

Social Impact Assessment

Baseline Study 2023-2024



Port
Regional
Council

Kunsill Reġjonali Port




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A scenic view of a coastal city, likely Maldiva, featuring a harbor filled with yachts and a dense urban landscape in the background. The foreground is framed by lush green foliage, including palm trees. The sky is clear and blue.

FOREWORD - REGION COUNCIL

Foreword – Region Council

Dear Members and Stakeholders,

We are pleased to present the outcomes of the recent Social Impact Assessment commissioned by the Port Regional Council in collaboration with the University of Malta. This comprehensive study, conducted in April 2023, aligns with the Region's mandate to assess and enhance the well-being of residents within the Port Region. The findings offer a nuanced understanding of the diverse perceptions and experiences of our local communities, shedding light on critical aspects that shape the lives of our residents.

The study, covering 11 localities with a combined population of 70,675, employed a robust multi-method approach, combining quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Its primary focus was to delve into residents' perspectives on their quality of life, liveability, and awareness of local and regional councils. The research tackled pivotal questions related to the congruence between residents' perceptions and the official remits of regional councils, as well as initiatives that could enhance the resourcefulness of these councils.

One of the key highlights of the findings is the overall satisfaction expressed by residents with their localities, emphasizing the significance of community and religious activities. However, concerns revolving around traffic, urban development, and public spaces underscore the need for targeted interventions to address these challenges. The study also highlighted a notable gap in the awareness of local and regional council functions, emphasizing the necessity for improved communication and engagement strategies.

Mayors, as key local leaders, have underscored the challenges they face in decision-making due to limited resources, echoing the broader theme of the study. Gentrification's impact on cultural identity and affordability emerged as a crucial aspect that requires thoughtful consideration for sustainable regional development.

Considering these findings, the Region acknowledges the importance of proactive measures to address the identified challenges and capitalize on the opportunities for positive change. We recommend collaborative efforts to implement educational campaigns, enhance communication strategies, and create communal spaces that foster local democracy and resident well-being.

The findings of this Social Impact Assessment serve as a valuable tool for policymakers, regional councils, and local authorities to shape informed policies and practices that will uplift the quality of life for residents in the Port Region. Together, let us seize this opportunity to create more vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable communities.

Sincerely,

Paul Farrugia

President

Port Regional Council





Living together

It is incredible how complex our communities are. No wonder getting people together at times is so complex. This study which has been commissioned by the regional councils is an important loop in helping us conceptualize the nuances that tug on the way we operate and function as a society. The variables are increasingly composite but with the right type of social and political governance we are sure to find a way how to untangle this multiplexity and learn to not only live 'with each other' but 'together'. However, as we know, communities cannot just happen. Having neighbourhoods where people are living side-by-side is not enough. We are at a transition stage which calls for active engagement for people to come together. We hope that this courageous act from the regional councils to take the bull by the horns and try to understand the transformations that are happening in this region are vindicated by a report led by a team of RSOs (Stephanie Bugeja, Maria Giulia Borg and Ruth Mifsud) and an academic (Dr Maria Brown) that will help with understanding the complex dynamics and propose recommendations.

Prof. Andrew Azzopardi

Dean, Faculty for Social Wellbeing
Project Manager

Liveability and Wellbeing in our Regions

Everyone strives for a better quality of life and indeed, one key determinant of improved wellbeing is the liveability of the localities we reside in. Having a voice and contributing to keeping our localities clean, safe and connected enables inclusiveness and a sense of belonging as human beings, who prosper individually whilst being socially invested. This is of utmost importance to live happily and develop on a sustainable manner.

This study has looked at how residents perceive their quality of life in relation to the localities they live in, assessing different, services, amenities and levels of participation within their locality.

By giving a voice to the residents, both Maltese and also non-Maltese (through a dedicated side-study which has resulted in the Annexed document), we have attempted to discern respondents' experiences and concerns in contemporary Malta, with special attention to the Harbour Region and its ever growing and very diverse population, the particular, and possibly divergent needs of its urban and rural localities, as well as the rich cultural and ecological assets found within the Region, amongst others.

It is argued that the empirical findings of this study support the Regional and Local Councils to yield more fruits from their operations and collaborations, including those with their constituents; and find ways to further encourage constructive communication and sustainable participation in the community from all diverse citizens.

As a research team, we are grateful for the privilege and the lessons entailed in working with all the stakeholders involved in this research study. We trust our research expertise and underlying values contribute to a strengthened social fabric which includes all individuals and leaves no one behind.

In conclusion, we would like to thank Annabel Cuff, Dr. Vincent Marmara and the administrative staff of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing for their contribution towards this project.

Prof. Andrew Azzopardi, Project Manager
Dr. Maria Brown, Principal Investigator
Maria Giulia Borg, Research Support Officer
Stephanie Bugeja, Research Support Officer
Ruth Mifsud, Research Support Officer



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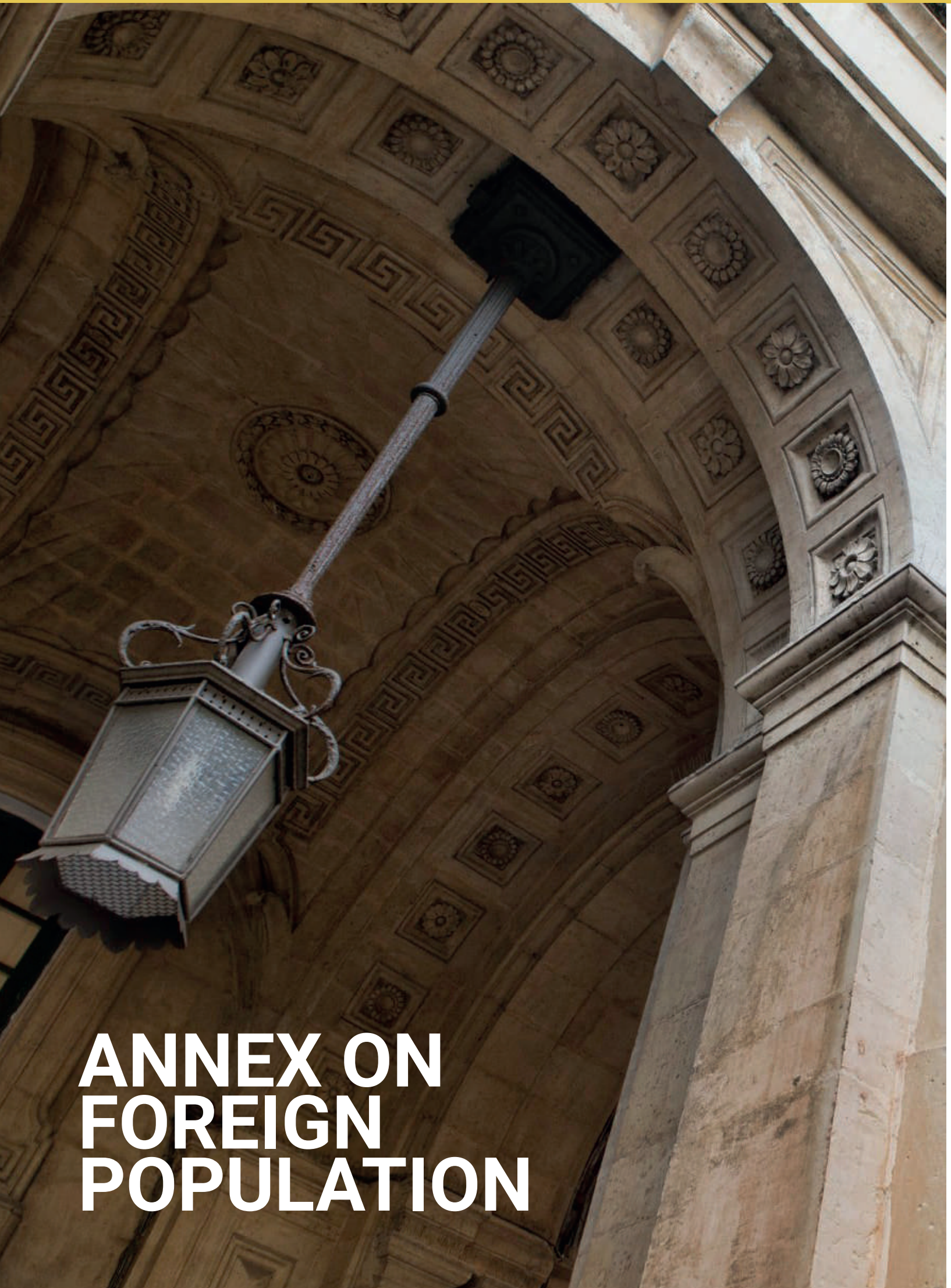
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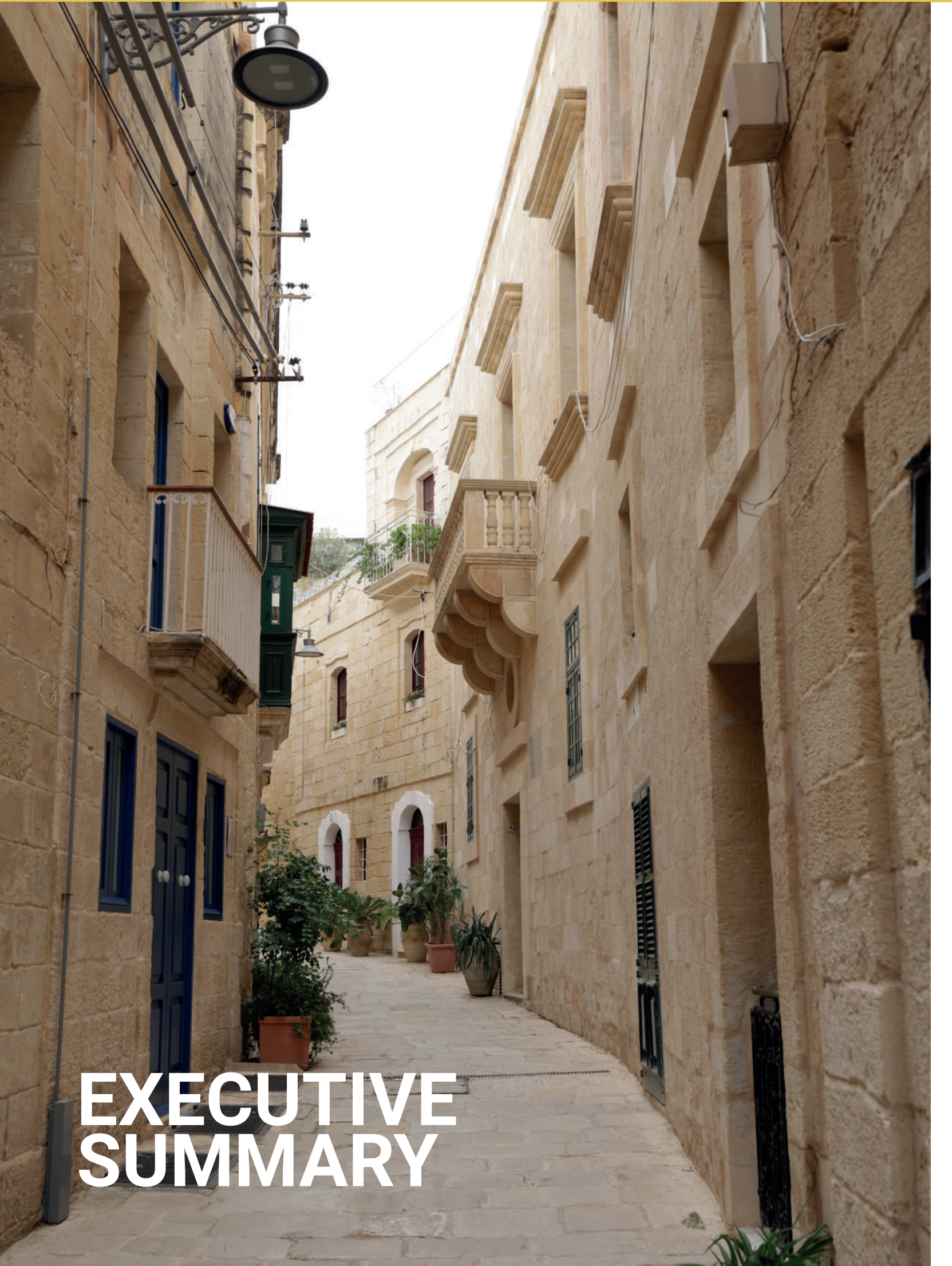




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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive Summary

Local governance plays a key role in shaping and developing localities and in turn shaping and impacting their residents' day-to-day lives and the quality of the lives led within such localities. Therefore, it is important that one researches, understands and monitors perceptions and experiences of stakeholders on matters such as quality of life, knowledge about and interactions with local government. This also leads to better accountability of authorities and gives local governments the information and knowledge to maintain and improve their performances.

In April 2023, the Harbour Regional Council (Regjun Port) commissioned the research services of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing of the University of Malta to carry out this study in fulfilment of the requirements laid out within the Local Councils Act. These task Regional Councils with “the social aspect, which includes researches [sic] and report of social impact evaluations, which report shall be made within the first year of each legislature” (Laws of Malta, Chapter 363, Art. 37B (B), p. 28).

The study aimed to assess the Harbour Region's residents' perceived quality of life, liveability and social integration of their locality and their awareness and knowledge of their local and regional councils and expectations thereof. By applying a multi-method research approach, the study sought to address the following research questions:

1. How do residents of Regjun Port perceive their quality of life and their region's liveability?
2. To what extent are residents' perceptions of the functions of the regional council congruent with the regional council's official remit?
3. What initiatives can boost the resourcefulness of regional councils in enhancing liveability?

At the time of the study, the Harbour Region's residents comprised those residing in the region's 11 localities, namely: Birgu, Bormla, Isla, Raħal Ġdid, Fgura, Tarxien, Floriana, Kalkara, Xgħajra, Valletta and Żabbar. As at November 2021, Reġjun Port's total resident population stood at 70,675, c. 11.83% of which were non-Maltese (NSO, 2023a).

The methodology adopted comprised quantitative and qualitative components. The research team designed and administered a telephonic questionnaire with a sample of residents of the localities forming part of Reġjun Port (401 residents, margin of error $\pm 4.9\%$).

The qualitative data collection consisted of one focus group with the mayors of the local councils in the Region. The research team attempted to conduct another focus group with local councillors, but the response rate was too low notwithstanding various reminders, and therefore, after discussions with the Regional Council, it was decided to be cancelled. Additionally, in view of the ever-increasing presence of foreigners in the localities mentioned, data collection from representatives of the top 6 nationalities residing in this region, which make up the top 51.27% of foreign communities in the region (the Philippines, Italy, India, the Syrian Arab Republic, UK and Somalia) yielded the Annex to this report, which is specifically dedicated to presenting these foreigners' experiences and perceptions of the issues under study in this main report.

Quantitative findings

The results of the study show that at the time of writing, the overall residents of the region seem to be satisfied with their residential localities as a place to live in, with 63.2% being either very satisfied or fairly satisfied of their locality. 54.4% of residents felt that there is a high sense of community. Residents expressed that integration of elderly people was high (70%), however, integration of people with disability, people with different religious belief and people with

different cultures ranked quite low with only 36.7%, 40.9% and 40.9% respectively believing that integration in such cases is high.

Residents were particularly dissatisfied with Traffic and Parking issues (65.8% very or fairly dissatisfied), Urban Development (50.7% very or fairly dissatisfied) and Public and Green Spaces (43.2% very or fairly dissatisfied).

Respondents seemed to be particularly satisfied with religious activities (58.1% being very or fairly satisfied), schools in the locality (51.1% being very or fairly satisfied) and the level of safety in the locality (49.1% being very or fairly satisfied).

Factors which could lead to better quality of life, included, more cleanliness (25 mentions), better traffic and parking management (22 mentions), more law enforcement (19 mentions), less construction (18 mentions) and more recreation and green spaces (16 mentions).

When looking at the awareness of the residents in relation to the Local Councillors' roles and responsibilities, this was somewhat on the low side, with only 29.2% of the respondents stating that they knew a fair amount or a great deal of the local councillor's role. 38.4% of respondents said that they were fairly or highly satisfied with the local council, yet a similar 34.39% of respondents mentioned that they were fairly or very dissatisfied. The remaining 27.18% expressed a neutral opinion. Again, when asked if the local council meets their expectations, 49.6% answered in the positive, yet a close 43.9% answered 'no'. Respondents mentioned that to meet their expectations, local councils should communicate more with the residents (17 mentions), listen and act on concerns of the residents (15 mentions) and ensure there is better upkeep of the locality (14 mentions).

The awareness with regards Regional Councils was also low, with only 3 people (0.7%) actually knowing the region they form part of. 47.6% of respondents gave a wrong answer,

whilst 51.6% of respondents stated directly 'I do not know'. When asked about their awareness in terms of functions and responsibilities of the Regional Council 49.6% stated that they do not know, whilst 17.7% stated no. This clearly indicates, that even more so for Regional Councils than for local councils, there is lack of awareness amongst the general public about what the Regional Council is and what it does. 14.9% of respondents said they are satisfied with the Regional Council, yet a good chunk of 66.8% stated they are neutral, possibly reflecting the fact that they do not know about the Council in itself. To possibly increase the level of satisfaction of residents in terms of Regional Councils, respondents mentioned the need for the Regional Council to communicate more their role (45 mentions), listen and act on concerns of the residents (12 mentions) and ensure there is better upkeep of the locality (8 mentions).

Qualitative Findings

Mayors flagged the fact that they feel as if their wings are clipped, in that they are powerless in taking certain decisions and actions for their own localities, due to limited resources in terms of financial and human resources, as well as the lack of power they are given to enforce laws and regulations. Moreover, mayors also mentioned that there is very little awareness regarding their roles and responsibilities as a local council, as well as with regards to Regional Councils. This resonates with the quantitative findings which have been explained above

Finally, the mayors also discussed the double-edged sword of progress, which also falls in line with the context provided in Chapter 3. The Region is a cultural and historically rich area, with long-standing residents and businesses, who have been facing the pressures of gentrification and moving out of the region. Traditional hawkers and shops have been closing down and replaced by newer and modern businesses, decreasing the cultural identity of the area. Moreover, residents are being priced out through the influx of foreigners as well as new residents, making affordability of homes more difficult. Mayors corroborated to these findings,

stating that growth and development are important, yet, there needs to be the right planning and foresight to safeguard the local residents.

Foreign Annex

Looking at the foreigners' annex, the biggest pull factors for foreigners to live in the Region were, having other people from the same country living there already (100%) and the favourable rental rates (83.33%). Prima facie, all foreign representatives mentioned that overall, they are satisfied with their localities (6 out of 6 respondents), mentioning safety and calmness of the area as an important factor (2 mentions), having compatriots live there, making socialising easier (2 mentions) and being close to amenities such as schools and healthcare. However, through the semi-structured survey, concerns were raised, such as traffic and parking issues (4 mentions) and cleanliness and garbage issues (2 mentions). The majority of foreign community members are unaware of Local and Regional councils, with only Italians, Filipinos and Indians mentioning that their communities know, are satisfied and participate in the events of such Councils. Foreigners generally do not seem to feel integrated in the community, unless their language acts as an enabler (UK and Italy).

Recommendations

In line with the findings of both the quantitative and qualitative research, recommendations for policy, practice as well as further research have been put forward so as to help both the Regional Council and the Local Councils therein, to bring greater awareness of their roles and responsibilities amongst residents and also recommendations in terms of practices which might help in elevating the quality of life of people residing in such localities.

Such recommendations included, amongst others, i) educational and awareness campaigns for the general public to better comprehend the roles of the local and regional councils, ii)

developing a more efficient communication strategy so as to ensure a functional local democracy, with the engagement and participation of citizens as well as iii) providing communal spaces where the local community can meet, celebrate ties and develop a collective identity. Moreover, in terms of research it is highly encouraged that a needs' assessment is carried out in terms of the different profile of residents in each locality. This will ensure that any policy, process of activity carried out will be in line with the actual needs of the residents.

This research, paired up with the on the ground expertise of the Regional and Local Councils, is sure to be an important and valuable tool for such entities to set the policies and change the practices needed to further improve the quality of life of their residents and the liveability of their locality.





INTRODUCTION

1. Introduction

1.1 Preamble

The relationship between people and place is intrinsically linked to the quality of life of individuals and social cohesion at large (Gustafson, 2001). Residential areas are a conglomeration of physical features, economic activity and, most of all, people. The interaction between the physical, economic and social characteristics of a locality determines residents' personal relationship with their locality; which in turn moulds their quality of life (Culora & van Stolk, 2020). Research findings about place value, meaning and identity indicate that positive experiences of places and communities make a positive contribution towards one's quality of life (Carmona, 2019; Ujang & Zakarija, 2015) and residents primarily seek to address their needs within their residential areas (Lee, 2021).

Local governance plays a crucial role in building and shaping localities which, in turn, impact residents' subjective quality of life. Diverse empirical studies show that effective local governance positively affects residents' subjective quality of life (Hansen, 2015; Rothstein, 2012; Sirgy et. al., 2008) as local government services and activities are closely related to the daily needs of residents. Therefore, understanding residents' subjective perception regarding the quality of life in their locality and their satisfaction with local governance is a key element of assessing the effectiveness of local governance. Moreover, it also strengthens local accountability and aids local government in improving and managing its own performance.

1.2 Aims and scope of study

This study is being conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Local Councils Act which states that one of the functions of the Regional Councils is “the social aspect, which includes researches [sic] and report of social impact evaluations, which report shall be made within the first year of each legislature” (Laws of Malta, Chapter 363, Art. 37B (B), p. 28).

This study is the first of its kind and is being carried out at the end of the 2019 – 2024 legislature due to the disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

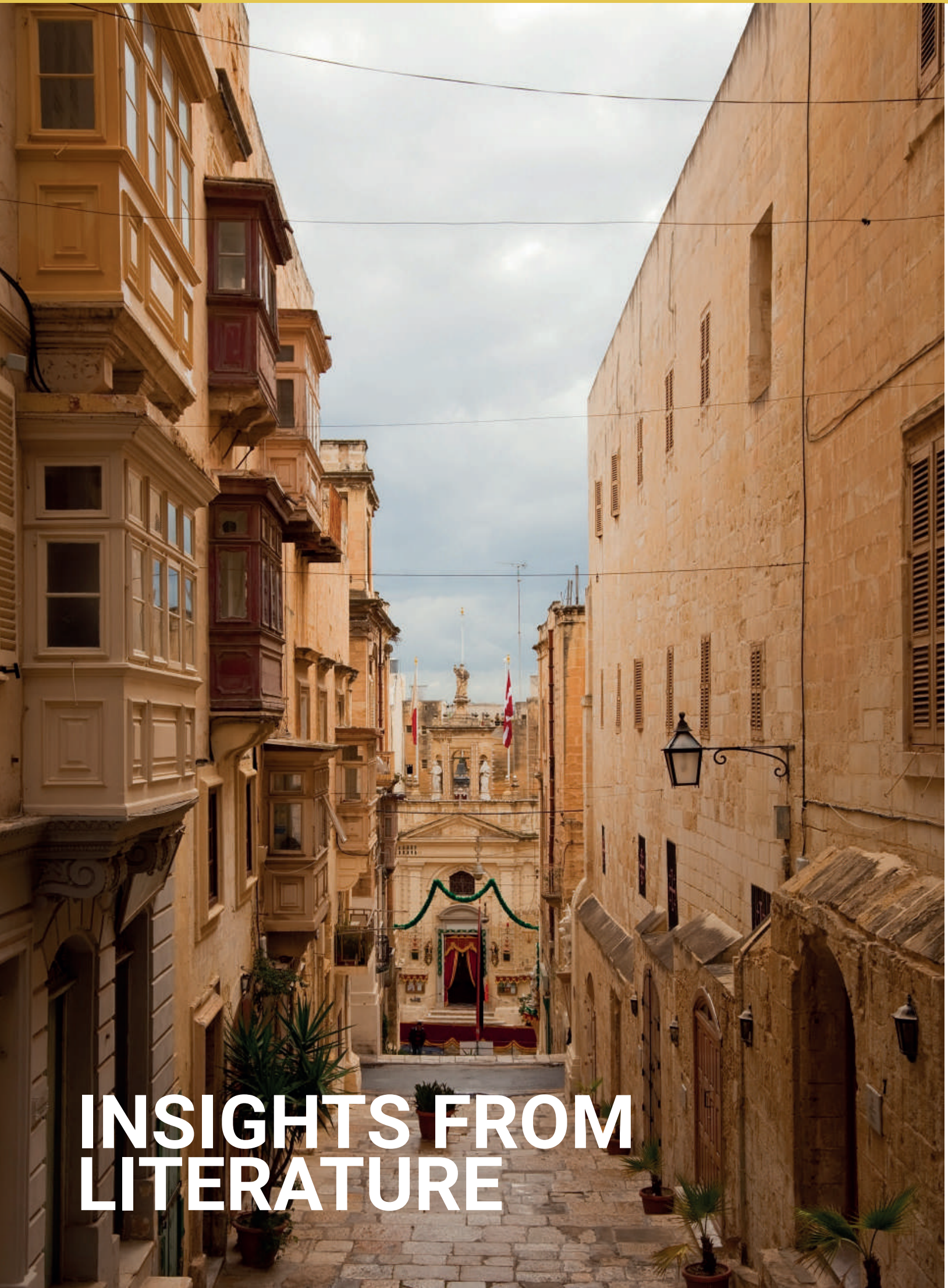
The objectives of this research study are to examine the perceptions of residents of Regjun Port regarding the quality of life, liveability and social integration of their locality and their awareness and knowledge of their local and regional councils and expectations thereof. It also aims to examine how regional and local councils can work together more effectively and how local councils can be more effective in meeting the needs of the residents.

1.3 Methodology

This research study adopted a multi-methods research design to gain a more in-depth understanding of the perceptions of residents on how local and regional councils can become more effective in meeting the needs of their residents. A quantitative questionnaire, specifically designed for this project, was carried out with residents of the localities forming part of Regjun Port. The researchers also conducted a focus group with the mayors of the localities. The researchers attempted to carry out another focus group with the local councillors, yet the response was too low despite numerous reminders. For this reason, upon discussions with the Regional Council, it was decided to cancel such focus group. Quantitative data was analysed through the use of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) while Thematic Analysis was used to analyse the transcripts of the focus groups. The research design was executed with due consideration of research ethics and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

1.4 Structure of the report

This report consists of six chapters. This introductory chapter gave an overview of the background to the study, its purpose and significance and the structure of the report. The second chapter delves into theories, concepts, policies and practices that are relevant to the region and population under study while the third chapter presents the contextual framework of the study in legal, demographic and socio-cultural terms. The fourth chapter outlines the research agenda and data gathering instruments (questionnaire, focus group schedule, recruitment and consent/assent forms) and data analysis procedures used in this research study as well as the ethical considerations and strengths and limitations of this study. The following chapter presents the quantitative and qualitative findings of this study while the sixth and concluding chapter outlines the salient findings and puts forward a series of recommendations for practice, policy and future research.



INSIGHTS FROM LITERATURE

2. Insights from literature

This study will be tackling a variety of concepts with the ultimate aim to understand what makes the Region under study classify as a liveable area which is conducive to the optimal quality of life of its inhabitants. Hence, it is important that a priori, one looks further into the definitions of concepts such as liveability, wellbeing, quality of life, inclusion, and sustainable development. Some of these terms might be used interchangeably, others might be considered as subsets and therefore, this section aims to bring clarity in this regard.

Moreover, such terms can often be felt to be ambiguous and/or intangible. For this reason, a number of international studies are presented so as to illustrate how these terms are assessed in foreign communities and cities, and how such studies have informed the methodology and design of the project at hand.

2.1 Liveability and quality of life

“Liveability reflects the wellbeing of a community and represents the many characteristics that make a location a place where people want to live now and in the future.”

(The Victorian Competition & Efficiency Commission, n.d.).

The concept of ‘liveability’ in cities and neighbourhoods, has been tackled by a number of studies over the years. Yet, there seems to be no exact definition, measure or uniquely accepted index to gauge it (Istrate, n.d.; Woolcock, 2009). “Overall, the concept of liveability has different meanings and implications for different people. It is a widely recognized concept, but not defined in a way agreed upon by all.” (Istrate, n.d, p. 2).

Heylen (2006) attributes such diverse literature on the different skills of the respective researchers taking on the feat of studying such concept. Moreover, this term is applied and tackled from a variety of angles, including but not limited to policy, urban planning, transport and infrastructure planning, as well as comparisons between cities.

When focusing on liveability vis-à-vis cities and urban areas, Vuchic (1999) states that liveability usually refers to “elements of home, neighbourhood, and metropolitan area that contribute to safety, economic opportunities and welfare, health, convenience, mobility, and recreation” (p. 7). Qualitative in nature, such a term indicates the extent to which an area is attractive to live, work and develop businesses in.

Various studies tried to outline what elements are required to create ‘good cities’. In 1981, Lynch, introduces five factors namely; vitality, sense, fit, access, and control. Balsas (2004) adds the element of viability. In a different approach, Davern et al. (2019), outlines that the three critical factors required for cities to be considered liveable, are i) residents feeling safe, connected and included, ii) environmental safeguarding and sustainability, and iii) affordable and accessible housing adequately linked to other activities such as leisure and work.

Despite being intrinsically different, ‘liveability’, ‘quality of life’ (QoL) and ‘wellbeing’ are commonly interrelated and seem to share a two-way relationship. Liveability brings together the various attributes of a city or urban community, uncovering its quality of life (Loewus, 2008). The VCEC (2008), states that “liveability reflects the wellbeing of a community” (p. XXI). Moreover, individual wellbeing, along with environmental quality and neighbourhood amenities, was described as one of the dimensions of liveability by Lennard and Lennard (1995). In support of this, Douglass (2000) outlines that a city can be made liveable if the quality of life of its residents is improved.

On the other hand, Dündar (1998) refers to liveability “as the determinant of quality of life, the citizens expect from their living environments” (p. 1). A city is considered to be liveable, if “the economic, social, environment and aesthetic expectations” (p. 1) of the residents are met. Therefore, the more liveable the place is, the better the quality of life of its residents.

Such a dual relationship is of utmost importance for policy makers. Despite setting policies at a macro-level, they need to also understand the impacts on the individual level, which in turn affect the entire community. "Individual-level characteristics are also important to understand their influence in shaping the collective level decision making" (Paul & Sen, 2017, p. 52).

2.2 Inclusion

“Throughout history, urban populations of vastly differing social, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds have learned to live together, or at least to coexist within a common local economic and institutional system, but with varying degrees of success.”

(Stren & Polèse, 2000).

Another notion which has been studied internationally in relation to creating a happy city, is that of ‘inclusion’ within the urban design and policies. In order to better understand inclusion, one must first look into the concept of ‘diversity’, which Merriam-Webster (n.d) defines as "the condition of having or being composed of differing elements" and "the inclusion of people of different races, cultures, etc. in a group or organizations". Moreover, diversity covers a variety of other aspects, including age, gender, beliefs (being religious or political), ideologies in general, socio-economic status, and others (El-din Ouf & El- Zafarany, 2018).

As already quoted above, amongst other elements, Davern et al. (2019), outline that for a city to be liveable, residents should feel safe, connected, and included. Over the years, various researchers are delving into what such ‘inclusive cities’ might look like. Amongst others, Stren

and Polèse (2000) outline how an inclusive city promotes social, economic, health and wellbeing of the community. El-din Ouf & El- Zafarany (2018) mention how an inclusive city must offer; social, political, economic and cultural inclusion whereby no one is left-behind and is allowed to participate equally in society. Similarly, the World Bank (n.d), describe inclusive cities as ones which foster spatial, social and economic inclusion of its inhabitants. The UN Habitat report (2012) puts social inclusion and diversity at the centre of what a prosperous city would look like. “The spatial, social and economic dimensions of urban inclusion are tightly intertwined, and tend to reinforce each other” (World Bank, n.d). If such dimensions are not managed well, poverty and marginalisation might increase, eating away at the prosperity and liveability of a locality. Studies have shown that socially excluded people are more prone to mental health problems (VicHealth MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING UNIT, 2005), and higher criminality rates (Grieve & Howard, 2004), amongst other undesirable effects in the locality.

If well managed, inclusive cities should be conducive to greater social cohesion which in turn improves the sense of belonging and civic pride, making the city more liveable. This is particularly pertinent to localities in Malta, which are experiencing a demographic overhaul in many instances. An ageing indigenous local population coupled with an unprecedented influx of foreign nationals is making communities more diverse, and putting local governments under pressure to ensure that urban planning and policies lead to inclusive communities, whereby people of different ages, races, beliefs, ethnic groups, and cultural backgrounds can co-exist in harmony for an overall good quality of life. Indeed, this factor was tackled through data collection to understand whether the localities under study are tackling inclusion or otherwise. Moreover, more specifically to the surge in foreign communities, a separate annex was added to give further voice to such individuals in the local communities.

2.3 Sustainable Development

When considering liveable and inclusive cities, one must also look at not only the diverse residents currently inhabiting the locality, but also generations to come. When urban planning, the policy makers should aim towards the betterment of the quality of life of current and future residents.

This is closely interlinked with the concept of sustainable development. Sustainable development was first introduced through the Brundtland report (1987), being defined as a development that allows for “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

As cities develop and grow and populations expand globally, there is a growing need to ensure that the growth of cities and urban development is sustainable and allows for future growth as well (Cloutier et al., 2014). In terms of urban development and city management, sustainable development looks at improving the quality of life of its residents, through ‘ecological, cultural, political, institutional, social and economic components’, without leaving a burden on future generations (Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission (VCEC), n.d., p.vi). Even the UN, within its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, has included SDG 11, which refers to developing Sustainable cities and communities.

Studies have shown that cities working on sustainability seem to have greater levels of happiness amongst their residents (Cloutier et al., 2014). Other studies seem to make little distinction between ‘sustainability’ and ‘liveability’, which are sometimes used interchangeably, or the latter being a subset under the bigger umbrella of ‘sustainability’ (Woolcock, 2009).

2.4 Assessing liveability and wellbeing

Terms such as sustainability, liveability and inclusivity might be difficult to assess, since they might not be quantifiable in nature. A number of international studies have tried to gauge such terms and created tools by which to measure liveability in different localities. Such tools were used to inform this study and develop the resident questionnaire, as will be explained in the methodology, as well as the focus group discussion schedule.

Liveability indices

A number of liveability indices have been drawn up and used as a comparison tool amongst different cities. Yet, these are sometimes criticized for their lack of robustness. The subjective nature of the inclusion of factors relating to liveability, the weighting of these factors and the vastly different indicators being included, result in different measures providing different rankings of the liveability of cities. There is a lack of theoretical underpinning for these measures, particularly for composite measures. (Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission (VCEC), n.d. p.16, as cited in VCEC, 2008).

When using such indices, one needs to tread with caution and make sure that variables used are truly reflective of the national and local realities. Some of the most well-known indices being developed in the past years include The Mercer Quality of Living (QoL) Survey, which ranks the living standards of cities around the world. The Global Liveability Index developed by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Quality of Life Index, publishes an annual report identifying the living standards of a number of cities, based on five factors namely healthcare, culture, environment, education and infrastructure. Other indices include, The Demographia International Housing Affordability Survey, The Anholt City Brands Index and the GaWC World Cities Index, amongst others. The first two indices, are often categorised as ‘quality of life surveys’.

Social Impact Assessments

Studying the relationship between QoL and local policy is vital, since from one end, the local governments can gauge the ‘social impact’ its policies are having on its residents. In order to do this, social impact assessments, are considered to be useful tools to analyse, monitor and manage “the intended and unintended social consequences, both positive and negative, of planned interventions (policies, programs, plans, projects) and any social change processes invoked by those interventions” (Vanclay, 2003, p. 5).

Baseline studies

Another tool which can be applied, a priori to any policy change is a baseline study. Such a tool is used to understand the current status-quo of cities or localities, prior to making any changes. For instance, The Kenya State of the Cities, used a baseline survey to understand the demographic profile, infrastructure access and economic profiles of 15 towns and cities. This was administered through a questionnaire developed by the World Bank, related to the following topics, Demographics and household composition, Security of housing, land and tenure, Housing and settlement profile, Economic profile, Infrastructure services, Health, Household enterprises and Civil participation and respondent tracking (World Bank, n.d).

Similarly, the South Dublin County Council (SDCC) and Dublin City Council (DCC) also carried out a baseline study through the help of key experts and consultants, as part of its City Edge project and looked into the following factors in terms of understanding the current state scenario, namely; Sustainability, Quality and character, the liveable city, Planning policy, Economy, Transport and Movement, Environment, and Utilities and Contamination.

In the study hereby being presented, both approaches have been adopted to get a better idea of the status quo of the localities and issues therein. A questionnaire was administered to a

representative sample of residents to get a wider view of the status quo, whilst experts in the area, namely mayors were also consulted to illustrate the steady state scenario.

2.5 Quality of Life and Local Government's Performance

The above tools are very important for regional and local governments since there is a two-way relationship between quality of life / liveability and good governance.

Studies have shown that there is a relationship between how local governments act and the wellbeing of the residents. For instance, government efficiency (also known as quality of governance), i.e., “the ability of the local government to display an effective and sound management of the finance of the municipality and the provision of public services” (Cárcaba et al., 2022, p. 9), does have a positive significant impact on the residents’ subjective wellbeing. Moreover, “the more effective, incorrupt and impartial government institutions [are], the happier and the more satisfied with their lives are the citizens” (Samanni & Holmberg, 2010, p. 2). Similarly, Wang et al. (2014), mention that “people are more satisfied with their lives in countries with better governance quality”. It is believed that ‘good governance’ will bring about better wellbeing and quality of life, and in turn, greater liveability in the localities (Cárcaba et al., 2022). Moreover, the type of policies put in place might also improve the wellbeing of residents. Over the years, there has been a shift in public policy goals. Whereas before, public policy was more geared towards meeting material goals and key performance indicators, now there seems to be a shift towards targeting overall wellbeing (Atkinson & Joyce, 2011). For instance, urban planning and policy is regarded as a useful tool to improve the local QoL (Blečić & Talu, 2013; Khalil, 2012).

On the other hand, knowing the current state of QoL locally and gathering such data periodically will provide “invaluable information on whether a community and its urban environment is moving in the right direction” (Mostafa, 2012, p. 1) and which areas are lacking

to be addressed by future policies. By applying the above-mentioned tools, the local government can understand the current state of its inhabitants and plan ahead to improve their wellbeing.

2.6 Chapter conclusion

The discussion of this chapter comprised a review of the concepts of liveability, wellbeing, quality of life, inclusion, and sustainable development, to set the conceptual framework of this study. The discussion shows that such concepts are multi-faceted and complex in nature. Such multi-layered concepts justify the application of a multi-methods research approach to this study, which will allow to take stock of where the community and region stands in terms of current quality of life and liveability and understand what the expectations of the people are and their awareness regarding the local and regional councils. Such a study will allow these councils to shape future policies in an efficient and effective way.

The next chapter will give an overview of the context in which this study is being carried out, to understand the legislation in which the Regional and Local Councils operate and to better comprehend the context of Regjun Port.



CONTEXT

3. Context

This study is not being carried out in a vacuum and it is imperative that one understands the context in which the Reġjun Port (Port Regional Council) and the Local Councils within, are operating. Further to the discussion of the previous chapter, in which a review of the literature related to the concepts of liveability, wellbeing, quality of life, inclusion, and sustainable development were outlined, this chapter's discussion will construct the contextual framework of the study in legal, demographic and socio-cultural terms.

3.1 Legislative Overview

The devolution and decentralisation of power from Central to Local Government was introduced in 1993 through the enactment of the Local Councils Act (Laws of Malta, 1993). This law was integrated into the Constitution of Malta in 2001 (Assembly of European Regions, 2010) and incorporated a controlling and regulatory mechanism for 67 (later 68) Local Councils and three regional committees, which in 2011 were divided into five regional councils. Following the Local Government Reform Process and the publication of Act No. XIV in 2019, these regional councils attained specific roles and responsibilities through a set of defined functions in the Local Government Act (DOI, 2019). Through The amendment of this 2019 Act, in November 2021, these regional councils increased to six, namely, Northern Region (Reġjun Tramuntana), Eastern Region (Reġjun Lvant), Western Region (Reġjun Punent), Port Region (Reġjun Port), Southern Region (Reġjun Nofsinhar) and Gozo Region (Reġjun Għawdex) (Local Government Division, 2021). Figure 3.1 below outlines the different Regional Councils and the localities there within.

Figure 3.1

Malta's Regional Council



3.1.1 Roles and responsibilities of Local and Regional Councils

Local Councils

What started as a pilot back in 1993, has now become a focal point for the residents of each locality. Local Councils comprise of members elected by the residents of the locality and are presided over by the Mayor who is responsible for the overall adherence to the Local Councils Act. The administration of each Local Council is performed by the Executive Secretary and the Local Council's source of finance is mainly dependent on the financial allocation by Central Government. Table 3.1 outlines the legal functions of the Local Councils.

Table 3.1*Legal Functions of the Local Councils*

Legal function
To provide for the upkeep and maintenance of, or improvements in, any street or footpath, not being privately owned
To provide for the collection and removal of all refuse from any public or private place, for the maintenance of cleanliness and for the establishment, upkeep and maintenance of all public convenience, dustbins and other receptacles for the temporary deposit and collection of waste, and to ensure that these are accessible to all persons, including persons using a wheelchair;
To provide for the establishment, upkeep and maintenance of children's playgrounds, public gardens and sport, cultural or other leisure centres, and to ensure that these are, as far as possible, accessible to all persons including persons using wheelchairs;
To provide and maintain proper road signs and road markings, in conformity with national and international standards, to establish and maintain pedestrian and parking areas and to provide for the protection of school children in the vicinity of schools;
To propose to and, where applicable, be consulted by any competent authority prior to the competent authority making any changes in traffic schemes directly affecting the locality;
To make recommendations to any competent authority for or in relation to any planning or building scheme and to be full participant in any decisions on the naming or renaming of streets; within the parameters of any national plan, to issue guidelines to be followed in the upkeep, restoration, design or alteration of the façade of any building or of any building or any part of a building normally visible from a street, including the type of lighting and materials used, advertisements and shop fronts, and in the case of premises which are open to the public, to ensure that such premises are, as far as possible, accessible to all persons, including persons who use wheelchairs;
To assist citizens by providing, where applicable in conjunction with any competent authority, information relating to the rights of citizens in general, including information on consumers' rights, transport, communications, tourist facilities, taxation, social security, public health and other matters of public utility and interest;
To advise any authority empowered to take any decisions directly or indirectly affecting the Council and the residents it is responsible for; as part of a national scheme to provide in conjunction with any competent authority, for the establishment, upkeep and maintenance of crèches, kindergartens and other educational services or buildings; as part of a national scheme, to provide in conjunction with any competent authority for the establishment, upkeep and maintenance of health and rehabilitation centres, government dispensaries, health district officers and homes for senior citizens;

To propose to the Minister responsible for education, persons to be appointed as presidents of primary school councils;

To enter into agreements with any public body or Government Department for the delegation to the Council of any of the functions of that public body or Department: Provided that any such delegation shall only come into effect after the Minister s made the relevant order in the Gazette.

