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Legal Migration and the Labour Market from a Maltese perspective

The topic of migration, both legal and illegal, has been exhaustively discussed and researched for quite a number of years. From the estimated 232 million international migrants all over the world, the majority move for better employment opportunities or for family unification purposes. Malta is currently facing an increase in legal labour migration whereby third country nationals are entering Malta to seek employment opportunities in view of Malta's flourishing labour market. Ranking sixth in the lowest unemployment statistics in Europe and having the second lowest number of youth unemployment, Malta has increased its attractiveness to economic migrants.

This phenomenon has encouraged the creation of many legislations and policies aimed to regularise, control and monitor the movement of persons from other countries. EU laws were introduced to standardise the admission, residence and employment rules for labour migrants, focussing on various categories of TCN workers, such as: students, highly qualified workers, seasonal workers and intra-corporate transferees. National policies were also introduced to facilitate such movement, particularly in areas of substantial labour market shortage.



Nonetheless, the competent authorities are still responsible to carry out the necessary checks prior to granting access to residency and employment, especially in the case of economic migrants who do not have an automatic right to take up employment in Malta.

Latest data published by Jobsplus (Malta's Public Employment Service) indicates a total of 48,026 non-Maltese nationals working in Malta as at April 2018. EU, EEA, EFTA nationals and EU dependants amount to 32,626 of

the non-Maltese workforce, whilst the remaining 15,400 workers are all Third Country Nationals. It is envisaged that the latter figures will increase in the next years, particularly due to Malta's present economic situation and significant labour market shortages in various industries. Consequently, this phenomenon will further necessitate the implementation of positive integration measures to ensure that these economic migrants contribute not only to Malta's economy, but also participate in the social and cultural life of the country.

An Investment in the Future

An integration introduction programme is an investment in the future which both the migrant and society need to undertake if we want successful integration. It gives migrants a start enabling them to acquire vital skills and is therefore well worth the effort, and the return on the investment is that newcomers become better-equipped citizens.

Our local “I Belong Programme,” which is situated within the framework of the Integration Request process outlined in the *Strategy*, comes in two stages, and consists of two main components: language tuition and cultural orientation. The focus of the former is on the public and work situations where the migrant is likely to require knowledge of Maltese and English, whereas the latter delves

into the functioning and values (such as equality) of society.

Stage One, leading to the award of a Pre-Integration Certificate, consists of basic Maltese, English and Cultural Orientation. It will be offered by MCAST and the first session is expected to start early in 2019. Stage Two fulfils some of the criteria required for applicants for long-term residence, and includes Maltese at MQF Level 2, and the course formerly known as “Living and Working in Malta.” The first session, also expected to start early in 2019, will be offered by the University of Malta. All courses will be free of charge (some terms and conditions apply). It is important to highlight that as from the second session, Stage One certification will be mandatory to progress to Stage Two.

Of particular note is that each course is accredited by the educational institution where it will be offered, and therefore this introduction integration programme has raised standards in a field where we acknowledge a lot of good work that has been done before us by several public and private stakeholders.

Applications are already open online at <<www.integration.gov.mt>>. Anyone requiring further information may call the Integration Unit on 22263210 or send an email to <<integration@gov.mt>>.

Funding for Stage One courses and for Integration Officers within the Directorate is provided by:



ELIZA FENECH KHAN USRAP Project Administrator; Integration and Facilitated Migration Focal Point, Malta, IOM

Migrant Integration A Multi-Faceted Approach

Globally, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) supports policies and strategies that promote the social, economic and cultural inclusion of migrants in their host countries. Effective migrant integration allows migrants to actively participate in civic life and make valuable contributions, while giving host societies opportunities for multicultural enrichment.

IOM is actively engaged in supporting the Maltese Government’s integration initiatives, and it appreciates the great strides the Government has made towards enhancing migrant integration, particularly through the launch of its targeted integration strategy and programme.

