

# The European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy

Key priorities for youth policies answers on  
**Country information on youth policies**



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

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## **MALTA, 2005**

### **1 Statistics on young people**

#### **1.1 Total number of young people in global population**

104,206 *young persons*

#### **1.2 Percentage of young people in global population**

26.4 %

#### **1.3 Percentage of young people by age brackets**

13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30
4.33 %	4.29 %	4.51 %	4.55 %	4.55 %	4.14 %

#### **1.4 Percentage of young people by gender**

Male	Female
51.35 %	48.65 %

#### **1.4.1 Percentage of young people by gender and by age brackets**

	13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30
Female	8.70 %	7.76 %	8.36 %	8.36 %	8.35 %	7.71 %
Male	8.36 %	8.49 %	8.74 %	8.88 %	8.90 %	7.96 %

#### **1.5 Percentage of rural young people in global population**

N/A %

#### **1.5.1 Percentage of rural young people in rural population**

N/A %

#### **1.6 Percentage of urban young people in global population**

N/A %

#### **1.6.1 Percentage of urban young people in urban population**

N/A %

#### **1.7 Percentage of young people with a different nationality in global population**

N/A %

## 1.8 Number of people working in the youth field (employees and volunteers) N:A *persons*

## 2 Actors and structures

### 2.1 National public authorities

#### 2.1.1 Ministry in charge of youth

Name of ministry

Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment

Name of minister

Dr.Louis Galea MP

Duration of mandate

60 *months*

Number of people working in the ministry working on youth

4 *persons*

Contact person in the youth department

Mr. Adrian Tonna Youth Section, Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment, 3, Great Siege Road, Floriana, CMR 02, MALTA Email: [adrian.tonna@gov.mt](mailto:adrian.tonna@gov.mt)

Function, role and competence of youth department

Strives to understand the aspirations of youth and to empower them to achieve these aspirations. It is the government entity responsible for drafting and implementing the National Youth Policy every three years; It has to implement the priority areas that are outlined by the European Commission and these are revised every four years. The Youth's Department main role is the implementation of the Youth National Policy endorsed which have been formulated by all social partners working with youth and direct participation of youth themselves. The Youth Section supports numerous initiatives by youth non-governmental organizations, social agencies and voluntary organisations. It also creates and develops opportunities for holistic education and work by means of activities, programmes and initiatives organised on a national scale. In the light of recent political and social developments the Youth Section had to evaluate its programmes and initiatives to address emerging trends. Globalization fuelled by hi technology communication has brought numerous changes economically politically and socially. In the new social medium young people adapted new life-styles thus demanding different needs. Programmes that were similar in nature to those offered by international institutions such as the Council of Europe and the European Union have been suppressed.

#### 2.1.2 Other public or semi public bodies

Programme for Youth Studies at the University of Malta # Dr.Anthony Azzopardi # Head of Programme This is provided by the Youth Studies Programme within the University of Malta. The



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Programme aims to: \* provide professional training for prospective youth and community workers; \* undertake research on, and analysis of, issues that concern Maltese young people in particular; \* provide information and make suggestions about policies that concern Maltese young people, within the local and foreign contexts; and \* to develop an international dimension through contacts with foreign universities and institutions in the same field. The Youth Empowerment Centres in: B#Kara, Tarxien, Zurrieq, Mosta, Victoria Gozo, Qormi and Fgura

### **2.1.3 Parliament commission in charge of youth issues**

No such commission instituted

### **2.1.4 Other national public authorities**

There exist no national public authority in respect

## **2.2 Regional and/or local public authorities**

### **2.2.1 Regional public structures with competencies in the youth field**

Not applicable

### **2.2.2 Local public structures with competencies in the youth field**

European Union Programmes Unit Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment Room 215 3, Great Siege Road Floriana CMR 02 At a local level youth organisations and local councils are being solicited to draft a locally-based policy that reflects the NYP, facilitating its implementation, and instituting a means of local programming, supporting and evaluating of all youth related initiatives, activities and organisations. Concurrently, the National Youth Council embarked on a project with twelve local councils encouraging the institution of Youth Local Councils.

