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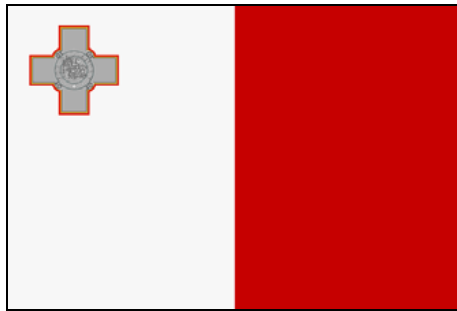
European Union
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Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth

INFORMATION SHEET

PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

MALTA



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1. Youth participation in Malta

Give an overview on participation of young people (13 – 30) in your country on the national and regional level (in federal states) answering the following questions:

Are there official national/regional recommendations (policies) establishing the right of young people to participate in society? The National Youth Policy 2010-2013

If so: how is the concept of youth participation defined?

The National Youth Policy 2010-2013 states that “Participation and engagement foster the energy, enthusiasm and creativity of young people. This policy affirms genuine participation of young people in all spheres of society. It uses participation as a main tool for three main purposes: political, legal and social. The rationale for youth participation acknowledges the:

- engagement of young people within political and social processes;
- development of an environment where young people have the opportunity and motivation to develop the skills to become strong active citizens who bring about change.

- What are the measures envisaged to promote different forms of participation on local, regional and national level?

On a national level participation of young people is promoted through National Youth Council and the Youth Parliament while on a local level through the Youth Local Councils. A means to ensure this participation is the continuous structured dialogue with young people in drafting of different youth policies.

- Do any of the above mentioned measures target specific groups? (please tick)

- females
- males
- migrants
- young people with fewer opportunities
- young people in specific regions
- minorities (which):
- certain age groups within the age range 13-30(which):

The Youth Local Councils target young people between 14-18 years and the National Youth council targets young people between 18 and 30.

2. Youth participation in representative democracy in Malta

Please describe the rules of representative democracy related to young people answering the questions below:

- Is voting compulsory in your country? Y/N
- What is the legal minimum age to vote in elections?

European:	18	National:	18	Regional:	18	local	18
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- What are the legal requirements for voting in local, regional, national and European elections?

A person shall be qualified to be registered as a voter for the election of members of the House of Representatives if, and shall not be qualified to be so registered unless -

- (a) he is a citizen of Malta;
- (b) he has attained the age of eighteen years; and
- (c) he is resident in Malta and has during the eighteen months immediately preceding his registration been a resident for a continuous period of six months or for periods amounting in the aggregate to six months:

Provided that this paragraph shall not apply to a person who is ordinarily resident in Malta but has not been resident in Malta as required by this paragraph by reason of service abroad in the public service, including service in the offices referred to in subarticle (3) of article 124 of this Constitution, or by reason of service abroad in, or as a member of, a disciplined force as defined in article 47 of this Constitution.

No person shall be qualified to be registered as a voter for the election of members of the House of Representatives if -

- (a) he is interdicted or incapacitated for any mental infirmity by a court in Malta or is otherwise determined in Malta to be of unsound mind;
- (b) he is under sentence of death imposed on him by any court in Malta or is serving a sentence of imprisonment (by whatever name called) exceeding twelve months imposed on him by such a court or substituted by competent authority for some other sentence imposed on him by such a court, or is under such a sentence of imprisonment the execution of which has been suspended; or
- (c) he is disqualified for registration as a voter by or under any law for the time being in force in Malta by reason of his having been convicted of any offence connected with the election of members of the House of Representatives.

- What are the legal requirements for being a candidate in elections ?

A person shall be qualified to be elected as a member of the House of Representatives if, and shall not be qualified to be so elected unless, he has the qualifications for registration as a voter for the election of members of the House of Representatives mentioned in article 57 of this Constitution.

