

# Perceptions about third country nationals and immigration in Malta



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## List of abbreviations and acronyms

### **Gender brackets**

**M**-Males

**F**-Females

### **Occupational groups**

**AB**-Professionals/administrators

**C1**-Vocational, supervisory and technical

**C2**-Skilled labour

**DE**-Unskilled jobs and welfare recipients

**SE**-Self Employed

**ST**-Student

**PE**-Pensioners

### **Educational attainment groups**

**Univ**- University educated

**Post Sec**- Post Secondary educated

**Sec**-Secondary educated

**Prim**- Primary educated

## Executive Summary

**Abstract:** The majority of respondents have contact with foreigners living in Malta although a sizeable minority which includes a large segment of women and older respondents have less contact. While a minority still thinks that there are far more foreigners living here than there actually are, most Maltese have a more correct estimate of the number of foreigners. But this does not diminish the widespread perception that Malta is too small to cater for foreigners. A small majority knows what integration means and a relative majority agrees that government should make an effort to encourage the integration of foreign communities in Malta. But a section of the population remains lukewarm or hostile to the presence of foreigners, although some make a distinction between asylum seekers and richer foreigners. Attitudes towards foreigners tends to be selective and utilitarian, with most respondents viewing foreigners either as a source of investment, especially in property or as an invisible army of labour which takes those jobs which are not wanted by Maltese.

### Knowing the foreigner next door

56% of respondents know a foreign Maltese resident by name. This indicates a degree of familiarity between respondents and foreigners living in Malta. The percentage rises to 66% among males aged under 35 years of age and to 76% among persons with a university education. But falls to 37.2 among females aged over 55 years and 37% among pensioners. The vast majority of foreigners who respondents know by name hail from the European Union and the rest of Europe. 49% of the population knows someone from the rest of the continent by name. This can be partly attributed to greater numbers, easier communication and lack of cultural differences. Still contact with foreigners from outside Europe does take place to extent that more than 10% know someone from Sub Saharan Africa and North Africa by name. A significant number (above 5%) know people from the Middle East and the far east (particularly the Philippines). Work, entertainment venues and educational/training institutions are the locus of most interaction with foreigners.

### A question of numbers?

The survey shows that most respondents (58%) put the number of foreigners living here in the 10,000 to 30,000 range and the greatest number (34%) put the number at between 10,000 and 20,000. 13% put the number at more than 30,000. 16% replied don't know. The latest census (2011) puts the number of non Maltese living in Malta at 20,289. This suggests that most Maltese have a good idea of the number of foreigners living in Malta and only a minority tends to believe in exaggerated numbers.

Respondents were asked how many people who entered Malta irregularly still live in the country. The survey shows that one fourth put the number at greater than 12000 while 7% put the number over 18000. But the vast majority (56%) put the number at between 3000 and 12000.

### Majority favor Integration

Respondents were asked to state whether they know what the term integration of foreign communities means. A majority of 52.6% declared that they know what the term means but in an indication that a large segment of the population is unfamiliar with this term 47.2% do not know its meaning.

A breakdown by age reveals that females aged over 55 years of age are the least familiar with the term while males under the age of 34 years are the most familiar. Males are in general more aware of the term. A breakdown by level of educational attainment shows that a majority of secondary educated respondents are not familiar with the term integration. The survey shows a deep knowledge gap between post secondary and secondary educated respondents.

Respondents were provided with a definition of integration "as a process of dialogue to help foreign communities participate and contribute to Maltese society". They were then asked whether government should do an effort to enact this policy.

A relative majority of 48.6% replied yes. But while only 27.4% replied No, a substantial 13.4% replied "depends" while 10.6% were not sure.

Interestingly respondents who do not know any foreigners who live in Malta are more likely

to oppose integration. So are respondents who think that there are more than 18000 irregular migrants still living in Malta or who think that more than 30,000 foreigners are living in Malta. This suggests that perceptions on numbers have an impact on views on integration.

Respondents who disagree with government encouraging integration are most likely to oppose it because of the island's small size and a perception that there are already too many foreigners. But others are motivated by more irrational fears like that of foreigners taking over the country or supplanting the local population.

### **Perceptions on foreigners living in Malta**

The survey suggests that migrants are viewed

both positively for performing jobs which are no longer done by Maltese workers but are also blamed for competing for jobs. Very few respondents value foreigners for their cultural input or for increasing diversity while a larger number value foreigners for their economic contribution, spending power and for buying properties. When asked on what worries them most about foreigners living in Malta, most respondents referred to competition for jobs, Malta's limited size and the number of foreigners. Concern on religious extremism also emerges as a top concern particularly among ABs and university educated respondents. Only a small minority expressed concern on xenophobia and racism.

## Background and objectives

The survey has been commissioned Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties (MSDC) which has embarked on a project to support efforts that enable third country nationals (TCNs) of different national, economic, social, cultural, religious, linguistic and ethnic backgrounds to fulfil the conditions of residence and to facilitate their integration into Maltese society.

The project is part of the government's process to developing a National Integration Strategy that will be developed within a framework that promotes equal rights, obligations and opportunities for all. The Strategy will be developed within a human rights framework and will promote, amongst other things, diversity as a basic value to achieving greater social cohesion.

The aims of the survey is to access the following:

- 1) To assess how the general population are presently interacting with Third Country Nationals and other foreign nationals like workers from EU member states.
- 2) To assess where this interaction with foreign nationals living in Malta is taking place and with which communities the Maltese are interacting most.
- 3) To assess perception of the general population on number of Third Country Nationals living in Malta.
- 4) To assess perception of the general population on the number of asylum seekers. This is considered important because previous research had indicated that one of the major concerns on immigration is based on numbers.
- 5) To assess the perception of the general population on the number of persons who entered Malta irregularly and remain here.
- 6) To assess whether the general population understands the meaning of the phrase

“integration of foreign communities.”