Note: Adapted from the Local Government Act XIV, 2019, p. 20. Full version in Appendix D

Regional Councils

On the other hand, Regional Councils comprise the mayors (or representative of the mayors) of the Local Councils of the respective region, an executive secretary who acts as the head of the council’s finance and administration, a Deputy President and a President who is elected by the councillors of the region for a five-year legislature. The Regional President manages the specific functions of the Regional Council as established by the Ministry for the National Heritage, Arts and Local Government in consultation with the Local Councils Association. Table 3.2 illustrates the legal functions of the Regional Councils.

Table 3.2

Legal Functions of the Regional Councils

Legal function
The issuance of a call for tenders for the service to Local Councils within them for waste management and this shall come into effect from the year 2022, and this without prejudice to the functions of the Local Councils in terms of article 33(1)(b);
The social aspect, which includes researches and report of social impact evaluations, which report shall be made within the first year of each legislature;
The provision of assistance to Local Councils within the region, which assistance includes the provision of professional services including the environmental sector, social, cultural, touristic and information technology;
The provision of assistance to Local Councils within the region to benefit and successfully manage programmes which are funded by the European Union;

The provision of subsidy to students for researches regarding aspects relating to the region

The coordination with Local Councils of sports and physical activities and initiatives, including those relating to welfare;

The coordination with ministries, departments and Government entities to facilitate the work of Local Councils, including coordination with the maintaining order sections

To give an opinion regarding the Local Plan and the same opinion will be attached to the report submitted to the House

The preparation, on an annual basis, of a Work Plan which includes the Region's financial needs and human resources

Note: Sourced from the Local Government Act XIV, 2019, p. 28

3.2 Focusing on Reġjun Port

Reġjun Port is made up of eleven localities, namely Birgu, Bormla, Isla, Raġal Ġdid, Fgura, Tarxien, Floriana, Kalkara, Xgħajra, Valletta and Żabbar. According to NSO data, the region covers c. 15.97km², equivalent to circa 5.07% of the total surface area of the Maltese Islands (NSO, 2023a).

3.2.1 Demographics

The Maltese Islands have experienced an exponential growth in the population over the past century. Since the last census in 2011, the Maltese population has grown from 417,432 residents to that of 519,562, equalling an increase of 24.5%. Although not at the same rate, the population grew in all Regions. As at November 2021, Reġjun Port's total resident population stood at 70,675, representing an increase of 4,906 (7%) since 2011, considerably a lower increase than the national average. This is due to the fact that a number of localities within the region in reality witnessed a fall in population, including a 9% decrease in Birgu, an 11% decrease in Bormla, a 16% decrease in Isla, a 1% decrease in Floriana and a 10% decrease in Valletta. This is possibly due to the ageing population in these localities which have led to

residents dying out and not being replaced by younger cohorts, as well as possible gentrification pressures which will be discussed further on in this chapter.

On the other hand, Xgħajra, recorded the highest increase of 40%, reaching 2,192 residents in 2021 (vs 1,571 in 2011). This village was traditionally known as a sea-side summer residence village, with the population known to double during the summer months. (“Welcome to Xgħajra Local Council”, n.d). This increase in population is probably due to the number of development projects and apartments newly built in the area, which have attracted new residents. Moreover, Żabbar, remains the most highly populated locality in the region with 17,148 residents recorded in 2021 (a 15%/ 2,232 increase from 2011). These changes are illustrated in the Figure 3.2 and Table 3.3 below. (NSO, 2023a).

Figure 3.2

Population per locality in 2011 and 2021

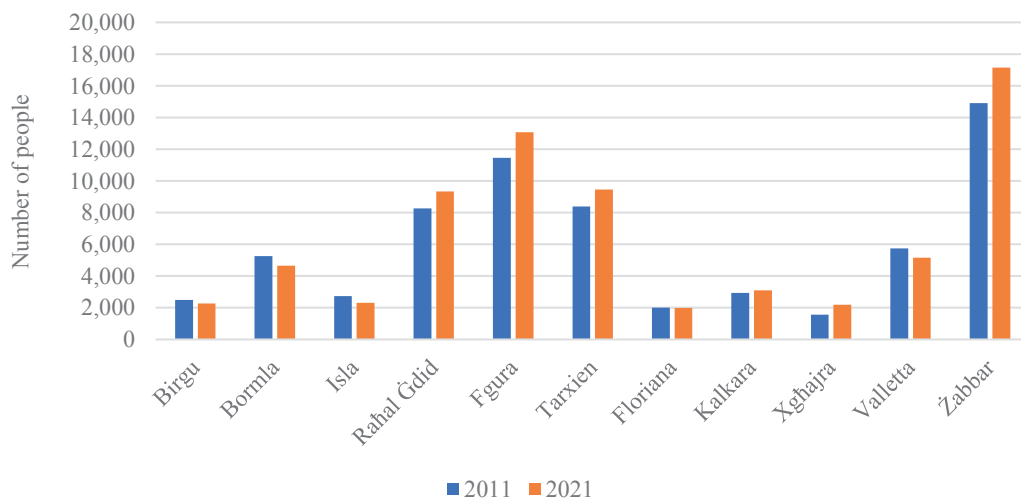


Table 3.3*Population per locality in 2011 and 2021*

Localities	2011	2021
Birgu	2,489	2,261
Bormla	5,249	4,654
Isla	2,740	2,304
Raħal Ġdid	8,267	9,339
Fgura	11,449	13,066
Tarxien	8,380	9,464
Floriana	2,014	1,985
Kalkara	2,946	3,105
Xgħajra	1,571	2,192
Valletta	5,748	5,157
Żabbar	14,916	17,148
Total	65,769	70,675

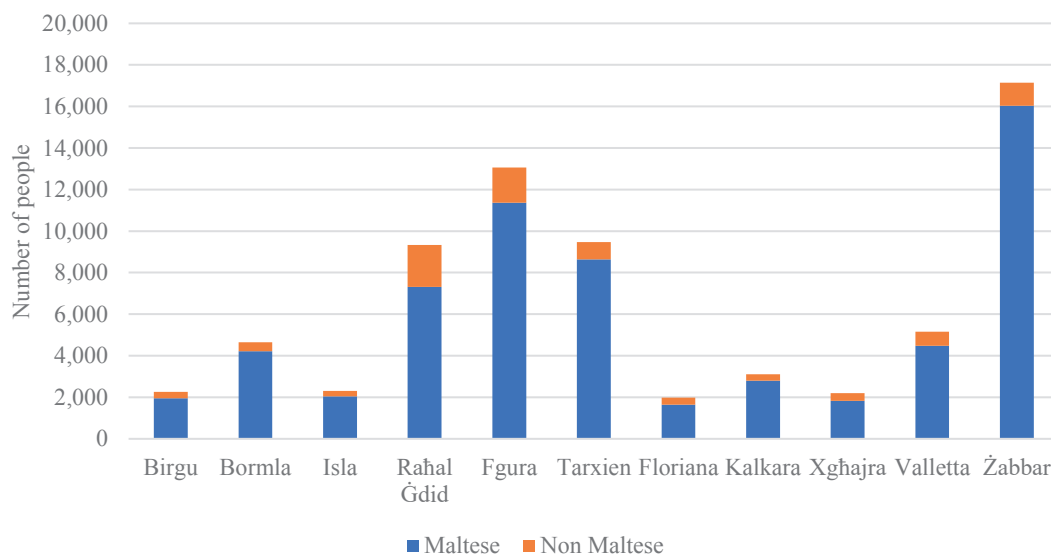
Note: NSO, 2023, pp. 19-21

The increase in population across all the island has also been due to a large influx of foreign nationals residing and working in Malta. According to the 2021 Census, around 22% of the total population (115,449 individuals out of the total 519,562) was non-Maltese. Around 7.24% of Malta's foreign population (8,360 individuals) reside in Reġjun Port. This number of non-Maltese nationals amounts to 11.83% of the Region's total resident population. Raħal Ġdid has the highest proportion of foreigners in its population (21.72%), amounting to 2,028 individuals. Floriana has 17.48% of its population as non-Maltese (347 individuals) and Xgħajra has around 16.24% (356) (NSO, 2023a). This is illustrated in Figure 3.3 and Table 3.4 below. Since the data collection for the 2021 Census, figures pertaining to the non-Maltese population have continued to inflate at a national level.¹ Given such socio-demographic change, an Annex has been added to this report, in relation to the non-Maltese residents so as to give further detail to such a shift.

¹ Indeed, through a recent Parliamentary Question it transpired that the non-Maltese residents in the Region have increased to 10,527, as at September 2023. This is an increase of 25.92%

Figure 3.3

Population composition by Maltese and non-Maltese individuals



In terms of gender presence in the region, Reġjun Port has circa 36,544 male residents (51.71%) and 34,131 (48.29%) females, as indicated in Table 3.4 below (NSO, 2023a).

Table 3.4

Gender and nationality per locality

Localities	Gender		Nationality	
	Male	Females	Maltese	Non- Maltese
Birgu	1,151	1,110	1,959	302
Bormla	2,389	2,265	4,217	437
Isla	1,213	1,091	2,049	255
Raħal Ġdid	5,178	4,161	7,311	2,028
Fgura	6,574	6,492	11,365	1,701
Tarxien	4,812	4,652	8,631	833
Floriana	997	988	1,638	347
Kalkara	1,618	1,487	2,793	312
Xgħajra	1,153	1,039	1,836	356
Valletta	2,638	2,519	4,486	671
Żabbar	8,821	8,327	16,030	1,118
Total	36,544	34,131	62,315	8,360

It is also worth noting that whereas the density in population for the entire Maltese Islands stands at 1,649 people per Km² in Reġjun Port, in 2021, this stood at around 4,426 people per Km², indicating a much more densely populated region than the average. Indeed, the localities

in the region are mostly urban and built-up areas, with very limited country side or open spaces, when compared to the number of residents residing within. Isla, is the most densely populated locality, with around 14,418 people per Km², a high density especially due to the very small area of the locality (0.16 Km²). Kalkara, on the other hand, has the relatively lowest density in the region, with 1,765 people per Km². (NSO, 2023a).

The average age of the population in this region stands at 44.02, higher than the Maltese average of 41.7. This indicates that when compared to the average of Malta, this region has a higher degree of elderly people than younger cohorts. Within the region the average age of women (45.50) is higher than that of men (42.64) overall. Moreover, the average age of Maltese nationals (45.1) is substantially higher than that of non-Maltese (37), given that many foreigners who come to Malta are of working age and very few elderly non-Maltese people are present, when compared to the Maltese older-cohorts. (NSO, 2023a).

Moreover, when looking at the dependency ratio² of Regjun Port, this stands at 54.6% (Vs 46.7% for Malta). The old age dependency ratio³ stands at 36.1% (vs 27.6% for Malta) (NSO, 2023a). This indicates that the percentage of elderly in comparison with people of working age is higher in this region, than in Malta overall. This further corroborates the fact that in the Region there is a higher rate of elderly within the community when compared to Malta as a whole, something to be kept in mind by the Local Councils and Regional Council when developing strategies, policies and activities for its citizens.

² The dependency ratio is the ratio of non-active citizens (aged 14 or less and others aged 65 or more) to active (persons aged 15 to 64) in a given population.

³ The old age dependency ratio is the ratio of elderly persons (65 and over) who are generally not economically active to the number of persons of working age (15-64).

3.2.2 Vulnerabilities

It is worth noting that in Reġjun Port there seems to be a higher-than-average vulnerability in terms of people claiming social security benefits. The latest publicly available data disaggregated by locality refers to the year 2020. In 2020, the total beneficiaries of contributory and/or non-contributory benefits in the Region amounted to 28,006 individuals (c.16.45% of all beneficiaries in Malta). At a national level in 2020, around 32.99% of the population was receiving some kind of benefits (170,259 individuals), whilst for the Region, this rate was equal to 40.08% of the population. Floriana and Bormla recorded the highest percentage of population on benefits, 44.75% and 44.32% respectively, as indicated in Table 3.5 (NSO, 2022).

Table 3.5

Number and % of Beneficiaries of Social Services by locality

Localities	Total Beneficiaries	% of population
Birgu	1,028	41.87%
Bormla	2,279	44.32%
Isla	1,103	40.37%
Raġal Ġdid	3,602	39.61%
Fgura	4,916	37.97%
Tarxien	3,528	39.57%
Floriana	908	44.75%
Kalkara	1,104	35.46%
Xgħajra	656	33.71%
Valletta	2,517	42.96%
Żabbar	6,365	40.68%
Totals	28,006	40.08%
Malta	170,259	32.99%

When looking closer at the type of benefits being taken by 7,082 individuals, being 10.13% of the population of the Region were on sickness benefits in the year 2020. This is much higher than 6.94% of the total Maltese population receiving sickness benefits. Bormla seems to have

recorded the highest percentage of beneficiaries of such benefit, amounting to 15.75% of the population (c.810 individuals). (NSO, 2022).

In terms of the disability benefits 1,740 individuals (2.49% of the Region's population) were receiving such benefits in 2020. This was again higher than the national percentage of 1.83%. In terms of localities, more or less all localities recorded claimants to be between 2% and 3%, with Bormla again recording the highest percentage of 2.94% (151 individuals) (NSO, 2022).

When looking at old age benefits such as pensions, 11,631 individuals (i.e., 16.64% of the Region's population) claimed such benefits in 2020. At a national level this percentage stood at 13.83%. This further strengthens the points mentioned above that Reġjun Port has a higher-than-average percentage of elderly people, as also indicated by the higher-than-average age of residents. The areas with the highest old age benefits' beneficiaries were that of Floriana (21.78%) and Birgu (20.98%). The area with the lowest old age benefits' beneficiaries is that of Xgħajra at 9.92% (NSO, 2022).

Finally, when looking at the unemployment benefits 1.60% of the total Maltese population were beneficiaries. This percentage stood at 2.25% for Reġjun Port, indicating that there are higher-than-average number of people registering as unemployed in the area. The highest locality with unemployment benefit beneficiaries was that of Bormla at 4.22%, whilst the lowest were those of Żabbar at 1.66% and Kalkara at 1.67% (NSO, 2022).

Moreover, it seems that literacy rates in the region, in particular in the Southern Harbour localities, is one of the lowest rates when compared to other localities and regions. (Arts Council Malta, n.d.)

3.2.3 Housing

When looking at the data pertaining to housing and dwellings, it seems that 12.6% (37,473 dwellings) of the property stock in Malta is found in Reġjun Port. 28,737 (76.69%) of these dwellings are considered to be main residential dwellings and the remaining 8,736 (23.31%) are considered secondary, seasonally used or vacant dwelling, as illustrated in Figure 3.4 below. Interestingly, in Xgħajra the percentage of secondary houses is much higher (38.7%), since this locality was traditionally known to be a seaside summer residence locality. On the other hand, areas like Fgura and Tarxien, known as residential areas have a much lower average of secondary housing (16.9% and 18.9% respectively). Overall, the region seems to have a higher share of terraced houses (10,125 equivalent to 27.02% of the stock Vs 22.85% average of the whole of Malta) and maisonettes (10,847 or 28.95% of the stock Vs 19.84% of Malta), as indicated in Figure 3.5. Areas like Birgu, Isla, Raħal Ġdid, Tarxien and Żabbar still retain a great number of traditional Maltese terraced houses. Moreover, given that many of these homes fall within UCAs (Urban Conservation Areas), this limits the number of changes and developments that can be made with these properties. Moreover, Raħal Ġdid, Tarxien and Żabbar also have a higher number of maisonettes. On the other hand, it is worth noting that both Valletta and Floriana have quite a substantial share of the residential buildings being apartments or flats (67.65% and 64.81% respectively). Despite the number of palazzos and auberges in Valletta, such magnificent buildings are mostly used as offices, government administration or shops. The residential units in the area include a number of government housing apartment blocks.

Figure 3.4

Dwelling stock by occupancy

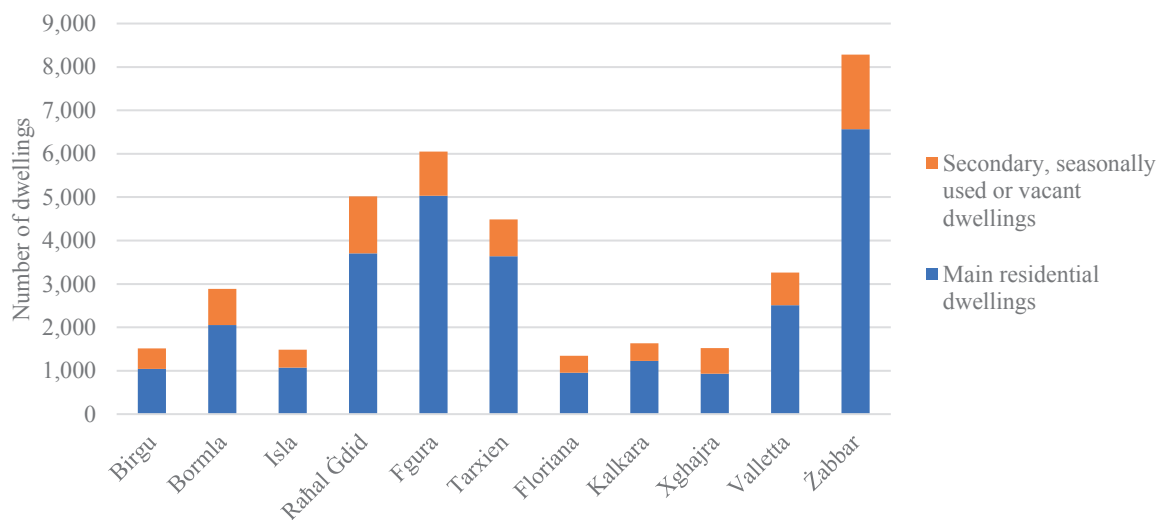
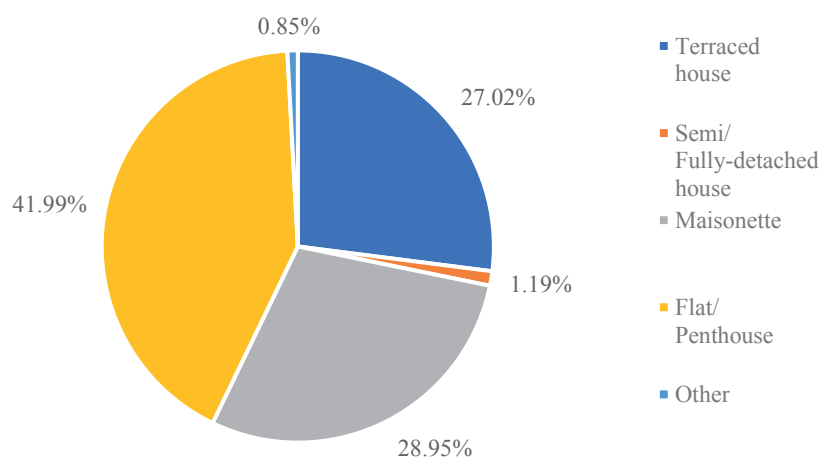


Figure 3.5

Dwelling stock by type



It is worth noting that within the Region there are also a number of institutional accommodations. These include elderly care homes, including Dar Sant’Anna (Isla), Residenza San Ġużepp (Fgura), Casa Paola (Raħal Ġdid) (“List of Homes for the Elderly”, n.d.). An elderly home in Bormla was also recently closed down for demolishing and rebuilding, with the aim of opening its doors again in future years. (Ellul, 2023). Moreover, one also finds three

respite homes in Żejtun, namely, Dar Nazareth, Dar l-Arċipriet Degabriele and Dar Jean Vanier, run by Fondazzjoni Nazareth (“About us”, n.d). Fondazzjoni Wens, also operates another three respite homes in the Region, 2 of which are in Kalkara and another one in Fgura (“Our Homes”, n.d). Moreover, in Reġjun Port one also finds ‘Dar l-Liedna’ in Fgura, which is a house with a capacity to host 56 Underage Migrants and Asylum Seekers (UMAS). In 2021, 16 UMAS were housed in this accommodation, as they were applying for asylum (aditus, 2023).

One must keep in mind that these institutions make part of the social fabric of the localities in question and therefore, both the Local and Regional Councils should be aware of the mutual relationship between the wider society and such institutions.

3.2.4 Industrial and commercial developments

Reġjun Port comprises of eleven localities which provide a mix of historical, scenic, economical and residential areas. Specifically centred on the natural Grand Harbour, this region has always played a pivotal role in the strategic, logistical and economical sectors of the Maltese Islands.

The three cities, also known as Cottonera, i.e., Birgu, Bormla and Isla, always held a strategic role, given their location. During the Knights of St. John, the fortified walls surrounding these three cities helped in safeguarding the inhabitants from any attacks by the enemy. Moreover, during the Second World War, these cities were heavily bombarded, with many families having to evacuate and move to other localities in the Maltese Islands. Such attention to these localities was due to the fact that they bordered the natural Port which was key for trade and for replenishing of resources for the Maltese.

Nowadays, the area of Cottonera still holds a great economical significance. Firstly, the three cities continue to attract a number of tourists curious of the historical value of the area, often

visiting the fortifications and various museums and cultural hotspots. The Waterfronts are buzzing with restaurants and other catering establishments, some of which are considered fine dining establishments.

Moreover, Birgu is also home to the Grand Harbour Marina, which allows for the berthing of yachts and super yachts, ranging from 8m to 25m, offering substantial berthing and shore facilities with over 200 berthing spaces (“Grand Harbour Marina”, n.d.). This does not only attract high-end customers to Birgu, but it allows for other extensive economic activity all around the Maltese Islands, as individuals berthing their yachts in this marina, would possibly visit other places also.

Moreover, Isla houses the Maltese dockyard, whereby ship repairs and maintenance works are carried out. This was originally a public company owned by the government, but it was sold to a private operator and now remains to be operated by the private sector.

Kalkara, bordering on the Three Cities, is considered to be a smaller and possibly quieter locality. Nevertheless, it holds its own commercial significance. For one, Kalkara is home to the Rinella film facilities also known as the Mediterranean Film Studios and Fort Ricasoli, which are central filming locations in the burgeoning film industry in Malta, having hosted a number of important films like *Gladiator*, *Game of Thrones* and *Troy*, amongst others. Moreover, one also finds Smart City, a technological park which houses a number of offices as well as some restaurants and bars. Smart City is found at the limits of Xgħajra.

Another two localities which hold great commercial importance are Raħal Ġdid and Fgura, two neighbouring localities which are well-known for their retail shops and other amenities, often attracting numerous individuals to shop in the area on a daily basis. Moreover, in Raħal Ġdid one finds the Kordin Industrial Estate and more recently the Kordin Business Incubation

Centre. Another Industrial Estate is also found in Żabbar, known as Ta' Maġġi.

Floriana, is a small locality, with most of its commercial activity being driven by offices and administrative buildings for a variety of government and non-governmental entities. Moreover, in Floriana, one also finds The Granaries (il-Fosos), in Pjazza San Publju. Originally used as pits to store grain, this open space is now used to host mass gatherings, concerts and festivals. Being one of the largest public places in Malta, The Granaries allow for large national concerts and festivals to take place, attracting numerous local and international revellers. Such festivals include, Isle of MTV, Robbie Williams Concert (2023) and the André Rieu Concert (2023), just to mention a few. Apart from bringing cultural and artistic value to the area, such festivals generate a great commercial activity both for the Region as well as for Malta as a whole.

Finally, Valletta, which is the Maltese Capital City, apart from being an extremely culturally rich city, is also a highly commercial hub in Malta. In Valletta, one finds numerous offices and governmental administrative buildings. Moreover, one finds numerous retail shops which attract many people every day to shop in the area. Given its cultural and historical importance, the city is also a great pull factor for tourists. In addition, tourists who arrive in Malta by Cruise, land specifically in this City, with the Valletta Cruise Port being operated since 2002.

The Capital City has been in the centre of a regeneration project in the past decade witnessing the opening of several boutique hotels, revamp of the water front and Strait Street, as well as the overall increase in bars and restaurants. This of course has brought more economic activity in the city however; this does not come without its downsides. Both residents as well as representatives of the tourism industry have mentioned the fact that certain activities in the Capital City are undesirable in the long-term and disrupt the calmness and possibly falls out of line with the high-end destination image portrayed to tourists. ("Valletta is becoming too loud,

not fitting as a high-end destination,' MHRA says", 2022). Moreover, Valletta is experiencing gentrification, with many of its traditional old shops and hawkers having to close their doors in face of the competing businesses, as well as many inhabitants deciding to move elsewhere, both because of the increased level of noise and activity up till the very early hours of the day, as well as the increased rental prices and being out-priced by individuals seeking to develop economic ventures in the area. For this reason, the government is planning to develop a management plan for the city. (Arena, 2023).

3.2.5 Transport infrastructure

Malta in general is heavily dependent on vehicles and its road infrastructure, with circa 18,000 vehicles for each Km² (Borg 2023). Reġjun Port faces a number of challenges related to urban areas, urban sprawl and the limited space in the region for further expansion, with pressure on the existing road infrastructure often leading to bottle necks and traffic congestion.

Infrastructure Malta has invested €2.2million in restoring the Għajn Dwieli Tunnel leading into Bormla, which is 120-years old and of cultural importance. Moreover, A number of different residential roads in the Region have been maintained and fixed. Nevertheless, no major overhauls of arterial roads have been carried out in the past few years, apart from the connecting roads to the overall Marsa junction project feeding into neighbouring localities such as Raħal Ġdid.

In an effort to decrease the traffic congestion on land, the Region operates a ferry connecting Valletta to the three cities. This operates every day and allows people to cross via catamaran, thereby reducing the pressure on the road networks.

3.2.6 Natural and Cultural Assets

This Region is especially rich with historical, cultural and architectural sites, including fortifications, churches, museums and auberges. In the Port Region one finds the Co-Cathedral of St. John, a number of fortifications such as St. Elmo (Valletta), Rinella (Kalkara), St. Angelo (Birgu), the Grand Master's Palace (Valletta), Tarxien Temples (Tarxien), Hal Saflieni Hypogeum (Raħal Ġdid) and the Inquisitor's Palace (Birgu), amongst others. Across the Region, 359 sites are scheduled as Grade 1 and another 293 are scheduled as Grade 2 sites. This clearly indicates the cultural value of such dwellings, buildings or sites.⁴

Only 10 sites are scheduled as ecological, geological or geomorphological in the Region, indicating that the greater number of assets in the area are in relation to historical importance, rather than the natural assets in the area. This emphasises the need for cultural preservation to be put at the forefront of the priorities in the area.

The number of total scheduled sites with the PA for the Region amount to 712, with the highest percentage being architectural assets (84%). The highest number of scheduled sites were found in Valletta (303), followed by Tarxien (100). (Planning Authority, n.d.). Figure 3.6 and Figure 3.7 illustrate this.

⁴ As per Planning Authority procedures, Grade 1 scheduling means that the dwellings/buildings or sites have the highest level of protection due to their cultural, architectural and historical importance, thereby preventing any alterations from being made. Grade 2 buildings can have some moderate changes made, but still enjoy a good level of protection.

Figure 3.6

Scheduled property, buildings and sites

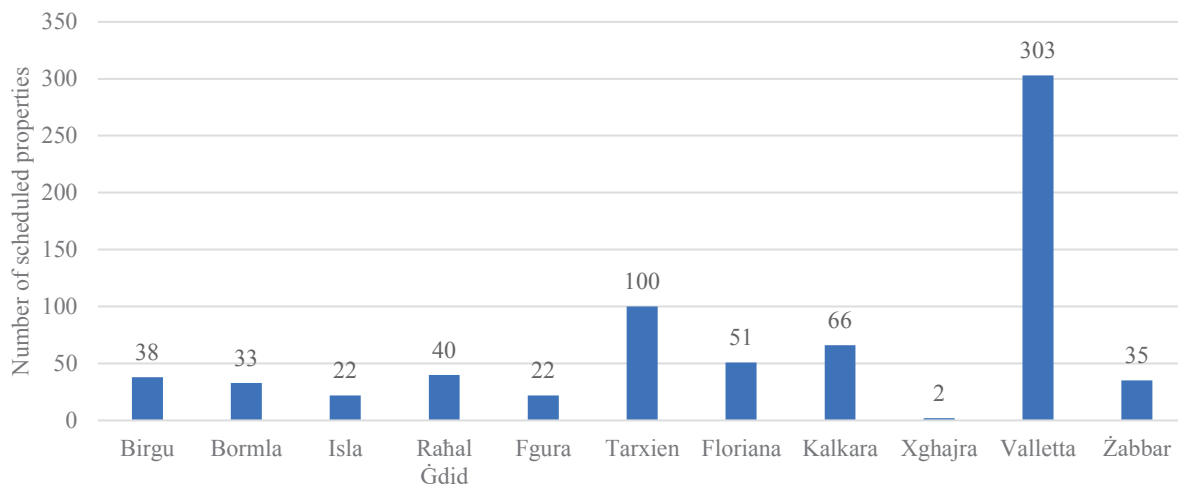
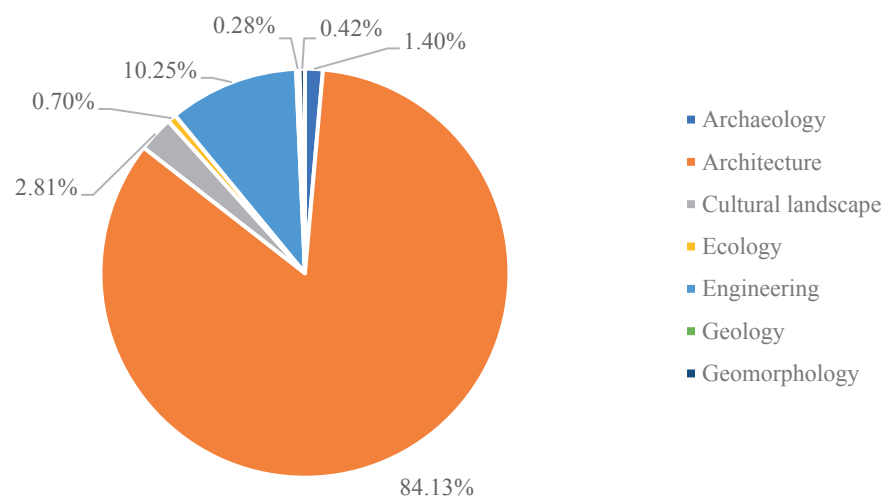


Figure 3.7

Type of scheduled sites



Apart from such physical assets, the Region also holds numerous cultural events on an annual basis, which can be considered to add to the cultural patrimony of the area. Apart from the fact that each locality holds a number of religious feasts annually, displaying both sacred (e.g. processions) and non-sacred (fireworks and street adornments) traditional features, other

events are now being marked on the Regions's calendar, including 'Birgu by Candlelight' and Birgufest (Birgu), Notte Bianca (Valletta), Carnival festivities particularly in Valletta and Floriana, as well as the bi-annual Regatta held on the 31st March and 8th September each year. These activities attract both tourists and Maltese to these localities, whilst enhancing the social fabric in the localities as a number of residents who make part of the events' associations come together to organise such events regularly.

It is worth noting that back in 2018, Valletta was also the Cultural Capital of Europe, with a year-long calendar packed with cultural events and activities.

3.2.7 Community spaces and local participation

The region doesn't have plenty of natural green open spaces whereby families, friends and communities in general can gather. The limited natural areas include Wied Blandun (Fgura) and Wied il-Kalkara. For this reason, greater effort to make urban green spaces available has been taken on by the authorities to ensure that the residents have parks and gardens to enjoy. These include Hastings, the Upper and Lower Barrakka Gardens and Ġnien Laparelli in Valletta, Sa Maison and Argotti gardens in Floriana, Pjazza Patri Redent Gauci Garden in Fgura, Ġnien Dom Mintoff in Raħal Ġdid, amongst others. In 2022, the first carbon-neutral garden has been inaugurated in Kalkara, through an investment on €1mln. ("Kalkara Garden generates energy by those who visit it", 2022). In Żabbar, the newly refurbished San Klement Park consists of over 2,000sqm of open spaces including a picnic area for visitors to use ("New picnic area at Haż-Żabbar's San Klement Park inaugurated", 2023).

Another community space which is found in the region is the Cottonera Sports Complex, which is the largest indoor sports facility on the islands. The complex has a multi-purpose hall, allowing for Volleyball, badminton, Handball and Futsal and allowing 1,200 spectators. There

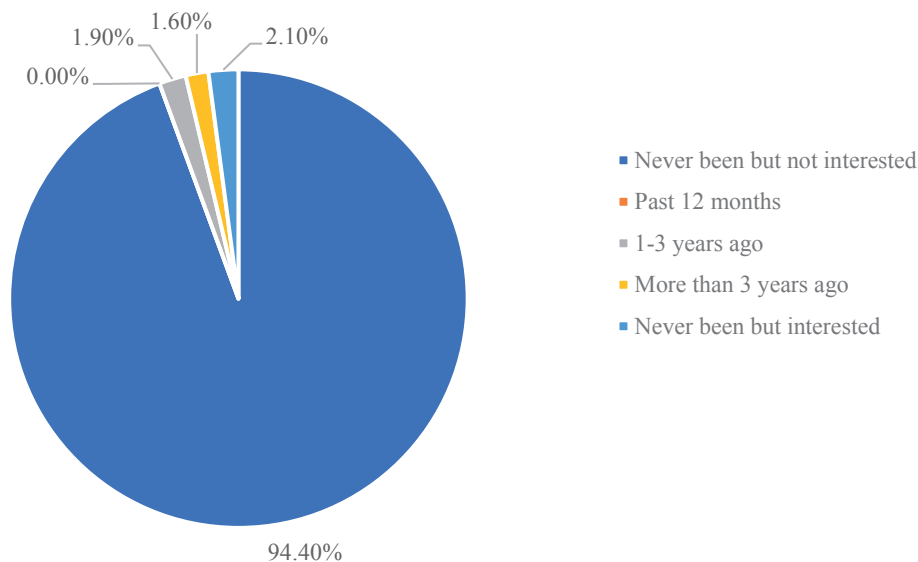
is also a weightlifting centre, a dance studio and an indoor Olympic size pool. This can be considered to be a community space, which can be used by all athletes and sports enthusiasts in the surrounding area.

Local band clubs, football clubs, political party clubs, as well as the parishes, especially during the time of the village feast, also remain important community spots, whereby social cohesion and social interaction is fostered in the Region. Indeed, as indicated in the Regional Cultural Strategy document, the Port Region holds the highest number of voluntary organisations registered, amounting to 341 entities. A quarter of these organisations falls within the ‘culture’ genre (Arts Council Malta, n.d.)

Yet, despite inhabitants of the Region having a great sense of identity and possibly being involved in specific cultural activities of their own cultural association, cultural participation in Regjun Port seems to be quite low. With no respondent stating that they have been actively involved in the local council festivities in the previous 12 months, as opposed to the 2.4% at a national level (Arts Council Malta, n.d.) and just 1.9% mentioning that they have participated in the past 1-3 years (Vs 1.7% for Malta). The number of people who mentioned that they did not attend but are not interested to do so is higher than the national average at 94.4% (Vs 87% Malta). This might be an indication that people from the Region might be interested to work in their own associations, but not at a local council level as yet. This might be something both the Local and Regional councils can look into, to bring more synergy and collaboration amongst the various entities in the Region.

Figure 3.8

% of population actively involved in the Local Council festivities



3.2.8 Needs, interests, values and aspirations

This description of the socio-demographic, economical and environmental aspects of the Region are just a brief overview and summary of the most salient points and changes happening in the Region. Of course, there are plenty of other projects and activities being carried out in the 11 localities of Port, but it is not this study’s purpose to enlist them all. However, this chapter illustrates richness in culture and its importance in the national cultural patrimony, as well as the developing commercial activities in the Region.

Given the ever-growing commercial activities in the areas the region is facing greater “challenges related to urbanism” (“About the Region”, n.d). The region therefore needs to take into account the limited space available and the urbanisation in order to come up with a long-term plan to ensure that the pressure on infrastructure and resources is well-managed. Sustainable Urban development practices should be adopted (“About the Region”, n.d)

Gentrification in the area is pushing long-term residents of the area out of the region, being priced out by businesses or other newer, wealthier residents (Arts Council Malta, n.d.). For this reason, there is a need for affordable housing initiatives to support such residents (“About the Region”, n.d.) Moreover, the Regional Council also has the delicate task of finding a balance between regenerating the areas and increasing commercial activity whilst making sure that the cultural assets and historical patrimony found in the areas, including the Grand Harbour Region is protected and safeguarded for future generations to enjoy. As per the Regional Cultural Strategy for the Region “preserving the region’s historical and cultural heritage requires careful urban planning and conservation efforts” (“About the Region”, n.d.).

Finally, many NGOs operating in the region and many cultural events being organised stand as testament of the great value of cultural identity expressed in the region. In order to further strengthen this identity, both at a regional as well as at a national level, a region-level approach is required in the culture in order to strengthen and solidify the industry and facilitate interactions in the currently fragmented sector (Arts Council Malta, n.d.)

3.3 Summary of context

The discussion of this chapter has shown that salient characteristics of the Region under study include, i) an extremely highly dense area with many people residing in highly urbanised spaces, ii) a higher-than average vulnerable and ageing population with specific needs of their own, iii) an extremely rich cultural heritage which requires safeguarding and preservation from being lost to economic growth, iv) the need to control the effects of gentrification and protect residents from the over-commercialisation of the Region, as well as v) the need to bring cultural players together to work more at a local and regional level, rather than in silos.

These correlate to a number of remits which should be covered by the Regional Council, including, that of providing assistance to Local Councils, including the provision of

professional services in the environmental sector, social, cultural, touristic and information technology, which could assist Local Councils in issues above. The Regional Council is also responsible for the coordination with the local council of sports and physical activities and initiatives, including those relating to welfare, which could be used in favour of integration and reaching out to the more vulnerable pockets of society, thereby strengthening the social fabric in the localities. Moreover, given that the Regional Council can help Local Councils to tap and manage EU funds, specific activities related to the issues mentioned above can be developed and funded.

Based on this context, the next chapter outlines the methodology adopted in this study.





METHODOLOGY

4. Methodology

This section explains the methodology used for this study. It presents the research questions underpinning the study and the rationale behind the choice of the research design that was applied to address these questions. It also outlines the methods used for data gathering together with the procedures applied for data analysis. Finally, this chapter addresses the ethical considerations and limitations adopted during the process of the study.

4.1 Research Agenda

The aim and objectives of this research study was to examine the perceptions of residents of Regjun Port regarding the quality of life, liveability and social integration of their locality and their awareness and knowledge of their local and regional councils and expectations thereof. It also aims to examine how regional and local councils can work together more effectively and how local councils can be more effective in meeting the needs of the residents.

Based on these objectives, the research design was informed by the Social Impact Assessment: Guidance for assessing and managing the social impacts of a project (Vanclay et al., 2015) and targeted the “effective engagement of affected communities in participatory processes of identification, assessment and management of social impacts” (p. iv) and liveability matters.

Hence, the study sought to address the following general research questions:

1. How do residents of Regjun Port perceive their quality of life and their region’s liveability?
2. To what extent are residents’ perceptions of the functions of the regional council congruent with the regional council’s official remit?

3. What initiatives can boost the resourcefulness of regional councils in enhancing liveability?

4.2 Data-gathering instruments

This research study adopted a multi-methods research design to gain a more in-depth understanding of the perceptions of residents on how local and regional councils can become more effective in meeting the needs of their residents. When compared to a single-method research design, a multi-method research approach can prove to be highly effective in acquiring a deeper understanding of the phenomenon under study (Denzin & Lincoln, 2011). To this end, the research design comprised of a quantitative questionnaire with residents of the localities forming part of the region and two focus groups, one with the mayors and another with local councillors of the various localities in question. The latter focus group did not take place due to the low response rate from the local councillors' end.

Quantitative Questionnaire

A quantitative questionnaire (Appendix A) was specifically designed for this project. Based on existing literature and similar studies, this questionnaire consisted of twenty six questions. Questions 1-8 dealt with socio-demographic information. Questions 9-12 focused on perceived quality of life, liveability and social integration. Questions 13-18 assessed the resident's awareness and knowledge of their respective local council, whilst questions 19-26 assessed the resident's awareness and knowledge of their respective regional council. The questionnaire comprised of a mix of open-ended and close-ended questions such as multiple choice, dichotomous, filter and 5-point Likert scale. This data collection tool was developed in both English and Maltese and was accompanied by an information and consent letter that clearly stated the objectives of the study and contact details of the research team.

Following approval of the content of the questionnaire from the Regional's Executive Secretary, the research team piloted the questionnaire with five residents from Regjun Port. Following their input, the research team made some minor adjustments.

Focus Groups

Apart from a questionnaire held with residents of Regjun Port, the research design included focus groups with councillors and mayors from local councils of the region. This approach was selected so that findings from the focus groups would be contextualised and complement the findings of the questionnaire. The research team developed a focus group schedule concentrating on topics that fall under the remit of local councils, such as environmental and educational matters, intergenerational dynamics, social cohesion and projects (Appendix B). The schedule also dealt with the existent relationship, cooperation and support between local councils and the regional council/central government. The focus group schedule consisted of semi-structured questions so as to guide the discussion within the parameters of the general research questions and to maximise internal validity by allowing for the exploration of unexpected but relevant areas (Creswell, 2014).

4.3 Sampling and recruitment of participants

The questionnaire was administered telephonically to 401 residents of Regjun Port. Participants were randomly selected through the use of a computer programme. This programme randomly generates non-sequential telephone numbers (landline and mobile). The research team made calls to a total of around 5,000 distinct telephone numbers. Out of these 4,599 did not end in a successful interview wherein 920 (20%) did not answer, 2,300 (50%) were not eligible and 1,379 (30%) refused to participate. The remaining 401 completed the survey, a number which produced a 95% confidence level and a margin of error of $\pm 4.9\%$. Measures were also taken

to ensure that the sample was stratified by age, gender and locality, hence ensuring that each locality within Reġjun Port is equally represented.

