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## *CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT*

A growing number of countries now offer immigrant investor programs, exchanging residence rights or citizenship for a sizeable investment in their economies. From “cash-for-citizenship” to incentives to invest in private sector businesses or property, the market for investor immigration has become increasingly diverse.

The idea with a second passport is that no government should have the sole power over your life or your assets. If you are the citizen of only one country, as most people are, you are essentially at the mercy of your government.

If they decide to harass you or confiscate your assets, most of the time you are on your own, unless you are also a citizen of another country. Holding a second passport through dual citizenship in another country is an integral part of international diversification.

The most telling example of how second passports have saved lives and assets is during World War II, when thousands of Jews were saved from the concentration camps thanks to second passports that they managed to get through diplomats from various European countries. For every Jew who managed to get a protective passport, there were countless others who did not because of the sheer number of applications.

A more recent example is the revolution in Egypt where many people wanted to leave but the only destinations accessible to these people, due to the origin of their passport, were countries such as Syria where the “Arab Spring” was in full swing as well.



## Reasons for a second citizenship

There are many reasons for a second citizenship, the most important being:

- *Freedom of movement.* Second or third citizenship allows you to literally discover the world. For instance, a passport issued in Cyprus or Malta makes it possible for you to visit all the EU countries freely, work and live there. If you are a citizen of one of the Caribbean countries, you can also visit the EU countries, Singapore, Hong Kong without a visa and you take advantage of the simplified procedure for obtaining visa to the USA.
- *Capital assets protection.* There are advantages connected with taxation system and risks are mitigated. You may well consider obtaining second citizenship and passport in case you experience the following challenges: your country has excessively high taxes, tight country currency code, restricts you to work and invest in the economy you wish and your assets are under risk pending legal proceedings. Another advantage of a second citizenship is that the country, granting it to you, does not inform your native country about obtaining a second citizenship.
- *Business and family security.* Modern world is unstable, military conflicts are flaring up quick as a wink, many people experience political heat for various reasons. That is why it is reasonable to protect yourself together with your family and guarantee an opportunity to live in stable economies.

## Fast track to a second passport

The fastest, but certainly not the cheapest way, to getting a second passport is through an economic citizenship program, where one essentially buys a second citizenship. These programs often take the

form of an investment program where you either invest in real estate or in certain funds as specified by the country involved.

The following countries, offering programs of obtaining economic citizenship, are highly popular for second passports: Cyprus and Malta in the EU, St Kitts and Nevis, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, St Lucia and Dominica in the Caribbean.

We set out later in our *Newsletter* an overview of Citizenship by investment for the aforesaid countries.

## What we can do for you

International residence and citizenship planning has itself become a major topic among the increasing number of internationally mobile entrepreneurs, as well as many wealthy individuals and families, who are interested in looking at alternative residence and citizenship solutions.

Besides advising clients on the possibilities of acquiring resident status, permanent residence and Citizenship by investment, we advise on residence planning for private clients with a view to tax optimization and/or post immigration citizenship acquisition.

Residence planning and related tax planning for private clients involves finding solutions for individuals and families who move internationally, own property in different countries and who often have complex international situations and requirements.

Our Global Residence team, in conjunction with associates worldwide, can make available to you our boutique services covering tax, immigration and citizenship law, international private law and estate structuring.

**Our Global Residence team, headed by our chairman George Philippides, will be pleased to advise you.**

# Antigua & Barbuda

Antigua and Barbuda, an independent Commonwealth state, is located between in the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, southeast of Puerto Rico.

There are three ways in which an applicant can qualify for Citizenship by investment: by contribution to the National Development Fund (NDF), acquiring government approved real estate and through investment in approved business enterprises.

Key advantages:

- Residence is not required to qualify for citizenship
- No interview, education, or managerial experience required
- No tax on international revenues, wealth or inheritance
- Member of the Commonwealth
- Excellent links to North America and Europe
- Lifetime citizenship
- Visa free travel to 149 countries

DONATION OPTION	REAL ESTATE OPTION	BUSINESS INVESTMENT
<b>OFFICIAL ENTITY:</b> National Development Fund (NDF)	<b>INVESTMENT MINIMUM:</b> US\$400.000	<b>INVESTMENT IN APPROVED BUSINESS</b>
<b>DONATION AMOUNT</b>	<b>REAL ESTATE HOLDING PERIOD:</b> 5 years	<b>INVESTOR ONLY:</b> US\$1.500.000
<b>INVESTOR ONLY:</b> US\$250.000 + \$50.000 for main applicant	<b>LEGAL AND ESCROW:</b> 1-2%	<b>JOINT INVESTMENT:</b> Minimum US\$400.000 per applicant
<b>INVESTOR AND SPOUSE:</b> US\$250.000 Investor + \$50.000 for main applicant + \$50.000 spouse + \$50.000 for two kids 17<	<b>GOVERNMENT PROCESSING FEES</b> <b>INVESTOR:</b> US\$50.000 <b>SPOUSE:</b> US\$50.000 <b>DEPENDENTS:</b> Age 17< US\$ 25.000 Age 18-25 or 65+ US\$ 50.000	<b>TOTAL FOR JOINT INVESTMENT:</b> US\$5.000.000

# Cyprus

Cyprus with its warm and stable climate and convenient geographical position is an attractive location for residence. It has a modern, free market, service based economy with an effective and transparent regulatory and legal framework. It is a member country of EU since 2004 and part of the Eurozone since 2008.