- 7) To assess the level of agreement with integration as defined by the Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties (MSDC).
- 8) To assess the views and concerns of those who are either against integration or who replied “depends.”
- 9) To assess whether there is any link between opposition to integration and exaggerated perceptions on the number of foreigners and irregular migrants.
- 10) To assess whether there is any link between opposition to integration and lack of contact with the migrant community.
- 11) To assess the perceptions the population has of foreign communities, both as regards positive contribution and greatest worries.
- 12) To explore different attitudes and perceptions according to occupation, level of educational attainment, age and gender.

In this way the survey will help policy makers to identify the major concerns of the population and to address these concerns in policy making.

By asking respondents directly to mention a positive contribution of migrants, this research project is for the first time assessing whether the general population shows any appreciation for the contribution of migrants. This question is important as it can help policy makers in finding those areas where the Maltese are already open to dialogue with third country nationals.

This research project also helps policy makers identify those misconceptions and pre occupations which can be addressed in policy making.

It can also help policy makers in identifying new research projects which can be based on the limitations of the current study.

## Methodology

1. The survey was carried out using telephone questionnaires. 1434 phone calls were made have which 1000 accepted to participate. The survey was stopped when the 1000 quota of completed surveys was reached.  
A pilot study involving 20 phone calls was held to ensure that respondents understand the questions.  
These interviews were conducted by calling homes of interviewees. Experienced interviewers with a minimum 5-year experience in the field conducted the interviews. The interviewers were supervised.
- 1.1. Statistically, at the 95% confidence level the maximum sampling error for this type of study is estimated to be  $\pm 3.1$ .
- 1.2. Respondents were selected through a one-step probability sampling procedure from the GO Internet directory and latest printed directories. A random seed was used to identify the first respondent; subsequent respondents were selected at regular intervals from the directories.
- 1.3. The results were weighed according to sex and age according to the data for the Maltese population as published in the latest census issued by the National Office of Statistics.
- 1.4. Only respondents aged over 16 years of age where allowed to participate.
- 1.5. Respondents were also asked to state their age, the highest level of education attained and the occupation of the main income earner in the household' and nationality.
- 1.6 The Survey was conducted between Monday 4 May and Friday 15 may. Phone calls will be made in both mornings and evenings (8:30 am-13:00 pm and 14:30-19:30).
- 1.7. This methodology is used in other opinion surveys, both locally and abroad.
2. **Weighing of data**
- 2.1 All the results have been weighed to reflect the population and age distribution of the population as represented in the 2011 census of the population carried out by the National Office of Statistics. The population was broken down in six brackets namely males and females in 16-34, 35-54 and over 55 year old age groups. These broad age groups were chosen to ensure a representative sample for each bracket.

### The raw data of the survey included the following:

	<i>Raw data</i>	<i>Weighed values for each bracket</i>
Males 16-34	132	164
Females 16-34	98	153
Males 35-54	127	161
Females 35-54	156	157
Males 55+	170	171
Females 55+	317	194

2.2 The survey also included questions on nationality of respondents but since sample of foreign nationals was very small, it was considered as not being representative and was not used in the survey analysis.

## Analysis and Findings

**1.1** Respondents were asked whether they know any person of another nationality who lives in Malta by name. A relative majority of all respondents replied yes. A third know more than one such person by name while nearly a quarter know one. But nearly half do not know any such person by name. Knowing someone by name indicates a degree of familiarity with the person involved and excludes respondents who simply see or have occasionally talked to foreigners without establishing any form of dialogue.

### Do you know any person of a foreign nationality who lives in Malta by name?

Yes only one	23.0
Yes more than one	32.7
No	44.4
Total	100.0

**1.2** Males in general are more likely to know a person of another nationality who lives in Malta by name. The most likely to know more than one foreigner by name are males aged under 35 years of age. Among this category nearly half know a foreigner who lives in Malta by name. On the other hand females aged over 55 years of age are the least likely to know a foreigner who lives here by name. Nearly two thirds of older females do not know any foreigner who lives in Malta by name. A majority of under 55 year olds know a foreign national by name while a majority of over 55 year olds don't.

### Do you know any person of a foreign nationality who lives in Malta by name?

	M 16-34	F 16-34	M 35-54	F 35-54	M55+	F55+
Yes	26.4	30.9	16.8	24.5	19.0	21.4
Yes more than one	49.6	35.1	45.6	27.1	26.8	15.8
No	24.0	34.0	37.6	48.4	54.2	62.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

**1.3** A breakdown by level of educational attainment shows that university educated respondents are the most likely to know foreign residents by name while a majority of secondary and primary educated respondents do not know any foreign residents by name. The educational divide coincides with the age divide. This is because the vast majority of respondents with a primary level of education are aged over 55 years of age.

**Do you know any person of a foreign nationality who lives in Malta by name?**

	Univ	Post Sec	Sec	Prim
Yes	23.9	28.8	21.9	18.8
Yes more than one	55.6	42.5	23.1	10.6
No	20.5	28.7	55.0	70.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

**1.4** A breakdown by occupation reveals that a majority of Abs, C1s, SEs and STs know a foreign resident by name while a slight majority of C2s and a large majority of DEs and PEs do not. This suggests that results based on occupation reflect the same patterns as results based on level of educational attainment with Abs most of whom are university educated being the most likely to know foreign residents.

**Do you know any person of a foreign nationality who lives in Malta by name?**

	AB	C1	C2	DE	SE	ST	PE
Yes	23.6	26.8	23.5	11.4	32.9	29.6	18.7
Yes more than one	57.5	34.6	25.5	27.3	37.6	36.7	18.2
No	18.9	38.6	51.0	61.3	29.5	33.7	63.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

**2.1** Respondents who replied that they know at least one foreigner living in Malta by name were asked to state from which country he or she hails from. The majority mentioned someone from a EU country, followed by other European states which are not part of EU, Sub Saharan Africa, North Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Respondents were asked to state a country and were classified by researcher. Respondents could mention more than one country.

