

# Small States Differentiated Integration

Malta

Peter Mayo and Stefano Moncada  
University of Malta

# European Integration

## Differentiated Integration

- overview of Malta's historic steps towards European integration

- Legal integration status

- Malta became a full member of the EU in 2004
- Malta joined the eurozone adopting the Euro on 1 January 2008
- It is also in the Schengen area - as of 21 December 2007 for ports, complete (air borders included) end of March 2008



- Economic, social and cultural integration

A Magnet for short term and long term immigrants from EU in the service industry, especially tourist and catering industry, public transport etc. and from outside the EU in construction, elderly care, health care and also public transport.

Coming to top and high occupied by EU nationals, shortage of local qualified personnel

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- National administration and European affairs
  - Ministry for European Affairs and Equality
  - Parliamentary Secretary for EU Funds and Equality
  - Malta-EU steering and Action Committee - MEUSAC

MEUSAC “is the government entity responsible for consultation with civil society on EU policy and legislative proposals, assistance to local councils and NGOs to tap in EU funding opportunities and the dissemination of information to the general public, NGOs, local councils, and private organisations, through the various media channels and information campaigns. The information provided by MEUSAC officials covers both EU Policy and Legislation issues and EU Funding matters.”

# European Integration

## Differentiated Integration

- Decision shaping and policy making
- civil society representatives consulted
- Government departments, ministries and local councils directly concerned with the matter at issue
- Mostly developing policies within the restrictions of EU funding agencies
- **E.g. Adult Education/Lifelong Learning Policies:** LLL Directorate Ministry of Education and Employment, Major HE vocational college (MCAST) Employment & Training Corporation; occasionally University personnel and major NGOs in the field e.g. JRS and Auditus re Migration issues.
- Local councils (municipal government) where community learning is concerned
- Draft policy document placed for consultation in public domain e.g. National Lifelong learning Strategy.
- Several entities affiliated with European bodies and information placed on European platforms e.g. EPALE

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## National debates

- The debate was at its highest and most fervent in the build up to the 2003 Referendum of whether Malta should join the EU or not. Two camps and therefore two entrenched positions.

**Do you agree that Malta should become a member of the European Union in the enlargement that is to take place on 1 May 2004?**

### Topics in Debate

Isolation or inclusion

Loss of sovereignty/ decision making /control or otherwise

Neutrality status

Bureaucracy

Local firms sustainability or otherwise

Deregulation

EU foreigners taking Maltese jobs

Educational opportunities

Malta's 'European vocation'

Funding for projects

Choice

Votes

%

For

143,094

53.6

Against

123,628

46.4

Invalid/blank votes

3,911

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**Total**

**270,633**

**100**

Registered

voters/turnout

297,881

90.9

# European Integration

## Free movement

- Provide an overview of your country's position towards the four freedoms (goods, services, persons and capital)
- Private investment of public services including investment from abroad e.g. energy, transport
- No restriction to the four freedoms except that concerning persons from outside the EU and especially those coming from Africa
- Obtaining visas and residence permits for those outside the EU is a cantankerous process.
- Migrants from SSA and MENA who enter illegally all placed in mandatory detention on arrival as they await the outcome of their asylum claim. As of 2015, wait is no longer than 9 months for asylum seekers and an additional 6 months (with a possibility of extending to a further 12 months) for rejected asylum seekers.

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## Conclusions: Future Trajectories

As elsewhere, rise of Right vis a vis migrants especially those from MENA and SSA. Reflected in results of European elections. Racism and Xenophobia a concern.

Drive towards multicultural education in policy discourse regarding education. Also talk of anti-racist education . Two way process (learning from each other)

Faculty of Education investing heavily in this sector for preparation of educators. *Inclusion* rather than *integration* the preferred term

Government also calling for 'responsibility sharing' by EU partners in this regard, in reaction to Dublin II. In 2017 Malta and Finland only countries on course to fulfil relocation obligations.

Discourse of exceptionalism regarding the small scale issue

Migrant centres: centres for adult education for inclusion or relocation?

