

How to set up a business in France

In order to set up a business in France, french and European citizenship are not required. It means that everyone can be an entrepreneur !

After writing a business plan, choosing what customers you want to target, how much you will be investing, you'll need to choose the type of company structure for your business. It is very important to choose the correct structure that fits with the type of business you have and the amount of turnover your business does. The most four common structures are EURL (owned by a single person and run as a limited liability single shareholder company), SARL which is a limited liability company, SAS which is a Simplified Stock Company (this type of company is ideal for foreign investors because you don't need to become a french resident). You can also register your business as a "Branch" if you want to extend your existing business. Then, you need a business bank account. Once, you have arranged the bank account introduction with a bank manager, knowing perfectly your business plan and being able to answer any questions about your company is essential. To be introduced into the french business world, publishing an announcement in newspapers is a great way to get some publicity and attract customers. However, there still are a few administrative tasks left. You need to send a completed application form, a certified copy of each director/shareholders passport, and two utility bills that are less than three months old to prove addresses (cell phone bills are not accepted) to the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE), to the tax office - the Centre des Impôts – and the commercial court called the Greffe du Tribunal de Commerce. To make sure the employees are protected and enough paid, the social security office (URSSAF) will need to be informed as well as the Caisse Sociale and Inspection du Travail if you are employing or recruiting staff and the Centre des Formalités des Entreprises or Chambres des Métiers.