**If yes from which country does he or she hail from?**

EU	35.8
Rest of Europe	13.0
Sub Saharan Africa	10.7
North Africa	10.2
Middle East	6.8
China	1.2
India	2.2
Other far east	5.5
North America	2.2
South America	0.4
Oceania	0.9
None	44.3

**2.2** A breakdown by age shows that while younger males and females are more likely to know people from European countries, Asia and North America, males aged between 34 and 55 years of age (who are more likely to be working than studying) are more likely to know people from North Africa, Sub Saharan Africa and the Middle East. Interestingly a quarter of under 35 year old males know someone from non EU European countries while only slightly more than a tenth of females in same age cohort know someone from the same geographical area.

**If yes from which country did he or she hail from?**

	M 16-34	F16-34	M35-54	F35-54	M55+	F55+
EU	55.3	43.9	34.6	33.3	30.4	20.3
Rest of Europe	22.7	13.3	15	15.9	5.3	7.4
Sub Saharan Africa	13.6	6.1	18.1	6.4	10.5	5.8
North Africa	5.3	7.1	8.7	6.4	6.4	4.3
Middle East	8.3	10.2	12.6	3.8	4.7	3.1
Asia	14.4	11.2	6.3	8.3	2.3	4.6
America	5.6	3.3	0.6	1.3	0.6	0.7
Oceania	1.5	1.0	0.8	0	0.6	1.2

**2.3** A breakdown by level of educational attainment shows that university educated respondents are more likely to know foreigners by name from all geographical areas but secondary educated respondents are nearly as likely to know people from north Africa.

**If yes from which country did he or she hail?**

	Univ	Post Sec	Sec	Prim
EU	59.4	45.3	26.3	13.5
Rest of Europe	25.6	16.1	8.6	2.6
Sub Saharan Africa	15.6	13	7.5	5.2
North Africa	8.9	7.5	5.8	2.6
Middle East	9.4	9.3	4.9	3.1
Asia	12.8	13.7	4.7	1.6
America	4.4	3.1	1.4	0.5
Oceania	0..0	1.2	0.9	1.0

**3.1** Respondent who know a foreign resident by name were also asked where have they met these persons. Respondents could name more than one place where they meet foreign residents. Respondents mainly meet foreigners at work, neighbourhood, education, entertainment and family. Significantly nearly a tenth of respondents have a foreign neighbor whom they know by name and a tenth are related or in a relationship with a foreign resident.

**If yes where have you met him or her?**

Work	22.1
Neighbourhood	7.8
Education	7.4
Entertainment	6.6
Relative	6.2
Friends	4.4
Bought a service	3.6
Partner	2.9
Sports	2.3
Church	0.8
Carer	0.8
My employer	0.6
Cultural activities	0.6
Others	2.0

**3.2** A breakdown by age reveals that males under 34 year old males are most likely to meet foreigners in entertainment venues or in sports. Malese particularly those aged under 34 and over 55 are the most likely to mention having foreign partners. Females aged between 35 and 54 are the most likely to say that they have foreign residents as relatives while females aged over 55 years of age are the most likely to know foreign neighbours.

### Six most popular locations of interaction by each age group

<b>M 16-34</b>		<b>F 35-54</b>	
Work	33.3	Work	19.8
Education	25.0	Relatives	12.2
Entertainment	18.1	Neighbourhood	9.6
Sports	7.6	Education	3.8
Services	6.1	Entertainment/sports	1.9
Partner	4.5		
<b>F 16-34</b>		<b>M 55+</b>	
Work	23.5	Work	12.4
Education	15.3	Neighbourhood	10.6
Entertainment	11.2	Friends	5.9
Services/Relatives/Friends	7.1	Partner	4.7
Partner/Neighbourhood	3.1	Entertainment	2.9
<b>M 35-54</b>		<b>F 55+</b>	
Work	40.9	Neighbourhood	2.3
Neighbourhood	5.5	Relatives	7.4
Relatives	4.7	Work	6.4
Partner/Friends/Entertainment	3.9	Friends	4.0
		Entertainment	2.2

**4.1** Respondents were asked to say how many people of a non Maltese nationality live in Malta. Most respondents (58.3%) put the number in the 10,000 to 30,000 range and the greatest number (33.7%) put the number at between 10,000 and 20,000. 12.8% put the number at more than 30,000. 15.5% replied don't know. The latest census (2011) puts the number of non Maltese living in Malta at 20,289. This suggests that most Maltese have a good idea of the number of foreigners living in Malta and only a minority tends to believe in exaggerated numbers.

**How many people of a foreign nationality do you think live in Malta?**

Less than 5000	1.5
5000-10000	11.9
10001-20000	33.7
20001-30000	24.6
30001-40000	8.5
40001-50000	2.5
50001+	1.8
Don't know	15.5

**5.1** Respondents were asked how many people who entered Malta irregularly still live in the country. The survey shows that one fourth put the number at greater than 12000 while 7% put the number over 18000. But the vast majority (56%) put the number at between 3000 and 12000. Compared to a survey held by MaltaToday in 2013 the percentage of those who think that there are more than 18000 migrants who entered irregularly living in Malta has declined from 11.1% to 6.9%. The survey shows a 13 point decline in those who think there are between 3000 and 6000 migrants who entered the country irregularly still living here and a 14 point increase in those who believe there are between 6000 and 12000 migrants who entered Malta irregularly still living here.

**How many migrants who entered Malta irregularly are still living here?**

	August 2013	May 2015
Less than 3000	0.0	0.4
3001-6000	33.5	20.7
6001-12000	21.2	35.2
12001-18000	16.6	17.9
18001-24000	6.7	5.3
24001+	4.4	1.6
Don't Know	17.6	18.9
Total	100.0	100.0

**6.1** Respondents were asked to state whether they know what the term integration of foreign communities means. A majority of 52.6% declared that they know what the term means but in an indication that a large segment of the population is unfamiliar with this term 47.2% do not know its meaning.

**Do you know what the term integration of foreign communities means?**

Yes	52.6
No	47.4
Total	100.0

**6.2** A breakdown by age reveals that Females aged over 55 years of age are the least familiar with the term while males under the age of 34 years are the most familiar. Males are in general more aware of the term.

