

## **Criteria for the Fast-track Permanent Residency procedure for 3<sup>rd</sup>-country nationals investing in Cyprus**

The criteria for the fast-track permanent residence immigration permit under Regulation 6(2) have been revised for the third time since the implementation of the policy in 2012. The new criteria have come into effect on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2021.

The applicant is required to fulfill one of the **investment criteria** set out below in Paragraph 1 as well as the **qualitative criteria** in Paragraph 2 below. The funds used to make the investment must be proven to be from sources arising from abroad.

### **1. Investment criteria**

The applicant will have to invest at least €300,000.00 (Three Hundred Thousand Euros) in one of the below options: -

#### ***a) Investment option A***

**Investment in a house/apartment:** purchase a house or apartment from a land development company, which is being sold for the first time (not a resale) for a purchase price of at least €300,000.00 (plus VAT).

The purchase of the immovable property can be made by a company, in which the applicant and/or his or her spouse are the sole shareholders or the ultimate beneficial owners and which is legally established in the Republic of Cyprus or other member-state of the European Union or European Economic Area.

The applicant is permitted to acquire up to two (2) residential units (apartments or houses). This limitation applies to a married couple.

The purchase of residential units must be sold for the first time by the land development companies, except in instances where the units were purchased before the 07/05/2013. Contracts of Sale which are in relation to the resale of residential units and have been filed at the Land Registry before the 07/05/2013, will be accepted for the purposes of the present Policy.

It is to be noted that the residential units are not required to be purchased from the same land development company.

#### ***b) Investment option B***

**Investment in immovable property (excluding houses/apartments):** purchase of other types of immovable property such as offices, shops, hotels or developments of a similar nature or a combination of these types of immovable property for a purchase price of €300,000.00 (plus VAT, if applicable). These immovable properties can constitute resales.

***c) Investment option C***

**Investment in the share capital of a Cyprus company, with business activities and personnel (employees) in Cyprus:** an investment of €300,000.00 in the share capital of a Cyprus registered company, which has its seat and activities in the Republic of Cyprus and can prove its physical presence in Cyprus and employs at least (5) persons.

***d) Investment option D***

**Investment in units of Cyprus Undertakings for Collective Investments (such as AIF, AIFLNP, RAIF):** an investment of at least €300,000.00 in units of such undertakings.

**Important note: disposing/selling the Investment**

If the holder of an Immigration Permit wishes to dispose of the investment made in order to acquire the Immigration Permit, the investor Immigration Permit holder is required to immediately replace the investment with another investment in accordance to the criteria. In the event that the Immigration Permit holder fails to replace the investment, then the authorities shall implement the procedure for the cancellation of the Permit in accordance to the provisions of Regulation 6 of the Aliens and Immigration Regulations.

**1.1. Income**

In addition to the investment criteria, the applicant is required to prove that he or she has at his or her disposal a secured annual income of at least €30,000.00 (Thirty-Thousand Euros). The required annual income increases by €5,000.00 per dependant family member (spouse and minor children) of the investor. The income can arise from salaries from employment, pensions, dividends from shares, rent income, fixed deposits, arising from abroad. In calculating the total income, the spouse's income may be taken into consideration.

In instances where the applicant chooses to invest in Cyprus in accordance to Investment options B, C or D then the total income or part of the income of the applicant can arise from sources which arise from the activities in the Republic of Cyprus.

**2. Qualitative criteria**

The applicant and his spouse are required to submit **certificates of clear criminal record** from their country of residence or from the Republic of Cyprus (if they are already residents of Cyprus) and generally they must not pose a threat to public order or to public safety.

The applicant and his/her spouse are required to sign a **statement that they do not intend to be employed in Cyprus** with the exception of being Directors of the Company in which they choose to invest in within the scope of this Policy.

In instances where the investment does not concern the share capital of a company, then the applicant and/or his /her spouse are permitted to be shareholders of companies

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registered in Cyprus and the dividend income from such companies shall not be an obstacle in acquiring the Immigration Permit under this Policy. Further they may hold the positions of directors in such companies but without receiving remuneration.

If the applicant chooses to invest under investment options B, C or D, he shall have to present relevant details (title deed of property, contract of sale or lease agreement) with respect to his **place of residence** in the Republic of Cyprus.

### 3. Supporting documents

#### ***Investment option A:***

- a true copy of the **contract of sale** and/or **title deed** in the name of the applicant and/or his spouse.
- Original **receipts** for the payment of €200,000.00 (excluding any VAT payable), irrespective of the date of delivery of the property. The balance may be paid after the filing of the application for an immigration permit.
- Documentary proof that the **funds** used for the investment are from sources **from abroad** and not from domestic lending (examples, incoming transfer documents, swifts, receipts of payment with a foreign card).
- The balance of the investment is to be settled in a bank account of the vendor held at a Cyprus financial institution.

