

Malta facilitates EU citizenship to bring in cash and investment

Malta's government has approved a plan to attract "high value" people to the island by facilitating citizenship by Investment. It comes with the benefits of EU membership, including the right to reside and work in the 28-member bloc.

The plan predicts to bring in 30 million euros annually and help ease the country's deficit.

As an EU member, Malta's citizens can freely enter and reside in any of the 27 other members and they can stand as candidates for the European Parliament, among other privileges. In Brussels, European Union spokesman Michele Cercone noted that Malta and other members have full sovereignty to decide how and to whom they grant nationality.

The programme is targeted at rich citizens and will allow them effectively to facilitate the citizenship of the European Union, which Malta joined in 2004.

Passports for relatives available too

Anyone 18 or older will be able to become a citizen of Malta, which has a population of 418,000. Applicants will be checked for criminal backgrounds, but neither investment on the island nor residency will be required.

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