**Do you know what the term integration of foreign communities means?**

	M16-34	F16-34	M35-54	F35-54	M55+	F55+
Yes	67.2	51.0	54.0	49.7	58.4	35.8
No	32.8	49.0	46.0	50.3	41.6	64.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

**6.3** A breakdown by level of educational attainment shows that a majority of secondary educated respondents are not familiar with the term integration. The survey shows a deep knowledge gap between post secondary and secondary educated respondents.

**Do you know what the term integration of foreign communities means?**

	Univ	Post Sec	Sec	Prim
Yes	88.2	62.9	43.3	18.1
No	11.8	37.1	56.7	81.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

**6.4** A breakdown by occupation shows that a majority of Abs, C1s and STs are familiar with term integration while a majority of C2s, DEs, SEs and PEs do not know what the term means.

**Do you know what the term integration of foreign communities means?**

	AB	C1	C2	DE	SE	ST	PE
Yes	86.8	54.2	39.2	25.6	48.8	63.5	40.7
No	13.2	45.8	60.8	74.4	51.2	36.5	59.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

**7.1** Respondents were provided with a definition of integration “as a process of dialogue to help foreign communities participate and contribute to Maltese society”. They were then asked whether government should do an effort to enact this policy. A relative majority of 48.6% replied yes. But while only 27.4% replied No, a substantial 13.4% replied “depends” while 10.6% were not sure. This suggests lukewarm support for integration policies.

<b>Should government make an effort to enact such a policy?</b>	
Yes	48.6
No	27.4
Depends	13.4
Don't know	10.6
Total	100.0

**7.2** A breakdown by age shows agreement with government intervention in favour of integration highest among females aged under 35 years. Opposition to integration is also lowest among younger females. Significantly while 28% of younger males are opposed to government intervention on integration, only 19% of females in same cohort think likewise. Opposition to integration is highest among males aged over 55 years of age. The most undecided are females aged over 55 while the most likely to qualify their answer and reply depend were females aged between 35 and 54.

<b>Should government make an effort to enact such a policy?</b>						
	M16-34	F16-34	M35-54	F35-54	M55+	F55+
Yes	52.3	64.3	45.7	47.7	44.1	40.3
No	28.0	19.4	29.1	26.5	32.9	28.0
Depends	11.4	10.2	15.0	16.1	14.2	12.9
Don't know	8.3	6.1	10.2	9.7	8.8	18.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

**7.3** A breakdown by level of educational attainment shows agreement with a government backed integration policy is strongest among the university and post secondary educated and lowest among those with only a primary level of education. A breakdown by occupation also shows higher support for integration among Abs and C1s.

**Support for integration among different educational and occupational groups:**

University	61.1
Post Sec	61.6
Secondary	46.6
Primary	36.8
AB	59.4
C1	45.5
C2	45.1
DE	40.9
SE	46.5
ST	64.6
PE	41.4

**7.4** Respondents who think there are more than 18000 migrants who arrived irregularly still living in Malta are less keen on integration.

**Should government make an effort to enact such a policy?**

	Respondents who think there are more than 18000	All
Yes	37.7	48.6
No	49.1	27.4
Depends	7.5	10.6
Don't know	5.7	13.4
Total	100.0	100.0

**Among respondents who think that less than 12000 migrants have arrived here irregularly and are still living here**

Yes	55.2
No	23.8
Depends	10.1
Don't know	10.9

**7.5** Respondents who think there are more than 30,000 foreigners living in Malta also tend to be less keen on integration than others. While 27% of general population oppose integration, the percentage rises to 42.6% among this category.

**Should government make an effort to enact such a policy?**

	Respondents who think there are more than 30000	All
Yes	45.3	48.6
No	42.6	27.4
Depends	8.7	10.6
Don't know	3.5	13.4
Total	100.0	100.0

**Among respondents who think that less than 30000 people of a foreign nationality are still living in Malta**

Yes	50.9
No	33.0
Depends	9.9
Don't know	6.2

**7.6** Respondents who do not know any foreigner by name were also more likely to oppose the integration of foreign communities living in Malta.

**Should government make an effort to enact such a policy?**

	Respondents who do not know a foreigner by name	All
Yes	39.7	48.6
No	36.3	27.4
Depends	6.1	10.6
Don't know	17.8	13.4
Total	100.0	100.0

**Among respondents who know a foreign national living here by name**

Yes	55.8
No	21.4
Depends	12.5
Don't know	10.3

**Among respondents who know more than one foreign national living here by name**

Yes	56.9
No	22.5
Depends	14.6
Don't know	6.0

7.7 A breakdown of replies of those who replied depends shows that the greatest concern is whether the numbers involved are manageable while others make a distinction based on nationality or between irregular and regular migrants or between European and non Europeans accepting the integration of the former but not of the latter.

**Should government make an effort to enact such a policy?**

Breakdown of replies of those who replied depends  
(% of total number of respondents who replied depends)

As long as numbers are limited	7.4
Depends on their nationality	7.4
As long as they entered Malta legally	5.9
As long as they respect our laws/rules	5.1
As long as our culture is not affected	2.9
As long as burden is shared with other countries	2.9
As long as they are Europeans	2.2
As long as it is not imposed on foreigners	2.2
As long as they accept our culture	1.5

8.1 Respondents who replied no to government backed integration policy were asked why. The three most popular reasons invoked against integration are that Malta is too small, that there are too many foreigners and that they may take over Malta in the future.