Key advantages:

- An express procedure, it takes only 3 months to be approved
- The investment is as low as €2,5 million

- The investor must retain the investment for 3 years after which is free to release it
- Citizenship granted to spouse of the investor and minor children
- No requirement to reside in Cyprus
- Visa free travel to over 150 countries worldwide
- All the rights of an EU citizen protected by EU legislation
- No language proficiency tests
- Dual citizenship is allowed

INDIVIDUAL SCHEME (€5MN)	COLLECTIVE SCHEME (€2,5MN)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The applicant should have direct investments in Cyprus of at least €5mn, or</li> <li>• Have direct investments in Cyprus of at least €5mn in financial instruments of companies and shares in public companies, or</li> <li>• Have direct investment in Cyprus of at least €5mn in real estate, or</li> <li>• Have direct investment in Cyprus of at least €5mn through the purchase, establishment or participation in businesses/ companies, or</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The applicant will be required to invest a reduced amount of €2,5 mn in any of the mentioned categories:</li> <li>• Investment in government bonds</li> <li>• Investment in financial instruments</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have deposits in Cyprus banks amounting to €5mn, or</li> <li>• Have a combination of any of the above amounting to €5mn</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investment in real estate and land developing</li> <li>• Investments in Cyprus businesses and companies on the basis that they participate in a collective investment scheme with a total value of at least €12,5 mn</li> </ul>



## Dominica

Dominica is an island located between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean and is part of the Caribbean West Indies series of Islands. It has one of the most affordable programmes in the world.

Key advantages:

- No requirement to visit or reside in Dominica
- No restrictions on dual citizenship

- The only program in the Caribbean to consider non studied and unmarried daughters of the main applicants under the age of 25
- Affordable legal Citizenship by investment programmes
- Allows visa free travel to more than 135 countries
- Full citizenship received can be passed onto descendants.
- No tax on income, wealth or inheritance

DONATION OPTION	REAL ESTATE OPTION
OFFICIAL ENTITY: Government Fund Donation	INVESTMENT MINIMUM: US\$200.000
DONATION AMOUNT	REAL ESTATE HOLDING PERIOD: 3 years
INVESTOR ONLY: US\$100.000 Processing Fee US\$3.000 per application	LEGAL AND ESCROW: 1-2%
INVESTOR AND SPOUSE: US\$175.000	GOVERNMENT PROCESSING FEES
INVESTOR AND SPOUSE + 2 KIDS: US\$200.000	INVESTOR: US\$50.000 SPOUSE: US\$25.000 DEPENDENTS: Age 17< US\$20.000 Age 18-25 or 65+ US\$50.000
Additional Fee US\$750 per person for Certificate of Naturalisation apply	Additional Fee US\$750 per person for Certificate of Naturalisation apply Processing Fee US\$3.000 per application

## Grenada

Grenada is located between the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean, north of Trinidad and Tobago and consists of three islands: Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique. There are two programmes available for an applicant to qualify for Citizenship by investment: by donation to the National Transformation Fund (NTF) or by acquisition of government approved real estate.

Key advantages:

- No requirement to visit Grenada to qualify for citizenship and

no physical residency requirements

- No restrictions on dual citizenship
- Allows visa free travel to more than 135 countries
- Full citizenship received can be passed onto descendants
- No tax on worldwide income, wealth or inheritance
- No interview, no education or managerial experience is required

DONATION OPTION	REAL ESTATE OPTION
OFFICIAL ENTITY: National Transformation Fund (NTF)	INVESTMENT MINIMUM: US\$350.000
DONATION AMOUNT	REAL ESTATE HOLDING PERIOD: 4 years
INVESTOR ONLY: US\$200.000	LEGAL AND ESCROW: US\$12.000
INVESTOR AND SPOUSE: US\$225.000	GOVERNMENT PROCESSING FEES
INVESTOR AND SPOUSE + 2KIDS: US\$275.000	INVESTOR: US\$50.000 / SPOUSE: US\$0 DEPENDENTS: US\$25.000 per dependent after first 3 dependents



## Malta

The Republic of Malta is a southern European island country in the Mediterranean Sea. Malta has been a member of the EU since 2004 and part of the Eurozone from 2008.