## **2.3 Non public actors/structures - compulsory consultation**

### **2.3.1 Names of bodies that must be consulted in the youth field**

Youth National Council : A voluntary and autonomous NGO A leading actor in Maltese Civil Society A forum for dialogue for young people A channel of information and opinions between young people and decision makers A representative body of young people#s interests Promote a cross-sectoral youth policy Influence youth policy at a regional and international level Increase the participation of young people and youth organisations in society as well as the decision-making process Promote the exchange of ideas and experiences, mutual understanding and equal rights and opportunities amongst young people The National Youth Council achieves these aims through: Advocacy Work Citizenship and Life-wide Learning Employment and Social Affairs Human Rights and Equality Youth work and Development

## **2.4 Non public actors/structures - non-compulsory consultation**



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### **2.4.1 Names of bodies that can be consulted in the youth field**

Maltese Association of Youth Workers (MAY) # National MAY became involved in various tasks with both governmental and non-governmental organisations, tasks that included substantial contributions the review of the National Youth Policy, work with the National Youth Council, on Alternative Leisure programmes, rehabilitation, training and outreach programmes, with youth centres, some Local Councils and on the recent publication with MIC (Malta EU Information Centre). While representing professional Youth Workers, the main aim of MAY is to promote the personal, social and political development of Maltese youth through the practice of youth work. The Association strives to facilitate, encourage and support the personal and social development of young people in their transition from dependence to independence. Diocesan Youth Commission (KDZ) As the official body of the Church in Malta responsible for the evangelisation of young people, KDZ seeks to develop, coordinate and survey pastoral youth ministry in Malta. It listens to young people's needs by regularly commissioning research projects in youth related fields; examine and evaluate pastoral youth work on this research basis and through a process of discernment, prepares plans for youth ministry in a strategic and professional manner to be implemented in all sectors of life involving young people: parishes, work, education, leisure/recreation and the social sphere; It expresses the voice of youths in the Church and in society; It advises the Archbishop and other pastoral bodies with regards to the youth sphere; Strives to be a coordinating platform for all entities related to the youth sphere; It ensures ongoing formation for youth ministers; It creates and offers resources in relation to work with young people.

### **2.4.2 National and regional youth councils**

National Youth Council 36, Old Mint Street, Valletta VLT 12, Malta Tel: (+356) 21245375 Fax: (+356) 21245376 info@knz.org.mt - www.knz.org.mt Zurrieq Local Youth Council B#Kara Local Youth Council Balzan Local Youth Council Fgura Local Youth Council Paola Local Youth Council Pieta# Local Youth Council San Giljan Local Youth Council San Gwann Local Youth Council San Pawl il-Bahar Local Youth Council Xghajra Local Youth Council Zejtun Local Youth Council Zurrieq Local Youth Council

### **2.4.3 Large youth NGOs**

AECEE Valletta Christian Democrats Students# Movement CMTU Diocesan Youth Commission European Law Students Association FZL # Youth Labour Forum GWU youths (Trade Union) Kerygma Malta Girl Guides Association Malta Medical Students Association Malta Youth Hostels Association MZPN # Nationalist Party Youth Movement Nature Trust (Malta) Pulse Red Cross Society Salesian Pastoral Youth Service Students# Council - Junior College The Scout Association of Malta Third World Group University of Malta Students# Council Unjoni Haddiema Mghaquda Youths (Youth Section Trade Union) Youth Christian Workers Youth for Exchange & Understanding Youth Travel Circle Zghazagh Azzjoni Kattolika (Catholic Action # Youth)

### **2.4.4 Expert groups, round tables, consulting groups in the youth field**

National Youth Policy Review Committee



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### **2.4.5 Contacts of permanent networks in the youth field**

Youth Section # Ministry of Education Youth and and Employment, 3, Great Siege Road, Floriana, CMR 02, MALTA Email: [adrian.tonna@gov.mt](mailto:adrian.tonna@gov.mt) Fax: (00356) 2227058 Tel: (00356) 21234142  
European Union Programmes Unit Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment Room 215 3, Great Siege Road Floriana CMR 02

