



**Step in: Do 1 Thing**

**A Preliminary Assessment of Integration**

**in Malta**



**SOS Malta - August 2011**



## Context

This report was presented at a joint conference with UNHCR entitled 'Interaction among communities: Step In and do 1' Thing on the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2011 at Europa House, Valleta, Malta

## Disclaimer

The information in this report does not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission. Sole responsibility lies with the author, and the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained herein.

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Preface

### ***SOS Malta***

SOS Malta is a Maltese-registered NGO set up in 1991. SOS Malta works with local and international organisations to assist socially disadvantaged groups to improve their quality of life. They provide this assistance through projects of a social and charitable nature. SOS Malta encourages advocacy on behalf of social causes and promotes models of good care and practice. In all its operations in Malta and overseas, SOS Malta promotes volunteerism for effective sustainable development.

SOS Malta is built on four pillars of activities:

1. OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT - Emergency Aid, Livelihood Programmes & Awareness-raising
2. SOCIAL SOLIDARITY- Advocacy & Research
3. MALTA RESOURCE CENTRE FOR NGOS AND CIVIL SOCIETY
4. VOLUNTEERING

### ***The SameDifference Project***

Recent years have witnessed an increase in the number of third country nationals and immigrants living in Malta – a reality which has necessitated increased measures that contribute towards intercultural understanding, social inclusion and integration.

In response to this increasing need to work on Integration, SOS Malta has begun to engage with a variety of different projects. Most recently, SOS Malta began a project named SameDifference. SameDifference is a project co-funded by the European Refugee Fund Annual Programme 2011. The project's main objective is to promote meaningful contact and interaction between refugees and immigrants with subsidiary and temporary humanitarian protection and different sectors of the Maltese community in an informal setting using ethnic food as a communication and bridging medium.

For the Same Difference project, SOS Malta saw a need to understand better the existing interaction between refugees and immigrants with the Maltese population. A research project was undertaken to assess this interaction, in order to provide information on which to strengthen and effectively implement the SameDifference project.

The following report sets out the main findings of this research.

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Voluntary Organisation Registration No.: VO/0033



## Introduction

The present study is a result of reflection over a previous SOS Malta project entitled Healing Hands, run in 2009 which aimed to create opportunities of empowerment and productive activity through promoting social enterprises that would lead towards the integration of women with refugee and/or humanitarian status into Maltese society.

The successful implementation of the project was prevented by several factors – one of which was that the migrants did not participate with enthusiasm in the different stages of the project which led SOS Malta to reconsider the actions of the project and explore the reasons why this was the case. Therefore, the idea of the following study is that, as a preliminary analysis of the current state of integration processes in Malta, it will serve as a starting point which could help to enlighten other SOS Malta integration projects, including the SameDifference, the most recent project undertaken by SOS Malta.

Moreover, Malta as a member of the European Union has a duty to encompass values of integration and the general principle of integration as follows:

*“Integration is a dynamic, long-term, and continuous two-way process of mutual accommodation, not a static outcome. It demands the participation not only of immigrants and their descendants but of every resident. The integration process involves adaptation by immigrants, both men and women, who all have rights and responsibilities in relation to their new country of residence. It also involves the receiving society, which should create the opportunities for the immigrants’ full economic, social, cultural, and political participation. Accordingly, Member States are encouraged to consider and involve both immigrants and national citizens in integration policy and to communicate clearly their mutual rights and responsibilities<sup>1</sup>.”*

Considering *integration* as a dynamic two way process of mutual accommodation, the survey has been planned with the double aim of gaining a clearer picture of challenges and

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<sup>1</sup> Common basic principles for immigrant integration policy in the European Union.



difficulties that Beneficiaries of Protection<sup>2</sup> are facing in the process of integration into Maltese society. In addition, the survey has the aim of underlining the good practices and the successful processes that are already present in the field.

### *The Data*

It is necessary to point out that the data presented and analysed in this report were taken from a random sample of people reached. The study was not carried out in a representative scientific/quantitative way. The findings, however, cover the main questions which motivated the initial study: how are the 'beneficiaries of protection' faring in our community? What are the main challenges? How many of them have Maltese friends? In which contexts do the Maltese come into contact with them? What are their plans for the future? With these questions, this study aimed to get an overview of integration experiences in Malta.

### *The Structure*

The report is divided into 4 sections:

- **Section A** sets out the scope and methodology of the project
- **Section B** presents some key observations regarding national asylum seeker reception policies and implementation
- **Section C** assesses the ways in which the BOP and the Maltese population perceived the implementation of reception policies and their opinion about the state of integration processes on the island
- **Section D** concludes and proposes a selection of key policy recommendations

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<sup>2</sup> Beneficiaries of protection include, for the purpose of this report, beneficiaries of the refugee status, beneficiaries of international protection and beneficiaries of the temporary humanitarian protection (THPN). Taking in consideration the Geneva Convention of 1951, the European Qualification Directive and the Maltese Refugee Act, the beneficiaries of protection are entitled to receive help in kind or money and should have access to social services and welfare of the country where they are hosted.



## **Section A. Methodology**

Since we began this research with the assumption of integration as a two way process, we considered as an essential part of the research interviewing beneficiaries of protection about their experience in Malta, as well as examining the opinion of the Maltese over migration and integration processes on the island.

With this aim, we initially proposed to reach a target of 100 people both for the Maltese side and for the BOP side. However, as we will see in the section dedicated to the difficulties, we did not manage to reach the initial target. In two months, we collected **75 answers from Maltese participants and 70 from BOP participants.**

### *Two subjects, two questionnaires*

Two different questionnaires were presented to the BOPs in Malta and to the Maltese citizens and EU permanent residents here in Malta. Both the questionnaires were divided into two parts. For the beneficiaries of protection the first section describes the background of the interviewee while the second part concerns their integration experiences in Malta. In order to be able to read and analyse the results, we structured the questionnaire directed to Maltese society in a similar way, considering in the first section the background of the interviewee, while the second part aims to investigate the knowledge and opinions of Maltese society about migrants and integration processes.

### *Indicators*

We used the following indicators to investigate a migrant's daily integration process and to find out eventual discrepancies between *accessibility to core rights* and *substantive legislation*:

- Economic tools as an essential means to integration
- The cultural and social moment of encounter with the Maltese population as opportunities for mutual knowledge and exchange
- Life perspectives and satisfaction regarding the general quality of life in Malta



We structured the Maltese questionnaire in order to understand the type of knowledge the Maltese population had about the forced migration phenomenon and their opinion about integration processes in Malta exploring:

- The general opinion about the importance of Universal Human Rights
- General knowledge about the different types of migration
- Integration as an opportunity for cultural and social growth
- Integration processes as a opportunity for economic growth
- Integration and the overall security of the country
- Satisfaction of the Maltese people regarding Maltese government policies toward the beneficiaries of protection.

### *The methodology*

The methodology used for the study varied depending on the two different subjects interviewed. While we managed to reach Beneficiaries of Protection in different locations, talking to them and dedicating time for a face-to-face interview/dialogue, we prepared an online version to reach the Maltese population.

This methodology has to be understood given the structure of the research itself, conceived as a pilot study for the ERF project Same Difference, which needed to be concluded within a period of three months. Given this, we chose to prioritise the direct encounter with migrants in order to have a more comprehensive understanding about places, institutions and practices that migrants have to deal with on a daily basis and also in order to overcome eventual linguistic barriers. At the same time, we chose the online questionnaire as a strategy to rapidly reach different sectors of Maltese society and to estimate the grade of voluntary participation to a survey regarding integration.

### *Talking with migrants: the places of the encounters*

The group of people we spoke with, 70 beneficiaries of protection, constitute a varied sample considering the different *range of protection* they received. In particular, we interviewed 3 people that are entitled to the Refugee Status, 43 people that are entitled to Subsidiary Protection, 15 people that are beneficiaries of Temporary Humanitarian Status or





of Protected Humanitarian Status, 7 people with no legal status or who have been rejected (4 of them new comers waiting for their status to be determined).

As we will see in detail from the table annex, the *permanence time* of migrants in Malta shows a huge variety: we spoke with people who arrived 7 years ago, as well as people who escaped from the Libya conflict and arrived in Malta in May 2011. With regards to *gender*, our sample reached 12 female and 58 male, reflecting the general trend that sees males as the major protagonist of migration in Malta. Almost half of the sample were people who have arrived from Somalia, followed by people from Sudan and Eritrea.

*Regarding the place where the Interviews took place:*

We tried to reach people who are residing in both *Open Centres* (Marsa, Balzan, Hal Far) and people who are *living within the community*. We managed to collect 39 answers from people who are currently living in open centres, 25 answers from people who found accommodation in private apartments or at friends' places, 6 answers from people who declared not to have any place to sleep.

According to the different places where the interviews were conducted, we found different grades of difficulty in approaching people. In particular, there was a need to establish a minimum of trust before starting the interviews which required us *to stay* in the places we choose for several days, trying to understand the best way to establish contact and open dialogue with people. Marsa Open Centre and Balzan were places in which this kind of necessity was satisfied, whereas it was difficult to establish a level of trust outside the Hal far area where we had to interview people in the street under the trees.

Regarding the community, we decided to explore "gathering places" like African food stores and beauty shops, as well as to use some contacts of people we had already been in touch with. Although in those "gathering places" and in migrants' houses in St. Paul Bay we found very welcoming people available to talk about their lives in Malta, they were not willing to fill the questionnaire. Pre-existing contacts with migrants that live in the community were instead an important way to reach other migrants.



### *Reluctance*

From a global point of view, in all the different places we visited, the reluctance we found when it was time to fill the questionnaires can be read as a clear signal of distrust in institutional and non-institutional actors that over the years have not been able to provide the migrants real opportunities for integration.

### *Reading through the Maltese answers: the online questionnaire*

Seventy-seven Maltese people answered the online questionnaire that had been posted on the Association's home page and on the Facebook profile. The questionnaire was directed in part to some specific targets of Maltese society. For instance to ETC employers and to social workers of Marsa Open Centres, since they are directly involved in Beneficiary of Protection management. We also directed the questionnaire to employers of a travel agency and to students at Malta University that we were already in contact with.

We also gathered a wide number of Maltese that answered spontaneously to the questionnaire online. It can be assumed that the section of the population that voluntarily answered the survey is particularly interested in the migratory issue and integration matters.

Reconstructing an overall picture of the people we reached and whose answers we are going to analyze; we have the majority (57) of the questionnaires coming from a range of people between 27 to 55, while we collected 11 questionnaires from people between 56 to 65, 5 between 18 to 25 and 5 from people over 65. Considering the level of education, 50 people stated to have attended University, 13 attended post secondary education and another 13, secondary school. The majority of them affirmed to have an access to stable employment, 13 to be self employed, 10 to be unemployed and 8 to find themselves in a non-stable working situation (2 in irregular employment and 4 in short-term employment). Furthermore, it is interesting to notice that half of the interviewees had at least an experience of one year of studying or work abroad and had the opportunity to experience being a foreigner in another country.

### *Limitations of the study*

In the two months dedicated to the interviews, we managed to reach 70 BOP and 75 Maltese. It is a relatively small sample considering the aim of the study was to identify the



strengths and weaknesses of integration paths in Malta through a qualitative approach. However, the questionnaires were structured in such a way so as to explore many different aspects of the interviewee's reality and of the mutual knowledge between the two subjects, investigated through 35 open and semi-structured questions.

The study has also to be read as a pilot preliminary guideline for future integration projects, an analysis' tool to restate and reaffirm the necessity to construct policies that encounter real possibilities to restart life in a new country. Considering these limits, the present study should be considered as complementary and useful to set practices and researches on the idea of integration as a process of change, for the individual as well as for society as a whole.<sup>3</sup>

## **Section B: Essential Rights**

After 2 months analysis of the interviews from beneficiaries of protection, it is possible to draw a picture of the rights conferred to them by Maltese law<sup>4</sup>.

One of the main aspects of integration is to offer beneficiaries of protection a way to become economically self-sufficient; therefore, assumptions can be made from the answers collected on some areas which are considered as a pre-requisite to integration. In fact, the answers gathered from the survey permit assumptions in two areas; one reflects an economic aspect and (1) the other one a social aspect of integration (2).

