

Cyprus

Cyprus has a worldwide reputation of business-supporting jurisdiction, attractive to foreign investments. Boasting mild and warm climate, the island in the Eastern Mediterranean is situated on the ancient crossroads between Europe, Asia and Africa. Its capital, Nicosia, forms a centre of social and economic life on Cyprus.

Approximately 900,000 people constitute the population of Cyprus. The official language is Greek, although English is also taught at schools widely.

Normally EU nationals are able to select one of the two paths to move to Cyprus temporarily or permanently.

First, the slower option (application can be under consideration for 6 months) can provide Cypriot passport and supplementary right to work and travel in any EU member - [Citizenship by Investment Programme](#). Several conditions should be met to comply with this program, including €5,000,000-worth investment to Cyprus. Furthermore, the applicant has to reside permanently on Cypriot soil with assets not less than €500,000.

Another option is to obtain [Permanent Residence Permit](#), which gives the freedom to travel and to undertake business activities. The obligatory condition for the non-EU national, in this occasion, is the ownership of the Cypriot property (worth at least €300,000). The key applicant should receive annual income of at least €30,000 from any types of sources (employment, deposits, pension payments, royalty). The application process can be completed in two months from the date of the initial application.

The Fast Track Cyprus Permanent Residence Permit

The special simplified fast track programme was adopted by the Cypriot government in late 2014, enabling the non-EU individuals to obtain Cyprus residence permits by investing into property.

Normally the application takes two months from the date of initial documents submission. As long as the permit is received, the special document is issued, certifying the right to reside in Cyprus; the stamp is put into the applicant passport as well.

It was publicly announced by the Ministry of the Interior in late 2014, that the Permanent Residence Permit Programme managed to attract almost €1 billion of foreign investment to Cyprus. The Cypriot authorities also admitted that the demand for the residence permits remains quite strong. The explanation can be following: Cyprus residence permit gives the right for the holding individual to travel across the Schengen area freely, removing barriers on the track of organising business activities in the EU.

Financial Criteria

1. The deposit of €30,000 should be paid to Cyprus financial institutions and retained for at least 3 years. Additionally, proof of the transfer should be obtained and presented to the respective Cypriot authorities. No specific instructions regulate the usage of these funds after the period of three years.
2. The applicant and his/her spouse has to be able to show valid and secured annual income of at least €30,000. This amount should be higher by €5,000 for each additional dependant (under 25 years). The source of income is not regulated (source can vary: interest payments, royalty, rental income, overseas employment, pensions etc).
3. The core condition should be fulfilled: the applicant is obliged to purchase new real estate property in Cyprus equivalent to at least €300,000 (excluding VAT). Furthermore, at least two thirds of the above-mentioned sum (€200,000) has to be paid prior to the residence permit application submission.

Additional Criteria

- ✓ Clean criminal record should be provided for the applicant, his/her spouse and all dependants and for all countries the above-mentioned individuals were residing.
 - ✓ The applicant, his/her spouse and all dependants are obliged to submit proof that they have no intention to work in Cyprus in any manner, direct or indirect. Admit that being a shareholder of the company registered in Cyprus and receiving dividends is classified as permissible income that can be counted in the application for the residence permit programme.
 - ✓ The applicant, his/her spouse and all dependants must visit Cyprus for at least one day within first calendar year of their valid permit and for at least one day every two subsequent years.
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The Application Process and Other Important Information

- ✓ All of the submitted documents must be translated (to Greek or English) and officially certified.
- ✓ The applications have to be submitted to the Civil Registry and Migration Department. Further, the Ministry of Interior issues the final decision.
- ✓ Normally, the whole application process is finalised within two months from application submission.
- ✓ The residence permit has no expiry date.
- ✓ The applicant has to provide his/her passport for a stamping performed by the Ministry of Interior. Additionally, a specific certificate is issued, indicating that Cyprus is the country of a permanent residence for the applicant, his/her spouse and their dependants.
- ✓ The applicant becomes the Cyprus tax resident automatically if spends more than 183 days out of calendar year in Cyprus. It also means that both domestic and foreign-generated income would be taxed according to the Cypriot laws (foreign tax paid can be credited against the personal income tax liability in Cyprus).
- ✓ Capital gains tax rate is 20% and is imposed on any capital gains from the disposal of the immovable property in Cyprus, including disposal of real estate companies and excluding publicly listed shares. Importantly, the tax residence status is irrelevant in the process of paying capital gains tax.

How Can Mann Made Group Help?

Mann Made Group has been providing qualified advisory services to organisations and individuals for over 10 years. We are an independent group and are proud of our teams of the professional staff. Mann Made Group is actively cooperating with intermediaries worldwide, including accountants, lawyers and fiduciaries.

Mann Made Cyprus can provide assistance at any stages of the above-mentioned process:

- ✓ Advise on questions and issues that might arise;
 - ✓ Assist with the preparation of the application;
 - ✓ Assist in drafting relevant documents;
 - ✓ Submit the application to the authorities;
 - ✓ Monitor the application and liaise with the relevant authorities.
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Contact Information

For more information on Cypriot Immigration and our costs please contact our corporate manager

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