**Why do you disagree?**

(Percentage of respondents who replied No to question on integration)

Malta is too small	19.8
They will take over/our place	12.2
There are too many foreigners	11.5
They do not want to integrate	9.4
They take our jobs	7.2
More of them will come	7.2
The cultures are too different	6.5
They are not civilized/inferior	6.5
Malta belongs to maltese only	2.2
They should be sent back	1.8
We do not know where they come from	1.4
We will lose our identity	1.4
They will stay here	1.1
They should adopt our culture	1.1
They should not be forced to integrate	0.7
Others	3.5
Don't know	6.5
Total	100.0

**9.1** Respondents were asked to state the most positive contribution given by foreigners to Malta. Interestingly 9% of respondents made a distinction between regular and irregular migrants in their answer, with most of these insisting that only regular migrants make a positive contribution. The most mentioned positive contribution is that foreigners take jobs which the Maltese do not want to do. But a significant portion associate foreigners with spending money and buying property. This shows that people tend to associate foreigners either with low end jobs which the Maltese do not want to perform or with money spinning consumption which boosts the economy. Only around a tenth associate migrants for positive contribution in non economic sectors like culture and sports. This suggests that the Maltese have a very utilitarian approach to foreigners living here.

**Mention a positive contribution of foreigners living in Malta**

They work in jobs which the Maltese do not want	29.7
They give a contribution to economy	20.2
They spend money	9.2
They buy property	7.9
They enrich culture	7.5
They bring diversity	1.5
They provide cheap labour	1.2
They make pensions more sustainable	1.2
They bring new skills/ideas	0.5
None	14.8
Don't know	4.5
Others	1.8
Total	100.0

**9.2** Males aged under 35 years of age were the most likely to emphasise the economic contribution of migrants and their propensity to spend money and buy property. All other cohorts think that taking jobs which the Maltese do not want to do is the greatest contribution being given by foreigners.

### Top 5 positive contributions by age

#### M 16-34

Economic Contribution	28.0
Jobs which Maltese do not want	15.1
They spend money	12.1
They buy property	9.1
They enrich culture	8.3

#### F 16-34

Jobs which Maltese do not want	27.6
Economic Contribution	16.3
They enrich culture	13.3
None	13.3
They spend money	11.2

#### M 35-54

Jobs which Maltese do not want	26.0
Economic Contribution	19.7
None	18.1
They buy property	12.6
They spend money	8.7

#### F 35-54

Jobs which Maltese do not want	31.4
Economic Contribution	25.6
None	14.7
They enrich culture	8.3
They buy property	7.1

#### M 55+

Jobs which Maltese do not want	36.5
Economic Contribution	17.6
None	14.7
They spend money	8.8
They buy property	6.5

#### F 55+

Jobs which Maltese do not want	39.0
None	20.6
Economic Contribution	14.7
They spend money	8.6
They buy property	6.2

**9.3** A breakdown by level of education attained shows that economic contribution is the most recognized contribution of foreigners among university and post secondary educated respondents while secondary and primary educated respondents are more likely to recognize the contribution of foreigners in employment doing jobs which Maltese do not want to do. Cultural contribution is also mostly recognized by the university and post secondary educated. The university educated are the only group to mention foreigners' contribution to sustainability of pensions as a positive contribution in a substantial number. Curiously 27% of secondary educated respondents mention the buying of property as the positive contribution of foreigners. Since class and education often coincide, this result is anomalous although it could reflect current political discourse which tends to emphasize the role of rich foreigners in buying property as a way to kickstart economic growth.

#### Top 5 contributions by level of educational attainment

##### University

Economic Contribution	23.3
Jobs Maltese do not want	22.8
They enrich culture	12.2
They buy property	6.1
They contribute to sustainable pensions	5.0

##### Post Sec

Economic Contribution	24.2
Jobs Maltese do not want	18.6
They enrich culture	13.0
None	10.6
They spend money	10.6

##### Sec

Jobs Maltese do not want	37.5
They buy property	27.1
Economic Contribution	20.0
None	18.4
They spend money	6.8

##### Primary

Jobs Maltese do not want	35.8
Economic contribution	11.4
They spend money	11.4
They buy property	7.8
None	7.8

**9.4** Abs and STs are the most likely to value the economic and cultural contribution of migrants. Curiously C2s and DEs, which normally hail from a working class background are more likely to mention the buying of property as a positive contribution than Abs and C1s and even SEs who have more income at their disposal to be able to engage in property deals. C2s and Des are the most likely to think that foreigners have no positive contribution to make.

#### Top 5 positive contributions by occupation

##### AB

Economic Contribution	29.2
Jobs Maltese do not want	19.8
They enrich culture	15.1
They buy property	8.5
They spend money	6.6

##### C1

Jobs Maltese do not want	28.6
Economic contribution	22.7
None	14.9
They spend money	11.0
They enrich culture	8.4

##### C2

Jobs Maltese do not want	29.4
Economic contribution	19.6
None	23.5
They buy property	13.7
They spend money	5.9

##### DE

Jobs Maltese do not want	39.7
None	30.7
Economic contribution	10.2
They buy property	10.2
They spend money	3.4

##### SE

Jobs Maltese do not want	30.2
Economic contribution	22.1
None	12.8
They spend money	11.6
They buy property	8.1

##### ST

Economic contribution	27.1
Jobs Maltese do not want	18.2
They spend money	13.1
They enrich culture	11.9
Sports	4.2
Sustainability of pensions	4.2

##### PE

Jobs Maltese do not want	37.9
None	18.9
Economic contribution	14.9
They spend money	7.9
They buy property	7.0

**10.1** Respondents were asked to state what makes them worry most about foreign nationals living in Malta. Only 4.2% are not worried about anything while 1.8% are worried about racism and xenophobia directed against foreigners. The threat to Maltese jobs is the top concern of the Maltese. This contrasts with the fact that respondents also consider the willingness of foreigners to do jobs the Maltese no longer want to do as the most positive contribution of migrants. In fact 33.6% of those who consider the threat to Maltese jobs as their greatest concern on foreign nationals in Malta also consider their willingness to do jobs which the Maltese no longer want to do as a positive thing. Malta's small size and the sheer number of migrants also feature among the top concerns. This clearly indicates that a large segment of Maltese believe that the country can only accept a limited number of foreigners because of its size. Concern on religious extremism expressed by a tenth of respondents is the greatest non material concern. Most associate extremism with Islam. But only 2% are concerned by the greater plurality of religious beliefs. Other concerns mentioned by more than 5% of respondents are crime, disease and a fear that foreigners will one day either supplant the indigenous population or take over the island.

