

Global Citizen Solutions ranks 15 active citizenship programs in Global Citizenship Programs Index 2026

Sub1: New Index reveals: consolidation around governance quality over price; and shift from single-program thinking to multi-jurisdictional portfolios

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, May 27, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Global Citizen Solutions](#) (GCS), a leading citizenship and residency advisory firm, today releases the [Global Citizenship Programs Index 2026 \(GCP Index 2026\)](#) — an independent, data-driven assessment of active sovereign Citizenship Programs worldwide. The 2026 edition evaluates fifteen schemes across five continents through eighteen performance indicators grouped in five thematic sub-indexes: Procedure, Mobility, Tax Optimization, Quality of Life, Investment, and two cross-cutting indicators: Compliance and Credibility.

Published over forty years after the Saint Kitts and Nevis Act of 1984 created the world’s first investment migration program, the GCP Index 2026 arrives at a moment of genuine structural change. The 2026 edition spanning five continents — from the Eastern Caribbean to Europe, the Pacific, MENA, and an emerging African presence — reflects an industry that has grown far beyond its island origins. The overarching finding is that the market is consolidating governance quality rather than price, with compliance, not cost, now the primary axis of competition across all regions.



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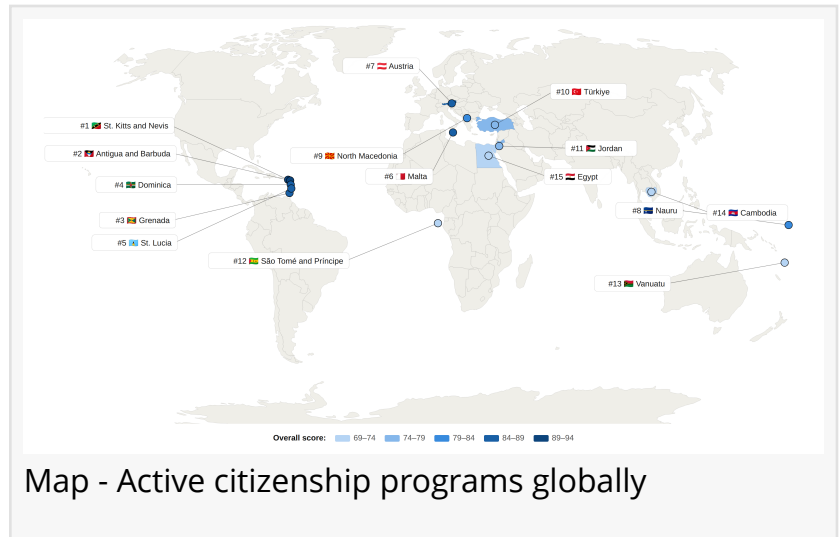
Global Citizenship Programs Index - 2026

Rank	Country	Region	Overall Score	Visa Free Destinations
1st	St. Kitts and Nevis	Caribbean	93,08	157
2nd	Antigua and Barbuda	Caribbean	90,64	154
3rd	Grenada	Caribbean	87,87	147
4th	Dominica	Caribbean	87,19	145
5th	St. Lucia	Caribbean	86,29	144
6th	Malta (Merit)	Europe	84,58	184
7th	Austria	Europe	84,12	185
8th	Nauru	Pacific	83,64	86
9th	North Macedonia	Europe	79,13	126
10th	Türkiye	MENA/Asia	77,41	113
11th	Jordan	MENA/Asia	74,83	49
12th	São Tomé and Príncipe	Africa	71,23	58
13th	Vanuatu	Pacific	71,18	87
14th	Cambodia	Asia	71,14	47
15th	Egypt	Africa	69,51	49

Source: Global Intelligence Unit - Global Citizen Solutions

Global Citizenship Programs Index 2026

“The most important shift in our industry is no longer about which single program is best suited to your needs, but about which combination of programs is the right one,” said Patricia Casaburi, CEO, Global Citizen Solutions. “Families today are constructing citizenship portfolios of mobility, tax residence, and legal access that reflect a far more sophisticated understanding of risk, opportunity, and belonging in a fragmented world. The 2026 GCPI reflects that reality. It



Map - Active citizenship programs globally

assesses each program on its own merits, but it is designed to be read as a map: showing where each jurisdiction excels, where it falls short, and how it fits into the broader strategic picture our clients are building.”

