

Declaration of the municipality of Albinen (Switzerland / Wallis) on housing subsidies and support for families

## **Foreigners without a Swiss residence permit C are not entitled to receive financial support**

December 4, 2017 | The, in part, misleading media coverage on the planned housing subsidies and family support in the small Swiss mountain municipality of Albinen has led to numerous applications having been made from throughout the world. According to the decisive regulations approved of at the municipal assembly of November 30, 2017, the municipality made it clear which conditions need to be fulfilled with regard to applications for financial support from the fund for housing subsidies and family support. Accordingly, foreigners without a Swiss residence permit C are not entitled to receive financial support.

Switzerland grants foreign nationals from EU and EFTA member states a residence permit C if they can furnish proof of five to ten years' continuous residence in Switzerland.

The regulations adopted will most probably come into force on January 1, 2018. According to them, also due to the restricted financial means of the municipality, clear conditions will be imposed on future applications. Among the eligibility criteria to apply:

- **Every application must be based on a construction project that is ready for approval or an authenticated apartment purchase agreement.**
- **The sum invested must, in any case, amount to at least CHF 200,000.-.**
- **A bank or a comparable loan provider must issue authenticated proof of financial guarantee.**
- **In the event of the property being sold or the owner moving away within ten years' time, the amount must be paid back in full.**
- **This repayment obligation will be secured by means of a relevant addition to the recording of ownership in the land register.**

The municipality of Albinen assumes that, at best, in the next five years, 5 to 10 families, at most, will claim contributions, which, in itself, must be considered a major success in active housing subsidy and family support.

From among the many interested parties who, in the past weeks, contacted the municipality of Albinen, according to media coverage, given the strict regulations, at most one hundred can be considered serious applicants.