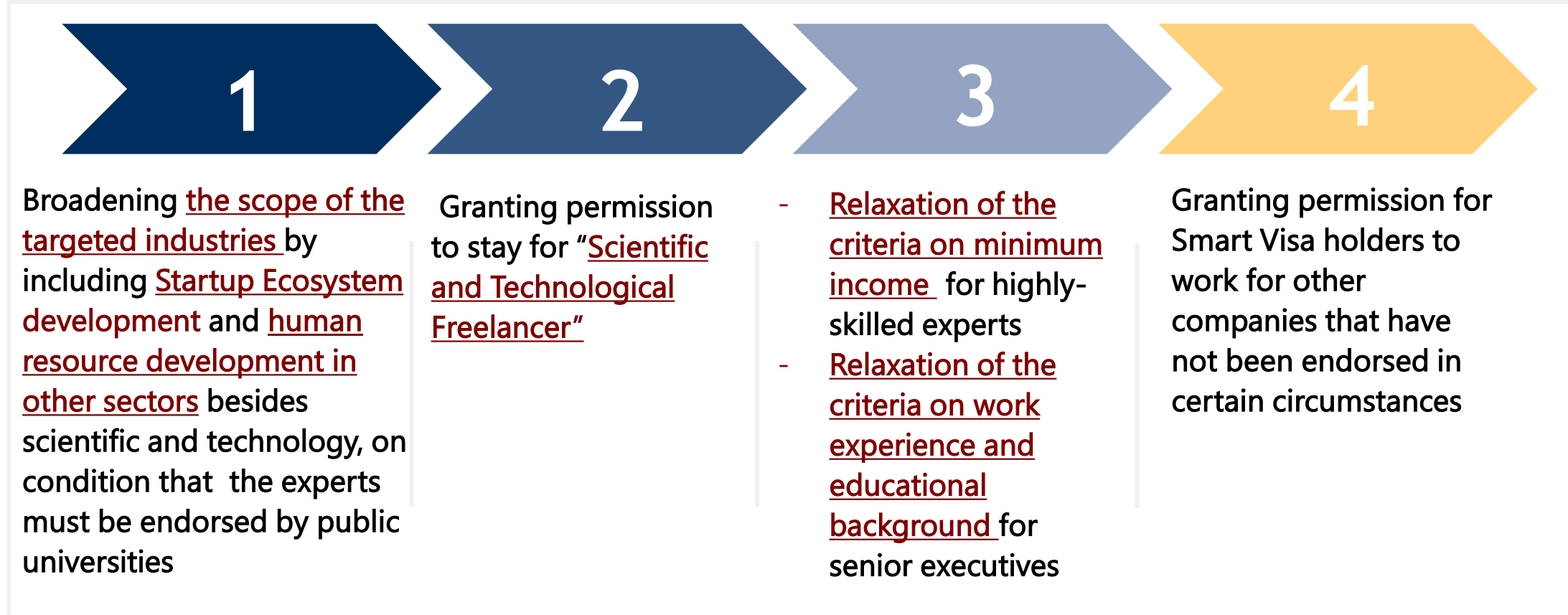


Improvement of the criteria for Smart Visa

The Center for Economic Situation Administration has approved the new draft **criteria for Smart Visa** as follows:



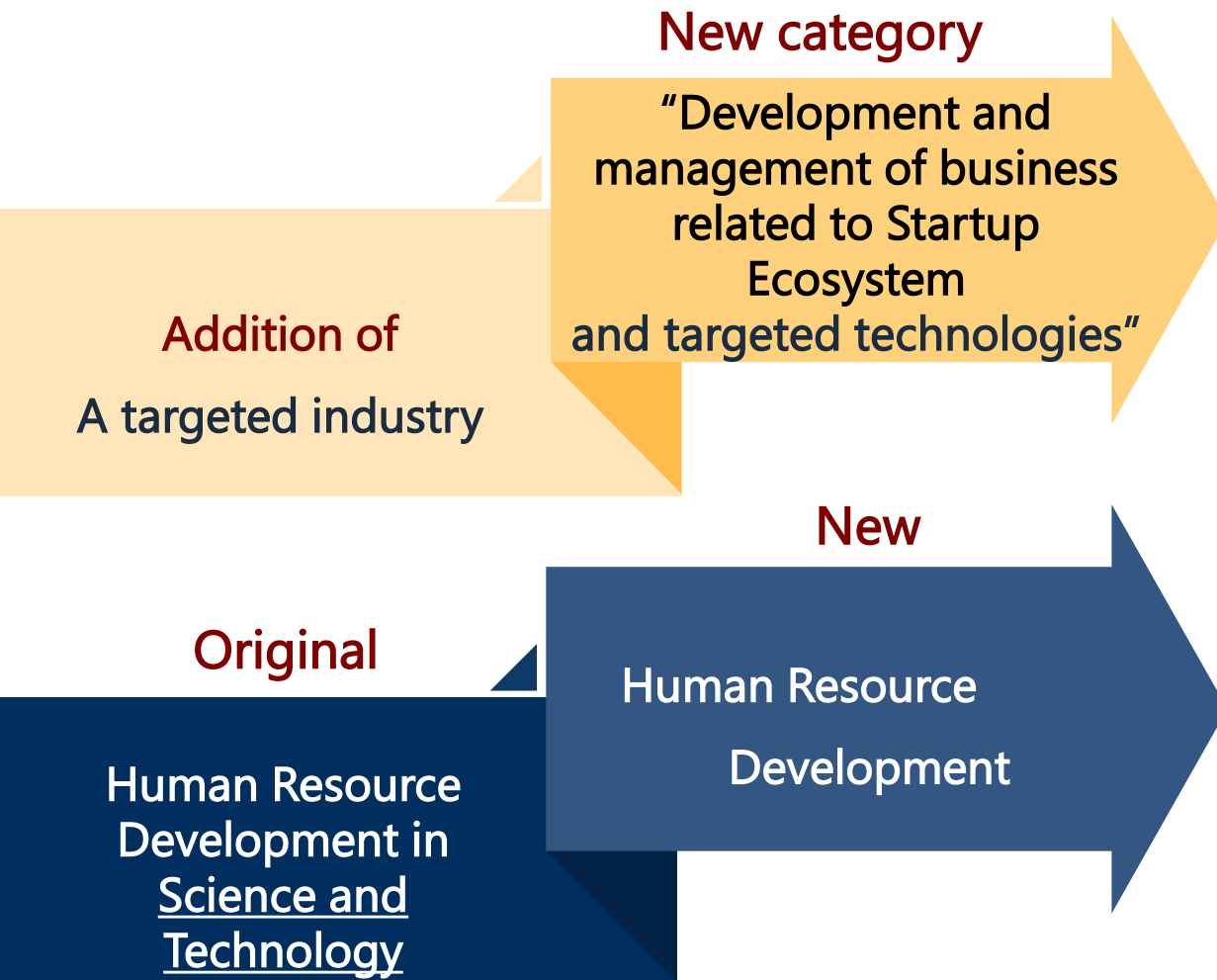
NOTE: Next step is to discuss thoroughly with stakeholders and related agencies to come up with suitable new criteria

Progress

On 2 October 2020, **Thailand Board of Investment (BOI)** had a meeting with the relevant government agencies, namely **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour, Immigration Bureau, National Science and Technology Development Agency, Digital Economy Promotion Agency, National Innovation Agency (Public Organization)**



1. Broaden the scope of the targeted industries



Reasons for reviewing

- To cover foreign highly-skilled experts who are working in developing and managing business related to Startup Ecosystem in Thailand such as incubation center, startup camp, and co-working space
- To **promote the development of targeted technologies**, as prescribed in the announcement of NSTDA such as Advanced Materials Characterization Technology, Advanced Catalyst Technology etc.
- To cover **human resource development in sectors other than science and technology**
- Experts in non-S&T sectors must be endorsed by **PUBLIC higher education institution and have a PhD or equivalent**

2. The revision of Smart Visa criteria - **Smart T (Talent)**

2.1 Criteria for Scientific and Technological Freelancer: S&T Freelancer



**Scientific and
Technological
Freelancer**



Freelancers must be endorsed by relevant government agencies







Having **liquid assets such as** deposit, stocks, gold of no less than **600,000 Baht** or equivalent in Thailand or overseas, which has been held for at least 3 months



Having **an employment or service contract with an overseas entity** with minimum average income of no less than **100,000 Baht** per month



