Live and work in MALTA

With new citizenship and residency by investment programs plus a digital nomad residence permit, the beautiful island nation is a perfect location for global investors, entrepreneurs and remote workers.
There are many reasons to come to Malta. Located at the heart of the Mediterranean region, this island nation—a European Union (EU) member state—boasts incredible weather and a rich culture reflecting its history as the crossroads of Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

From its beautiful capital city of Valletta, the country that is no stranger to outsiders can be explored conveniently and in comfort. Cosmopolitan, outward looking and firmly planted within the eurozone, Malta has been able to leverage its unique position to build a diverse economy, the dynamism of which belies its relatively small size. While its location means that tourism will always be a vital pillar of prosperity in the country, pro-business government policies have helped transform the Pearl of the Mediterranean into an innovative and future-proof economy. Traditional sectors such as financial services, manufacturing, tourism, aviation and marine are now complemented by technology-intensive industries including gaming, blockchain, artificial intelligence, fintech, life sciences and advanced manufacturing.

As COVID-19 engulfed Maltese neighbors to the north, the country is to be commended on its management of the pandemic. Its world-class health system was able to stay on top of the crisis by testing at a rate which was the third-highest per capita in the world. As a result, Malta never had to fully close its economy, its hospitals were not overloaded and, thanks to other smart government policies, tens of thousands of jobs were preserved that could have been lost—an impressive feat when you consider that its population is only just over 500,000. “We faced this crisis without resorting to austerity measures and putting the burden on the people. Instead, we launched the biggest ever financial aid package for businesses and workers,” says Prime Minister Robert Abela. “We protected lives and livelihoods. And we are one of only two countries in all of Europe where job opportunities rose rather than diminished.”

With a vaccination campaign on track to be among the EU’s fastest, Malta is poised to take advantage of future opportunities. As the rest of the world emerges from widespread draconian lockdowns, Malta has been adapting its economy for the altered post-COVID landscape and it’s increasingly looking like Malta will have a running head start as the world seeks to put the experience of the pandemic behind it. “We’ve managed to achieve a lot despite the troubled times. Now imagine what we could do as we head toward normality,” comments Abela. “I’m looking at 2021 with optimism and positivity. We will emerge much stronger than we started.”

A modern, post-industrial economy
Classified as a highly industrialized advanced economy by the International Monetary Fund, the benefits of living and working in Malta can best be understood in terms of convenience, access and dependability. English—which shares the title of official language with Maltese—is widely spoken, a fact that makes life considerably more navigable for visitor and new residents alike. As a member of the EU, Maltese citizens have frictionless access to that vast market, as well as the sophisticated legal and institutional safety net that is built into the European Constitution. Among Europe’s southernmost countries, Malta is conveniently situated within close proximity to North Africa and the Middle East, allowing for easy access to these vast markets. It has a strong manufacturing base, especially for pharmaceuticals and electronics. Unusually for a small island nation, Malta also has a notably vibrant film industry and many marquee Hollywood films have chosen it as a shooting location.

Rule of law, property rights and personal rights are priorities in this stable democracy. In addition, the country’s relatively small size is a great asset: while many larger democracies lack the ability to implement bold forward-focused policies due to partisan strife or lack of cohesiveness, in Malta there remains the ability to be nimble and responsive to the needs of the population and businesses. Given its situation—small and with few natural resources—the country has had to be adept in positioning itself as a welcoming environment for business investment. It has a relatively low tax rate and a government that is keen to work with industry leaders to map the best path forward. Such adaptability has worked to Malta’s benefit, as the country is looking forward to 5 percent growth in gross domestic product in the coming year, according to its central bank.

Malta’s plans for future growth put great emphasis on creating the right ecosystem for economic development and innovation in order to become the incubator of Europe. Part of achieving this goal includes attracting the right kind of talent and investment from abroad. Toward these ends, the country has updated and improved its residency and citizenship by investment programs so that it can be more effective as well as more discriminating. It wants to bring in its shores talent, skills and wealth, but it must be the right kind of talent, skills and wealth. People who come must not see it as a toehold from which the lucrative European economy can be accessed. Instead, the new rules aim to encourage newcomers not only to add to the vibrancy of the Maltese economy, but also to have a sense of place in Maltese society at large.