(1) No person shall be qualified to be elected as a member of the House of Representatives -

(a) if he is a citizen of a country other than Malta having become such a citizen voluntarily or is under a declaration of allegiance to such a country;

(b) save as otherwise provided by Parliament, if he holds or is acting in any public office or is a member of the armed forces of the Government of Malta;

(c) if he is a party to, or is a partner with unlimited liability in a partnership or a director or manager of a company which is a party to, a contract with the Government of Malta being a contract of works or a contract for the supply of merchandise to be used in the service of the public and has not, within one month before the date of election, published in the Gazette a notice setting out the nature of any such contract, and his interest, or the interest of any such partnership or company, therein;

(d) if he is an undischarged bankrupt, having been adjudged or otherwise declared bankrupt under any law in force in Malta;

(e) if he is interdicted or incapacitated for any mental infirmity or for prodigality by a court in Malta, or is otherwise determined in Malta to be of unsound mind;

(f) if he is under sentence of death imposed on him by any court in Malta or is serving a sentence of imprisonment (by whatever name called), exceeding twelve months imposed on him by such a court or substituted by competent authority for some other sentence imposed on him by such a court;

(g) if he holds or is acting in any office the functions of which involve any responsibility for, or in connection with, the conduct of any election of members of the House of Representatives or the compilation or revision of any electoral register;

(h) if he is disqualified for membership of the House of Representatives by or under any law for the time being in force in Malta by reason of his having been convicted of any offence connected with the election of members of the House of Representatives.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (f) of sub-article (1) of this article -

(a) two or more sentences that are required to be served consecutively shall be regarded as separate sentences if none of them exceeds twelve months, but if any one of them exceeds that term they shall be regarded as one sentence; and

(b) no account shall be taken of a sentence of imprisonment imposed as an alternative to, or in default of, the payment of a fine.

(3) A person shall not be treated as holding, or acting in, a public office for the purpose of paragraph (b) of sub-article (1) of this article -

(a) if he is on leave of absence pending relinquishment of a public office;

(b) if he is a teacher at the University of Malta who is not by the terms of his employment prevented from the private practice of his profession or called upon to place his whole time at the disposal of the Government of Malta.

2.1. Participation in elections

Please give the percentage of young voters (young people who are allowed to vote below 30 years old) on European (for EU-countries only) and national level.. If detailed data on young people is not available please provide the general turnout of all voters and describe the young voter's participation

	Participation in European elections in % of people with the right to vote			Participation in national elections in % of people with the right to vote		
	Total	female	male	total	female	male
% of total population	79%	NA	NA	93%	NA	NA
13 – 30 year olds	91%	NA	NA	91%	NA	NA
16 – 19 year olds	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
20 – 24 year olds	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
25 – 30 year olds	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

2.2. Young people elected into representative bodies

Please provide the number (in total and by gender) of young people under the age of 30 who are members of the national parliament. Please provide the total number of parliamentarians on national level.

	MP ≥ 30		All MP	
	0	%	9	%
Women	0	%	9	%
Men	0	%	91	%
Total	0	%		100 %

3. Youth participation in civil society

3.1 Membership in NGOs

Please give the percentage of young people aged 13 to 30 (if possible in total and gender) who are members in non-governmental organisations (including political and youth NGOs) and if possible for youth NGOs. Please provide the same data for political parties as well. For comparison, please provide the same data for the whole population.

	NGOs, including political NGOs and youth NGOs			Youth NGOs			Political parties		
	Total	female	male	Total	female	male	total	female	male
% of total population	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
13 – 30 year olds	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
16 – 19 year olds	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
20 – 24 year olds	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
25 – 30 year olds	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

3.2 Youth participation structures on local, regional or national level

Please give a picture of how young people can/do participate in formally recognized ways in civic society/policy in your country by answering to the following questions:

which types of **youth participation structures** exist in your country and which group of young people these structure do represent

what is the degree of participation to decision making allowed by these structures (please fill in the table below):

type of youth participation structure	% of local structures			% of regional structures			% of national structures		
	Share of power	Consultation	Information	Share of power	Consultation	Information	Share of power	Consultation	Information
.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

4. Learning to participate

4.1 The formal education system

Please describe existing mechanisms within the system of formal education aiming at developing and deepening learning to participate in your country.