As demographic trends shift, and in line with the national efforts, IOM is developing its programming in Malta to respond to the increasingly heterogeneous needs of migrants through endeavours that move beyond immediate post-arrival needs and place a greater focus

on furthering migrant participation in socio-economic spheres. Recognizing the need for a comprehensive and multi-pronged approach, IOM is working alongside migrant communities and an ever-broadening spectrum of both traditional and new stakeholders (including those hailing from the private sector), to create increased avenues for migrants at all levels of education, improve access to the labour market, and empower communities to forge

their own narratives on migration. IOM is also seeking to expand its social media outreach, through targeted campaigns and awareness raising activities aimed towards building bridges between locals and migrants, with a specific focus on young people.

Find out more at:

 www.malta.iom.int

 www.facebook.com/IOMinMalta/

Projects in the spotlight:

TandEM: Towards Empowered Migrant Youth in Southern Europe aims to foster the engagement of young migrants and their Southern European peers in building more inclusive societies through active participation in shaping the discourse about migration and diversity, access to and integration in higher education, and exchange of knowledge and good practices on integration across the EU.

Admin4ALL: Supporting Social Inclusion of Vulnerable Migrants in Europe aims to enhance the capacity of local governments to develop sustainable strategies and inclusive services for the successful social and economic integration of migrants across multiple European cities.

Interview with

Mr Glen Cachia RFL Manager, Malta Red Cross

Restoring Family Links (RFL) is a service offered by the Malta Red Cross RFL Team supported by the Malta Red Cross National Society and the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross). The service involves communications and searching for missing persons who have been separated by armed conflict, disaster or migration. This service can provide much needed comfort to traumatised and vulnerable migrants, primarily those who have made the journey by both boat from North Africa, either during their time at the Initial Reception centre (IRC) or later in open centres, as well as in detention centres for migrants issued with a detention order.

One aspect of RFL consists of a phone service for newly arrived migrants. Malta Red Cross personnel are called in at the IRC whenever migrants are admitted to the Centre. The Malta Red Cross team gives approximately 5 minutes to migrants to call their families and to say that they have arrived safely.

Phone Service

In 2017 a total of 236 calls were made. In 2018, between January and August, the number of calls made was 711. Calls were made to several countries, including Bangladesh, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Cote D'Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Somalia Sudan and several EU Member States.

The Malta Red Cross is funded by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to provide every new arrival with a five-minute phone call. These telephone calls are the most direct way of contacting and reassuring families that an individual is safe and is a crucial aspect of the support that is offered to asylum-seekers.

The Malta Red Cross RFL Team, in collaboration with the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security, also provides a Tracing service. This service re-establishes contact between any persons who have lost contact with their

families for reasons of conflict, disaster or migration.

'We regularly open Tracing cases internationally with our Red Cross colleagues in other countries. This is one of our strengths of being part of a large International Organisation. Requests are sent to us from abroad and we also send to other Red Cross Offices to conduct searches abroad', said Glen Cachia, RFL Manager.

The Malta Red Cross also liaised with EU Member State delegations other agencies to ensure that rescued migrants would not be separated from their relatives during

lives in Somalia, suddenly conflict arises and the family runs away. I contact the Red Cross Delegation in Nairobi who then contact the Somalia Red Crescent to ask if they could trace a particular camp often using tribal contacts to do so. This has often provided successful outcomes for the families concerned.

Once a man asked me to find his wife in Guatemala. I contacted the regional office in Guatemala Red Cross and the Mexican ICRC delegation. This man used to come to my office every month. He never gave up although I kept telling him that I couldn't find her. Then after 6 years I happened to be in Spain and received an email that his wife was also in Spain (she had been returned there by the Guatemalan government)! I contacted him urgently and informed him. He was eventually relocated to America and his wife joined him there".

In addition to Restoring Family Links, the Malta Red Cross RFL Team have a very important role to play as humanitarian observers within detention facilities and once detainees have been released.

