

National report: First cooperation cycle of the EU Youth Strategy 2010-2012

Malta

SECTION 1: GENERAL YOUTH POLICY

1. Does your country have a 'youth law' or legislation that specifically refers to youth issues, or laws containing a section addressing the needs and/or rights of young people?	Yes
2. Please provide references for the law (title, adoption date, validity, etc) in your national language as well as in English	<p>Maltese: Att Dwar il-Kummissarju għat-Tfal • Kapitulu 462 tal-Liġijiet ta' Malta. • Biex jipprovdi għall-ħatra ta' Kummissarju għat-Tfal bis-setgħa li jinvestiga kull ksur jew kontravvenzjoni tad-drittijiet tat-tfal. • Data: 5 ta' Diċembru 2003 • Sar liġi bl-Att VII tal-2003, kif emendat bl-Avviż Legali 427 tal-2007. • "Tfal", "Tifel" jew "Tifla" tfisser kull persuna li tkun għadha ma laħqitx l-età maġġuri.</p> <p>English: Commissioner for Children Act • Chapter 462 of the Laws of Malta. • To provide for the appointment of a Commissioner for Children with power to investigate any breaches or infringements of the rights of children. • Date: 5th December 2003. •</p> <p>Enacted by Act VII of 2003, as amended by Legal Notice 427 of 2007. • "Child" means any person who has not attained majority.</p> <p>Additional, related and complementary legislations: Children's and Young Person's (Care Order) Act (enacted by Act XVIII of 1980, as amended by Acts XIII of 1983 and XIII of 2002; and Legal Notice 423 of 2007), Juvenile Court Act, (enacted by Act XXIV of 1980, as amended by Acts: XI of 1985 and VIII of 1990) , Widows and Orphans Act (1st July 1927 and amended by Act XXVIII of 1929; Ordinances: XLIV of 1935, XVIII of 1937, I and VIII of 1943, XV of 1948; Emergency Ordinance VI of 1958; Ordinances: VI and IX of 1959, XVIII, XXI and XXV of 1962; Legal Notices: 4 of 1963, 46 of 1965; Acts: LVIII of 1974, XXII of 1976, XI of 1977 and XIII of 1999 as amended by Act VI of 2001).</p>
3. Is the document available in other languages, in full or abbreviated version?	Yes
If YES, please provide a web-link or a copy of the law in available languages together with this national report.	<p>Maltese version: http://www.mjha.gov.mt/LOM.aspx?pageid=27&mode=chrono&p=1 English version: http://www.mjha.gov.mt/LOM.aspx?pageid=27&mode=chrono&p=1&lid=2</p>
4. Does your country have a National Youth Strategy and/or Action Plan, or a cross-sectoral strategy specifically referring to youth issues?	Yes

<p>If YES, please provide references (title, adoption date, validity, etc) to this strategy or action plan</p>	<p>Title: National Youth Policy (2010-2013) Adoption Date: March 2010 Valid: end of 2013</p>
<p>5. Is the document available in other languages, in full or abbreviated version?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If YES, please provide a web-link or a copy of the document in available languages together with this national report.</p>	<p>Maltese: http://cdn02.abakushost.com/youthinfo/downloads/politikanazzjornalizghazagh.pdf English: http://cdn02.abakushost.com/youthinfo/downloads/nationalyouthpolicy.pdf</p>
<p>6. Please indicate how the EU Youth Strategy, adopted in November 2009, has influenced youth priorities in your country at the NATIONAL level?</p>	<p>A: It has reinforced existing priorities</p>
<p>Please specify your answer.</p>	<p>The EU Youth Strategy states that the overall objectives should be to (i) create more and equal opportunities for all young people in education and in the labour market, and to (ii) promote the active citizenship, social inclusion and solidarity of all young people. In this regard, the Maltese National Youth Policy “sets out a vision of young people who are enthusiastic to be successful and empowered to achieve their potential, while living in solidarity as active citizens. It is aimed at improving the quality of life of young people by promoting their initiatives, participation in decision making and social life, as well as by supporting easier transition from youth to adult status and the world of work and lifelong learning.”</p> <p>Moreover, the main fields of action as described in the framework are reflected in the Maltese National Youth Policy through its eleven vertical themes: Education, Employment; Health and Well-being; Culture and the Arts; Community Cohesion and Volunteering; Sport; Leisure; Environment; Information Society; Youth Justice and Transitions and Vulnerability. The EU Youth Strategy also highlights priorities such as the Youth Councils. Since 1992 the National Youth Council has been the National Organ for Youth Organisations in Malta. In addition the National Youth Parliament for young people aged between 13 and 30 provides young people gives the opportunity to practice participative citizenship through discussions on social and political issues.</p>
<p>7. Please indicate how the EU Youth Strategy has influenced youth priorities in your country at the LOCAL and/or REGIONAL level?</p>	<p>A: It has reinforced existing priorities</p>

Please specify your answer.	On a local level the Maltese National Youth Agency, Aġenzija Żgħażaġh administers the Youth Local Councils. These councils aim to encourage young people to become active citizens within their localities.
8. Does the government of your country support and promote cross-disciplinary research relating to young people and their living conditions in line with the Council resolution on active inclusion, having regard to the socio-economic environment and the opportunities and obstacles this poses for the social inclusion and employability of young people?	YES, measures were taken to support and promote such cross-disciplinary research after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.
Please specify your answer.	Aġenzija Żgħażaġh has commissioned a national cross-disciplinary research on young people under the title 'Maltese Young People at the beginning of the Third Millennium'. Areas of this research will include: identity, behavioural patterns and attitudes, education, ideology, culture, religion, family, well-being, employment and employability and leisure.
9. Is there an institutionalised and regular cooperation between the Ministry responsible for Youth and the youth research community in your country?	YES, such cooperation has existed since before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.
Additional comments.	After launching Malta's first National Youth Policy in 1993, the Ministry of Youth and the Arts set up an Institute of Youth Studies, in the University of Malta, to provide a broad-based course of academic studies for those interested in working with young people professionally. The Institute was subsumed into the Department of Educational Studies and subsequently established as a Department within the Faculty of Education called the Department of Youth and Community Studies. This department regularly cooperates with the Ministry responsible for Youth on youth related research.
10. Does your Government have an inter-ministerial working group on youth or any other institutionalised mechanism for ensuring a cross-sectoral approach to youth policy?	YES, such an institutional mechanism was established after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.