One of the existing mechanisms in formal education is Eco Skola: The Aims are 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. This will be achieved after:

- Set-up a Committee (consisting of students and other members of the school community) that manages the Eco Skola process.
- Students carry out an Environmental Review of the school to assess the environmental impact.
- Identify the priorities and set up an Action Plan to meet targets.
- Monitor and evaluate the Implementation of the Action Plan.
- Incorporate environmental education across the curriculum.
- Inform and involve all stakeholders and the wider community.
- Draw up an Eco code with our schools' environmental principles.

http://schoolnet.gov.mt/mmi/Copy%20of%20what_is_eco_skola.htm

Another mechanism is PSD. Personal and Social Development (PSD) in the Maltese islands developed in a unique way, in that it was not imposed as a policy, but gained ground as people started understanding its positive effects. Its development and implementation is in itself a journey in the way educators started viewing a more democratic system of education and teaching. The mission statement of the PSD syllabus states: 'PSD aims at empowering students to develop skills, knowledge and attitudes which will enable them to live and participate fruitfully and effectively in their environment (Abela et al, 2002, p. 2).

PSD aims at empowering students to fulfil their potential effectively and positively. Although the pedagogical skills used in PSD in Malta, promote the concept that students/participants arrive at their own value system, the inherent philosophy and implementation of the subject promotes universally regarded positive values such as respect for self and others, diversity, critical thinking, problem solving and democracy.

<http://www.psdmalta.com/history.aspx?page=first>

Are there teacher trainings programmes at the national and/or regional level on this topic?

Yes, in-service courses are provided to teachers.

4.2 Non formal education

Please describe five to ten existing examples of actions/programmes/activities at national or regional level, outside the formal education system, aiming at developing and deepening learning to participate in your country.

On a national level Agenzija Zghazagh has set up an Empowerment Programme. This programme is mainly made up of the following:

Local Youth Council Project: The youth local council project is an initiative in collaboration with Local Councils and KNZ, which aims to engage a group of young people, between 14-18, to form a youth local council parallel to the actual Local Council. The young people in the local council take up the roles of mayor, vice mayor, secretary etc and are given training on how to exercise their role and run a committee. Each group of youth councillors are followed and mentored by a youth worker. Youth local councils are encouraged to assess young people's needs in the locality and write a project proposal to address these needs. The proposals submitted to Agenzija Zghazagh are evaluated and Agenzija Zghazagh finances the three best proposals for implementation.

Structured Dialogue: The structured dialogue is an initiative in which Agenzija Zghazagh will develop a space for debate to reach an understanding and build consensus on the main challenges related to young people. It aims to find ways to improve youth policy and advance and strengthen partnerships between young people and policy makers by exploring issues and generating ideas.

Student School Council Project: Agenzija Zghazagh envisages to support the student school councils by providing training to the students to understand better their roles and responsibilities in a student council and explore how they can develop small school or college projects catering for students' needs.

VolTours: The aims of the VolTour initiative are to provide young prospective volunteers that are interested but maybe are not sure in which field they would like to invest their time and energy, or have other questions that might need answers before they take any decision to volunteer, with the opportunity to meet with young volunteers that are already involved to share and discuss their experience. Furthermore, it provides them with the opportunity to better understand how youth organisations function and operate and provide them with a taste of what volunteering is all about.

Konkors Letteratura ghaz-Zghazagh: Literature for youth is a writing contest in collaboration with Kunsill Malta għall-Ktieb which encourages both established writers and young writers to write short stories, novels etc. for young people. The best proposals chosen i.e. that submitted by the young person and that submitted by more established author are published through an established publisher and made available to the public. The aim of this project is twofold to encourage young writers to submit work and engage them in the process of writing and publication and also to publish interesting and suitable reading material for young people to encourage them read more.

The empowerment programme also runs on a local level through the Training Schedules implemented with Local Councils and/or NGOS and aims to provide a number of training initiatives for young people from 16 years of age and upwards. The complete programme is composed of 6 training schedules of 6 sessions per schedule.

5. Youth information in Malta

5.1 The structure of youth information

Please describe how youth information is organised in your country answering the following questions.

- *Do youth information points / centres exist? Y/N*
- *Does youth information coordinated at the national level exist? Y/N*
- *Does youth information coordinated at the regional level exist? Y/N. If yes, where?*

Is youth information in your country member of any European network (ERYICA, EYCA, Eurodesk)? If yes, name the network. ERYICA, Eurodesk, EYCA (in progress).

5.2. The youth information services

Please provide the percentage of municipalities with a youth information point/centre.

Youth information in Malta is centralized.

Is there an online national youth information system? Y/N. If yes, please provide the links to the relevant webpage(s), state if the portal provides youth information only on a specific topic.