### **1) Allowances:**

We consider the allowances in two subdivisions: the first related to the per diem allowance – i.e. the amount of money which is given to the third country national or refugee by the Maltese government through the intervention of AWAS (1.1) – and secondly, the employment benefit (1.2).

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<sup>3</sup> Handbook of best practices for integration (EUNET Integration Network), p.11.

<sup>4</sup> Malta Refugee Act 2001, Cap.420



**a) Per diems:**

*Discretionary allocation of the per diem allowance*

Primarily, after two months of interviews the survey shows that there are no legal grounds to determine the per diem allowance according to the different status. This data is consistent with a recent study of the Jesuit Refugee Service<sup>5</sup>.

Relying on this report it is visible that refugees are getting 110 euro per month, beneficiaries of subsidiary protection 130 euro per month and finally the beneficiaries of the temporary humanitarian protection are receiving either 130 euro or 95 euro per month. Families are getting a further 65 euro per child. However, an analysis of the data in the study shows that the allocation of the allowance is discretionary. For instance, considering the granting of the allowance with the percentage of people interviewed with the THPN status, this allowance does not depend on whether migrants are working or not.

Furthermore, the returnees are seeing their allowance reduced without their status or their living conditions being taking into consideration and only on the grounds that they tried to travel out of the territory without authorisation. One can find no legal grounds to the decrease of the allowance, neither in the Geneva Convention nor in the EU Qualification directive.

Thus, it leads the beneficiaries of protection to feel more uncertainty as to whether or not they are going to be able to respond to their daily needs, to deal with their daily expenditure and to make living plans for the future.

*The signature in order to perceive the allocation*

Next, it is customary that the delivery of the allowance is tied to a signature 3 times per week and to actually living in one of the open centres. The majority of people consider this as a real constraint. Undeniably, it stops them going to look for jobs or even to attempt to work. This concerns only the people who are living at the centre since as soon as they move out from the centre they are no longer entitled to get any amount of money.

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<sup>5</sup> A report on a pilot study on destitution amongst the migrant community in Malta, Malta, March 2010



### *Lack of consistency of the system*

Finally, the survey shows clearly a lack of consistency in the system. In fact, when the beneficiaries of protection lose their job, even after a short time, they have little chance of re-entering the allowance system and are *inter alia* submitted to destitution instead of being helped to become self-sufficient. Indeed, the system is built as if once the beneficiaries of protection obtain a job, that this is long term. Thus, this system does not take into account that in practice, as the survey highlights, most of the interviewees are employed in short term, seasonal or unstable employment. Therefore, they do not access benefits, although they are entitled to as of the right set out in the EU Qualification directive<sup>6</sup>.

### **b) Unemployment benefit:**

Once beneficiaries of protection lose their jobs, they do not receive any unemployment benefits or even insurance in case of work injuries, even though they do not get the per diem allocation from AWAS.

Given the International and European law, beneficiaries of protection should be eligible to the same social benefits as those provided to National Citizens of the Member states<sup>7</sup>. Indeed, only one exception is made regarding the beneficiaries of subsidiary protection who might be eligible for the sole “core benefits”<sup>8</sup> to which national citizens of the host country are entitled. It is important to bear in mind that, according to the Maltese Refugee Act, the beneficiaries of protection are eligible under the Social Security Act criteria<sup>9</sup> as are Maltese citizens.

Nonetheless, according to the interviewees, beneficiaries of protection do not get any unemployment benefit if they have been made redundant. Some of the people interviewed who have been working previously in Malta stated that they were not getting any benefit from the ETC even though, according to ETC data, beneficiaries of protection who are

<sup>6</sup> Preamble 34, EU Qualification Directive, 2004/83/EC

<sup>7</sup> Geneva Convention of 1951

<sup>8</sup> Idem 4 and Article 28 of the EU qualification directive 2004/83/EC :  
Article 28

2. By exception to the general rule laid down in paragraph 1, Member States may limit social assistance granted to beneficiaries of subsidiary protection status **to core benefits** which will then be provided at the same levels and under the same eligibility conditions as nationals.

<sup>9</sup> Social Security Act, Cap 318 z



working legally are registered within their office. This registration means that these beneficiaries of protection should be entitled to a minimum of social benefits to which Maltese citizens are entitled to.

Indeed, as part of the study from the Maltese point of view, some emphasised that considering the participation of the working beneficiaries of protection to the national economy, they should be eligible for social benefits and at least to the minimum of social welfare.

Consequently, being denied a minimum corpus of rights, not only in theory but also in practice, it is difficult for beneficiaries of protection to integrate themselves properly into the EU system.

## 2) **Travel documents:**

Concerning the travel documents issues; one can consider it as part of the social aspect of integration. Indeed, it is a way to enjoy the freedom of movement and to go from one place to another without any restrictions.

According to the current international humanitarian law, the beneficiaries of protection are entitled to receive travel documents in order to be free to move from one country to another.<sup>10</sup> That is to say that those travel documents are a right unless national security or public order issues state otherwise.

### *Length of the procedure*

Nevertheless, the majority of people interviewed underlined the long procedure and the time wasting to claim their travel documents. Some of them have been here for 5 years and still do not have any possibility to travel outside the Maltese territory, while some others are getting documents within a year.

Furthermore, the study and the conversations with the beneficiaries of protection show that the deliverance of travel documents is discretionary; no one really knows when they will get their documents.

### *Cover letter*

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<sup>10</sup> Article 27, Geneva Convention of 1951 and article 25 of the EU directive 2004/83/EC



In addition, the interviewees underlined that different kinds of documents have to be provided in order to receive travel documents. For instance, beneficiaries of protection need a recommendation letter from the care workers of one open centre, who recommend them to the Emigrants Commission. Then they need to go to the Emigrants Commission to have another letter of recommendation and then, finally, they can submit their application for travel documents to the Governments.

### *Uncertainty of receipt*

Nevertheless, even after having those recommendation letters they might not have their travel documents. This is leading to some misunderstanding among the beneficiaries of protection. Hence, it can be said that, the beneficiaries of the subsidiary protection and the temporary humanitarian protection have less protection than others and that these procedures are just a way to “calm them down.” Indeed, it seems that the Refugees obtain their travel documents faster.

### *Travel documents are a necessity*

The delivery of travel documents is considered the first step for the integration of beneficiaries of protection. The majority of BOP stated that they needed travel documents to leave Malta in order to seek a better life outside the territory and because they would like to be free to move from one country to another as every human being.

Second, some of them underlined the fact that having travel documents would give them the opportunity to start a business by having the possibility to go abroad in order to make contacts with foreign entrepreneurs. For instance, one of them highlighted that having a clothes business he needs to go to another country to deal with the seller; however, he cannot do so if he cannot travel.

Relying on the survey, very few people seemed to have been granted travel documents, even after having spent hours looking for recommendation letters. The lack of delivery is a net drain for Malta as those people could have new ideas to start businesses and contribute to the Maltese economy.



## **Section C: Collating data and analysis**

In this section, we will highlight how the Maltese population and the beneficiaries of protection perceive the economic measures currently implemented on the island. We are going to analyse how the population that lives on the island considers such measures. Although we will find that they agree on some important issues which are affecting the integration process in Malta, there is still room for improvements to improve relationships and mutual knowledge and understanding.

### **I. Economic tools as an essential way to integration**

Employment, language, vocational training and training are considered as economic tools towards integration in the Maltese society. Which possibilities do BOPs have to access these tools in the current situation?

#### **1) Labour Market**

##### **a) *Beneficiaries of Protection***

Beneficiaries of protection in Malta are well aware that it is not easy for them to have a fair access to the labour market, as a result of the few opportunities of employment that the island offers and the barriers that they encounter to obtain an employment.

##### *The unemployed*

On one hand, most of the beneficiaries of protection interviewed found barriers to obtain employment. Nevertheless, it is important to stress here that relying on an ETC research a large part of the beneficiaries of protection are registered.<sup>11</sup>

Notably all the participants expressed that access to work is the only way to start a new life in a new country. In addition, the majority of the interviewees asked to be provided any form of job. Thus, it shows that they are hard working and that they want to be able to

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<sup>11</sup> Relying on an ETC research, **Participation in the Labour Market of Asylum seekers and former Asylum seekers** :“At the end of June 2011, there were 1,757 employment licenses issued, out of whom 865 are in employment.”





undertake their daily life, their daily life expenses and do their best to get out from the society limbo in which most of them are living.

First, it is possible to underline that they have encountered many obstacles to finding a job throughout the time they have been here and the majority are still unemployed irrespective of their legal status.

*“I don’t feel comfortable and life is difficult because we don’t find good jobs, here there is no future” (18-25, Male, West Africa, 5 years in Malta).*

One of the main reasons given by them is the small capacity of the Maltese labour market; there is no space for them to find jobs except the ones that are given to them because the Maltese do not want them. “Malta is too small to have a job” stated one of the participants. (26-35, Male, West Africa)

Finally, one of the other beliefs stressed by the beneficiaries of international protection to explain the high unemployment rate is the discrimination. They feel discriminated against because they do not have the same colour of skin, the same customs or religion, even when it comes to look for employment. For instance, one of the participants expressed *“I should change my colour of skin if I want to find a job there.”* (26-35, Male, West Africa)

Although, we have to put these statements in perspective with a research which shows that *“During the third quarter of 2010, the number of persons over 15 years was estimated to be 349,648? Of these 165,152 or 47.2 per cent were employed, 12,054 were unemployed and 172,442 persons were inactive.”*<sup>12</sup>

#### *The employee*

On the other, concerning the beneficiaries of protection, it can be underlined that when working, even though they are contributing to national income, they are not paid enough. A participant expressed that *“it is like I am exploited”* (26-35, Male, Sudan).

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<http://ec.europa.eu/eures/main.jsp?catId=2788&Imi=Y&acro=Imi&lang=en&recordLang=en&parentId=&countryId=MT&regionId=MT0&nuts2Code=null&nuts3Code=null&mode=text&regionName=National%20Level>, 4.08.2011



Moreover, people with a University degree indicated that it was hard for them to prove their ability once they got a placement in view of the fact that their colleagues and employers were sceptical regarding their working skills.

*“I had to prove to be a good engineer when I started. They looked down at me and they did not believe I could do a good job. Now my boss is very happy with me and he gave to me a lot of work. Still that is not recognised in my salary. People that are taking less responsibilities than me get more money than I do. Government should fix some laws about payment for professionals and non professionals.”*(Male, Eritrean, 26-35, living in Bugibba)

Ultimately, the beneficiaries of protection who are working, or who have worked, are mainly employed in the area of construction, or taking a cleaning position etc. However, it shows that they are willing to tackle any kind of job, as long as they are getting an amount of money to survive. A female (Somali, 18-25) underlined that she was “willing to stay in Malta only if she could get a job.” It is of little interest for them to stay in Malta while doing nothing.

### **b) Maltese citizens**

#### *Conditions of employment of beneficiaries of protection*

On a global picture, the Maltese population acknowledge that the beneficiaries of protection are tackling the jobs that the Maltese are not willing to do: they are a *“more varied forms of labour, varied labour skills, filling of work Maltese refuse to perform”* (Male, National citizen, 26-35, Worked and studied abroad).

Furthermore, the majority of the Maltese participants agreed on the fact that they are being exploited and aware that they are paying taxes but do not get any employment benefits and are not always paid as the Maltese are. One male underlined that they *“are used as modern slaves today”* (Male, 56-65, National citizen, always lived in Malta).

Thus, it shows that a majority of the Maltese are aware about the situation in which the beneficiaries of protection are living.

#### *Here to tackle the Maltese job*

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While some others are scared that the arrival of forced migration is going to reduce the available employment for the Maltese: *“Unfortunately a lot of locals are not finding a job because foreigners are going into jobs accepting low working conditions. Hence a local person who has a lot of experience will not be considered for the job”* (Female, 26-35, and National citizen, always lived in Malta).

Other comments lead in that direction and show the current weakness of the Maltese labour market and that people fear for their future and the risk that they should undertake work at a lower price.

One can say that there is a misunderstanding between some Maltese and some beneficiaries of protection and that they should be able to work together by trying to encompass all their differences and prejudices.

## **2) Education**

Education is an economic tool because it leads people to have access to a better level of education and thus provide the possibility for people to look for various jobs. Most of the participants admitted that they went to school until primary or secondary level<sup>13</sup>.

