

Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



EUROPEAN UNION

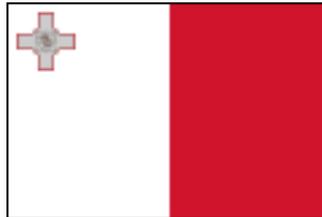


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Information sheet

YOUTH AND THE WORLD

Malta



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1. Implementation of a new field of action: “Youth and the World”

How is the field of action “Youth and the World” of the current EU youth strategy transposed in your country?

The Ministry of Education and Employment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ are the main entities in Malta overseeing this field of action. Globalisation, sustainable development, interculturalism and human rights are incorporated under the National Curriculum Framework (2011) and under the National Youth Policy (2010-2013).

Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ: <http://www.agenzijazghazagh.gov.mt/>

Ministry of Education and Employment: <https://www.education.gov.mt/>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.foreign.gov.mt/>

Awareness raising on Global issues

1.1. Promotion of Global Education

Is there any national/regional policy document which lays the legal basis for the promotion of Global Education? If yes

Yes, on a national level, the National Curriculum Framework 2011, “presents a focus ... on globalisation and sustainability, and on the need to develop the habits of mind required for the 21st century.” It aims at developing students who have “a systems view of reality that facilitates their engagement in the promotion of sustainable development”; “actively involved in sustainable development issues”; “respect diversity and value difference”; “respect and promote Maltese culture and heritage”; “develop intercultural competence and appreciate their heritage within the Mediterranean, European and global contexts”; “work towards strengthening social cohesion and ensuring social justice” and “uphold social justice and democratic principles”

Link: <https://www.education.gov.mt/Page.aspx?pid=543>

Also, on a national level, Malta’s National Youth Policy (2010-2013) states that youth mobility offers new perspectives on diverse cultures, traditions and values which enrich young people.

Globalization and EU membership have propagated further the mobility of young people and exposed them to diverse experiences. The policy's strategy also recognises the importance of the following:

- That education as a basic right of every child, irrespective of sex, race, disability or belief.
- that multi-lingualism enhances the understanding of other cultures.
- That young people have a role in promoting Maltese culture within the multicultural context of the Mediterranean region, the European socio-political reality, and an increasingly globalised world.
- the value of intercultural relations.

And encourages and promotes:

- cultural/intercultural programmes for/with/by youth and local communities.
- young people as key drivers of intercultural and intergenerational dialogue within local and international communities.

In the field of the Environment the National Youth Policy recognises:

- the need for sustainable development which is achieved through the complementary choices of economic/social development and environmental protection.
- that youth participation in preserving and protecting the environment is an important contribution towards the attainment of sustainability.
- the need for sustainable consumption and production practices.
- the threat that climate change poses to our local and global community.
- that the disregard to the environment can compromise future generations.

And encourages and promotes:

- sustainability which inspires and encourages young people to take an active role in the decision making processes within all sectors (i.e. socio, economic, political) that have an impact on the safeguarding of the quality of life.
- the active role of young people and their organisations in advocating measures to combat climate change, conserve bio-cultural diversity and improve the quality of human life.
- a youth work approach enabling young people to understand the environment they live in and the different ways in which they interact with it, thus empowering them to effect and make necessary changes that will result in a more sustainable way of life for all.
- the provision of opportunities that extend the vision of sustainability through the sharing of diverse experiences and collective knowledge thus helping young people appreciate the interconnectedness of environmental, social and economic concerns at local European and global levels.

How is Global Education promoted?

Global and Development Education Project: Since 1999 the Curriculum Management and eLearning Department, within the Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education (DQSE) has been participating in the Global and Development Education Project in collaboration with the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity of the Council of Europe. The themes tackled so far include: 'Youth for Change', 'Youth against Conflict – Youth for Peace', 'Together for a World Without Poverty', 'Learning for all, everywhere now!', 'Acting together for a Just World!', '6 billion – One humanity'; 'Inter-Cultural Dialogue'; 'Food for All'; 'Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World' and 'Act for our World'.

The global campaign for education: The global campaign for education, being held this week, is a coalition of child rights activists, teachers' unions and development organisations from around the world, united in their determination to make the right to education a reality.