<p>Additional comments.</p>	<p>Since its establishment in 2011, one of the main functions of Aġenzija Żgħażaġh is to develop and implement youth policy and policy mainstreaming. With regard to policy development, Aġenzija Żgħażaġh monitors the process of implementation of the National Youth Policy. The National Youth Policy was revised in 2010 after a consultation process with all stakeholders. The National Youth Policy provides the policy framework for the work of Aġenzija Żgħażaġh.</p> <p>One of the aims of the National Youth Policy is to provide cohesion, coordination and synergies at both policy and operational level so as to ensure maximum benefits for young people while ensuring value for money. Policy mainstreaming is another important function of Aġenzija Żgħażaġh with the aim of ensuring that the interests and concerns of young people are adequately reflected in the development and implementation of youth policies and initiatives. Policy mainstreaming will also seek to ensure greater cohesion and coordination in terms of policy development and implementation between Aġenzija Żgħażaġh, the Ministry of Education and Employment and all other ministries and agencies with responsibility for young people.</p>
<p>11.Has your Government carried out specific initiatives targeting young people or the field of youth policy utilising EU funding opportunities through the European Social Fund, the European Regional Development Fund and/or the Rural Development Fund, or any other relevant EU funds or programmes such as PROGRESS[1]? [1] Please note that the question does not refer to EU programmes such as the Lifelong learning or Youth in Action programmes.</p>	<p>YES, we are currently carrying out youth initiatives or projects utilising the general EU funding opportunities mentioned above.</p>
<p>Additional comments.</p>	<p>Initiatives taken by the Government include the following: Increasing ICT Student Capacity in Malta (ESF 1.23) Career Guidance Capacity Building (ESF 1.24) Strategic Educational Pathway Scholarships - STEPS (ESF 1.25) Increasing ICT Student Capacity in Malta (ESF 1.33) An Independent living training service for disabled people in Malta (ESF 3.42) Care creates changes in people's lives (ESF3.52) Youth Employment Programme (ESF 3.60) E4L: Embark for Life (ESF 61)</p>

<p>12. Does the Government of your country have a strategy to acknowledge, raise awareness of, and reinforce the role of youth work in society, in line with the Council Resolution on Youth Work (2010)?</p>	<p>YES, we already had such a strategy in place since before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>
<p>Additional comments.</p>	<p>The Department of Youth and Community Studies, at the University of Malta, provides a broad-based course of academic studies for those interested in working with young people professionally. It also has the following role and functions: • To carry out research in youth and community studies, and in conjunction with other interested bodies; • To set up and deliver courses in youth and community studies which lead to academic / vocational qualifications; • To engage in public debates on issues that concern young people through the organisation of conferences and fora with the aim of contributing to the identification of efficiencies and lacunae in legislation and in the youth service and to challenge dominant discourse on youth.</p>
<p>13. What are the main measures implemented by your Government in order to improve the recognition and support the development of governmental and non-governmental youth work?</p>	<p>The statutory remit of Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ includes responsibility for ensuring the highest standards in youth work. An essential function of Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ is to promote and support the empowerment of young people in all areas and levels of society. The agency has initiated programmes that help young people to develop their competencies and skills through non formal education. It also provides an information service for young people by means of a web portal called Youth Information Malta. In order to further facilitate and expand Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ also runs Activity Centres at Marsaxlokk in the south and at Villa Psaigon in the north of the island and there are also plans for such a facility on the island of Gozo. These centres will, inter alia, cater for the needs of youth NGOs as well as providing opportunities for cooperative initiatives at EU, CoE and EuroMed level.</p>
<p>14. What are the main challenges and/or obstacles that your Government has been confronted with during the first three years of the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy?</p>	<p>The main obstacle that the Government had was that until the establishment of Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ in 2011, there was no central designated mechanism in Malta for promoting, coordinating and monitoring progress on and implementation of the EU Youth Strategy. The challenge is now therefore that in its yearly Business Plans, Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ includes the promotion, coordination and monitoring of progress on the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy.</p>
<p>15. Which measures and/or actions have your Government carried out in order to communicate the EU Youth Strategy to relevant stakeholders?</p>	<p>As indicated above one of the actions in Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ yearly Business Plan will be the promotion and communication of the EU Youth Strategy among all relevant government departments, agencies, NGOs and all other relevant stakeholders.</p>

16. Has your Government carried out any actions to measure the impact or success of the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy at the national level?

As indicated above, Aġenzija Żgħażaġh in its yearly Business Plan will include monitoring the impact of the EU Youth Strategy.

17. According to the principles of the EU Youth Strategy and in line with previous practice, Member States are asked to involve young people and their organisations in responding to this National Report. Please outline the various ways how young people have been consulted.

Aġenzija Żgħażaġh has consulted with young people in completing relevant aspects of the National Report. The National Youth Council was fully aware of the process. The council participated actively and consulted its member organisations where necessary.