The Malta Red Cross are also contacted for psycho-social reasons. For example, if a group of migrants at IRC require spare clothes, soap and hygienic accessories the Malta Red Cross RFL liaises with the staff teams at IRC, who are quick to respond. In the event of a mental health issue, the Malta Red Cross arrange for an interpreter to call the family of the migrant concerned.

The Malta Red Cross RFL department also offers a Trace the Face service. Posters with pictures of relatives looking for their missing loved ones are disseminated and displayed at various AWAS centres and other offices frequented by migrants.


Mr Cachia has a team of 10 volunteers from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Columbia, Egypt, Germany, Libya and the UK who work efficiently and dedicate long hours to help migrants communicate with their families or to tracing missing relatives.



the relocation/resettlement selection process. This is part of the Prevention of Separation Project.

"Recently a woman was evacuated from a ship and brought to Mater Dei Hospital as she was unconscious and needed urgent medical treatment. She had 4 children on the rescue ship being taken to Lampedusa. We were contacted by AWAS to try to reunite them. We spoke to the Italian Red Cross to contact the foster home. This is called secondary separation when the persons are rescued but separated in the process. Eventually the mother was reunited with her children by the Ministry for Home Affairs in collaboration with the Italian authorities", said Mr Cachia.

Mr. Cachia also said that "There are cases when for example a migrant whose family



MARGARET BARAHMANDPOUR MT EMN Officer, EMN National Contact Point, Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security

EMN Inform on Identity Document Fraud

The EMN Inform on Identity Document Fraud gives an overview of the situation in a number of Member States with regard to the use of false, forged or fraudulently acquired genuine travel documents by third country nationals. Moreover, the Inform also provides information on measures taken by the States concerned to address these challenges.

The EMN Inform is based on the EMN Ad-Hoc Query on the Documents Identity Fraud Determination Procedure, and on the impact of false/forged documents in immigration and asylum procedures. This query was launched on 16th June 2017 and the participating States were Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia, Spain, Finland, France, Croatia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Malta, Norway, Sweden, Slovakia, Slovenia and the and UK.

The EMN Inform identifies the most common types of false documents encountered by State competent authorities. These are false counterfeit documents; authentic document used by impostor, false/forged bio-page, counterfeit visa, substituted bio-page and fraudulently obtained authentic documents

The EMN Inform sets out that the use of false or otherwise fraudulent documents, such as identity documents, travel documents, or passports, to enter or leave the territory is a criminal offence in all the above-mentioned States. Notwithstanding this, the European Union does not have a uniform legal framework vis-à-vis document fraud, as the matter is governed by national legislation. The EMN Inform also indicates that all participating States provide specialised training in this sphere, so as to enable the detection of such documents. The need for continuous training is required in view of the fact that falsification techniques change constantly and often become more sophisticated. At the European level, the EU Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX), is the main entity providing training services, which services complement national training based on needs assessment.

The EMN Inform also considers the individual States' arrangements in relation to the submission of false or otherwise fraudulent documents when submitting an application for international protection. Some of the feedback received from the States concerned explicitly sets out that the submission of such documents in the

context of an international protection application constitutes an offence.

Identity Document Fraud – Malta's Experience

The entity responsible for the detection and determination of document fraud in Malta is the Document Examination Unit within the Malta Police Force. Documents may be referred to the Unit, by Immigration Officials stationed at border entry points. Typically, documents are sent to the Unit when the Immigration officials require more in-depth analysis to determine authenticity or otherwise.

These tasks require specialised training in the utilisation of equipment used to identify specific document features. The Malta Police Force provides such training to its officials in Malta and abroad, on a regular basis.

The submission of a false document constitutes a criminal offence that may lead to a fine and/or a term of imprisonment of up to two years. An individual apprehended with equipment designed to falsify or forge documents, or who otherwise facilitates irregular migration, is also an offender in terms of the Criminal Code. The maximum penalty for such offences is imprisonment for a period of up to twelve years.