The Malta Union of Teachers has joined Education International and the European Trade Union Committee for Education in their efforts to mobilise world leaders, politicians and all trade unions, NGOs and CSOs to work together in unison in an effort to make education more accessible

Connecting Classrooms: A number of schools participate in Connecting Classrooms, a programme managed by the British Council working in over 50 countries that offers school partnerships, professional development courses, accreditation and the chance to share best practice with international counterparts. Connecting Classrooms aims to increase awareness of cultural identity and enhance student participation; celebrate cultural diversity; promote inclusion; encourage creative collaboration between different countries and empower students to make their voices heard.

'Inclusion and Diversity in Education' (INDIE): Two schools with St Clare's College participated in a project between 2007 and 2010 called 'Inclusion and Diversity in Education' (INDIE). The project united policy makers in the field of education and inclusion, head teachers and young leaders (pupils of participating schools) from nine European countries and provided the opportunity to exchange ideas and develop best practice guidelines on building and developing diverse and inclusive schools.

The aim of this project was to promote social cohesion, raise educational standards and build lasting networks which focus on the common challenges presented by immigration and cultural diversity to school education in the participating countries.

The Global Action Schools: This project is a partnership between organisations in seven countries (Austria, Czech Republic, England, Malta, Poland, Slovak Republic and Thailand). The aims of this project are to harness the extraordinary potential of schools to shape some of the solutions to pressing world issues by building knowledge and understanding of global interdependence and its impact on developing countries among European teachers, children and young people; building a school culture and environment where teachers, children and young people contribute actively towards sustainable development; facilitating active partnerships and shared knowledge about development issues between European NGOs and between teachers, young people and children in Europe and developing countries.

Using a common methodology and working closely with schools each partner has developed its own unique toolkit and DVD offering teachers tried and tested materials to support global learning across the curriculum. The toolkits enable children and young people to make sense of global development issues in the world; understand that their actions can have a positive impact on people thousands of miles away; link learning to the role they can play in creating a fairer and more sustainable world.

The World's Children's Prize for the Rights of the Child: All secondary schools and their Student Councils that are registered as a Global Friend can participate in The World's Children's Prize For The Rights of The Child, known also as the Global Vote. All children under eighteen in every school in the world can take part in the Global Vote provided that their school is registered as a Global Friend. This activity aims to increase knowledge and awareness of the rights of the child; empower children and young people to make their voices heard and demand change and respect for the rights of the child; provide a new (and international) dimension to the voting experience and foster global friendship.

What are the most tackled aspects of Global Education?

Sustainability - both Malta's demographic and geographic realities dictate an immediate action on instilling the values of sustainability.

Cultural diversity - Malta's geographic reality, being a bridge between Europe and Africa, gives the concept of cultural diversity extra importance.

What are the main stakeholders in the field of Global Education?

- Ministry of Education and Employment
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ

- European Union Programme Agency

European Union Programme Agency: <http://www.eupa.org.mt/>

Is there any report/survey available on Global education and young people in your country? If yes what is its focus of research and what are the main outcomes?

NA

1.2. Young people and sustainable development

What are the most relevant initiatives/projects at regional/national level encouraging green patterns of consumption and production with young people?

Nature Trust (Malta) representing FEE (Malta) co-ordinates EkoSkola. This initiative, which is part of Eco-Schools, aims at mobilizing whole schools to empower students to adopt an active role in environmental decision-making and action in their school and in their community. Schools that have successfully achieved this goal are awarded a Green Flag – a prestigious eco-label testifying the school's commitment to fostering sustainable lifestyles.

The Office of the Parliamentary Secretary for Tourism, the Environment and Culture within the Office of the Prime Minister (now the Ministry for Tourism, Culture and the Environment) had for the past two years financially contributed to and participated in the Earth Garden Festival. Last Year the main theme was Water, aiming at the appropriate use of water. Other participating bodies which collaborated with this Ministry included the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the Water Services Corporation.

Nature Trust Malta: <http://www.naturetrustmalta.org/>

Ministry for Tourism, Culture and the Environment:

<https://gov.mt/en/Government/Government%20of%20Malta/Ministries%20and%20Entities/Ministry%20for%20Tourism%20Culture%20and%20the%20Environment/Pages/MTCE.aspx>

Is there any report/survey investigating the awareness of environmental issues among young people in your country? If so what are the main outcomes?

NA

Is there any report/survey investigating the civic engagement related to environment issues among young people in your country? What are the main outcomes?

NA

1.3. Young people and human rights

Is there any report/survey investigating the civic engagement related to global human rights issues among young people in your country? What are the main outcomes?