SECTION 2a: PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES On youth employment & entrepreneurship

18. To take the specific situation of young people into account when devising flexicurity strategies?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

19. To promote cross-border professional and vocational opportunities for young people?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

One of the measures taken by the government is through the Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology (MCAST). MCAST plays a major role in promoting vocational education across the Maltese Islands. MCAST has been very active in providing cross-border vocational opportunities for all its students through the Lifelong Learning Programme. Also, the International and EU Office of the University of Malta promotes several long-term and short-term mobility programmes and strives to ensure that all students have the possibility of accessing such opportunities.

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In order to enhance participation, the University of Malta has also earmarked a “mobility semester” for every undergraduate degree programme. Another initiative commenced in In March 2011, through the Malta Qualifications Council, who initiated a European Project under the Leonardo da Vinci Programme. This project aims to test and implement the ECVET initiative (European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training) in a national context. This is a new tool for student mobility and for enhancing the life ong learning processes for all citizens. The project is co-financed by the European Union funding.

20. To develop career guidance and counselling services?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The University of Malta has increased its staff complement at its guidance and counselling services offices both on campus and at the Junior College. This reorganisation took place in order to make better use of the resources available so that a larger number of students can be supported, particularly during the more stressful periods of the academic year. Guidance and counselling staff provide help through face-to-face encounters, by email and by phone. In addition, the Maltese Public Employment Services offers a job brokerage service to its clients in an effort to limit unemployment. All registered unemployed jobseekers are assigned an Employment Advisor who will support and guide the registrant in their search for work and for training opportunities.</p> <p>Once a person decides to register on the unemployment register, the client's skills, abilities and capabilities are reviewed, further profiled and subsequently a personal action plan is developed. The Personal Action Plan details the actions that a client will need to undertake to improve his or her employability and job search skills. In an effort to increase the employability of young people and facilitate labour market integration of youth the Maltese Public Employment Services operates the Youth Employment Programme (YEP) which was initialised in 2009. This programme is an ESF Funded project.</p>
<p>21. To promote quality internships and apprenticeships to facilitate the entry to, and progress within, the labour market?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Apprenticeships are organised by Maltese Public Employment Service in conjunction with the Malta Council for Arts Science and Technology (MCAST). The Maltese Public Employment Service funds the cost of the placement and monitoring of the apprentices, while MCAST funds the tuition costs and provides a maintenance grant to the apprentices. When such apprentices are placed within an establishment for on the job training, the employer also pays them a wage in addition to the maintenance grant. Results locally show that 85% of apprentices are eventually employed with the same sponsor while others start their own business. Efforts are also made to encourage young people to participate in traineeships in such sectors as ICT, health care and green jobs.</p>
<p>22. To promote sharing of responsibilities between partners in order to facilitate reconciliation between professional and private life for both young women and young men?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

The Maltese Public Employment Service (PES) is currently working on an EU-funded media campaign; Nista' - The Benefits of Sharing Life's Responsibilities Campaign (ESF 3.59) which targets both males and females as well as employers by highlighting the importance of flexible working arrangements, the work-life balance, and the sharing of family responsibilities.

23. To promote entrepreneurship in the field of sustainable development?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

The Maltese Public Employment Service operates an Entrepreneurship Scheme called Ibdanegożżju Tiegħek (INT) through which jobseekers are offered the possibility of starting their own business by providing a package of Counselling, Entrepreneurship Training, Mentoring and Financial Assistance. INT is a one stop entrepreneurship programme aimed at promoting an enterprise culture among those people who are interested in taking up self-employment by opening up their own small business.

Through this programme the Corporation provides training in all the different aspects of creating and managing small enterprises and includes training in confidence-building, decision taking, interpersonal skills and business conduction skills. At the end of the Business Skills Training phase, applicants whose business plans are considered feasible and viable by the Assessment Committee will be recommended to move to next phase. Participants will become eligible to receive the enterprise grant, after they have obtained the necessary VAT Registration/Classification and Trade Licensing or Registration to support their Business Proposals.

Additional comments on employment & entrepreneurship

The Youth Employment Programme <http://www.youth.org.mt/>
 Malta College for Arts Science and Technology www.mcast.edu.mt/
 Youth Information Portal www.youthinfo.gov.mt Start Your own Business <http://etc.gov.mt/Category/3/82/INT.aspx> Nista' Sharing work life responsibility campaign <http://etc.gov.mt/Category/5/83/nista.aspx>

SECTION 2b: PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES On youth participation