### **a) *Beneficiaries of Protection***

#### *Recognition of previous qualifications*

Among the few people who are willing to follow their studies, it appears to be a true challenge, notably due to the lack of recognition of their previous qualifications. For instance, one of the participants underlined that his University degree in nursery was not recognised. (Male, 36-55, Eritrea). Furthermore, they need to have with them a hard copy of their diploma, which might raise some problems since the beneficiaries of protection do not have such documents with them due to the hurry or the conditions in which they had to leave their country. Furthermore, the people who have got a university degree in their country are over qualified for the work that they are doing in Malta, since there is no recognition of their qualifications.

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<sup>13</sup> Annexes Graphic : 10 primary and 3 univeristiy 10 others



### *Barriers to have access to university*

Among the people who would like to go to university, they have seen some barriers rising, notably the fees which are quite expensive for them and the fact that there is an interview before being authorised to begin. Regarding the interview before entering university, a male participant underlined that he was scared of being discriminated against and felt that he had little chance to be selected to enter.

Another barrier is a recurrent one, where a majority of the beneficiaries of protection do not want to stay in Malta and they do not see any interest to stay here and to try to get any education here. *“Malta is a small country [...] I Would like to continue with education and University; I would love to settle down in Sweden.”* ( Male, 18-25, West Africa).

### *When it works*

However, access to schooling works for some of the participants. Indeed, some of them have had the opportunity to follow secondary school. In addition, a female expressed that she had to take some high school courses in Malta in order to be able to attend university (Female, West Africa, 18-25). She is going to catch up on the final years of high school and then will go to University. Having access to university will allow her to look for another kind of job and to try to live a better life in Malta.

### **b) The Maltese population**

The Maltese population do not know so much concerning the access of the beneficiaries of protection to schooling in general. Although some of them think that the beneficiaries of protection should be educated in way that they should have access to multicultural classes which would help them to integrate better into the country.

One of the participants expressed that there is a need to *“Provide further assistance in education and training so that both Malta and these individuals benefit from their stay.”* (Female, 26-35, National citizen, always lived in Malta). This shows that some of the Maltese are aware about the low degree of schooling of some of the beneficiaries of protection and that they need help to attend class to ensure that they will get the same chance as the Maltese children to contribute to the growth of the country.



### 3) Training/ vocational training and language courses

Regarding vocational training, training and language courses they are a way to help the beneficiaries of protection to integrate into the labour market by giving them the basis for language and having a specialisation in a particular area of work. It should also help them to tackle other possibilities to get out from low skilled employment.

#### a) ***Beneficiaries of Protection***

##### *Not a priority*

The majority of the participants declared that attending vocational training/ training was not a priority. The same has to be applied for the language courses either in English or in Maltese. They do not see those as ways, which facilitate their integration into the labour market and by extension into the Maltese society. Looking for a job is the main centre of interest of the beneficiaries of protection. For instance a male (36-55) expressed that he does not have *“any plans for the future and the only preoccupation is the job”*, this man arrived in 2007 in Malta. Nonetheless, the time spent in Malta does not have any impact on that reluctance to attend training or language classes, even for some of the newcomers, the only aim is first to find a job to be self reliant. Moreover, a male (26-35 Ghana arrived in 2011) underlined *“for the future my objective is having a job and move to another country.”*

##### *Difficulties in accessing the location of the courses*

Some of the beneficiaries of protection that answered underlined that it was difficult for them to have access physically to the courses.

##### *English classes as a way of communicating and integrating into the labour market*

On the one hand, having English or Maltese class it is not a priority for a majority, however, some beneficiaries of protection recognised that English is a way *“to communicate better”* (Male, 26-35, Burkina Faso) and facilitate the access to work and to the society. Indeed, once you know how to use the basics of a language you can be understood better by the population and thus by your future employer.



### *Access to vocational training/ training and English classes*

Some beneficiaries of protection have had access to the languages classes in Maltese or English. Regarding the vocational training and training, it seems that once you get the chance to have a course you take some other as well. Indeed, when analysing the questionnaires, we can see that among the participants who went to ETC many have followed more than one course.

Accordingly, many expressed disappointment on the lack of courses within the centre. Many of the males in Marsa expressed that they were seeing a teacher only once a week for 2 hours and the same in Balzan.

### **b) Maltese population**

From a global point of view, when looking at the different information from the Maltese citizens it seems that they are aware that beneficiaries of protection are eligible for some ETC classes and languages classes and know about the government policies towards the beneficiaries of protection.

### *Essential to offer better access to language*

All the Maltese who participated agreed on the fact that learning English or Maltese should be a priority for them. Thus, all the beneficiaries of protection should attend language classes, even though not all of them agreed about their presence in their country.

### *Need to help them to train*

A Maltese Male underlined that regarding the training; the Maltese society should see that they “have skills and abilities”. Another male expressed that ETC has “to train refugees to help them find a decent work and help to mix and integrate with the Maltese population not ghettoizing them in Marsa and Hal far areas. “ Indeed, it appears to be important to help them to look for job which will create a double incentive to push them to find something that they like and help to avoid illegal work.

To conclude, the main findings of the survey are the lack of knowledge and the presence of many prejudices on the part of both the beneficiaries of protection and the Maltese



population. In addition, it is important to consider as well the social tools as a way towards integration.

## II. Social tools towards integration

In this section, we will try to understand what the moments of encounter and interaction between beneficiaries of protection and Maltese population are. We will underline how both sides see the interactions and the relationships. We will propose a brief analysis exploring and commenting how the migrants and the Maltese population react to the questions we proposed.

### 1. Occasions to get in touch:

#### ***At the work place:***

##### **a) *Beneficiaries of international protection***

The answers of *beneficiaries of international protection* easily show that the recurrent situation in which to get in touch with local inhabitants is the *work place*. On the total sample of 70 beneficiaries of international protection we interviewed, almost two thirds of the people have actually access to the labour market or had it in the past. Nevertheless, it has to be underlined that of this sample, just half of it has real access to the regular labour market, while many of them are working irregularly.

This situation reflects one of the biggest obstacles toward real integration in Malta; it is also a clear indicator of the quality of the relationship between the two subjects. In fact, people that have a regular job position in most of the cases gave positive answers regarding the interaction with Maltese population, sometimes soliciting the necessity of a higher and fair salary to face daily living expenses.

*“Maltese people I work for are very nice; you know, each country has good people and bad people.”(Female, 46-55, East Africa).*

On the other hand, people that are forced to accept irregular jobs, and sometimes under bad conditions, have to face severe problems:



*“They are exploiting us, we are like a cash-cow, and the relationships at work are not good because they are racist and just care about the benefit they can get from us” (Male, West Africa, 26-36 years old).*

The same uncertainty situation is presented also by people that are employed in seasonal jobs, forced to rely on the summer time to carry on the months of unemployment.

On the other hand, the majority of *Maltese* we reached stated that the main recurrent way to get in contact with BoP is through NGO’s advocacy activities or work places. Some of them met people through religious congregations.

Once asked about the relationship with BOP at work, the most common answer can be summarised in the following statement:

*“Very positive. Although there are a few cultural barriers, these can be easily overcome”,* showing that once in contact the differences can be easily transformed into strengths.

#### **b) Maltese citizens**

Furthermore, considering this variable, the work place as a way to encounter and as a socializing moment, we find it interesting to analyse the Maltese answers to the question *“How do you think the presence of beneficiaries of protection contributes to the economy of Malta?”* The majority of the Maltese state that the presence of BOP could bring extra money into the country, contributing to paying taxes and undertaking the jobs that the Maltese do not want anymore or bringing up new business ideas. In addition, in most of the answers we collected the Maltese show awareness of the disparity of treatment regarding work benefits and salary treatment and called for the necessity to fill the gap:

*“[The contribution to the Maltese economy] affects it positively because Beneficiaries tend to accept labour which usually Maltese are not ready to accept, however it is important that they are given the same conditions as a Maltese employee.”(Female, 25-36, always lived in Malta)*

A minority of the Maltese population instead expressed concern towards the *welfare issue*. Some of them claimed in fact that beneficiaries of protection are a drain on the resources of the Maltese economy and a burden for the Maltese society. Others stressed that eventually local people will encounter difficulties in finding a job because beneficiaries of protection





and migrants are accepting lower job treatment/conditions. Some Maltese admitted to not be enough informed about the subject in discussion and preferred to not answer. Concern has been expressed also regarding the possibility of over saturation of the Maltese labour's market.

*“So far they are low class worker or a burden. As long as there is no integration, nothing will change” (male 25-36, EU citizen with Maltese residence permit, lived in Malta for 5 years).*

### **About political and cultural participation in the social life**

#### **a) Beneficiaries of Protection**

Regarding the possibilities to participate in political and cultural meetings and inter-faith/cultural activities, considered as occasions to establish contacts and mutual knowledge between Maltese and BOP, the survey underline that huge steps have to be taken. In fact, especially on the part of the beneficiaries of protection that are unemployed, discrimination is a real daily experience, diminishing even the possibility of participation in cultural, political or multicultural activities. Obviously, the urgent necessities for the unemployed beneficiaries of protection are job hunting and the possibility of restarting an autonomous life.

Additionally, residing in an open centre as the result of not having any job opportunities, stigmatizes people that are known as “Marsa inhabitants” or “Hal Far” immigrants. Perceiving this kind of atmosphere, most of beneficiaries of protection forced to face these conditions are not stimulated to participate in the social life of the country:

*“I don't participate in any cultural activities because first of all we don't have our basic rights respected here. So I don't feel Malta as my country and I don't want to contribute to it in any way.”(Male, 26 -55, West Africa, does not have a stable residence).*

Also, migrants that live in the community and conduct a regular life stressed that there is a lack of information about events opened to a wide public and the possibilities of being involved in multicultural, political or inter-faith activities:



*“We didn’t know about that possibilities here, we are living within our community and helping each other. There is not a lot of information about that kind of activity” (male 26-36 West Africa, living in St Julians).*

*“If I keep living in the Maltese society I will always feel an inferiority complex. I am feeling lonely, they always discriminate me.”*

A further question that is important to analyse was that directed at whether or not any beneficiaries of protection have had been visited by Maltese’s friends and vice-versa. The answers undoubtedly underlined the distance and the gap existing between the two subjects. In fact, just 10 of the total Maltese we interviewed were visited by beneficiaries of protection at their home and just three Maltese had visited a beneficiary of protection residence in the last year. Vice versa, very few of the beneficiaries of protection we spoke with declared to have Maltese contacts/friends and have been invited in a Maltese house.

**b) Maltese citizens**

In addition, after having considered the answers of the Maltese regarding:

1. the contribution of multicultural classes to the education of the new generation
2. the possibility of participating in a joint venture with BOP,

We can conclude that a great majority of the Maltese population ideally considered the different possibilities of encounter as resources and positive challenges to increase the general comprehension of the multicultural dynamics. As a Maltese woman observed: *“[Multicultural classes can have very good impact on children’s education in fact] their general knowledge can be vast, they become more tolerant and can later work in a multicultural environment”.*

Nevertheless, it is important to notice a slightly different position regarding the answers that touch economic aspects and real life. When asked about the possibilities to participate in a joint venture with BOP *half of Maltese population* interviewed were reluctant and showed a negative disposition.



*“No, can we trust them?” and “I will consider that if they were just Maltese person or another European”.*

The other half instead contemplated with enthusiasm the possibility to start a hypothetical joint venture with the BOP:

*“Yes I would. I see that they have skills as much as we have and many times we can even learn from them”*

*“Yes, those who resettled tend to be innovating and enterprising”*

As the last element, considering that only a restricted number of Maltese people have visited BOPs houses and vice versa, we can conclude that the local population and beneficiaries of protection have established very few forms of contacts or relationship, which preclude a better knowledge and reciprocal comprehension.

#### **Section D: Conclusion and recommendations**

##### *Conclusion*

As has been stressed in this report, integration is a two-way process of mutual accommodation by migrants and by the societies that receive them. The migration issues and especially forced migration in Malta is a challenging one.

In the light of the above, it is clear that the Maltese government and the Maltese society should work in order to create conditions that are more favourable for the economic, social and cultural incorporation of beneficiaries of protections<sup>14</sup>.

As has been shown, there are gaps remaining between Maltese citizens and beneficiaries of protection. In particular, they do not have the same access to the same services and they do not have a sufficient mutual understanding to encompass their differences and advance together in a one joint direction.

