

---

**German Nationality Ranked Highest in the World**

**London, Wednesday, 13 September 2017**

---

Germany's quality of nationality is ranked first in the world, according to the *Henley & Partners – Kochenov Quality of Nationality Index (QNI)*, which was launched in London today. Consistently securing the top spot for the last six years, Germany scored 82.7% out of a possible 100% on the index — the first of its kind to objectively rank the value of every nationality of the world in terms of legal status in which to develop your talents and business. The global mean in 2016 was 39.32%, with Afghanistan sitting at the bottom of the index with a score of 14.6%.

Following closely behind Germany are France and Denmark who share second place on the index with a score of 82.4%. Iceland ranks third overall at 81.3%. The UK also made it into the Extremely High category on the index, just missing out on a 'Top 10' place by coming 12<sup>th</sup> with a score of 79.2%. The US, meanwhile, ranked only 29<sup>th</sup> on the QNI with a score of 68.8% — mainly due to its relatively low Settlement Freedom compared to nationalities of the EU Member States, and its weak showing on the Peace and Stability element of the index.

Prof. Dr. Dimitry Kochenov, a leading constitutional law professor with a long-standing interest in European and comparative citizenship law, says the key premise of the index is that it's possible to compare the relative worth of nationalities, as opposed to, simply, states. "Everyone has a nationality of one or more states. States differ to a great degree — Russia is huge; Malta is small — Luxembourg is rich; Mongolia is less so. Just as with the states, the nationalities themselves differ too. Importantly, there is no direct correlation between the power of the state and the quality of its nationality. Nationality plays a significant part in determining our opportunities and aspirations, and the QNI allows us to analyze this objectively."

The QNI is not a perception index. It uses a wide variety of quantifiable data to determine the opportunities and limitations that our nationalities impose on us. To achieve this, the QNI measures both the internal value of nationality — the quality of life and opportunities for personal growth within a nationality's country of origin — and the external value of nationality — which identifies the diversity and quality of opportunities that nationalities allow us to pursue outside our country of origin.

"Before the launch of the QNI, no single, credible source existed that ranked the nationalities of the world. The second edition of the QNI — which represents the status quo as on 10 October 2016 — reflects the quality of all the world's nationalities. It also includes a number of new nationality and status entries, such as Israeli laissez-passer, South Sudan, and eight British nationalities/statuses. The methodology has also been updated to include territories such as Dutch and French overseas territories, US territories, Greenland, and the Faroe Islands as settlement destinations," says Kochenov.

## **Brexit and the implications for UK nationality**

This second edition of the QNI also interrogates the quality of a post ‘hard Brexit’ British nationality, comparing it to its current status. According to Kochenov, a hard Brexit could leave the UK with a nationality that doesn’t enjoy settlement and work rights in 30 leading states, overwhelmingly impairing the quality of its nationality. The QNI research shows that even if you presume no economic loss to the UK as a result of leaving the EU and focus only on the external rather than internal components of nationality quality, the UK will be in a free fall in terms of its quality, losing its value very sharply and by far exceeding the losses experienced by the countries in the midst of bitter political and armed conflicts, as well as divided societies whose nationalities are at the forefront of failing to perform, such as the Syrian and Libyan nationalities.

“The UK is about to establish a world record in terms of profoundly undermining the quality of its nationality without going through any violent conflict, falling from the elite group of Extremely High Quality nationalities to the Very High Quality group, changing its neighbors in the ranking from the likes of Switzerland and Germany to the likes of Brazil and Romania. The moral is simple: EU citizenship is an extremely valuable resource and getting rid of it — crippling citizens’ horizon of opportunities — should not be taken lightly,” Kochenov concludes.

## **A unique measurement tool**

Dr. Christian H. Kälin, a leading specialist on international immigration and citizenship law and policy, and Group Chairman of Henley & Partners, says the QNI is relevant to both individuals interested in their own mobility, the possibilities and the limitations of their nationality, and governments focused on improving the local, regional and global opportunities inherent in their passports.

Kälin says, “The reality that the QNI describes is in many respects regrettable: in the majority of circumstances, our nationality plays an important role in establishing a highly arbitrary ceiling for our opportunities and aspirations, reflecting the core concept of being a national of just one particular place. The QNI provides an empowering perspective that serves to help individuals with the important decisions they must make regarding where to live and raise a family, do business, and enjoy a satisfying global lifestyle, in order to define their future.”

“The QNI is relevant and of interest to all individuals, and a vital resource for those who are financially independent and wish to enjoy the benefits of alternative citizenship, as it provides assistance in selecting the most valuable second or third nationality. Over the last decade there has been a growing trend amongst wealthy and talented individuals to build up a citizenship portfolio to ensure greater international opportunity, stability, freedom and security for themselves and their families,” Kälin adds.

