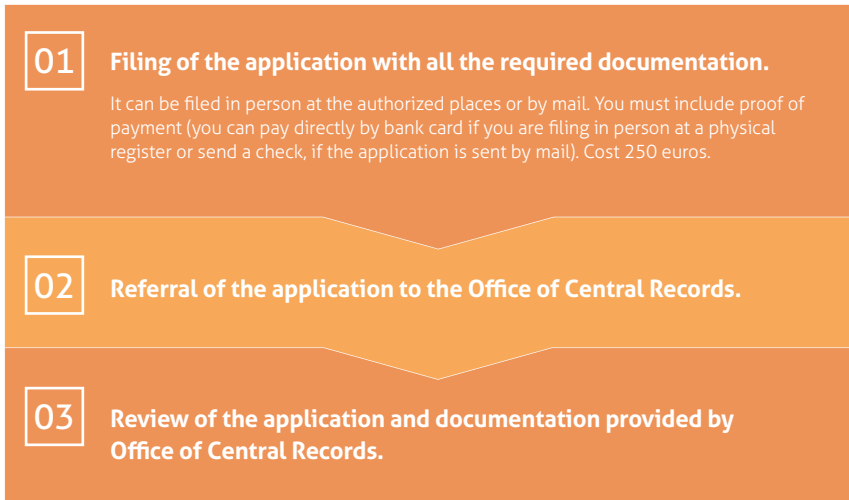
Process to prove sephardic origin before the Israelite Community of Lisbon (CIL)

*Particular process for EES clients



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Application Process for Portuguese Nationality (Sephardic).



4 How to prove Sephardic origin.

- Certificate issued by the Israeli community in Lisbon or Porto. The burden of proof is on the applicant. Different means of proof can be provided:
 - Personal documents: Records, documents of family ceremonies, weddings, funerals, registers of Jewish communities etc.
 - Genealogical: Your family tree should contain indications of dates and places of birth, death and marriage of ancestors.
 - Testimony: Letter from the Rabbi of your Jewish Community.
 - Ladino speech: Evidence of mastery of that language.
 - Expert historical report: Mainly intended for Jewish converts. We can put you in touch with experts of guaranteed experience.

5 General documentation required.

- Complete copy of your passport, certified and apostilled or legalized.
- Birth certificate, apostilled or legalized.
- Apostilled criminal records from those countries where you have been a legal resident (residence of more than 90 days) since the age of 16.
- Marriage or Divorce Certificate. If your name has been modified from how it appears in your birth certificate, you must provide apostilled documentation.
- Power of attorney to act before the Portuguese authorities (we provide it).
- Residence certificate.

6 Benefits of obtaining a European nationality.

- Right to remain and work in Portugal.
- Right to apply for residence and work permit for immediate family members.
- Right to remain and work within the EU.
- Mobility on the Schengen territory.



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