**What is your greatest worry about the presence of foreigner in Malta?**

They take Maltese jobs	21.6
Malta is too small	17.9
Too many foreigners	9.4
Religious extremism	9.0
Crime	5.5
They bring disease	5.5
They will take over Malta	5.3
They take benefits	4.8
Nothing	4.2
They do not respect gender equality	4.2
We are losing our identity	4.2
They bring different religions	2.0
Racism/Xenophobia	1.8
Exploitation of foreign workers	0.8
Don't know	1.6
Others	2.2
Total	100.0

**10.2** Concern that foreigners are competing for jobs is the highest one among all age groups except among males under 35 years of age who are more concerned by Malta's small size and that there are too many foreigners. Concern about xenophobia is highest among females aged between 18 to 34. In this cohort 8.2% are concerned with racism and xenophobia. On the other hand concern on loss of identity is highest among younger males. Concern on foreigner bringing over disease is highest among females aged 35 to 54. Disease is among the top five concerns of females in all age groups. In this cohort a tenth mention disease as their top concern. Concern that migrants could take over Malta or supplant the indigenous population is highest among males aged over 55 years of age.

### Top concerns of different age groups

#### M 16-34

Malta is too small	25.8
Too many foreigners	12.1
They take Maltese jobs	11.4
Religious extremism	11.4
Loss of identity	11.4
They take benefits	6.1
Nothing	5.3

#### F 16-34

They take Maltese jobs	30.8
Malta is too small	13.3
Too many foreigners	11.2
Xenophobia/racism	8.2
Disease	7.1
Religious Extremism	7.1
Nothing	7.1

#### M35-54

They take Maltese jobs	18.9
Malta is too small	18.1
Religious Extremism	10.2
There are too many foreigners	7.9
They take benefits	6.3

#### F 35-54

They take Maltese jobs	29.3
Malta is too small	19.7
They bring disease	9.6
They will take over Malta	7.6
Religious extremism	6.4

#### M 55+

They take Maltese jobs	21.8
Malta is too small	15.3
Religious extremism	8.8
There are too many foreigners	8.2
They will take over Malta	7.1

#### F 55+

They take Maltese jobs	23.7
Malta is too small	15.3
There are too many foreigners	10.7
Religious extremism	10.2
They bring disease	5.2
They will take over Malta	5.2

**10.3** Concern that Malta is too small tops the concerns of university and post secondary educated respondents while secondary and primary educated respondents are more concerned about competition for jobs. Concern about xenophobia features only among university educated respondents, 4.4% of which express this concern. Concern that Malta will be taken over by foreigners is strongest among secondary and primary educated respondents. Concern on loss of identity is strongest among the university educated.

#### Top concerns by level of educational attainment

##### Univ

Malta is too small	15.6
They take Maltese jobs	13.9
Religious extremism	13.3
Loss of identity	8.9
Too many foreigners	7.8
They take benefits	5.6
They do not respect gender equality	5.0
Xenophobia/Racism	4.4
None	4.4

##### Post Sec

Malta is too small	18.0
They take Maltese jobs	16.8
There are too many foreigners	10.6
They bring disease	8.1
Religious extremism	7.5
Nothing	5.6

##### Sec

They take Maltese jobs	28.2
Malta is too small	19.1
Religious extremism	7.9
There are too many foreigners	7.5
They will take over Malta	6.5
They bring disease	5.1

##### Primary

They take Maltese jobs	19.2
Malta is too small	18.1
There are too many foreigners	14.0
Religious extremism	9.3
They will take over Malta	7.3
They bring diseases	5.1

**10.4** Religious extremism is the top concern of Abs while concern on Malta's small size tops concerns of C1s and students. Concern on foreigners competing for jobs is strongest among DEs, C2s, PEs and SEs. Concern on foreigners taking social benefits is higher among the more affluent Abs and SEs but also among DEs, a category which includes welfare recipients. Students and Abs are the most concerned about xenophobia against foreigners. Concern that foreigners may take over country features among C1s, DEs, SEs and PEs. The survey indicates that less affluent groups are the most likely to regard foreigners as a threat to jobs. But most concerns cut across all social classes.

#### Top concerns by occupation

<b>AB</b>		<b>SE</b>	
Religious Extremism	14.2	They take Maltese jobs	25.6
Malta is too small	12.3	Malta is too small	22.1
They take Maltese jobs	12.3	They bring diseases	10.5
They take benefits	7.5	They take benefits	8.1
Identity	6.6	They will take over Malta	7.0
There are too many foreigners	6.6	Identity	4.7
Nothing	6.6		
Xenophobia	6.6	<b>ST</b>	
They do not respect gender equality	5.7	Malta is too small	20.2
		They take Maltese jobs	17.2
		Religious extremism	14.2
<b>C1</b>		Too many foreigners	12.1
Malta is too small	34.0	Identity	10.1
They take Maltese jobs	32.0	Nothing	7.1
Religious Extremism	12.0	Xenophobia	4.0
They bring disease	12.0		
They will take over Malta	10.0	<b>PE</b>	
Identity	9.0	They take Maltese jobs	21.6
		Malta is too small	15.7
<b>C2</b>		There are too many foreigners	11.1
They take Maltese jobs	31.4	They will take over Malta	7.3
Malta is too small	19.6	Religious Extremism	4.4
There are too many foreigners	9.8	Crime	4.1
They bring disease	7.8	Different religions	4.1
Nothing	5.9	Nothing	4.1
Different religions	5.9		
<b>DE</b>			
They take Maltese jobs	35.2		
Malta is too small	14.8		
There are too many foreigners	10.2		
They take benefits	8.0		
They bring disease	6.8		
They will take over Malta	6.8		
Religious extremism	6.8		

## Qualitative observations

The aim of the study was quantitative but interviewers were asked to transcribe any comments given by the respondents. Some of the replies shed some light on the attitudes of the Maltese on foreign nationals living in Malta.

