
Malta and Austria Are Home to the World's Best Investment Migration Programs

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The [Malta Individual Investor Program](#) is the world's top citizenship-by-investment program and the [Austria Private Residence Program](#) is the world's top residence-by-investment program, according to the [Global Residence and Citizenship Programs 2018–2019](#) report, released today by global residence and citizenship advisory firm [Henley & Partners](#).

The annual report, now in its 4th edition, provides a systematic analysis and comprehensive benchmarking of the world's most important investment migration programs and has become the industry gold standard for this type of evaluation.

The programs were evaluated by a distinguished panel of independent experts — including immigration and citizenship lawyers, economists, sovereign risk experts, and academic researchers — who took into account a broad range of factors pertaining to each program. The result is a global bird's-eye view of the investment migration industry and a ranking of all the major programs on offer in both the residence and the citizenship sector.

[Dr. Christian H. Kälin](#), an international immigration and citizenship law expert and Group Chairman of [Henley & Partners](#), says, “The *Global Residence and Citizenship Programs* publication is an invaluable tool for all those interested in alternative residence or citizenship as well as for the professionals who advise them, including private client advisors, private bankers, and lawyers. It also provides governments operating investment migration programs with a detailed picture of the broader industry landscape as well as where they fit within it.”

Citizenship-by-investment programs: Malta remains the global leader

For the fourth consecutive year, the Malta Individual Investor Program (MIIP) is the top-ranking citizenship-by-investment program in the world, with a score of 79 out of 100. [Malta](#) is followed in the citizenship ranking by [Cyprus](#) in 2nd place (with a score of 72) and [Austria](#) in 3rd place (with a score of 70). [Antigua and Barbuda](#) is ranked 4th, with a score of 64.

European newcomers [Moldova](#) and [Montenegro](#) performed strongly, in 5th and 6th place respectively, mostly on account of their competitive pricing structure, minimal physical-visit requirements, strong transparency, and streamlined processing. [St. Kitts and Nevis](#) and [Grenada](#) slid slightly down the ranking as a result of these new entries but maintained strong scores of 61 (St. Kitts and Nevis) and 59 (Grenada). [St. Lucia](#) scored 57 and holds 9th place overall. Dominica holds 10th place.

Middle Eastern newcomers Jordan and Turkey join the citizenship index at the bottom of the ranking, below Dominica, which has historically occupied bottom place. Jordan, in 11th place, has a score of 51 out of 100, while Turkey, in 12th place, has a score of 44.

Residence-by-investment programs: Austria claims the top spot

Boasting a score of 79 out of 100, the [Austria Private Residence Program](#) has emerged as the world's best residence-by-investment program, knocking [Portugal](#) off the top spot for the first time since the *Global Residence and Citizenship Programs* publication was launched in 2015. Now in 2nd place, Portugal has a score of 77, while newcomer Italy has claimed 3rd place, scoring 72.

The [Thailand Elite Residence Program](#) comes in at 4th place, with a score of 68, and the [UK Tier 1 Investor Immigration Program](#) holds 5th place, with a score of 67. The [US's EB-5 residence program](#) only holds 8th position on the ranking. In bottom place, Bulgaria's residence program scored 42 points out of a possible 100. 21 residence programs in total were surveyed.

A growing interest in residence and citizenship planning

According to [Dr. Kälin](#), the need for a reference and benchmarking tool such as the *Global Residence and Citizenship Programs* report is more pressing than ever, as the investment migration industry continues to grow at a rapid pace.

“Demand for such programs is at an all-time high,” explains [Dr. Kälin](#), “and new programs are being launched each year. In this high-growth climate, Henley & Partners is committed to providing authoritative, on-the-ground insights to those working in the field of investment migration as well as to the broader public. It is in precisely this spirit that we hold our annual [Global Residence and Citizenship Conference](#), which is all about mapping the major trends and developments shaping our industry and our world.”

The annual event, now in its 12th year, will take place in Dubai this year, from 4 to 6 November. Over 400 delegates from more than 40 different countries are expected to attend, including presidents, prime ministers, senior government officials, leading academics, industry professionals, and top-tier financial and business media. [Dr. Kälin](#) says the conference offers delegates the opportunity to engage with the leading minds and ideas driving the current historic shift towards greater mobility and global citizenship.