Respondents were given a detailed overview of the study, were asked for their consent and were also invited to choose whether they prefer to have the questionnaire conducted in English or Maltese. Administration of each questionnaire took approximately between 10-15 minutes.

The regional council of Reġjun Port accepted to act as gatekeeper and made contact with potential participants of the focus groups. Local councillors and mayors, aged 18 years and over, were asked to opt in and contact the research team to express their interest in participating in the focus groups. Unfortunately, there was a very low response rate from local councillors and therefore, in agreement with the Regional Council, this focus group was cancelled. The focus group for mayors was held at the offices of the Local Council Association in Marsa and participants were offered the choice of participating either online or in person. A total number of 4 mayors attended the focus group. This took approximately 120 minutes and was audio and video-recorded to facilitate transcription at a later stage.

4.4 Data analysis

The research team retrieved the quantitative data gathered from the questionnaire and inputted it in Excel. It was then sorted, coded and cleaned and transferred to the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 28 whereby statistical tests were run. Researchers made use of the Pearson's chi-square test to test for significant associations between nominal variables such as age, gender, locality and length of residence. Results were considered statistically significant if the p-value was less or equal to 0.05. When the SPSS returned cells with an expected count of less than 5, the results were considered to be *relatively* statistically

significant, unless the expected cell count was less than or equal to 40%. In such latter case the p-value was considered to be valid and the relationship considered statistically significant.

On the other hand, qualitative data was transcribed ad verbatim, coded and analysed. Thematic Analysis was used to analyse the transcripts as this method is not tied to a specific theoretical framework and presents “a coherent and meaningful pattern in the data relevant to the research questions” (Braun & Clarke, 2013, p. 121).

4.5 Ethical considerations

Throughout the study the researchers took into account ethical considerations and employed mitigating actions to ensure that no harm was procured to the research participants, as described below.

When conducting the telephonic questionnaires, the callers informed the participants of the study, asked for their consent and informed the participants of their rights to stop or withdraw their consent at any point, as well as assured them of their anonymity and confidentiality. They were also assured that all General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) will be adhered to.

On the other hand, focus group participants gave their consent in written format prior to their participation (Appendix C). Voluntary participation was guaranteed and participants could withdraw from the research study at any time without giving any reason and without incurring any penalty. The researcher explained how the participants’ data would be coded and pseudonymised for use throughout the study and that no identifying details (names, emails or IP address) would be noted, hence ensuring that their responses would not be identifiable. Participants were also asked to not divulge any details of their participation, included but not limited to, the identity of other participants and matters discussed. Focus group participants

were assured that codes that linked data to their identity would be stored securely and separately from the data in an encrypted file on the research team's password-protected computer and only the research team would have access to this information. Data would be stored securely for two years and then destroyed.

Ethical clearance was sought from the ethics committee (FREC) of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing, at the University of Malta. Approval to proceed was granted in 30th June 2023 (Phase 1) and 20th July 2023 (Phase 2) and data was gathered between July and September 2023.

4.6 Strengths and limitations

The research team faced a number of limitations when collecting data, for which a number of mitigation measures were applied to try and minimise the effects as much as possible.

The quantitative questionnaire was only available in Maltese and English. Given that Regjun Port's foreign national population amounts to 11.83% of its total resident population, this may have resulted in a lack of representation from foreign nationals who do not communicate in either Maltese or English. Moreover, this data collection methodology may not have captured a representative sample of foreign nationals as such individuals tend to either not reply to telephonic surveys or opt-out. To mitigate for this limitation, an Annex document to the original report that includes the voice of non-Maltese in the region was added. The original residents' questionnaire was tweaked so as to address issues relevant to non-Maltese residents and was disseminated amongst the top 10 foreign communities in the region.

In terms of qualitative data collection through the focus group a number of limitations were taken into account and mitigated for.

Despite best efforts to secure attendance for both focus groups, the response rate for local councillors' focus group was low and, in agreement with the regional council, the focus group for local councillors was cancelled and only the focus group for mayors was carried out. However, data is not solely based on generalisability of the findings but is also based on the validity of data (Leung, 2015). The in-depth data collected from mayors has added value to this study as it drew out the challenges currently being faced by mayors.

Moreover, the researchers were aware that focus group participants brought to the table their biases and possibly their own agendas. Whilst these were also considered with the data analysis, since they are a reflection of the lived experience of the participants, the research team was also very aware of such possible biases.

In order to ensure that the qualitative data collected was a true reflection of the real issues of the locality, the research team, composed of professional and trained researchers, probed and questioned the participants. They made sure that any blanket statements were contextualised and the participants were asked to back up their claims with more detail and/or anecdotal data. At the same time, the researchers made sure that one off instances and anecdotes were not generalised to the entire region.

Such focus groups also posed a danger of recreating possible power struggles and dynamics which might be encountered at regional and local levels. In order to mitigate such issues, the researchers made sure that all participants had an equal time to discuss and share their opinions, thereby minimising the possibility of having one speaker dominating the focus group.

Another risk which is relevant to qualitative data collection methods, such as focus groups, is that of the 'Hawthorne effect', whereby participants might act differently than they would in reality, due to the fact that they are being observed. In such case the Hawthorne effect could have materialised in 'text-book' answers from participants, or providing answers they believed

the researchers were after. In order to mitigate such risks, the research team asked confirmation questions to truly understand and make sure that the information being shared was the correct and sincere one. The research team also explained how the study was looking for true and honest answers so as to depict a proper picture of the current situation.

A final risk which is often linked to focus groups is that of the 'group think', whereby participants simply conform so as to avoid the discomfort of conflict or of sticking out amongst a group. Whilst participants did not seem to mind disagreeing in the focus groups, the researchers also probed all participants to retell their own experiences and often asked the question whether anyone had any opposing views.

Hence, despite the various risks and limitations of such studies, the research team made sure to employ the necessary mitigating factors to minimise any negative impacts as much as possible.





FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

5. Findings and analysis

This chapter presents and examines the quantitative data obtained from the responses to the residents' questionnaire carried out in Regjun Port. It also analyses data collected during focus group held with the mayors of the same region. In line with the objectives of this study the chapter's discussion will present data analysis findings that inform on the perceptions of residents of Regjun Port on matters concerning quality of life, liveability and social integration within their locality, and their awareness and knowledge about their local and regional councils, and expectations thereof.

5. Findings from the Quantitative Data

The main objective of this study was to examine the perceptions of residents of Regjun Port regarding their quality of life, liveability and social integration experienced in their locality, and their awareness and knowledge of their local and regional councils and expectations thereof. For this purpose, a quantitative questionnaire (Appendix A) comprising 26 questions split into 4 sections: socio-demographics, quality of life, local council and regional council was developed.

Questions 1 to 8 of the questionnaire asked residents of Regjun Port demographic questions regarding their age, gender, level of education, main labour status, number of dependents under 18 years living in their household, place and length of residence and participation in voluntary or community organisations.

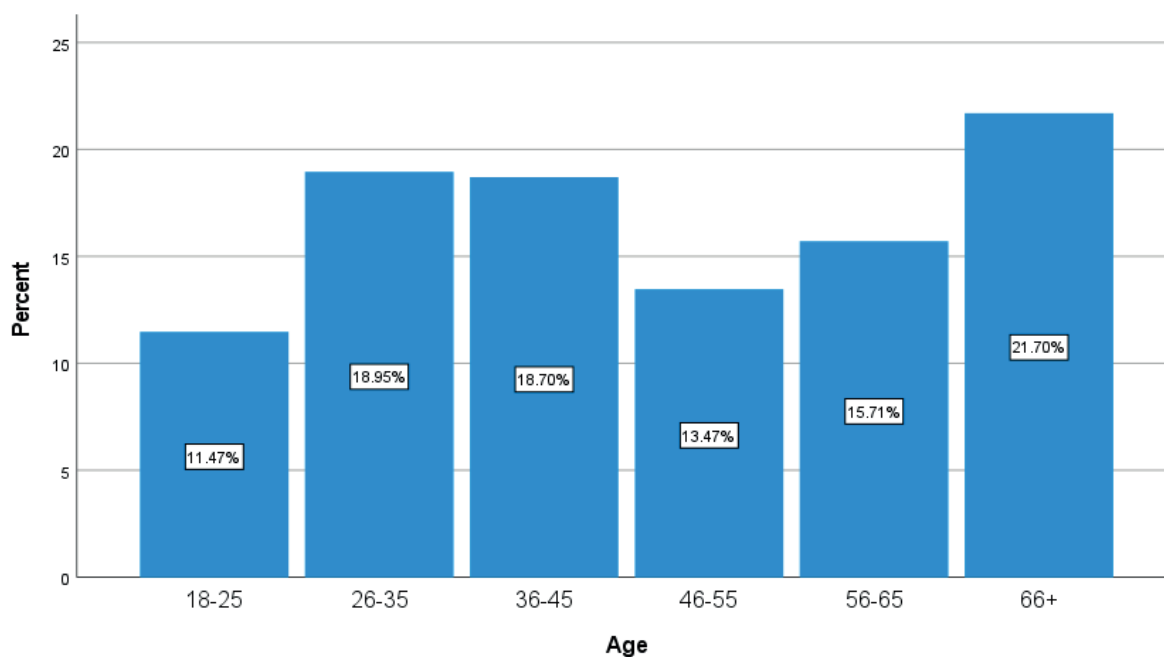
Table 5.1

Respondents by age group

Age	Frequency	Percent (%)
18-25	46	11.5
26-35	76	19.0
36-45	75	18.7
46-55	54	13.5
56-65	63	15.7
66+	87	21.7
Total	401	100

Figure 5.1

Respondents by age group



In total 401 residents responded to the questionnaire. The majority, 21.7% ($n=87$) were aged 66 and over, 19% ($n=76$) were aged 26-35, while 18.7% ($n=75$) were aged 36-45. A further 15.7% ($n=63$) were aged 56-65, followed by 13.5% ($n=54$) aged 46-55 and 11.5% ($n=46$) aged 18-25. Such grouping reflects the stratified sample chosen, to mirror the percentages in the total population of Malta (Table and Figure 5.1)

Table 5.2*Respondents by gender*

Gender	Frequency	Percent (%)
Male	200	49.9
Female	201	50.1
Total	401	100

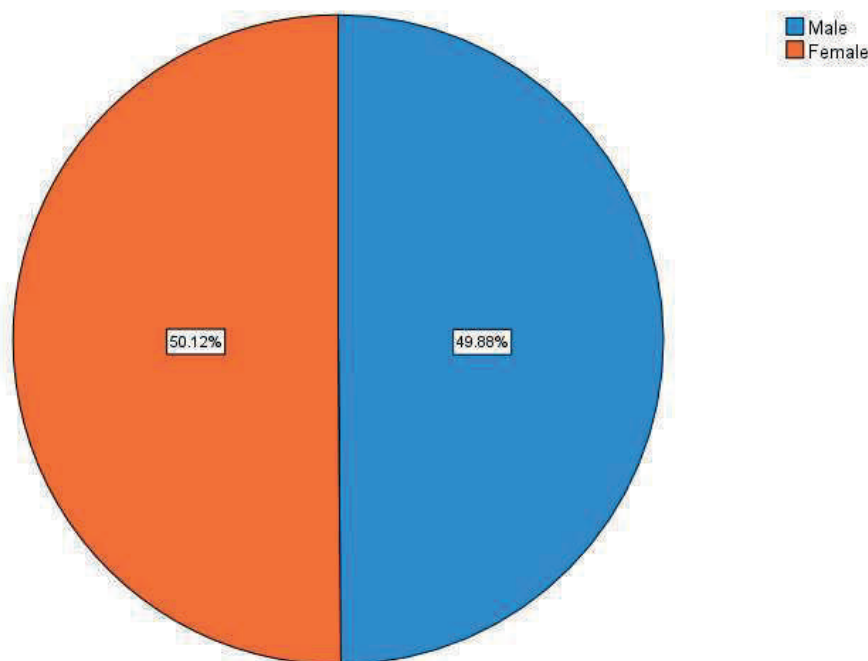
Figure 5.2*Respondents by gender*

Table 5.2 Reference source not found. Table and Figure 5.2 Reference source not found. show that there was a quasi-equal distribution between male and female respondents whereby 50.12% ($n = 201$) females and 49.88% ($n = 200$) males responded to the questionnaire.

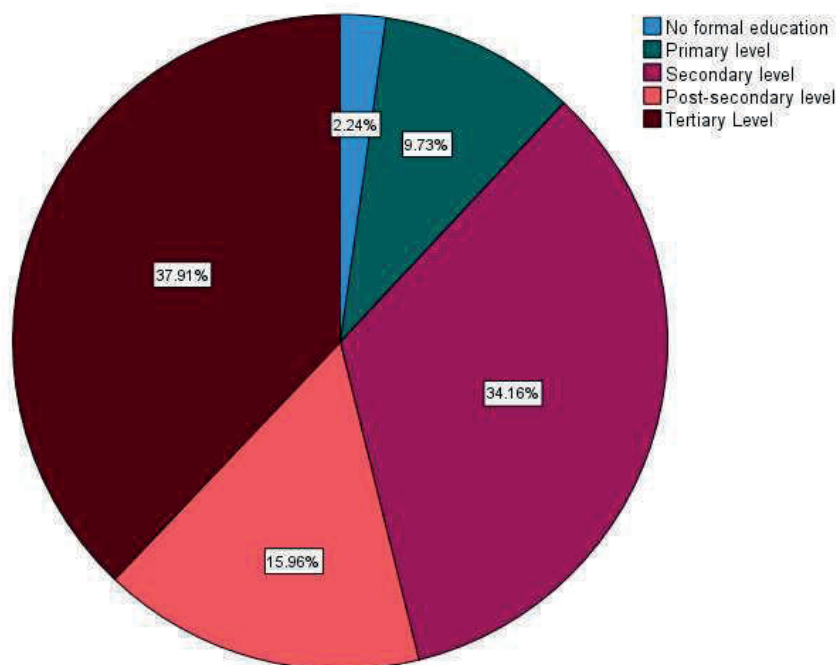
Table 5.3

Respondents by level of education

Type of Education	Frequency	Percent (%)
No formal education	9	2.2
Primary level	39	9.7
Secondary level	137	35.
Post-secondary level	64	16.0
Tertiary level	152	37.9
Total	401	100

Figure 5.3

Respondents by level of education



More than a third of respondents have achieved a high level of education with 37.9% ($n=152$) having a tertiary level of education. 35.% ($n=137$) of respondents have a secondary level of education, while 16% ($n=64$) have a post-secondary level of education and 9.73% ($n=39$) having a primary level of education. Only 2.2% ($n=9$) have no formal education. (Table and Figure 5.3.)

Table 5.4*Respondents by employment status*

Type of Employment	Frequency	Percent (%)
Student	23	5.7
Pensioner	97	25.
Employed	213	53.1
Self-employed	13	3.2
Unemployed	4	1.0
Homemaker	41	10.2
Did not specify	10	2.5
Total	401	100

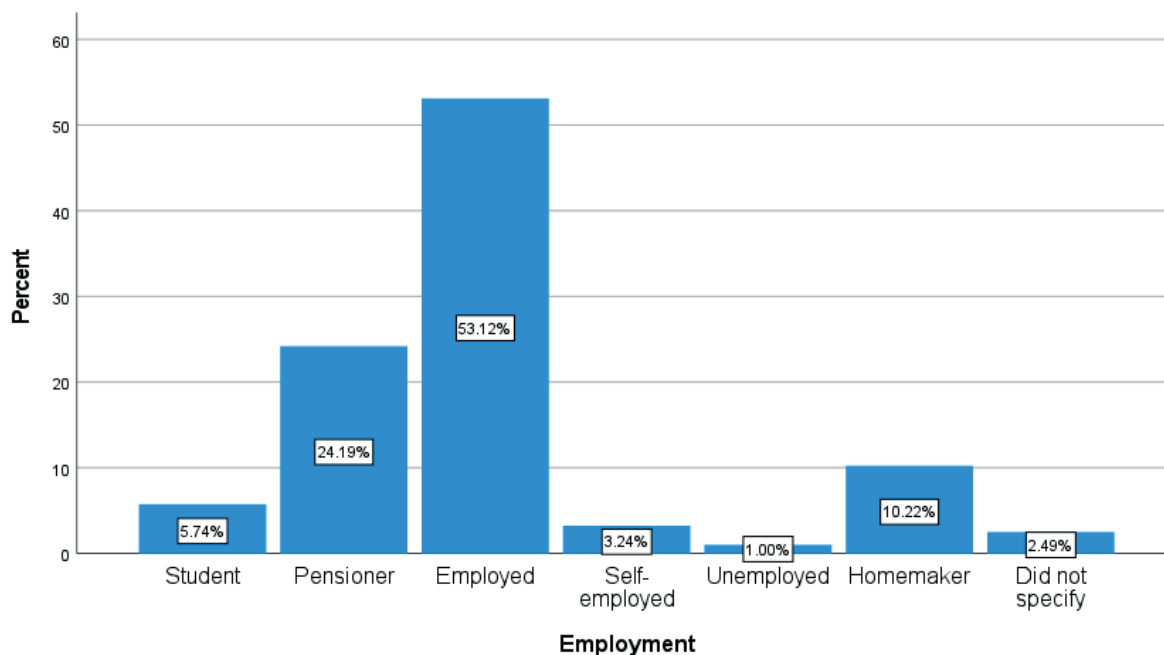
Figure 5.4*Respondents by employment status*

Table and Figure 5.4 illustrate that out of 401 respondents, 53.1% ($n=213$) were employed while 25.% ($n=97$) were pensioners. Homemakers totalled 10.2% ($n=41$), while 5.7% ($n=23$) were students, 3.2% ($n=13$) were self-employed and 1% ($n=4$) were unemployed. 2.5% ($n=10$) opted not to state the type of employment status.

Table 5.5

Respondents by locality

Locality	Frequency	Percent (%)
Birgu	15	3.7
Bormla	26	6.5
Isla	12	3
Raħal Ġdid	50	12.5
Fgura	71	17.7
Tarxien	53	13.2
Floriana	12	3
Kalkara	18	4.5
Xgħajra	15	3.7
Valletta	32	8
Żabbar	97	25.
Total	401	100

Table 5.5

Respondents by locality

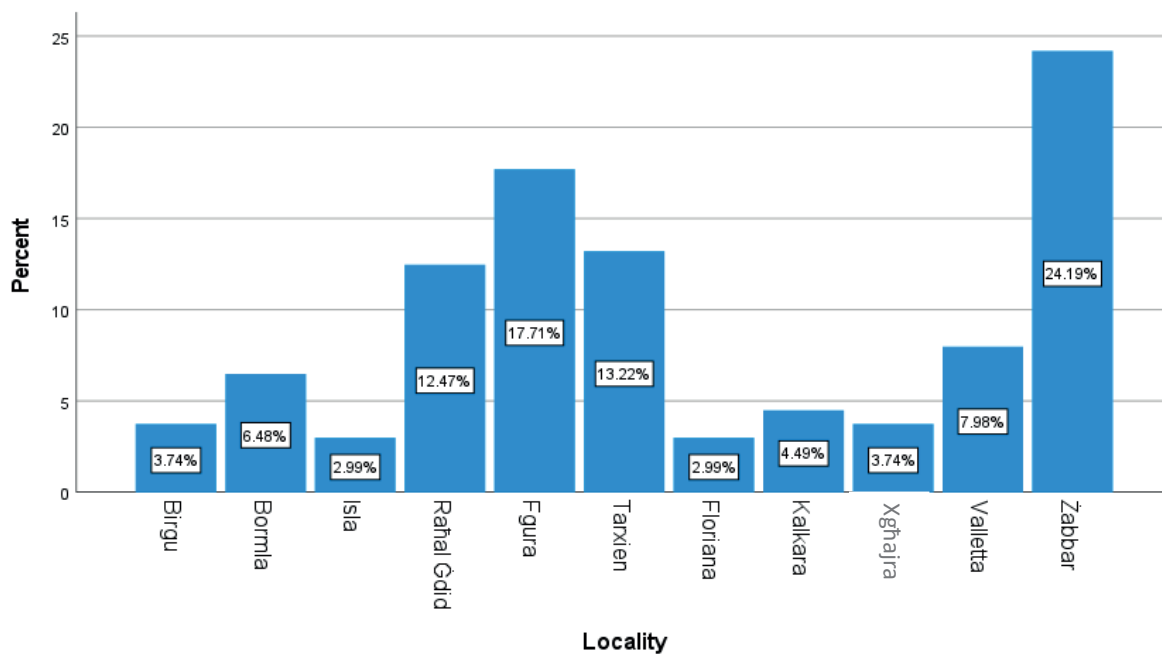
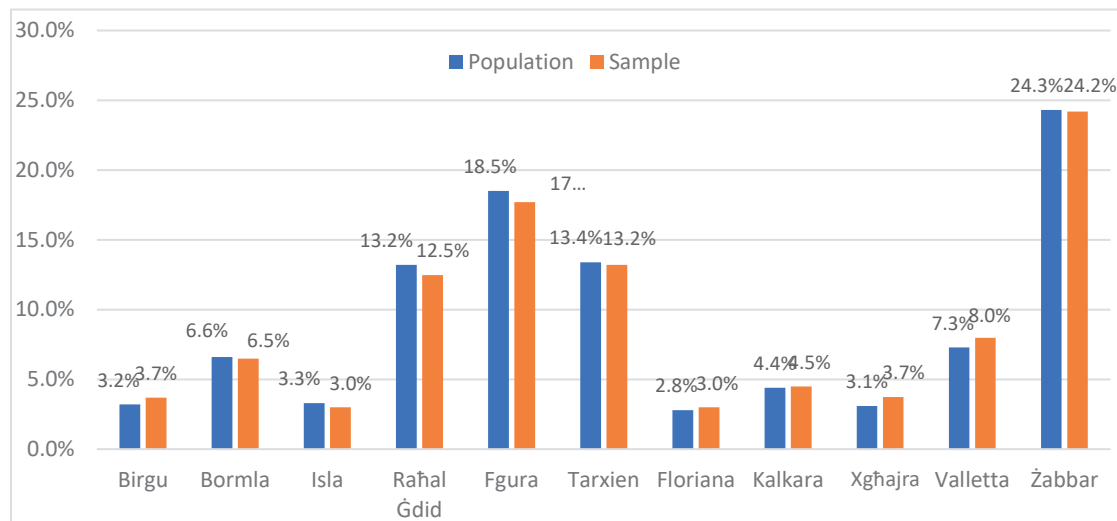


Figure 5.6

*Comparison of locality distribution of respondents – Population vs Sample**



**) Data provided by statistician. Range of discrepancies varies between +0.7% and -0.8% with margin of error being $\pm 4.9\%$. Percentages might not add up to 100% due to decimal places.*

Out of the 11 localities that form part of Regjun Port, Żabbar had the highest number of respondents (25.%, $n=97$), followed by Fgura (17.7%, $n=71$) and Raħal Ġdid (12.5%, $n=50$) (Table and Figure 5.5). Figure 5.6 shows that each locality's share of individuals who responded to the questionnaire reflected closely the share of population living in each locality. Hence, one can conclude that the questionnaire is representative of the whole population and is a valid indicator of how residents of Regjun Port perceive their quality of life and their knowledge and awareness of their local and regional councils and expectations thereof.

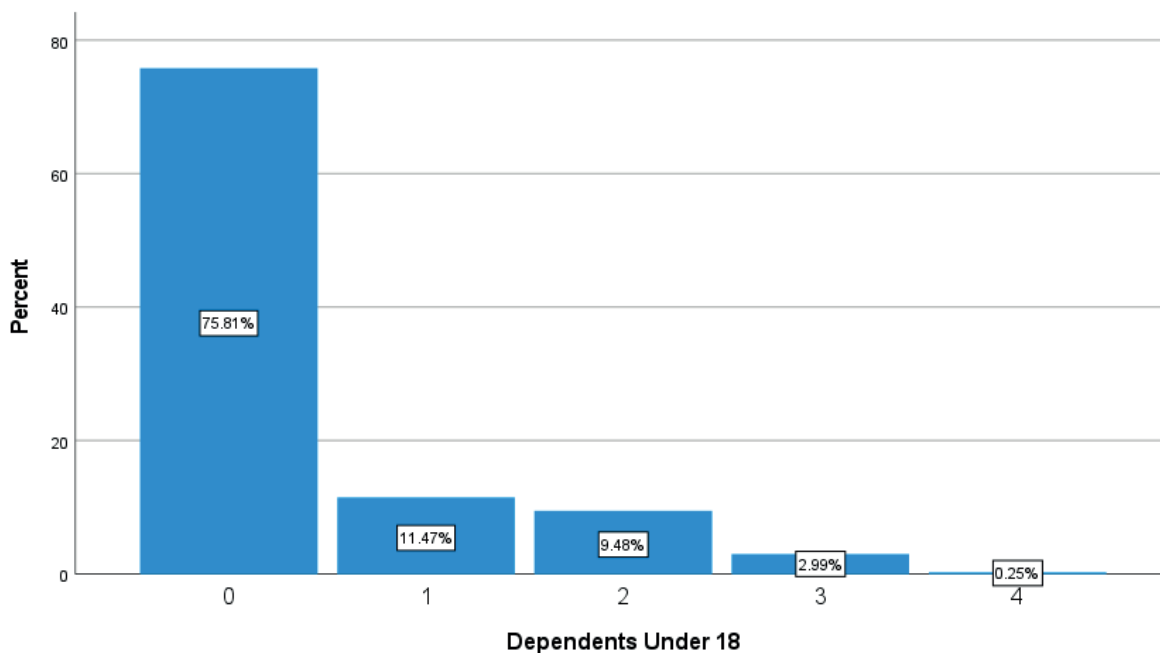
Table 5.6

Respondents by dependents living in the same household

No of children under 18 years of age	Frequency	Percent (%)
0	304	75.8
1	46	11.5
2	38	9.5
3	12	3
4	1	0.2
Total	401	100

Figure 5.7

Respondents by dependents living in the same household



More than three fourths of respondents (75.8%, $n=304$) did not have any dependents under 18 years of age living in their household. 11.5% ($n=46$) had one dependent, 9.5% ($n=38$) had two dependents and 3% ($n=11$) had 12 dependents. Only 0.25% ($n=1$) out of 401 respondents had 4 dependents living in their household (Table 5.6 and Figure 5.7.)

Table 5.7

Respondents by length of residence

No. of years	Frequency	Percent (%)
0-9	92	22.9
10-19	43	10.7
20+	266	66.3
Total	401	100

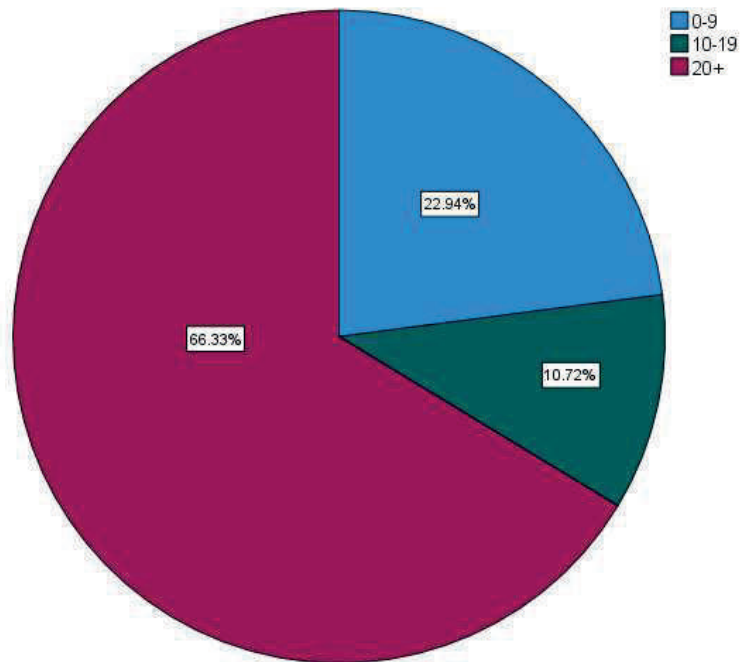
Figure 5.8*Respondents by length of residence*

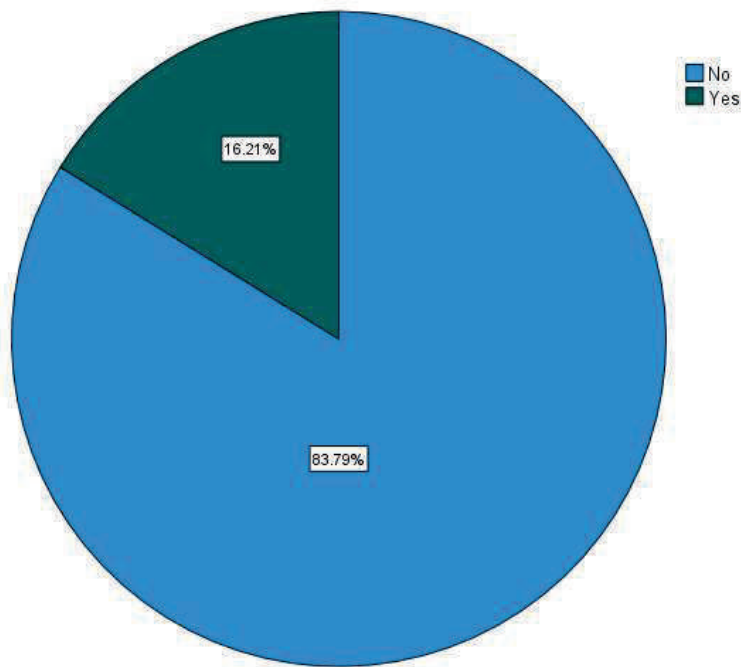
Table 5.7 and Figure 5.8 show that 66.3% ($n=266$) of respondents had been living in the same locality for more than 20 years, while 22.94% ($n=92$) has been living there for 9 years or less. Respondents that had been living in the same locality between 10-19 years amount to 10.7% ($n=43$).

Table 5.8*Active participation in voluntary or community organisations*

Active Participation	Frequency	Percent (%)
No	336	83.8
Yes	65	16.2
Total	401	100.0

Figure 5.9

Active participation in voluntary or community organisations



Out of 401 respondents, 83.8% ($n=336$) were not active in any voluntary or community organisations. On the other hand, 16.2% ($n=65$) were actively involved in diverse voluntary and community organisations (Table 5.8 and Figure 5.9.). Out of these 65 respondents, 17 stated that they were actively involved in Religious Organisation, 12 in the Band Club, 7 in the scouts group and 5 in political organisations.

Quality of Life

Questions 9 and 10 aimed to gauge the level of quality of life of respondents, in relation to their locality. These two questions asked respondents to rank their satisfaction about certain factors which affect their quality of life. Replies were based on a 5-Likert Scale that ranged from Very Dissatisfied, Fairly Dissatisfied, Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied, Fairly Satisfied through to Very Satisfied.

Table 5.9

Residents' level of satisfaction with their locality

Satisfaction scale	Frequency	Percent (%)
Very dissatisfied	40	10.0
Fairly dissatisfied	31	7.7
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	82	20.4
Fairly satisfied	97	25.
Very satisfied	151	37.7
Total	401	100.0

Figure 5.10

Residents' level of satisfaction with their locality

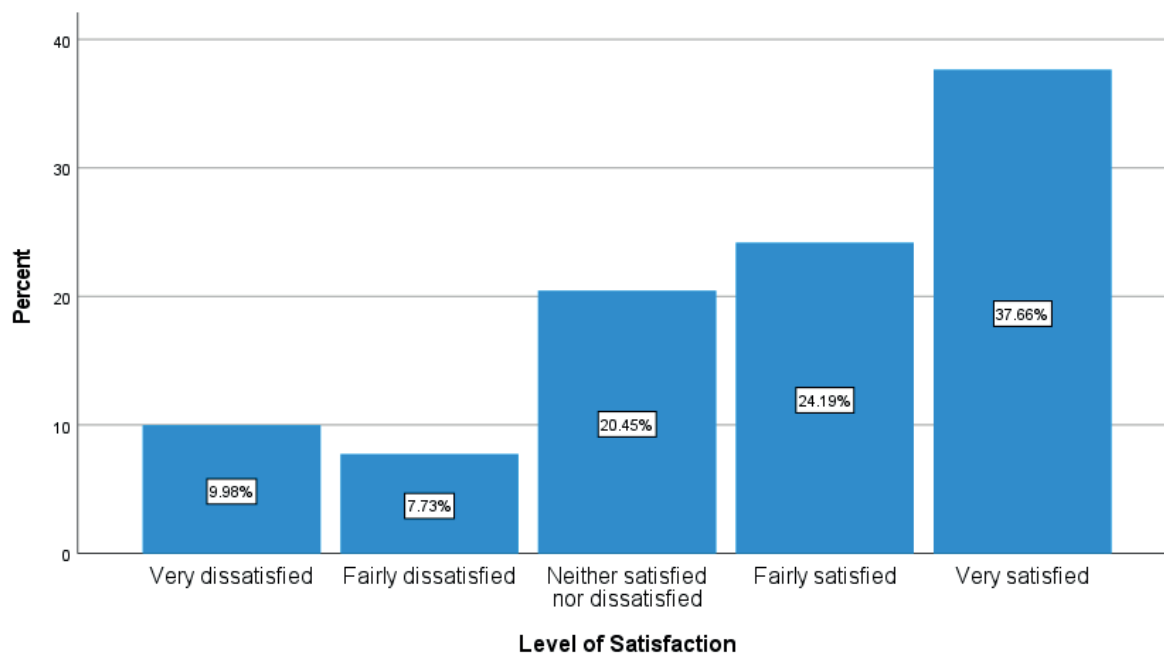


Table 5.9 and Figure 5.10 illustrate that the majority of respondents were satisfied with their local area as a place to live. 61.9% ($n=248$) of respondents stated that they are satisfied (37.7% Very Satisfied and 25.% Fairly Satisfied), 17.7% ($n=71$) were dissatisfied (10% Very dissatisfied and 7.7% Fairly dissatisfied), while 20.4% ($n=82$) were neutral.

A Pearson’s Chi-square test, carried out to identify whether any statistically significant relationship existed between age, gender and locality and the level of satisfaction with locality, showed no statistically significant relationship with locality with the p-value ($p=0.352$) being greater than the 0.05 level of significance. On the other hand, testing yielded a statistically⁵ significant association with age ($p=0.003$) (Table 5.10 and Figure 5.11.) and a statistically significant association with gender as the p-value of 0.019 was below the 0.05 level of significance (Table 5.11 and Figure 5.12.).

Table 5.10

‘Level of satisfaction of one’s locality’ by age

Age	Very dissatisfied		Fairly dissatisfied		Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied		Fairly satisfied		Very satisfied	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
18-25	5	10.9%	4	8.7%	8	17.4%	14	30.4%	15	32.6%
26-35	1	1.3%	3	3.9%	17	22.4%	26	35.%	29	38.2%
36-45	6	8.0%	8	10.7%	20	26.7%	21	28.0%	20	26.7%
46-55	4	7.4%	7	13.0%	13	24.1%	13	24.1%	17	31.5%
56-65	11	17.5%	4	6.3%	9	14.3%	15	23.8%	24	38.1%
66+	13	14.9%	5	5.7%	15	17.2%	8	9.2%	46	52.9%

$\chi^2(20, N=401) = 41.679, p=0.003$

Table 5.10 above and Figure 5.11 below show that 52.9% ($n=46$) of respondents aged 66+ were very satisfied with one’s locality as a place to lie whilst only 26.7% of those aged between 36-45 tended to be very satisfied.

⁵ SPSS results found that 4 cells (13.3%) have an expected count less than 5. Since this level was less than 40%, the p-value was considered to be valid and the relationship considered statistically significant.

Figure 5.11

'Level of satisfaction of one's locality' by age

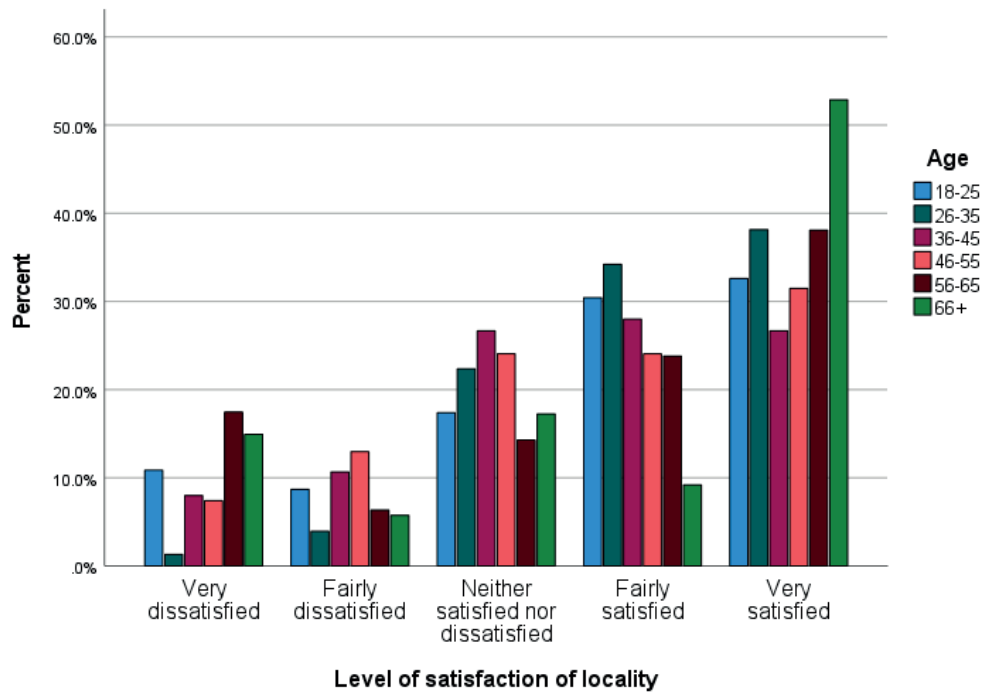


Table 5.11

'Level of satisfaction of one's locality' by gender

Gender	Very dissatisfied		Fairly dissatisfied		Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied		Fairly satisfied		Very satisfied	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male	18	9.0%	16	8.0%	46	23.0%	59	29.5%	61	30.5%
Female	22	10.9%	15	7.5%	36	17.9%	38	18.9%	90	44.8%

$\chi^2(4, N = 401), 11.765, p = 0.019$

Figure 5.12

'Level of satisfaction of one's locality' by gender

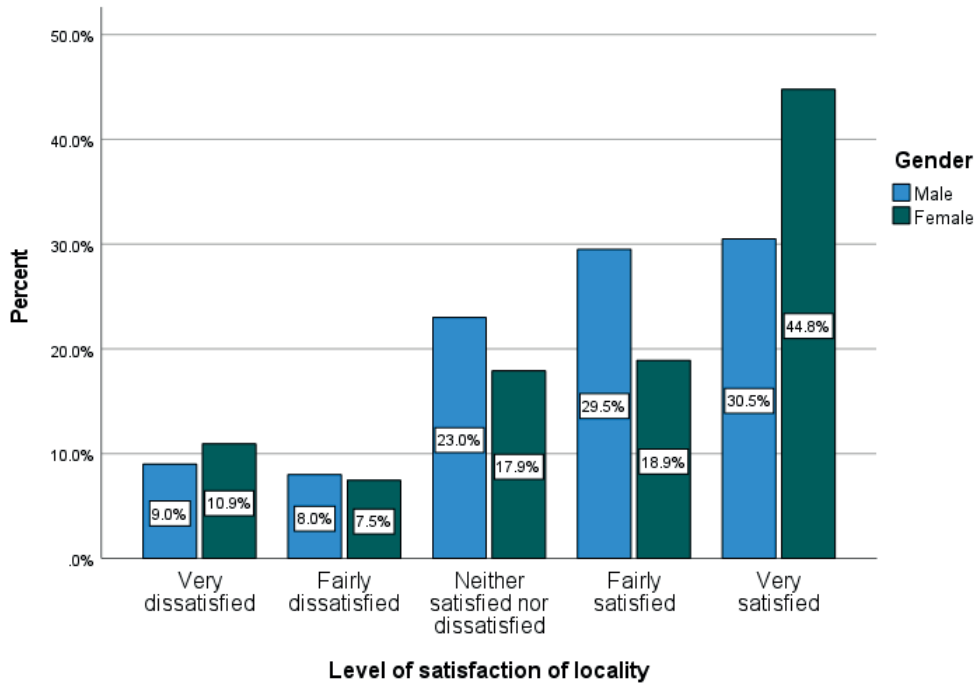


Table 5.11 and Figure 5.12 show that a higher percentage of females (44.8%) than males (30.5%) tended to be very satisfied with their locality whilst a higher percentage of males (29.5%) than females (17.9%) tended to be fairly satisfied.

Subsequently, Question 10 asked respondents to rate their level of satisfaction with regards to diverse factors in their locality which are associated with having an impact on their quality of life. Table 5.12 and Figure 5.13 illustrate the results.