“We faced this crisis without resorting to austerity measures. And we are one of only two countries in Europe where job opportunities rose rather than diminished.”
Prime Minister Robert Abela

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The small, agile and open Pearl of the Mediterranean is well positioned for the new post-COVID economic landscape

www.country-reports.net
Malta keeps its rank as the best place to migrate to in 2021

New citizenship and residency rules aim to reinforce an innovative economy with talent and capital

Investment migration can be best understood as a trade: the migrant is offered residency or citizenship upon satisfying certain demands for investment in a country. The individual and often their families will be able to enjoy all of the benefits of the state—which in Malta are considerable—and, in return, the migrant will add to the economic life of their adoptive homeland.

Malta is a global leader in this area: its citizenship program has been ranked the best in the world for six years running by Henley & Partners’ Capital Mobility Index. The new Citizenship for Exceptional Services by Direct Investment Programme is looking to improve on this past success while ironing out some of the older initiative’s flaws. For one thing, it is looking to put a premium on attracting talent from across the world to broadly the scope for what talent can be brought in to advance the Maltese economy. The same is true of the new Malta Permanent Residency Programme. “Attracting new investors to our shores, opening up new opportunities and investing in new businesses are factors that we are giving a lot of importance to,” says Alex Muscat, Parliamentary Secretary for Citizenship and Communities.

He sees the vitality of investment migration as only growing in the wake of the pandemic, which has altered people’s perception of where they can work and how they can live. As working in a dense office environment was deemed unsafe around the world, companies made the swift transformation to having their employees work from home, where all people required was a decent internet connection to complete their tasks. Many predict that this new approach to work—working remotely or, at the very least, a hybrid combination of the two—is here to stay.

Why not be in a warm, safe and welcoming climate such as Malta? The cost of living is cheaper than in London, New York or Berlin, for example, the climate is far more temperate, yet the amenities are on par with any of those places. From kindergarten to university level, the Maltese education system is excellent. There is also a top-notch medical safety net in place, as the country’s experience with COVID-19 made evident. In addition, dining and entertainment in Malta are world renowned, with the nation boasting no fewer than five Michelin-starred eating establishments.

Newcomers that want to come to Malta and set up businesses are an extra boon for the country. Officials there are confident that, by attracting the right kind of talent, an even more dynamic economic environment will be created. It’s a perfect cycle: the more talent that enters, the more vibrant the economy becomes, which will itself draw in more talent. “Ultimately, says Muscat, ‘those businesses will thrive and contribute to economic growth, making Malta a better place for all that live here. If you’ll allow me to mix my metaphors, it’s not just a jigsaw, we are talking about a domino effect too.”

“Around 10 percent of applications are rejected by us, which is standard, and about 3-4 percent of applications are withdrawn following questions to applicants ... This gives a lot of confidence to those that are granted admission.”

Charles Mizzi, CEO, Residency Malta Agency

Blue waters make Malta popular for scuba divers

Malta boasts some of the finest weather in Europe

Valletta: a city resounding in Renaissance and Baroque architecture
After a dark year, time for tourism’s return

Malta is looking forward to an influx of digital nomads

Everyone in Malta is excited to see the return of tourism, a sector that makes up 15 percent of the country's gross domestic product and was painfully affected by the pandemic.

Malta has long been one of the most sought after destinations in Europe. The starting point for visitors is Valletta, which has been the capital city since the 16th century. From here, visitors can start peeling away at the layers of Malta’s history, with numerous cultures leaving their mark on the islands: since ancient times, Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Greeks, Arabs, Normans, Aragonese, Knights of St. John, and, until 1964, the British have all had their time at the helm of the archipelago’s government.

This rich history is woven into daily life and colors the experience of all who visit the country. It is this history that tourists encounter as they experience Malta’s three United Nations World Heritage sites, and it is a history that is tasted in Malta’s fine cuisine. The weather is another substantial draw. Much of Europe is cold and damp, something that is of no issue in Malta, where it is sunny most days of the year and there is an average annual temperature of 23°C.