Key speakers at the conference include Sophia the Robot, the world's first-ever citizen-robot; the Prime Minister of Malta, the Hon. Dr. Joseph Muscat; President Milo Đukanović of Montenegro; H.E. Chiril Gaburici, Minister of Economy and Infrastructure for the Republic of Moldova; Nasif Kayed, Founder and CEO of The Arab Culturalist, and Taavi Kotka, former CIO of the Government of Estonia. Panel topics range from the relevance of blockchain and artificial

intelligence for global citizenship, to the latest developments in due diligence and compliance, to the implications of the current trade wars on democracy, to the factors that make small states successful.

In a special panel entitled ‘Nature, Nurture, and Nationality’, [Prof. Dr. Dimitry Kochenov](#) will discuss the 2018 edition of the [Henley & Partners – Kochenov Quality of Nationality Index](#), explaining how the quality of a nationality affects the movement of talent and business.

Individuals interested in attending the [12th Global Residence and Citizenship Conference](#) on 4 to 6 November can download the full program of events and register by visiting Henley & Partners’ website: <https://www.henleyglobal.com/grcc2018-overview/>

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Notes to editors

Infographics and program graphs are available for download on the Henley & Partners website: <https://www.henleyglobal.com/books-details/global-residence-and-citizenship-programs-2018-2019/>

About the *Global Citizenship and Residence Programs 2018–2019* report

The *Global Residence and Citizenship Programs* report provides a systematic analysis and comprehensive benchmarking of the world’s leading investment migration programs. In collaboration with a distinguished panel of independent experts, including immigration and citizenship lawyers, economists, country risk experts, and academic researchers, Henley & Partners has created the Global Citizenship Program Index (GCPI) and the Global Residence Program Index (GRPI), which are included in the report.

These two indexes incorporate and analyze a broad range of factors, delivering a global bird’s-eye view of the investment migration industry and a ranking of all the major programs on offer. The indexes are highly relevant not only to those interested in alternative residence or citizenship but also to industry professionals, private client advisors, and governments working within the investment migration industry.

Book Listing

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Citizenship-by-investment programs

The 12 countries included in the GCPI were evaluated according to 10 indicators: Reputation, Quality of Life, Visa-Free or Visa-on-Arrival Access, Processing Time and Quality of Processing, Compliance, Investment Requirements, Residence Requirements, Relocation Flexibility, Physical Visit Requirements, and Transparency. Each indicator had an equal weighting of 10, producing a total score out of 100 for each country.

In ranking order, the 12 countries featured in the GCPI are:

1. Malta
2. Cyprus
3. Austria
4. Antigua and Barbuda
5. Moldova
6. Montenegro
7. St. Kitts and Nevis
8. Grenada
9. St. Lucia
10. Dominica
11. Jordan
12. Turkey

Residence-by-investment programs

For the GRPI, 21 residence programs were evaluated according to 10 indicators: Reputation, Quality of Life, Taxation, Visa-Free or Visa-on-Arrival Access, Processing Time and Quality of Processing, Compliance, Financial Requirements, Total Costs, Time to Citizenship, and Citizenship Requirements. Each indicator had an equal weighting of 10, producing a total score out of 100 for each country.

In ranking order, the 21 countries featured on the GRPI are:

1. Austria
2. Portugal
3. Italy

4. Thailand
5. UK
6. Malta
7. Belgium
7. Australia
8. US
9. Switzerland
10. Canada
11. Dubai/UAE
12. Greece
13. Spain
14. Latvia
15. Jersey
16. Monaco
17. Singapore
18. Cyprus
19. Hong Kong
20. Bulgaria

About Henley & Partners

Henley & Partners is the global leader in residence and citizenship planning. Each year, hundreds of wealthy individuals, families, and their advisors rely on our expertise and experience in this area. The firm's highly qualified professionals work together as one team in over 30 offices worldwide.

The concept of residence and citizenship planning was created by Henley & Partners in the 1990s. As globalization has expanded, residence and citizenship have become topics of significant interest among the increasing number of internationally mobile entrepreneurs and investors whom we proudly serve every day.

The firm also runs a leading government advisory practice that has raised more than USD 7 billion in foreign direct investment. The firm has been involved in strategic consulting and in the design, set-up, and operation of the world's most successful residence and citizenship programs.

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