Table 5.12*Level of satisfaction of diverse factors impacting quality of life*

	Very dissatisfied		Fairly dissatisfied		Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied		Fairly satisfied		Very satisfied	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Public and green spaces	109	27.2%	64	16.0%	107	26.7%	50	12.5%	71	17.7%
Urban development	133	33.2%	70	17.5%	98	24.4%	47	11.7%	53	13.2%
Sport and leisure facilities	68	17.0%	52	13.0%	156	38.9%	57	15.0%	68	17.0%
Air and noise pollution	138	34.4%	71	17.7%	90	22.4%	52	13.0%	50	12.5%
Cultural activities	57	15.0%	39	9.7%	168	41.9%	69	17.2%	68	17.0%
Public transport	43	10.7%	27	6.7%	169	42.1%	72	18.0%	90	22.4%
Traffic and parking	191	47.6%	73	18.2%	72	18.0%	40	10.0%	25	6.2%
Schools in the locality	13	3.2%	15	3.7%	168	41.9%	85	21.2%	120	29.9%
Accessibility	46	11.5%	35	8.7%	127	31.7%	90	22.4%	103	25.7%
Level of safety	43	10.7%	54	13.5%	107	26.7%	110	27.4%	87	21.7%
Religious activities	22	5.5%	16	4.0%	130	32.4%	112	27.9%	121	30.2%

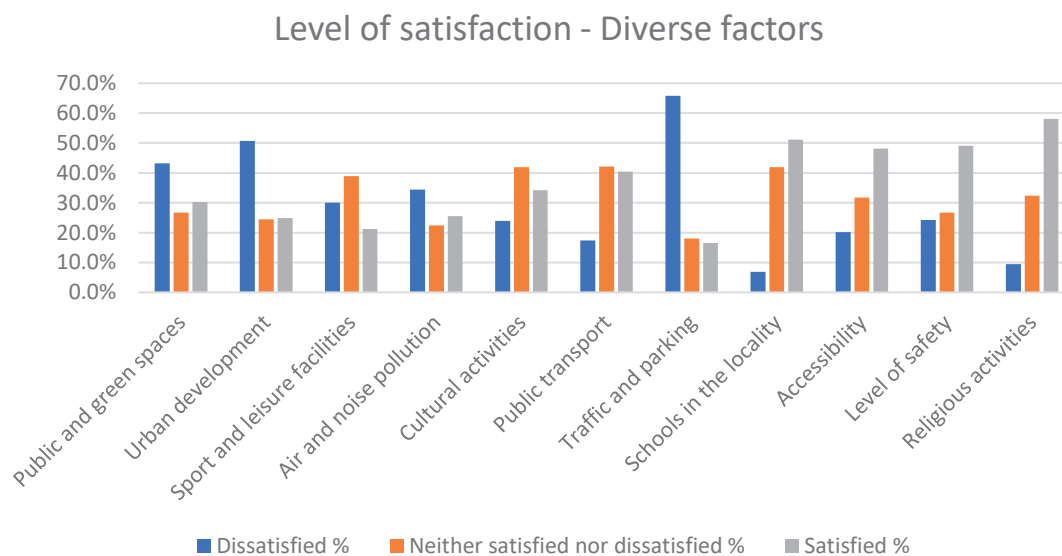
Figure 5.13*Level of satisfaction of diverse factors impacting quality of life*

Table 5.12 and Figure 5.13 show that most respondents were mostly dissatisfied with Traffic and Parking (65.8%, $n = 264$) where 47.6% ($n = 191$) were very dissatisfied while 18.2% ($n = 73$)

were fairly dissatisfied. 50.7% ($n=203$) were dissatisfied with Urban development (33.2%, $n=133$ Very dissatisfied and 17.5%, $n=70$ Fairly dissatisfied) while 43.2% ($n=173$) were dissatisfied with Public and green spaces (27.2%, $n=109$ Very dissatisfied and 16.0%, $n=64$ Fairly dissatisfied).

A Chi Square test was carried out to test for a significantly statistical association between the above-mentioned diverse factors and age, gender, and locality. Testing found that **public and green spaces** had a significantly statistically association to age with a *p-value* of 0.016, which is smaller than the 0.05 level of significance (Table 5.13 and Figure 5.14.)

Table 5.13

Level of satisfaction of public and green spaces by age

	Very dissatisfied		Fairly dissatisfied		Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied		Fairly satisfied		Very satisfied	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
18-25	13	28.3%	11	23.9%	12	26.1%	6	13.0%	4	8.7%
26-35	11	14.5%	16	21.1%	18	23.7%	16	21.1%	15	19.7%
36-45	26	34.7%	14	18.7%	18	24.0%	9	12.0%	8	10.7%
46-55	18	33.3%	8	14.8%	15	27.8%	5	9.3%	8	14.8%
56-65	23	36.5%	8	12.7%	16	25.4%	5	7.9%	11	17.5%
66+	18	20.7%	7	8.0%	28	32.2%	9	10.3%	25	28.7%

$\chi^2 (20, N=401) = 35.928, p=0.016$

Figure 5.14

Level of satisfaction of public and green spaces by age

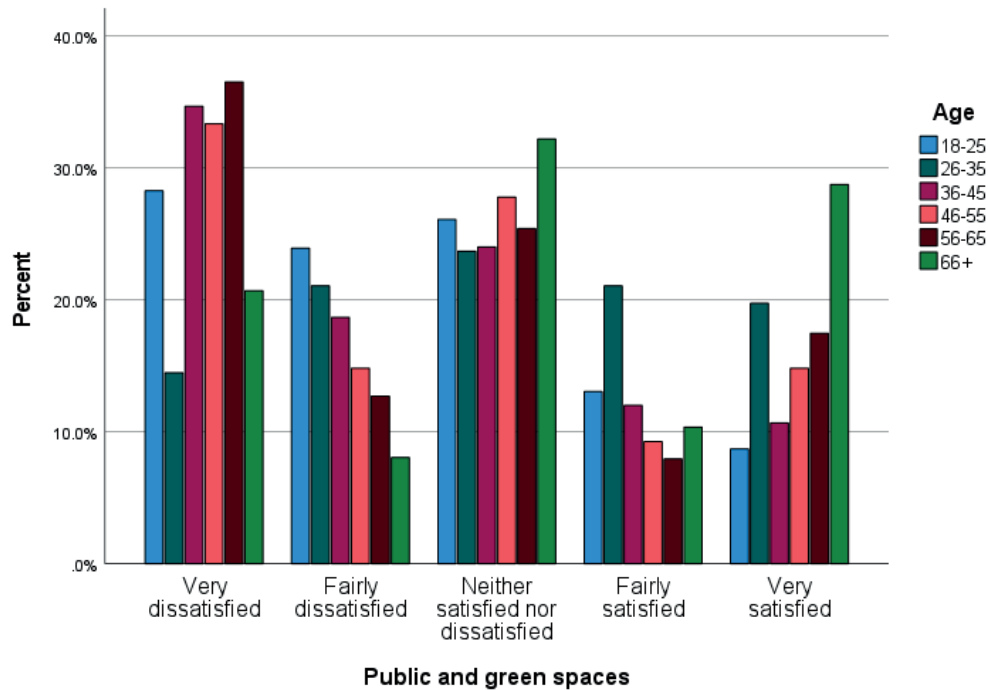


Table 5.13 and Figure 5.14 indicate that residents in the 36-45 age bracket tended to be the most dissatisfied with public and green spaces (53.4%). On the other hand, residents in the 26-35 age bracket tended to be the most satisfied with 40.8% stating that they were either fairly or very satisfied.

The Pearson's Chi-square test also found a relatively statistically significant association for **public and green spaces** when cross tabulated to locality⁶, with the *p-value* of 0.013 being below the 0.05 level of significance. This means that the findings per locality could be generalisable to the entire population of the Region (Table 5.14 and Figure 5.15.).

Table 5.14 and Figure 5.15 below show that Fgura residents tend to be the most dissatisfied with public and green spaces in their locality (Very dissatisfied = 35.2% and Fairly dissatisfied = 21.1%). On the other hand, a significant majority (75%) of Floriana residents emerged as the most satisfied (Fairly satisfied = 8.3% and Very satisfied = 66.7%).

⁶ This was found to be relatively statistically significant because SPSS results showed that 29 cells (52.7%) had an expected count of less than 5.

Table 5.14

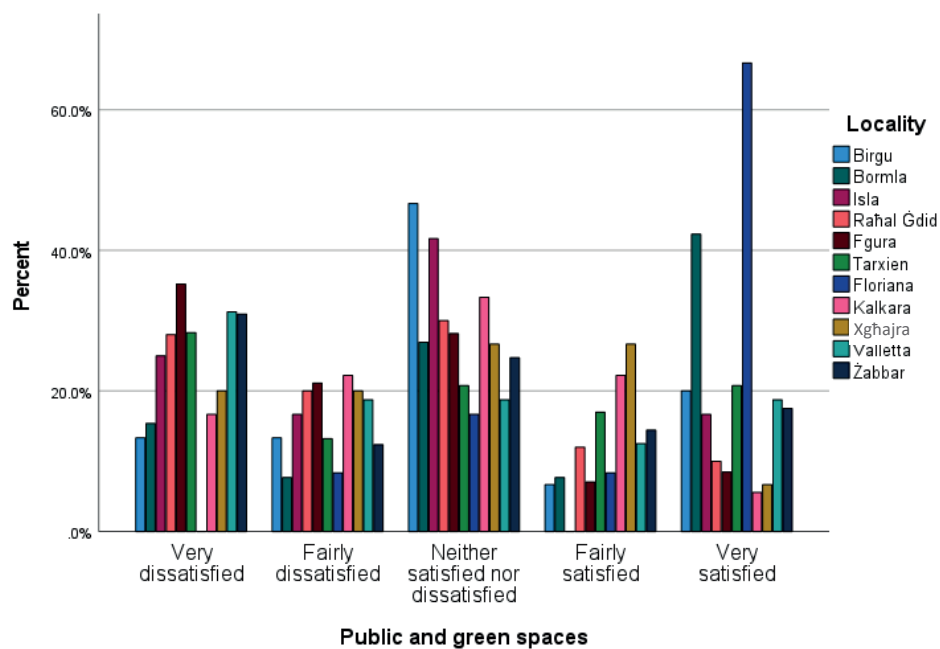
Level of satisfaction of public and green spaces by locality

	Very dissatisfied		Fairly dissatisfied		Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied		Fairly satisfied		Very satisfied	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Birgu	2	13.3%	2	13.3%	7	46.7%	1	6.7%	3	20.0%
Bormla	4	15.4%	2	7.7%	7	26.9%	2	7.7%	11	42.3%
Isla	3	25.0%	2	16.7%	5	41.7%	0	0.0%	2	16.7%
Raħal Ġdid	14	28.0%	10	20.0%	15	30.0%	6	12.0%	5	10.0%
Fgura	25	35.2%	15	21.1%	20	28.2%	5	7.0%	6	8.5%
Tarxien	15	28.3%	7	13.2%	11	20.8%	9	17.0%	11	20.8%
Floriana	0	0.0%	1	8.3%	2	16.7%	1	8.3%	8	66.7%
Kalkara	3	16.7%	4	22.2%	6	33.3%	4	22.2%	1	5.6%
Xgħajra	3	20.0%	3	20.0%	4	26.7%	4	26.7%	1	6.7%
Valletta	10	31.3%	6	18.8%	6	18.8%	4	12.5%	6	18.8%
Żabbar	30	30.9%	12	12.4%	24	24.7%	14	14.4%	17	17.5%

$\chi^2 (40, N=401) = 62.392, p = 0.013$

Figure 5.15

Level of satisfaction of public and green spaces by locality



Testing also found **urban development** to have a relatively significant statistical association to locality⁷ with a p-value of 0.002. Table 5.15 and Figure 5.16 below illustrate that Fgura residents were the most dissatisfied by urban development (63.4%), closely followed by Xgħajra residents (60%). On the other hand, Floriana residents were the most satisfied (66.7%) with urban development in their locality. Of interest, 0% of Xgħajra residents were neither fairly satisfied or very satisfied with urban development in their locality.

Table 5.15

Level of satisfaction of urban development by locality

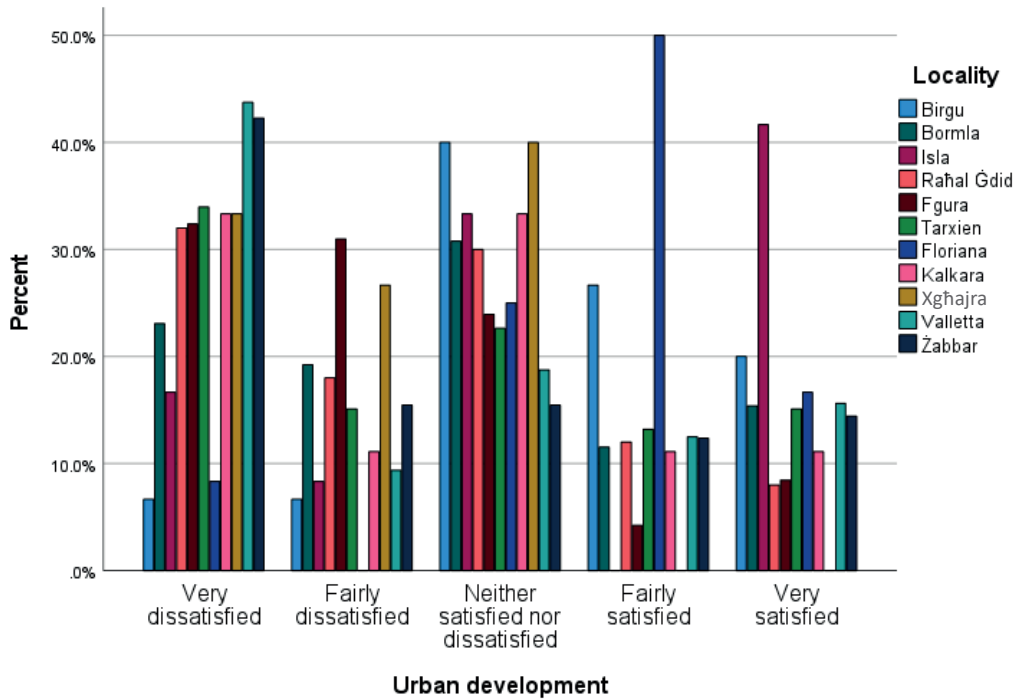
	Very dissatisfied		Fairly dissatisfied		Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied		Fairly satisfied		Very satisfied	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Birgu	1	6.7%	1	6.7%	6	40.0%	4	26.7%	3	20.0%
Bormla	6	23.1%	5	19.2%	8	30.8%	3	11.5%	4	15.4%
Isla	2	16.7%	1	8.3%	4	33.3%	0	0.0%	5	41.7%
Raħal Ġdid	16	32.0%	9	18.0%	15	30.0%	6	12.0%	4	8.0%
Fgura	23	32.4%	22	31.0%	17	23.9%	3	5.0%	6	8.5%
Tarxien	18	34.0%	8	15.0%	12	22.6%	7	13.2%	8	15.0%
Floriana	1	8.3%	0	0.0%	3	25.0%	6	50.0%	2	16.7%
Kalkara	6	33.3%	2	11.1%	6	33.3%	2	11.1%	2	11.1%
Xgħajra	5	33.3%	4	26.7%	6	40.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Valletta	14	43.8%	3	9.4%	6	18.8%	4	12.5%	5	15.6%
Żabbar	41	42.3%	15	15.5%	15	15.5%	12	12.4%	14	14.4%

$\chi^2 (40, N=401) = 70.683, p=0.002$

⁷ This was found to be relatively statistically significant because SPSS results showed that 29 cells (52.7%) had an expected count of less than 5.

Figure 5.16

Level of satisfaction of urban development by locality



The Pearson’s Chi-square test yielded no statistically significant association for **sport and leisure facilities and air and noise pollution** but found **cultural activities** to be statistically significant to age⁸ ($p=0.014$) (Table 5.16 and Figure 5.17.)

Table 5.16

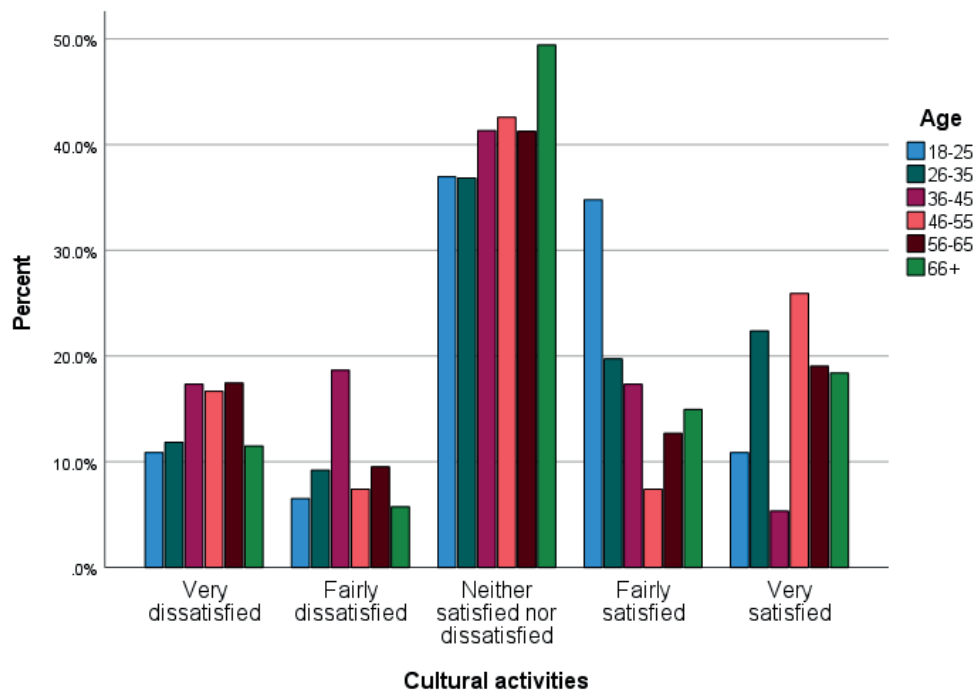
Level of satisfaction of cultural activities by age

	Very dissatisfied		Fairly dissatisfied		Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied		Fairly satisfied		Very satisfied	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
18-25	5	10.9%	3	6.5%	17	37.0%	16	34.8%	5	10.9%
26-35	9	11.8%	7	9.2%	28	36.8%	15	19.7%	17	22.4%
36-45	13	17.3%	14	18.7%	31	41.3%	13	17.3%	4	5.3%
46-55	9	16.7%	4	7.4%	23	42.6%	4	7.4%	14	25.9%
56-65	11	17.5%	6	9.5%	26	41.3%	8	12.7%	12	19.0%
66+	10	11.5%	5	5.7%	43	49.4%	13	14.9%	16	18.4%

$X^2 (20, N= 401) = 36.320, p=0.014$

Figure 5.17

⁸ SPSS results found that 1 cell (3.3%) has an expected count less than 5. Since this level was less than 40%, the p-value was considered to be valid and the relationship considered statistically significant.

Level of satisfaction of cultural activities by age

Both Table 5.16 and Figure 5.17 show that respondents between the ages of 36-45 were the most unsatisfied (36%) whilst those aged 18-25 were the most satisfied (45.7%) with cultural activities. Worth noting also that 49.4% ($n=43$) of people aged 66+, were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.

Testing found no statistically significant association for **public transport** but found a statistically significant relationship between **traffic and parking** and age⁹ with a *p-value* of 0.004. This means that the level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with traffic and parking varies depending on the age of the respondent. (Table 5.17 and Figure 5.18.).

Table 5.17 and Figure 5.18 below show that the 36-45 age bracket are the most dissatisfied with traffic and parking (76%), closely followed by the 46-55 age bracket (75.9%). The most satisfied with parking and traffic are the 18-25 age bracket (23.9%). Worth noting that only 8% of the 36-45 age bracket stated that they are either Fairly satisfied (5.3%) or Very satisfied (2.7%).

⁹ SPSS results found that 6 cells (20%) have expected count less than 5. Since this level was less than 40%, the *p-value* was considered to be valid and the relationship considered statistically significant.

Table 5.17

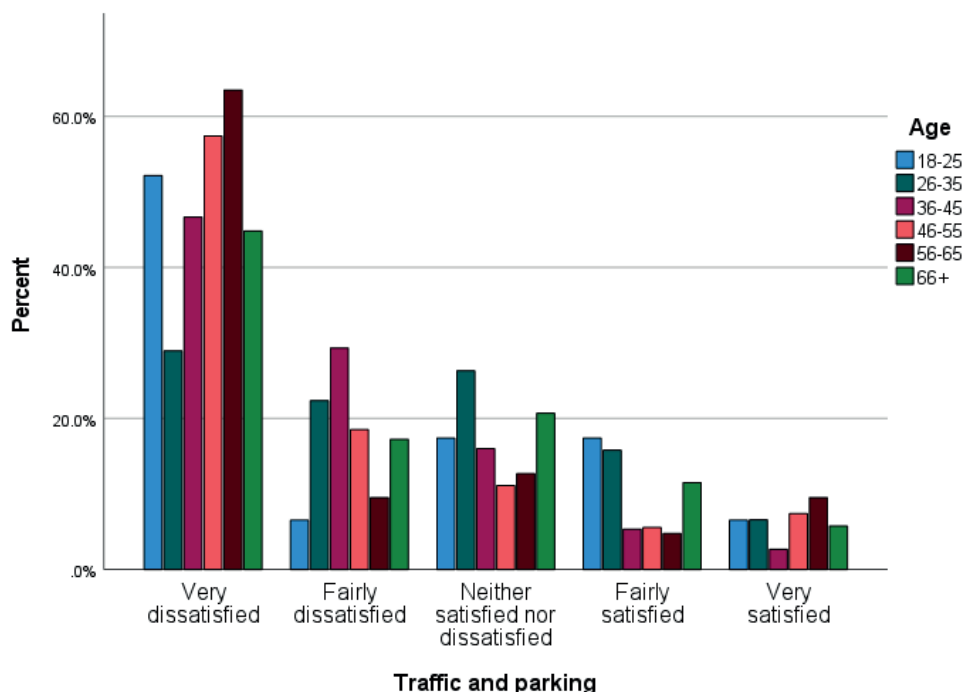
Level of satisfaction of traffic and parking by age

	Very dissatisfied		Fairly dissatisfied		Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied		Fairly satisfied		Very satisfied	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
18-25	24	52.2%	3	6.5%	8	17.4%	8	17.4%	3	6.5%
26-35	22	28.9%	17	22.4%	20	26.3%	12	15.8%	5	6.6%
36-45	35	46.7%	22	29.3%	12	16.0%	4	5.3%	2	2.7%
46-55	31	57.4%	10	18.5%	6	11.1%	3	5.6%	4	7.4%
56-65	40	63.5%	6	9.5%	8	12.7%	3	4.8%	6	9.5%
66+	39	44.8%	15	17.2%	18	20.7%	10	11.5%	5	5.7%

$\chi^2(20, N=401) = 40.641, p=0.004$

Figure 5.18

Level of satisfaction of traffic and parking by age

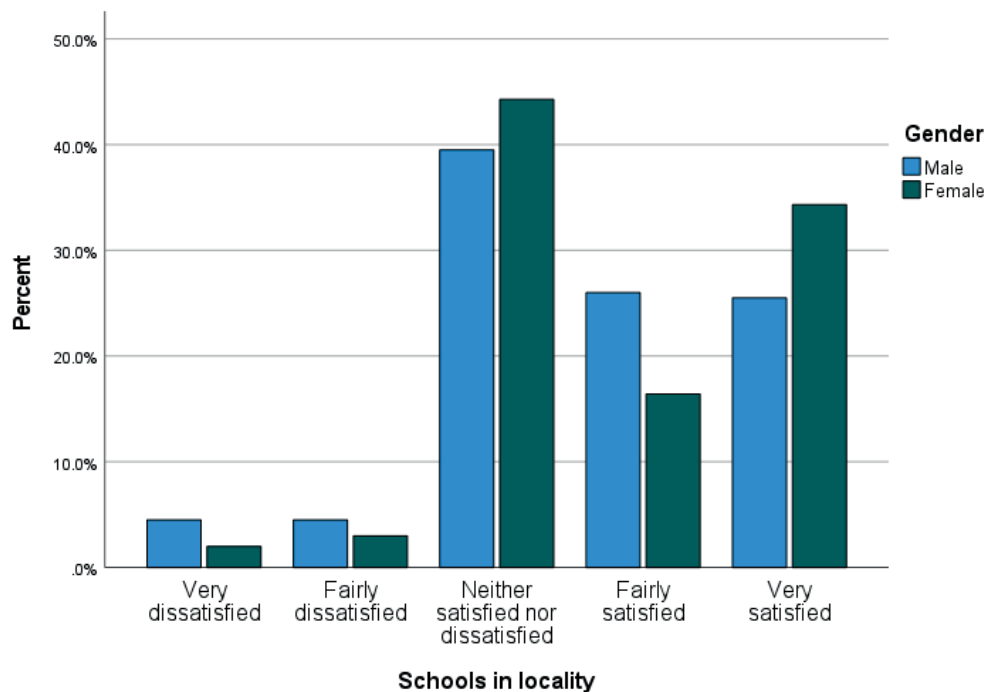


The Pearson’s Chi-square test also yielded a statistically significant association between the level of satisfaction of **schools in the locality** and gender (*p-value* = 0.039).

Table 5.18 and Figure 5.19 illustrate that 10% of males tended to be dissatisfied with schools in their locality while only 5% of females were dissatisfied.

Table 5.18*Level of satisfaction of schools in the locality by gender*

	Very dissatisfied		Fairly dissatisfied		Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied		Fairly satisfied		Very satisfied	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male	9	4.5%	9	4.5%	79	39.5%	52	26.0%	51	25.5%
Female	4	2.0%	6	3.0%	89	44.3%	33	16.4%	69	34.3%

Figure 5.19*Level of satisfaction of schools in the locality by gender*

Testing revealed no statistically significant association for **accessibility** but found a statistically significant association between **level of safety** and age (p -value = 0.004)¹⁰.

Table 5.19 and Figure 5.20 show that respondents in the 56-65 age bracket (33.3%) were the most dissatisfied with the level of safety, closely followed by those in the 36-45 age bracket

¹⁰ SPSS results found that 1 cell (3.3%) has an expected count less than 5. Since this level was less than 40%, the p -value was considered to be valid and the relationship considered statistically significant

(32%). On the other hand, those in the 26-35 age bracket were the most satisfied with the level of safety in their locality (57.9%)

Table 5.19

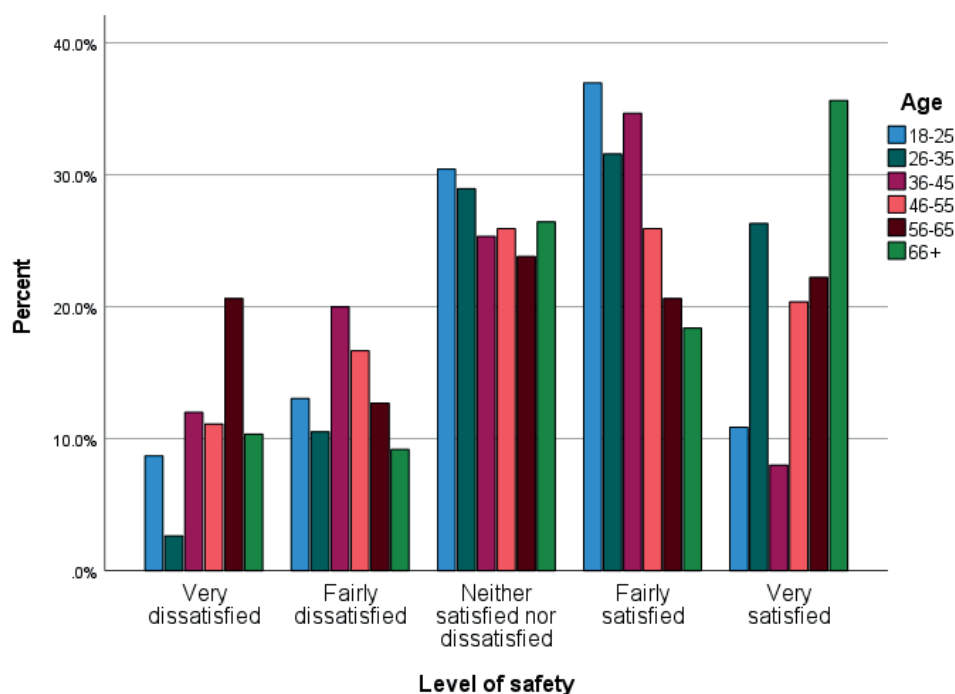
Level of satisfaction of level of safety by age

	Very dissatisfied		Fairly dissatisfied		Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied		Fairly satisfied		Very satisfied	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
18-25	4	8.7%	6	13.0%	14	30.4%	17	37.0%	5	10.9%
26-35	2	2.6%	8	2	22	28.9%	24	31.6%	20	26.3%
36-45	9	12.0%	15	20.0%	19	25.3%	26	34.7%	6	8.0%
46-55	6	11.1%	9	16.7%	14	25.9%	14	25.9%	11	20.4%
56-65	13	20.6%	8	12.7%	15	23.8%	13	20.6%	14	22.2%
66+	9	10.3%	8	9.2%	23	26.4%	16	18.4%	31	35.6%

$\chi^2 (20, N=401) = 40.543, p = 0.004$

Figure 5.20

Level of satisfaction of level of safety by age



The Pearson's Chi-square test also revealed a relatively¹¹ statistically significant association between **religious activities** and age ($p\text{-value} = 0.018$).

Table 5.20

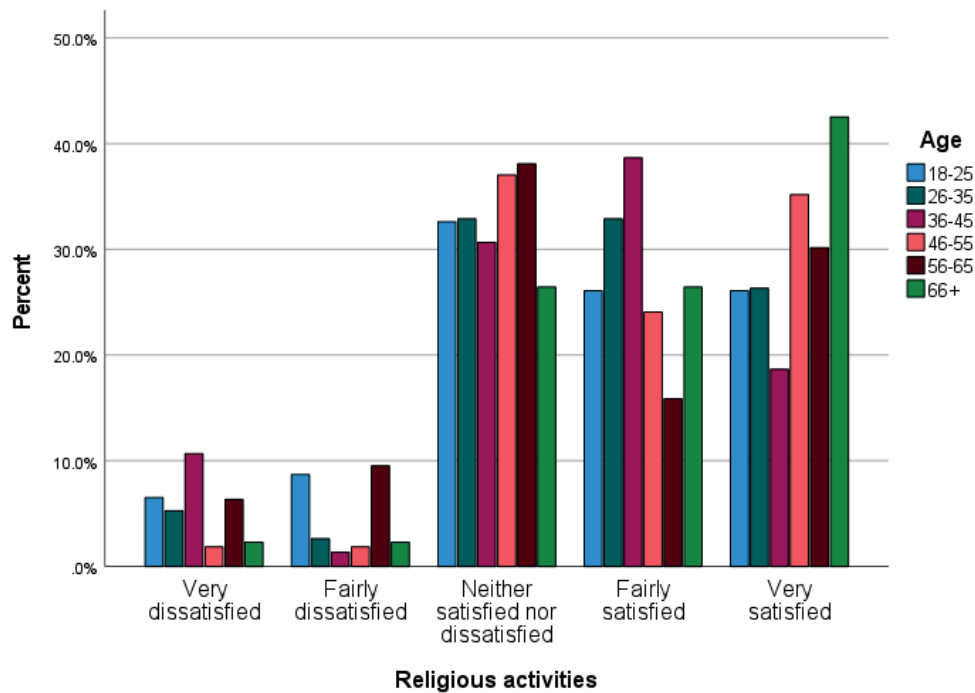
Level of satisfaction of religious activities by age

	Very dissatisfied		Fairly dissatisfied		Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied		Fairly satisfied		Very satisfied	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
18-25	3	6.5%	4	8.7%	15	32.6%	12	26.1%	12	26.1%
26-35	4	5.3%	2	2.6%	25	32.9%	25	32.9%	20	26.3%
36-45	8	10.7%	1	1.3%	23	30.7%	29	38.7%	14	18.7%
46-55	1	1.9%	1	1.9%	20	37.0%	13	24.1%	19	35.2%
56-65	4	6.3%	6	9.5%	24	38.1%	10	15.9%	19	30.2%
66+	2	2.3%	2	2.3%	23	26.4%	23	26.4%	37	42.5%

$\chi^2 (20, N=401) = 35.319, p=0.018$

Figure 5.21

Level of satisfaction of religious activities by age



¹¹ This was found to be relatively statistically significant because SPSS results showed that 12 cells (40%) had an expected count of less than 5.

Table 5.20 and Figure 5.21 show that people aged between 56-65 were the most dissatisfied (15.8%) with religious activities in their locality, closely followed by those in the 18-25 age bracket (15.2%). On the other hand, people in the 66+ age bracket tended to be the most satisfied (68.9%).

Question 11 asked respondents to rank their perception of integration in their locality of a variety of groups (e.g. people with disability or of different sexual orientation etc.). Moreover, this question asked respondents to rank their perceived level of sense of community and the level of civic participation. Replies were based on a Likert scale that ranged from Very High (5), High, Neither High or Low, Low through to Very Low (1).

Table 5.21

Level of integration of different groups

Integration of:	Very low		Low		Neither high nor low		High		Very high	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
People with disability	36	9.0%	45	11.2%	173	43.1%	64	16.0%	83	20.7%
People with different religious beliefs	35	8.7%	42	10.5%	160	39.9%	77	19.2%	87	21.7%
People with different sexual orientation	15	3.7%	29	7.2%	191	47.6%	81	20.2%	85	21.2%
People with different cultures	35	8.7%	42	10.5%	160	39.9%	77	19.2%	87	21.7%
Elderly	8	2.0%	15	3.7%	97	25.0%	118	29.4%	163	40.6%

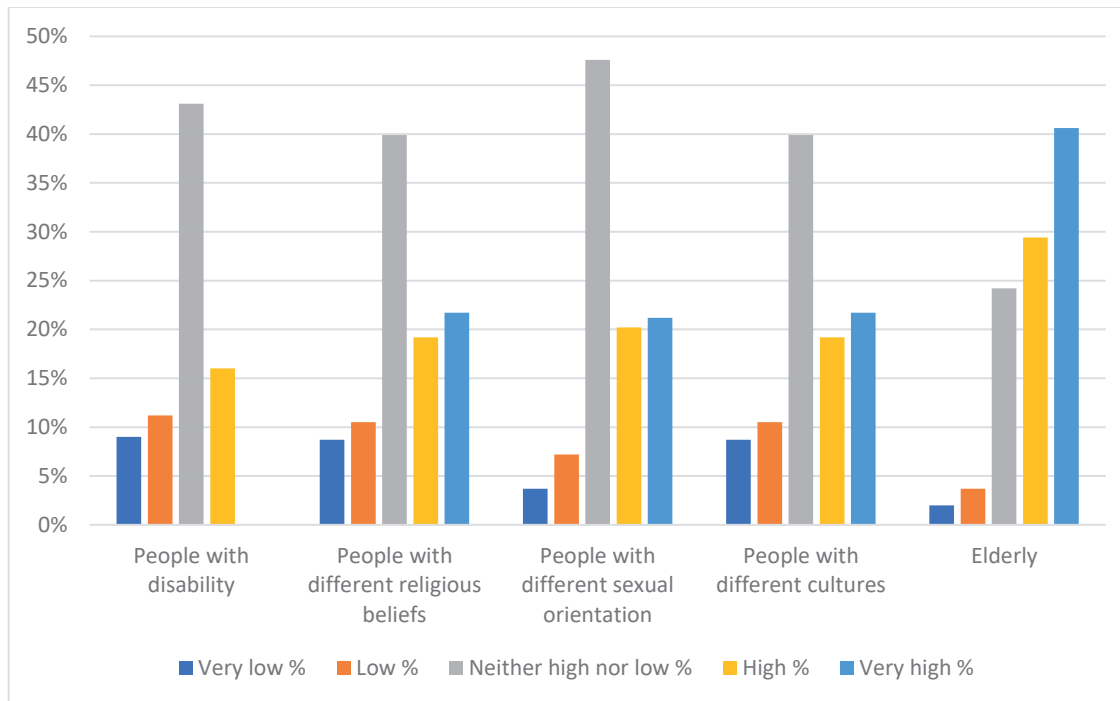
Figure 5.22*Level of integration of different groups*

Table 5.21 and Figure 5.23 illustrate the perception of respondents regarding the level of integration of a variety of groups in their locality. The majority of respondents (70%, $n=281$) view the level of integration of the elderly as being high or very high, followed by that of people with different sexual orientation (41.4%, $n=166$). People with a disability were perceived to be the least integrated whereby only 36.7% ($n=147$) considered their integration to be high, 43.1% ($n=173$) considered it to be neither low or high and 20.2% ($n=81$) considered it to be low or very low.

The Pearson Chi-square test indicated that there is no statistically significant association between the perceived level of integration of the said different groups with age, gender and locality, except for a statistically significant relationship between level of integration of **people with different sexual orientation** ($p\text{-value} = <0.001$) and **people with different religious beliefs** ($p\text{-value} = 0.045$) and age.¹²

¹² SPSS results for people with different sexual orientation found that 9 cells (30%) had an expected count less than 5 while 4 cells (13.3%) had an expected count less than 5 for people with different religious beliefs. Since these levels were less than 40%, the p -values were considered to be valid and the relationships considered statistically significant

Table 5.22 and Figure 5.23 show that 52.6% ($n=40$) of respondents pertaining to the 26-35 years cohort, felt that people with different religious beliefs were highly or very highly integrated. On the other hand, 27%, ($n=17$) of 56-65 year-old group felt that such a group's integration was low or very low. Of interest, 50% ($n=23$) of 18-25 year-old group felt that people with different religious beliefs in their locality were neither integrated nor not integrated.

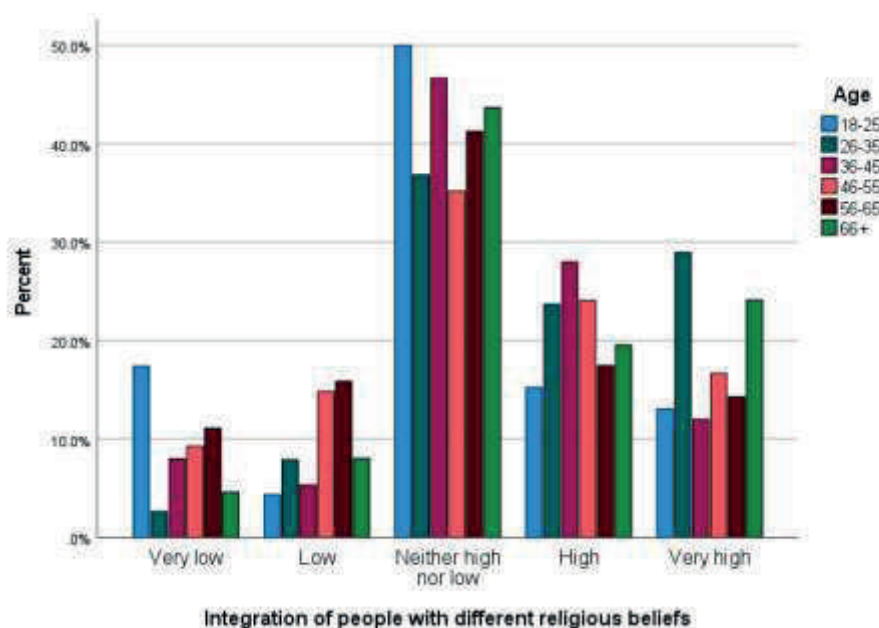
Table 5.22

Perceived level of integration of people with different religious beliefs by age

	Very low		Low		Neither high nor low		High		Very high	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
18-25	8	17.4%	2	4.3%	23	50.0%	7	15.2%	6	13.0%
26-35	2	2.6%	6	7.9%	28	36.8%	18	23.7%	22	28.9%
36-45	6	8.0%	4	5.3%	35	46.7%	21	28.0%	9	12.0%
46-55	5	9.3%	8	14.8%	19	35.2%	13	24.1%	9	16.7%
56-65	7	11.1%	10	15.9%	26	41.3%	11	17.5%	9	14.3%
66+	4	4.6%	7	8.0%	38	43.7%	17	19.5%	21	24.1%

Figure 5.23

Perceived level of integration of people with different religious beliefs by age



As illustrated in Table 5.23 and Figure 5.24 below, 63.2% (n=48) respondents in the 26-35 age bracket perceive the level of integration of people with different sexual orientation as being high or very high. On the other hand, 16% (n=14) of those in the 66+ age bracket perceive it to be low or very low, closely followed by those in the 18-25 age bracket (15.2%, n=7). Worth noting that more than 50% of those aged between 18-25 (58.7%, n=27), 66+ (58.6%, n=51) and 56-65 (52.4%, n=33) perceive the level of integration of people with different sexual orientation in their locality to be neither high nor low.

Table 5.23

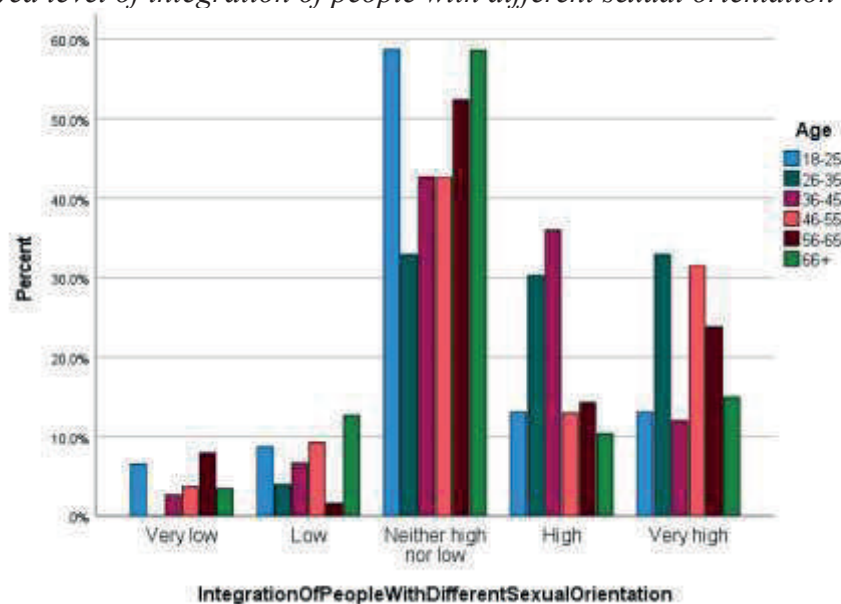
Perceived level of integration of people with different sexual orientation by age

	Very low		Low		Neither high nor low		High		Very high	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
18-25	3	6.5%	4	8.7%	27	58.7%	6	13.0%	6	13.0%
26-35	0	0.0%	3	3.9%	25	32.9%	23	30.3%	25	32.9%
36-45	2	2.7%	5	6.7%	32	42.7%	27	36.0%	9	12.0%
46-55	2	3.7%	5	9.3%	23	42.6%	7	13.0%	17	31.5%
56-65	5	7.9%	1	1.6%	33	52.4%	9	14.3%	15	23.8%
66+	3	3.4%	11	12.6%	51	58.6%	9	10.3%	13	14.9%

$\chi^2 (20, N=401) = 57.511, p = <0.001$

Figure 5.24

Perceived level of integration of people with different sexual orientation by age



A sense of community was perceived to be highly prevalent by most respondents (54.4%, $n=281$) (Table 5.24 and Figure 5.25) while 32.5% ($n=130$) considered participation by residents in civic life to be high (Table 5.24 and Figure 5.26). Of interest, more than 50% of respondents (52.1%, $n=209$) perceived participation in civic life to be neither high nor low.

Further testing revealed no statistically significant association between sense of community and participation in civic life and age, gender or locality.

