

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, 2006

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

No answers available

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 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 Children's 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

No answers available

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*



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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 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.

The Malta Qualifications Council is working on the recognition of non-formal and informal learning. The aim is to certify the work that young people do in society. Thus young people will have a certificate valued in an educational or employment setting.

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 www.youth.gov.mt www.zakmalta.org www.aegee-valletta.org
www.spysmalta.org www.nsts.org www.geocities.com/yeumalta www.youthmalta.org
www.camyouths.com www.youthalive.tk www.kdz.org.mt www.knz.org.mt www.euromedp.org

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



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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 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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