The idea that there are too many foreigners is conveyed through expressions like “se jiekluna” (they will eat us). Many refer to immigrants as “klandestini” illegals and for many integration is conditional on them respecting “our” rules, laws and culture. A few referred to these immigrants as “uncivilized” and arrogant and one referred to their lack of manners like not offering their seats on buses to senior citizens. The idea that the presence of these foreigners is simply tolerated comes across from the comment of a respondent said that “they need to learn our culture and behave.” Another said that these foreigners “do not even accept our charity

because they want good brands.”

One recurring theme was the distinction between different categories of foreigners. One respondent claimed that “Africans do not integrate”. Many spoke favourably of “rich” migrants who contribute to the economy and negatively of “poor” migrants-a category which includes migrants who entered the country irregularly. Only one respondent spoke unfavorably of rich migrants as possible sources of “corruption”.

Interviewers reported that respondents expressed very strong emotions on the issue and that a sizable minority spoke of foreigners in very negative sometimes in a very harsh language. But other respondents expressed a genuine concern on migrants being exploited and offered lower conditions than Maltese workers.

## Recommendations

The survey shows that a sizeable percentage of the population does not have any familiarity with foreign residents. This is particularly the case with elderly people and a large segment of over 35 year old women. This suggests the importance of encouraging contact within local communities. Interestingly very few respondents mentioned community centers or other forms of public space as places where they meet foreigners. Only 0.8% mentioned the church or parish as a place where they meet foreigners. None mentioned trade unions, band clubs or political parties as venues of interaction with foreigners. But a large segment of young people mention entertainment venues as places where they meet foreigners. Sports is the greatest exception to this rule especially among males aged under 35 years of age.

On the other hand the survey shows that a segment of the population particularly the more educated are more exposed to a cosmopolitan society. This in itself may increase the risk of a social divide between a category which interacts with foreign residents and social classes and groups which interact less. The survey also shows that people who do not know a foreign resident by name are more likely to be opposed to integration.

Although the survey shows that most respondents are not off mark when it comes to numbers of foreigners living in Malta, those who are off the mark are more hostile to integration. This exposes the need for correct information on numbers to correct misconception. Moreover the widespread perception that Malta is too small and that numbers have already reached unsustainable proportions needs to be addressed.

The reality that foreigners occupy niches in the labour market which are either at the high or lowest end is widely felt by respondents. The fact that competition for jobs is seen by Maltese as their top concern on foreigners living in Malta has to be addressed. The survey shows that many Maltese already understand that many foreigners are doing jobs that many Maltese do not want to do. But respondents also express a concern about foreigners being more ready to accept lower pay. This can only be addressed through a better integration of foreigners in the

labour market.

One area which needs further social research is the distinction Maltese make between different categories of migrants and how these correspond to Malta's place in the global economy. So far the survey shows very low levels of concern on the impact of richer migrants who may be less visible and seen more positively in view of their spending power. But further research may shed new light on how Maltese view foreigners who live in gated communities, buy property and who come here to benefit from favourable fiscal incentives. Such research would be useful for longitudinal studies to compare the present situation with that in a decade's time.

The perception that Malta is too small also needs to be further investigated. The survey indicates that many people think in terms of Malta having a carrying capacity or a threshold over and above which it cannot cater for. But while many respondents refer to irregular migrants when they speak about numbers as indicated by a number of replies, it is unclear how respondents view the presence of more affluent migrants who may have a greater impact on local resources like land, property values and processes like gentrification.

The survey also shows that only a minority appreciates the intrinsic values of diversity and cultural cosmopolitanism. This suggests the need of a greater focus on this aspect. The survey shows that the Maltese tend to view foreigners as either a nuisance or a useful source of investment but few think in terms of people who simply live here by right who can eventually even aspire for full membership in the Maltese community. This suggests the need of a greater exposure to the life stories of foreigners who have become an integral part of the Maltese community.

The survey shows that nearly half do not know what integration means. But it also shows that a relative majority agrees with government encouraging integration after the term was explained to them. This shows the importance of giving people a correct but easy to understand definition of integration.

The survey also shows that a number of respondents have irrational fear and live in a state of siege believing that foreigners may be

harboring designs of taking over Malta. These irrational fear can only be combated through concerted political action and political leadership. On the other hand the survey shows that while present these views are not shared by the majority of the population whose major concerns on foreigners are about their impact on labour market.

One of the shortcomings of the survey was the

very low percentage of foreign nationals who were interviewed. A survey conducted among foreign nationals living in Malta should be considered to give a fuller picture. But this survey shows that a telephone survey may not be the best way to reach a representative sample of foreign but a hand written questionnaire to foreigners using public services like those of the Employment Training Corporation could be considered.

## Survey questionnaire in Maltese

Sess	Asja Amerika ta'fuq Amerika ta'isfel
Eta	Oceania Ohrajn
Livell ta'edukazzjoni	Ma Nafx
Universita	
Post Sekondarja	3. Fejn iltqajt ma din il-persuna jew dawn il-persuni? (more than one option can be ticked-respondents will not be prompted but interviewers will tick categories below or fill ohrajn where in doubt)
Sekondarja	
Primarja	
Xejn	Xoghol
Nazzjonalità	Skola
Malta	Divertiment
Other _____	Sports
	Attivita kulturali
Xoghol	Xrajt servizz minghandu/a
AB	Int I-employer taghha
C1	Hi I-employer tiegħek
C2	Partner / miżżewġin
DE	Ohrajn
PE	
ST	Question 4 and 5 are meant to assess perceptions on numbers and countries of origin of third country nationals. It would be interesting to see correlation between correct or wrong perception on numbers and origin with views on integration.
SE	4. Kemm tahseb li joqgħodu persuni ta' nazzjonalita barranija f'Malta? (no prompting)
Aim of first three questions is to assess how respondents are relating with third country nationals, where and with whom.	Inqas minn 5000
1. Taf lil xi persuna b'isimha li hi ta' nazzjonalità barranija u tghix Malta?	5001-10000
Iva naf wiehed/wahda	10001-20000
Iva naf iktar minn wiehed/wahda	20001-30000
Le	30001-40000
Jekk iva	40001-50000
	50001-60000
2. Minn fejn hi jew huma dawn il-persuni? (no prompting - more than one option can be ticked)	60001+
Pajjiz membru fl-UE	Ma Nafx
Minn pajjiz Ewropew barra mill-EU	
Afrika ta'fuq	5. Kemm taħseb li hawn persuni li daħlu f'Malta b'mod irregolari li għadhom joqgħodu f'Malta?
Mill-bqija tal-Afrika	
Mil-Lvant Nofsani	3000-6000



6001-12000  
12001-18,000  
18001-24000  
24001-30000  
30001+

MA Nafx

(this questions will be compared to replies to survey held in 2015 in which 23% believed that more than 18000 migrants who arrived irregularly live in Malta)

Question 6 and 7 are meant to assess view on integration and this identify misconceptions and address those issues which make people disagree with integration.

