



Mind D Gap: Together we can make a difference (Consultation)

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Hello,

Thank you for placing such importance on this issue. It is becoming increasingly relevant in our modern times where distances are getting smaller everyday and people are interconnected in different ways despite their differences.

I have 2 suggestions:

1) Education - This should be a 2 sided exchange. The Maltese people need to be educated on the people that come into this country and how they can be made to feel welcome in their country. Often, the citizens of Malta are apprehensive due to lack of insight into cultural and social differences that people from outside the EU have (within legal remits of course). On the flip side, more educational courses can be organised by the government for the benefit for people wanting to live and work in Malta. It would help potential immigrants to realise the beauty of the island and its people. I attended a language and cultural course and it helped me tremendously in understanding Malta and the Maltese.

2) This is more of an expansion of the point regarding opportunities detailed above. It is clear that opportunities will never be equal as per European law. However, areas of definitive deficiencies can be tackled. An example is the surgical department in the hospital. 3rd country nationals are unable to apply for formal training despite the obvious shortage of staff and some would be interested given the opportunity. I think immigrants do have a lot to give to Malta as Malta has a lot to give them (I can attest to both facts) and opportunities can be given depending on merit. But to close doors to areas that are definitely deficient due to 3rd country immigration status is unlikely to help social integration.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinions and I hope that much good comes from this great initiative!