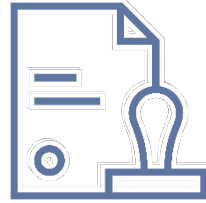
If the endorsed S&T freelancers is to work under an employment contract with a domestic entity, additional qualification endorsement is required

Country	<p>GERMANY</p> 	<p>The Czech</p> 	<p>SPAIN</p> 	<p>ESTONIA</p> 
Financial Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saving Account from the original country of residence • Estimation of oversea income of no less than 18,000 Euro/ year (660,000 Baht) • If an applicant is older than 45 years old, evidence of pension fund must be provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saving Account no less than 124,500 CZK (170,000 Baht) or • Minimum income no less than 15,000 CZK/month (20,700 Baht) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income form the original country of residence of no less than 26,000 Euro/year (960,000 Baht) or • * Minimum income of no less than 2,151 Euro/month (80,000 Baht) and an extra 535 Euro (20,000 Baht)/month per each 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saving account in the past 6 months, of no less than 3,504 Euro (130,000 Baht) • Having an evidence showing an applicant is a digital freelancer capable of working online, such as an endorsement letter from an employer, evidence of educational background, and work experience etc.
Other Criteria e.g. Expertise, License etc.	<p>Being certified as a freelancer from a local tax office in the following fields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Service • Law • Tax and business consultant • Science and technology • Linguistics • Data-transmission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having Trade license or any other document showing the purpose of stay • Having a letter of consent from the landlord 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only for foreigners who do not work in Spain 	
Visa Period	<p>maximum 3 years</p>	<p>first 1year / Extend 2years</p>	<p>first 1year / Extend 2years</p>	<p>first 1year / Extend 2years</p>

Privileges for S&T Freelancer



1 year permission to stay in the Kingdom of Thailand



Multiple entry visa with no re-entry permit required



Access to a fast-track service at international airports in Thailand



Reporting 180-day*



Spouse and children granted the right to stay and work in Thailand with no work permit required.

***NOTE:** In general, SMART Visa holder must report his/her current residence to the immigration every year. However, in the case of freelancers who do not have any employment in Thailand, it is deemed appropriate for the freelancers to report every 180 days in order for national security agencies to locate their residence in Thailand in a timely manner.

2.2 Relaxation of income criteria for experts working for SMEs

Current Criteria

- Having an employment contract with startup or retired experts
- Must have an average income of no less than 50,000 Baht per month

Proposed Criteria

- Having an employment contract with startup or Thai SMEs or retired experts
- Must have an average income of no less than 50,000 Baht per month

Reasons for reviewing

- **Upgrading technological capacity of Thai SMEs**
- **Facilitate and decrease the cost of hiring foreign experts by Thai SMEs**

Definition of SMEs by Ministerial Regulations of Small and Medium Enterprises B.E. 2562	Type of Business	Small Enterprises				Medium Enterprises	
		Micro Enterprises		Small Enterprises		Annual Income (Billion Baht)	Employment (person)
		Annual Income (Billion Baht)	Employment (person)	Annual Income (Billion Baht)	Employment (person)		
Production	No more than 1.8	No more than 5	No more than 100	No more than 50	More than 100 - 500	More than 50 - 200	
Service / Wholesale Trade / Retail Trade	No more than 1.8	No more than 5	No more than 50	No more than 30	More than 50 - 300	More than 30 - 100	

3. Relaxation of work experience and educational background criteria for senior executives

Current Criteria

Higher than bachelor's degree or equivalent

and

Having work experience of no less than 10 years



Proposed Criteria

Higher than bachelor's degree or equivalent

and having work experience of no less than 5 years

or

having work experience of no less than 10 years

Reasons for reviewing

In accordance with the current situation where talented people tend to drop out of higher education



4. Relaxation for Smart Visa holders to work for non-endorsed companies in certain cases

Current Criteria

Smart Vias holders are able to work only for the **endorsed company** only.

Proposed Criteria

Be able to work for other companies, relevant to the endorsed company or requiring to employ the endorsed expertise

Such as

- Affiliated company
 - Related or supporting business
- etc.

Reasons for reviewing

According to the current ways of doing business, executives may assume a senior position in multiple affiliated companies, while experts may be hired by more than one company.



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