

## Response to Consultation on Integration

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To: Ministry for Social Dialogue and Department, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties,  
Consultation on Integration <integration@gov.mt>

From: Dr Charles Pace and Dr Sue Vella

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> May 2015

Subject: **Proposal to set up an Intersectoral Committee on the Integration of Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

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### 1.0 Objective

The purpose of this paper is to propose the establishment of an Intersectoral Committee to address the integration of refugees and asylum seekers. The integration of other third country nationals is beyond the scope of this paper.

### 2.0 Rationale

The rationale for creating an Intersectoral Committee would be to ensure that all relevant parties in the public sector develop a shared vision of integration and how it can be achieved. It is suggested that this should lead to a convergence in the levels of enthusiasm, competence and commitment to making integration happen.

While the focus of the Committee would be on improving opportunities for integration following the establishment of legal status, the Committee may wish to keep in focus the whole spectrum of service from initial reception to social inclusion. Particular focus would be directed at issues such as access to affordable housing, to decent employment and to participation in one's community.

### 3.0 Functions of Committee

The key functions of this Committee could include:

- Assisting the Ministry in finalising the integration policy
- Establishing best practices in the integration of refugees and asylum seekers
- Developing code of conduct for use in public sector agencies playing a role in integration
- Reviewing current procedures across the integration spectrum and proposing changes to processes and structures to facilitate integration
- Leading, guiding and coordinating the implementation of the policy
- Serving as a collaborative public sector forum to troubleshoot issues of service design and/or coordination in respect of integration

- Regularly monitoring and evaluating integration policy outcomes, preparing the necessary terms of reference and overseeing this research, conducted within or outside the public sector. EU funds would also be sought for this monitoring and evaluation.
- Consulting on a regular basis all the relevant NGOs in the field
- Conducting annual conference with stakeholders on the state of integration.

#### **4.0 Critical success factors**

- Clearly defined and mutually agreed goals that have full political endorsement
- Strong Committee leadership with full political backing
- Committee members who are capable, committed and collaborative, and who are sufficiently senior to play an influential role in their respective source Ministries including *inter alia* as Integration Focal Point.
- Sufficient and appropriate resources to fulfil its role
- Continuous collaboration with the relevant NGO's in the field.

We would be glad to discuss further should this be deemed useful.

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25<sup>th</sup> May 2015