

Small States Social Policy

MALTA

Created by: *George Vital Zammit*
Presented by: *Godfrey Baldacchino*

Small States

Social policy - Welfare/Well-being model

High Levels of Care, Health and Social Assistance.

- High Levels of Care for those with Disability (provided by State and Catholic Church)
- Low Levels of Unemployment (Work Based unemployment benefits)
- Low Levels of Absolute Poverty ([500 persons known to lack flushing toilet](#): 0/1% of population)
- Philanthropy / Christian Democratic Ethos / Third World Socialism: origins and philosophy of the welfare system.
- Private Practices in Health and Education exist alongside state provision
- Most practices at national level; but regional health clinics.

Small States

Social policy – social (re)distributions

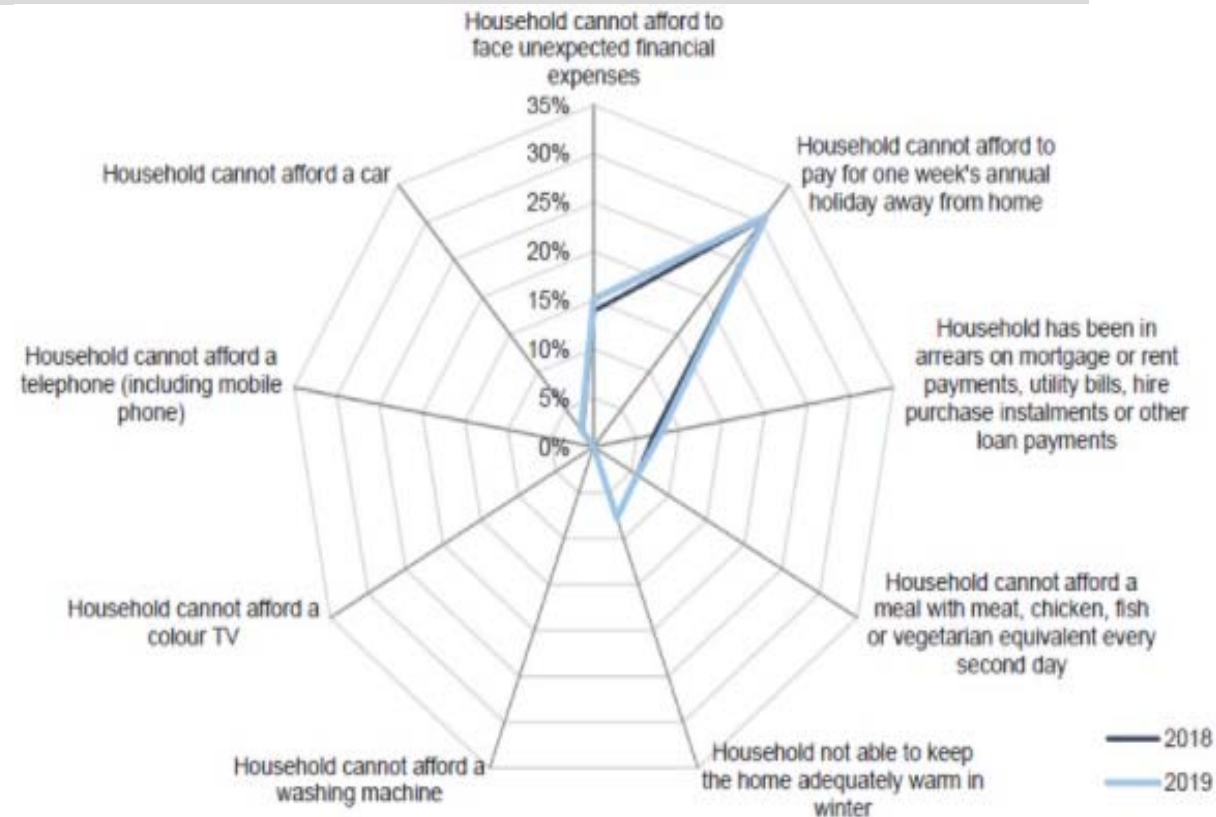
Mixed approach to social protection (e.g. pensions, health insurance):

- Mandatory Social Security payments for those in work (10%).
- Pensions: Universal minimum rates. Capping. Private pensions and insurances are encouraged.
- Malta spent less than 12% of its GDP on social expenditure in 2019 (EU average = 19.2%)