24. to develop mechanisms for dialogue with youth and youth participation on national youth policies?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>There are a number of mechanisms for dialogue with young people so as to ensure the participation of young people in the development and implementation of national youth policies. These mechanisms include the National Youth Council, the Youth Parliament, the Local Youth Councils and the Student Councils in secondary and tertiary education.</p>
<p>25. to encourage use of already existing, or development of, guidelines on youth participation, information and consultation in order to ensure the quality of these activities?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Please see comments to Question 24</p>
<p>26. to support politically and financially youth organisations, as well as local and national youth councils and promote recognition of their important role in democracy?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>One of Aġenzija Żgħażaġh's functions is to support youth organisations. This is done by providing access to the agency's resources, both human and material, as well as funding or part-funding specific initiatives at both national and local level. Aġenzija Żgħażaġh also runs two Youth Activity Centres where youth organisations, agencies, associations and groups can organize live-ins, exchanges, seminars, meetings and workshops, daily group sessions, as well as indoor and outdoor activities.</p>
<p>27. to promote the participation of more and a greater diversity of young people in representative democracy, in youth organisations and other civil-society organisations?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ has launched a number of programmes to promote the participation of more and a greater diversity of young people. One such programme is called Empower. Empower is a non-formal education programme for young people from 16 years of age and upwards. The programme is aimed at releasing young people's potential; developing their leadership skills; engaging them in healthy activities; enhancing their creative and thinking skills; furthering their studying skills and encouraging them to bring about change in their locality. Another such initiative is Voltour. The Voltour initiative aims to provide young prospective volunteers with the opportunity to meet with young active volunteers to share and discuss their experiences. Furthermore, it provides the young people with the opportunity to better understand how youth organisations function and operate and provide them with a taste of what volunteering is all about.</p>
<p>28. to make effective use of information and communication technologies to broaden and deepen participation of young people?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ launched a web portal called Youth Information Malta in 2011. This need emerged during a consultation process with young people that preceded the Maltese National Youth Policy 2010-2013. Youth Information Malta consists of a web portal which includes general information compiled in Maltese and in English about: Culture and Leisure; Education; Environment; Employment; Europe; Family and Relationships; Health; Housing; Law, Rights and Responsibilities; Money; Participation and Volunteering; Sport; Transport and Travel. Information is presented under various subheadings.

A search function and accessibility features are also included. Youth Information Malta contains information compiled specifically for young people in collaboration with government directorates, agencies and NGOs. This information is continually updated and includes contact information on various institutions, agencies and organisations together with embedded hyperlinks to access further details directly. Youth Information Malta does not only provide updated information but aims to be a common meeting platform for young people, institutions, organisations, youth workers and Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ.

29. to support various forms of learning to participate from early age through formal education and non-formal learning?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Personal and Social Development (PSD) aims at empowering students to fulfil their potential effectively and positively. Although the pedagogical skills used in PSD in Malta, promote the concept that students/participants arrive at their own value system, the inherent philosophy and implementation of the subject promotes universally regarded positive values such as respect for self and others, diversity, critical thinking, problem solving and democracy.</p> <p>Another subject introduced in the new curriculum framework is Citizenship Education which aims to make students discover and learn more about their historical, social, geographical, economic, political and environmental contexts and realities. It prepares students to be active and responsible citizens. Citizenship Education includes History, Geography, Social Studies, Environmental Education and aspects from Personal, Social and Health Education and Home Economics. The Empower programme offered by Aġenzija Żgħażaġh uses non-formal education to engage young people and promotes active participation in order to equip them with the necessary skill to be able to bring about change in their localities.</p>
<p>30.to further develop opportunities for debate between public institutions and young people?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Aġenzija Żgħażaġh is creating opportunities for debate between public institutions and young people. Together with the Pension Working Group that is reviewing the pensions' system, Aġenzija Żgħażaġh conducted a consultation with young people to garner views and opinions. The agency conducted a similar exercise such as when legislation regulating 'Teen Parties' was being formulated, when the Children's Policy and the National Educational Curriculum Framework was being drafted. Aġenzija Żgħażaġh also facilitated consultation with young people when the bid for Valletta Cultural 2018 was being formulated.</p>
<p>Additional comments on participation (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	<p>Aġenzija Żgħażaġh www.agenzjazghazagh.gov.mt</p>

SECTION 3: ON VOLUNTEERING and the implementation of the Recommendation on the mobility of young volunteers

<p>31. To create more opportunities for mobility of young volunteers?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The European Union Programmes Agency (EUPA) is a government entity that promotes and provides mobility opportunities for young volunteers through the Youth in Action Programme's Action 2 - European Voluntary Service (EVS). The EUPA is also responsible for accrediting organizations to host and send volunteers through EVS. As a result, Maltese and European young people have more access to volunteering opportunities abroad.</p>
<p>32. To raise awareness about opportunities for mobility of young volunteers?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Raising awareness about opportunities for mobility is part of the remit of the EUPA's Youth in Action Programme (Communications Section), Eurodesk, the Euro-Med Youth Platform, and other organizations who are accredited as EVS Sending Organizations. In particular, but not exclusively, Aġenzija Żgħażaġh and the Employment & Training Corporation (ETC) are two government bodies accredited for the sending of young volunteers from Malta.</p>
<p>33. To assure quality through the development of self-assessment tools?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The EUPA is the body entrusted with ensuring the quality of projects and preparation methods of organizations accredited to host and send volunteers as the needs of the European Commission require. Moreover, through its Training & Cooperation Plan together with the Network of National Agencies and SALTO, the EUPA provides training on learning processes, self-assessment through YiA projects, and YouthPass.</p>
<p>34. To promote cross-border mobility of youth workers and young people in youth organisations?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The EUPA through the Youth in Action Programme, Eurodesk, the Euro-Med Youth Platform is responsible for the promotion of funding opportunities for young people in youth organizations and youth workers in order for them to gain skills, develop new tools and implement new projects and initiatives under the Youth in Action Programme and other programmes. The EUPA is also responsible for tailoring its Training and Cooperation Plan (TCP) to support mobility, based on identified local needs that are drawn up following meetings with various other bodies/oranisations and also based on previous experiences. Moreover the EUPA organises various activities throughout the year to not only provide information but to actively involve participants and raise awareness about mobility opportunities.</p>
<p>35. To give particular attention in this context to young people with fewer opportunities?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Aġenzija Żgħażaġh encourages organisations to host and send volunteers with fewer opportunities and also provides guidance on how to do this. For example, the EUPA works closely with the Employment and Training Corporation (ETC) and Aġenzija Żgħażaġh itself to target young people in search of employment. Moreover, on applying for accreditation, the agency requests that organisations to provide greater access for young people with fewer opportunities.</p>
<p>36. To promote the recognition of skills acquired through voluntary activities through instruments such as Europass, Youthpass and Member State instruments?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Through the EUPA and the Eurodesk, existing and potential beneficiaries are given information and tools on how to implement YouthPass. As regards EVS, volunteers are given training on how to reflect and focus on their learning experiences by highlighting the eight key competences making up YouthPass.</p>
<p>37. To promote intergenerational solidarity through voluntary activities?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>In preparation for the European Year of Active Aging and Intergenerational Solidarity Agenzija Zghazagh has organised a number of workshops that provide a setting where the young and the older generation had the opportunity to discuss various topics of mutual interest. Representatives from the Elderly Council and various youth organisations participated in the workshops. As a result of these workshops a number of ideas and proposals surfaced. One of the proposals was a theatrical performance that would include the issues that are currently being faced by the different generations. A forum theatre production was developed in collaboration with the Malta Drama Centre and a number of amateur actors of different age levels took part. Other activities are currently being discussed and developed in collaboration with a number of NGOs and the Elderly Council.</p>
<p>Additional comments on volunteering (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	<p>Aġenzija Żgħażaġh http://www.agenzjazghazagh.gov.mt Youth in Action http://www.yia.eupa.org.mt/ Euromed Programme http://www.euromedp.org/</p>