### **2.4.6 Other non public actors/structures**

National Youth Council 36, Old Mint Street, Valletta VLT 12, Malta Fax: (+356) 21245376 Tel: (+356) 21245375 Diocesan Youth Commission 492/3, St.Joseph High Road Sta. Venera HMR 18 # Malta Fax: (+356) 21482656 Tel: (+356) 21484506

## **3 Legislation**

### **3.1 Constitution (articles that concern youth)**

Chapter 2 Constitution of Malta 10. Primary education shall be compulsory and in State schools shall be free of charge. 11. (1) Capable and deserving students, even if without financial resources, are entitled to attain the highest grades of education. (2) The State shall give effect to this principle by means of scholarships, of contributions to the families of students and other provisions on the basis of competitive examinations.

### **3.2 Application and transposition of the United Nations Declaration of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms**

Chapter 4 Constitution of Malta 40. (1) All persons in Malta shall have full freedom of conscience and enjoy the free exercise of their respective mode of religious worship. (2) No person shall be required to receive instruction in religion or to show knowledge or proficiency in religion if, in the case of a person who has not attained the age of sixteen years, objection to such requirement is made by the person who according to law has authority over him and, in any other case, if the person so required objects thereto: Provided that no such requirement shall be held to be inconsistent with or in contravention of this article to the extent that the knowledge of, or the proficiency or instruction in, religion is required for the teaching of such religion, or for admission to the priesthood or to a religious order, or for other religious purposes, and except so far as that requirement is shown not to be reasonably justifiable in a democratic society. (3) Nothing contained in or done under the authority of any law shall be held to be inconsistent with or in contravention of subarticle (1), to the extent that the law in question makes provision that is reasonably required in the interests of public safety, public order, public morality or decency, public health, or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others, and except so far as that provision or, as the case may be, the thing done under the authority thereof, is shown not to be reasonably justifiable in a democratic society. 41. (1) Except with his own consent or by way of parental discipline, no person shall be hindered in the enjoyment of his freedom of expression, including freedom to hold opinions without interference, freedom to receive ideas and information without interference, freedom to communicate ideas and information without interference (whether the



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communication be to the public generally or to any person or class of persons) and freedom from interference with his correspondence. (

### **3.3 Application and transposition of the European Convention on Childrens Rights**

Malta ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990 and signed the European Convention on the exercise of Children's Rights in 1999. A draft bill, entitled "The Children Act", is being considered by Parliament and that this bill will consolidate into one law all existing provisions relating to children's rights. To the child's right to life is added the right to development. This right includes the conditions necessary for development, such as care, adequate living conditions, health and education.

### **3.4 National legislation on youth**

In Malta there is no legislative act that defines youth as a demographic group, as all legislation recognises laws for every inhabitant, with 3 special laws for under-aged young people. The Juvenile Court Act (1980) that sees to the setting up of a Juvenile Court and provides for matters relating to children and young persons under the age of sixteen. The Children and Young Persons (Care Orders) Act (1980) that makes provisions for the care of children and young persons under the age of sixteen. Commissioner for Children Act (2003) providing for the appointment of a Commissioner for Children with power to investigate any breaches or infringements of the rights of children.

### **3.5 Regional or local legislation on youth**

not applicable

### **3.6 Guidelines**

not applicable

## **4 Programmes**

### **4.1 European programmes**

Through Cabinet decision of the 18th January 2000 and in line with EU Commission requirements, the Ministry of Education established, on the 25th of January 2000, the European Union Programmes Unit (EUPU) - a national structure to ensure a co-ordinated approach to the management of five EU Programmes: Socrates II Leonardo da Vinci II YOUTH 6th Framework Programme Culture 2000

#### **4.1.1 National Agency for YOUTH Programme (Contact person)**

Ms. Jeanette Busuttil YOUTH Programme Coordinator Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment Room 215 Great Siege Floriana CMR 02 Tel: (+356) 21255663 Fax: (+356) 21231589 youth.eupu@gov.mt www.youthmalta.org