Small States

Social policy - Poverty and Social Exclusion 1_4

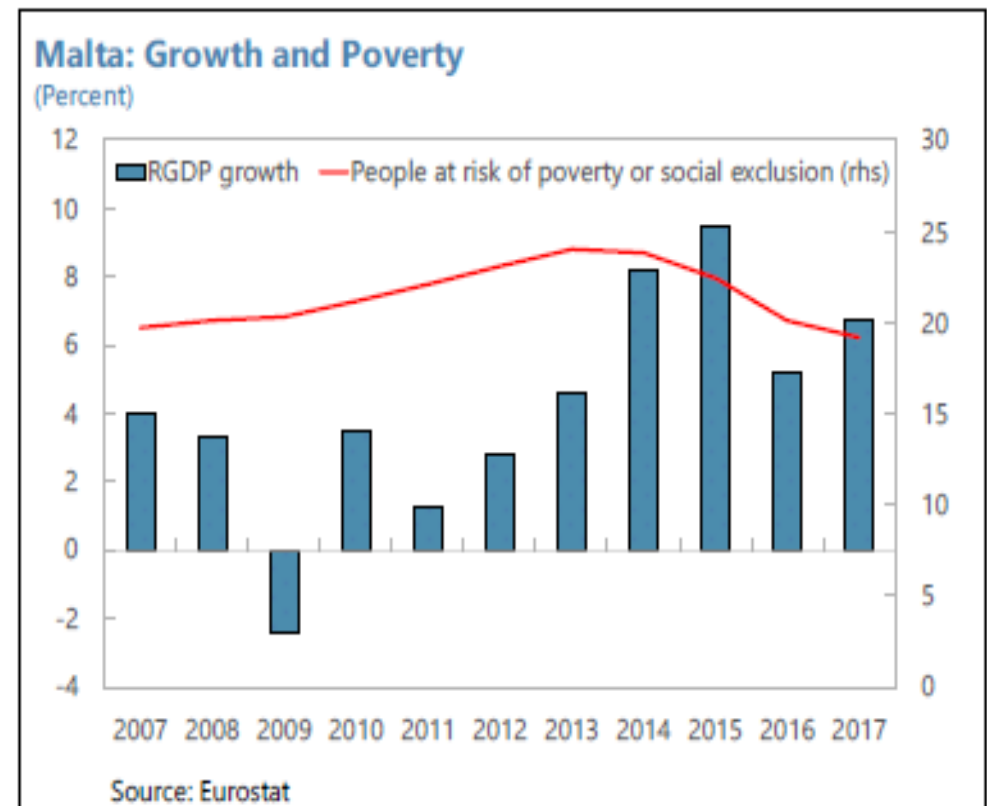
- ❑ Based on the income year 2018, the number of at-risk-of-poverty persons living in Malta was estimated at 82,700 ([Source](#)).
- ❑ At 20.1%, the at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate increased by 1.1% when compared to EU-SILC 2018.