Extended vacation experiences

Clayton Bartolo, Minister of Tourism and Consumer Protection, is hoping that, with the country's revised citizenship and residency programs in place, people who come to Malta might decide not to leave. He is looking forward to a future where there can be a new, hybrid type of tourist, one who arrives in Malta to work for part of the week, but then spends the rest of the week playing. With its modern infrastructure, many amenities and fabulous potential for outdoor activities, there is little to getting in the way of a working holiday.

Such an approach is in keeping with the rise of digital nomadism in a world where people can work from anywhere. Those coming to Malta will find a highly evolved, innovative economic landscape where friendly, pro-business government policies are attracting a wealth of interesting companies that are anticipating the industries of the future.

Seeing the writing on the wall, Bartolo is looking forward to a time in the not-too-distant future when Malta will be offering residence nomad permits to those who, no longer chained to a desk and chair, want to escape the dense cities and cold climates of Central and Northern Europe or further afield to make a beeline for Malta’s beautiful beaches. Quality of life is certainly a huge selling point in this regard. Malta is safe, has good schools, fabulous dining offerings, and a demonstrably good medical system.

With an eye toward recovery, he “wants to improve the total experience, so that our visitors enjoy clear value for their money. Our visitors will be treated to high-quality, not just in our four- and five-star hotels, but everywhere they go, whether that be to our beaches, our restaurants or our cultural attractions.” Toward these ends, his ministry has focused on combining different avenues of niche tourism with an experience that will keep the country among the top rated by holiday makers.

“As it invites outsiders to join its robust economy, Malta’s advantages are hard to ignore: it welcomes innovation at the same time as it strives to conserve its history, environment and culture; it has a pro-business government that values consumer protection and market stability; unemployment rates are low; and the country currently ranks well with the ratings agencies, leading many to predict that the economic rebound will be a strong one. And just as it has welcomed diverse visitors throughout its history, Malta will continue to do so in the future, says Bartolo. “My vision is that, as soon as a tourist steps off the plane or the ship here until the moment they go back home, the experience is so unforgettably good that they will immediately want to return.”

www.residencymalta.gov.mt
What are some of the key projects that you and your ministry are focusing on in 2021?

Quite a number are in the pipeline. The majority of the initiatives falling within my purview were very useful in terms of the wealth that they created for Malta to be in a much stronger position in terms of COVID-19. Most of the initiatives that the government was taking were also partly financed via our initiatives, via foreign direct investment (FDI) coming in through a number of programs that we had in place.

What are we setting for 2021 is, hopefully, a post-COVID era now, where vaccination in Malta is going very fast. The intention is to even increase the rate at which we are vaccinating our people and to hit the ground running as fast as we can. Investment migration is top on the government’s agenda. Basically, attracting FDI, attracting new investors to our shores, opening up new opportunities and investing in new businesses are factors that we are giving a lot of importance to. An increasingly growing number of families are realizing how important it is to have multiple residences and have residency based in a number of countries.

“...If you want to come here to Malta, the doors are open, but only for the people who are able to prove that they have generated their wealth through good and proper means.”

Alex Muscat
Parliamentary Secretary for Citizenship and Communities

2020 proved to be a tumultuous year for investment migration at the global level. What are the main differences between Malta’s former citizenship by investment program and the new one that you launched in 2021?

We are prioritizing quality over quantity, we are not after the numbers like maybe other countries are. We are more after the individual talent of the investors who end up, not only participating in the program, but actually investing in other areas here in Malta.

Malta’s vibrant economy packs a powerful punch considering the country’s size and population. What are some of the latest highlights of Malta’s future-proof economy? Is the economy still facing a labor shortage and, if so, how is your secretariat working to tackle this challenge?

Malta is still facing a labor shortage. Within my remit is identity Malta, which is the Maltese agency responsible for giving residence and work permits to non-Maltese people, be they EU or third-country nationals. We have had businesses craving for labor and it was much more cumbersome to get foreign labor to come to Malta during the pandemic, especially when airports were not functioning as normal.