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<sup>14</sup> Communication from the Commission, European Agenda for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals (SEC(2011)957 final)



### *Recommendations*

Language training should be a priority and must be developed more, especially taking into consideration that it is not easy for the majority of beneficiaries of protection to recognise the importance of the language training.

New policies should find a way to tie language training to the per diem allowance. Thus, encouraging the beneficiaries of protection to learn the language. Furthermore, the Maltese government should develop further the possibilities of access for forced migrants to the training and vocational training in order to push the migrants to acquire new or more competences.

That is the same with the European Refugee Fund programmes, such a programme as Healing Hands or Same Difference has to be tied to something, or at least to a sum of money in order to create an incentive among the beneficiaries of protection to participate in the project. It is hard for them to understand that it is going to help them for the future, while the only thing that they have in mind is to find a job or leave the country because they do not feel comfortable over there.

Moreover, links ought to be found among the people who have left the open centres to create an incentive and help the beneficiaries of protection who are still living in the open centres. Thus, in order to step-by-step give a chance to people to be self-sufficient. For instance, a “buddy” system should be implemented; beneficiaries of protection could have a Maltese godfather or a link to migrants who have succeeded in finding their own way on the island.

In this way, integration should be profitable for both the Maltese and for the beneficiaries of protection. It should be a common experience and not a bitter experience for both sides.

This study suggests that it is time to step in and do one thing at a local and society level. SOS Malta will start this process trying to create bridges as with Same Difference project. It will invite Maltese citizens to share with beneficiaries of protection some of their local dishes. It is well known that cuisine creates links. More actions like this should be promoted, implemented and made visible.



The beneficiaries of protection too have to step towards the Maltese society. They need to believe that they are a potential sources of richness for the island, but that will only happen if the Maltese and beneficiaries of protection are able to look at the future together. This has to go first through a better communication with the media, which most of the time are stigmatising and labelling beneficiaries of protection as illegal, clandestine or a burden, without explaining or analysing the whole frame of the events.

In order to reinforce the bridges between people it is time to done one thing and step in to enhance cooperation between Maltese citizens and beneficiaries of protection.

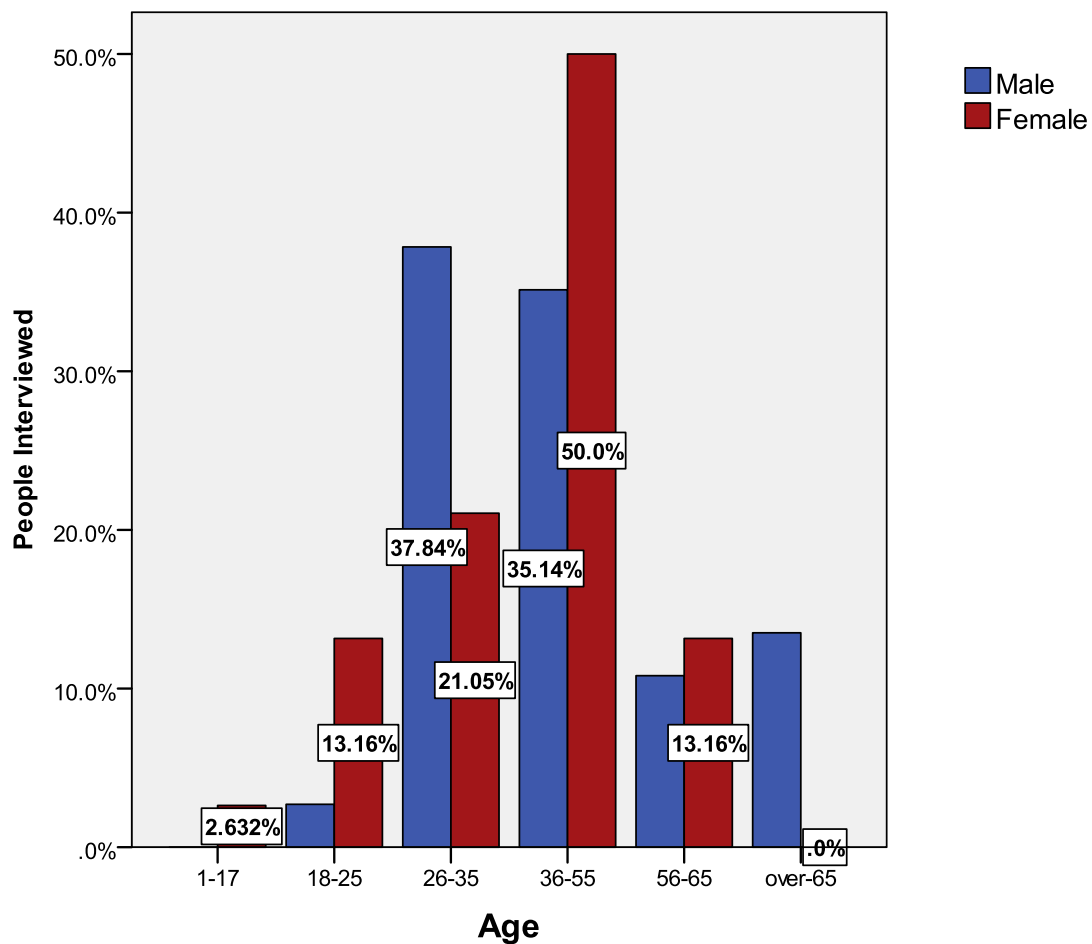


**ANNEXES :**

**Annex 1 Statistics**

**Survey on Maltese population.**

**Gender and age of Maltese people interviewed**

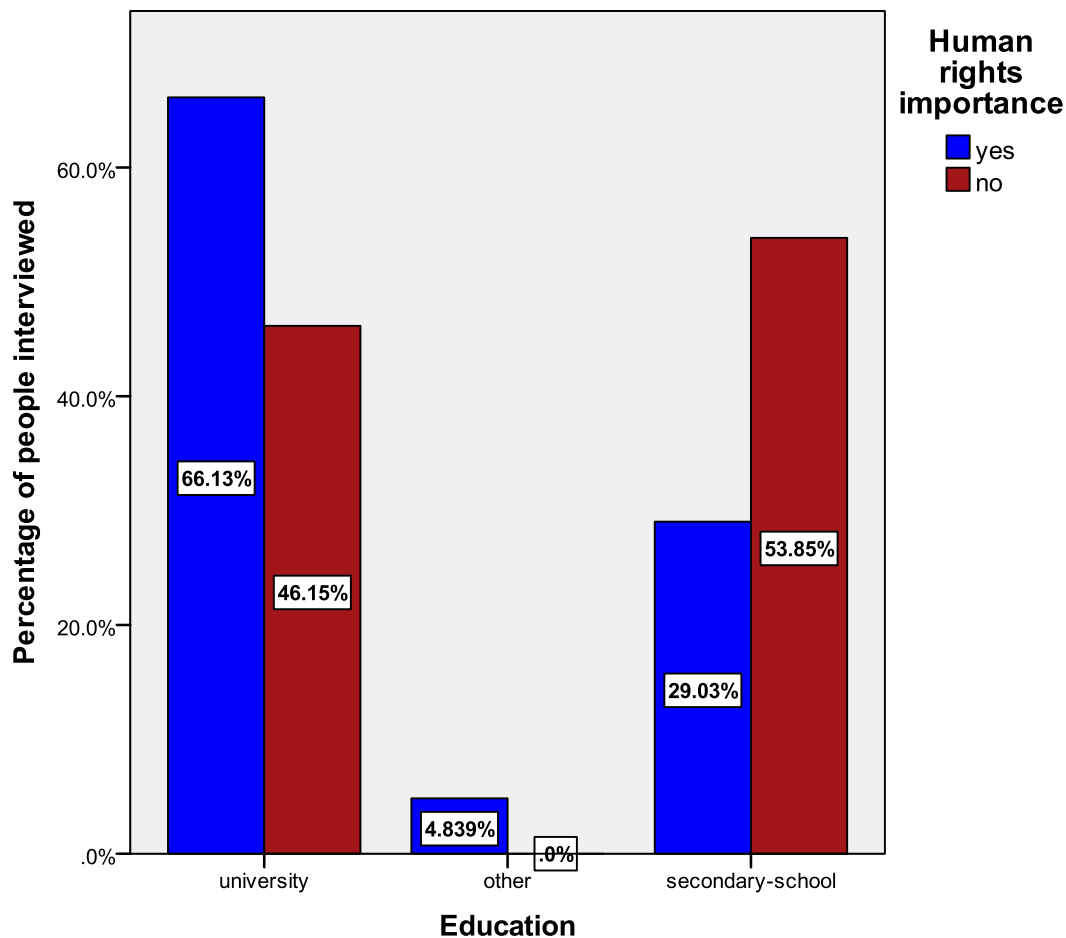


In this bar graph the percentage of Maltese population interviewed according to *age* and *gender* is represented. The large part of the interviewees are between the age of 26 and 55



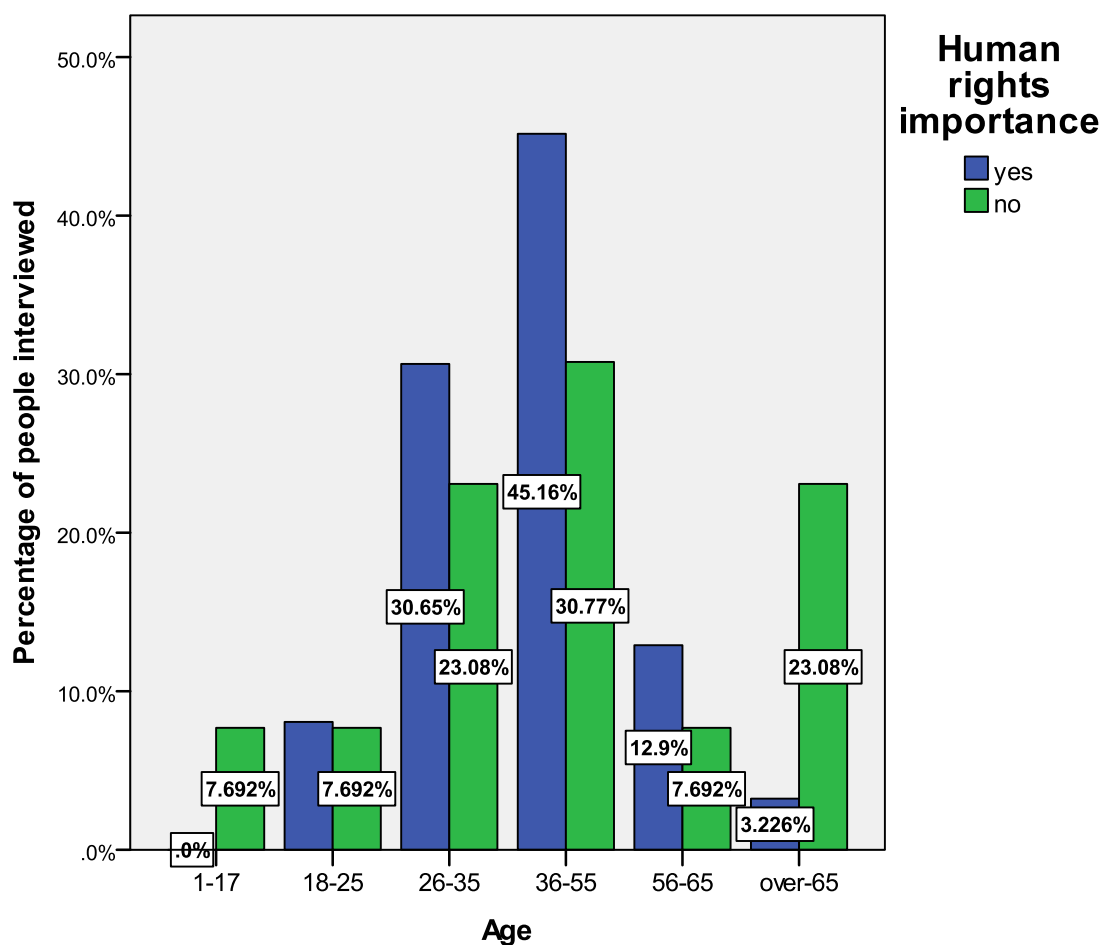
years old. Male people are mostly present at the age of 26-35, while female people at age of 36-55.

