

# Greek Golden Visa through investments in shares and bonds

Pursuant to Greek Law 4605/2019 (Art. 42) and Art. 16 of the Greek Immigration Law (4251/2014) as in force, third-country nationals can acquire a permanent residence permit through investment in shares, corporate bonds as well as time deposit to national credit institutions, just to name a few. The available investment options are set forth in the Law 4605/2019, while the documentation and procedural steps for this type of residence permit are further detailed in the joint ministerial decision 46440/19 (Art. 3). The most important points are presented below:

## 1. Issuance of residence permit for "investment in shares or bank deposit"

### Who can apply?

- Non-EU Citizens with valid entry visa.
- In the special occasions of investments by legal entities, the law provides for the following options: (i) one visa entry and residence permit for the shareholder that holds the total of shares in this national corporate entity, with a minimum investment of 400,000 euro; (ii) in case of a foreign legal entity, up to 3 third-country nationals, who are shareholders or executives of that legal entity, may enter and reside in Greece. The maximum number of permits for entry and residence in Greece depends on the amount of the investment made by the legal person (i.e. 2.4 million euro investment for 3 permits).

#### How do I apply?

 By <u>submitting an application</u> along with the common documents set forth by the Greek Immigration Law.

**IMPORTANT:** a recent certificate for the realization and retention of the investment, issued by the Foreign Funds Directorate, must accompany the application.

 Duration of the permit: The residency permit is granted for five (5) years and can be renewed every 5 years. For the renewal of the permit, the issuance of an updated certificate by the Foreign Funds Directorate must be issued and submitted.

Applications for residence permits shall be lodged with the General Secretariat of Immigration Policy of the Ministry of Citizen Protection. EUROFAST Greece can undertake all the necessary steps, from the submission of the application to the collection of the permit, with a power of attorney.

#### 2. Available forms of investment

- (a) With the purchase of shares of a minimum value of 400,000 euro in a share capital increase or bonds issued on a bond loan for companies based or located in Greece, and listed on the Greek stock market;
- **(b)** With a set contribution of at least 400,000 euro to a real estate investment company aiming to invest exclusively in Greece, to acquire shares in share capital increase;
- **(c)** With a set contribution (min. 400,000 euro) to a private equity fund towards the acquisition of shares, or to a venture fund to acquire shares provided these are invested exclusively in companies with headquarters and or established in Greece:
- (d) With the purchase of Greek government bonds, with a minimum acquisition cost of 400,000 euros and a residual maturity of at least three years from the time of purchase, through a credit institution based in Greece;
- **(e)** With a minimum time deposit of 400,000 euros in a national credit institution for at least one year with a standing order for its renewal;
- (f) With the purchase of shares, corporate bonds and/ or of Greek government bonds traded or up for trade on regulated markets, or in multilateral trading facilities operating in Greece, valued at a minimum of 800,000 euros;
- **(g)** With the purchase of stakes of a minimum value of 400,000 euro in a mutual fund established in Greece, or elsewhere, which intends to invest exclusively in shares, corporate bonds and/or in Greek government bonds;
- **(h)** With the purchase of stakes or shares of a minimum amount of 400,000 euro in an alternative investment fund established in Greece, or in another EU country, and aims to invest exclusively in real estate in Greece.

#### Locations:

London | Athens | Thessaloniki | Lefkosia | Sofia | Bucharest | Belgrade | Podgorica | Tirana | Skopje | Zagreb Pristina | Banja Luka | Sarajevo | Ljubljana | Tbilisi | Kiev | Moscow | Cairo | Beirut | Erbil | Tehran