On the other hand, we are working on our first nomad residence permit. During the pandemic, a lot of people realized that you could work from home and your home can be anywhere in the world. We want to attract this kind of person and we see this as a great opportunity. We will be launching our nomad residence permit very soon. We know other countries have already ventured into this area, but they are mainly giving national visas. A residence permit gives you even more flexibility when it comes to what you can do, not only in Malta but also in the rest of the EU, especially in the Schengen area. You will still be paying your national income tax where you are physically employed—you are just living in Malta, enjoying our economy, our weather, our lifestyle and enjoying not being in a lockdown.

In terms of investment opportunities for those seeking citizenship, what are the most attractive and lucrative openings in Malta today, both in terms of real estate and other areas?

Real estate has always been very interesting in Malta. The Maltese property market is very competitive. Despite our size and the limited land we have, there is never in Maltese history have we had a situation where property prices went down. That makes the available stock more limited.

What would be your final message to readers of Newsweek about Malta as a place to invest, live and work?

Being the size it is, Malta has always paid a lot of attention to the sense of community. In a way, you are not just investing, you are not just a number in Malta, you are an individual. The physical contact between investor and the politician gives much greater ease of mind to the investors, knowing that they are close to the door in a way. This way, the legislator can be more responsive to the needs of investors and this is something that gives them reassurance.

On the other hand, also because of our size, we tend to be much faster when it comes to legislative processes—a year in other countries takes maybe three months here in Malta. We are not the biggest of boys but we most probably are one of the fastest. That is one of our advantages. Opportunities are much more tailored here in Malta, much more particular, but that is also why we are a little bit more selective and maybe we can afford to be that little bit more discerning.

That is what we intend to keep on doing; keep on attracting investors, be more attentive to the investors who come in and maybe be a little bit more selective. We have always been and I believe that there are still lots of opportunities. The way our economy and our society at large reacted during the pandemic, I think will put us in a situation post-COVID-19 where investors will evaluate us differently. They will value the fact that our health system never collapsed, our economy was never really hit that hard. All of these things put together will make Malta a very attractive opportunity for all investors around the world who want a safe place not only to reside, but also to invest and make sure that their investment keeps on growing.
Clayton Bartolo, Minister of Tourism and Consumer Protection, strongly believes that Malta has the potential to be at the forefront of digital tourism.

As the new Minister of Tourism and Consumer Protection, what is your vision for Malta’s tourism industry and what are some priority projects you are focusing on to create new momentum in the sector?

The pandemic has brought long-awaited inevitable change and it has forced us to implement solutions. As a country in this recovery stage, we need to strike a healthy balance between volume and operations, creating a workable strategy to ensure revenues which will make operations viable. A few weeks ago, we mapped out a 10-year strategy for Malta’s tourism industry, which we are currently updating in discussions with the primary local stakeholders.

The tourism sector is fundamental in our local economy. It needs to recover as quickly as possible in order to ensure a quick economic recovery for the rest of the country. Connectivity is key for smoothing the recovery period and assuring us in leaving behind the impact of the pandemic as soon as possible.

The second pillar is rethinking our tourism product. While the pandemic has been a challenge, it also provides us with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to overhaul our tourism offering and ideology. Rather than just concentrating on number crunching or a simple quick fix, we are taking the time to rethink and innovate our tourism product with these niches.

We are focusing on niche tourism, and I can mention several areas in which this gives us value as an attractive destination. Malta is known for its dive sites and we are looking to capitalize more on that. In fact, we are finishing up on the details of a package to attract divers this coming summer here to the island.

The current challenges have also assisted us in leaving behind the impact of the pandemic as soon as possible. We have created a COVID-19-free environment, where we had a number of teams come from all over the world. Under the appropriate health protocols and testing, they held a very successful, COVID-positive tournament.

What are you currently working on to attract high-end clients and allow us to continue building our tourism sector on a solid foundation? What kind of focus-driven, experience-driven and sustainable tourism are you embracing at the moment for future trends?