Small States

Social policy - Poverty and Social Exclusion 2_4

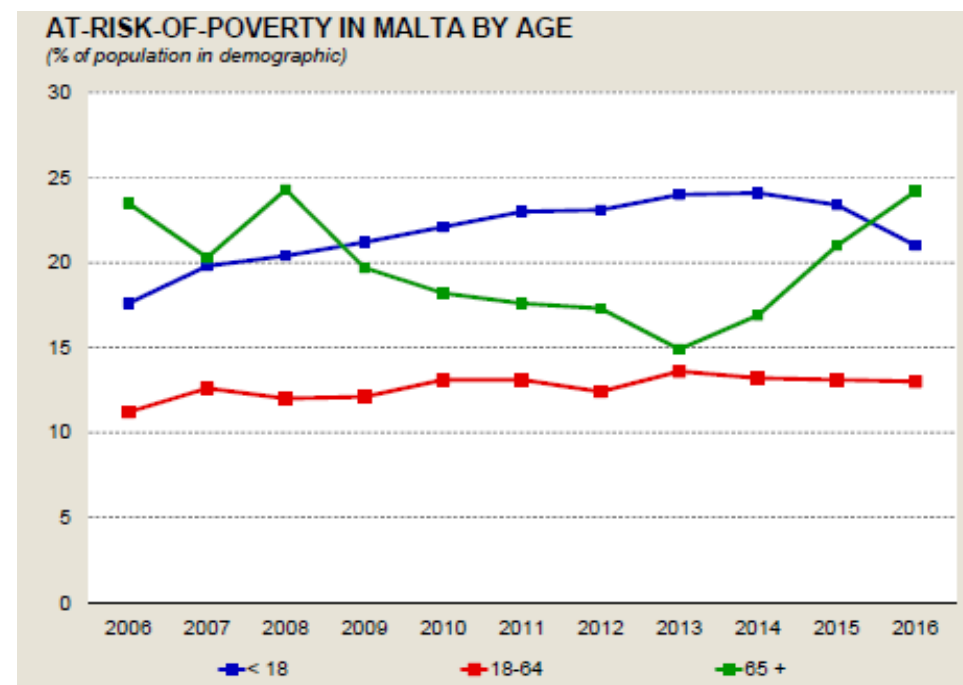
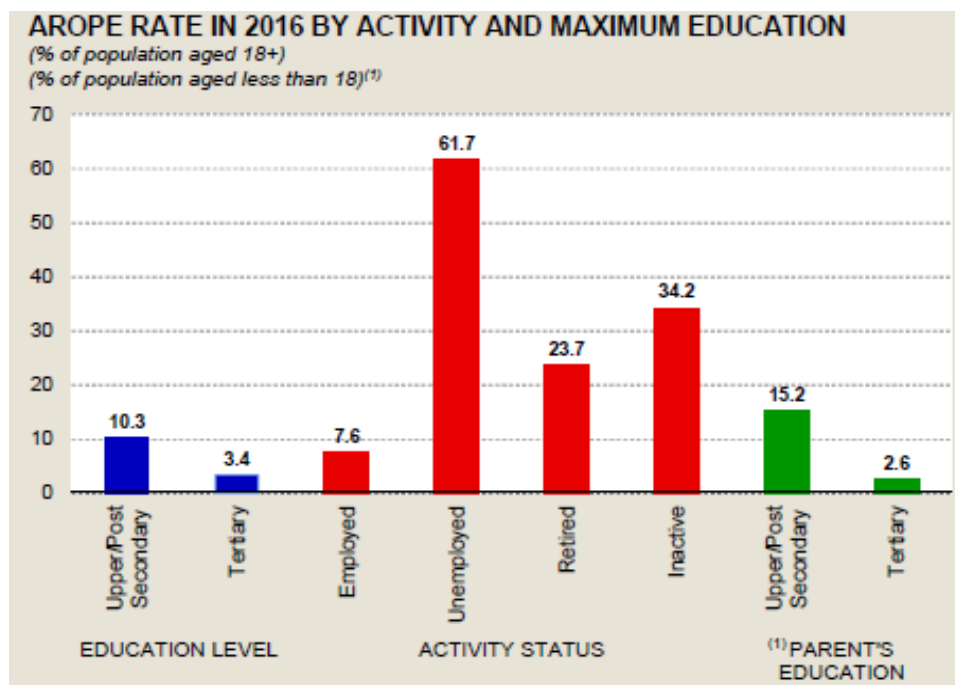
❑ Poverty risk has been dropping at the aggregate level in recent years, reflecting both cyclical improvement and structural reforms ([IMF, 2019](#)).