**Importance of H.R. with level of education of Maltese people.**



Considering people with different levels of education, such as *university* and *secondary school*, it is visible that graduates are more aware of the importance of human rights. Meanwhile people with a secondary level of education are less aware. We can generally conclude that education is one of the fundamental elements which can contribute to increase the knowledge and the sensitivity of people in regard to H.R. importance.

### H.R. importance with age of people interviewed

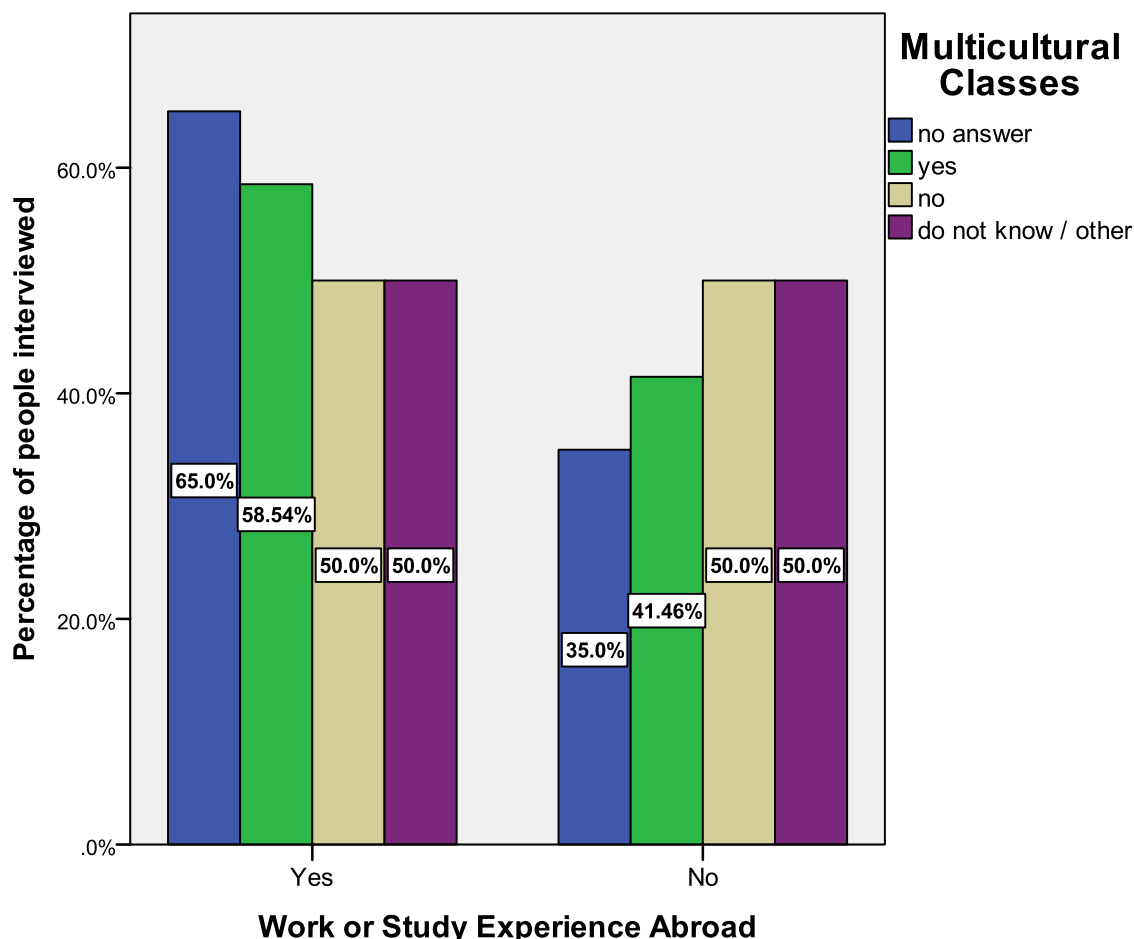


In this bar graph we consider the *age* and *the importance of human rights*. We can see that belief in the importance of HR increases around the age of 26-55. Thus, we can conclude by saying that people in Malta have in part increased their sensitivity with regard to human rights.



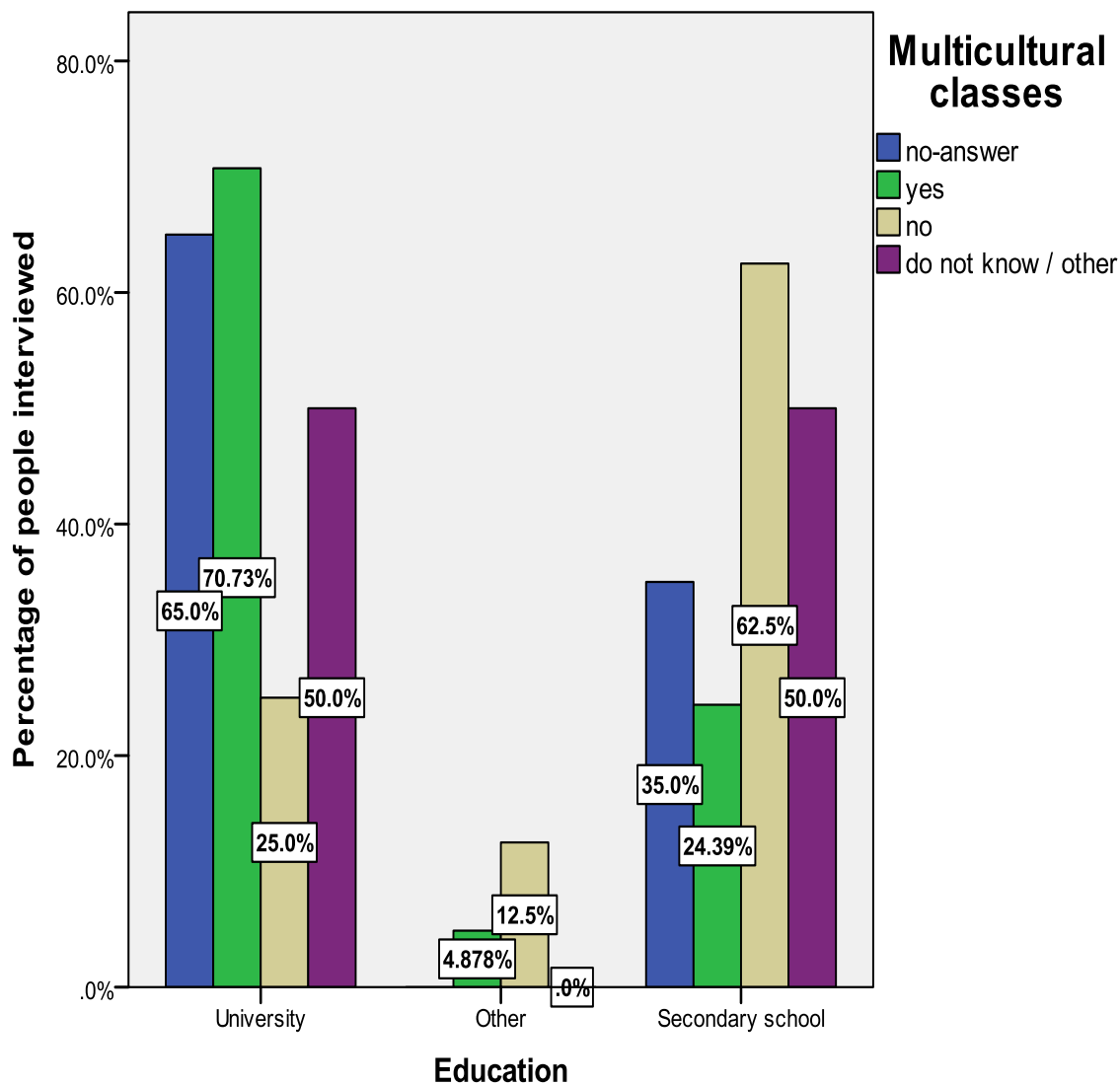


### Multicultural classes with foreign experiences of Maltese people



In this bar graph, we consider any possible work or study experiences abroad of Maltese people, which could have affected their sensitivity or their knowledge with regard to other cultures. The majority of the people who have not experienced any form of work or study abroad remain contrary or unsure with regard to multicultural classes. Also people with some form of experiences in other countries remain undecided with regards to multicultural classes, while only a 58% seems to have a positive consideration of it.

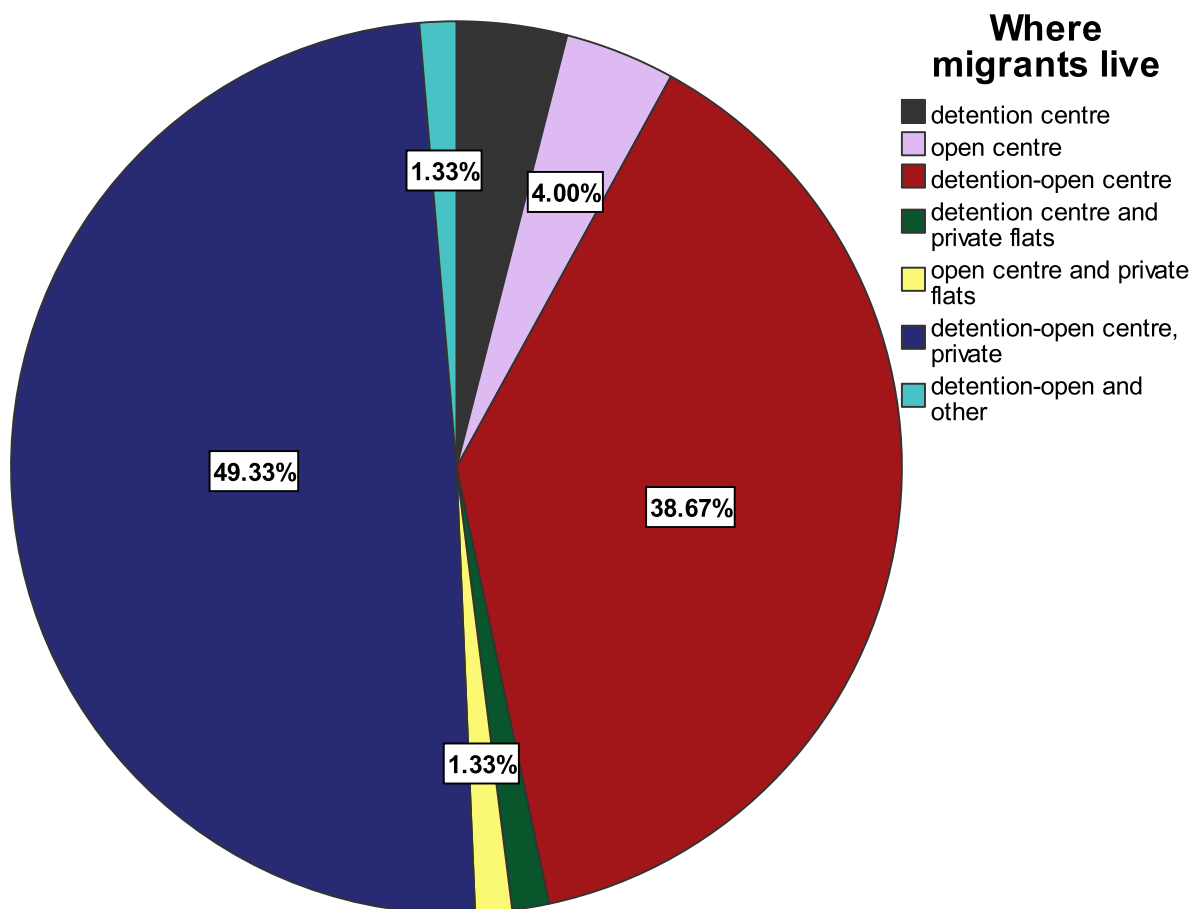
### Multicultural classes with level of education of Maltese people



In this bar graph it is possible to see that a great part of the Maltese people who agree with multicultural classes have a high level of education. However, a large part of the highly educated Maltese are undecided with regard to multicultural classes. At the same time, people with a secondary level of school express their adversity or indecision to multicultural classes. Only 24.3% agree with integration processes in schools.