SECTION 4: On the implementation of the additional fields of action of the EU Youth Strategy

<p>38. To support the development of youth work and other non-formal learning opportunities as a way of addressing early school leaving?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Learning Zones were created within colleges in State Schools. In these learning zones a team of inter-disciplinary professionals, use non-formal learning, work together to create a space for young people who do not have a particular aptitude for formal learning and thus have a propensity of being early schools leavers.</p>
<p>39. To strengthen the use of the range of tools established at EU level for the transparency and validation of skills and the recognition of qualifications?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The Malta Qualifications Recognition Information Centre (MQRIC) evaluates diplomas and promotes transparency of qualifications as provided for in the Mutual Recognition of Qualifications Act Chapter 451 of 2002.</p>
<p>40. To promote learning mobility of all young people?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The University of Malta actively promotes and encourages its Undergraduate and Postgraduate students to pursue part of their studies at overseas universities. The University has signed over 700 agreements with HE Institutions in the EHEA under the Erasmus Programme as well as around 30 other agreements with institutions in Australia, US, Canada, Japan and other countries. A new Comenius action for Malta entitled “Individual Pupil Mobility” is scheduled to start in 2012 through which secondary students will be able to spend between 3 and 10 months at a host school and with a host family abroad. This will give Maltese students the opportunity to gain a learning experience abroad and to broaden their understanding of the diversity of European cultures and languages.</p>
<p>41. To make the broader public aware of the value of non-formal learning?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ is actively promoting such awareness as part of its remit.</p>
<p>Additional comments on education & training (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	<p>Malta Qualifications Council http://www.mqc.gov.mt/mqric National Council for Higher Education https://www.nche.gov.mt/ Ministry of Education and Employment https://www.meef.gov.mt/education</p>

B. HEALTH & WELL-BEING	
<p>42. To follow up the Council Resolution on the health and well-being of young people and encourage youth fitness and physical activity by applying the EU Physical Activity Guidelines?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>As part of the action plan stemming from the “Healthy Weight for Life” strategy a number of initiatives are being organised to promote the physical health of youth people including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerobic classes in various localities on a weekly basis for overweight and obese people • Walking trails for young people • Open sports days in schools and scouts camps • Outdoor fitness parties
<p>43. To encourage healthy lifestyles for young people via physical education, education on nutrition, physical activity and collaboration between schools, youth workers, health professionals and sporting organisations?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The draft National Curriculum Framework (NCF) identifies Health Education as one of the main learning areas which should form part of the core component of the curriculum throughout the whole cycle of compulsory school education - early years, primary and secondary (junior and senior) education. This area of Health Education includes Physical Education and Sport, Personal and Social Development (PSD) and Home Economics. The draft NCF indicates that Physical Education lessons will be held for 30 minutes everyday in primary schools. Student centred physical education is being practised in schools offering a balanced programme in the areas of athletics, dance, fitness, gymnastics, invasion games, net games, outdoor education.</p> <p>Exemplars of good lessons are produced and given to all teachers so that quality in lessons is ensured. All teachers are encouraged to work to achieve specific standards. Home Economics encompasses the following strands: Food, Nutrition and Health, Choice and Management of Resources, Home and Family Living. Also a sports promotion unit has been launched to coordinate sports activities in schools and between schools. Activities are held at intra and inter college level. Moreover, many schools have embarked on a healthy eating policy to ensure that students consume healthy food at school.</p>
<p>44. To increase knowledge and awareness of youth workers and youth leaders of health issues?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Aġenzija Żgħażaġh is actively promoting this as part of its remit. It is also an inherent part of the University of Malta's Youth and Community Studies degree programmes.</p>
<p>45. To encourage peer-to-peer health education?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Guidelines on physical activity for youths have been issued by the Health promotion and Disease Prevention Directorate.</p>
<p>46. To facilitate access to existing health facilities by making them more youth friendly?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Please see comments to Question 44.</p>
<p>Additional comments on health & well-being (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	<p>National Sport Council http://www.sportmalta.org.mt/ Health Promotion Unit https://ehealth.gov.mt/HealthPortal/health_promotion/introduction.aspx</p>

C. SOCIAL INCLUSION

47. To realise the full potential of youth work and youth centres as means of inclusion? YES, such measures/initiatives were taken the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Aġenzija Żgħażaġh is actively pursuing this as part of its remit. It is also developing two new youth centres that will help realise this potential