NA

2. Cooperation with third countries in the field of youth

2.1. Agreements and areas of cooperation

Are there any bilateral or supranational agreements with countries / regions outside Europe in the field of youth?

Protocols are in train between Malta and the following countries:

- Libya
- Tunisia
- Egypt

These protocols include provisions for cooperation in the field of youth, policy development and sharing of good practice.

EuroMed Youth Platform

There is also the EuroMed Youth Platform which is funded by the Government of Malta and the EC. This platform is hosted by the European Union Programme Agency and aims to bring NGOs from the European and Mediterranean regions together in an environment of tolerance and mutual understanding by assisting them in networking and capacity building, increasing their participation and exchanging good practice.

Cooperation in the field of youth policy and /or youth research

Our White Sea is a EuroMed Youth Platform (EMYP) initiative that provides opportunities for young people to engage in capacity building and networking between NGOs in Europe and the MEDA countries. The strategic vision of Our White Sea is to strengthen the skills and competencies of the participants in youth work and to build networks between the participants where future projects as well as tools are created between and by the participants. Young people across the region often face difficulties in cooperating because of obstacles such as lack of opportunities, xenophobia,

prejudice and ignorance. Our White Sea aims at overcoming these difficulties because we believe that young people are the vehicle for future cooperation between countries in the region.

As a result of this initiative, two seminars took place in Malta in 2009 and 2010. Following on these, further seminars were organised in Turkey in December 2011. In 2012, a Seminar on Empowerment of Youth Organisations and Youth led civil society initiatives in the South Mediterranean Framework was held in Malta and was followed up by a further seminar in Tunisia.

The theme of Our White Sea I, organised in 2009, was NGO management. The theme of Our White Sea II organised in 2010 was sustainability of youth NGOs. Our White Sea III, organised together with SALTO EuroMed, the Turkish NA and the Maltese NA focused on Youth Empowerment through NGOs.

Reports on these events are available from the EuroMed Youth Platform.

Another initiative was held March 2012 where Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ hosted a EuroMed seminar called “Empowerment of youth organisations and youth led civil society initiatives in the South Mediterranean framework.” The seminar, an initiative of Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ and the EuroMed Youth Platform, was attended by delegates from throughout the region and focused on how to empower youth organisations in the emerging democracies in the South Mediterranean through youth led civil society initiatives. The European Commission and the Council of Europe, the League of Arab States and the North-South Centre also supported the initiative and were represented at the seminar (KPI 10). Following this Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ also supported the Tunisian Symposium “Arab spring: Youth participation for the promotion of peace, human rights and fundamental freedoms” between 27-28-29 August 2012, in Tunisia.

Support to the development of youth work on other continents

As above in 3.1

2.2. Support measures for young people

What are the opportunities offered to young people to explore and enhance global understanding by going abroad such as volunteering and youth exchange programmes)?

Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ offers support by providing training opportunities for young people interested in volunteering abroad. Such support is also offered through the agency’s Youth Information Portal

which highlights any opportunities available. Also youth NGOs such as SPYS, ĆAM, ŹAK, ŹHN and KDŹ offer support to young people who are interested in volunteering abroad.

Youth Information Portal: <http://www.youthinfo.gov.mt/>

SPYS: <http://spysmalta.org/>

ĆAM: <http://www.camyouths.com>

ŹAK: <http://www.zakmalta.org/>

ŹHN: <http://www.zhnmalta.org/zhn/>

KDŹ: <http://www.kdz.org.mt/index.php?id=78>

Promotion of youth entrepreneurship and employment opportunities with regions/countries outside of Europe

NA

3. Participation of young people and youth organisations in policy making on global issues

Have young people and youth organisations been given political and financial support to be individually or collectively involved in the policy regarding dialogue and cooperation on regional and global issues? How?

Political support in regards to dialogue and cooperation on regional and global issues is offered through the Youth Policy document 2010-2013. Also other support regarding dialogue and cooperation on regional and global issues is given mainly through the Commonwealth Youth Programme.

Is there any report/survey investigating young people's participation in campaigns regarding global climate change/global warming, development aid or human rights? What are the main outcomes?

Our White Sea I, II, III reports at <http://www.euromedp.org>

Is there any report/survey investigating young people's participation in non-governmental organisations active in the domains of global climate change/global warming, development aid or human rights? What are the main outcomes?

Our White Sea I, II, III reports at <http://www.euromedp.org>