Small States

Social policy - Poverty and Social Exclusion 3_4

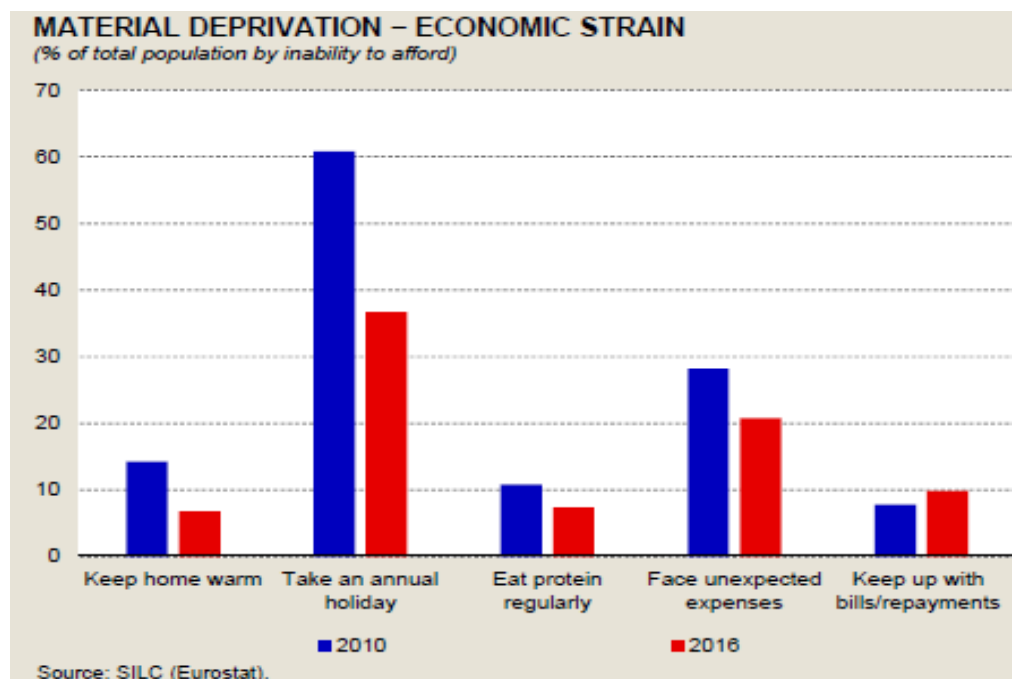
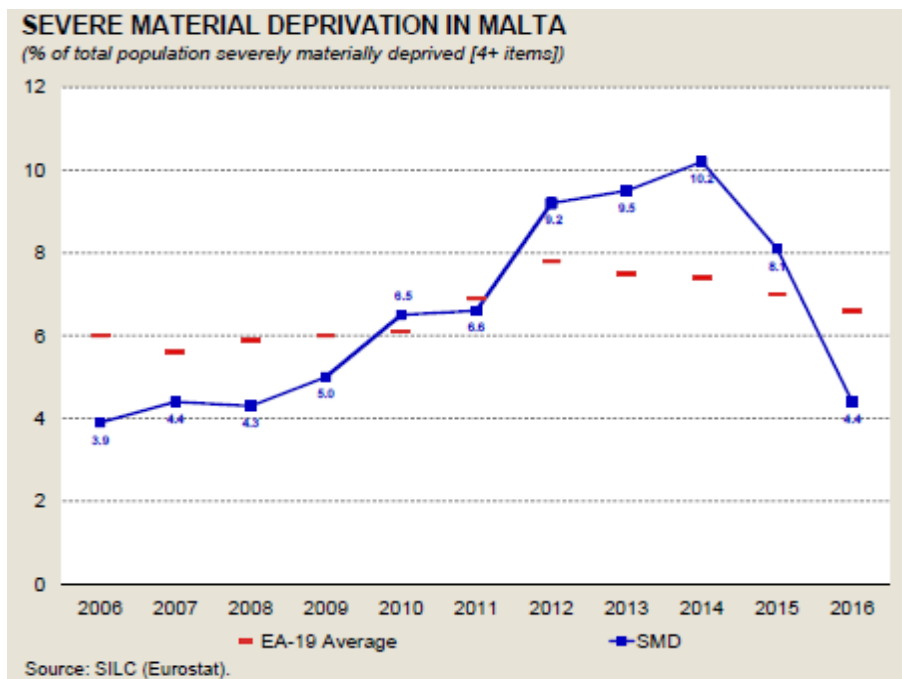
☐ "At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion" rate – AROPE ([Central Bank](#))



Small States

Social policy - Poverty and Social Exclusion 4_4

☐ Severe Material Deprivation and Economic Strain ([Central Bank](#))



Small States

Social policy – Most vulnerable groups

- Children and Young People *
- Elderly Persons *
- Unemployed Persons *
- The Working Poor / Precariat *
- Migrant Workers and Refugees

