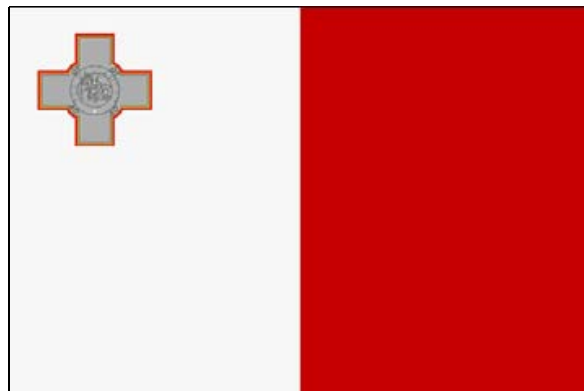




YouthPartnership

FACTSHEET ON SOCIAL INCLUSION/ EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN MALTA



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1.1) RISK OF POVERTY

	Sources	Year	Age Range	Results
At risk of poverty by age (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	Eurostat	2006	Less than 18	18
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: work income	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158	2005		65.60
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: Unemployment benefit	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158	2005		7.20
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: Family allowance	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158	2005		8.10
Distribution of children by the type of household (lone parent) and work type of adults of the household: jobless	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166	2005		52.00
Distribution of children by the type of household (lone parent) and work type of adults of the household: in full-time job	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166	2005		33.00
Distribution of children by the type of household (couple with children) and work type of adults of the household: both in full-time job	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166	2005		19.00
Distribution of children by the type of household (couple with children) and work type of adults of the household: both jobless	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166	2005		6.00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: Single parent with dependent children (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	Eurostat	2006		38.00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: Household without dependent children (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	Eurostat	2006		10
Risk of poverty rate by household type: Household with dependent children (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	Eurostat	2006		15

2) Social Subsistence/Protection

There is a universal health care system funded by government, employers and employees in Malta. All persons covered by the National Insurance Act of 1956 are eligible for free health care. Only the State owned hospitals offer free services subsidised by the State. There is a free choice of doctor. Sickness-cash benefits are paid in accordance with the number of days worked in a normal week up to the maximum of six days. Injured or handicapped employee cannot be discharged due to injury or handicap. The employer is obligated find a suitable alternative employment in his establishment. (MISSOC 2007.)

Any pregnant woman who fulfills the criteria set out by the Social Security Act will be eligible to a maternity benefit. Parents having the care and custody of their children may be entitled to Children's Allowance, if all the eligibility criteria are fulfilled. Eligibility to children's allowance depends on the income of the family and the number of children under 16 years of age in that family. A single parent, who does not earn more than a certain amount of income, may be eligible for Social Assistance. There is also a special allowance for handicapped children, which is payable to the parents of a disabled child as a supplement to the child allowance. Amount depends on the annual income. (Government of Malta 2008.)

All persons who prior to an application for unemployment benefit were engaged as employed are entitled to unemployment benefit in Malta. Unemployed persons must be registered with the employment office, fit and available for work, and must have 50 weeks of paid contributions of which at least 20 paid or credited should be in the last two previous years. If he/she leaves employment voluntarily or because of misconduct no benefit is paid for a period of 6 months. (Eures 2008.)

Sources:

[Eures – The European Job Mobility Portal](#) 2008.

[Government of Malta 2008 website](#).

MISSOC 2007. Mutual Information System on Social Protection. [Comparative Tables – Part 5](#).

3) Equal opportunities

- Legislation

The principle that equality between women and men is a basic principle of human rights and a fundamental requisite for democracy and social justice was embodied in the Constitution of Malta in 1991. This consolidated Government's commitment to promote equality and to help women achieve their full potential in all spheres of society. In 1993 two legislative reforms took place. These were the approval by Parliament of the amendments to the Civil Code (The Family Law), and changes in discriminatory legislation, to ensure conformity with the Constitution of Malta which provides for the protection and remedy against discrimination by reason of gender. The Constitutional amendments were passed by Parliament in 1991, but all provisions came into force in July 1993. In 1997, work also started on the drafting of an Act to Promote Equality between Men and Women. This project, with the objective of ensuring full equality between women and men before the law, started with the joint collaboration of the UNDP, but at a later stage became wholly the responsibility of the Ministry for Social Policy. In July 1999, a local Committee of experts submitted a report regarding the proceedings of this Act, and a local drafter was subsequently chosen to draft the legislation. The draft legislation was finalised in March 2001. It is envisaged that this legislation will be enacted by the end of 2002.

- Role of Women, Maternal Health and Family Planning

In order to enhance the status of girls and women in Malta, several Government initiatives from 1990 to date have been taken to implement principles of gender equality and gender mainstreaming.

- Children with Disabilities

During the last eleven years a variety of different measures have been taken aimed at improving the quality of life of children with disabilities and their families. Some of these measures were of a specific nature aimed exclusively at benefiting children, these focused in particular on the sectors of education, rehabilitation and training. Other measures were of a broader nature aimed at benefiting all disabled persons, as well as children with disability. In 1993, the *National Commission Persons with Disability*, in agreement with all the agencies actively involved in this sector, published a document entitled: *Special Education in Malta: A National Policy*. This document prepared the ground for the implementation of a national policy of inclusive education for children with disabilities. The aim has been for disabled children to be given the necessary support to enable them to attend mainstream primary and secondary schools. According to a report published during the Conference on the National Minimum Curriculum in 2000, six hundred disabled boys and girls were attending regular schools with the support of a classroom facilitator.

Source :

Ministry of Social Policy 2001. National Report (Malta) on the Follow-Up of the World Summit for Children. Government Printing Press.