#### ***Investment option B:***

- Share purchase agreement.
- Certificate of Shareholders, Certificate of Incorporation from the Registrar of Companies.
- Business plan of the company, which shall include business objectives.
- Proof of payment (bank incoming transfer confirmation/swifts).
- Proof from the Social Insurance Services for the employment of the required number of employees.

#### ***Investment option C:***

- Titles or other confirmation for the units purchased
- Proof of payment (e.g., bank transfer)
- Confirmation of CYSEC (Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission) for the establishment of the Fund
- Memorandum of the Fund or the Investment Plan

#### **4. Dependant persons of the applicant**

##### **4.1. Spouse and minor children (up to the age of 18)**

- Dependant persons are the spouse and minor children (up to the age of 18) of the applicant. The immigration permit is issued to the applicant. The dependant persons are included on the applicant's immigration permit.
- It is possible for two separate Immigration Permits to be issued to each of the spouses, without the spouse, who would have ordinarily been a dependant, having the obligation to fulfil the above stated criteria provided that a separate application for an immigration permit and the payment of the official fee for the submission of such application is filed and paid for.

In the event that the Immigration Permit granted to the investor is cancelled for any reason, the Immigration Permit issued to the spouse shall also be cancelled.

##### **4.2. Unmarried children of the applicant aged 18 to 25 years old**

- Unmarried children of the applicant between the ages of 18 to 25 years, can submit an application for an immigration permit provided that they can prove that they are students at a tertiary institution abroad and are financially dependent on the applicant and pay the application submission fee to the Migration Department. In such instance the father or mother or both parents present proof of additional annual income of €5.000 for each such dependant child.
- If such children of the applicant are students at tertiary institutions in the Republic of Cyprus, they are required to submit an application for temporary residence permit as students. Upon the completion of their studies in Cyprus, they will be able to file their own application for an immigration permit, as stated above provided that they pay the official fee for the submission of such application, irrespective of their age at the time, with the only requirement being that their parents present proof of additional annual income of €5.000 per such child.
- Such Immigration Permit shall continue to be in force beyond the age of 25, even if such child is married and no longer a student and/or financially dependent on his parents. The spouse and the minor children of such permit holder shall not be able to be included on such permit holder's permit as dependent persons.

In the event that the Immigration Permit granted to the investor is cancelled for any reason, the Immigration Permit issued to the adult child shall also be cancelled.

#### **4.3. Parents of the investor-applicant and to the parents of the spouse of the investor**

- Separate application forms for an immigration permit for each parent and/or parent-in-law and the payment of the official fee for each application shall be submitted and paid respectively to the Migration Department. The only requirement is for the applicant-investor to present proof of additional annual income of €8.000 for each dependent parent.
- The dependant persons of the parent are not permitted to be added to the immigration permit. In the event that the Immigration Permit granted to the investor is cancelled for any reason, the Immigration Permit issued to any parent and/or parent-in-law of the applicant shall also be cancelled.

#### **5. Adult children of the applicant**

- An immigration permit can be granted to the adult children of the applicant, who are not financially dependent on the applicant provided that a higher investment in Cyprus is made, as set out below:
  - The purchase price or the value of the investment made i.e., minimum of €300.000 will have to be doubled or tripled proportionately to the number of dependent children applying, on the basis of the same investment. For example, in the event that the applicant has one adult child, the investment made shall amount to €600.000, if the applicant has two adult children, then the investment made shall amount to €900.000 etc.
  - If the investment is in relation to real estate, then together with the application, proof of payment of at least 66% of the purchase price of the real estate is required to be submitted.
  - The adult child shall be in a position to prove that he or she has at his or her disposal a secured annual income of at least €30.000, which shall increase by €5.000 for each dependant child to be added to his or her Immigration Permit. The investment can be made in the joint names of the applicant and his or her adult child or exclusively in the name of the applicant.

#### **6. Procedure for the submission of the application and the examination time**

The applications, accompanied by the supporting documents, shall be submitted at the Civil Registry and Migration Department personally or through an authorized representative.

The application shall be fast-tracked by the CRMD and shall be submitted to the Minister of Interior, through the General Director of the Ministry of Interior.

The estimated examination time of the application and supporting documents is two (2) months.

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## **7. Other information**

Persons to whom Immigration Permits are granted are obliged to take up permanent residence in the Republic within one (1) year from the date of approval of the application. Further Immigration permit holders as well as their dependant family members should not remain outside of Cyprus for a period of two (2) consecutive years. In the event of remaining outside of Cyprus for a period of two years the Immigration permit ceases to be valid and/or may be cancelled.

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