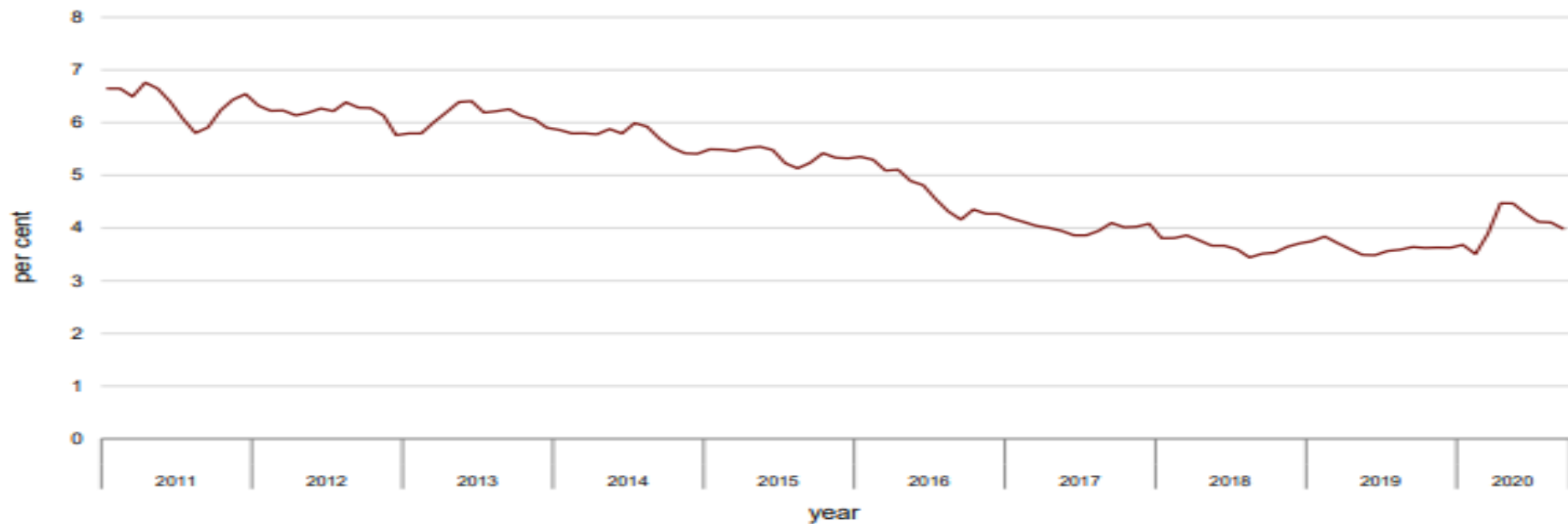
* As identified by the Report “Implementation & Evaluation Report 2014-2016 - *National Strategic Policy for Poverty Reduction & Social Inclusion (2014-2024)*”, Ministry for the Family, Children's Rights and Social Solidarity, 2014.

Small States

Social policy – Unemployment 1_4

☐ Malta has a 4% unemployment rate ([NSO 9/2020](#));

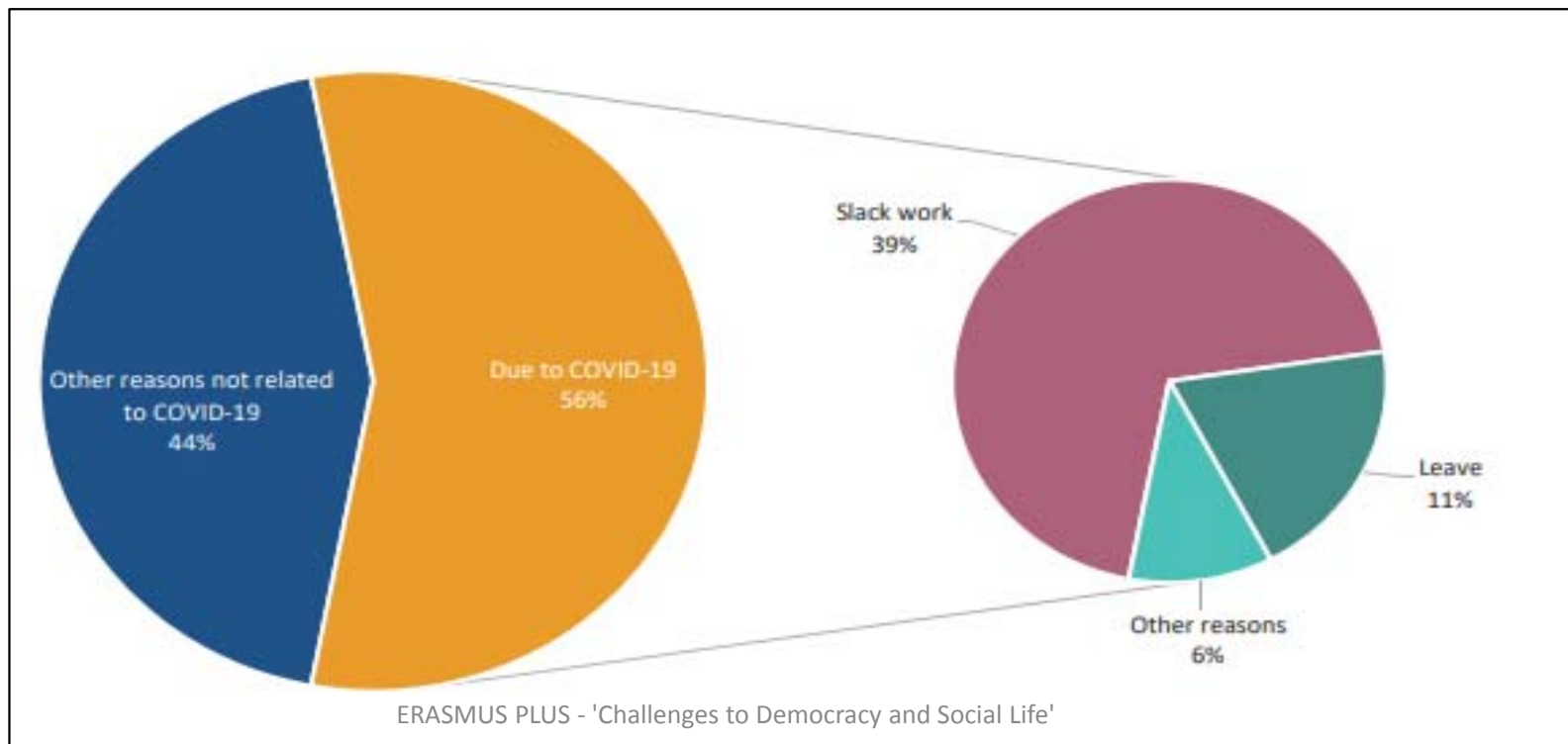
Chart 1. Seasonally adjusted monthly unemployment rate