48. To adopt a cross-sectoral approach when working to improve community cohesion and solidarity and reduce the social exclusion of young people, addressing the inter linkages between e.g. young peoples education and employment and their social inclusion? YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

It should be noted however that additional initiatives were taken up through a new project Embark for Life. The aim of Malta's Embark for Life (E4L) project is to provide support to young people, aged between 16 and 24 years, who need assistance to integrate themselves better in the workforce and society. Through E4L, young people benefit from a number of individual sessions with a Professional Youth Support Worker. They are assisted in identifying their strengths and weaknesses, and outline areas where they need to work on in order to improve their employability prospects. Young people will also have a chance to benefit from vocational training. With the help of the Employment and Training Corporation, they will be supported to identify suitable employment opportunities. On the other hand, the Housing Authority will intervene and assist in cases where these young people require adequate accommodation due to homelessness or poor housing.

49. To support the development of intercultural awareness and competences for all young people and combat prejudice? YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>It should be noted however that additional initiatives have been taken through the new National Educational Curriculum Framework. The NCF proposes intercultural education as a cross-curricular theme. It focuses on how children and young people need to strengthen their ability to appreciate social, cultural, national and geographical realities by acquiring historical and geographical knowledge relating to the different learning areas and developing attitudes and skills which promote intercultural understanding.</p>
<p>50. To address the issues of homelessness, housing and financial exclusion with a particular focus on young people?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Please see comments in Question 48.</p>
<p>51. To promote access to quality services e.g. transport, e-inclusion, health, social services?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>It should be noted however that however additional initiatives were undertaken and Agenzija Zghazagh has developed a youth information portal in support of this see Question 28.</p>
<p>52. To promote specific support for young families?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>It should be noted however that however additional initiatives were through Nistá. Nistá - Sharing Work-Life Responsibilities Campaign - is a social marketing campaign, targeting specific audiences especially young people to promote work life balance. This work life balance can only be achieved by input from all parties, females, males, employers and society at large. Nistá has four phases: Phase One: Generating awareness amongst society in general Phase one of the campaign is aimed at society in general and aims at raising awareness about the project and the subject of work-life balance. Phase Two: Challenging Traditional roles for women Phase two of the campaign will be aimed at inactive young women, inactive older women and single mothers to promote the importance of paid employment for women as opposed to either inactivity or dependency on social benefits and promote the concept of financial independence.</p> <p>Phase Three: Promoting Men in the Family sphere This part of the campaign will focus on challenging traditional gender roles and more specifically men's roles within the family which are often limited to their bread-winning role with limited sharing of non - remunerated tasks. Phase Four: Employers for work-life balance Through television spots and articles in specific magazines. This campaign will aim to highlight best practice among employers who have implemented measures favouring better work-life reconciliation for their employees.</p>
<p>53. To engage young people and youth organisations in the planning, delivery and evaluation of European Year of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in 2010?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The evaluation of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion has been completed. It comprised various methodological approaches including analysis of key events partaken as part of the EY2010, analysis of the media and communication strategy adopted, and analysis of feedback received through questionnaires and interviews with a number of relevant stakeholders, including; civil society organisations and the ten ambassadors established under the Year. Feedback was also received from Malta's Commissioner for Children, who was also an appointed ambassador for the EY2010.</p>
<p>Additional comments on social inclusion (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	

D. CREATIVITY & CULTURE

54. To support the development of creativity among young people by following up the Council conclusions on promoting a Creative Generation: developing the creativity and innovative capacity of children and young people through cultural expression and wider access to culture?

YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

In July 2011, Malta launched its National Cultural Policy. The Policy highlights the need to acknowledge the centrality of children and young people in the sustainability of cultural development, and stresses the need for immediate and concrete action directed at the need of children and young people to match their creative aspirations. A number of measure have already taken place to ensure that creativity-driven policies are implemented efficiently and with the greatest possible impact. In the 2011 Budget, the Government of Malta announced the Culture Card. This is an initiative for young people aimed at increasing their participation in cultural and creative life, through incentivising their attendance in cultural activity. The objectives of the Culture card are to:

- Encourage and support young people to engage in cultural and artistic activities.
- Incentivise cultural producers to commission new work and programme cultural and artistic activities devised specifically for young people.
- Create new audiences by investing in cultural demand.
- Promote culture and the arts as an entertaining, fulfilling, challenging and exciting activity for young people.

55. To make new technologies readily available to empower young people's creativity and capacity for innovation, and attract interest in culture, the arts and science?

YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Malta has been investing intensively in its education infrastructure, including in the vocational and higher educational services, in order to ensure that its young workforce is competitive, innovative and entrepreneurial. Within the Malta College for the Arts, Science and Technology, investment in the past number of years has led to the opening of a full range of courses ranging from European Qualifications Levels 1 to 6. Students can now continue their studies and obtain up to Bachelors level qualifications in Graphic Design and Interactive Media, 3D Design and Interiors, Fine Arts, and Media (Moving Image). At the University of Malta, a parallel development has led to the formation of the new Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences. Apart from the standard Bachelors in Communications, the Faculty now offers Bachelor courses in Library, Information and Archive Studies, as well as a new Masters of Fine Arts in Digital Arts.

Further to this investment in education, during the past three years a number of schemes have been launched that support young artists and cultural workers to strengthen their creative capability, through the arts, film and other creative enterprises. In particular, the INVEX scheme (www.invex.gov.mt) was launched in 2011 and targets cultural and creative enterprises and organisations, including start-ups, providing long-term strategic support to improve their products, services and internal organisational structures.

56. To provide access to environments where young people can develop their creativity and interests and spend a meaningful leisure time?

YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The initiatives are: KREATTIV brings together creative practitioners and schools to work with teachers and students to inspire, learn and create in a collaborative and innovative way. Projects must reflect the school priorities and must be relevant and based on the needs of the school and its students. Although projects may lead to a tangible outcome such as a design project for a school area or an artistic project such as the creation of a short film, performance or exhibition, the emphasis is one engagement in the creative process and interactions between practitioners, educators and students. The President's Creativity Award targets the development of young talent and the dissemination of arts-driven projects which engage with children and young people in the community.</p>
<p></p>	<p>Its focused approach on young people and its emphasis on promoting social and community development programmes through art is a reflection of a society which rewards and fosters talent from an early age, supports the recognition of excellence in art and creativity, and ensures that opportunities for developing creativity are freely accessible to all. Divergent thinkers is a project administered by Aġenzija Żgħażaġh which gives space to young people come up with divergent pieces of art using any medium, enable them exhibit their works of art and ultimately publish their work in a professional art catalogue.</p>
<p>57. To promote specialised training in culture, new media and intercultural competences for youth workers?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>This has been effected through the University of Malta's degree BA and MA programmes in Youth and Community Studies.</p>
<p>Additional comments on culture & creativity (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	<p>Culture Card http://www.maltaculture.com/content.aspx?id=269391 INVEX Scheme http://www.invex.gov.mt KREATTIV http://www.maltaculture.com/content.aspx?id=269391 The President's Award for Creativity http://www.president.gov.mt/premju-kreattivita?l=1 Divergent Thinkers http://www.youthinfo.gov.mt/default.asp?m=news&id=190</p>

E. YOUTH & THE WORLD

<p>58. To raise the awareness of young people about global issues such as sustainable development and human rights?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The Office of the Commissioner for Children is organising two courses annually called Rights 4U for young people between the age 13 to 15. The interactive programme of the Rights 4U course included various activities in which the young people not only learnt about their rights, but also actively explored and engaged in discussions on their rights.</p>
<p>59. To provide opportunities for young people to exchange views with policy-makers on global issues (e.g. via participation in international meetings, virtual platforms/fora etc.)?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Opportunities are provided through Youth in Action, EuroMed Youth Platform and Partnership Protocols signed by the Government.</p>
<p>60. To encourage young people to participate in green volunteering and "green" patterns of consumption and production (e.g. recycling, energy conservation, hybrid vehicles, etc.)?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The Parliamentary Secretary for Tourism, the Environment and Culture has for the past two years financially contributed to and participated in the Earth Garden Festival. Last Year the main theme was Water, aiming at the appropriate use of water. Other participating bodies which collaborated with this Ministry included the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) and the Water Services Corporation. This Ministry also collaborates with various environmental NGOs which also embrace young volunteers and encourage them in participating in national and international fora. This year nine selected project proposals, submitted by local councils and non governmental organisation, were funded to encourage their participation in car free day. A number of activities were held across the islands.</p>

The MEPA has organized monthly Sunday Biodiversity tours. This year, following the positive feedback MEPA received from these tours, the Authority has decided to re-start these tours, with the addition of a separate monthly heritage tour to compliments it's educational and activities programme. The aim of these monthly tours is to give the public the chance 'to share the experience' of local biodiversity and heritage around Malta which are not generally frequented by the public. These are for all ages including youth. Also, measures were taken by Wasteserve to encourage young people to participate in "green volunteering" and "green" patterns of consumption and production.

61. To promote entrepreneurship, employment, education and volunteering opportunities with countries or regions outside of Europe? YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here. Malta has played a leading role in EuroMed and this role has been further enhanced since the establishment of Aġenzija Żgħażaġh in 2011. Such opportunities have also been effected through Youth in Action and Erasmus.

62. To encourage young people to participate in development cooperation activities either in their country of residence or abroad? YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here. Please see comments at Q61 and Q59.

Additional comments on youth & the world (for example references, web-links, project examples). Our White Sea Conferences: <http://www.euromedp.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/Final-version-25.03.2010.pdf>
<http://www.euromedp.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/Our-White-Sea-Report.pdf>

SECTION 5: EVALUATION OF THE STRUCTURED DIALOGUE

<p>63. Has your government carried out any specific measures or is it planning to do so based on the conclusions from the European Youth Week, which presents a number of recommendations on how the structured dialogue can be improved at the national and the European levels?</p>	<p>NO, but we plan to take concrete measures in this field in 2012.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Aġenzija Żgħażaġh will give active consideration to priority issues arising from the structured dialogue process for action or referral to government where appropriate.</p>
<p>64. Has your Government supported the establishment of a National Working Group?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer. If yes, how has this been supported? If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here</p>	<p>The Government through Aġenzija Żgħażaġh provides funds in order to carry out the structured dialogue on a national level.</p>
<p>65. Does the National Youth Council play a leading role in the National Working Group?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If your answer is NO please elaborate and indicate who plays a leading role. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>66. Does the competent national ministry play an active role in the National Working Group?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The competent national ministry through Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ plays an active role in coordinating and supporting the National Working Group</p>
<p>67. Given the cross-sectoral character of the EU Youth Strategy, have other national ministries played an active role in the National Working Group?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>If your answer is YES please elaborate and indicate who plays an active role. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>68. Does your Government provide financial or other support for the National Working Group?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If your answer is YES please elaborate (maximum 300 words) If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>69. Is the competent national ministry aware of the process of consultations, and subsequent results, undertaken by the National Working Group in response to guiding questions issued by the European Steering Committee for the structured dialogue with youth?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Through Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ the competent Ministry is kept fully informed on such matters.</p>
<p>70. Has your Government taken any initiatives to follow up the points that were raised as priority areas in the conclusions of the structured dialogue on youth employment, as outlined in the Council Resolution on the structured dialogue?</p>	<p>No, but we intend to take relevant initiatives/measures in 2012</p>
<p>Please elaborate If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ will give active consideration to priority issues arising from the structured dialogue process for action or referral to government where appropriate.</p>
<p>71. Would your Government support a structured dialogue with young people and youth organisations in other fields than those covered by the overall thematic priorities, and individual Presidency priorities, agreed at European level?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer</p>	<p>Government would support a structured dialogue with young people and youth organisations in other fields than those covered by the overall thematic priorities, and individual Presidency priorities, however the first priority would be the existing framework.</p>
<p>72. Does your Government consider the National Working Group already established in your country to be sufficiently inclusive in its composition to ensure a participatory process open to all young people?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If your answer is NO please elaborate</p>	