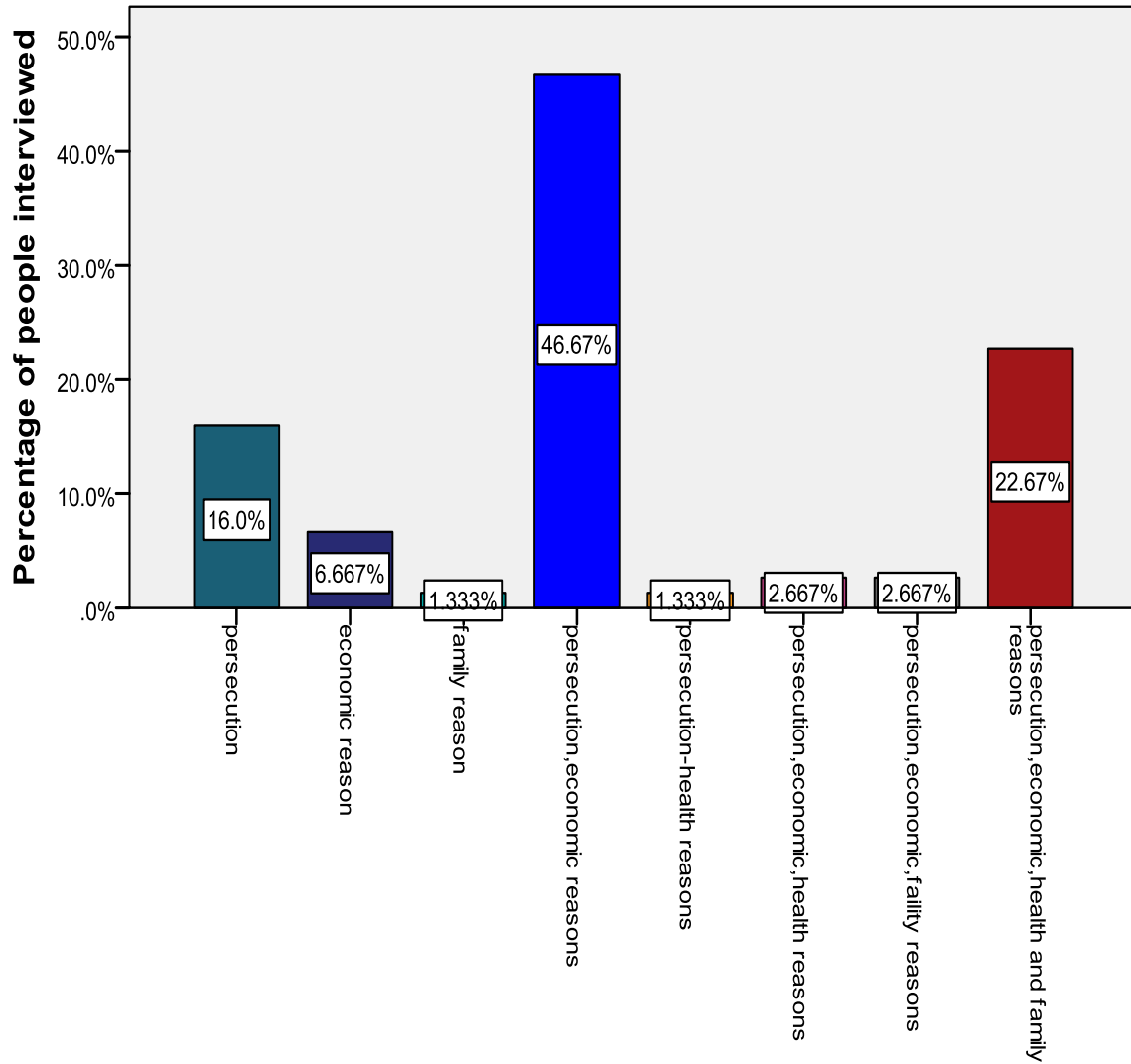
### Living places of migrants according to Maltese population



In this pie chart is possible to understand the knowledge of the Maltese people with regard to the living place of migrants. The main option considered is the one of detention and open centres together with private accommodations. A large number of citizens also consider detention and open centres as the only places where migrants live. A very restricted number of people limit the living places of migrants to the simple detention or open centres.

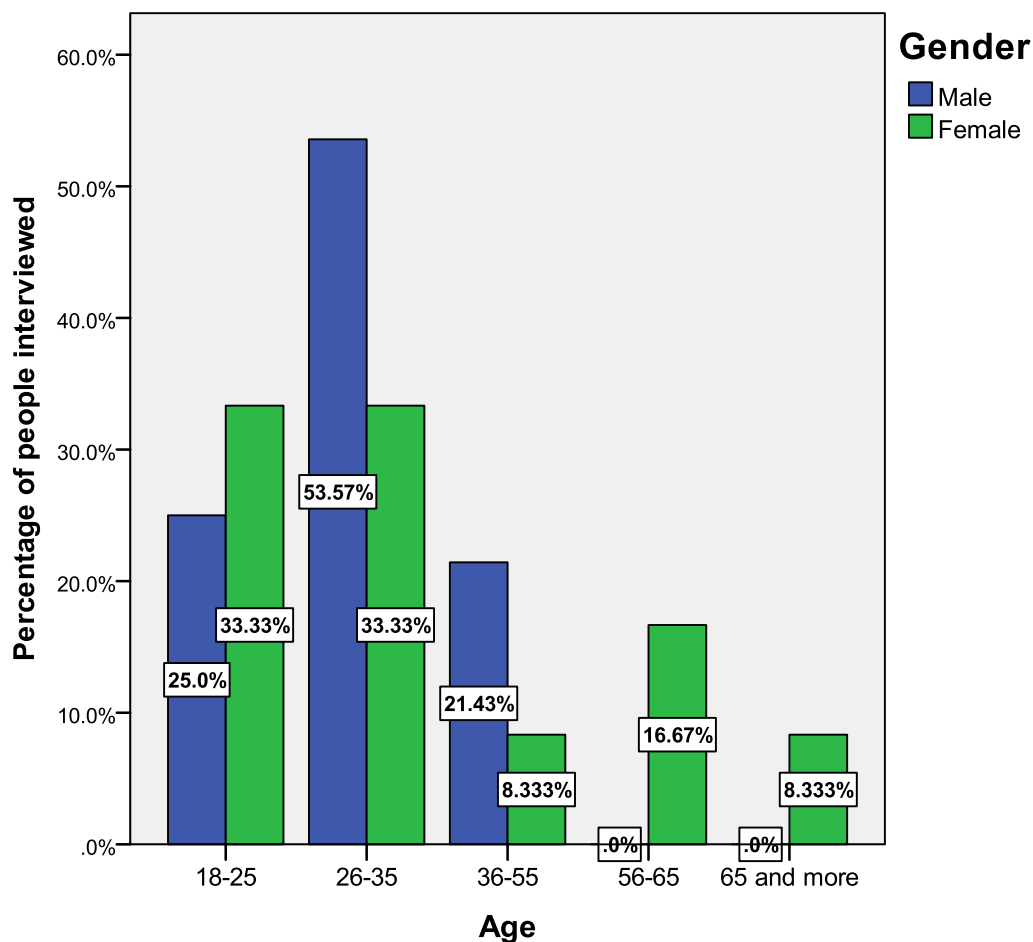


**Why migrants escape?**





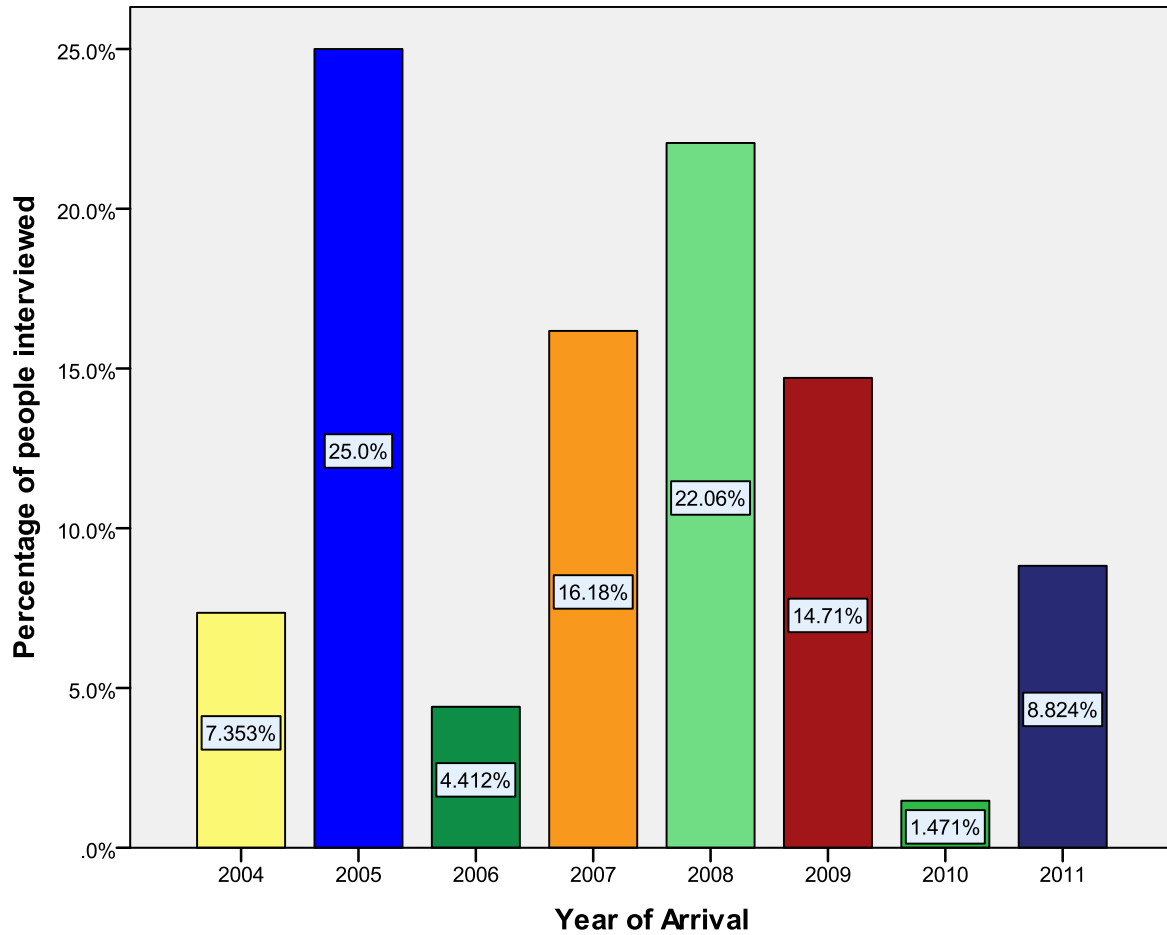
**Survey on migrants arrived on the island.**