Table 5.24

Sense of community and participation in civic life

	Very low		Low		Neither high nor low		High		Very high	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sense of community	29	7.2%	31	7.7%	123	30.7%	93	23.2%	125	31.2%
Participation in civic life	25	6.2%	37	9.2%	209	52.1%	62	15.5%	68	17.0%

Figure 5.25

Perception of sense of community

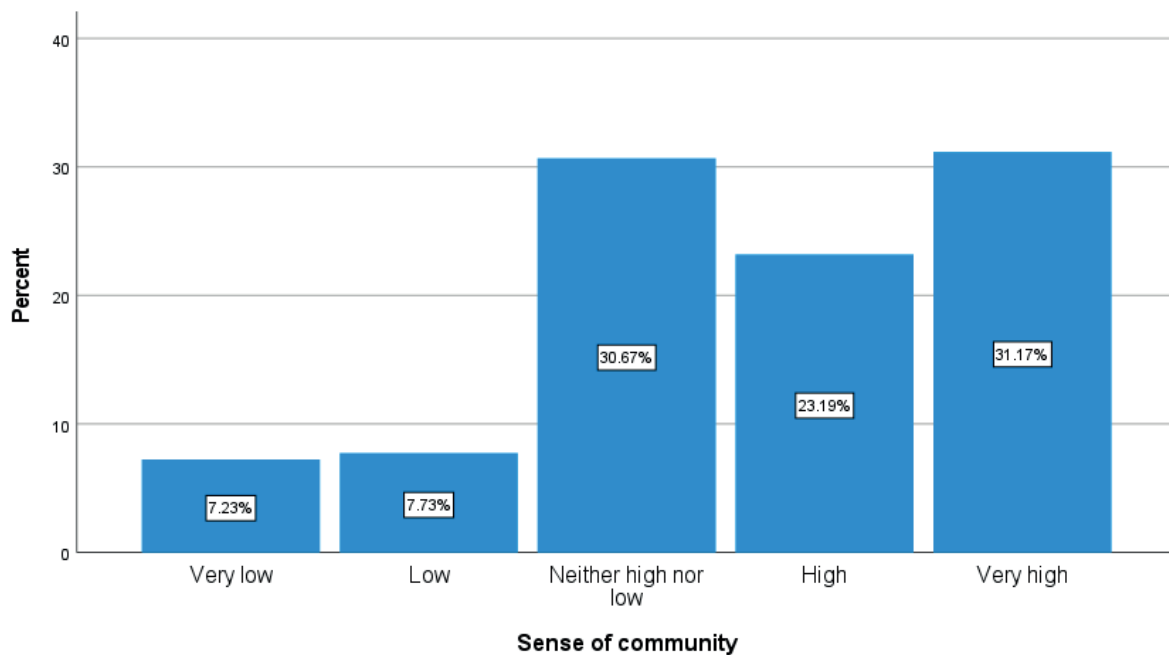
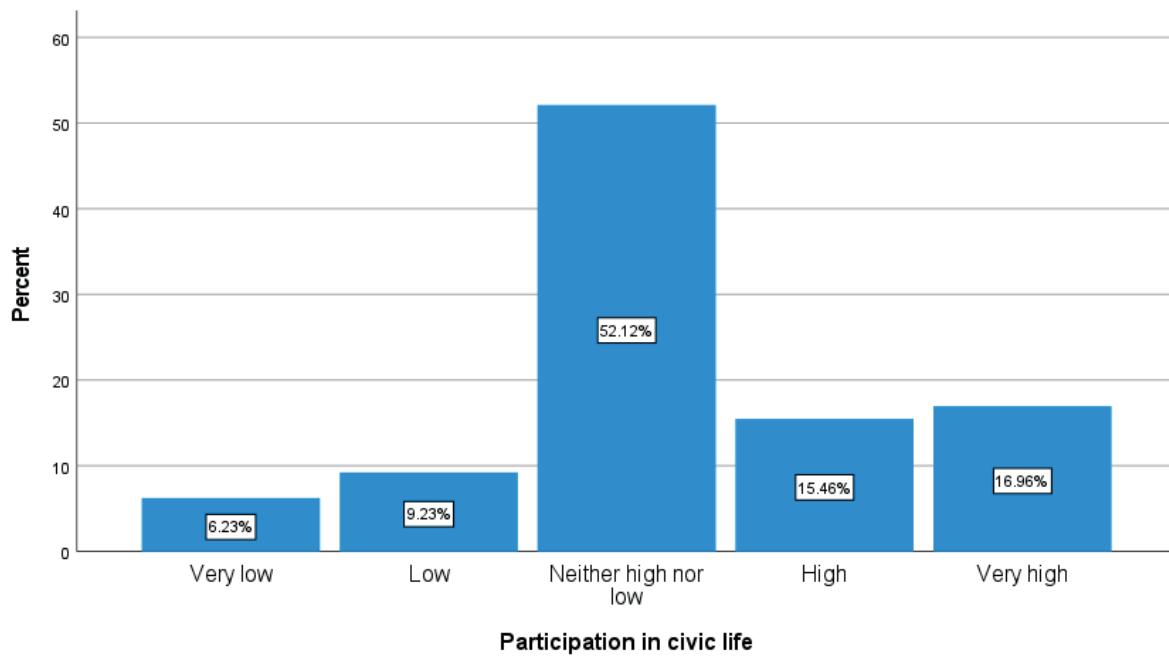
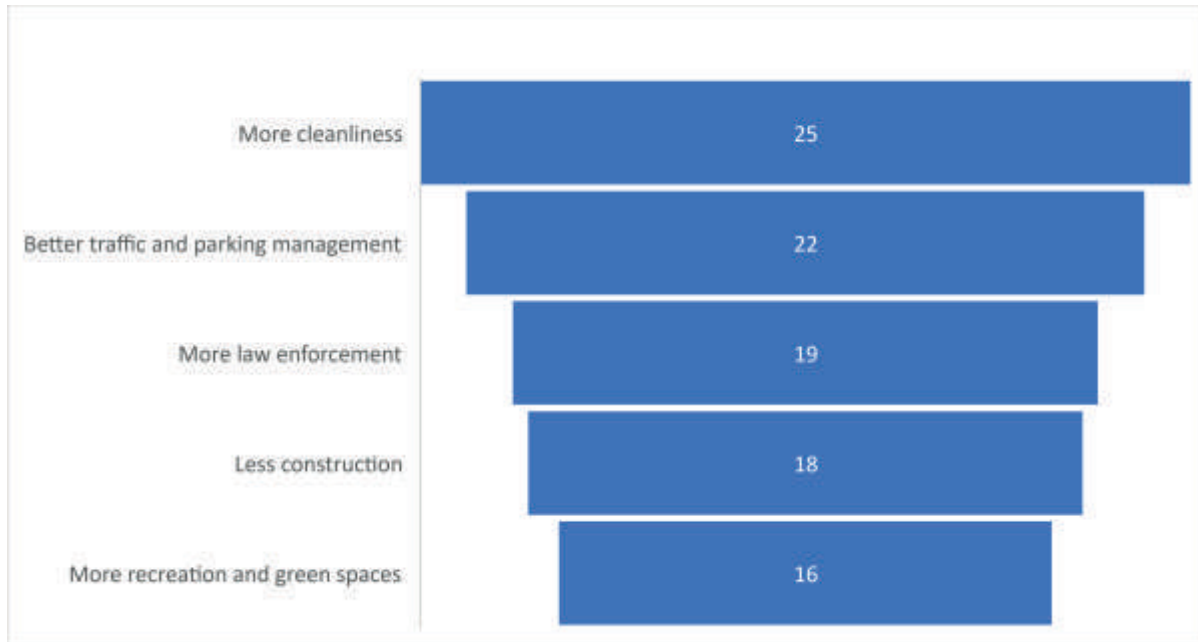


Figure 5.26*Perception of participation of residents in civic life*

Subsequently, an open-ended question asked respondents whether they would like to add anything else with regards to the quality of life in their locality. 74.6% ($n=299$) opted not to reply to this question or stated that they had nothing else to add. The remaining 25.4% ($n=102$) gave diverse views as regards to how the quality of life in their locality could be improved. The top five mentions were the need of a cleaner locality, better parking and traffic management, more law enforcement, more recreation and green spaces and less construction. (Figure 5.27)

Figure 5.27

Top mentions for a better quality of life



Local Council

Questions 13 to 18 delved into the respondents’ knowledge, awareness, satisfaction and expectations with regards to their local councils. The first question (Q13) asked respondents to rank their level of satisfaction with their local council using a 5- Likert Scale ranging from Very Satisfied (5) through to Very Dissatisfied (1).

Table 5.26

Respondents’ level of satisfaction with their local council

	Frequency	Percent (%)
Very dissatisfied	89	22.2%
Fairly dissatisfied	49	12.2%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	109	27.2%
Fairly satisfied	69	17.2%
Very satisfied	85	21.2%
Total	401	100

Figure 5.28

Respondents' level of satisfaction with their local council

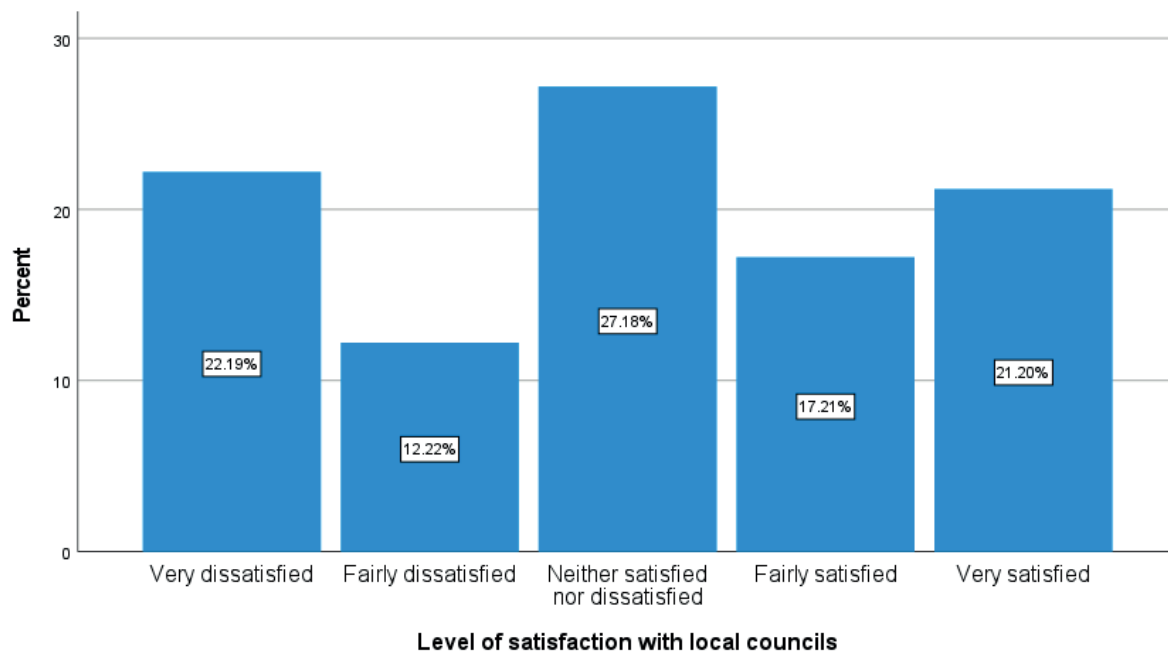


Table 5.26 and Figure 5.28 show that 38.4% ($n=154$) are Satisfied with their local council while 34.4% ($n=138$) are Dissatisfied. More than a quarter of respondents 27.2% ($n=109$) were Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied.

The Pearson Chi-square test returned a p -value above the 0.05 level of significance for gender ($p = 0.448$), locality ($p = 0.153$) and level of education ($p=0.415$), meaning that level of satisfaction with local councils is not statistically significantly associated with either gender, locality or level of education. However, a statistically significant association was found with age (p -value = <0.001) as testing returned a p -value below the 0.05 level of significance.

Table 5.27

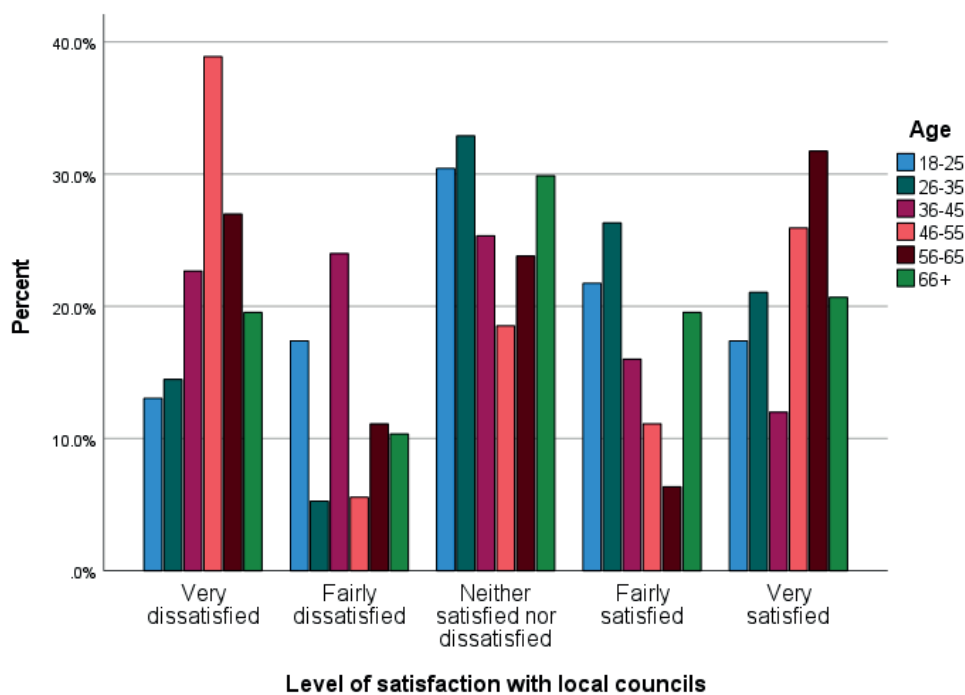
Level of satisfaction of local council by age

	Very dissatisfied		Fairly dissatisfied		Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied		Fairly satisfied		Very satisfied	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
18-25	6	13.0%	8	17.4%	14	30.4%	10	21.7%	8	17.4%
26-35	11	14.5%	4	5.3%	25	32.9%	20	26.3%	16	21.1%
36-45	17	22.7%	18	24.0%	19	25.3%	12	16.0%	9	12.0%
46-55	21	38.9%	3	5.6%	10	18.5%	6	11.1%	14	25.9%
56-65	17	27.0%	7	11.1%	15	23.8%	4	6.3%	20	31.7%
66+	17	19.5%	9	10.3%	26	29.9%	17	19.5%	18	20.7%

$\chi^2 (20, N=401) = 46.708, p < 0.001$

Figure 5.29

Level of satisfaction of local council by age



As indicated in Table 5.27 and Figure 5.29 respondents aged between 36-45 were the most dissatisfied with their local council (46.7%, n=35), closely followed by respondents in the 46-55 age bracket (44.5%, n=24). On the other hand, respondents aged between 26-35 tended to be the most satisfied with their local council (47.4%, n=36).

Question 14 asked respondents to rate the extent to which they perceive that their local council acts on the concerns of residents and the extent to which it involves the community. A 5-Likert Scale ranging from Not at all, Little, Somewhat, A Fair Amount through to A Great Deal was used.

Table 5.28

Perception on responsiveness of local council to the needs of residents and community involvement

	Not at all		Little		Somewhat		A fair amount		A great deal	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Acts on concerns of residents	91	22.7%	48	12.0%	116	28.9%	63	15.7%	83	20.7%
Involves the community	81	20.2%	50	12.5%	122	30.4%	61	15.2%	87	21.7%

Figure 5.30

Perception on responsiveness of local council to the needs of residents and community involvement

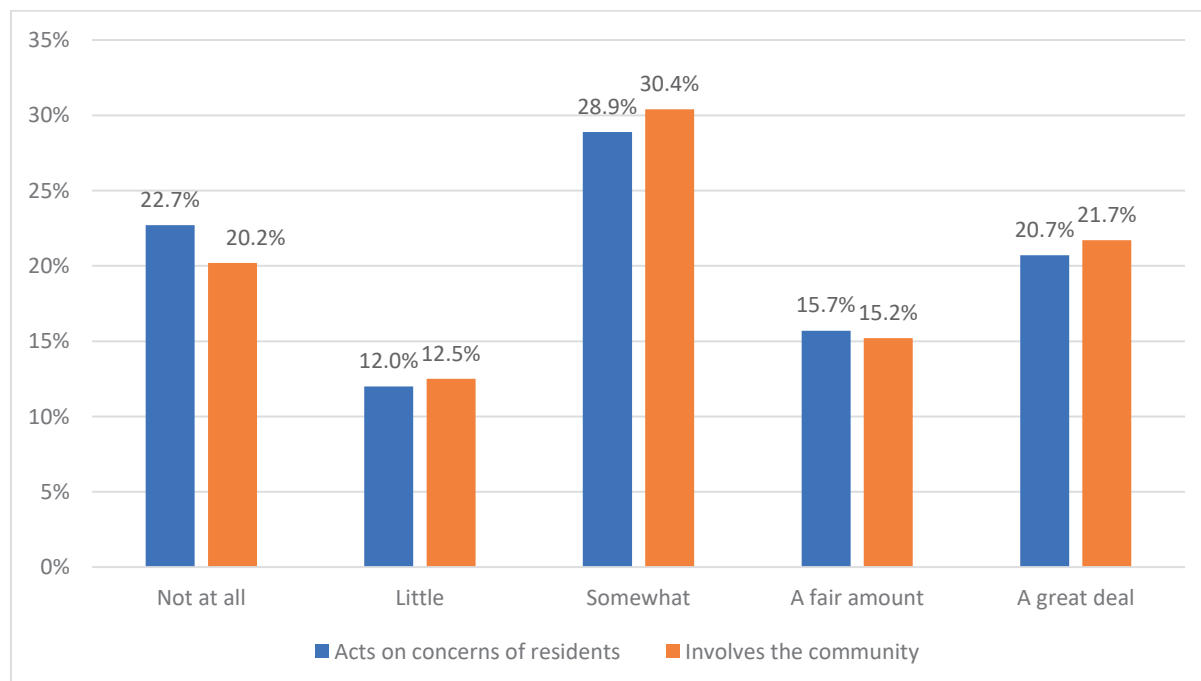


Table 5.28 and Figure 5.30 show that slightly more than one-fifth of respondents consider their local council to greatly involve the community (20.7%, $n= 83$) and act on the concerns of residents (21.7%, $n= 87$). On the other hand, 22.7% ($n=91$) and 20.2% ($n=81$) view the local council as not involving at all the residents and not acting at all on their concerns. More than one-fourth of respondents view the local council as somewhat involving the community (28.9%, $n=116$) and somewhat acting on the concerns of residents (30.4%, $n=122$).

A Pearson Chi-square test run to identify any potential statistically significant relationships of these two factors (‘Acting on concerns of residents’ and ‘Involves the community’) with age, gender and locality did not yield any statistically significant for age, gender and locality as the p-values were all above the 0.05 level of significance. However, testing revealed a statistically significant association with age for both ‘Acting on concerns of residents’ and ‘Involves the community’.

Table 5.29

Perception of responsiveness of local council to the needs of residents by age

	Not at all		Little		Somewhat		A fair amount		A great deal	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
18-25	6	13.0%	9	19.6%	19	41.3%	4	8.7%	8	17.4%
26-35	13	17.1%	6	7.9%	24	31.6%	18	23.7%	15	19.7%
36-45	19	25.3%	17	22.7%	16	21.3%	12	16.0%	11	14.7%
46-55	19	35.2%	2	3.7%	16	29.6%	2	3.7%	15	27.8%
56-65	16	25.4%	7	11.1%	11	17.5%	11	17.5%	18	28.6%
66+	18	20.7%	7	8.0%	30	34.5%	16	18.4%	16	18.4%

$\chi^2 (20, N=401) = 44.841, p=0.001$

Figure 5.31

Perception of responsiveness of local council to the needs of residents by age

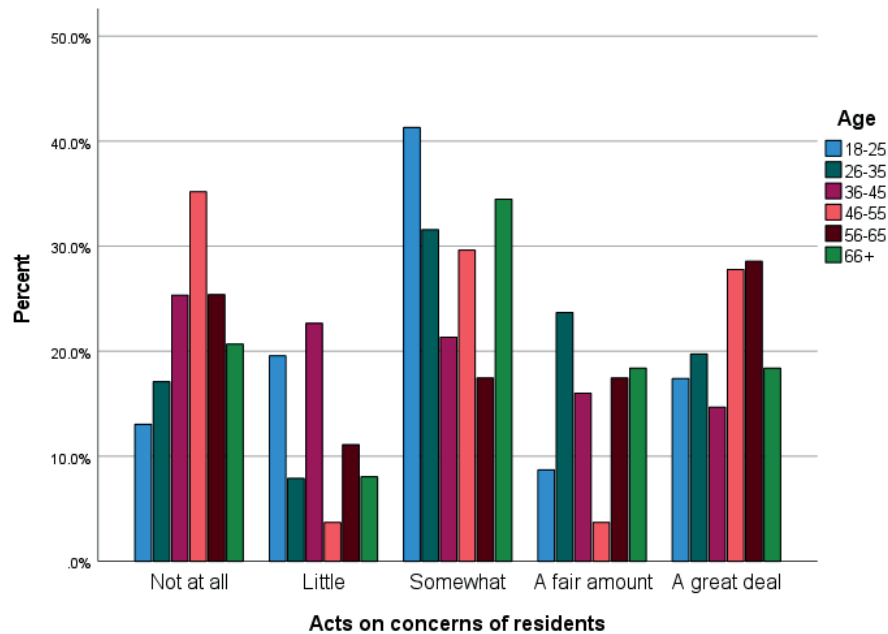


Table 5.29 and Figure 5.31 above illustrate that 35.2% (n=19) of respondents in the 46-55 age bracket perceive the local council as not acting on the concerns of residents, while respondents in the 18-25 age bracket perceive the local council as somewhat acting on their concerns.

Table 5.30

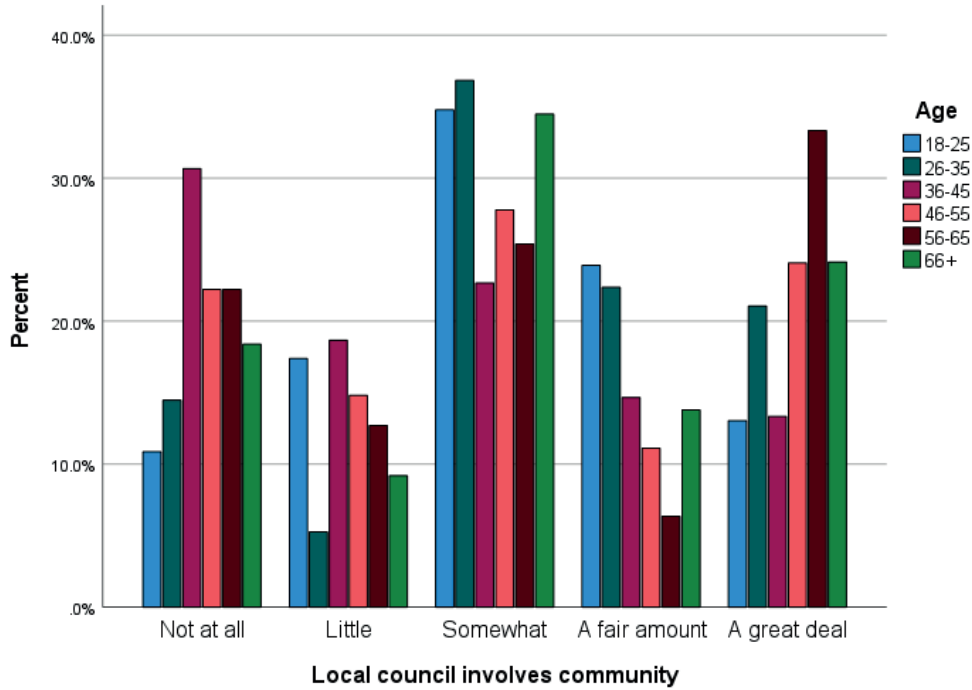
Perception of community involvement by local council to age

	Not at all		Little		Somewhat		A fair amount		A great deal	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
18-25	5	10.9%	8	17.4%	16	34.8%	11	23.9%	6	13.0%
26-35	11	14.5%	4	5.3%	28	36.8%	17	22.4%	16	21.1%
36-45	23	30.7%	14	18.7%	17	22.7%	11	14.7%	10	13.3%
46-55	12	22.2%	8	14.8%	15	27.8%	6	11.1%	13	24.1%
56-65	14	22.2%	8	12.7%	16	25.4%	4	6.3%	21	33.3%
66+	16	18.4%	8	9.2%	30	34.5%	12	13.8%	21	24.1%

$\chi^2 (20, N=201) = 36.098, p=0.015$

Figure 5.32

Perception of community involvement by local council to age

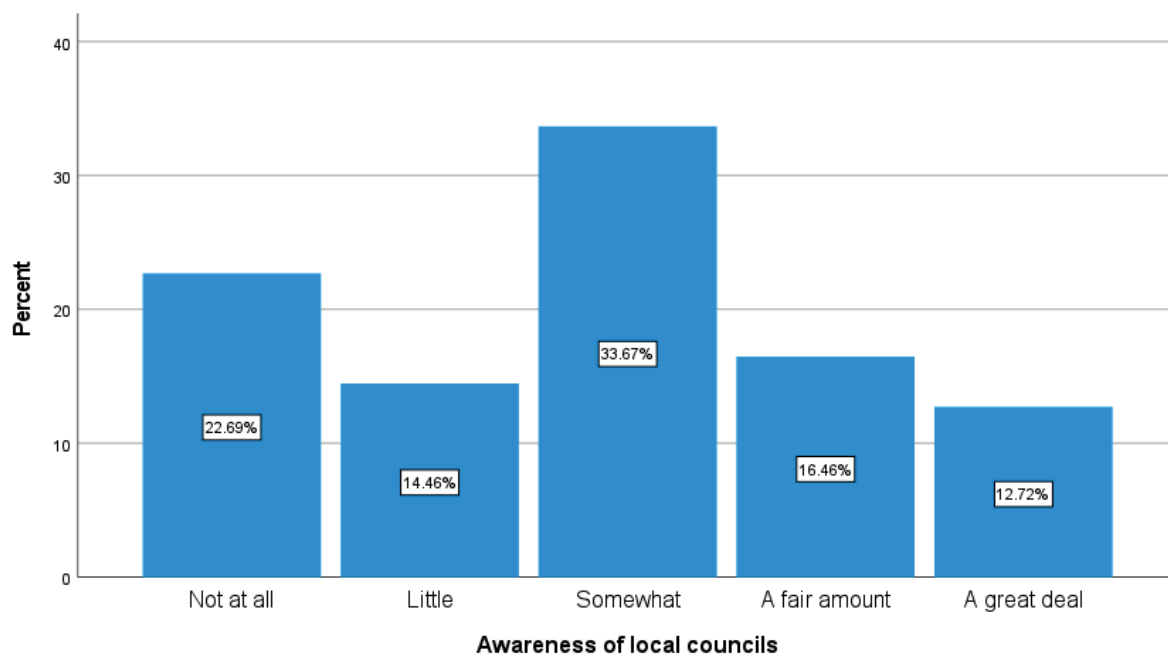


As shown in Table 5.30 and Figure 5.32 above, more than one-fourth of respondents aged between 36-45 (30.7%, n=23) perceive their local council as not at all involving the community, while 33.3% (n=21) perceive their local council as involving the community a great deal.

Question 15 gauged the level of awareness of residents on the role of local councillors in their locality. This was gauged through the same 5 level Likert scale utilised in the previous question. 22.7% (n=91) were not at all aware of their local councillors’ role, 14.5% (n=58) replied as being slightly aware, 16.5% (n=66) were fairly aware while 12.7% (n=51) were greatly aware. A substantial percentage 33.7% (n=135) replied that they were somewhat aware. (Table 5.31 and Figure 5.33.)

Table 5.31*Respondents' awareness of local councillors' role*

	Frequency	Percent (%)
Not at all	91	22.7
Little	58	14.5
Somewhat	135	33.7
A fair amount	66	16.5
A great deal	51	12.7
Total	401	100

Figure 5.33*Respondents' awareness of local councillors' role*

The Pearson's Chi-square test yielded no significantly statistical association between respondents' awareness of local councillors' role and age (p -value = 0.339), gender (p -value = 0.266), locality (p -value = 0.803) and length of residence (p -value = 0.430) as the p -values were all above the 0.05 level of significance.

Question 16 presented respondents with 12 different public services, 5 of which do not fall under the remit of local councils (waste management, road infrastructure, traffic enforcement, building permits and project administration), whilst the remaining 7 (education matters such as cultural events, parking permits, street cleaning, upkeep and maintenance of parks and gardens, social integration, welfare of children, youth and elderly, and protection of animals) fall within the local councils’ remit. This question asked respondents to identify the services which they believed fell within the remit of local councils.

Table 5.32 outlines the public services which do not fall under the remit of the local council. The table clearly demonstrates that many respondents are unaware that these services are provided by other entities and not by local councils. A relatively high percentage incorrectly believed that waste management (81.5%, $n = 327$), road infrastructure (49.9%, $n = 200$) and projects administration (56.9%, $n = 228$) were responsibilities of local councils. Such results clearly indicate that many individuals believe that the remits of local councils are much wider than they actually are, possibly skewing unrealistically the expectations of residents in terms of local councils.

Table 5.32

Awareness of local councils’ role – public services falling outside the LCs’ remit

	Waste Management		Road Infrastructure		Traffic enforcement		Building Permits		Projects Administration	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Don't know	20	5%	33	8.2%	50	12.5%	56	14%	81	20.2%
Correct (No)	54	13.5%	168	41.9%	219	54.6%	247	61.6%	92	22.9%
Incorrect (Yes)	327	81.5%	200	49.9%	132	32.9%	98	24.4%	228	56.9%

On the other hand, Table 5.24 outlines the public services which fall within the remit of local councils. It seems that a high percentage of respondents are aware that street cleaning (86.8%), upkeep and maintenance of parks and gardens (76.8%) and parking permits (80.3%) fall under local councils’ remit. Slightly more than half of respondents were also aware that the welfare of children, youth and the elderly (56.4%) while slightly less than half were aware that education matters such as cultural events (48.4%) were responsibilities of local councils.

However, a substantial number of respondents (42.9%) were seemed to be unaware that animal protection also fall under the local councils' remit. Moreover, when asked to mention any other local council remits, 95.35% ($n = 390$) stated that they did not know of any other remits.

Table 5.33

Awareness of local councils' role – public service falling within LCs' remit

	Education matters		Parking permits		Street cleaning		Upkeep & maintenance of parks & gardens		Integration		Welfare of children, youth & elderly		Protection of animals	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Don't know	73	18.2%	38	9.5%	27	6.7%	46	11.5%	79	19.7%	95	23.7%	75	18.7%
Incorrect (No)	134	33.4%	41	10.2%	26	6.5%	47	11.7%	99	24.7%	80	20%	172	42.9%
Correct (Yes)	194	48.4%	322	80.3%	348	86.8%	308	76.8%	223	55.6%	226	56.4%	154	38.4%

Subsequently, Question 17 asked respondents to state whether their local council had met their expectations. Table and Figure 5.34 illustrate that nearly 50% of respondents (49.6%, $n=199$) stated that their expectations had been met while 43.9% ($n=176$) stated that it had not been met. Only 6.5% of respondents were neutral.

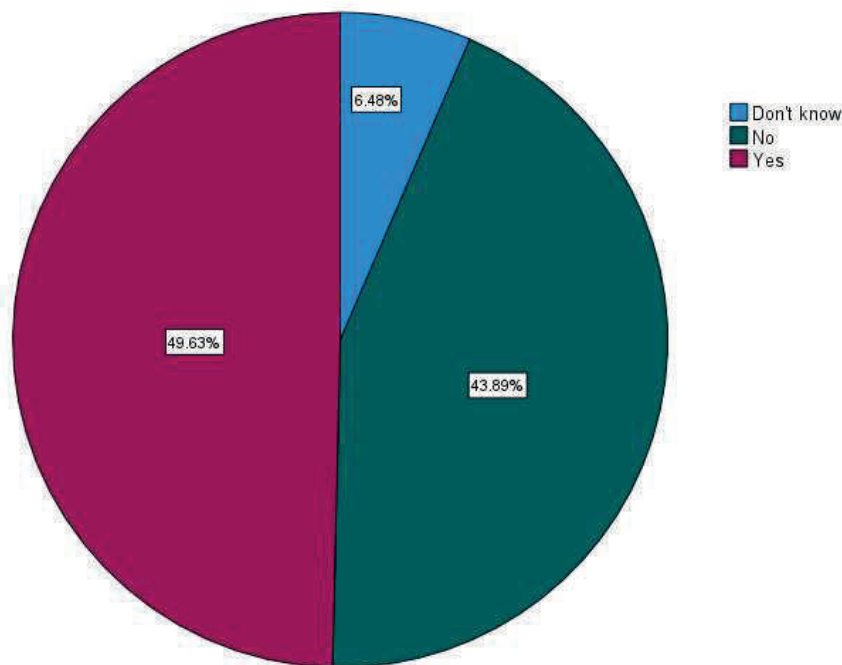
Table 5.34

Local council meets respondents' expectations

	Frequency	Percent (%)
Don't know	26	6.5
No	176	43.9
Yes	199	49.6
Total	401	100

Figure 5.34

Local council meets respondents' expectations



Testing yielded a relatively statistical association¹³ between respondents' expectations from local councils and age as the Chi square test returned a p-value well below the 0.05 level of significance (*p-value* = 0.002). Table and Figure 5.35 indicate that people aged 18-25 (63%) and those aged 26-35 (63.2%) feel that their expectations from the local council have been met, as opposed to those aged 36-45 (34.7%).

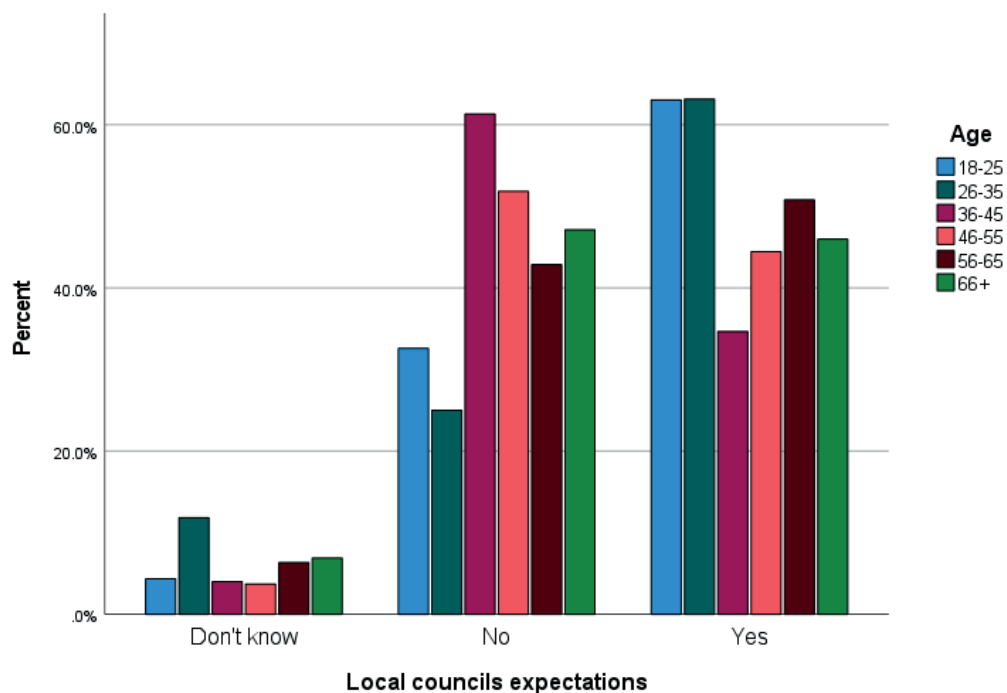
Table 5.35

Respondents' expectations from local councils by age

	Don't know		No		Yes	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
18-25	2	4.3%	15	32.6%	29	63.0%
26-35	9	11.8%	19	25.0%	48	63.2%
36-45	3	4.0%	46	61.3%	26	34.7%
46-55	2	3.7%	28	51.9%	24	44.4%
56-65	4	6.3%	27	42.9%	32	50.8%
66+	6	6.9%	41	47.1%	40	46.0%

$\chi^2 (10, N=401) = 27.184, p=0.002$

¹³ SPSS results found that 5 cells (27.8%) had expected count less than 5. Since this level was less than 40%, the p-value was considered to be valid and the relationship considered statistically significant.

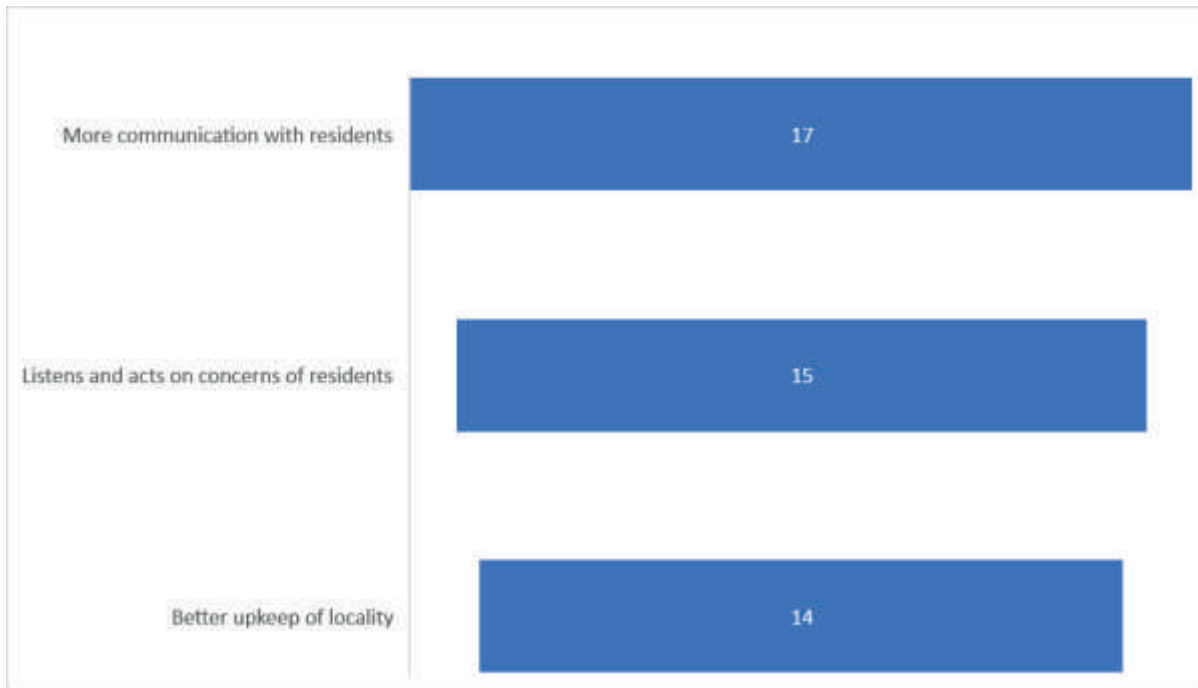
Figure 5.35*Respondents' expectations from local councils by age*

The Pearson's Chi-square test found no statistically significant association with gender (p -value = 0.435) and locality (p -value = 0.183).

Those respondents who replied that their expectations were not met by local councils were asked what could the local council do to meet such expectations. The top mentions were that of more communication with residents, listening and acting on the concerns of residents and better upkeep of the locality (Figure 5.36).

Figure 5.36

How can the local council meet residents' expectations?



Subsequently, Question 18 asked respondents whether they would like to add anything else with regards to their Local Council. 57.4% ($n=230$) of respondents had nothing else to add. Of interest, just as was stated in the previous question, 19.2% ($n=77$) stated that their local council needs to listen and act on the concerns of its residents, followed by 14.9% ($n=60$) stating that there needs to be a better upkeep of the locality.

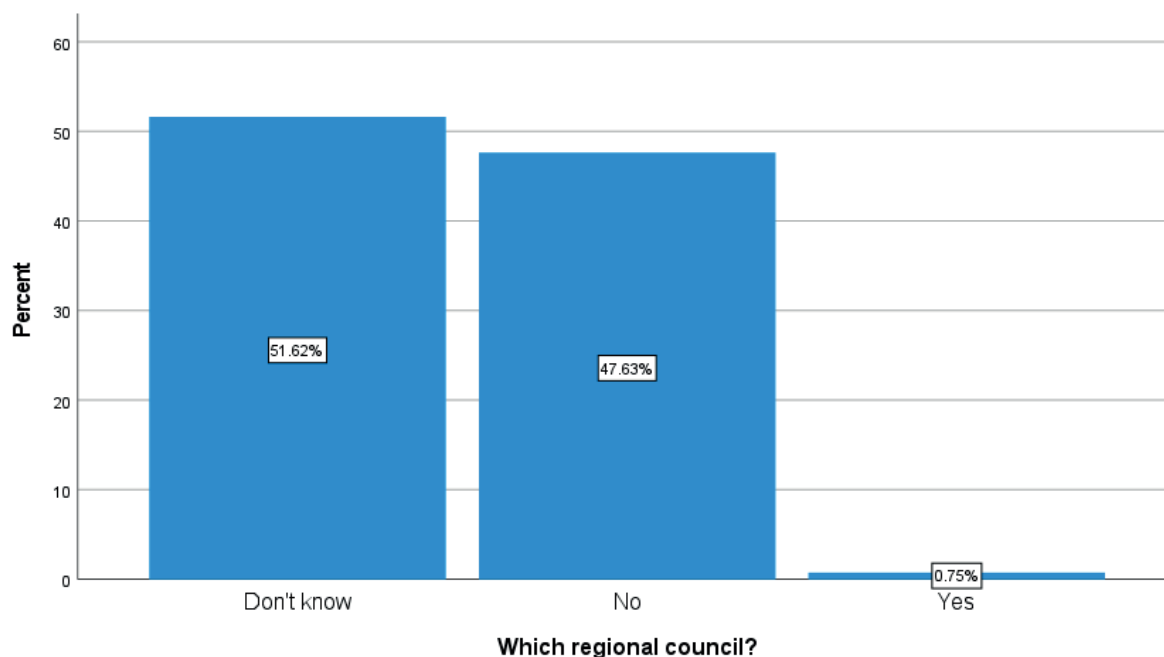
Regional Council

The final section of the questionnaire related to awareness with regards to the regional council.