73. What are the methods of consultation with young people that have been applied within the structured dialogue in your country?

Various methods have been used including focus groups, questionnaires, meetings with youth workers and discussions with secondary school students.

<p>If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>74. Do youth researchers and those engaged in youth work play a role in carrying out the structured dialogue in your country?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If your answer is YES please elaborate If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Aġenzija Żgħażaġh's remit includes that of research and in coordinating the National Working Group the research dimension is actively included.</p>
<p>75. Would your Government support efforts to enhance the visibility and transparency of structured dialogue at national level?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer.</p>	<p>Aġenzija Żgħażaġh's remit also includes promoting and enhancing the public visibility of initiatives such as the structured dialogue with young people.</p>
<p>76. Based on the experiences gained since 2010, does your Government feel that the format and working methods employed at EU Youth Conferences contribute to a successful conduct of structured dialogue?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer.</p>	<p>However, more focus and attention is needed in further strengthening and streamlining the process and making it more transparent, cohesive and user friendly.</p>
<p>77. Based on the experiences gained from the first two cycles of the structured dialogue, does your Government have particular recommendations for the further development of the structured dialogue?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer.</p>	<p>Not at this point in time.</p>

SECTION 6: ON EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

Presentation of good practice # 1 The Set Up of Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ Following the EU Youth Strategy the government has taken the initiative to set up Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ. Following the legal notice publication L.N. 522 of 2010 which established Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ, on 5 February 2011, the Parliamentary Secretary for Youth and Sport, Hon. Clyde Puli officially launched Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ. This legal notice stipulates that the agency has the following functions: Policy Implementation and Mainstreaming, Research and Youth Empowerment. With regard to Policy, the aim of Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ is to monitor the process so that the National Youth Policy will be put in practice. In fact the National Youth Policy was revised in 2010 by the Parliamentary Secretary for Youth and Sport after a consultation process with all stakeholders. This policy can be regarded as the compass which guides the agency's operations.

Without being prescriptive, the National Youth Policy provides a framework in order to create a synergy in youth work in the coming years and without doubt the agency plays an important role in this regard. Through its mainstreaming function Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ is enabling other ministries to implement the EU Youth Strategy and ensuring that youth's interests will be reflected in the policies that are being drawn out. This applies both to the policies which closely concern youth like those issued by the same Ministry of Education and Employment as well as policies of other ministries and entities. Such work requires the continual coordination between the agency and several ministries, departments and entities. Research is important so that we can better understand the needs of Youth and other related areas. This also helps Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ to anticipate developments within these areas.

Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ attentively evaluates the research which is being published both on the national as well as the international level, in particular the European Union's research. Moreover, the agency also commissions research about current themes deserve more attention. Another function of Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ is that of Empowerment. The agency is working on programmes which help Youth gain more skills by means of non formal education. The Empowerment Unit works on projects such as Youth Local Councils, Emower (a training programme for young people), Diverget Thinkers, Youth Local Band Club Scheme ect. With regard to non formal education one should also mention that Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ is administering the Marsaxlokk Youth Activity Centre and also Villa Psaignon Youth Activity Centre, where work is being carried out in order to develop this facility into a non formal setup. For further information: www.agenzjazghazagh.gov.mt

Presentation of good practice # 2 The Set Up of A Youth Information Portal The Government launched its web portal called Youth Information Malta on the 26th February 2011 during an activity at its premises at the Annex of Casa Leoni, Sta Venera. The need to provide specific information of particular relevance to young people has been felt for years and also emerged during the consultation process preceding the Maltese National Youth Policy 2010-2013. Youth Information Malta consists of a web portal which includes general information compiled in Maltese and in English about: Culture and Leisure; Education; Environment; Employment; Europe; Family and Relationships; Health; Housing; Law, Rights and Responsibilities; Money; Participation and Volunteering; Sport; Transport and Travel. Information is presented under various subheadings to facilitate research. A search function and accessibility features are also included.

Youth Information Malta contains information compiled specifically for young people in collaboration with government directorates, agencies and non governmental organisations. This information is continually updated and includes detailed contact information of various institutions, agencies and organisations together with embedded hyperlinks to access further details directly from the source. Youth Information Malta provides also a showcase of news, music, and events pertaining to the youth field. The news section includes updated information about scholarships, exchanges, funding for projects, EU opportunities etc. The streaming music function is aimed primarily to promote local artists and their music with direct links to the respective websites. The events section is a showcase of events and besides informing young people, it assists youth organisation, agencies and groups in their promotions. Youth Information Malta does not only provide updated information but aims to be a common meeting platform for young people, institutions, organisations, youth workers and Aġenzija Żgħażaġh. For further information: www.youthinfo.gov.mt

Presentation of good practice # 3