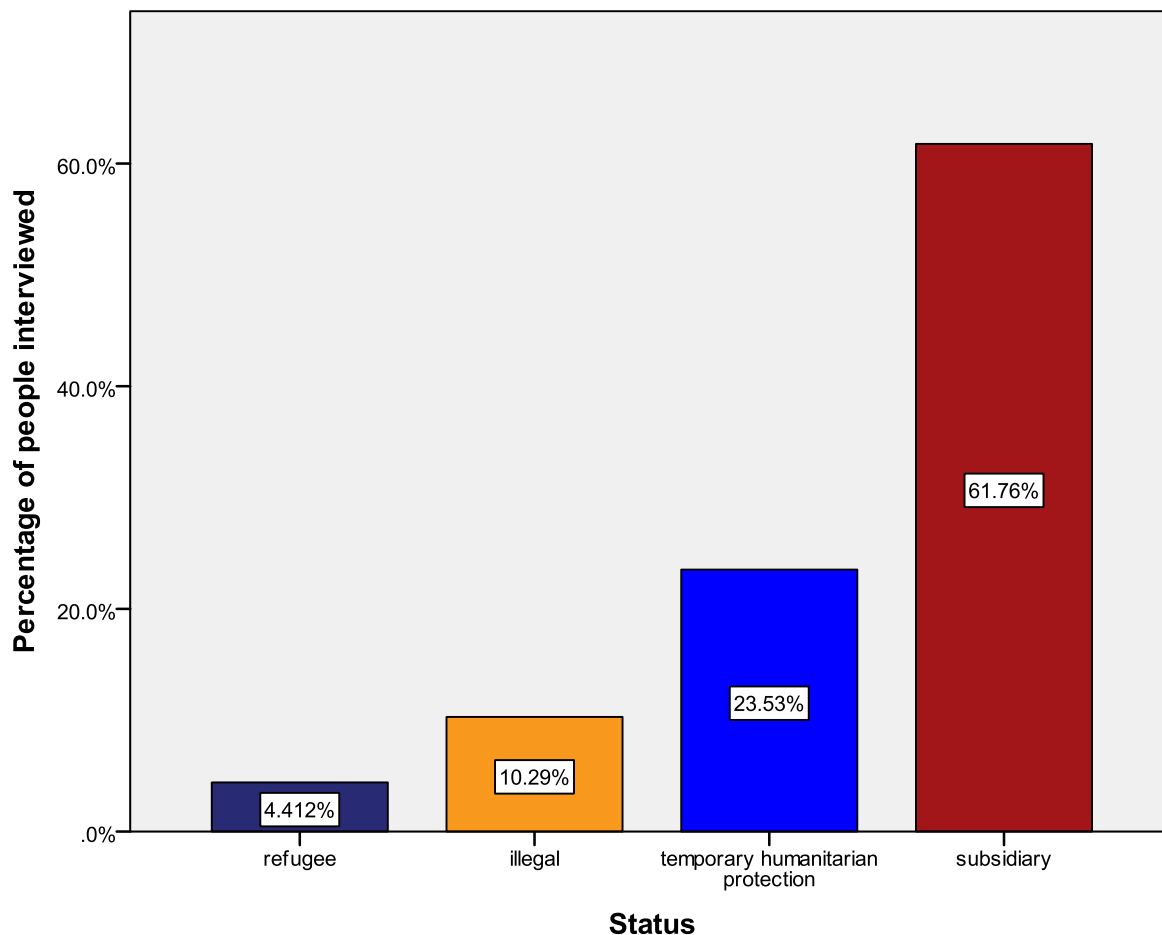


In this statistic we can see as the percentage of migrants arrived on the island are mainly between the age of 18-35 years old. In particular, we could conclude that integration could be easier as the young age of the population would give them the opportunity to work and establish forms of cooperation with the Maltese population.

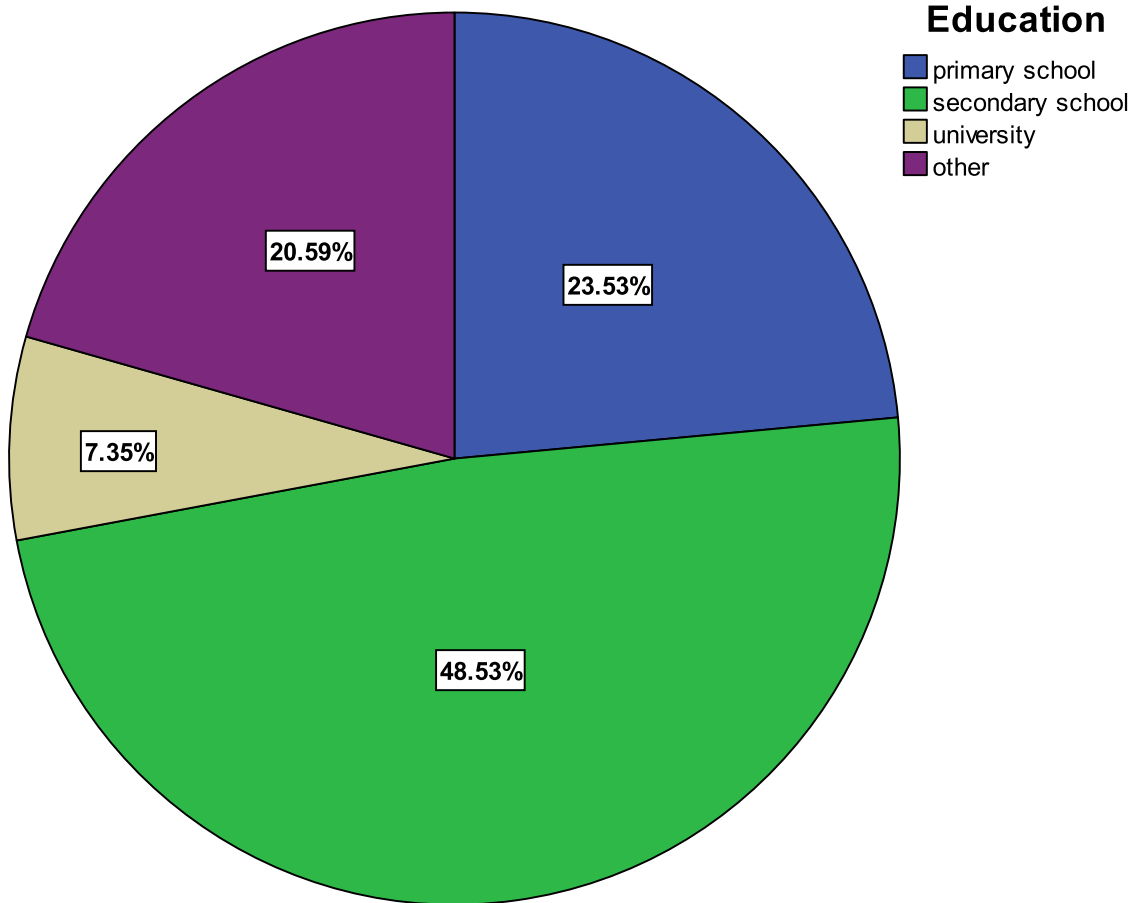


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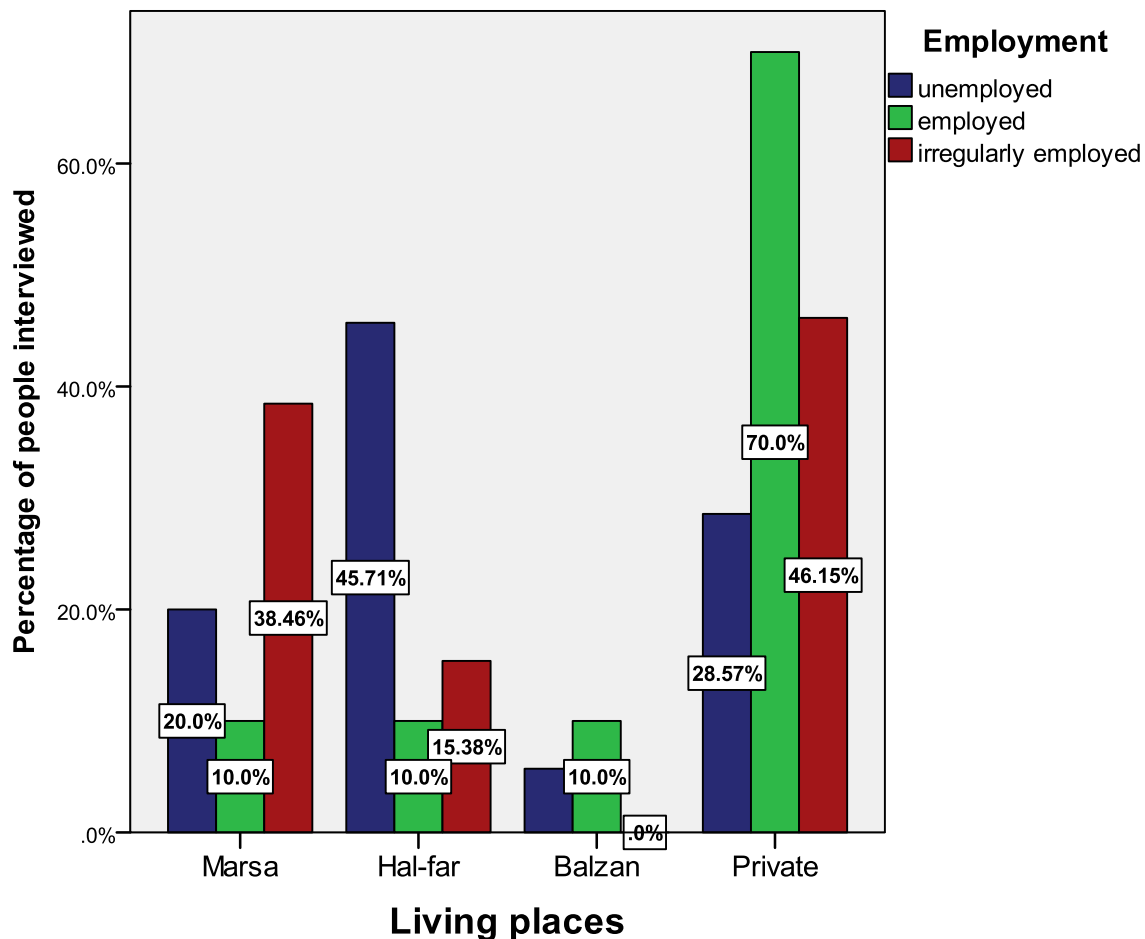


In this bar graph is possible to see that the majority of the migrants interviewed have a subsidiary protection, meanwhile only a restricted part are illegal and refugees.

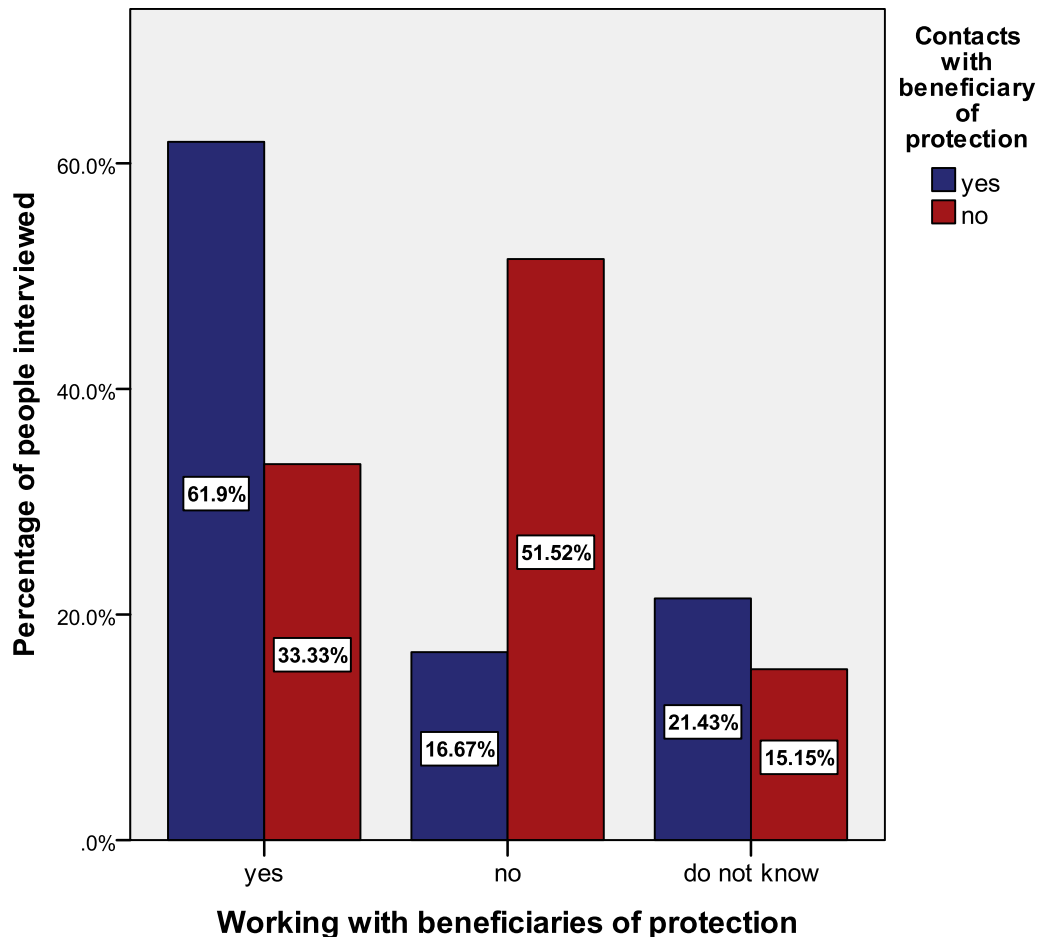


In this pie chart is possible to see that the majority of the migrants interviewed have a secondary level of education with 48.5%. Many have a general primary level of education with 23%. However, the rest possess a restricted level of education. Meanwhile the graduates have not had their high level of education recognized here.





