

The Investment Migration Forum 2024

16th to 19th April, Ritz Carlton Hotel
Dubai International Financial Centre

The Investment Migration Forum is the premier global non-profit event for investment migration, bringing together stakeholders to explore the latest innovations, trends, and emerging routes for immigration.

This year's gathering in Dubai, under the theme 'Supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals', will bring together esteemed academics, government officials, international organisation representatives, and award-winning professionals.

Attendees will have the exclusive opportunity to gain in-depth insights, access valuable information, and engage in outstanding networking events in one of the most dynamic and multicultural cities in the world.



Official Programme

Tuesday 16th April

- 14h00 - Welcome & Registration**
18h00 Ritz Carlton DIFC
- 18h00 - Welcome to Dubai Reception Supported by Mercan Group**
19h30 Welcome to Dubai! by Anya Sitaram, Forum Chairperson
Welcome by Jerome Morgan, President, Mercan Group
- 20h30 IMC Fellows Dinner**
Private by invitation-only for fellow members





INVESTMENT MIGRATION FORUM

Wednesday 17th April

08h30 **Welcome Coffee & Registration**

08h45 **Opening Address by Anya Sitaram, Forum Chairperson**

09h00 **IMC Town Hall Panel: Insights from this year's Forum **Do Not Miss****

This topic supports UN SDG 5: Gender Equality

In this opening panel, we will touch upon the most poignant developments that have taken place in IM this past year and hear from selected speakers of this year's Forum.

Hosted by Bruno L'ecuyer FIMC, CEO, Investment Migration Council, Switzerland

Dee Allen, Director of Learning, Innovative Learn, UK

H. Ron Klasko FIMC, Managing Partner, Klasko Immigration Partners, USA

Kristin Surak, Associate Professor of Political Sociology, London School of Economics, UK

Olga Nechita, Director, Fragomen, UK

Jonathan Cardona IMCM, CEO, Residency Malta Agency, Malta

Froilan Malit, Visiting Scholar, Dept. of Political Science, American University, UAE

Jerome Morgan, President, Mercan Properties, Portugal

09h40 **Welcome and Fireside with Dubai Economy & Tourism Department, Government of Dubai **Do Not Miss****

James C M Johnston OBE, Managing Director, Transcend Change Ltd, UK

Mohammed Sharaf, Executive Director, Dubai Economy & Tourism Department,

Government of Dubai

10h00 **Future Scenarios for the Global Economy in the Year Ahead**

This topic supports UN SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

The main developments of the world economy will be covered highlighting progress in the reduction of inflation and the resumption of growth in a context of rising asset prices in a setting more optimistic than 2023. Challenges such as climate change, the persistence of geopolitical tensions, war and A.I will be addressed.

Anya Sitaram, Forum Chairperson

Andres Solimano FIMC, Governing Board Chairperson, Investment Migration Council, Switzerland

10h20 **New Era for Migration in the GCC Region**

This topic supports UN SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

This public talk broadly explores the linkages and dynamics between migration (golden visa program) and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Gulf region, specifically the United Arab Emirates, while highlighting their complex contributions and challenges to the host country's social, economic, and development processes.

Froilan Malit Jr, Visiting Scholar American University, Dubai & Senior Research Associate, Gulf Labour Markets and Migration think tank, UAE