There are various tourism trends that we are noticing and have been studying through the Malta Tourism Authority network in many countries. For example, one trend which stands out is LGBTQIA+ tourism, which is another niche where we believe quality over quantity needs to take centre stage. The investment made in hotels here in Malta over the past few years ranges from three-star to five-star, and now we are also seeing the five-star-supervisor accreditation springing up.

While emphasizing quality over quantity, we need to find a balance that ensures that these hotels get their return on investment, while providing a higher quality experience and, in turn, attract high-quality tourists. We are working steadily on this area together with the Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Planning in order to increase green areas and clean air in Malta. This style of working with all the ministers and cabinets together to achieve these goals is the way forward. These synergies between the departments of government are essential to elevating our tourism product and the resulting experience for our visitors.

What would be your final message for readers of Newsweek?

Malta is open for business, coming out of the pandemic even stronger than it was before. We are undertaking a very exciting project here, not just involving tourism, but affecting the whole economy. Come join us, be a part of our projects and together we can be a success.

At the moment, think of Malta as a country where a person can live, work and enjoy oneself. Being such a small island, you can literally be at the beach in the morning and in a Michelin-rated restaurant in the evening, seeing all that is available on an island. These digital nomads also bring an added value to our economy. With this in mind, we have the opportunity to create a robust ecosystem of digital nomads who work here in Malta, earn their wages here and invest in the economy.

At the same time we are ensuring and heightening sustainability because they will not be traveling as much, as nowadays we are relying more and more on digital means of communications. Malta can easily support this ecosystem with its very sound digital and excellent internet connectivity infrastructure. Malta already has all the right ingredients to become a digital nomad hub, attracting future residents, mostly from the Northern European countries where they can do the same work but in a much different climate.
Forging a robust and enticing profile for Malta

Charles Mizzi, CEO, Residency Malta

Agency, believes that the pandemic provided Malta with the impetus to think long term.

In what ways did you shift or refocus your priorities over the last year to tackle the challenges and opportunities that have emerged during this time?

The past 12 months have been incredibly challenging for everyone, and Residency Malta Agency was no exception. From an operational standpoint, we made some internal changes to allow some of our employees to work remotely. Over the last six months, we have been working on a new IT system to improve internal processing and put us in a position where we will eventually receive part of the residency application process digitally as well. This would improve our efficiency and allow us to respond better in situations like the pandemic. Agents and applicants will be able to reach us more easily and submit part of an application online.

The last 12 months have also been fruitful because we were able to process a lot more applications than we used to. COVID-19 gave us more time to dedicate to such applications, and now we are processing applications as they come in. This gives us enough time to review the applications thoroughly and allow applicants to reply to any questions that may arise in the due diligence process.

Furthermore, we had time to assess the entire structure of the program and we came up with a new residency by investment proposition, building on the strong points of our old program with some additional features aiming to provide more value to our target audience. It is a win-win situation for both the agents and applicants.

We made sure to involve stakeholders in the process, and I am proud to say that we have received feedback from agencies has been positive.

What strategies are you applying in your agency’s due diligence and standard setting processes to ensure that the highest levels are continuously upheld?

One needs to be close to the sector to be aware of the level of detail that goes into analyzing an application. It takes a lot of time, effort, resources and even money, and it is something that we pride ourselves on because we are not after quantity, but quality. We only want those who are suited to Malta to make it part of their residency application process digitally as well. This would improve our internal processing and to put us in a position where we will eventually receive part of the residency application process digitally as well. This would improve our efficiency and allow us to respond better in situations like the pandemic. Agents and applicants will be able to reach us more easily and submit part of an application online.

The new program is called Malta Permanent Residence Programme. Prospective applicants will still have two options to choose from, either to buy or rent a property in Malta. If they decide to buy a property, they will have to contribute €350,000. If they rent the residence, the contribution will go up to €98,000. Over and above that, they will need to make a €2,000 donation to a local non-governmental organization to strengthen the link with the local community. Property purchase prices will also go up by €30,000. Applicants may either buy property in the southern region of Malta, for example in Gozo, or in the rest of the country. In the south and Gozo, the minimum price is €380,000, while in the rest of Malta, the price would be a minimum of €350,000.