In this bar graph, we consider the level of employment of migrants according to their living place here in Malta. It is evident that people who live in the centres of Marsa and Hal-far do not have many opportunities of regular employment. On the contrary, people who have a private accommodation, which includes hospitality from friends, or houses offered by religious communities, more easily find a regular employment, so that they are also more motivated to increase the level of integration on the island.



In this graph, we have compared the experiences of Maltese people with beneficiaries of protection with the possibility to have any form of business partnership with them. We can notice that people, who have already had forms of contact with migrants, would positively accept to work with migrants. On the contrary, people who never experienced any form of contact with migrants would reject the opportunity to work with migrants.



## **Annex 2: Questionnaires**

### **2.1 Questionnaire for Maltese in Maltese**

#### **KWESTJONARJU DWAR IR-RICERKA FUQ L-INTEGRAZZJONI Għal ċittadini Maltin u Residenti f'Malta**

#### **Mistoqsijiet Ġenerali**

1)  Raġel -  Mara

2) Kemm għandek żmien?

1-17 -  18-25 -  26 – 35 -  36- 55 -  56 – 65 –  65 u iktar

3) Inti mizzewweġ?

4) Għandek tfal? Jekk iva kemm għandhom żmien?

5) X'inhu l-istat legali tiegħek?

Ċittadin Malti –  Ċittadin tal-UE b'risidenza permanenti

Mhux ċittadin tal-UE u għandek permess ta' residenza -  oħrajn:

6) Minn dejjem kont tgħix f'Malta? Inti qatt ħdimt jew mort tistudja barra minn Malta?



**7) Fejn toqgħod f'Malta?**

Isem il-belt/raħal \_\_\_\_\_

**L-EDUKAZZJONI**

**8) Mort skola? Jekk iva sa liema livell?**

Skola Primarja -  Skola Sekondarja -  Edukazzjoni terzjarja –

MCAST -  ITS -  L-Università ta' Malta

Ma mortx skola -  oħrajn \_\_\_\_\_

**L-IPJIEG TIEGHEK:**

**9) X'inhu l-istat tiegħek bħalissa fix-xogħol?**

Ma naħdimx -  Impjieg qasir skond iż-żmien tas-sena eż fis-sajf -  Impjieg irregolari –

Impjieg stabbli –  Self-employed

**9.1. Jekk inti impjegat, f'liema settur taħdem?**

Fis-Settur privat -  Fis-Settur pubbliku -  Bħala Self-employed –

**10) Jekk inti impjegat, x'inhi il-kariga tiegħek fix-xogħol?**



11) Taħseb li bil-paga li għandek tlaħħaq mal-ispejjeż tal-ħajja f'Malta? Minn 1 sa 10 kemm taħseb li il-paga tiegħek hi biżżejjed?

12) Kemm tagħmel siegħat xogħol f'xahar? \_\_\_\_\_

**L-IKEL:**

13) X'tip ta' ikel tħobb issajjar?

14) Tħobb issajjar riċetti tradizzjonali?

15) Qatt ippruvajt tiekol ikel mhux Malti ? Liema?

**X'TAF DWAR IN-NIES MINN PAJJIŻI BARRANIN?**

**Min huma?**

16) Smajt bil-kliem "tfittex l-ażil", "refuġjati" u "nies li jibbenefikaw minn protezzjoni interna", emigranti għall-raġunijiet ta' ekonomija?



Iva  Le

Liema: \_\_\_\_\_

**17) ...u taf xi jfissru?**

Iva  Le

**18) Tañseb li l-ħarsien tad-drittijiet u tad-dinjità tal-bniedem huma kwistjonijiet importanti?**

Iva  Le

**Tañseb li kulhadd għandu jingħata dawn id-drittijiet?**

Iva  Le

**Jekk jogħġbok ikteb spjegazzjoni?**

**Dwar dawk li qed jibbenefikaw mill-protezzjoni internazzjonali:**

**19) Taf għaliex dawn qed jitolqu minn pajjiżhom?**

Minħabba persekuzzjoni  
 Minħabba raġunijiet ekonomiċi  
 Minħabba raġunijiet ta' saħħa  
 Minħabba raġunijiet ta' familja  
 Oħrajn: \_\_\_\_\_

**20) Taf minn liema pajjiżi qed jitolqu?**

L-Eritrea -  Il-Libja -  Iċ-Ċina -  Is-Somalia-  Is-Sudan -  Il-Bangladesh –  L-Ethiopia -  n-Niġerja



Ir-Russia -  Is-Serbia -  L-Albania  Oħrajn: \_\_\_\_\_

**21) Taf liema rotot principali qed jużaw biex jaslu Malta?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**22) Taf fejn jgħixu meta jaslu hawn?**

Fiċ-Ċentri ta' Detenzjoni  FI-Open centre  Fi djar Privati  oħrajn: \_\_\_\_\_

**INSIRU NAFU LIL-DAWN IL-BARRANIN**

**23) Permezz ta' liema medja sirt taf dwar in-nies?**

TV-  Radju -  Gazzetti -  L-Internet-  Oħrajn: \_\_\_\_\_

**24) Qatt kellek xi kuntatti ma' persuni li qed jnibbenefikaw minn xi protezzjoni internazzjonali?**

Iva  Le

**25) Jekk iva, permezz ta' xiex saru dawn il-kuntatti?**

Mill-familja

Permezz ta' Gruppi politiċi

Permezz ta' Trade union

Permezz tal-NGOs

Oħrajn: \_\_\_\_\_



26) Matul dawn l-aħħar 12 –il xahar qatt mort iżżur lil xi wieħed minn dawn il-persuni li qed jibbenefikaw mill-protezzjoni internazzjonali?

Iva  Le

27) Matul dawn l-aħħar 12 –il xahar qatt ġew iżuruk fid-dar tiegħek xi wieħed minn dawn il-persuni li qed jibbenefikaw mill-protezzjoni internazzjonali?

Iva  Le

**INTI, FLIMKIEN MAL-BARRANIN FIL-ĦAJJA TIEGĦEK TA' KULJUM**

28) Tiegħu sehem f'xi diskussjonijiet interkulturali jew f'xi attivitajiet ta' djalogu fuq twemmin?

Iva  Le

29) Jekk għandek it-tfal, dawn jattendu l-iskola ma' xi tfal minn familji barranin? Tafhom lill-dawn il-familji?

30) Taħseb li ċertu klassijiet li jkunu multi kulturali huma tajbin u ta' vantaġġ għat-tfal tiegħek?

31) Taħdem ma' persuni li qed jibbenefikaw minn protezzjoni internazzjonali?

Iva  Le

Jekk iva kif inhi ir-relazzjoni ta' bejnietkom fuq il-post tax-xogħol?

32) Kieku tikkunsidra li tikri il-proprjetà tiegħek lil xi hadd li jkun qed jibbenefika minn protezzjoni internazzjonali?





Iva  Le  \_\_\_\_\_

Jekk jogħġbok spjega ftit:

33

protezzjoni internazzjonali?

Iva  Le  \_\_\_\_\_

Jekk jogħġbok spjega ftit.

34) Kif tħoss li l-preżenza ta' dawn in-nies li jkunu qed jibbenefikaw minn tali protezzjoni internazzjonali tista' jkollha effett fuq is-sigurtà jew fuq il-*welfare* ġenerali f'Malta? Jekk jogħġbok spjega fil-qosor.

35) Kif taħseb li tali preżenza ta' nies li qed jibbenefikaw minn protezzjoni internazzjonali f'Malta tista' jkollha xi effetti fuq l-ekonomija f'Malta? Jekk jogħġbok spjega fil-qosor.

36) Inti sodisfatt bil-politika ta' *welfare* tal-Gvern, immirata lejn dawk il-persuni li qed jibbenefikaw minn protezzjoni internazzjonali?

Iva  Le

Jekk jogħġbok spjega ftit.



37) Kieku kellek tagħti suggeriment lill-Gvern jew lill-NGOs sabiex ittejjeb il-politika tal-integrazzjoni f'Malta, x' tghidilhom?

## 2.2 Questionnaire for Non-Maltese Residents in English

### GENERAL QUESTIONS

1)  Female -  Male

2) How old are you?

1-17 -  18-25 -  26 – 35 -  36- 55 -  56 – 65 –  65 and above

3) What is your marital status?

4) What kind of legal Status do you have? \_\_\_\_\_

Refugee status -  subsidiary protection -  the protected humanitarian status

Temporary Humanitarian Protection (THPN) -  irregular migrants

5) Do you have children? If yes, how old are they?

6) What is your country of origin?

7) For how long have you been in Malta?



**8) Where do you live? (Hal far open centre, Marsa open centre, independent accommodation, others...)**

**9) Are you looking for another accommodation?**

Yes  No

**10) Do you have any allowance from the Maltese governments? How much?**

**EDUCATION:**

**11) Have you been to school? If yes, until which level?**

**a. In your country**

primary school -  Secondary School -  Technical schooling –

Upper secondary school -  other schooling: \_\_\_\_\_

No schooling

**b. In another country :** \_\_\_\_\_

primary school -  Secondary School -  Technical schooling –

Upper secondary school -  other schooling: \_\_\_\_\_

No schooling



12) Have you done any educational or vocational training in Malta? Yes  No

- If yes, which type of educational or vocational training?

- For which type of employment? \_\_\_\_\_

13) Was it easy for you to have access to educational or vocational training in Malta?

Yes  No

14) Did you have access to courses of local languages: English and Maltese?

Yes  No

15) Have you get any recognition of academic and professional qualification (accredited certificates)?

15.1  outside EU -  within EU

**EMPLOYMENT:**

16) What is your current work status?

Unemployed -  Short-term/seasonal employment -  Irregular employment –

Stable employment –

a. Did you have immediate access to employment? If yes :



In the private sector -  In the public sector -  Self-employment –

**17) If you are employed what type of job? Which sector?**

a. Is that a dangerous work? Yes  No

b. If no employment, what kind of job would you like to do?

c. Do you think your salary is enough to cover your living expense in Malta? On scale between 1 and 10, considering that 1 is not enough and 10 is enough, which rate will you give?

d. How many working hours are you doing per month? \_\_\_\_\_

e. How do you consider your current relationships at work?

**POLITICAL AND CULTURAL PARTICIPATION IN THE COUNTRY LIFE**

**18) Are you active in any cultural, social activities to influence the political decisions?**

Political group - Yes  No

Trade union - Yes  No



NGOs - Yes  No

Others: \_\_\_\_\_

If no what are the reasons? \_\_\_\_\_

**19) When do you have free-time, what are you doing?**

Sport -  Arts craft -  Cooking -  meeting friends/ family

Church going-  Cinema -  Cultural events -  Music

Others: \_\_\_\_\_

**20) Do you participate at any inter-cultural dialogue or inter-faith dialogue, activities?**

Yes  No

**21) Do you have any contacts outside the family circle?**

Yes  No

**22) Since you have lived in Malta, have you had Maltese contacts?**

Yes  No

**23) In the last month have you visited any Maltese in their homes?**

Yes  No

**24) In the last 12 months were you visited by Maltese in your place of residence?**

Yes  No

**ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

**25) Do you know that you are entitled to receive free medical primary and emergency healthcare?**

Yes  No



**26) Did you meet any problems concerning the access to medical healthcare? (Difficulties to have access to a specialist, language barrier, cultural reasons, problem of transport, financial difficulties...)**

**EDUCATION OF DEPENDENTS**

**27) Do your children attend school? If yes, which level?**

Pre- primary school -  primary school -  secondary school

University -  vocational training -  others: \_\_\_\_\_

No school: why? \_\_\_\_\_

**28) Do you receive any allowances to support the school expenses?**

Yes  No

**FOOD:**

**29) What kind of food do you cook at the centre/ home?**

**30) Do you cook any traditional recipes?**

**31) Do you find all the ingredients in Malta to cook these dishes?**



**LIFE PERSPECTIVES**

**32) Do you feel comfortable living in Malta?**

**33) What are your plans for your future, how do you see your life?**

**34) Are you taking part in any resettlement program, do you want to settle in Malta or do you want to move to another country?**

**35) If you could suggest anything to the government and NGOs to help you to feel more comfortable in Malta, what would it be?**