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- 10h40** **Pivot to Canada: Business and Entrepreneur Permanent Residency path**
Explore options for residency and work in Canada while awaiting citizenship. How does Canada's Start-up Visa program work? What incentives does the Canadian government offer businesses? The presenter, Mr. Apel is a highly awarded Canadian business advisor that works with CBI and RBI agencies to help their clients succeed in Canada.
Slava Apel IMCM, CEO, Startup Visa Services, Canada
- 11h00** **Refreshments Served in the Expo Foyer**
Supported by IMGW.News
- 11h20** **Launch of IMCET Executive Master's Programme **Do Not Miss****
This topic supports UN SDG 4: Quality Education
Marie Lou Cutajar IMCM, Head, IMC Education & Training, Malta
Philip Allen, FLPI, Director, Innovate Learn, UK
Dee Allen FHEA, Director of Learning, Innovate Learn, UK
- 11h50** **Immigration and Technology: The Benefits for U/HNWIs**
This topic supports UN SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, & Infrastructure
This panel will explore current trends in immigration technology, focusing on the opportunities and benefits of digital channels for HNWIs and their advisers. It will address the global digital transformation and the increasing requirement for affluent individuals to shift away from traditional offerings towards more modern and efficient solutions.
Olga Nechita, Director, Fragomen Worldwide, UK
Nofi Mojidi IMCM, Senior Private Client Manager, Fragomen Worldwide, UAE
Eduardo Garcia, Associate, Fragomen Worldwide, USA
- 12h10** **Unpicking the FATF/OECD Report**
This topic supports UN SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
The FATF/OECD report on investment migration offers a wide-reaching assessment of potential weaknesses in investment migration programs. But does it carry out its goals accurately and effectively? This talk draws on the latest academic research to assess the report's limits and identify the real risks involving residence, citizenship, and identity documents more broadly.
Kristin Surak, Associate Professor of Political Sociology, London School of Economics, UK
- 12h30** **Book Signing in Plenary: The Golden Passport: Global Mobility for Millionaires**
Kristin Surak, Associate Professor of Political Sociology, London School of Economics, UK
- 12h30** **Lunch Served in the Expo Foyer**
Hosted by Dominica Citizenship by Investment Unit



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13h30

Emerging Trends and Future Projections in Spanish Real Estate

This topic supports UN SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Spanish cities have recently dominated the rankings for best places to live, but does this also coincide with attractive opportunities to invest? Dive into the dynamic landscape of real estate investment and developments in Spain. This keynote explores emerging trends, market forecasts, and valuable insights into Spain's property market, and what the Spain golden visa program may or may not have to do with it.

Krista Victorio IMCM, Partner, Benrock Capital, Spain

14h00

The New Entrants in Residency by Investment

The landscape of Residency by Investment (RBI) is undergoing a dynamic transformation, with new programs introducing inventive routes for securing residency in foreign nations. This panel discussion is designed to brief delegates on the significant developments that have unfolded in recent months, highlighting the diverse approaches being adopted across four distinct global regions.

Hosted by James Swallow, Commercial Director, The Sovereign Group, UAE

Diego Ortiz, Deputy General Administrator, PROPANAMA, Panama

Jonathan Cardona IMCM, CEO, Government Residency Agency, Malta

Jennifer Lai, Founder & CEO, ECIS Advisory, Hong Kong SAR

Lina Shahatit, Investment Promotion Expert, Jordan Investment Commission, Jordan

14h20

Unlocking the Future with U.S. Immigration Fund: The EB-5 Programme Reimagined

Explore the EB-5 Programme's latest enhancements and how the U.S. Immigration Fund excels as a regional center, offering unmatched investment opportunities and a streamlined residency roadmap. Discover the unique advantages for families seeking the American dream, emphasising economic growth, job creation, and a supportive journey towards U.S. residency.

Akshat Gupta, Director of Business Development, US Immigration Fund, USA

14h40

Government Panel: Updates from the Caribbean Do Not Miss

This topic supports UN SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals & UN SDG 5: Gender equality

Hosted by Christopher Willis FIMC, Managing Director, Latitude Consultancy Ltd.

Sherelyn Hughes, IMCM, Deputy CEO, Citizenship by Investment Unit, Antigua & Barbuda

Karline Purcell, Deputy CEO, Investment Migration Agency, Grenada

McClaude Emmanuel, CEO, Citizenship by Investment Unit, St Lucia

Marie-Therese Johnson, CEO, Citizenship by Investment Unit, Dominica

Michael Martin, CEO, Citizenship by Investment Unit, St Christopher & Nevis

15h20

Investment Migration and Funds - What's next?

In an industry overwhelmingly dominated by real estate, funds are unique. Intangible and difficult to understand, funds present a hard sell to investment migration professionals and investors alike. If managed correctly with a diversified investment strategy, funds can offer the investor superior returns and greater FDI potential for host countries.

Steven Pepa, Principal, Saratoga Capital Partners



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15h40 Refreshments Served in the Expo Foyer

Hosted by IMGW.News

16h00 RCBI Through Real Estate Investment

This topic supports UN SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Obtaining residency rights whether short or long term through a real estate investment is a fast-changing area which is often controversial. In this panel, experts from Europe and the Caribbean will update delegates on the latest developments and thinking affecting the sector.