Why should investors, professionals and digital nomads choose Malta as a new place of residence? What are Malta’s main advantages compared to other competitive destinations in the region?

To start with, Malta is a very safe country. I emphasize this because our principal target market comprises family units, people who want to give better opportunities to their families, better education, healthcare and they want to bring up their families in a very safe environment. We have a very stable and democratic jurisdiction. This gives peace of mind to investors who want to come to Malta to raise their children. We have a robust economy, one of the best in Europe. Our climate is also a strong point. The sun shines 300 days of the year. This is something our visitors value enormously as they do not have this experience at home.

The Maltese are a hospitable and welcoming people. We also have a large expat community which is a big help when people are choosing a place to live. There is a mix of many varied cultures and communities, yet English is an official language, so people find it easy to communicate. The level of education is high with a large selection of both public and private schools, and the healthcare system is state-of-the-art, one of the best in the world. These are just some of the factors that make Malta an attractive proposition to our target audience.

What do you think differentiates Malta from other programs targeting digital nomads?

There is a mix of many varied cultures and communities, yet English is an official language, so people find it easy to communicate. The level of education is high with a large selection of both public and private schools, and the healthcare system is state-of-the-art, one of the best in the world. These are just some of the factors that make Malta an attractive proposition to our target audience.

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What are your views on the trend of programs attracting digital nomads with one- or two-year visas? How is Residency Malta leveraging the opportunities that have come about from the current surge in remote working?

At the moment, we are also working on a nomad residence permit, which is similar to what other countries are offering with some differentiating factors. This is not something completely new, because digital nomads are already present in Malta. They are made up of European workers who came to Malta to work from here namely for our climate, environment and the infrastructure. This new initiative will target third-country nationals who need a permit to travel to Malta and reside here, stay for short periods, and do business or work remotely from our country.

What will be your final message for readers of Newstalk?

Malta has been and always will be a welcoming country to entrepreneurs who want to settle here or expand their business. Our strategic location makes us a gateway for entrepreneurs to Europe, Africa and the Middle East. We go that extra mile to attract new business and make visitors feel at ease and look at Malta as their second home.

When it comes to our own sector, the future looks bright. We look forward to what the new program will bring to the country. Feedback from agents has been extremely positive and we are hopeful that it will help to attract more talent to Malta. Our aim is to entice people to settle here and bring their families to Malta.
Fortifying citizenship for a stronger Malta

The newly formed Community Malta Agency promises to improve the efficiency of investment migration while increasing levels of due diligence.

The pandemic made 2020 quite a challenging year for us all. Our agency, which deals with citizenship matters and depends to a large extent on people traveling, had its fair share of challenges as well.

The Agency’s operations were affected in various ways and it needed to refocus its priorities to tackle the unprecedented situations during this time. This included matters such as the travel restrictions, closed embassies, people working from home and not being able to meet physically. All the processes involved, be it gathering the required documentation, authentications and going to embassies for certifications, just to mention a few, were things previously taken for granted which became virtually impossible to do.

The Agency reviewed its procedures and wherever possible, adjusted to meet the new realities. Certain elements were facilitated, delays in the submission of documents were accepted, but the non-submission of required documentation was by no means allowed. Sacrificing the quality while meeting the new realities. Certain elements were facilitated, delays in the submission of documents were accepted, but the non-submission of required documentation was by no means allowed. Sacrificing the quality while meeting the new realities. Certain elements were facilitated, delays in the submission of documents were accepted, but the non-submission of required documentation was by no means allowed.

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Higher standards, more diligence

Malta is renowned for operating at the highest standards, setting the bar for others to follow, but there is always more to do. Given that we have an open-minded approach, and with Malta constantly changing and improving, the government closed the Individual Investor Programme and implemented more rigorous regulations. While applicants who had already started the process could continue having their application scrutinized, the government closed the Individual Investor Programme and implemented more rigorous regulations.