6. Taf xi tfisser il-frazi 'integrazzjoni tal-komunitajiet barranin'?

Iva

Le

7. Integrazzjoni tirreferi ghal process ta'djalogu li jghin biex komunitajiet baranin jippartecipaw u jikkontribwixxu b'mod shih fis-socjeta Maltija. Taqbel li l-gvern għandu jagħmel sforz sabiex Malta tintegra l-komunitajiet barranin?

Iva

Le

Ma Nafx

Skond\_\_\_\_\_\*

\* any qualified opinion will be written in this space

8. Jekk le, ghaliex ma taqbilx ma politika ta' integrazzjoni?

Question 8 and 9 are meant to guide policy makers on both the concerns of Maltese with regards to third country nationals and also to find those areas which make the Maltese view third country nationals positively

9. X'taheb li hu l-ikbar kontribut pozittiva tal-barranin

li jghixu f'Malta?

(no prompting-categories to be ticked by interviewers but not read to respondents)

Jipprovdu Xoghol li ma jridux jaghmlu l-Maltin

Kontribut ekonomiku

Jonfqu l-flus

Jixtru propjeta

Kontribut kulturali/artist

Ikel tajjeb

Kontribut sportive

Pensjonijiet/ sigurtà soċjali

Ohrajn\_\_\_\_\_

Xejn pozittiv

Ma Nafx

10. X'inhi l-iktar haga li tinkwetak dwar il-prezenza ta' barranin f'Malta?

(no prompting-categories to be ticked by interviewers but not read to respondents)

Jiehdu x-xoghol tal-Maltin

Malta zghira wisq

Hawn wisq barranin

Jiehdu l-beneficji soċjali

Estremizmu religjuz

Religjonijiet ohra

Idghajfu l-Identita

Ma jirrispettawx l-ugwaljanza bejn is-sessi

Mard

Ohrajn\_\_\_\_\_

## Survey questionnaire in English

Sex	Asia North America South America
Age	Oceania Others Don't know
Level of education attained :	
Universita	
Post Sekondarja	3. Where did you meet this person/these persons?
Sekondarja	(more than one option can be ticked-respondents will not be prompted but interviewers will tick categories below or fill ohrajn where in doubt)
Primarja	At work
Xejn	During education/training
Nationality	At a place of entertainment
Malta	Sports
Other _____	Cultural events
Employment	Bought a service from him/her
AB	You are his/her employer
C1	He/she is your employer
C2	Partner / married to him/her
DE	Others
PE	
ST	
SE	
Aim of first three questions is to assess how respondents are relating with third country nationals, where and with whom.	Question 4 and 5 are meant to assess perceptions on numbers and countries of origin of third country nationals. It would be interesting to see correlation between correct or wrong perception on numbers and origin with views on integration.
1. Do you know any person of a foreign nationality who lives in Malta on a first name basis?	4. Approximately how many foreign nationals do you think live in Malta today?
Yes only one	(no prompting)
More than one	Inqas minn 5000
No	5001-10000
If yes/more than one	10001-20000
2. What is the nationality of this person/persons?	20001-30000
(no prompting - more than one option can be ticked)	30001-40000
EU member state	40001-50000
From a European state which is not part of EU	50001-60000
North Africa	60001+
Sub Saharan Africa	Ma Nafx
Middle East	5. Approximately how many persons who entered



Malta as irregular migrants still live in Malta today?

- 3000-6000
- 6001-12000
- 12001-18,000
- 18001-24000
- 24001-30000
- 30001+
- MA Nafx

(this questions will be compared to replies to survey held in 2015 in which 23% believed that more than 18000 migrants who arrived irregularly live in Malta)

Question 6 and 7 are meant to assess view on integration and this identify misconceptions and address those issues which make people disagree with integration.

6. Do you understand the meaning of the phrase: "integration of foreign communities."

- Iva
- Le

7. Integration refers to a process of dialogue which helps foreign communities to fully participate and contribute to Maltese society. Should the government make an effort to integrate these foreign communities in Maltese society?

- Iva
- Le
- Ma Nafx
- Skond \_\_\_\_\_ \*

\* any qualified opinion will be written in this space

8. If not, why do you disagree with an integration policy?

Question 8 and 9 are meant to guide policy makers on both the concerns of Maltese with regards to third country nationals and also to find those areas which make the Maltese view third country nationals positively

Which is the greatest positive contribution given by foreigners who live in Malta?

(no prompting-categories to be ticked by interviewers but not read to respondents)

- They work in jobs where the Maltese are not willing to work
- Contribute to economic growth
- They spend money
- They buy property
- They give an artistic/cultural contribution
- More diversity in food
- They contribute to sports
- They contribute to sustainability of pensions/social security
- other \_\_\_\_\_
- Nothing
- Don't know

9. What is your greatest worry about the presence of foreign communities in Malta?

(no prompting-categories to be ticked by interviewers but not read to respondents)

- They compete for jobs
- They compete for space
- There are too many foreigners
- They take social benefits
- They can bring religious extremism
- They have different religious beliefs
- They weaken our identity
- They do not believe in gender equality
- They bring contagious diseases
- Others \_\_\_\_\_
- None
- Don't know

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