



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA

Government response to the consultation on citizenship on merit initiative

24th August 2017

*Ministry for Justice, Culture and Local Government
30, Old Treasury Street, Valletta*

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Executive Summary

Introduction and overview

This consultation was published on 29th January 2017 setting out a list of proposals regarding the idea of giving a Maltese Citizenship of Merit to foreign nationals who have given an "exceptional" service to the country. The proposal covered five sectors of particular interest to Malta: science, research, sport, art and culture.

The proposal included a protective mechanism to ensure the citizenship is granted only to those who deserve it. The applicant needs to have a genuine link with Malta and needs to prove he has a minimum 12-month residency.

This document is the Government Response to this consultation and sets out the Government's decisions on these matters.

Responses to the consultation and process used to seek stakeholder views

This public consultation was closed on 3rd March 2017. We received 14 responses to this public consultation. However, after analysing the responses received, only one was relevant to the subject of consultation. It was in favour of the proposal and suggested to extend the citizenship of merit to benefit minors as well.

The following is a summary of the consultation responses received. We would like to thank all those who took the time to respond to the consultation and participate in stakeholder meetings around the consultation exercise.

Summary of responses and decisions

Total of feedback received: 14
Total of feedback received by individuals: 13
Total of feedback received by organisations: 1
Total of feedback submitted through online form: 1
Total of feedback submitted through post: 0
Total of feedback submitted through email: 13

Total of feedback submitted through social network: 0

Implementation

This no longer falls under the portfolio of this Ministry. It now falls under the Parliamentary Secretary for Reforms, Citizenship and Simplification of Administrative Processes and is to be implemented by said Secretariat after going through all the legislative processes before Parliament.

Contact Details

If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact:

onlineconsultations@msdc.gov.mt

Conclusion and way forward

After considering all arguments presented, we decided to keep the law as proposed but cater for amendments whereby minors will benefit from the citizenship of merit as well.