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#### 4.1.2 Eurodesk

The YOUTH Programme is in the process of setting-up the Eurodesk, a European Union initiative as Malta is currently the only EU country which to date has not set-up such desk. Contact details: Ms. Jeanette Busuttil YOUTH Programme Coordinator Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment Room 215 Great Siege Floriana CMR 02 Tel: (+356) 21255663 Fax: (+356) 21231589 youth.eupu@gov.mt www.youthmalta.org

#### 4.1.3 Implementation of the YOUTH Programme

The Youth Programme gives the chance to young people to broaden their horizons, develop their sense of initiative and take an active part in the construction of the Europe of the third millennium through projects at home or abroad. It allows young people to acquire knowledge, skills and competencies outside formal education and training structures in order to promote the young people's personal development and their active participation as responsible citizens. Young people can benefit from this programme through five types of projects referred to as actions. Action 1 - Youth for Europe Exchanges Action 2 - European Voluntary Service Action 3 - Youth Initiatives Action 4 - Joint Actions Action 5 - Support Measures

#### 4.1.4 Other EU programmes implemented in an important way for youth

Malta National Action Plan on Poverty and Social Exclusion 2004-2006 (2004) Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity. This Action Plan have delved into the various categories related to cohorts at risk highlighting specifically young people in their pluriformal needs.

#### 4.2 National Programmes on youth

The Youth Specialisation Studies Scheme is a joint venture between the Ministry of Education Youth and Employment and the APS Bank Ltd., aimed at financially assisting young people who wish to pursue their studies abroad, if such studies are not available locally. The criteria on which the Credentials Committee assessed the applications were as follows: - Courses of studies not available in Malta; - Distance learning courses were considered provided these are not available locally. - Subsidy for such courses was of 2.5%; - Maltese Residents aged between 18 and 30 years; - Duration of course is of a minimum of one academic year and a maximum of five years. - The Credentials Committee recommended subsidy for first three years of course or duration of course plus 6 months. - Courses of studies that commenced in same year of application. - Courses finishing in the same year of application were not considered unless the courses commenced in the same year and were at least of one academic year. - An applicant whose letter of acceptance was conditional to the results that were not available at time of application, were recommended with the provision that the applicant obtains the results required. - The Credentials Committee received a total of 30 applications, the amount of Euros 144,000 was offered by APS Bank as a subsidized loan to 15 beneficiaries. Circa Euros 33,600 a year are paid to APS to cover the interests rates related to the loans. The Employment and Training Corporation's #Youth Outreach Programme# provides training in job-searching skills to youths living in deprived areas. At present, the frequency of visits by youths to employers is rather low. It is expected that the visits will



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increase following the evaluation of the programme.

Name of non youth specific programmes but which have a direct impact on young people

The National Social Welfare Agency APPOGG has submitted a project proposal for the #Training and Support for Labour Market Integration of Socially Excluded Persons# for ESF funding. The aim of this project is to train staff in monitoring and support services for social welfare and community services, youth work, disabled and abused work, domestic violence, addicted persons, correctional inmates case management, evaluation systems, and for persons in care who need social work support, in order to integrate in the labour market while targeting young registrants at their fourth and fifth month of unemployment with preventive and active measures respectively, encouraging them to take up a traineeship or apprenticeship should help them to avoid long-term unemployability. The #National Basic Skills Strategy and Plan#, targeted to be ready by end 2005, involves strengthening the forum of basic skills providers in Malta currently coordinated by the Foundation for Educational Services.

## 5 Action plans

Main characteristics and action plans in other horizontal policies directly related to youth

Malta National Action Plan on Poverty and Social Exclusion 2004-2006: \* To increase employment and employability of vulnerable groups (including persons who are unskilled, who have been inactive for a significant period of time, unable to work a full time-table and parents with dependent children and disabled persons).

## 6 Budget

### 6.1 Amounts allocated to youth policies/actions in the youth field

160,000 *Euros*

### 6.2 Main beneficiaries

Youth Support Programme Youth Specialisation Study Scheme National Youth Council Youth Information Centre Youth Empowerment Centres Youthnet # [www.youth.gov.mt](http://www.youth.gov.mt) National Youth Policy - Implementation Youth Newsletter Youth National Day

### 6.3 Tendencies

Decrease

## 7 Changes foreseen in the youth field and new developments especially linked to the four Open Method of Coordination priorities.

