



5 May 2015

# MIND D GAP

*Together we can make a difference*



## PUBLIC CONSULTATION

### BACKGROUND

The Maltese Government has pledged to open society, to celebrate diversity, to recognise the social realities around us, to cherish Maltese identity without discrimination, to ensure equality and respect towards minority groups and above all, to safeguard the fundamental human rights and freedoms of all.

It is Government's belief that the current realities faced by migrants coming from third countries (i.e., countries that are not EU Member States), require immediate attention.

For this reason, the Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties (MSDC) has embarked on a project entitled *Mind D Gap: Together we can make a difference (IF 2013-17)*. Its aim is to support efforts that enable third country nationals (TCNs) of diverse national, economic, social, cultural, religious, linguistic and ethnic backgrounds to fulfil the conditions of residence and to facilitate their integration within Maltese society. The project is intended to shape and inform the *National Migrant Integration Strategy 2015-2020*, which is expected to be launched later on during 2015.

This *Strategy* will be developed within a framework that promotes human rights, equal opportunities and obligations for all. Amongst other things, it will promote diversity as a basic value to achieving greater social cohesion.

The aim of the *Strategy* is to bring about real changes for third country nationals within our society, and to build a strong community where everyone, regardless of race, colour,

religious or political opinion, age, sex, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or any other status, can live, work and prosper in a context of fairness, equality, rights, responsibilities and respect.

## KEY POLICY AREAS

The following areas were identified as being relevant and important to achieve the goal of integration of TCNs, thus promoting the common basic value of a society characterised by diversity. These policy areas will establish direction and guidance towards the development of the *Strategy*.

The *Strategy* will ensure that measures regarding services, initiatives and interventions are developed, implemented and/or strengthened thus providing for effective integration processes.

The areas are:

1. *Defending rights and fulfilling duties*: anti-discrimination and equality
2. *Resolving social barriers and providing opportunities*: education / labour market
3. *Promoting intercultural relations / Raising public awareness on integration*: empowering local communities
4. *Civil participation*: outreach to communities of TCNs
5. *Institutional dialogue*: TCN consultative council / policy-makers and decision-makers

## CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

The *National Migrant Integration Strategy 2015-2020* will set out Strategic Objectives under each of these policy areas and aim to establish a structure within which available resources can be more effectively managed and integrated to target the funding strategically, avoid duplication, ensure complementarity, and maximise the impact on the ground.

1. Do you agree with the general outline of the Key Policy Areas indicated above?
  - Is there anything that should be included or omitted?
  - Do you have any proposals that you wish to advance in this respect?
2. Please insert any additional comment or proposal you would like to make with regard to the integration of third country nationals.
3. Please send us any documents referring to integration with regard to the national context that you believe should be considered in the formulation of the *Strategy*.

## SUBMISSIONS OF INPUT

The purpose of the consultation is to provide individuals and organisations alike with an opportunity to comment on the *National Migrant Integration Strategy 2015 - 2020*. The questions should be read in conjunction with the consultation document.

The documents can be downloaded from the MSDC website at:

[www.socialdialogue.gov.mt/integration](http://www.socialdialogue.gov.mt/integration)

All responses to this consultation should be posted to the following email address:

[integration@gov.mt](mailto:integration@gov.mt)

or sent to following address:

‘NMIS 2015-2020 Public Consultation’  
c/o Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties  
Barriera Wharf  
Valletta VLT 1971

### **Responses must be received no later than 1 June 2015.**

Please note that all responses will be treated as public, and may be published on the MSDC website. When submitting your response, please state whether you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation.

1. In case of individuals, please include your Identity Card or Passport Number in your email or online form, as well as your contact details.  
Should you choose to submit a PDF document, please include your name and surname on the 1<sup>st</sup> page.
2. In case of organisations or companies, please include your position title, full organisation name, address, registration number and contact details.

Following consideration of all responses, a report will be published on the MSDC website.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views.

## **Data Protection Statement** Data Protection Act (Chapter 440)

The Data Protection Act, 2001 regulates the processing of personal data whether held electronically or in manual form. The Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties collects only information which is necessary for it to perform its intended functions and is set to fully comply with the Data Protection Principles as set out in the Act. Verification of the ID number provided will take place as deemed necessary. All personal data provided will be processed according to the Data Protection Act (Cap 440).

In addition, please be aware of: **Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (Chapter 496)**  
As we are a public authority all documents we hold, including documents related to this public consultation process, may be released following a request to us under the Freedom of Information Act (Chap. 496), unless such request may be subject of an exemption arising from the same Act.



### **General Programme Solidarity & Management of Migration Flows (2007 – 2013)**

This project is part-financed by the European Union  
European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals (IF)

Co-financing rate: 75% EU Funds: 25% Beneficiary Funds



***Sustainable Management of Migration Flows***

## KEY TERMS

### *Integration:*

This term refers to a two-sided process and as the capacity of people to live together with full respect for the dignity of each individual, the common good, pluralism and diversity, non-violence and solidarity, as well as their ability to participate in social, cultural and economic life. It encompasses all aspects of social development and all policies. It requires the protection of the weak, as well as the possibility to be different, to create and to innovate within the cultural and social structure of the given society. Effective integration policies are needed to allow migrants to participate fully in the life of the host country; while they abide by its laws and respect its basic values and its cultural heritage. Strategies for integration must necessarily cover all areas of society, and include social, political and cultural aspects. They should respect migrants' dignity and distinct identity and to take them into account when elaborating policies.

### *Interculturalism / Interculturality:*

The use of this term follows the same understanding and definition used by the Council of Europe. Interculturalism is about explicitly recognising the value of diversity while doing everything possible to increase interaction, mixing and hybridisation between cultural communities; rather than ignoring diversity, denying diversity or overemphasising diversity and thereby reinforcing walls between culturally distinct groups. Interculturalism is also about addressing issues of cultural conflict or tension openly through public debate, with the involvement of all stakeholders. Interculturality recognises strongly the need to enable each culture to survive and flourish but underlines also the right of all cultures to contribute to the cultural landscape of the society within which they operate. Interculturality derives from the understanding that cultures thrive only in contact with other cultures, not in isolation. It seeks to reinforce intercultural interaction as a means of building trust and reinforcing the fabric of the community. The development of a cultural sensitivity, the encouragement of intercultural interaction and mixing is seen not as the responsibility of a special department or officer but as an essential aspect of the functioning of all of society.