All the information is gathered and passed on to the Minister who decides on whether the applicant is eligible to apply for Maltese citizenship. Applicants need to make use of the services of licensed agents who are approved and licensed by the Agency. The agents are authorized to guide these applicants through the whole application process and submit their applications. These agents may be public accountants or auditors, lawyers or financial advisors duly licensed by a competent authority upon attending training organized by the Agency.

With these agents come increased intelligence sharing and background checks. Everywhere around the world, the negative focus tends to be on those who are obtaining citizenship through direct investment. This is just a small fraction of those persons who through many ways can acquire citizenship, and intelligence gathering. It’s not a simple transaction one can get easily off the shelf. It must be earned. Being a Maltese Citizen is a privilege that carries with it the honour and prestige of forming part of a nation relishing a great culture and its deep historical roots.

Licensed agents

Another major implementation is the dedicated regulations specifically enacted to license persons to act as agents for the purpose of processing applications under the Granting of Citizenship for Exceptional Services Regulations. Applicants need to make use of the services of licensed agents who are approved and licensed by the Agency. The agents are authorized to guide these applicants through the whole application process and submit their applications. These agents may be public accountants or auditors, lawyers or financial advisors duly licensed by a competent authority upon attending training organized by the Agency.

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Investment opportunities

Should an application be processed successfully, then welcome to the Pearl of the Mediterranean! New talent is never sufficient and initiatives like citizenship or residence by investment are being adopted by many countries specifically to attract skilled labour.

The world is becoming a competitive arena for the best minds because that is how economies grow and survive. That is exactly why Malta is focusing its energies in this area. Being a small country with limited natural resources, only a handful of successes are needed to benefit the economy at large. This is what allows us to be selective, but the fight for top talent will never cease. For us, what remains of utmost importance is to ensure the right safeguards are in place.

Maltese citizenship is not for someone who is in a rush. There are no short cuts or half measures. The Agency does not cut corners in its diligence work and its function is to ensure that only those who are deserving, acquire it. Community Malta Agency.

Malta has always worked closely with the private sector’s innovators, identifying new fields and niches to excel in. Whenever there is a new global opportunity, Malta has always embraced the opportunity. With the new Community Malta Agency, and a raft of improved rules and regulations, Malta has shown that it is dedicated to continuing the migration of talent to its shores. The new arrivals will bring their skills and entrepreneurial talent to add to the vibrancy and dynamics of the economy at large.

Malta is an archipelago of islands positioned right at the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, acting as a bridge between the European and African continents and a gateway between the East and West. We welcome anyone who would like to be part of our family on this exciting journey that lies ahead, bringing new opportunities for investors, wealth creators, entrepreneurs, talented individuals and families to our nation, which is always striving to be at the forefront of innovative ideas, technologies and industries.
The crossroads of Europe and Africa

Malta is the ideal combination of a stable democracy, vibrant economy and beautiful weather.

 Welcoming to foreign investors
With a population hovering just over 500,000, a full 20% of residents are foreign born.

 Solid education
From the primary level to university, Malta has world-class educational offerings.

 Easy communication
Malta is a bilingual country with both Maltese and English spoken in equal measure throughout the land.

 EU member state
To have access to Malta is to have access to the whole of the European Union.

 Stable politics
Since gaining independence from the U.K. in 1964, Malta has been a parliamentary democracy.

 International financial center
The country boasts 26 licensed banks, a thriving fintech scene and a growing finance sector.

 A safe bet for investment
Malta attracted $3.6 billion in FDI over the course of 2020, bringing the total stock to $206 billion.

 Dedicated to justice
Malta’s justice system offers protection to investors and business owners.

 Top-notch medical services
With medical access for all citizens, the country successfully withstood the COVID-19 pandemic.

 A place in the sun
Valletta is Europe’s sunniest city, with the capital receiving an average of 2,957 hours of sunshine a year.

 Dining and entertainment
Malta has a bustling nightlife and 5 Michelin-starred restaurants.

 Law and order
A low crime rate means Malta has consistently been rated among the safest countries in Europe.
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