No answers available



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## 8 Forthcoming events/conferences in the youth field, especially linked to the Open Method of Coordination priorities

No answers available

## 9 Useful links

[www.youthnet.org.mt](http://www.youthnet.org.mt) [www.youth.gov.mt](http://www.youth.gov.mt) [www.zakmalta.org](http://www.zakmalta.org) [www.aegee-valletta.org](http://www.aegee-valletta.org)  
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## 10 Context of national youth policy (achievements, problems, obstacles, tendencies)

In the last couple of years there has been an increased promotion and implementation of policies and programmes both at government level and by non-governmental organisations targeting specific fields of concern. Effective implementation of such policies and programmes always necessitates close coordination between all parties concerned. The latest National Youth Policy (NYP) endorsed by the Maltese Government through Cabinet this year is no exception. The coordination has been one of the main functions of the Youth Section within the Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment in Malta. The Youth Section is highly committed in instituting adequate instruments for implementing the now established youth policy objectives along with coordinating ongoing activities and identifying areas that require attention and developmental endeavour. Unfortunately the Section faces a similar obstacle as many other European counterparts working in the field, that is, inadequate financial support for youth policy implementation. Ensuring hands-on and responsive participation, close collaboration and mutual support has proved to be a tangible wealth in rendering the sum of the whole greater than the sum of the parts. General Overview and Development of Youth Policy The Ministry for Education, Youth and Employment, in conjunction with state-recognised bodies (the National Youth Council, Local Councils, Non-Governmental Organisations, Youth Centres and youth groups) is responsible for the promotion and implementation of the NYP. The NYP is intended to promote, in an integrated manner, young people's economic, social and cultural situations, such as their education and their access to information and advice, employment, housing, health and leisure. The ultimate aim of the NYP is to encourage young people to participate effectively in society and to educate them towards active citizenship. The NYP is an affirmation, by Government and by its associates in this particular sphere, of their belief in collaboration and partnership in thought and action of young people's personal, social and political development. It contemplates the creation of a Youth Service that is based on young people's expectations and needs for today and tomorrow. It proffers to exclude any hint of measures which may perpetuate a sense of powerlessness, apathy and indifference in young people. Equity, equality, empowerment and emancipation are the cornerstones on which the NYP of Malta stands. For the purpose of this policy the defined age of youth is people aged 14 to



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30. Disadvantaged youths are those young people who today face discrimination because of life circumstances arising from their socio-economic, health, religious or educational backgrounds. The main objectives of the NYP are to foster a society which: \* ensures an adequate quality of life; ensures social justice, opportunity and equity; \* promotes the authenticity of the identity, diversity and responsible independence of young people; and \* promotes active citizenship and participation. Principles deduced from the Policy: The affirmation of the important role of young people in the development of Maltese society. The fostering of an environment where young people will find fulfilment. In order to achieve this, the State shall make provision for young people's basic needs, their social needs and their personal development. The acknowledgement that young people are able to make responsible choices in their life-course, as well as to understand the implications of these choices, and to take appropriate decisions. The cultivation of an environment where young people will find a culture of peace, equality and equity, access to education and full and correct information. The promotion through mentoring, of the delegation of responsibility to young people, through collective work from various quarters, such as, the Government, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, the media, educational institutions, the private sector, the family, the community in general and young people themselves. The understanding that there are young people who require particular attention. It is the State's responsibility to provide and support adequate services with the aim of maximising young people's potential. The recognition that young people have a right to participate actively in the public sphere of society. Young people's genuine participation assumes a positive contribution towards decisions that concern them now and in the future. The acknowledgement of the value of sustainability and solidarity across generations so as to ensure that present needs are met without compromising the abilities of different generations; and The encouragement of transparency, of democracy and accessibility for institutions and organisations working with young people, and in programmes that are aimed at young people.



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