Caribbean: Governance over Price

The five Eastern Caribbean nations — St. Kitts and Nevis (93.08), Antigua and Barbuda (90.64), Grenada (87.87), Dominica (87.19), and St. Lucia (86.29) — sweep the top five positions. The competitive story here is not dominance by default: the October 2025 ratification of ECCIRA, the first unified regional CBI regulator in the industry’s history, and a Memorandum of Understanding explicitly establishing a minimum investment threshold of no less than \$200,000 together mark a structural shift from competing national programs toward a single, regulated regional market.

Europe: Unmatched Mobility and Quality of Life in Austria & Malta

Two of Europe’s programs — Malta’s Citizenship by Merit (83.58) and Austria’s Citizenship by Merit (80.12) — lead the global index on two of its most applicant-critical dimensions. Austria records a perfect Mobility score of 100.0, providing access to 185 visa-free destinations, and leads Quality of Life at 90.6. Malta’s full EU and Schengen access underpins its 98.5 Mobility score. Compliance is equally the European strength: Austria (95) and Malta (93) sit at the top of the global governance ranking — a position that directly translates into banking access and long-term program durability.

Pacific: A New Budget Tier and Zero-Tax Proposition in Vanuatu & Nauru

The 2026 cycle’s most significant supply-side development is the emergence of a credible budget tier below \$150,000 USD. Vanuatu (86.14) and Nauru (83.64) both achieve perfect Tax Optimization scores of 100.0 — the only programs in the index to do so — on the strength of fully zero-tax regimes covering income, corporate, capital gains, wealth, and inheritance. Processing windows of two to four months are also the fastest in the global market.

Middle East, Turkey and Africa: Scale, Strategic Positioning and Emerging Markets

Türkiye (77.41), Jordan (74.83), and Egypt (69.51) offer a value proposition unavailable elsewhere: access to large domestic economies, and in Türkiye's case, NATO membership and EU customs union access in case, due to its geostrategic location at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, and US E-2 Treaty eligibility (under three-year domicile requirement rule)— a combination no other citizenship program can match. Jordan's 2025 reforms repositioned its program around active job creation. The region's structural weakness is consistent: worldwide tax systems weigh Tax Optimization scores across all three. Africa's São Tomé and Príncipe (71.23) meanwhile launched a development-linked framework in 2025.

The Portfolio Model Replaces the Single-Program Approach

Across all regions, the 2026 Index reflects a deeper behavioural shift among applicants. Ultra-high-net-worth families are no longer seeking a single best programme — they are constructing diversified portfolios of citizenship, residence, and digital access rights calibrated to risk profile, time horizon, and tax footprint. The GCP Index has been designed to serve that question: assessing each program on its own merits while functioning as a map of where each jurisdiction excels, where it falls short, and how it fits into a broader strategic picture.

“At Global Citizen Solutions, we believe that informed decisions begin with rigorous data,” said Dr. Laura Madrid, Lead Researcher, Global Intelligence Unit, Global Citizen Solutions. “This Index is our contribution to a more transparent, evidence-based industry: a framework that allows applicants, policymakers, and practitioners to evaluate 15 programs against the dimensions that genuinely matter: procedural integrity, mobility, fiscal environment, quality of life, and institutional credibility.”

Methodology

The GCP Index 2026 evaluates 15 jurisdictions that operate structured CP routes grounded in public legal instruments, requiring each to be codified in legislation, actively processing applications, and transparent about core investment parameters. Programs are scored across five weighted pillars reflecting the typical applicant's decision matrix: Procedure (25%) covering processing time and requirements, Mobility (25%) measuring visa-free access and entry to strategic blocs, Tax Optimisation (15%) assessing the tax regime, Quality of Life (15%) drawing on the [Global Passport Index](#), and Investment (20%) capturing the investment environment. Credibility (program durability and governance) and Compliance (AML/CFT rigour and alignment with FATF/OECD standards), are reported alongside the pillar scores to qualify rather than directly weight the composite. The Index draws on legal sources and established datasets (UNDP, IMF, World Bank, PwC, WHO, Global Peace Index, Gallup), alongside expert-assessed benchmarks from FATF, OECD and the Investment Migration Council.

Global Citizen Solutions is a leading residency and citizenship planning advisory firm, helping HNW clients and their families secure greater control over where they can live, travel, do business, and operate across jurisdictions.

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