Hosted by *Steven M. Pepa, Principle, Saratoga Capital Partners, Portugal*

Galli Khurelee, Vice President, Heng Sheng, Singapore

Christos Vardikos, Attorney at law, Vardikos & Vardikos, Greece

Colin Bishop IMCM, Managing Director, Reef View Enterprises, Grenada

Richard Nixon, Chairman & CEO, Hideaway True Blue Inc, Grenada

Faron Lawrence, CEO, Lawrence Associates Ltd, St. Kitts and Nevis

16h20 Understanding EB-5: Due Diligence, Immigration and the Benefits of a U.S. Green Card

This topic supports UN SDG 9: Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure

Invest in the USA (IIUSA), the US based non-profit membership association for EB-5 professionals, is pleased to host this important educational IIUSA members panel which aims to inform delegates on technical areas of the US immigration process.

Daniel Wyklendt, President, FirstPathway Partners, USA

Gonzalo Lopez Jordan, Director of Business Development, American Regional Center Group, USA

Jeff DeCiccio, CEO, Golden Gate Global, USA

George Griffin, Executive Vice President Global Markets & Government Affairs, NYSA, USA

Darrell Sanders, Managing Director, AmLife, USA

Haya Farrag, Director of Investor Relations, EB5 Capital, USA

17h30 Closing remarks by Forum Chair followed by Drinks Reception in Exhibition Foyer

Hosted by Latitude Consultancy Limited

19h00 End of Day 1

20h30 IMC VIP Dinner & IMCET Alumni Dinner

Private by invitation-only dinners



INVESTMENT MIGRATION FORUM

Thursday 18th April

08h30 **Welcome Coffee & Registration**

09h00 **Opening Address by Anya Sitaram, Forum Chairperson**

09h15 **Global RCBI Briefing**

This topic supports UN SDG 8: Decent Work & Economic Growth

Investment Migration has been put on the fast track for reinvention, propelled in no small part by the increased pressure of international bodies to reform many of its practices. This panel of global leaders will share their insights with the aim to inform delegates on current trends and what the future may hold.

Hosted by Ray de Bono, Project Lead, IMGW.news

Slava Apel IMCM, CEO, StartUp Visa Services, Canada

Guilherme Valadares Carreiro, Principal, Oxy Capital, Portugal

Dominic Volek FIMC, Group Head of Private Clients, Henley & Partners, UAE

Ali Fouladi, Managing Director, iLand, Greece

João Baptista, Co-Founder & CEO, Spark Group, Portugal

Akshat Gupta, Director of Business Development, US Immigration Fund, USA

09h50 **How Polarisation in the USA is Reshaping Investment Migration**

Amidst pivotal polls, individuals and HNWIs navigate complex tax landscapes, mobility options, and shifting rights. Second residencies emerge as strategic "insurance", reflecting deep-seated electoral influences on investor decisions. Our analysis will unravel these trends, offering key insights into the interplay between election outcomes and global mobility dynamics.

Patricia Casaburi IMCM, CEO, Global Citizen Solutions, United Kingdom

10h10 **Fireside with the Hon. Prime Minister of St Christopher and Nevis **Do Not Miss****

This topic supports UN SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals

Hosted by Bruno L'ecuyer FIMC, CEO, Investment Migration Council, Switzerland

Terrance Drew, Prime Minister, St Christopher & Nevis

10h30 **Exploring AI's Transformative Power in Due Diligence**

This topic supports UN SDG 5: Gender Equality & UN SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, & Infrastructure

Hosted by Sylwia Wolos, Chief Strategy Officer, Ground Truth Intelligence, Belgium

Dilan Raphiann IMCM, Associate Director, S-RM, UK

Karen Kelly FIMC, Vice President & Global Head Investment Migration, Exiger, Canada

