

The Moldova Citizenship-by-Investment Program Is Officially Launched at the 12th Global Residence and Citizenship Conference in Dubai

For immediate release: London, 5 November 2018

The [Moldova Citizenship-by-Investment \(MCBI\)](#) program — the latest and most exciting new investment migration opportunity in Europe — has been launched at the [12th Global Residence and Citizenship Conference](#) in Dubai. Hosted by [Henley & Partners](#), this annual event attracts over 400 delegates from more than 40 countries and is the largest and most important conference focused on investment migration.

Earlier this year, [Henley & Partners](#) — in partnership with its consortium partner, the Moldovan Investment Company — won the public tender to assist the Government of the Republic of Moldova in designing, implementing, and internationally promoting the much-anticipated [MCBI program](#), which is now officially accepting applications. The firm has over 20 years of experience working with governments in North America, the Caribbean, Europe, and Asia in this capacity.

[Dr. Christian H. Kälin](#), Group Chairman of [Henley & Partners](#), says of the Moldova program: “The launch of this prestigious new European program is a milestone for all of us in the investment migration community, because it speaks to the growing relevance and value of our industry. The [MCBI program](#) offers investors a foothold in Europe and access to one of the fastest growing commercial hubs in the region, while also giving Moldova the chance to attract much-needed foreign direct investment and a set of highly qualified and carefully vetted new citizens.”

Speaking at the launch, His Excellency Chiril Gaburici, the Minister of Economy and Infrastructure for the Government of Moldova, provided insight into the program’s origins: “The [MCBI program](#) has been specifically developed with the Moldovan people in mind. Our country has come a very long way over the past few years, and many of our most important industries are today thriving and growing. Now, in order to take the next step forward in our economic development, and also support the social wellbeing of all Moldovans, we need to welcome innovative new ways of generating capital. The [MCBI program](#) is part of this future-focused approach.”

The [MCBI program](#) requires applicants to make a defined economic contribution to the country through its Public Investment Fund. In exchange, and subject to a stringent vetting and due diligence process, applicants and their families are granted full citizenship rights that are transferrable without restrictions to future generations. They also gain a passport that facilitates travel access to 122 destinations around the world, including Russia, Turkey, and the countries in Europe’s Schengen Area. The Moldovan passport is in fact one of the highest historical climbers on the [Henley Passport Index](#), having ascended an impressive 20 places since 2008. The Moldova Government is working hard to continue this upward trend and has already signed several visa-waiver agreements with foreign countries this year, further boosting the Moldovan passport.

[Marco Gantenbein](#), Henley & Partners' Managing Partner in Dubai and Head of Middle East, elaborates on the program offering: "The attractiveness of the [MCBI program](#) lies in the country's unique geographic position at the crossroads of Europe, the Middle East, and Asia and its robust passport strength, combined with the genuine affordability and accessibility of the program. Moldova is a high-growth, high-potential European country, with strong economic and diplomatic ties with the EU, and many individuals around the world want to be part of its current and future successes. Certainly, [Henley & Partners](#) is proud to be a partner to this remarkable nation, whose citizenship-by-investment program is set to redefine the European investment migration landscape."

Dubai is a fitting backdrop for the official launch of the Moldova program, with the UAE and Moldova recently agreeing to strengthen economic ties by setting up a joint economic committee. According to Gantenbein, "Improved bilateral relations between these two countries is a positive step in the direction of enhanced global cooperation."

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Notes to Editors:

Program Overview

The program offers citizenship in a European country with visa-free access to 122 destinations, including Russia, Turkey, and Europe's Schengen Area, within a highly competitive pricing structure. To qualify for citizenship, the main applicant must be over 18 years of age, meet the application requirements, and make the qualifying contribution (see below).

Applicants must make a minimum non-refundable contribution to the Public Investment Fund (PIF):

- EUR 100,000 for a single applicant
- EUR 115,000 for a couple
- EUR 145,000 for a family of four
- EUR 155,000 for a family of five or more

Government service provider and licensed agent fees amount to EUR 35,000 per application.

In addition, applicants are required to pay government fees of EUR 5,000 for the main applicant, EUR 2,500 for a spouse, EUR 1,000 for a child aged 0 to 15 years, EUR 2,500 for a dependent child aged 16 to 29 years, and EUR 5,000 for a dependent parent — of the main applicant or of the spouse — who is 55 years of age or older. Due diligence fees are EUR 6,000 for the main applicant and EUR 5,000 for a spouse, dependent children older than 16 years, and/or dependent parents. Biometric passport fees amount to EUR 300 per individual.

Procedures and Time Frame

It is imperative that main applicants and their dependents have entirely clean personal backgrounds and no criminal records. The MCBI program regulations further stipulate that a person who has been denied a visa to a country or territory with which Moldova has visa-free or visa-on-arrival travel arrangements and has not subsequently obtained a visa to that jurisdiction shall not be accepted to the MCBI program.

Moldova has developed a four-tier due diligence system, which is considered the most thorough in the world.

Applications to the program must be made through the prescribed forms and must be accompanied by the appropriate fees and supporting documents. In addition to the usual personal documentation, such as passport copies and birth certificates, the requisite documentation includes, for example, a police certificate confirming that the applicants have no criminal record.

The issuance of a certificate of naturalization under the MCBI program shall take a maximum of three months from the date on which the complete application is submitted, provided that the due diligence is carried out without difficulties.

Before an application is submitted to the government, all the relevant information provided (including the background of the applicant and any dependents) will be verified by one or more specialized due diligence service providers. Furthermore, the specific fees must have been received, and the source of all funds must have been verified.

Once all the above requirements have been satisfied and the final payments have been made, biometric data is collected, and an oath of allegiance is pledged. Citizenship will then be granted and the passport issued thereafter.

Key Advantages of the Program

- Visa-free access to 122 destinations around the world, including Russia, Turkey, and the countries in Europe's Schengen Area
- Citizenship in a European country with an open culture, a continental climate and a charming landscape
- A reasonable contribution amount and a highly efficient application process
- Full citizenship, with passport rights, for the applicant and included family members
- Dependent children up to 29 years of age and parents (of either the main applicant or the spouse) from 55 years of age can be included
- Citizenship transferable to future generations without restrictions and at no additional charge
- Citizenship in a member state of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the World Trade Organization, and many more
- Citizenship in a state that has entered into an association agreement with the EU and is aiming to become a candidate country for EU membership

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 our expertise and experience in this area. The firm's highly qualified professionals work together as one team in over 30 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 we proudly serve every day.

The firm also runs a leading government advisory practice that has raised more than USD 7 billion in foreign direct investment. The firm has been involved in strategic consulting and in the design, set-up, and operation of the world's most successful residence and citizenship programs.

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