Small States

Social policy – Unemployment 2_4

☐ Covid-19 is the main reason for people working less [since April 2020](#);



Small States

Social policy – Unemployment 3_4

A number of EU funded projects to address [vulnerable groups](#) (right):

List of projects related to 'vulnerable groups' implemented with the European Social Fund

- ESF 3.42 An Independent Living Training Service for Disabled People in Malta
- ESF 3.43 Dignity for Domestic Violence Survivors
- ESF 3.47 Unlocking the female potential
- ESF 3.48 Lifelong learning for enhanced employability for parents
- ESF 3.49 Training of Inclusion Coordinators for Secondary Education
- ESF 3.52 Care creates change in People's lives and environment
- ESF 3.54 Outreach opportunities close to home
- ESF 3.60 Youth employment programme
- ESF 3.61 Embark for Life – labour market integration of socially excluded youth
- ESF 3.62 Integration of Persons with a Disability in the Labour Market
- ESF 3.65 Employment aid programme
- ESF 3.66 Maltese literacy toolkit for employment and education
- ESF 3.71 Impact assessment on Mental Health development for Employment Policy Development
- ESF 3.110 Better Future Promoting an equal and inclusive labour market
- ESF 3.102 Inclusion for Employment
- ESF 3.105 Promoting the Social Inclusion of Disabled Persons with Challenging Behaviour
- ESF 3.113 Employment Support for Persons with Disabilities

Small States

Social policy – Unemployment 4_4

- ❑ Agreement signed between *Appogg* (Gov't Agency) and Malta Employers' Association (MEA) to facilitate employment of disabled people.
- ❑ Among the initiatives put forward by government (Strategic Plan):
 - ✓ Enhance services for jobseekers/job-changers;
 - ✓ Enhance recruitment services to be more responsive to employers' needs;
 - ✓ Enhance training services;
 - ✓ Offer active labour market measures for persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups;
 - ✓ Facilitate the upgrading of the skills profile of the Maltese labour force;
 - ✓ Incentivise employers to employ disadvantaged persons;
 - ✓ Promote the benefits of legal compliance.

Small States Social policy – Child support

- ❑ [National Children's Policy](#) (to promote wellbeing of children);
- ❑ [National Institute for Childhood](#) (President's Foundation);
- ❑ [Support Line 179](#) (helpline on social welfare services);
- ❑ [Free Child Care Scheme](#) (to all parents in employment);
- ❑ [Child Protection Services](#) (care of abused and neglected children);
- ❑ Child Support in State Schools (e.g. [Breakfast Club](#) for early morning kids, and [Club 3-16](#) for afternoon)

Small States

Social policy – Response to the COVID-19 pandemic

- ❑ Government offered measures to mitigate the economic and social disruptions of Maltese families. Temporary initiatives [included](#):
 - ✓ Tax measures (payment deferrals, rate reductions);
 - ✓ Employment measures
 1. Wage supplement (€800 p/m full-time, €500 p/m part-time);
 2. Facilitated [teleworking systems](#);
 3. Quarantine Leave;
 4. Quarantine Leave Supplement (€350 grant);
 5. Benefit to persons with disability;
 6. Rent subsidies (to those who lose their job);
 7. Electricity Bill Refund [Scheme](#).