

GOVERNMENT

Malta tops Henley & Partners Global Citizenship Program Index

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The European island tops the 13-program list for 2024 for the ninth year in a row. Image credit: Henley & Partners

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

London-based investment migration consultancy Henley & Partners finds that a Mediterranean country is attracting pools of high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs).

Malta tops the company's Global Citizenship Program Index this year. Thanks to its Granting of Citizenship for Exceptional Services by Direct Investment Regulations, increasing numbers of affluent homebuyers are taking up residence in exchange for boosting the national economy.

"Acquiring alternative residence and/or citizenship by participating in reputable investment migration programs enables greater flexibility and participation in the world's leading economies, as well as optionality, which is now an indispensable part of any family's insurance policy for the 21st century," said Juerg Steffen, CEO of [Henley & Partners](#), in a statement.

"The more jurisdictions a family can access, the more diversified its assets, the lower its exposure to country-specific, regional, and global volatility, and the more sustainable it will be over the long term."

Interest in investment

Henley & Partners' rankings continue to be dominated by European citizenship investment programs.

| Rank | Country | Total Score |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------|
| 1 st | Malta | 77 |
| 2 nd | Austria | 74 |
| 3 rd | Antigua and Barbuda | 70 |
| 3 rd | Grenada | 70 |
| 3 rd | St. Lucia | 70 |

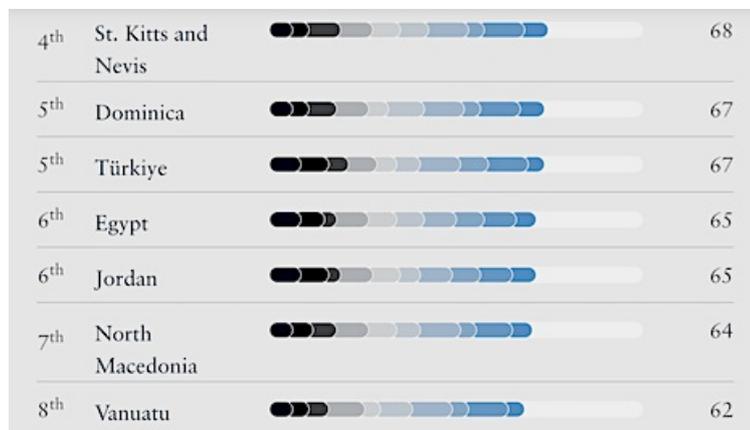
European countries take up the top two spots, followed by nations in the Caribbean. Image credit: Henley & Partners

Following a systemic analysis and benchmarking of the globe's initiatives, Malta tops the 13-program list for 2024 for the ninth

year in a row. A panel of specialists and independent experts spanning academia, legal and financial sectors appraised the finding.

The number one country scored 77 out of 100, with its aforementioned regulations giving foreign investors and their families citizenship via a certificate of naturalization. This is done after a 36-month residence period or 12 months in certain exceptions.

Austria came in second place, achieving a score of 74 the locale topping other recent publications from Henley & Partners as well (see story). Its premium citizenship-by-investment path requires applicants to give a substantial financial contribution to the country's economy.



The rankings were reviewed by independent and panel experts. Image credit: Henley & Partners

Third place is shared by three nations in the Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada and St. Lucia.

Each earning 70 out of 100, their Citizenship by Investment Programs all provide routes that involve real estate and fund options. Antigua, for example, offers alternative business investment choices or HNWIs can make a non-refundable donation to the University of the West Indies.

In fourth place, St. Kitts and Nevis racked up a score of 68 with its Citizenship by Investment Program. That of the Dominican Republic earned its country 67, bringing it into fifth place.

Henley & Partners top European real estate-linked investment migration program webcast

This spot is shared with Turkey, which has multiple ways to receive citizenship. Like the Caribbean countries, there is a real estate option.

"In this era of heightened global volatility, nation states are using residence and citizenship by investment programs as an innovative financing tool to fund national or regional social and infrastructure projects as well as development initiatives that mitigate sustainability risks, to the benefit of their citizens and residents," said Christian H. Kaelin, international immigration and citizenship law expert and chairman at Henley & Partners, in a statement.