Question 19 asked respondents to state which regional council does their locality form part of. The majority of respondents (51.6%, $n=207$) stated Don't know while 47.6% ($n= 191$) gave the wrong answer. Only 0.7% ($n=3$) were aware that their locality formed part of Regjun Port (Table 5.36 and Figure 5.37)

Table 5.36*Respondents' awareness of regional council*

	Frequency	Percent (%)
Don't know	207	51.6
Wrong answer	191	47.6
Right answer	3	0.7
Total	401	100.0

Figure 5.37*Respondents' awareness of regional council*

The Pearson's Chi-Square test yielded no statistically significant association with age (p -value = 0.910), gender (p -value = 0.564), locality (p -value = 0.107) and length of residence (p -value = 0.152) as the p -values were all above the 0.05 level of significance.

Question 20, asked respondents whether the responsibilities of the regional council differed from those of the local council or otherwise. Table 5.37 and Figure 5.38 illustrate that 32.7% ($n=131$) stated that the functions and responsibilities of regional councils differed from those

of local councils. Nearly 50% of respondents stated that they (49.6%, $n=199$) did not know whether there was any difference while 17.7% ($n=71$) stated that the responsibilities and functions were the same.

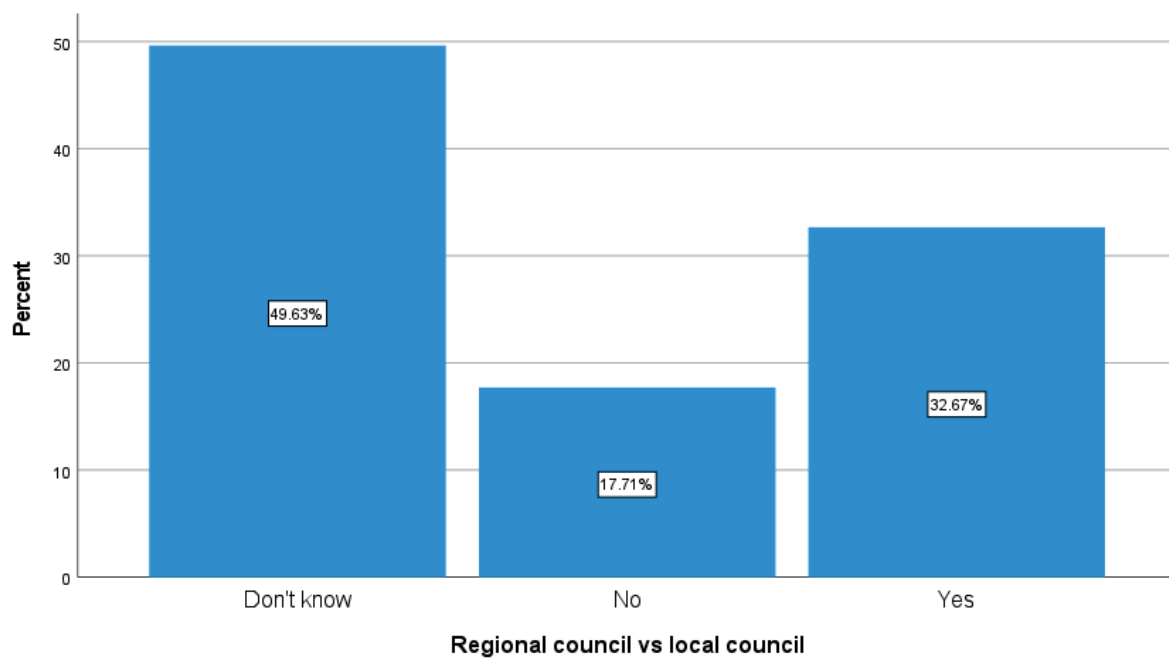
Table 5.37

Respondents' awareness of functions and responsibilities of regional council vs local council

	Frequency	Percent (%)
Don't know	199	49.6
No	71	17.7
Yes	131	32.7
Total	401	100.0

Figure 5.38

Respondents' awareness of functions and responsibilities of regional council vs local council



The Pearson Chi-square test yielded a statistically significant association¹⁴ for the awareness in terms of functions and responsibilities of the regional council vs local council when cross-

¹⁴ SPSS results found that 10 cells (30.3%) had expected count less than 5. Since this level was less than 40%, the p -value was considered to be valid and the relationship considered statistically significant.

tabulated with locality (p -value = 0.010). On the other hand, testing found no statistically significant association with age (p -value = 0.466), gender (p -value = 0.174) and length of residence (p -value = 0.676).

As indicated in Table 5.38 and Figure 5.39 below 66.7% ($n=8$) did not know whether there was any difference between the functions and responsibilities of regional and local councils while the remaining 33.3% ($n=4$) stated that there was no difference. On the other hand, 56.3% ($n= 18$) of Valletta residents stated that the functions and responsibilities of regional councils differed from those of local councils.

Table 5.38

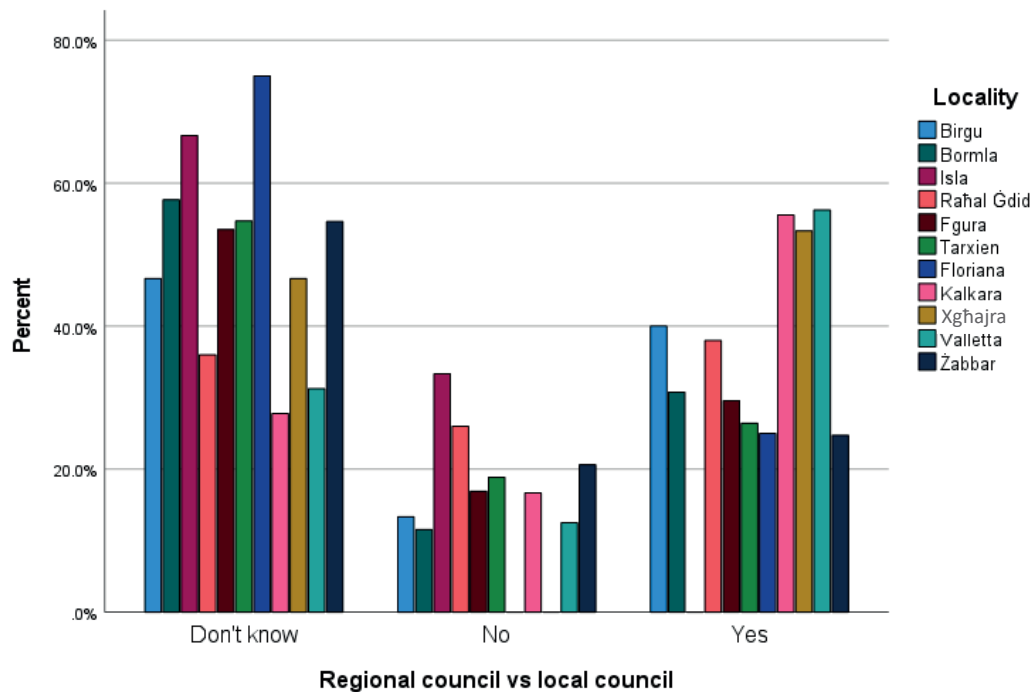
Respondents' awareness of functions and responsibilities of regional council vs local council by locality

	Don't know		No		Yes	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Birgu	7	46.7%	2	13.3%	6	40.0%
Bormla	15	57.7%	3	11.5%	8	30.8%
Isla	8	66.7%	4	33.3%	0	0.0%
Raħal Ġdid	18	36.0%	13	26.0%	19	38.0%
Fgura	38	53.5%	12	16.9%	21	29.6%
Tarxien	29	54.7%	10	18.9%	14	26.4%
Floriana	9	75.0%	0	0.0%	3	25.0%
Kalkara	5	27.8%	3	16.7%	10	55.6%
Xgħajra	7	46.7%	0	0.0%	8	53.3%
Valletta	10	31.3%	4	12.5%	18	56.3%
Żabbar	53	54.6%	20	20.6%	24	24.7%

$\chi^2 (20, N=401) = 37.397, p=0.010$

Figure 5.39

Respondents' awareness of functions and responsibilities of regional council vs local council by locality



Moreover, Question 20 asked those respondents who replied in the affirmative to state how they think the functions and responsibilities of the regional council differ from those of the local council wherein 17% ($n=68$) of these respondents stated that the regional council has more responsibilities than the local council.

Subsequently, Question 22 presented respondents with 10 different roles/services, 4 of which do not fall under the remit of the regional councils (road infrastructure, traffic enforcement, upkeep and maintenance of street lighting and street cleaning), whilst the remaining 6 (waste management and issuing of relevant tenders, administration of the Regional Tribunal, protection of the natural and urban environment, assistance to local councils, co-ordination with central government entities and administration of the region) fall within the regional council's remit. The question then asked respondents to identify the roles which they believed fell within the remit of the regional council.

Table 5.39 outlines the roles which do not fall under the remit of the regional councils. As the table demonstrates, many respondents are not aware that such roles are not to be carried out by the regional council. For instance, 26.4% believe that the regional council is responsible for street cleaning and 26.9% believe that the upkeep and maintenance of street lighting fall under the regional council's remit. Of interest is that for every role there were more than 57% of respondents who stated that they did not know whether that particular role fell under the remit of the regional council.

Table 5.39

Awareness of regional council's roles – Roles falling outside the RC's remit

	Road infrastructure		Traffic enforcement		Upkeep & maintenance of street lighting		Street Cleaning	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Don't know	231	57.6%	234	58.4%	230	57.4%	231	57.6%
Correct (No)	74	18.5%	78	19.5%	63	15.7%	64	16%
Incorrect (Yes)	96	23.9%	89	22.2%	108	26.9%	106	26.4%

On the other hand, Table 5.40 outlines the roles which fall under the remit of the regional council. When compared with the awareness of the local council remits, whereby for some roles of the local council respondents were 70-80% aware, for regional council roles, the awareness is much lower. The highest awareness was that the regional council assists local councils (40.1%), whilst similarly to Table 5.39 (roles not falling under the RC's remit) a high percentage of respondents stated don't know. Moreover, when asked whether they could mention other remits, 94.5% ($n=379$) of respondents did not state any other remit. Interesting to note that 6.7% ($n=27$) of respondents mentioned that they had never heard of the regional council.

Table 5.40*Awareness of regional council's roles – Roles falling under the RC's remit*

	Waste management and issuing of relevant tenders		Regional Tribunal		Protection of natural and urban environment		Assist Local Councils		Co-ordinate with Central Govt.		Administration of region	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Don't know	229	57.1%	242	60.3%	240	59.9%	232	57.9%	244	60.8%	246	61.3%
Incorrect (No)	43	10.7%	22	5.5%	45	11.2%	8	2.0%	9	2.2%	148	36.9%
Correct (Yes)	129	32.2%	137	35.0%	116	28.9%	161	40.1%	148	36.9%	147	36.7%

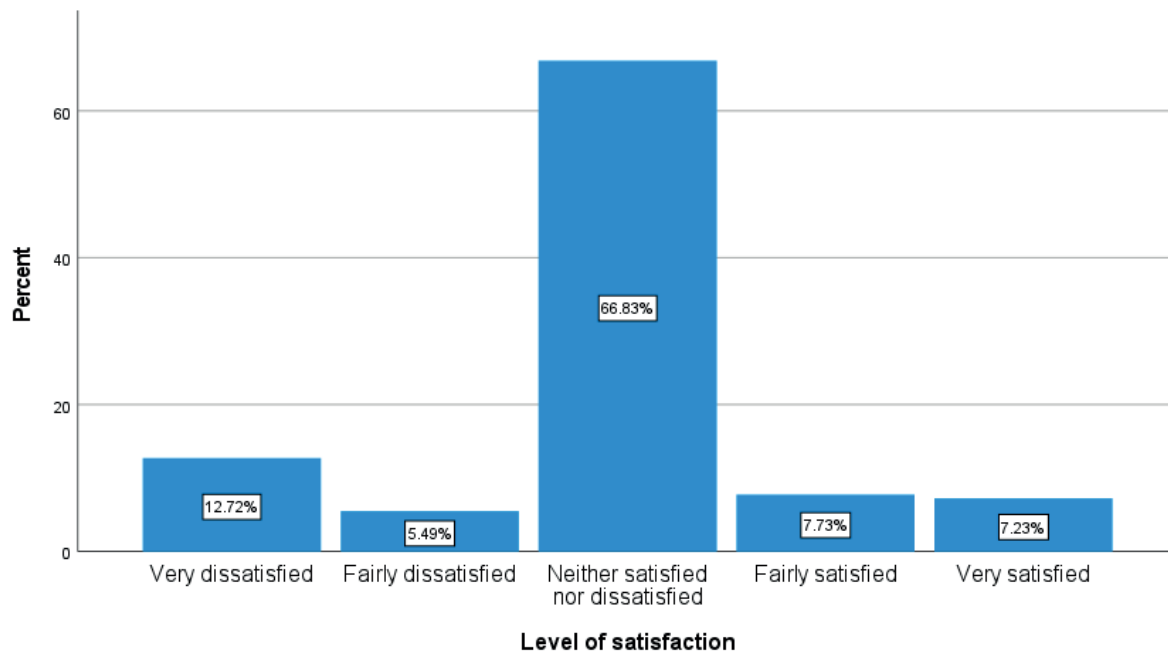
Through the use of a 5-Likert Scale ranging from Very Satisfied through to Very Dissatisfied, Question 23 asked respondents to rate their level of satisfaction with their regional council. A very high percentage (66.8%, $n = 268$) were Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied, while 18.2% ($n = 73$) were Dissatisfied. Less than one-sixth of respondents (14.9%, $n = 60$) were satisfied with their regional council (Table 5.41 and Figure 5.40 refer.).

Table 5.41*Respondents' level of satisfaction with their regional council*

	Frequency	Percent (%)
Very dissatisfied	51	12.7
Fairly dissatisfied	22	5.5
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	268	66.8
Fairly satisfied	31	7.7
Very satisfied	29	7.2
Total	401	100.0

Figure 5.40

Respondents' level of satisfaction with their regional council



Testing found no significantly statistical association for age ($p = 0.779$), gender ($p = 0.419$), locality ($p = 0.565$) and length of residence ($p = 0.950$).

Question 24 asked respondents to comment on the extent to which they feel the regional council (i) reaches out and communicates with them and (ii) involves the community. This was gauged through the use of a Likert Scale ranging from Not at all, Little, Somewhat, A Fair Amount through to a A Great Deal.

Table 5.42

Perception on the extent to which regional council reaches out, communicates with and involves the community

	Not at all		Little		Somewhat		A fair amount		A great deal	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Reaches out and communicates with respondents	150	37.4%	24	6.0%	194	48.4%	7	1.7%	26	6.5%
Involves the community	124	30.9%	30	7.5%	205	51.1%	11	2.7%	31	7.7%

Figure 5.41

Perception on the extent to which regional council reaches out, communicates with and involves the community

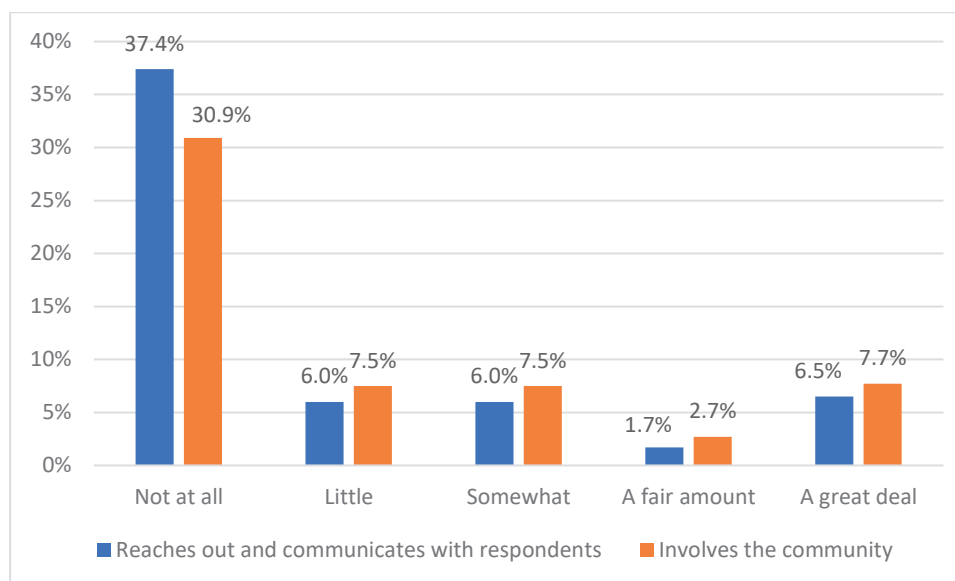


Table 5.42 and Figure 5.41 above show the perception of respondents with regards to the level of communication of the regional council with the community and the level of involvement of the community by the regional council. More than a third of respondents (37.4%, $n = 150$) perceive that the regional council does not communicate with them at all while nearly 50% (48.4%, $n=194$) stated that the regional council somewhat communicates with them. Only 6.5% ($n=26$) perceive their regional council as greatly communicating with them. Furthermore, more than half of the respondents (51.1%, $n=205$) feel that their regional council somewhat involves the community, with 30.9% ($n=124$) stating ‘No at all’. A very low percentage 2.7%

($n=11$) stated 'A Fair Amount' while 7.7% ($n=31$) felt that their regional council greatly involves the community.

A Pearson Chi-Square test yielded no significantly statistical association for both 'reaches out and communicates with respondents' and 'involves the community' when tested against age, gender, locality and length of residence.

Question 25 then asked respondents whether their expectations are being met by the regional council. Table 5.43 and Figure 5.42 show that only 20.2% ($n=81$) of respondents felt that the regional council had met their expectations. More than a quarter of respondents (30.2%, $n = 121$) stated that their level of expectation from regional council had not been met, while nearly half of respondents (49.6%, $n=199$) were neutral.

The Pearson's Chi-square test yielded no statistically significant relationship between the level of expectation from regional council and age ($p=0.297$), gender ($p=0.988$), locality ($p=0.287$) and length of residence ($p=0.199$).

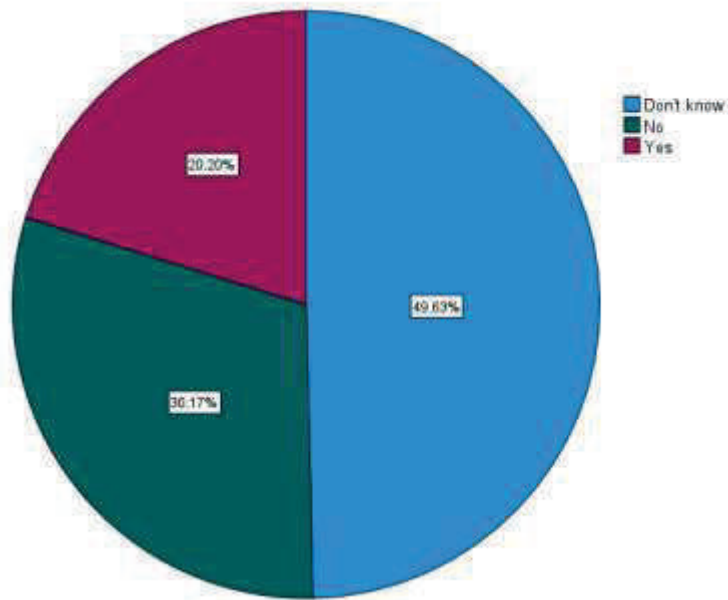
Table 5.43

Respondents' expectations met by regional council

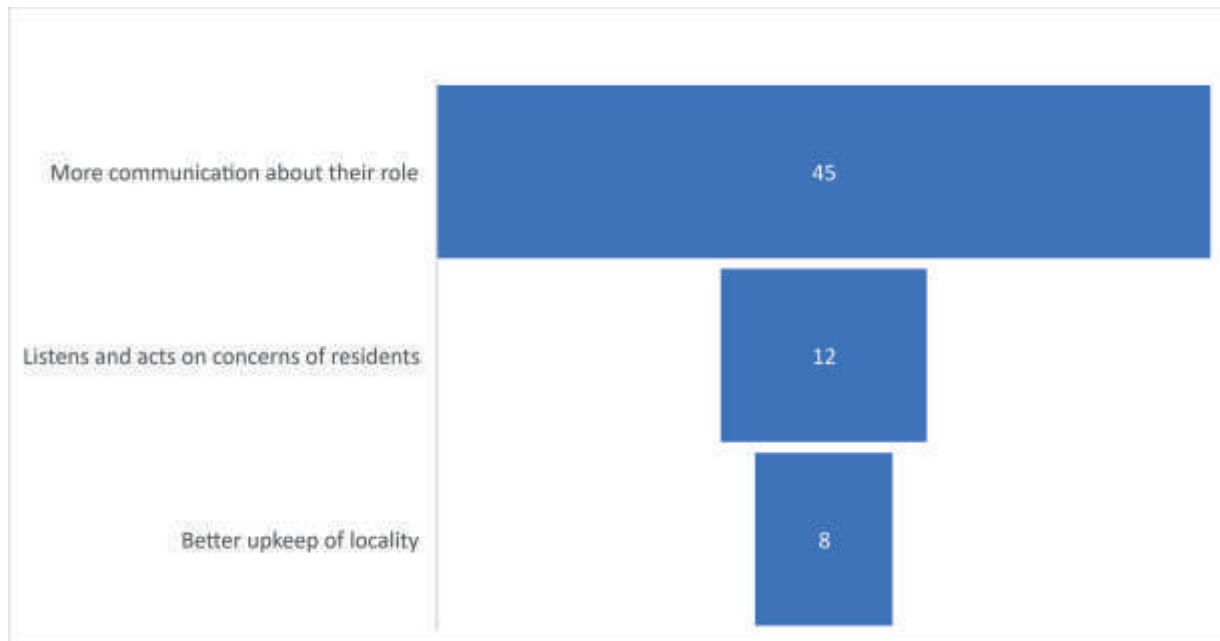
	Frequency	Percent (%)
Don't know	199	49.6
No	121	30.2
Yes	81	20.2
Total	401	100.0

Figure 5.42

Respondents' expectations met by regional council



Furthermore, Question 25 asked those respondents who stated that their expectations had not been met to state what the regional council needs to do to meet their expectations. As indicated in Figure 5.43, the top 3 mentions were that the regional council needs to better communicate their role, listens and acts on the concerns of residents and that there is a better upkeep of the locality.

Figure 5.43*Expectations from regional council – Top 3 mentions*

When asked whether they would like to add anything else with regards to their regional council, 86.3% ($n=346$) of respondents had nothing else to add whilst 5.5% ($n=22$) reiterated that the regional council needs to communicate and create more awareness with regards to its role, functions and responsibilities. Interestingly, the remaining 8.2% ($n=33$) mentioned that they had never heard of the regional council, indicating that more information and awareness needs to be created in this regard.

5.2 Findings from the Qualitative Data

Qualitative data was gathered from a focus group with mayors. Two focus groups were originally planned, one with the mayors and another with the local councillors of the region. Unfortunately, the latter had a very low response rate and therefore, in agreement with the Regional Council, this was cancelled and instead the qualitative analysis was conducted with the data collected from the four mayors who attended the former focus group. This was done so as to give a holistic perspective to the social impact assessment, rather than simply gathering data only from residents.

5.2.1 Focus Group – Mayors

From this focus group, three interlinked and occasionally overlapping themes - clipped wings, dearth of awareness and the double-edged sword of progress - were elicited. These encapsulate the majority of views expressed during the process of this focus group.

Theme 1 – Clipped wings

Mayors stated that they feel that their wings are being clipped as many times they do not have the required power to perform their role to the best of their abilities. They claimed that they are not given their due importance by central government and that there is a lot of red tape involved in the process of their duties. They stated that there is a lack of consultation regarding important issues and feel that many times they are not given the respect that they deserve.

“Aħna ma għandna saħħa ta’ xejn. Nkunu nixtiequ nagħmlu ċertu affarijiet imma ma għandna power ta’ xejn.” (Sindku 4)

[We are powerless. We would like to do certain things but we do not have any power at all.] (Mayor 4)

“Taf x’jittikani? Dawn il-parkings tad-disabled. Aħna fil-lokalita’ tagħna għandna xi hamsin. Kulhadd japplika bl-addoċċ u l-permessi herġin qishom pastizzi. U aħna power ta’ xejn ma għandna allavolja aħna nkunu nafu l-bżonnijiet tal-lokalita’ u min haqqu jew le.” (Sindku 3)

[Do you know what irritates me? The parking spaces for people with a disability. In our locality we have fifty. Everybody just applies and permits are being issued blindly. And we have no power to do anything even though we know the needs of the locality and who deserves to have one or not.] (Mayor 3)

“Din bħal tal-waste. Aħna konna għaddejna l-punti tagħna pero meta ġejna for the final contract anqas biss iltaqgħu magħna. Lanqas biss konna prezenti.” (Sindku 2)

[This is similar to the waste management issue. We had presented our views but when it was time for the final contract we were not even consulted. We were not even present.] (Mayor 2)

Mayors lamented that this situation creates a lot of frustration since it does not only leave them with a sense of powerlessness but also makes them look incompetent in the eyes of their residents.

“Aħna jkun hemm ħafna affarijiet li lanqas inkunu infurmati. Anki mill-Gvern Ċentrali. Per eżempju jiġu jaqilgħu triq u nkunu nafu mingħand in-nies.” (Sindku 1)

[There are a lot of things that we are not even informed about. Even from Central Government. For example, they come to dig up a road and we get to know about it from the residents themselves.] (Mayor 1)

“Ir-residenti jsiru jafu dwar ċertu affarijiet qabilna u mbagħad aħna veru naqgħu għac-cajt. Apparti li dawn lanqas jemmnu li aħna ma konniex nafu.” (Sindku 4)

[The residents get to know about certain things before us and we are made to look like fools. Apart from the fact that then they do not believe that we did not know about it.] (Mayor 4)

“Aħna applikajna biex issir triq ġdida u tgħidx kemm grejna wara l-Gvern Ċentrali biex issir. Ġurnata waħda ċemplitli mara u qaltli isma dik it-triq għalfejn qegħda issir b’dan il-mod u mhux mod ieħor. U jien ma kont nafxejn. Ha ngħidlek, hemm affarijiet pożittivi imma in-nuqqas ta’ komunikazzjoni u stima lejna hija frustranti ħafna.” (Sindku 3)

[We had applied for the construction of a new road and we had really followed it up with Central Government. One fine day a woman calls and she wanted to know why the road was being done in a certain way and not in another. And I did not even know anything about it. Yes, there are positive things but the lack of communication and respect towards us is very frustrating.] (Mayor 3)

Subtheme 1 – Lack of enforcement

Mayors also lamented that there is a great lack of enforcement across the board. They maintained that certain areas of law enforcement should fall directly under the responsibility of the Regional Council who would be able to delegate it to the Local Councils as it is the mayor/local councillors who would be aware of the hotspots that would need to be targeted.

“Għandna problemi kbar. Nuqqas ta’ infurzar minn kull anglu. Jien tlabt għal community police overtime imma ma tawniex permess. Jien fil-pjazza mill-għaxra ta’ filgħaxija l’hemm rebus ikolli.” (Sindku 4)

[We have big issues. Lack of enforcement across the board. I asked to have community police working overtime but it was not approved. I have great issues in the village square after 10pm.] (Mayor 4)

“Aħna għandna l-cameras ħdejn il-bins pero kollox mandra għax infurzar ma hemmx.”
(Sindku 3)

[Although we have cameras near the waste bins it is still a mess as there is no enforcement]
(Mayor 3)

“Kieku l-wardens ikunu jaqgħu taħt ir-Regjun inkunu nistgħu niddetawllhom aħna fejn imorru għax aħna il-hotspots inkunu nafuhom. Meta jkollok persuna li taqa’ taħtek tkun tista’ tgħidilha biex tmur f’dak il-post u fit-tali ħin għax aħna nkunu nafu.” (Sindku 2)

[If wardens fall under the remit of the regional council we would be able to tell them where to go as we are aware of the hotspots. If you have a person under your responsibility you would be able to tell him/her to go to a certain place at a particular time as we would be aware of what is going on.] (Mayor 2)

“Irridu nwasslu il-messaġġ li l-infurzar hemm bżonn li jkun dirett taħt ir-Regjun għax b’hekk ir-Regjun ikun jista’ jikkonsulta mal-kunsillieri u b’hekk żgur naslu.” (Sindku 3)

[We need to deliver the message that enforcement needs to fall under the direct responsibility of the Regional Council. Because then the region would be able to consult with the councillors and I am sure that this will be successful.] (Mayor 3)

Subtheme 2 – Lack of funds and human resources

Even though there seems to be agreement that the local councils should be given more power to enforce and operate on a daily basis, all mayors have claimed that such power and/or increased responsibility would be difficult to manage, given the fact that the current resources they have at hand, both financial and other, are already limited given their functions now, let alone if these increase. Local councils need more human resources to carry out the necessary work involved.

“Mhux imbilli tgħid li għandna bżonn aktar saħħa. Veru li ma għandna saħħa ta’ xejn pero biex ikollna is-saħħa irrid ikollna aktar nies magħna. Għandna nuqqas kbir ta’ nies u ma għandniex biex naħdmu.” (Sindku 1)

[It is not enough to just say that we need more power. It is true that we do not have much power but to have power we need more human resources. We have a great lack of human resources.]
(Mayor 1)

Mayor 2 also maintained that due to the growth in population there is more pressure on infrastructure and more repairs and maintenance are required. This cannot be carried out unless more funds are allocated by central government. This need for better upkeep resonates with the quantitative findings whereby “better upkeep of the locality” was one of the top 3 mentions by respondents when asked to state what the local and regional council need to do to meet their expectations.

“Aħna għandna nuqqas kbir ta’ fondi. Il-popolazzjoni kibret u għandek aktar tkissir u allura għandna bżonn aktar fondi biex inżommu l-lokalita’ fuq saqajha.” (Sindku 1)

[We have a great lack of funds. The population has grown and there is more damage and so we need more funds for the upkeep of the locality.] (Mayor 1)

Theme 2 – Dearth of awareness

All mayors present unanimously agreed that there is a great dearth of awareness regarding the role and responsibilities of local councils, regional councils and central government. They claimed that the majority of residents are not aware of the division of competencies and areas of responsibility between the different levels (local, regional and central) and that most residents are only aware of the basic remits of local councils. This resonates with the quantitative findings which show that around 71% of respondents were either ‘not at all aware’, ‘little aware’ or ‘somewhat aware’ of local councillors’ role, whilst awareness of regional council’s role was much lower, with 57% or more of respondents being unable to state whether certain roles were part of the regional council’s remit. Moreover, 6.7% of respondents had never heard of the regional council.

“In-nies ma’ għandiex idea tar-Regjuni. Assolutament xejn. U lanqas il-Kunsilli ma jafu eżattament x’inhuma r-responsabilitajiet tagħhom.” (Sindku 2)

[People do not have any idea about the regional council. Absolutely nothing. And not even about the local council as they do not even know exactly what are their responsibilities.] (Mayor 2)

Moreover, this lack of awareness regarding the roles and responsibilities of the local and regional councils often results in residents resorting solely or mostly to the mayor for any issue they might have and blaming him/her for things, even when such matters do not fall under his/her responsibility.

“Qisu s-Sindku biss jeżisti. Per eżempju, jekk jordna il-bulky refuse iċempel lill-Kunsill. Pero jekk tal-bulky refuse ma jgix jgħbor l-affarijiet mill-ewwel iċempel lis-Sindku. U dejjem is-Sindku jeħel.” (Sindku 4)

[It is as if only the Mayor exists. For example, if one needs the services of the bulky refuse they call the local council. But if the bulky refuse collector does not turn up they immediately call the Mayor to complain. The Mayor always gets the blame.] (Mayor 4)

“Jekk irrapurtaw bozza lill-kunsill u wara ġimgħa, u kultant anki qabel, din il-bozza għadha ma gietx mibdula, nassigurak li lis-Sindku jċemplu u joqgħodu jgħidu ma kulhadd kontrieb.” (Sindku 1)

[When they report a faulty bulb to the local council, if after a week, and sometimes even before, the faulty bulb has not been changed, I can assure you that they will call the Mayor and they bad mouth him/her with other residents.] (Mayor 1)

“Imbagħad man-nies min jeħel? L-ebda kunsillier ħlief is-Sindku. Dejjem is-Sindku. Dan bħal Prim Ministru. Jekk tagħmel ix-xita jew jekk tagħmel ix-xemx dejjem huwa jeħel” (Sindku 3)

[And then who gets the blame with the residents? Not any of the councillors, but the Mayor. Always the Mayor gets the blame. This is similar to the Prime Minister. Whether it rains or shines it is always him who gets the blame.] (Mayor 3)

Furthermore, all mayors vociferously stated that given the amount of responsibilities, coupled with the daily exigencies of residents, the post of mayor needs to be on a full-time basis, matched with the proper remuneration, especially for those who want to take on such a role. Mayor 4 stated that the role of mayor is very time consuming and it is impossible to give your 100% if one also has his/her personal full-time job. Mayor 1 maintained that currently, out of his own choice, he is a full-time mayor and he still barely finds time to deal with all the daily issues of his locality. Mayors all agreed that the role of mayor should be on a full-time basis and carries it with it a decent remuneration as otherwise nobody would be willing to fulfil that role.

“U hadd ma japprezza li s-Sindku mhux full-time. Dik oħra. Jien kemm ili Sindku dejjem nishaq li għandha tkun għażla tas-Sindku jkunx full-time jew le. Mela s-Sindku mhux qisu l-Prim Ministru tal-lokal u l-Prim Ministru u l-Ministri mhux full time qegħdin? Ahna m’ aħniex stmati u għan-nies ahna full-time qegħdin. Ahna rridu nleħhqu max-xogħol personali tagħna u ma dik tal-lokal u nassigurak li hija impossibbli.” (Sindku 3)

[And nobody appreciates that the Mayor is not on a full-time basis. That is another thing. Since I have been Mayor I always stressed that it should be the Mayor’s choice whether he/she will be on a full-time basis or not. Isn’t the Mayor like a Prime Minister of the locality? And isn’t the Prime Minister and also the Ministers full-time? We are not appreciated and people think that we are on a full-time basis. We need to juggle between our personal work and that of the council and I can assure you that it is impossible.] (Mayor 3)

“Jiena bħalissa qiegħed full-time fuq għażla tiegħi. Ovjament l-onorarja tal-biki. Issa jien nista’ nagħmilha u haddiehor ma jistax. U jien full-time u xorta bilkemm inlahhaq. Lanqas nieqaf. Igifieri xogħol għal Sindku full-time nassigurak li hemm. U kif.” (Sindku 1)

[At the moment I am a full-time Mayor out of my own choice. Obviously, the remuneration is shameful. The thing is that I can afford to do it, whilst there are others who cannot. And I am on a full-time basis and I barely manage to deal with all the issues. I do not stop. There is ample work for a full-time Mayor. And how.] (Mayor 1)

Theme 3 – The double-edged sword of progress

Mayors voiced their concern regarding the fast rate of progress which they feel is having a social impact on residents. Mayor 1 maintained that the progress that has occurred over the past decade or so can be termed as a double-edged sword as whilst many community places such as the village square have been revived, this has had a visible social impact on residents. Mayor 4 stressed that even though change for the better is a good thing, there must always be a balance and one needs to analyse the impact that it will have on residents. Mayors indicated that for progress to have a positive impact the right amount of planning and foresight should be employed a priori.

“Il-progress xafru taqta’ minn żewġ naħat. Waqt li jien kuntent li ċ-ċentru tal-lokalita’ ha l-ħajja, trid tara kif qed taffettwa lir-resident li jgħidlek li huwa qabel kien jgħix fil-kwiet imma issa m’għadux. Dan huwa impatt viżiv.” (Sindku 1)

[Progress is a double-edged sword. Whilst on one hand I am happy that the centre of our locality has been revived, on the other hand one must see how this is affecting residents who tell you that before they used to leave in peace but not any longer. This impact is visible.] (Mayor 1)

“Inti tajjed li tbiddel u tmur għal-aħjar pero trid tkun ppreparat. Jien dejjem nemmen fil-bilanċ. Ma tistax tgħid ‘u iva hawnhekk mejjet u irridu nqajmuħ’. Qabel dejjem trid tara l-impatt li ħa jhalli fuq ir-residenti.” (Sindku 4)

[It is good to change for the better but you need to be prepared. I always believe that there needs to be a balance. You cannot say that, ‘yes, that place is dead and needs to be revived’. Before, you always need to assess the impact it will have on the residents.] (Mayor 4)

Subtheme 1 – Influx of foreign nationals

The influx of foreign nationals into Maltese localities, as a result of the economic boom and great employment opportunities, is being perceived by mayors as one of the biggest challenges that their localities encounter on a daily basis. Mayors claimed that many of these foreign nationals have a totally different culture than that of the Maltese. This difference in culture results in mayors receiving many complaints from both sides, be it foreigners complaining about the noise during the festas, as well as complaints from Maltese nationals. However, Mayor 3 stressed that there are some instances where certain foreign nationals seem to be taking interest in things concerning the locality more than Maltese residents themselves.

“Hemm differenza kbira fil-kultura. Kif jilgħabu t-tfal, il-mod ta’ kif jgħixu, eċċ.” (Sindku 2)

[There is a great difference in culture. The way children play, the way they live, etc.] (Mayor 2)

“Per eżempju, aħna fis-sajf ma jieqfux l-ilmenti mill-barranin minħabba l-murtali tal-festa. Aħna mdawwrin bil-festi u dawn ma jieqfux iċemplu. Mhux sew għax dawn irridu jaddattaw għal-kultura tagħna.” (Sindku 1)

[For example, during summer we get complaints from foreign nationals regarding the fireworks non-stop. We are surrounded with feasts and they do not stop phoning to complain. It is not fair as they need to adapt to our culture.] (Mayor 1)

“Imbagħad hemm min jaddatta għal-kultura tagħna. Jiena għandi barranin li jhobbu l-lokalita’ aktar min ċertu residenti Maltin. Hemm wieħed iffissat b’tali mod li kultant kważi jdejjaqni jistaqsini fuq ċertu affarijiet.” (Sindku 3)

[Then there are some who adapt to our culture. I have foreign nationals who loves the locality more than certain Maltese residents. One is fixated in a certain way that sometimes he bothers me always asking about certain issues.] (Mayor 3)

Subtheme 2 – Commercialisation

Commercialisation is also perceived by mayors as being a double-edged sword that is having a social impact on residents. Whilst they acknowledged that commercialisation has given more value to their localities, they claimed that it is causing many types of discomfort for long established residents such as lack of parking, noise and loud music up till the early hours of the morning.

“L-effett kummerċjali qed iħalli impatt kbir. Per eżempju aħna hemm Villa li minn post storiku issa spiċċat post għat-tiġijiet, kulhadd ġej hemmhekk. Ir-residenti kontinwament jibatuli ritratti fis-sieġhat bikrin ta’ filgħodu li ma jistgħux isibu parking jew li ma jistgħux jorqdu minħabba l-mużika. Mela r-resident kien mdorri komdu jgħix go appartament go area li ftit jafu biha u f’daqqa waħda ristoranti, storbju, nuqqas ta’ parking etc. Dan kollu qed iħalli mpatt negattiv.” (Sindku 2)

[Commercialisation has left a great impact. For example, we have a villa that has been converted from a historical place to a wedding hall. There is now a lot of coming and going and residents continuously send me pictures in the early hours of the morning stating that they cannot find parking or that there is loud music going on. So, residents were comfortably living in an apartment, in an area that few people knew about, and suddenly they are surrounded with restaurants, noise, lack of parking, etc. This is all leaving a negative impact.] (Mayor 2)

“L-impatt kummerċjali lanqas qed jiġi diskuss. Aħna sirna lokalita’ totalment kummerċjalizzata. Hwienet, banek, stabillimenti kbar, cafeterias, etc. U jiġu ħafna nies minn barra l-lokalita’ matul il-ġurnata. U dan qed jikkrea skumdita kbira lir-resident.” (Sindku 4)

[The commercial impact is not even being discussed. We have become a totally commercialised locality. Shops, banks, shopping malls, cafeterias, etc. And there is a great influx of people from outside the locality during the day. And this all creates great discomfort for residents.] (Mayor 4)

5.3 Conclusion

This chapter has presented and analysed both the quantitative and qualitative findings of this study. A summary of the salient findings from this study together with recommendations for policy, practice and further research will be presented in the sixth and final chapter.



CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6. Conclusion and recommendations

6.1 Summary of main findings

The telephonic residents' questionnaire conducted for this research study revealed that the majority of Regjun Port's residents were satisfied with their locality as a place to live, with 63.2% satisfied with their locality. 54.4% of residents seem to feel that there is a high sense of community.

Nevertheless, dissatisfaction with Traffic and Parking (65.8%), Urban Development (50.7% dissatisfied) and Public and Green Spaces (43.2%) prevailed. On the other hand, satisfaction with religious activities (58.1%), schools in the locality (51.1%) and the level of safety in the locality (49.1%) was also recorded.

Integration of elderly people is perceived as high (70%), however, integration of people with disability, people with different religious belief and people with different cultures are perceived as being on the low side (36.7%, 40.9% and 40.9% respectively).

More cleanliness (25 mentions), better traffic and parking management (22 mentions), more law enforcement (19 mentions), emerged as the three most important factors that could contribute to a better quality of life.

This research study also revealed a relatively low satisfaction rate with local councils (38.4%), and a low awareness of the roles and responsibilities of the local councillors (29.2%). In order for local councils to meet the residents' expectations, it was mentioned that local councils should communicate more with the residents (17 mentions), listen and act on concerns of the residents (15 mentions) and ensure there is better upkeep of the locality (14 mentions).

Awareness of the Regional Council was particularly low with only 3 respondents (0.7%) being aware of the regional council they form part of. Similarly, 67.3% did not know what are the responsibilities of the Regional Council. Only 14.9% stated that they are satisfied with the Regional Council. To possibly increase the level of satisfaction of residents in terms of Regional Councils, respondents mentioned the need for the Regional Council to communicate more their role (45 mentions), listen and act on concerns of the residents (12 mentions) and ensure there is better upkeep of the locality (8 mentions).