Key advantages:

- Visa free travel to more than 160 countries worldwide
- EU Member state with the right to live and work in any other EU member states

- Safe, secure and pleasant lifestyle
- One of the lowest crime rates worldwide
- Excellent healthcare facilities
- No wealth, inheritance or gift tax
- Unique tax planning opportunities
- No restrictions on holding dual nationality

DONATION	REAL ESTATE
OFFICIAL ENTITY: National Development and Social Fund	INVESTMENT MINIMUM: €350.000 REAL ESTATE HOLDING PERIOD: 5 years
DONATION AMOUNT	OR
INVESTOR ONLY: €650.000	PROPERTY RENTAL MINIMUM: €16.000 p.a. RENTING PERIOD MINIMUM: 5 years
SPOUSE AND EACH CHILD BELOW 18: €25.000	GOVERNMENT PROCESSING FEES
DEPENDENTS: Age < 55 €50.000 Age 18-25 €50.000	INVESTMENT AMOUNT: €150.000 INVESTMENT HOLDING PERIOD: 5 years
DUE DILIGENCE FEES: MAIN APPLICANT: €7.500 SPOUSE AND DEPENDENTS OVER 18: €5.000 CHILDREN AGE 13-18: €3.000	PASSPORT FEES: €500 per person BANK CHARGES: €200 per person

## St Kitts and Nevis

The Federation of St Christopher and Nevis, also known as St Kitts and Nevis, is the smallest sovereign state in the Americas and located in the Caribbean Sea.

Key advantages:

- Dual citizenship is recognized
- Residence in is not required for an applicant to qualify for citizenship

- A zero tax jurisdiction, with no taxes on international revenue, on personal income, wealth or inheritance
- Member of the Commonwealth
- Full citizenships received can also be passed onto descendants
- Allows visa free travel to over 150 countries

DONATION OPTION	REAL ESTATE OPTION
OFFICIAL ENTITY: Sugar Industry Diversification Fund	INVESTMENT MINIMUM: US\$400.000
DONATION AMOUNT	REAL ESTATE HOLDING PERIOD: 5 years
INVESTOR ONLY: US\$250.000	LEGAL AND ESCROW: 1%
INVESTOR AND DEPENDENTS: US\$300.000 Investor and up to 3 dependents US\$350.000 Investor and up to 5 dependents US\$450.000 Investor and up to 7 dependents	GOVERNMENT PROCESSING FEES INVESTOR: US\$50.000 SPOUSE: US\$25.000 DEPENDENTS: Age > 18 US\$ 25.000 Age 18-25 US\$ 50.000

# St Lucia

St Lucia is located in the East Caribbean region on the boundaries with the Atlantic Ocean. The following programmes are available to qualify for Citizenship by investment: contribution to the National Economic Fund (NEF), investment in real estate or in government bonds.

Key advantages:

- No restrictions on dual citizenship
- The best nation among English-speaking Caribbean nation from 2007 to 2014 by the World Bank
- Allows visa free entry to 105 countries
- No taxes on international revenues
- Lifetime citizenship are received by the applicant

DONATION OPTION	REAL ESTATE OPTION	GOVERNMENT BONDS
<b>OFFICIAL ENTITY:</b> National Economic Fund (NEF)	<b>INVESTMENT MINIMUM:</b> US\$300.000	<b>INVESTMENT IN GOVERNMENT BONDS</b>
<b>DONATION AMOUNT</b>	<b>REAL ESTATE HOLDING PERIOD:</b> 5 years	<b>INVESTOR ONLY:</b> US\$500.000
<b>INVESTOR ONLY:</b> US\$200.000	<b>LEGAL AND ESCROW:</b> 1-2%	<b>INVESTOR AND SPOUSE:</b> US\$535.000
<b>INVESTOR AND SPOUSE:</b> US\$235.000	<b>GOVERNMENT PROCESSING FEES</b>	<b>HOLDING PERIOD:</b> 5 years
<b>INVESTOR AND SPOUSE AND 2 DEPENDENTS:</b> US\$250.000 + US\$25.000 for each additional dependent	<b>INVESTOR:</b> US\$50.000 / <b>SPOUSE:</b> US\$35.000	<b>INVESTOR AND SPOUSE AND 2 DEPENDENTS:</b> US\$550.000 US\$25.000 for each additional dependent
	<b>DEPENDENTS:</b> Age <18 US\$25.000 Age >1 US\$35.000	

## ONEWORLD LTD

There are no typical Oneworld clients. From dynamic young enterprises to global corporations, from high worth individuals to their families and consultants. We serve them all. We are not just looking after their fortunes but their futures. We are not just their advisors, we are their partners. Which is why we are prominent in fiduciary, business and financial services.

Our services include:

- Corporate and Trust
- Financial Advisory
- Business Services
- Tax and Legal
- Global Compliance
- Family Office

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