Youth information Malta: <http://www.youthinfo.gov.mt/welcome.asp?>

Youth information Malta caters for the need to provide specific information of particular relevance to young people. It consists of a web portal which includes general information about: Culture and Leisure; Education; Environment; Employment; Europe; Family and Relationships; Health; Housing; Law, Rights and Responsibilities; Money; Participation and Volunteering; Sport; Transport and Travel. The information was compiled specifically for young people in collaboration with government directorates, agencies and nongovernmental organisations. The information provided is continually updated and includes detailed contact information of various institutions, agencies and organisations together with embedded hyperlinks to access further details directly from the source. Youth Information Malta provides also a showcase of news, events and activities pertaining to the youth field and aims to be a common meeting place for young people, institutions, organisations, and youth workers.

Kellimni.com. <http://www.kellimni.com/>

Kellimni.com is more specific and deals with online counseling. Kellimni is a joint effort between SOS Malta, Salesian's of Don Bosco, Agenzija Appoġġ and Agenzija Żgħażaġħ under the guidance of Child Helpline International.

The service being offered is mainly a child and adolescent online support, targeting more youths and adolescents. The Kellimni staff can be reached through e-mail, chat and forums for support. Kellimni.com is aimed at children and youths who want someone to listen to them and who can provide assistance. It will allow service users to express their concerns and talk about the issues directly affecting them.

Are there any online regional youth information systems? Y/N If yes, please provide the links to the relevant webpage(s), state if the portal provides youth information only on a specific topic.

Please describe existing national or regional (federal states) print publications for information of young people in your country (e.g. magazines, folders/brochures).

BeSmartOnline! <http://www.besmartonline.org.mt/>

The BeSmartOnline! is a project co-financed by the European Union through the Safer Internet Programme. With this initiative national stakeholders work towards the safer use of the internet by children and young people. This project aims at raising awareness and educating minors, carers and educators on the safe use of the internet; establishing, operating and promoting reporting facilities for internet abuse; and supporting respective victims.

5.3. Topics of youth information

In relation to the structures of youth information you mentioned above, what are the main contents of information delivered to young people?

- ✓ career guidance
- ✓ studies and scholarships
- ✓ jobs and training
- ✓ general health matters
- ✓ relationships and sexuality
- ✓ social security benefits
- ✓ rights of young people
- ✓ consumer rights
- ✓ European opportunities for young people
- ✓ youth activities and exchanges
- ✓ cyber Safety – BeSmartOnline!

5.4. Young people's involvement in youth information

How do young people participate in the national/regional system of youth information?

The whole concept of the youth information portal was conceived through the direct participation of young people. A group of young people together with a researcher engaged in youth-led research to investigate young people's information seeking behaviour. After designing and distributing a questionnaire to other young people they concluded that the preferred source of information by young people was by far the internet.

Participation of young people in youth information is an ongoing process. The youth information portal has a section called "Have your say" where young people can freely express their opinion on several matters.

6. Informal ways of young people's participation

Please describe informal ways used by young people to make their voices heard in society in your country.

During the recent referendum campaign, regarding the introduction of divorce, social networks such as Facebook were used by different groups of young people, both pro and against divorce to make their voice heard on the issue.

Please describe alternative ways of youth participation connected to the use of online technologies answering the following questions:

Top down approach (e.g. online consultations): in which occasion?

There was a top down consultation with young people on the pension reform and also the current issue of the new curriculum framework.

Bottom up approach (e.g. organised actions through social networks and the internet): in which occasion?

The strength of social networks for the bottom up approach was quite explicit during the divorce referendum campaign.

7. Sources of information

Maltese Constitution <http://www.mjha.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=8566>

Local Councils Act <http://www.lca.org.mt/userfiles/Local%20Councils%20Act.pdf>

General

Elections

Act

<http://www.mjha.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=8824&l=1>

European Parliament Elections Act <http://www.maltadata.com/mep-act.pdf>

Election Data <http://www.maltadata.com/>

Eco Skola http://schoolnet.gov.mt/mmj/Copy%20of%20what_is_eco_skola.htm

Personal and social Development <http://www.psdmalta.com/history.aspx?page=first>

Youth Info <http://www.youthinfo.gov.mt/welcome.asp?>

Kellimni.com <http://www.kellimni.com/>