



CYPRUS

Citizenship by Investment Program



Country Profile:

Cyprus, an island in the eastern Mediterranean, has rich, turbulent history stretching back to antiquity. Known for its beaches, it has a rugged interior with wine-growing regions. It is separated into a Greek south and Turkish north, with the capital Nicosia also divided. Coastal Paphos is famed for its archaeological sites relating to the cult of Aphrodite, including ruins of palaces, tombs and mosaic-adorned villas.

- Total Area: 9,251 sq. km
- Population: 1,172,071 (as of January 1, 2016)
- Capital: Nicosia
- Time Zone: UTC+02:00
- Official languages: Turkish, Greek
- Government: Presidential Democratic State
- Climate: Mediterranean Climate
- Currency: EUR
- Exchange Rate: 1 USD = 0.85 EUR (2014)
- Location: Lies at the crossroads of Europe, Africa and Asia at the crux of the busy shipping and air routes linking the three continents.

Benefits:

- ❖ Visa-free travel to over 140 countries, which includes Canada and Hong Kong
- ❖ Fast-track procedure allowing for direct path to citizenship within 3-4 months
- ❖ Free to live, work, own and operate business
- ❖ Free to study and travel anywhere in the EU
- ❖ Lowest rate of corporate income tax in EU
- ❖ Dual citizenship is allowed
- ❖ No inheritance tax
- ❖ No requirement to reside
- ❖ Dependent children under 28 years qualify for citizenship on the basis of their parents' applications
- ❖ Outstanding holiday destination
- ❖ Full member of the European Union

Legal Basis:

The Government of Cyprus has taken a unique step by creating one of the fastest programs, which grants outright citizenship to non-E.U. applicants. Offered in accordance with the Civil Registry Laws 2002-2013, the Naturalization of Investors by Exception Scheme, the program is one of the fastest to lead to residence and citizenship in Europe.

Investment Requirements:

By virtue of the Civil Registry Laws, foreign investors who wish to obtain Cypriot citizenship by investment need to meet the following requirements:

- ❖ Must hold a permanent privately-owned residence in the Republic of Cyprus
 - purchase price of which must be at least €500,000 plus applicable VAT
- ❖ Must choose one of the prescribed investment options and maintain it for the required duration.
 - as an individual (€5 million)
 - or as part of a group (€2.5 million)

Investment Options:

1. INVESTMENT IN GOVERNMENT BONDS

- Purchase state bonds of the Republic of Cyprus to the value of at least €5 million.
- Maintain the purchased bonds for a period of three years.

2. INVESTMENT IN FINANCIAL ASSETS OF CYPRIOT COMPANIES OR CYPRIOT ORGANIZATIONS

- Purchase financial assets of Cypriot companies or Cypriot organizations (bonds/ securities/ debentures registered and issued in the Republic of Cyprus) of at least €5 million.
- Maintain the purchased assets for a period of three years.

3. INVESTMENT IN REAL ESTATE, LAND DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

- Investment of at least €5 million in the purchase or construction of buildings or for the construction of other land development projects (residential or commercial developments, developments in the tourism sector or other infrastructure projects).

4. PURCHASE, CREATION OR PARTICIPATION IN CYPRIOT BUSINESSES OR COMPANIES

- Investment at least €5 million in the purchase, creation or participation in businesses or companies, that are based and operating in the Republic of Cyprus.
- These businesses or companies should evidently have a concrete presence in Cyprus.
- Should employ at least five Cypriot citizens.

** It is noted that the mandatory conversion of deposits into shares is included in this criterion.*

5. DEPOSITS IN CYPRIOT BANKS

- Must have a fixed term deposit of at least €5 million for three years in a Cypriot bank.
- Or deposits of privately owned companies or trusts (in which he/she is the beneficiary owner) in the Republic of Cyprus of at least €5 million.

6. INVESTMENT OF AT LEAST €5 MILLION IN A COMBINATION OF THE AFOREMENTIONED OPTIONS 1-5.

The applicant is required to have a combination of the below investment amounting to at least €5 million:

- Option 1 (Investment in Government bonds),
- Option 2 (Investment in financial assets of Cypriot companies or Cypriot organizations),
- Option 3 (Investment in real estate, land development and infrastructure projects),
- Option 4 (Purchase, creation or participation in Cypriot businesses or companies),
- Option 5 (Deposits in Cypriot banks)

7. PERSONS WHOSE DEPOSITS WITH THE POPULAR BANK PUBLIC COMPANY LTD HAVE BEEN IMPAIRED DUE TO THE MEASURES IMPLEMENTED AFTER THE 15th MARCH 2013

- The applicant has incurred impairment in deposits amounting to a total of at least €3 million.
- In the case where the applicant has incurred an impairment in his/her deposits under €3 million he/she may apply, having made an additional investment through options 1-5 for the balance of the required amount.

MAJOR COLLECTIVE INVESTMENTS

The Council of Ministers shall have the right on special occasions, to reduce the below criteria Investment in Government Bonds, Investment in financial assets of Cypriot companies or Cypriot organizations, Investment in real estate, land development or infrastructure projects, Purchase or creation or participation in Cypriot businesses and companies and Deposit in a Cypriot bank (Options 1-5):

- To €2.5 million for investors, who demonstrably participate in a special collective investment scheme, provided that the total value of the investment is at least €12.5 million.
- To €2 million for investors who demonstrably participate in a special collective investment scheme, provided that the total value of the investment is more than €12.5 million. It is noted that this present provision (I), will be in force until the 1st of June 2014.

In addition, it is noted that for the above-mentioned provisions, the investment for the Criteria mentioned above may be realized through a different salesman/ provider (physical or legal entity).

Information updates through SMS alert service

The Civil Registry and Migration Department has launched an SMS alert service which carries information updates on the following:

1. SMS Information Service for passport and identity card application tracking

Applicants may track the progress of their passport and identity card application by sending an SMS free of charge to 8999 with the message:

STATUS (space) Application number
Example: STATUS 1234567

2. SMS Information Service for residence permits of non-EU nationals

Applicants may track the progress of their application for a residence permit for non-EU nationals by sending an SMS free of charge to 8999 with the message:

STATUS (space) Application number
Example: STATUS 1234/2016

3. SMS Automatic Renewal Information Service

The Service can be activated by sending a text message free of charge. Subscribers will automatically receive SMS notifications and reminders regarding the expiry date and the issuing of their ID and passport. In particular, they will receive:

- SMS reminders for passports and identity card expiration dates. The renewal reminders will be sent twice; one month before and 15 days before the expiry date.
- SMS notification to collect passports and identity cards when they have been issued.

To activate the Service please send an SMS to 8999 with the message:

RGT (space) Identity card number (space) Issue date of identity card
Example: RGT 123456 01/01/2010