Alejandra Jiménez, Managing Director, Hilton Global Associates, USA

Kieron Sharp IMCM, CEO, FACT Due Diligence, UK

10h50 **Refreshments Served in the Expo Foyer**

Hosted by IMGW.news



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- 11h20** **Eligible Funds under the Portuguese RBI Pathway**
This topic supports UN SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, & Infrastructure
Guilherme Valadares Carreiro, Principal, Oxy Capital, Portugal
- 11h40** **Case study: Hideaway Project Grenada**
This topic supports UN SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, & Infrastructure
The Economic and Social Impact of Investment Migration (IM) programmes should in its purest form permeate the lives of the people living in the country receiving debt-free capital injections from IM programmes. In this talk a case study is presented on the Hideaway project in Grenada and its impact on the lives of Grenadians.
Richard Nixon, Chairman & CEO, Hideaway True Blue Inc., Grenada
- 12h00** **Election Watch: Impact on IM from Global Elections in 2024 Do Not Miss**
This topic supports UN SDG 5: Gender Equality
The panel discussion will cover this year's elections globally and their potential implications for investment migration, focusing on policy changes and their impact. The conversation will delve on political landscape for investment migration and potential shifts on immigration policies in response to these changes.
Olga Nechita, Director, Fragomen Worldwide, UK
Isobel Neilson, Senior Manager, Fragomen Worldwide, UK
Sophie Jo Wasson, Private Client Supervisor, Fragomen Worldwide, UK
- 12h20** **Investment Funds & De-Risking AI-Powered Innovation in Portugal**
This session explores the advancements and strategies implemented to augment Portugal's Residence by Investment (RBI) programme. It particularly examines the incorporation of investment funds, providing investors with a multitude of options for capital investment and enhancing their portfolio diversity. Furthermore, this conversation highlights the innovative application of artificial intelligence (AI) in mitigating risks associated with investment endeavors.
João Baptista, Co-Founder & CEO, Spark Group, Portugal
- 12h40** **Lunch Served in the Expo Foyer**
- 13h40** **Elevate your Dominica Citizenship with the Greek Golden Visa**
Christos Vardikos, Attorney at law, Vardikos & Vardikos, Greece
- 14h10** **Asia Briefing: The changing landscape in the Far East**
Tightening application requirement pushes Asian investors from traditional immigration destinations like the USA, Canada and Australia to European countries such as Greece and Portugal. This shift reflects on the fact that investors are looking for straightforward direct investment options.
Henry Fan IMCM, CEO & Co-Founder, GlobeVisa, China



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- 14h30** **Special address by St Lucia Deputy Prime Minister Do Not Miss**
This topic supports UN SDG 17: Partnerships for goals
Ernest Hilaire, Deputy Prime Minister St Lucia
- 14h50** **Compliance, Standards, Ethical Practices in IM**
This topic supports UN SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
Together, compliance, standards, and ethical practices form the foundation of a robust investment migration industry, fostering trust among investors, governments, and the public, and promoting the growth of programs that contribute positively to global mobility and economic development. This panel will discuss developments in the field and their importance.
This topic supports UN SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
Hosted by Joana Ferreira Mendonça IMCM, Head of Legal, Global Citizen Solutions, Portugal
Henry Fan IMCM, CEO & Co-Founder, GlobeVisa, China
Keith Isaac, Partner, Polaris, St Lucia
Jeff Hadeed, Chairman, Citizenship by Investment Unit, Antigua & Barbuda
Dusan Marinkovic, Head of Sales, Orience, Spain
- 15h10** **Multiple Nationality and International Law**
In this keynote, we'll delineate the difference between nationality and citizenship, addressing the evolution of international law regarding multiple citizenships and multi-nationalities. Additionally, we'll explore the emerging concept of citizenship by investment, focusing on the Public Benefit Option program which already exists worldwide, however recently introduced in St. Kitts and Nevis which is governmentally approved.
Sirous Motevassel, Founder & CEO, Prime Developments, UAE
- 15h30** **Partner Thank You Awards Do Not Miss**
Prize draw & Closing Remarks by Forum Chairperson
- 17h30** **Departure from Ritz-Carlton DIFC to Sonara Camp Dubai for Closing Dinner**
- 18h15** **Arrival at Sonara Desert Camp Dubai and transfers by Jeeps**
- 18h30** **Welcome Drinks followed by 3-Course Dinner Show**
- 22h00** **Departures begin back to Ritz-Carlton DIFC**
- 23h00** **End of Investment Migration Forum 2024**