The focus group conducted with mayors highlighted diverse issues. The main themes that emerged from this focus group were the following:

- Clipped wings, outlining how mayors feel powerless, in view of the limited resources they have (financial and human resources) as well as lack of power to enforce laws and regulations in their locality.
- Dearth of awareness, whereby residents are unaware of the roles and responsibilities of both the local council and the Regional Council.
- The double-edged sword of progress, which is a result of the gentrification pressures in the localities in the Region, whereby the commercialisation and influx of foreigners are pricing out long-term residents and creating inconveniences to the residents, thereby outlining the need for foresight and planning prior to further development.

6.2 Recommendations for policy and practice

- Educational and awareness campaigns for the general public regarding the functions, roles and responsibilities of local councils, and most especially regional councils through the use of social media, television and radio adverts.
- Local and regional councils need to improve the level of satisfaction of residents with local government and local democracy by improving the quality of local services provided.
- Local and regional councils need to pursue an efficient communication strategy so as to ensure a functional local democracy, with the engagement and participation of citizens.
- Educational workshops oriented towards disseminating practical knowledge of local democracy as a whole and ways in which residents can participate and effect local and national decisions.

- Provision of communal spaces where the local community can meet, celebrate ties and develop a collective identity.
- Events and activities specifically targeted towards the needs and aspirations of young people organised in collaboration with youth organisations.
- Community projects, such as greening of the locality, that will promote a sense of community and a sense of civic pride.
- Collaboration with local entities such as the local band club, football club and religious organisations in the organisation of local events and activities.
- Local councillors to be more in touch with residents, through door-to-door initiatives throughout the whole five-year legislation period, so as to become more aware of the real needs and concerns of their respective community.
- Set up of a migrant office in each locality that caters for the foreign individuals residing in the area.
- Orientation sessions for new community members (both foreigners and Maltese coming from other localities) to facilitate integration within the community.
- Commissioning public opinion surveys when launching new policies or pursuing old ones.
- Information sessions for governmental entities, with regards to the role and duties of the local councils and regional councils, in order to:
 - Create more awareness of the issues and barriers encountered by local and regional councils in their daily dealings with said entities.
 - Understand better the needs of the local councils.
 - Increase respect towards the local councils by these entities.
- Joint events between local and regional councils and government entities so as to foster more collaboration and enhance good practices regarding their daily interactions.
- Strengthening of human resources, operations and funds of local councils to enable them to carry out their role and responsibilities in a more timely and efficient manner.
- Sufficient funds and resources to be allocated to local councils towards the upkeep of the locality, most especially with regards to cleanliness, greening of the locality and open spaces.

- Increased autonomy given to local councils vis-à-vis local matters through the devolution of certain functions such as local enforcement.
- Consultation with local councils regarding projects that are being undertaken by central government in their localities to ensure that real issues and need of the locality are taken into consideration.
- Policy reform that enables mayors to hold the office on a full-time basis.
- Regional council skills audit which assesses and ultimately enhances the competencies of the regional council's workforce.
- Regional Council Award Scheme that will be designed to celebrate the success of the most sustainable NGO of the region, the best 2 collaborating councils, the resident of the region. The award scheme will be tied to certain procedures, such as one council nominating prospective awardees from other localities, so as to enhance communication and knowledge of other localities and their residents/organisations within the same region.

6.3 Recommendations for further research

This study also recommends that further research is undertaken regarding the following topics:

- A quantitative study that investigates the composition of residents within one's locality, especially the number and origin of foreigners.
- A needs assessment of the different profiles of people living in each locality.
- A qualitative study that investigates the effectiveness of communication and information methods used by local and regional councils.
- A qualitative study that investigates the bureaucracy and red tape of government entities and agencies and their impact on the functions of local and regional councils.

6.4 Conclusion

The above are only possible recommendations which the local councils together with the regional council might consider to actuate and take on their operations. This would ensure greater awareness about their roles, whilst also improving the quality of life of their residents.

Given the expertise and on the ground experience of the local and regional councils, it is encouraged that the findings of this study are thoroughly examined and further actions are considered in light of one's own experience and expertise.





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APPENDIX A – Residents’ Questionnaire

Social Impact Assessment/ **Assessjar tal-Impatt Soċjali**

[EN: Black font, MT: Blue font]

Socio-demographic Details **Dettalji Soċio-demografici**

1. What is your age?/Kemm għandek żmien? _____
2. Which gender/s do you primarily identify with? Ma’ liema ġeneru tidentifika ruġek?
(1) Male/Maskil (2) Female/Femminil; (3) Other/Ieħor.
3. What is the highest level of education that you have successfully completed? X’ inhu l-ogħla livell edukattiv milħuq l-aħħar/attwali?
1) No formal education/Ebda edukazzjoni
2) Primary level/Edukazzjoni Primarja
3) Secondary level/Edukazzjoni Sekondarja
4) Post-secondary level/Post-sekondarja (Eż.: ‘Sixth Form’ jew ‘Teachers Training College’)
5) Tertiary Level/Edukazzjoni Terzjarja
4. What is your main labour status/X’ inhu l-impjieg tiegħek?
1) Student/Student
2) Pensioner/Pensjonant/a
3) Employed/Impjegat
4) Self-employed/Naħdem għal-rasi
5) Unemployed/Mhux impjegat/a
6) Homemaker/Nieħu ħsieb id-dar
7) Other (please specify)/Ieħor (jekk jogħġbok specifika) _____
5. How many children under 18 years live with you?/Kemm għandek tfal taħt it-18 il-sena jgħixu miegħek? _____
6. In which locality do you live/F’liema lokalita’ toqgħod? _____
7. How long have you been living there?/Kemm ijjek toqgħod hemm? _____
8. Are you active in any voluntary or community organisation/s? If yes, in which sector is this organisation involved (eg. musical, cultural, historical, social)? /Involut/a f’xi għaqda volontarja jew organizzazzjoni fil-komunita’? Jekk iva, f’liema settur hija involuta

din l-organizzazzjoni (eż. mużikali, kulturali, storiku, soċjali)?

Questionnaire
Kwestjonarju

QUALITY OF LIFE
Kwalita' tal-hajja

The next questions will ask about the quality of life in your locality/Il-mistoqsijiet li jmiss jirrigwardjaw il-kwalita' tal-hajja fil-lokalita' fejn tgħix.

9. On a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means very dissatisfied and 5 means very satisfied, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your local area as a place to live?/Fuq skala minn 1 sa 5, fejn 1 ifisser totalment mhux sodisfatt u 5 li inti sodisfatt hafna, kemm inti sodisfatt jew mhux sodisfatt bil-lokalita' tiegħek bħala post biex tgħix?

Very satisfied/ Sodisfatt hafna	Fairly satisfied/ Sodisfatt ffit	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied/La sodisfatt u lanqas mhux sodisfatt	Fairly dissatisfied/ Ma tantx jien sodisfatt	Very dissatisfied/ Totalment mhux sodisfatt
5	4	3	2	1
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. Using the same scale, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following in your locality?/ Billi tuża l-istess skala ta' 1 sa 5 kemm inti sodisfatt jew mhux sodisfatt b'dawn li ġejjien fil-lokalita' tiegħek?

	Very satisfied/ Sodisfatt hafna	Fairly satisfied/ Sodisfatt ffit	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied/ La sodisfatt u lanqas mhux sodisfatt	Fairly dissatisfied/ Ma tantx jien sodisfatt	Very dissatisfied/ Totalment mhux sodisfatt
	5	4	3	2	1

Public and green spaces/Spazji hodur u publiċi	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Urban development/Żvilupp urban	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sport and leisure facilities/Facilitajiet sportivi u ta' rikreazzjoni	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Air and noise pollution/Tniġġiż tal-arja u storbju	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cultural activities/Attivitajiet kulturali	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public transport/Trasport pubbliku	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Traffic and parking/Traffiku u parkeġġ	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Schools in the locality/Skejjet fil-lokalita'	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accessibility/Aċċessibilita'	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Level of safety/Livell ta' sigurta'	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Religious activities/Attivitajiet reliġjużi	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. On a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is very low and 5 is very high how do you perceive the following within your locality?/Fuq skala minn 1 sa 5, fejn 1 ifisser baxx hafna u 5 tfisser oghli hafna kif tara dawn l-affarijiet li ġejjin?

	Very high/Għoli hafna	High/Għoli	Neither high not low/La għoli u lanqas baxx	Low/Baxx	Very low/Baxx hafna
	5	4	3	2	1
Integration of people/Integrazzjoni ta' nies: - With a disability/B' dizabilita	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
- Of different sexual orientation/Ta' orientazzjoni sessuali oħrajn	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
- Of different religious beliefs/Ta' twemmin religjuż ieħor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
- Of different culture/Ta' kultura oħra	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
- Who are elderly/Li huma anzjani	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sense of community/Sens ta' komunita'	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participation of residents in civic life/Partecipazzjoni fil-ħajja ċivika	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. Would you like to add anything else with regards to the quality of life in your locality? Tixtieq iżżid xi haġa oħra dwar il-kwalita' tal-ħajja fil-lokalita' tiegħek?

LOCAL COUNCIL**Kunsill Lokali**

You will now be asked a few questions regarding your Local Council/*Il-mistoqsijiet li jmiss ha jkunu dwar il-Kunsill Lokali tieghek.*

13. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way your Local Council runs things?/*Kemm inti sodisfatt jew mhux sodisfatt bit-tmexxija tal-Kunsill Lokali tieghek?*

Very satisfied/ Sodisfatt hafna	Fairly satisfied/ Sodisfatt ftit	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied/ La sodisfatt u lanqas mhux sodisfatt	Fairly dissatisfied/ Ma tantx jien sodisfatt	Very dissatisfied/ Totalment mhux sodisfatt
5	4	3	2	1
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

14. On a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 means Not at all and 5 means A great deal to what extent do you think your Local Council:/*Fuq skala ta 1 sa 5 fejn 1 ifisser Xejn u 5 tfisser Hafna kemm tahseb li l-Kunsill tieghek:*

	A great deal/ Hafna	A fair amount/ Mhux hazin	Somewhat/ Kemmxejn	Little/ Ftit	Not at all/ Xejn
	5	4	3	2	1
Acts on the concerns of its residents/ <i>Jaggixxi fuq l-ilmenti tar-residenti</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Involves the community/ <i>Jinvolvi lill-komunita'</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15. Using the same scale to what extent are you aware of what your local councillors do in your locality? *Billi tuża l-istess skala kemm taf dwar ix-xogħol li jagħmlu il-Kunsilliera fil-lokalita' tiegħek?*

A great deal/ <i>Ħafna</i>	A fair amount/ <i>Mhux ħażin</i>	Somewhat/ <i>Kemmxejn</i>	Little/ <i>Ftit</i>	Not at all/ <i>Xejn</i>
5	4	3	2	1
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

16. Your Local Council is a key provider of various public services. Which of the following services fall under the remit of your Local Council? *Il-Kunsill tiegħek huwa responsabbli għal diversi servizzi pubbliċi. Liema minn dawn is-servizzi jaqgħu taħt ir-responsabilità' tiegħu?*

	YES/ <i>IVA</i>	NO/ <i>LE</i>
Waste management/ <i>Maniġġjar tal-iskart</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Road infrastructure/ <i>Infrastruttura tat-toroq</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Traffic enforcement e.g. parking fines/ <i>Infurzar tat-traffiku eż. ċitazzjonijiet</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Education matters (E.g. formal & informal education, cultural activities, sports and leisure)/ <i>Kwistjonijiet edukattivi (Eż. Edukazzjoni formali u informali, attivitajiet kulturali, sports u divertiment)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Issue of parking permits/ <i>Ħruġ ta' permessi tal-parkeġġ</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Building permits/ <i>Permessi tal-bini</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Street cleaning/ <i>Tindif ta' toroq</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Upkeep and maintenance of parks and gardens/ <i>Manutenzzjoni ta' ġonna u siti pubbliċi</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social integration (E.g. Integration of people with different culture, religion, language, etc.)/ <i>Integrazzjoni Soċjali (Eż. Integrazzjoni ta' nies b'kultura, reliġjon jew lingwa differenti)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Welfare of children, youth and elderly/ <i>Il-benesseri tat-tfal, żgħażaġħ u anzjani</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Protection of animals/ <i>Protezzjoni tal-animali</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Projects Administration/ <i>Amministrazzjoni ta' Progetti</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Can you mention any other remits?/ <i>Tista' issemmi xi responsabilitajiet oħra?</i>	_____	

17. Does your Local Council meet your expectations? *Il-Kunsill Lokali tiegħek qiegħed jilħaq l-aspettativi tiegħek?* YES/*IVA* _____ NO/*LE* _____

If not, what does the Local Council have to do to meet your expectations? *Jekk le, x'irid jagħmel il-Kunsill biex jilħaq l-aspettativi tiegħek?* _____

18. Would you like to add anything else with regards to your Local Council? *Tixtieq iżżid xi ħaġa oħra dwar il-Kunsill Lokali tiegħek?*

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Kunsill Reġjonali

You will now be asked a few questions regarding your Regional Council/Il-mistoqsijiet li jmiss ħa jkunu dwar il-Kunsill Reġjonali tiegħek.

19. Of which Regional Council does your Local Council form part? F'liema Kunsill Reġjonali taqa' il-lokalita' fejn tgħix? _____
20. Do you think that the functions and responsibilities of the Regional Council differ from those of the Local Council? Taħseb li l-funzjonijiet u r-responsabilitajiet tal-Kunsill Reġjonali huma differenti minn dawk tal-Kunsill Lokali? YES/IVA ____ NO/LE ____
21. If YES, give a reason/s for your answer/Jekk IVA, aġhti raġuni għar-risposta tiegħek

22. Which of the following services fall under the remit of your Regional Council?/Il-Kunsill tiegħek huwa responsabbli għal diversi servizzi publiċi. Liema minn dawn is-servizzi jaqgħu taħt ir-responsabilita' tiegħu?

	YES/IVA	NO/LE
Waste management and issuing of relevant tenders/ Immaniġġjar tal-iskart u ħruġ ta' sejħa għall-immaniġġjar tal-iskart	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Road infrastructure/Infrastruttura tat-toroq	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Traffic enforcement e.g. parking fines/Infurzar tat-traffiku eż. ċitazzjonijiet	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Administers the Regional Tribunal/Jamministra it-Tribunal Reġjonali	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Upkeep and maintenance of street lighting/Manutenzjoni tad-dawl tat-toroq	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protection of the natural and urban environment/Protezzjoni tal-ambjent naturali u urban	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assists Local Councils re diverse issues (E.g. Environment, culture, IT & EU Funds)/Jassisti lill Kunsilli Lokali dwar diversi kwitstjonijiet	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Street cleaning/Tindif tat-toroq	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Coordinates with Central Government entities/ <i>Jikkordina mal-entitajiet tal-Gvern Ċentrali</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Administration of the Region/ <i>Amministrazzjoni tar-Regjun</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Can you mention any other remits?/ <i>Tista' issemmi xi responsabilitajiet oħra?</i>	<hr/>	

23. On a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means very dissatisfied and 5 means very satisfied, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way your Regional Council runs things?/*Fuq skala minn 1 sa 5, fejn 1 ifisser totalment mhux sodisfatt u 5 li inti sodisfatt hafna, kemm inti sodisfatt jew mhux sodisfatt bit-tmexxija tal-Kunsill Reġjonali tiegħek?*

Very satisfied/ <i>Sodisfatt hafna</i>	Fairly satisfied/ <i>Sodisfatt ftit</i>	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied/ <i>La sodisfatt u lanqas mhux sodisfatt</i>	Fairly dissatisfied/ <i>Ma tantx jien sodisfatt</i>	Very dissatisfied/ <i>Totalment mhux sodisfatt</i>
5	4	3	2	1
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

24. On a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 means Not at all and 5 means A great deal to what extent do you think your Regional Council:/*Fuq skala ta 1 sa 5 fejn 1 ifisser Xejn u 5 tfisser Hafna kemm taħseb li l-Kunsill Reġjonali tiegħek:*

	A great deal/ <i>Hafna</i>	A fair amount/ <i>Mhux hażin</i>	Somewhat/ <i>Kemmxejn</i>	Little/ <i>Ftit</i>	Not at all/ <i>Xejn</i>
	5	4	3	2	1
Reaches out and communicating with you/ <i>Qiegħed jikkomunika miegħek</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Involves the community/ <i>Jinvolvi lill-komunita'</i>	○	○	○	○	○
--	---	---	---	---	---

25. Does your Regional Council meet your expectations? *Il-Kunsill Reġjonali tiegħek qiegħed jilħaq l-aspettativi tiegħek?* YES/*IVA* _____ NO/*LE* _____

If not, what does the Regional Council have to do to meet your expectations? *Jekk le, x'irid jagħmel il-Kunsill Reġjonali biex jilħaq l-aspettativi tiegħek?*

26. Would you like to add anything else with regards to your Regional Council? *Tixtieq iżżid xi haġa oħra dwar il-Kunsill Reġjonali tiegħek?*

APPENDIX B – Focus group schedule – Local councillors/Mayors

At the start of each Focus Group participants will be asked to introduce themselves by name and surname (if willing), role/designation, locality, years of involvement in locality's local council (and/or local councils in general).

Environmental matters

1. Do your Councils have a strategic plan / road map leading to address environmental matters? If yes, please provide more information. If not, please explain why.
2. What difficulties, if any, were you encountering in the previous domestic waste collection system? Is the current system overcoming these difficulties?
3. How do you rate the infrastructure (streets, pavements, water supply, parking, traffic management, etc.) in your locality?
4. For those infrastructure related matters which are part of your Councils' responsibility, what are your Councils doing?
5. Do residents co-operate with your Councils re environmental issues?(E.g., domestic waste, cleanliness of streets, etc.)

Educational matters

1. Do your Councils have a strategic plan/road map leading to address educational matters? If yes, please provide more information. If not, please explain why.
2. To what extent are children who may not speak Maltese and/or English integrated into the education system? How is the Council addressing this issue?
3. What are your Councils doing to ensure that facilities required for education, sports and leisure (schools, sports and leisure facilities, theatres, etc.) meet residents' expectations?
4. What level of support do you find when organising cultural activities in your locality? Do residents participate? Do you find stakeholders willing to support such initiatives?
5. What is your Council doing regarding the upholding of cultural heritage, traditions and identity within your locality?

Intergenerational Dynamics

1. Do your Councils have a strategic plan / road map leading to address intergenerational dynamics? If yes, please provide more information. If not, please explain why.
2. Do your Councils cater for the various needs of different generations? (E.g., social activities for the elderly, sports activities for young people). If yes, in which way/s; to which extent? If not, why?
3. What activities do your Councils organise which are aimed at bringing together different generations within the community? What is the level of participation? And what difficulties, if any, do you encounter?
4. Do you have any events aimed at specific age groups?

Social cohesion

1. Do your Councils have a strategic plan / road map leading to address social cohesion? If yes, please provide more information. If not, please explain why.
2. How do you describe the communities populating your locality in terms of similarity and diversity (e.g., nationality, language, religion, gender, household composition, lifestyle etc.)?
3. Are you aware of any animosity/cultural dynamics within your locality? How are you managing this - is there a strategic plan in place?
4. Does your Council engage with any diversities and social differences just described? To what extent? In which way/s? Please give examples.

Projects

1. Do your Councils have a strategic plan / road map leading to address project? Give examples of projects.
2. What difficulties, if any, do you encounter when carrying out projects led by your Councils?
3. Do you involve the community when considering what type of projects are to be undertaken? If yes, in what ways?
4. How would you describe the programme of projects you undertake - is it more in reply to situations in your locality or is it more aligned to your vision for the future?

General questions for all Focus Groups

1. What is the level of cooperation between one Council and another within your Region? Please give examples of specific projects, instances, assets, networks, opportunities, limitations, etc.
2. What support do you get from the Regional Council that your Council forms part of? Please give examples of specific projects, instances, assets, networks, opportunities, limitations, etc.
3. Are your expectations from the Regional Council being met? Please give examples of specific projects, instances, assets, networks, opportunities, limitations, etc.
4. What form of support do you get from Local Government? Are your expectations being met? Please give examples of specific projects, instances, assets, networks, opportunities, limitations, etc.

APPENDIX C- Consent Form – Focus Groups



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Consent Form – Focus Group

Project title: Social Impact Assessment – Harbour Regional Council

Research Team & Contact Details:

Profs. Andrew Azzopardi, Project Leader (andrew.azzopardi@um.edu.mt)

Dr. Maria Brown, Principal Investigator (maria.brown@um.edu.mt)

Ms Stephanie Bugeja, Research Support Officer II (stephanie.l.bugeja@um.edu.mt)

The Faculty for Social Wellbeing at the University of Malta, on behalf of the Harbour Regional Council, is seeking to determine the quality of life and liveability of localities of the Harbour Regional Council and provide recommendations for initiatives that can boost the resourcefulness of the Harbour Regional Council.

Acceptance to participation in this study implies that, as a research participant:

1. I have been given written and/or verbal information about the purpose of the study; I have had the opportunity to ask questions and any questions that I had were answered fully and to my satisfaction.
2. I understand that I am free to accept or refuse to participate, or stop participation at any time without giving any reason and without any penalty. Should I choose to participate, I may choose to decline to answer any questions asked. In the event that I choose to withdraw from the study, any data collected from me will be erased, if this is technically possible, unless erasure of data would render impossible or seriously impair achievement of the research objectives.
3. I understand that I have been invited to participate in a one-time, online focus group, to be held on Zoom, which will be of approximately one to one and a half hours. I understand that the focus group will take place at a time that is convenient to the group. Furthermore, as this is a Focus Group, I understand that other participants will be present and that therefore participants will be identifiable to each other.
4. I understand that my participation does not entail any known or anticipated risks. I also understand that there are no direct benefits to me from participating in this study, but that this research may benefit others, as the results of the study will help us recommend effective ways to

boost the resourcefulness of the Harbour Regional Council in enhancing the quality of live and liveability in that Region.

5. I understand that, under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and national legislation, I have the right to access, rectify, and where applicable, ask for the data concerning me to be erased.
6. I am aware that if I give my consent, this Zoom focus group will be video-recorded and converted to text as it has been recorded (transcribed), and that extracts of the discussion may be reproduced in the study outputs in a pseudonymised form. The recording will make use of Zoom security features such as end-to-end encryption. The recording will be deleted two years from the date that it was made.
7. I am aware that focus group discussions should be considered confidential and that I should not disclose details of those participating and/or of the nature of discussions to others.
8. I am aware that, by marking the first-tick box below, I am giving my consent for this focus group to be **video recorded** and converted to text as it has been recorded (transcribed).

MARK ONLY IF AND AS APPLICABLE

- I agree to this focus group being **video recorded**.
- I do not agree to this focus group being **video recorded**.

9. I am aware that focus group discussions should be considered confidential and that I should not talk to anyone or give details about those participating and/or what was said in the discussion.
10. I am aware that excerpts from the data I may provide may be cited in this study's report and associated with my designation e.g. (Councillor 1, Valletta).
11. I am aware that my identity and personal information will not be revealed in any publications, reports or presentations arising from this research. The codes that link my data to my identity will be stored securely and separately from the data, in an encrypted file on the researcher's password-protected computer, and only the researcher/s will have access to this information. Any hard-copy materials will be placed in a locked cabinet/drawer. Any material that identifies me as a participant in this study will be stored securely for two years and will be destroyed after two years.
12. I am aware that, by marking the first tick-box below, I am asking to review extracts from my interview transcript that the researcher would like to reproduce in research outputs, before these are published. I am also aware that I may ask for changes to be made, if I consider these to be necessary.

MARK ONLY IF AND AS APPLICABLE

- I would like to review extracts of my interview transcript that the researcher would like to reproduce in research outputs before these are published.
 - I would not like to review my interview transcript extracts that the researcher would like to reproduce in research outputs before these are published.
13. I understand that all data collected will be stored in an anonymised form and only the research team will have access to the data.
 14. I have been provided with the study information and will be given a copy of this consent form, which includes the contact details of the researcher.

I have read and understood the above statements and consent to participate in this study.

Participant name and surname: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Researcher Name: Stephanie Bugeja

Researcher email address: stephanie.l.bugeja@um.edu.mt

Thank you for your participation.

APPENDIX D – Functions of Local Council

Functions of Local Council

To provide, with respect to any road, other than any road the responsibility for which vests in Infrastructure Malta in terms of the Agency for Infrastructure Malta Act or any regulations made thereunder, for its upkeep and maintenance, or improvements therein, and to provide and maintain proper road signs and road markings, in conformity with national and international standards: Provided that maintenance in relation to any road referred to under this paragraph includes the patching and resurfacing thereof, but does not include its reconstruction;

To provide for sweeping, cleaning and weed cutting, cleaning of road signs and road lights, the collection and removal of all refuse, for the maintenance of cleanliness and for the upkeep and maintenance of all public conveniences, dustbins and other receptacles for the temporary deposit and collection of waste and to ensure that these are all accessible to all persons, including persons using a wheel-chair;

To provide for the establishment, upkeep and maintenance of children’s playgrounds, public gardens and sport, cultural or other leisure centres, and as part of a national scheme to administer local libraries and LOCAL GOVERNMENT [CAP. 363. 21 to ensure that these are, as far as possible, accessible to all persons, including persons using a wheel-chair;

To propose measures which relate to the maintenance and repair of local roads, pedestrian areas, parking areas, road signs and road markings within the locality, to provide for the installation and maintenance of bus shelters in accordance with standards and specifications laid down by the competent transport authority, pedestrian and parking areas and provide for the protection of school children in the vicinity of schools;

To propose to and, where applicable be consulted by, any competent authority or agency prior to the competent authority or agency making any changes in traffic schemes directly affecting the locality;

To make recommendations to any competent authority or agency for or in relation to any planning or building scheme and to be a full participant in any decisions on the naming or renaming of roads;

Within the parameters of any national plan, to issue guidelines to be followed in the upkeep, restoration,

design or alteration of the facade of any building or of any building or any part of a building normally visible

from a road, including the type of lighting and materials used, advertisements and shop fronts, and in

the case of premises which are open to the public, to ensure that such premises are, as far as possible,

accessible to all persons, including persons who use a wheel-chair;

To assist citizens by providing, where applicable in conjunction with any competent authority, information relating to the rights of citizens in general, including information on consumers’ rights, transport, communications, tourist facilities, taxation, social security, public health and other matters of public utility and interest;

(i) to advise and, be consulted by, any authority empowered to take any decisions directly or indirectly affecting the Council and the residents it is responsible for;

(j) as part of a national scheme, to provide in conjunction with any competent authority, for the establishment, upkeep and maintenance of Child Care Centres, kindergartens and other educational services or buildings;

(k) as part of a national scheme, to provide in conjunction with any competent authority for the establishment, upkeep and maintenance of health and rehabilitation centres, government dispensaries, health district offices and Homes for Senior Citizens, Day Centres for Senior Citizens and Night Care Centres; 22 CAP. 363.] LOCAL GOVERNMENT

(l) to propose to the Minister responsible for education, persons to be appointed as presidents of primary school councils;

(m) within the context of a national action plan, Councils shall promote social policy initiatives within their locality. A Council shall work with people having special needs, with children and young people having literacy problems, with the elderly, persons with mental health problems, in community care as well as initiatives in the area of preventive care;

(n) safeguard local identity and for this purpose take the necessary initiatives to safeguard the local historical and cultural heritage, traditions and folklore;

(o) in the framework of regulations made by the Minister, extend assistance to artists, musicians and sports persons from their locality in order that they may develop their talents;

(p) organise cultural activities that promote the locality in every possible way;

(q) protect the natural and urban environment of the locality and take all necessary measures to ensure the more efficient use of energy, good waste management and climate change initiatives;

(r) in agreement with the education authorities to make the best use of facilities already existing in schools in the locality after normal school hours such as sports facilities, school halls, information technology laboratories, and other public facilities in the locality;

(s) organise sports or physical activities for all residents of all ages, co-operate closely with the sports associations from the locality, to provide good sports facilities and organise such sports activities as are not normally organised by local sports associations;

(t) ensure to give effect to the concept of life long learning with all residents, particularly adults and the elderly, by providing such service within the same locality local library;

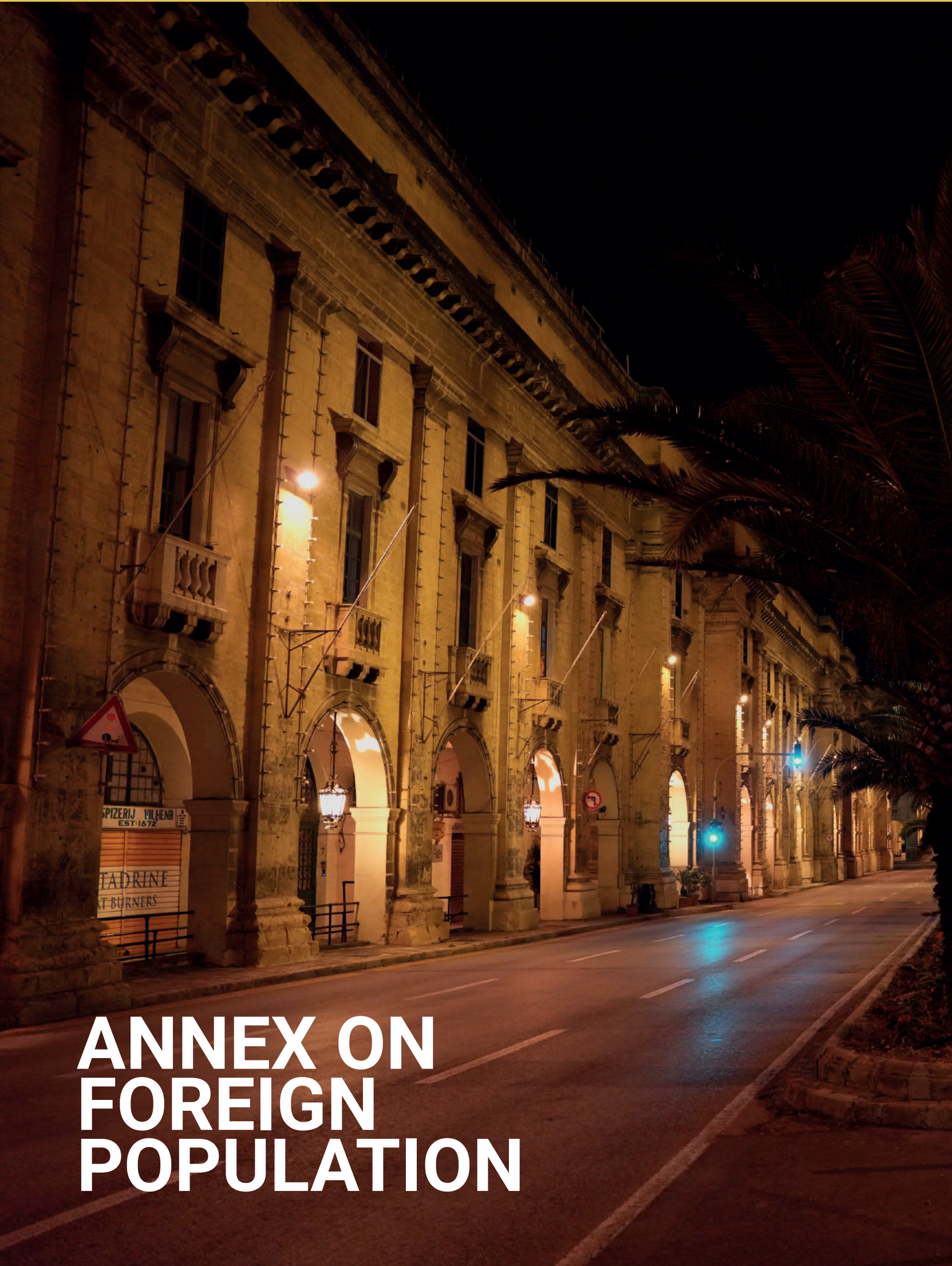
(u) provide and maintain the service of a local library

(v) to promote an entrepreneurial policy whereby the interests of shop owners and the needs of the residents and the consumer in the community are catered for. The Council is to encourage activities which promote trade and to facilitate Council procedures to lessen bureaucracy so that commercial activities can improve the services they provide;

(w) to enter into agreements with any agency or public body or Government department for the delegation to the local council of any of the functions of that agency, public body or department: LOCAL GOVERNMENT [CAP. 363. 23 Provided that any such delegation shall only come into effect after the Minister has made the relevant order in the Gazette;

(x) to perform any other function which shall be delegated to it by the Government through the Minister by means of an order published in the Government Gazette;

(z) to provide for all such other works, things, matters and services which are not excluded from a Council's competence by any law for the time being in force nor assigned to any other authority



ANNEX ON FOREIGN POPULATION





INTRODUCTION

1. Introduction

Since becoming a European Union (EU) member, Malta has witnessed a gradual growth in the foreign population, reaching 21,246 individuals, which accounted for 4.81% of the total population of 416,268 in 2011 (Borg, 2023). This trend, however, has reached unprecedented volumes over the past few years, as a steady influx of foreign nationals have been attracted to Malta in order to contribute to our burgeoning economy.

The presence of foreigners in local localities, villages, and cities has significantly impacted the social dynamics and fabric of these communities. For this reason, we believe that gauging foreigners' views on the localities that now serve as their homes and the quality of life therein would add immense value to the study underway.

1.1 Aims of study

The aim of this Annex is to examine the unique perspectives of foreign residents regarding the quality of life, liveability, and social integration in their localities. It also seeks to understand their awareness, knowledge, and expectations of Local and Regional Councils. Furthermore, the Annex aims to explore opportunities for more effective collaboration between regional and local councils and identify ways in which local councils can better address the needs of their foreign residents.

1.2 Foreigners' Presence in Malta

Over the past two decades, migration patterns have undergone notable transformations, attracting not only Europeans but also individuals from Africa, the Middle East, and Asia seeking refuge from conflict and poverty (Shankar, 2023), as well as economic migrants coming to Malta to find employment. Indeed, Malta has emerged as a destination that draws

thousands of contracted migrants who help alleviate labour shortages, particularly in the hospitality, healthcare, and service industries (Shankar, 2023).

This influx has been captured by the Maltese 2021 Census of Population and Housing by the National Statistics Office of Malta (NSO), which provided a comprehensive understanding of the growing presence of foreign individuals in Malta, going beyond just general foreign population statistics and indicating also the country of origin/nationality (NSO, 2023). Indeed, in 2021, the number of foreign nationals stood at 115,449, constituting over one-fifth of the total population (NSO, 2023).

However, the fact that the Census is carried out at particularly lengthy time intervals, paired with the ever-growing increase in foreigners' year-on-year, a Parliamentary Question (PQ) has indicated that as of September 2023¹, the foreign residents living in Malta amounted to 145,910 in total (Minister for the Interior, Security, Reforms, and Equality, 2023). Unfortunately, this latter data set fails to disaggregate data by country of origin or gender. For this reason, the Maltese 2021 Census data was used as a guiding source for this study in order to ascertain the top communities in particular regions, keeping in mind that within the past two years, migrants might have moved and shifted from one place to another.

1.2.1 Statistics of Foreigners in Malta

The Maltese 2021 Census (NSO, 2023) provided an overview of the ten most prominent foreign nationalities in Malta. As shown in Table 1, Italians were the prevailing nationality, exhibiting

¹ This total number of Maltese and foreign residents in Malta was published in September 2023 by the Honourable Byron Camilleri, Minister for the Interior, Security, Reforms, and Equality. This data was in reply to a House of Representatives Parliamentary Question posed by the Member of Parliament, Honourable Mark Anthony Sammut from the Nationalist Party, specifically addressing the need for updated information (Minister for the Interior, Security, Reforms, and Equality, 2023).

the most significant increase among the top ten nationalities, with the number of individuals rising from 0.8% (947) in 2011 to 11.99% (13,838) in 2021 (NSO, 2023). Furthermore, the British, Indians, Filipinos, Serbians, Bulgarians, Libyans, Syrians, Nepalese, and Albanians were included in the top ten population.

Table 1

Top 10 Foreign National Communities in Malta - 2021

Nationality	Number of foreigners	% of total foreigners
Italy	13,838	11.99%
UK and North Ireland	10,614	9.19%
India	7,764	6.73%
Philippines	7,571	6.56%
Serbia	5,533	4.79%
Bulgaria	3,729	3.23%
Libya	3,311	2.87%
Syria	2,861	2.48%
Nepal	2,819	2.44%
Albania	2,714	2.35%
Total foreigners	60,714	52.62%

The 2021 Census further indicated that 19.44% (22,443) individuals originate from other EU Member States, and an additional 7.37% (8,512) came from other European countries. Another 20.42% (23,569) held various other citizenships. Notably, a small population of 0.5% (171) was identified as stateless individuals, with almost half of them being children under the age of nine (NSO, 2023).

An imbalance in gender representation amongst foreigners was observed, with a majority of 59% (68,000) being male (NSO, 2023). Such an imbalance was mostly noticed in the Southern

Region, with foreign men being nearly twice as many as women. This gender disproportion extended across different ethnicities in Malta, and the NSO revealed that 79% of individuals of African origin were men, while Asian and Arab men also significantly outnumbered women at 67% and 56%, respectively (Borg, 2023). Foreigners were also typically younger than Maltese residents, with an average age of 34.9 in comparison to 43.6 for Maltese residents (Borg, 2023).

Concerning the geographical distribution of the foreign population, San Pawl il-Baħar, Sliema, and Msida emerged as the most popular residential areas for nearly one-third of all foreigners in Malta (NSO, 2023). These localities were confirmed as the most inhabited by foreigners also through the above-mentioned PQ, whereby foreign residents amounted to 21,702, 11,795 and 8,655 respectively.

1.3 Structure of the Report

This report is divided into five chapters. This chapter served as a general introduction to the study, highlighting the presence of foreigners and providing statistics associated with the population. Chapter Two provides an overview of the existing context of the Regional Councils, specifically focusing on the Regjun Port and its associated local councils, in relation to foreigners. Chapter Three outlines the methodology employed in this study, including the methods used for data collection and analysis. It also discusses the ethical considerations and limitations encountered during the research process. The main findings that emerged from the data analysis are presented and discussed in Chapter Five. Finally, Chapter Six concludes the study by presenting the key findings and several recommendations.





CONTEXT

2. Context

In view of the great influx of foreigners mentioned above, it is crucial to understand how the Regional Councils, particularly the Reġjun Port (Port Regional Council) and its associated local councils, function in relation to foreigners. The following section should serve as a contextual foundation for the study, outlining the profile of the foreign component of the Region's population and their socio-cultural realities, as well as the link they have with the Regional Council and Local Councils, if any.

2.1 Policies and Strategies: Promoting Inclusion and Integration at a Local Level

The Regional Councils in Malta have taken proactive steps in recent years to promote the inclusion of foreigners through various strategies and programmes. One significant initiative is the introduction of the Local Integration Charter in 2019. This charter was implemented following the Government's launch of its first Migrant Integration Strategy and Action Plan. Its purpose was to provide support to local councils in addressing the unique integration needs of residents in response to the increasing diversity in different Maltese localities (European Website on Integration, 2018).

As highlighted in the Local Integration Charter and Action Plan Addendum (2021), the implementation of the charter involves the Human Rights Directorate (HRD) taking responsibility for the accession to the charter and the implementation of the action plan. On the other hand, the Local Councils Association is tasked with monitoring the implementation. To facilitate this collaboration, the Local Councils Association appoints a committee that includes a representative from the HRD. This ensures close collaboration in the implementation of the Action Plan.

Out of the 54 local councils in Malta, 37 are actively participating in the implementation of the charter. The majority of these 37 councils have signed an agreement with the HRD's Intercultural and Anti-Racism Unit, indicating their commitment to promoting intercultural understanding and combating racism (European Website on Integration, 2018).

To ensure effective implementation, several action plans have been included in the charter for the local councils to implement. Some of these plans include:

- A mapping exercise shall be carried out continuously (e.g., by means of mailing shots or other models) so that the Council will have a better picture of the situation, even if it is not the complete reality of the locality. A database shall be set up (with the consent of the residents concerned) with a list of all migrant residents in order to facilitate communication. The Human Rights Directorate (HRD), the migrant communities, and other parties can contribute if the Council so requests.
- *Jum il-Lokalita'* or another major activity shall be held with the theme of integration (e.g., cultural and/or sport activities, etc.);
- Through the collaboration between local councils, HRD, and migrant communities, important awareness campaigns (e.g., domestic waste disposal, street gatherings, etc.) shall be held and important information translated to the relevant main languages.
- Information and registration for the I BELONG courses (Maltese, English, and Cultural Orientation courses, offered by HRD, free of charge) shall also be provided from the local councils' premises. (Local Integration Charter and Action Plan, 2019, p. 3)

Recognising the ongoing importance of foreigners in Malta, the Regional Cultural Strategy 2022-2027 also emphasises the important role of regional and local councils in designing customised programmes aimed at fostering the integration of non-Maltese residents within

their respective regions (Malta Arts Council, n.d.). Moreover, the strategy acknowledges the prevalent sense of exclusion experienced by ethnic minority communities in their active participation in various cultural activities. As a result, it emphasises the need to build diverse and engaged audiences that include different cultures and generations. These audiences should feel empowered to contribute to how culture is presented, promoted, and programmed.

2.2 Focusing on Reġjun Port

For years, a number of particular localities in the region have always been known for their diverse communities, e.g., Raħal Ġdid and Fgura, welcoming both Maltese residents and foreigners. With 11.83% of the region's population being non-Maltese, there is a sense of cultural diversity (Berger, 2022).

Indeed, the 2021 Census recorded a total of 8,360 (11.83%) foreign individuals residing in the region. Based on the 2021 Census, as per Table 2 below, Raħal Ġdid emerges as having the highest percentage of foreign nationals living in the locality (22%), with Floriana a close second (17%). On the other hand, Żabbar had the lowest percentage of foreigners, with 7% of individuals in 2021 (NSO, 2023).

Table 2*Total Number of Foreigners in Reġjun Port Localities*

Locality	Maltese - Totals	Non Maltese - Totals	Total Population	% of total Population
Birgu	1,959	302	2,261	13%
Bormla	4,217	437	4,654	9%
Fgura	11,365	1,701	13,066	13%
Furjana	1,638	347	1,985	17%
Valetta	4,486	671	5,157	13%
Isla	2,049	255	2,304	11%
Kalkara	2,793	312	3,105	10%
Raġal Ġdid	7,311	2,028	9,339	22%
Tarxien	8,631	833	9,464	9%
Xgħajra	1,836	356	2,192	16%
Żabbar	16,030	1,118	17,148	7%
Total	62,315	8,360	70,675	11.83%

It is worth noting that, following the PQ mentioned above, the number of foreigners residing in the Region as of September 2023 seems to have risen by circa 25.92% to 10,527 individuals. The table indicating the difference in foreign nationals between the 2021 Census and the September data can be found in Appendix A in Table 3.

