

## **Shopping for citizenship: A conversation at the Citizenshop**

*How does Citizenship by Investment work*

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So the back story is basically that what started as a program on a small island states, such as Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, those small island states that face the problem of not having enough export products to keep their economy going, that kind of mechanism and was then discovered as a tool by Western countries for their household gaps that they had after the big credit crunch in 2008.

And from there they just kind of continued developing really, and more countries joined in. Some governments have special departments for those programs one would apply, but it's more common to have this done by a consultancy firm that can process your request without you even having to enter the country.

And in the UK, for example, you have to either invest in government bonds or real estate. And it's one of the most expensive programs, at least till now. And furthermore, you don't need to have any language skills, there's no income tax, and you don't need to have any business experience. It's a very liberal interpretation.

And if you think, for example, of a Chinese businessman, you know he wants to access the EU market, then Minotaur currently offers the quickest and least expensive program with a cost of 690,000 euros. And, of course, those programs are highly criticized by the EU. However, they can't really do anything against it.