## **Key findings**

- Generally, the global quality of nationalities went up by 0.75%. All nationalities saw a change in value in 2016 but only 45 lost value. By comparison, 88 nationalities lost value in 2015
- 140 nationalities increased in value in 2016, which is 59 more than in 2015. The global mean in 2016 was 39.32%, with the German nationality again positioned at the top of the QNI General Ranking with a score of 82.7%, and Afghanistan at the bottom of the index on 14.6%
- In 2016, 28 nationalities were of Extremely High Quality (75% and above); 17 nationalities were of Very High Quality (above 50.0%); 43 nationalities were of High Quality (between 35.0% and 49.9%); 93 nationalities were in the Medium Quality tier (between 20.0% and 34.9%); and 14 nationalities were of Low Quality (below 20.0%)
- The shifts in the High Quality tier are most significant. As many as 17 nationalities which previously belonged to the Medium Quality tier have improved in value and are now classified as High Quality in 2016. These primarily include the nationalities of Colombia and Peru, as well as those of five Caribbean states (the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago), which saw significant improvement in value and in their general ranking positions in 2016, due to the recent Schengen visa liberalization
- In the EU, the Croatian nationality continued to improve and move up the rankings with the removal of settlement restrictions by EU member states, but the remaining nationalities in the EU all fell slightly in value

## **Risers and fallers 2015–2016**

The seven nationalities rising furthest in the ranking in 2016 are five Caribbean states, Timor-Leste and Colombia, all of which benefitted from significant improvement to their Travel Freedom scores due to the opening up of visa-free tourist and business travel to Europe's Schengen area:

- Timor-Leste was the highest climber, moving up 31 places to 95<sup>th</sup> place
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Commonwealth of Dominica each climbed 25 places on the index, now ranking 65<sup>th</sup> and 68<sup>th</sup> respectively
- The third highest climber was Grenada, rising 24 positions to 67<sup>th</sup> place
- Senegal dropped the most on the index, losing 16 positions to rank 104<sup>th</sup>

- Libya and Saudi Arabia lost 15 and 14 places respectively on the QNI, dropping to 145<sup>th</sup> and 82<sup>nd</sup> position respectively

### **Top risers and fallers 2012–2016**

Over the last five years, Colombia has risen the most on the QNI, climbing by 48 positions to 62<sup>nd</sup> place. Timor-Leste, which climbed the highest in the latest ranking, is also the second highest climber from 2012–2016, rising by 28 positions overall.

Most of the nationalities which lost significant quality have been affected by political instability or serious conflicts in their respective countries. Such developments have a severe impact on their Peace and Stability score as well as an indirect impact on the Human Development, Economic Strength, and Travel Freedom elements of the index. The Syrian Arab Republic fell the most over the last five years, decreasing its rank by 27 places to settle on 154<sup>th</sup> position on the 2016 index. Libya — the second largest faller on the index between 2015–2016 — is also the second largest faller over the last five years, dropping by 21 positions to 145<sup>th</sup> place.

QNI infographics, radar graphs, and expert commentary essays will be available for download on the Henley & Partners website <https://www.henleyglobal.com/quality-of-nationality/> as well as the QNI website <https://www.nationalityindex.com/>.

**-Ends-**

### **Notes to Editors**

#### ***About the Henley & Partners – Kochenov Quality of Nationality Index***

The *Henley & Partners – Kochenov Quality of Nationality Index* (QNI) provides a comprehensive ranking of the quality of nationalities worldwide. To gauge the opportunities and limitations that our nationalities impose on us, the QNI measures both the internal value of nationality, which refers to the quality of life within a nationality's country of origin, and the external value of nationality, which identifies the diversity and quality of opportunities that nationalities allow us to pursue outside our countries of origin.

The QNI will be of interest to anyone who would like to know how their nationality performs in comparison to others and is interested in the local, regional and global opportunities, mobility, life chances and limitations of their nationality. It is of significant interest to financially independent individuals who wish to acquire the benefits of an alternative citizenship; the QNI provides assistance in selecting the most valuable second or third nationality for themselves and their families.

## **About the creators**

**Prof. Dr. Dimitry Kochenov** holds a Chair in EU Constitutional Law at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. He is also the Chairman of the Investment Migration Council in Switzerland. He has held numerous fellowships and visiting professorships worldwide, including at Princeton University, NYU Law School, Boston College Law School, Osaka Graduate School of Law, the University of Turin, and the University of Basel. He publishes widely on different aspects of comparative and European citizenship law and migration regulation, and consults for governments and international organizations on EU constitutional law and citizenship issues. His latest publication is an edited volume entitled *EU Citizenship and Federalism: The Role of Rights*, published by Cambridge University Press in April this year.

**Dr. Christian H. Kälin**, TEP, IMCM, is the Group Chairman of Henley & Partners. After completing Zurich Business School and his training at a Swiss private bank, he lived and studied for many years in France, the US, New Zealand and Switzerland. A holder of *cum laude* Master's and PhD degrees in law from the University of Zurich, he is a frequent writer and speaker on residence- and citizenship-by-investment and advises key clients as well as governments in those areas. He is the author of the *Global Residence and Citizenship Handbook* and editor of the *Switzerland Business & Investment Handbook* as well as numerous other publications.

## **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 its expertise and experience in this area. The firm's highly qualified professionals work together as one team in over 25 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 they proudly serve every day.

The firm also runs a leading government advisory practice which has raised more than USD 6 billion in foreign direct investment. The firm has been involved in strategic consulting and the design, set-up, and operation of the world's most successful residence and citizenship programs.

[henleyglobal.com](http://henleyglobal.com)

**Media Contact**

For further information, a copy of the report, and interview requests, please contact:

**Sarah Nicklin**

Henley & Partners

Group Public Relations Manager

[sarah.nicklin@henleyglobal.com](mailto:sarah.nicklin@henleyglobal.com)

Direct: +27 21 850 0524

Mobile: +27 72 464 8965