As previously outlined, the PQ does not disclose the country of origin of the foreigners; hence, the latest publicly available data on foreign nationals by country of origin remains the Census 2021. As illustrated in Table 4 below, among the top ten foreign nationals in 2021, Philippines held the highest representation with 975 (11.66%) individuals, while Libyans held the tenth place with a total of 144 (1.72%) (NSO, 2023).

Table 4*Top 10 nationalities in the Regjun Port*

Top 10 Nationalities	Number of foreigners	% of total foreigners
Philippines	975	11.66%
Italy	933	11.16%
India	923	11.04%
Syrian Arab Republic	640	7.66%
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	571	6.83%
Somalia	244	2.92%
China	221	2.64%
Serbia	212	2.54%
Bulgaria	146	1.75%
Libya	144	1.72%
Total foreigners	5,009	59.92%

In terms of gender presence in the region, Table 5 displays that Regjun Port has approximately 5,277 (63.12%) non-Maltese male residents and 3,083 (36.88%) females (NSO, 2023). This contrasts with the 31,267 (50.18%) males and 31,048 (49.82%) females of Maltese nationals in the region.

Table 5*Population of non-Maltese residents by sex and locality in Reġjun Port*

	Males	Females	Total
Birgu	181	121	302
Bormla	273	164	437
Fgura	970	731	1,701
Floriana	198	149	347
Valetta	374	297	671
Isla	162	93	255
Kalkara	203	109	312
Raħal Ġdid	1,453	575	2,028
Tarxien	539	294	833
Xgħajra	219	137	356
Żabbar	705	413	1,118

Moreover, the average age of the population of foreigners in this region stands at 37.0, as opposed to 45.1 years for Maltese nationals. Table 6 shows that within the region, foreign men have an overall average age of 37.0 (vs. 43.8 of Maltese male nationals), whilst that of women stands at 37.0 (vs. 45.1 of Maltese female nationals). These figures clearly reflect the region's high proportion of young foreign residents, many of whom would be of working age. This average is possibly pushed downwards in comparison to the Maltese cohort due to the scarcity of foreign elderly in the region (NSO, 2023).

Table 6

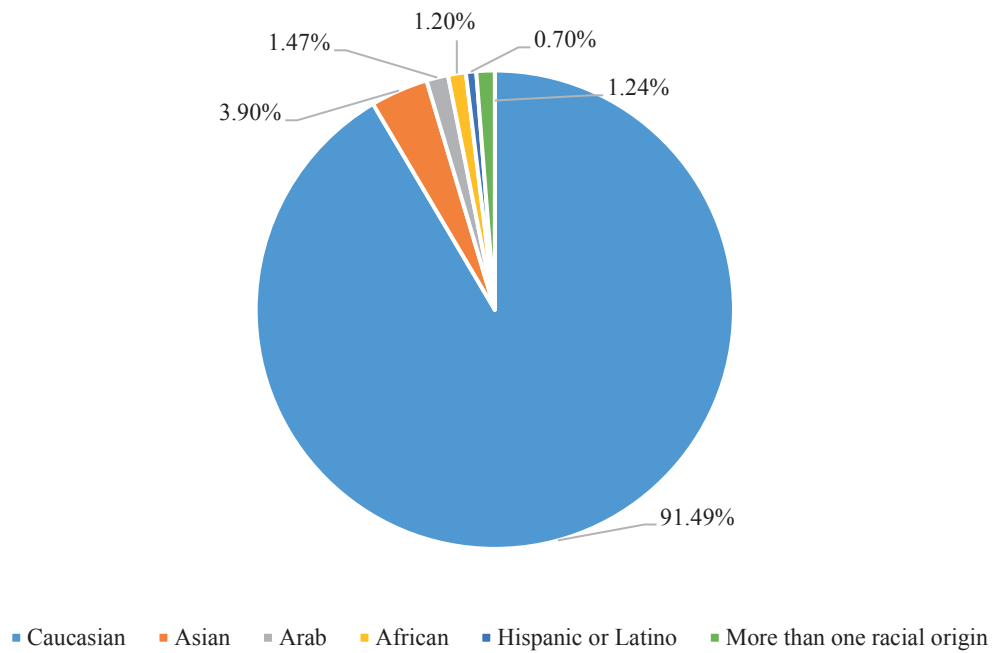
Average age of non-Maltese residents by type of sex and locality in the Reġjun Port

	Males	Females	Total
Birgu	43.5	44.3	43.8
Bormla	38.1	38.7	38.3
Fgura	32.8	31.0	32.0
Floriana	36.7	34.8	35.9
Valletta	40.9	39.0	40.1
Isla	41.8	45.0	43.0
Kalkara	40.4	42.5	41.1
Raħal Ġdid	31.3	30.5	31.1
Tarxien	33.3	32.4	33.0
Xgħajra	34.8	36.1	35.3
Żabbar	33.3	32.6	33.1

When looking at the racial origin composition of Reġjun Port, also including the Maltese population, the highest percentage is Caucasian at 91.49% (64,648 individuals). The second highest race is that of Asians, at 3.90% (2,756 individuals). Figure 1 below shows the racial composition of the residents within the region, which displays that despite the high homogeneity, in terms of Caucasians present, there are still minorities that make up the community (NSO, 2023).

Figure 1

Total population by racial origin in Regjun Port



Raħal Ġdid stands out as the locality with the most diverse composition, with 81% (7,566) being Caucasian, 8.5% (791) Asians, 3.7% (349) Arabs, 2.7% (256) African, 1.1% (98) Hispanic or Latino, and the remaining 3% (279) having more than one racial origin. The locality with the most homogeneous race was that of Isla, with 96% (2,212 individuals) of the population being Caucasian (NSO, 2023). This is illustrated in Table 7 below.

Table 7*Racial Origin of Total Population by Locality in Reġjun Port*

	Caucasian	Asian	Arab	African	Hispanic or Latino	More than one racial origin
Birgu	2,151	38	17	19	15	21
Bormla	4,454	77	38	33	24	28
Fgura	11,622	834	215	165	61	169
Floriana	1,787	100	30	24	29	15
Valletta	4,861	100	57	42	53	44
Isla	2,212	47	11	11	10	13
Kalkara	2,975	58	16	12	17	27
Raġal Ġdid	7,566	791	349	256	98	279
Tarxien	8,797	327	123	61	69	87
Xgħajra	1,995	68	19	43	28	39
Żabbar	16,228	316	162	182	104	156
Total	64,648	2,756	1,037	848	508	878

Similarly, when one looks at the religions practiced within the region, one can identify clear diversities. Notwithstanding the fact that Roman Catholicism remains the leading religion amongst all population aged 15 and over in the Reġjun Port, at 90.06% (55,323), 3.14% (1,926) affiliate themselves to Islam, and 1.22% (750) to the Orthodox practice. 2.50% (1,538) affiliate themselves with some other religion, such as Hinduism, Church of England, Protestantism, Buddhism, Judaism or others, whilst 3.08% (1,892) do not affiliate themselves to any religion (NSO, 2023).

2.2.1 Reġjun Port: An Overview of the Foreigners' Presence

Despite Reġjun Port being less popular among foreigners compared to other regions (Reġjun Nofsinhar, Reġjun Tramuntana, and Reġjun Lvant) and therefore receiving less attention from the media, it has still experienced a consistent growth in its foreign population over the past decade (NSO, 2023).

Reġjun Port exhibits a varied range of geographical features, characterised by a blend of rural villages, towns, and cities. Despite undergoing significant urbanisation and infrastructural advancements, certain localities within the region, namely Birgu, Cospicua, Isla, Valletta, and Floriana, have managed to retain their rural heritage. On the other hand, localities like Paola, Fgura, and Xgħajra have seen more substantial urbanisation and infrastructure development. Consequently, these areas have experienced a notable increase in the number of foreign residents when compared to the total population of their own localities (NSO, 2023). Interestingly, even the mentioned traditionally rural localities have witnessed a notable rise in the foreign population (see Appendix A, Table 3), indicating that demographic changes are not limited to the well-developed areas alone.

Among the various localities in the Reġjun Port, Valletta stands out as a hub for organisations dedicated to supporting foreigners. Notably, Valletta is home to the Migrants Commission (previously known as Dar l-Emigrant), which actively collaborates with agencies and organisations to create an inclusive environment that aims to protect, promote, and integrate all migrants in Malta. Valletta is also home to Spark 15, a youth and refugee-led organisation that promotes youth empowerment through sports, social, and educational activities. Tama is another refugee-led organisation based in Valletta, offering support on a range of issues, including mental health, gender-based violence, and disability. Additionally, Blue Door

English, which is also based in Valletta, provides hands-on linguistic first aid and practical skills courses to help migrants rebuild their lives in their new host country.

Paola hosts the Human Rights Directorate, which holds the Intercultural and Anti-Racism Unit. This unit is dedicated to providing support and guidance to individuals of migrant background in Malta, aiding them on their personal journey towards integration. Paola is also home to the Mariam Al-Batool Mosque, which serves as a place of worship for various nationalities who come to pray and practice their faith. Furthermore, Bormla has been chosen as the site for the American University of Malta since 2015. This project aimed to regenerate the south of Malta and increase the presence of foreigners in the area through admissions.

Moreover, Floriana is also home to the Jesuit Refugee Service, which, as an organisation, is dedicated to supporting and advocating for the rights of asylum seekers and forcibly displaced individuals who arrive in Malta. The Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers (AWAS) is also located in Floriana, managing reception facilities and offering information programs covering employment, housing, health, welfare, and education. Additionally, AWAS operates an Open Centre in Fgura known as Dar il-Liedna, which offers voluntary services specifically for refugee youth.

The presence and increase of foreign students in government schools have also been observed in the region. According to the data gathered for the Parliamentary Question by Nationalist Member of Parliament Ivan Bartolo, in 2022, the Minister for Education, Clifton Grima, stated that Raħal Ġdid had the highest number of foreign students in the Reġjun Port, with Primary and Alternative Learning Programme (ALP) Schools totaling 118. Fgura and Żabbar Primary schools also showed a substantial increase in foreign students, with 89 and 73, respectively.

On the other hand, Kalkara Primary School had 11 foreign students, while Isla had only 5 foreign students (Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research, and Innovation, 2022).

While research on the presence of foreigners in the Regjun Port is limited, certain localities, namely Raħal Ġdid and Fgura, have garnered more attention than others due to the growing number of foreigners residing there. The notable popularity of these localities when compared to other localities in the region can be attributed to their relatively affordable rental prices compared to other localities in the region. For example, in 2021, Fgura was considered the cheapest locality among Maltese and non-Maltese residents to rent a two-bedroom dwelling, with an average cost of EUR 554. Similarly, Raħal Ġdid was also among the least expensive localities, with average costs of EUR 581 for a two-bedroom property (Housing Authority, 2023).

Recognising the increasing presence of foreigners, the Port Regional Council Charter 2022-2027 recognises the importance of fostering a sense of belonging and inclusivity within the region. The Charter is aimed at designing and implement programmes that are specifically tailored to address the unique needs and circumstances of all residents, including both locals and foreigners (Malta Arts Council, n.d.).

2.3 Initiatives for Better Representation and Integration among Foreigners

To effectively address the diverse needs of the community, the Regjun Port has undertaken a range of actions in recent years. For instance, as shown in Figure 2, in 2019, the Paola Local Council collaborated with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to provide Cultural and English courses to foreigners. This initiative aimed to enhance communication skills and cultural understanding among the participants over an eight-week period (IOM Malta, 2019).

Figure 2

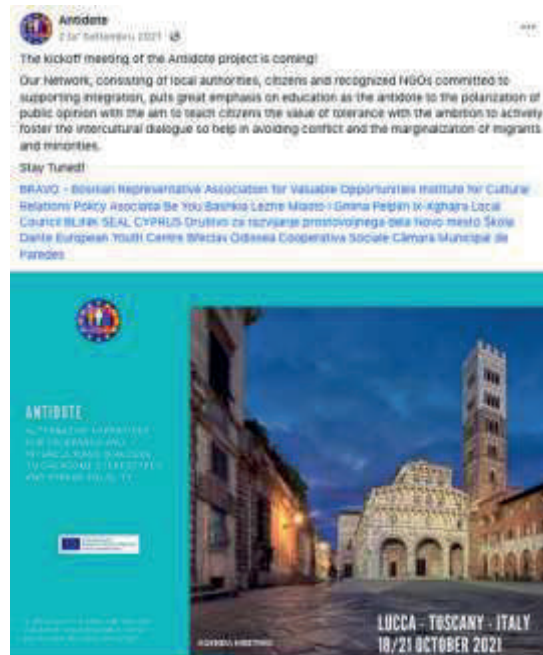
Paola Local Council in collaboration with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM)



Furthermore, in 2021, the Xgħajra Local Council made significant contributions by actively participating in the Antidote kick-off meeting, as depicted in Figure 3. The primary objective of this meeting was to delve into the importance of tolerance within the community. By fostering intercultural dialogue and promoting social cohesion, the meeting aimed to mitigate conflicts and prevent the marginalisation of migrants and minorities (Antidote, 2021).

Figure 3

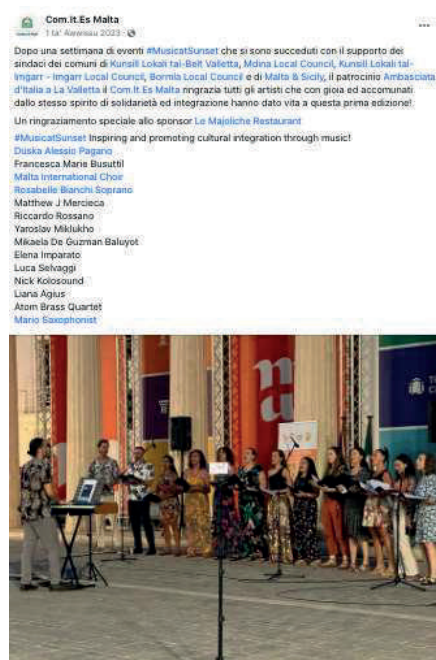
Xghajra Local Council participation in the Antidote project



In addition to these efforts, Figure 4 showcases that in 2023, the Valletta and Bormla local councils, along with various organisations, joined forces to organise the #MusicatSunset event. This occasion served as a dynamic platform for cultural integration, utilising the power of music to bring together artists from diverse nationalities. By celebrating diversity and promoting unity, this event exemplified the region's commitment to fostering a harmonious and inclusive community (Com.It.Es Malta, 2023).

Figure 4

Valletta and Bormla Local Council participation in the #MusicatSunset event.



These examples highlight the efforts undertaken by the Regjun Port to address the needs of foreigners and foster a more inclusive society. By providing educational opportunities, promoting tolerance and intercultural dialogue, and organising events that celebrate diversity, the region actively works towards creating a better environment where individuals from different backgrounds feel more valued and integrated.

2.4 Conclusion

Throughout this chapter, we have focused on Regjun Port, examining its diversity in both demographics and context. First this chapter began by highlighting the proactive policies and strategies of Malta's Regional Councils, working in collaboration with Local Councils, to promote the inclusion and integration of foreigners within Regjun Port (Regjun Port, n.d.).

Delving deeper, the remarkable cultural diversity of Regjun Port unfolded, showcasing a substantial foreign population, a varied racial composition, and diverse religious affiliations. The amalgamation of different ethnicities, with Caucasians in the majority, provided a compelling study of race relations, cultural identity, and the intersections of various ethnic groups within the region.

Religious diversity emerged as another significant facet, with Roman Catholicism holding a dominant position. However, the coexistence of different faith traditions was noted, which makes the region more diverse than ever. Moreover, noteworthy initiatives, such as collaborative efforts between Paola Local Council and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) for Cultural and English courses, the active participation of Xghajra Local Council in the Antidote kick-off meeting, and the joint organisation of the #MusicatSunset event by Valletta and Bormla local councils, underscored the region's dedicated commitment to representation and integration.

Nevertheless, amid the celebration of cultural diversity, a noticeable gap in representation persists among certain foreign groups. Despite Regjun Port's multicultural nature, foreigners from marginalised communities may encounter limited visibility and inclusion in areas such as political representation and media representation. Addressing these disparities and ensuring equal opportunities for individuals from all backgrounds in decision-making processes are crucial.

This sets the stage for the upcoming chapter, where the following chapter will delve into the methodology employed in this study to delve deeper into the dynamics of the Regjun Port.





METHODOLOGY

3. Methodology

This section presents an overview of the methodology employed in this part of the study to gauge the voices of the foreign communities residing in the Region. It outlines the methods used for data collection and analysis. It also discusses the ethical considerations and limitations encountered during the research process.

The aim of this additional research piece is to gauge the perspectives and perceptions of the major foreign communities present in Reġjun Port regarding the quality of life, liveability, and social integration, as well as their awareness and knowledge of their local and regional councils and expectations thereof. This was done by carrying out semi-structure interviews/surveys with the community leaders and/or representatives of these foreign communities.

3.1 Sampling and recruitment process

Upon discussions with the Regional Councils, it was agreed that the communities making up the top 50% (or approximately) of total foreigners' nationalities residing in the Reġjun Port, as identified in the 2021 Census data (NSO, 2023), would be contacted. Out of a total of 8,360 foreigners in the Region, 51.27% belonged to the 6 foreign communities outlined in Table 8 below. The same method of purposeful selection was consistently applied to the other regions (Reġjun Tramuntana, Reġjun Lvant, Reġjun Nofsinhar, and Reġjun Punent) to maintain a standardised approach throughout the study.

Table 8*Selected foreign communities for this study*

	Number of foreigners	% of total foreigners in the Region
Philippines	975	11.66%
Italy	933	11.16%
India	923	11.04%
Syrian Arab Republic	640	7.66%
UK	571	6.83%
Somalia	244	2.92%
Total foreigners	4,281	51.27%

Given the fact that the Regional Councils operate within the field, a first attempt to contact foreign representatives was made through the Regjun Port Council, as they agreed to act as gatekeepers and made efforts to reach out to potential community leaders/representatives from foreign communities residing in their own area.

Nevertheless, given the tight time frames and the lower than anticipated response rate that the Regjun Port received, the research team adopted an alternative approach. Organisations representing the above-listed foreign communities were sourced from the VO Directory on the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS) portal. This strategic shift was done following discussion and agreement with the Regional Council. In the case whereby more than one organisation is set up for one particular nationality/foreign community, communication was held with all organisations. The data collection via this alternative route was carried out during the first weeks of December 2023.

The organisations were contacted via email, which was provided on the MCVS portal. The email was addressed to the community leaders/representatives from the above communities, explaining the study's purpose and objectives. The email also included a consent form and the semi-structured survey, which leaders were encouraged to fill out online and send to the research team. The representatives were also offered the option to either meet face-to-face or online if they so preferred. In order to ensure a high response rate, the research team followed up with phone calls and reminder emails. Table 9 below illustrates the number of organisations reached out to, the response rate, and the mode of data collection.

Table 9

Responses rate of organisations reached

	Number of organisations contacted	Number of Responses received from organisations	Mode of data collection
Philippines	3	1	Email response
Italy	3	1	Email response
India	2	1	Email response
Syrian Arab Republic	2	1	Email response
UK	2	1	Email response
Somalia	2	1	Face-to-face meeting
Total	14	6	

3.2 Data Collection Tool

The semi-structured interview/survey (Appendix B) was conducted in English and consisted of a mix of 15 open and closed-ended questions. These questions delved into various aspects such as socio-demographics, the quality of life in localities, as well as awareness and satisfaction with Local and Regional councils. By including these dimensions, the researchers aimed to gain a comprehensive understanding of the foreign residents' experiences, challenges,

and perceptions within the given context. The estimated completion time for the questionnaire was approximately 20-30 minutes.

3.3 Data Analysis

The research team retrieved the quantitative data gathered from the questionnaire and inputted it into Excel. The data was then sorted, coded, and cleaned for statistical analysis. For the qualitative data, responses from the open-ended questions were coded. The responses were then analysed using Thematic Analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2013), which is a method that allows “researchers to draw reasonable and meaningful conclusions” from the participants’ responses (Suter 2012, as cited in Rouder et al., 2021, para. 4).

3.4 Ethical considerations

Throughout the study, the research team gave careful consideration to ethical concerns and implemented measures to ensure the wellbeing of the research participants.

Ethical clearance was obtained from the ethics committee (FREC) of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing, at the University of Malta on the 30th of October 2023.

To ensure confidentiality of the participants, their identities were kept anonymous during the presentation of the findings. This involved refraining from revealing any personal information, including the names of the foreign community organisations, that could potentially lead to the identification of individuals. Participation in the study was also completely voluntary, allowing all potential and actual participants the freedom to accept or decline the invitation to participate at any time without any consequences or negative impact.

Moreover, a list of free, open-access support services was provided to participants as part of the consent form, so as to be used in the event that participants experienced emotional distress before, during, or after the survey. This ensured access to professional support to address any emotional challenges that may have arisen during their involvement in the study.

3.5 Limitations

During this data collection process, the research team encountered a number of limitations, and various measures were implemented to mitigate their impact. One significant limitation was the challenge faced by both Regjun Port per se as well as the research team in identifying foreign representatives of the major communities who resided specifically in the area of study, that is in localities from Regjun Port. This limitation hindered the ability to target specific individuals or groups within the actual foreign community in the Region.

In order to still gather information to represent such communities, organisations representing these foreign communities at a national level were contacted. This meant that some of the answers might not be specifically related to the Region per se but to the overall national feel of such foreign community in terms of Local and Regional Councils. In order to try and mitigate this limitation, the representatives were asked to specifically answer the questions in relation to their fellow countrymen residing in the Regions, in which they make part of the top 50% of the foreign community (being guided accordingly, specifying such regions and the localities these include). Moreover, the representatives at a national level were also asked to highlight and point out instances whereby their compatriots face different experiences in different areas they reside in, if any.

Another limitation arose when attempting to reach representatives from the foreign population through organisations. As indicated in Table 9 above, not all organisations replied to the researchers' invite. This limitation had a direct impact on the number of participants. However, the team sent emails and made reminder calls to collect as many responses as possible.

Moreover, it is crucial to acknowledge that, given the small sample size and limited number of responses, the findings cannot be really generalizable. However, they give a preliminary indication of the sentiment of foreign communities in the Region, and can be used as a stepping stone for further research in the future, specifically on the foreign cohorts in the Regions' localities.

Hence, despite the listed limitations, the research team continuously adapted their strategies and made additional efforts to encourage participation and meaningful data collection. By actively addressing these limitations, their efforts helped to strengthen the validity and reliability of the findings.





4. Analysis of Findings

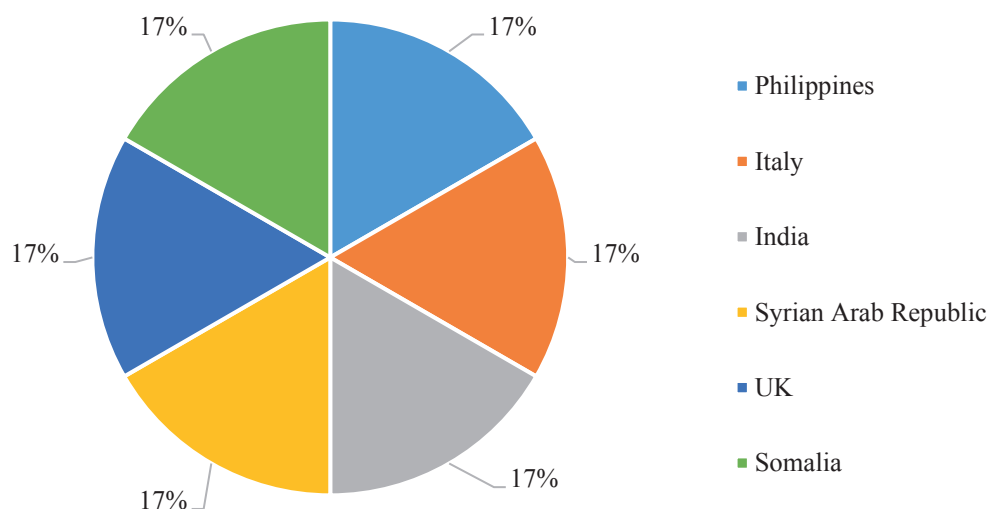
The following section outlines the major findings obtained from the semi-structured interview/survey which was conducted with the 6 different community leaders representing the top 6 nationalities, which make up to c. 51.27% of the foreign communities in the region. These include the Philippines, Italy, India, the Syrian Arab Republic, the UK, and Somalia, as outlined in Table 9 in the methodology chapter above.

4.1 Socio-demographics

When looking at the number of respondents who agreed to answer such a survey, 6 community leaders agreed to participate. These included one from each community, as indicated in Figure 7 below.

Figure 7

Percentage of respondents per foreign community

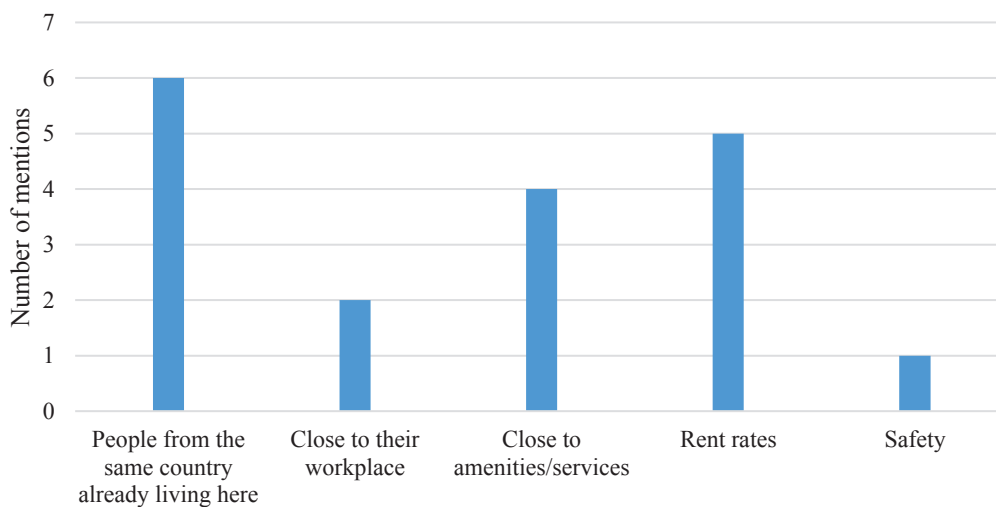


The survey asked respondents to disclose for how long they had been acting in the role of their community’s representatives. Answers varied from 6 months up to 12 years, with an average of 6.5 years’ representation. This indicates the volatile nature of such foreign organisations, whereby, in some instances, the mobile nature of migrants might also lead to turnover of the leadership teams, which are a key element to integration.

The representatives provided information on the major factors that attract their communities to the localities where they reside. The findings revealed that all of the respondents (6 mentions) identified ‘people from the same country already living there’ as the main pull factor. 83% of respondents (5 mentions) mentioned that ‘rental rates’ was also a significant factor. In this case, the Somali community did not select this option. Additionally, ‘being close to amenities’ was mentioned 4 times (67%). Safety, on the other hand, was only chosen by the Filipino community (17%, 1 mention), as indicated in Figure 8.

Figure 8

Major factors that attract the foreign community to reside in the Region



4.2 Quality of Life

When asked whether their community living in the Region is satisfied or otherwise with the location they live in, all representatives answered satisfied (6 mentions). When asked specifically what their communities like the most about the areas they reside in, 2 communities (Italians and Indians) mentioned safety, calmness, and quietness as satisfactory factor. Syrians and British mentioned how their community members like their localities since other compatriots live in the area and/or socialising is easier. Another two communities (Somali, and Filipino), mentioned that the areas are close to either their work to amenities such as schools or health care services. The UK representative mentioned that proximity to the sea and beaches is also a plus.

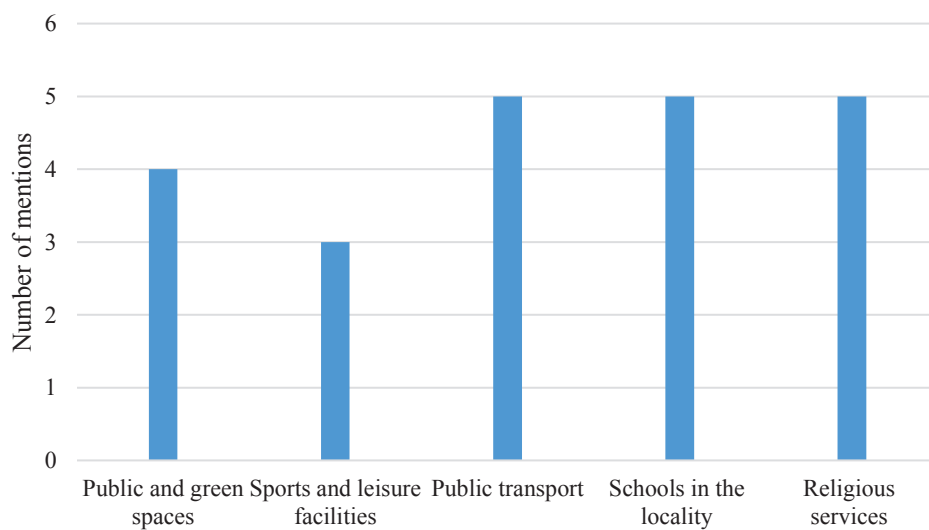
Despite all respondents mentioning that their communities are satisfied with the areas they reside in, when asked if there was anything they were unsatisfied with, many outlined a number of issues. The biggest challenge issued was that of “time in traffic” and/or parking (4 mentions). Garbage and hygiene were also issues outlined by 2 different communities, with one respondent specifying, “Bad hygiene, bad organisation regarding the trash pickup, not enough trash bins on the streets, no covers for the rain or sun on the bus stops.” Other issues which were mentioned only once each included “pollution,” “not enough buses,” and “not much involvement with the locals” in the area.

The survey further asked the representatives about which services and/or amenities they make use of in their communities/localities. Almost all communities (83% - 5 mentions) referred to using ‘schools’, and ‘religious services’, with only the Italian representatives not mentioning these services. Regarding ‘public transport’, 83% (5 mentions) of the communities make use of the service, except for the Syrian representative.

Moreover, 67% (4 mentions), stated that they use ‘public and green spaces’ (excluding the Italian and the British Representatives), whilst half of the respondents (50% - 3 mentions), stated that they use ‘sports and leisure facilities’ (excluding Syrians, Filipinos, and Indians Representatives). This latter finding is interesting because it appears that the Asian and Syrian representatives in the survey do not use any sporting facilities in the region. This could indicate a lack of amenities available for them to practice their own sports, or they may simply not be aware of them. These answers are illustrated in Figure 9 below.

Figure 9

Community services and amenities used by own community members



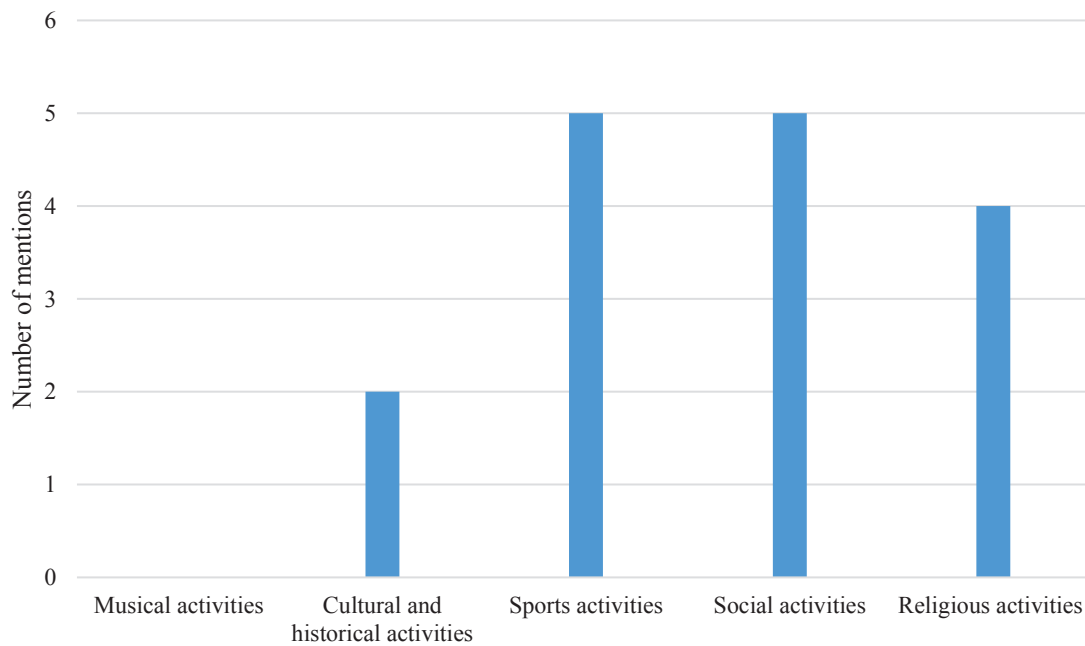
As highlighted in Figure 10, when asked whether their communities participate in activities as a community level, all representatives mentioned at least two types of activities they would be active in. 83% of respondents (5 mentions, excluding Somalia), mentioned that their communities participate in ‘social activities’. Another 83% of respondents (5 mentions, excluding the UK) mentioned participation in sports activities (excluding Syria). Notably, even

though the Asian representatives (Indian, and Filipinos) previously did not mention any sporting facilities in the region, this shows that they are still actively engaged somehow. Furthermore, 67% (4 mentions) of the respondents expressed their community's involvement in religious activities and only 33% (2 mentions by Filipinos and India) mentioned community attendance to cultural and historical activities. None of the community representatives mentioned musical activities as something their community attends to.

It is worth noting that the Indian representative mentioned that overall, their community members are active in all the different events suggested. On the other hand, the British representatives only mentioned sports and social activities as the main interests of their community, while Syrians mentioned social and religious activities. Somali participants solely engage in sports and religious activities.

Figure 10

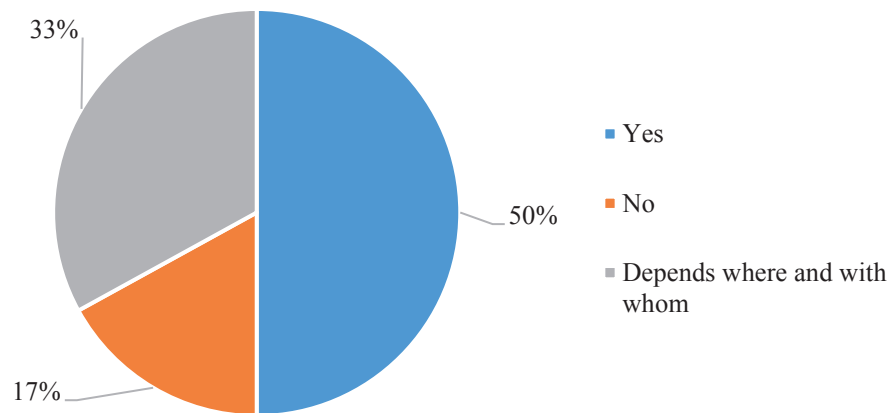
Which activities is the community active in?



When asked whether they feel that their community is integrated within Maltese society, it became clear that for most communities it was an easy yes or no answer. Nevertheless, for the sake of analysis, they have been recoded as ‘yes’, ‘no’, and ‘depends where and with whom’, as outlined in Figure 11.

Figure 11

Are the people from the community integrated in the Maltese Society?



Italians and British both mentioned that their communities feel very integrated within Malta, both referring to language as an enabling element. Given that Maltese tend to know how to speak both Italian and English, this has helped such communities to integrate.

Italians also mentioned that “Maltese people are very welcoming. There are a lot of Italian restaurants and facilities, a lot of multicultural events where you can meet people from different nationalities.” On the other hand, Indians, mentioned that they feel integrated, but also highlighted that this does not come as a choice, “If they are not integrated, they can’t live as a community”.

The Filipino representative mentioned that they feel integrated, however, delving deeper in their answer sheds light on the fact that they do not feel entirely integrated. This is because the Filipino community mentioned that they feel integrated with “fellow Filipinos and TCNs.” In contrast, the Somali and Syrian representatives answered that they do not feel integrated. On

the one hand, there seems to be a lack of interest from the community members themselves: “For sure they don’t feel that they are integrated because they are always with the same Syrian friend morning & evening” (Syrian Representative). On the other hand, the Somali community, the representative highlighted the intersection of race, class, and status as hindering integration, stating, “We do not feel integrated with the rest of the society. The problems are because of race, status and class as well. And because of documentation we cannot do much too”.

When asked about factors that could help further integrate people, the Somali community emphasised the significance of community-led initiatives and improved availability of language courses. The Filipino community mentioned the need to “socialise and involve themselves in the communities” they live in. The British representative suggested that having more knowledge about whom to reach out to when in need could facilitate the integration process, considering the current difficulty in accessing local councils. In addition, the Syrian community leader shared a different perspective on integration, emphasising that preparedness for integration should come from the Maltese community rather than the foreign community. They stated, “Don’t ask for integration if you are not ready for it. Don’t say: “imma Malta żghira” [because Malta is small], I agree that Malta is a small country, so why are you importing more foreigners if you are not ready for it”.

4.3 Local Councils

The survey asked the foreign representatives if their communities are aware of local councils and the role of local councillors. Half of the respondents (3 community leaders - Italian, Filipino and Indian), mentioned that their communities are aware of Local Councils. The rest mentioned that their communities are not familiar.

Following that, the survey asked them if they were satisfied with their local council and if they were involved in the activities of the local councils. Unsurprisingly, those who were not aware of the local council, mentioned that they were neither satisfied nor participated in the events organised by the local councils. However, the three communities, which seemingly are aware of their local councils, mentioned that they are indeed satisfied and are involved in the activities and events that are organised by them.

When asked whether they think that their community members feel that they can approach such local councils, despite being foreigners, Italians, Filipinos, Syrians, and Indians mentioned that they feel they can approach if needed. Somalis also answered yes, only for the reason to approach for the social benefits services. The British said that given that many of their community members “don’t know they exist” they do not really approach them.

In addition, the survey asked representatives if their communities' concerns were being addressed by the local councils. The Indian representative mentioned that their concerns are seen to however, it was also mentioned that when renewing the ID cards, they face the issue that local councils do not accept their blue paper (the temporary document). Italians, British, and Syrians all mentioned that their concerns are not addressed:

“No, because for example as for a report about a rental scam, Italians don’t receive the right assistance. In the local council the functionaries make questions and give you a document about the query but then they don’t fix the issue.” (Italian Representative)

“No. Mainly the garbage collection; parking permits for example so difficult to get through and actually get the service requested.” (British Representative)

“No. We had meetings with two of local council Mayors where they were complaining about rubbish collection problems by Syrians & some “dirt” under trees in Rahal Gdid. We advised the Mayors to start immediately with writing Fines. Unfortunately nothing has been done.” (Syrian Representative)

4.4 Regional Councils

Similarly, the survey posed the same questions regarding the Regional Councils. The same three representatives (Italian, Filipino, and Indian) mentioned that their communities are aware of Regional Councils, and are satisfied with them. They are also involved in the events organised by such Councils. All the rest mentioned that their communities are not familiar, nor do they participate in events by such Councils.

When asked whether their communities feel they can approach the Regional Council, despite them being foreigners, 4 communities answered in the positive, namely, the Italians, Syrians, Filipinos and Indians. In particular, the Syrian representative highlighted that notwithstanding the fact that much of the effort is not heard or taken seriously, they still approach if needed.

On the other hand, the Somali representative highlighted the challenges faced when trying to approach the Regional Council, stating:

It is difficult to approach especially when seeing that people who work are not trained to deal with migrants. Mistakes are being done, and because of this lack of knowledge, migrants are being put into situations which can be avoided in the first place. (Somali Representative)

Additionally, the British representative, despite not facing such a language barrier, still said that it is “difficult to do so especially if you’re new. [Knowing] whom to reach out and contact it’s not that easy.”

Finally, when asked whether the Regional Council addresses the concerns of the communities, the Italian and Indian communities said yes, three did ‘no’ answer, whilst one said that their concerns were not addressed, stating, “If they want to address something they never come to us and communicate”.

4.5 Additional comments

Participants made comments about the positive aspects of living in the Port Region, highlighting the convenient proximity to acquaintances and various services. However, one respondent specifically mentioned a sense of disconnection between the Maltese and foreigners. They suggested that organising more social events could help reduce this social disconnectedness. Another respondent emphasised the low level of integration in Raħal Ġdid and stressed the importance of teaching foreigners more about the Maltese language, improving work practices, and inviting them to cultural meetings. They emphasised the need for more than just eating and leaving, but rather sitting down and educating them about taxes, rental contracts, and their legal documents.



CONCLUSION

5. Conclusion

This Annex is an attempt to give a voice to the foreign residents in the Region, which in Regjun Port are indeed a considerable percentage of the community, 11.83% (8,360) as per the Census 2021 data. And which are year-on-year increasing, as proven in the latest parliamentary question indicating around 10,527 foreign individuals residing in the Region, as at September 2023.

Foreign individuals appear to be primarily drawn to the area because of its proximity to people from their own nationality and to various amenities and services. While having a close-knit community of people from the same nationality can serve as a support system for these individuals, it is crucial for the Local and Regional Councils to ensure proper integration. Failing to do so may result in the formation of isolated groups or the emergence of "ghetto-like" communities.

However, it is evident that other foreign communities, such as Somalis and Syrians, either feel completely excluded and subjected to racism or only partially integrated in certain aspects of their lives. For instance, the Filipino community may feel more integrated within specific groups, such as TCNs (third-country nationals) amongst themselves. It is imperative for the Regional and Local Councils to actively pursue a comprehensive and inclusive integration process.

Despite initially stating that the communities are satisfied with their localities, all respondents mentioned areas of concern or issues with their localities later on in the survey. This might indicate that such communities might not immediately be willing to open up about challenges, possibly internalising the belief that if they are not Maltese, they will either not be heard or no

action will be taken, as mentioned by one respondent. However, with some probing, it became evident that the major two issues in terms of localities are i) cleanliness and garbage and ii) parking and traffic. These two issues had also been raised by the respondents of the telephonic survey.

Foreign communities seemingly make use of services in the community, with mostly being schools, public transport, and religious services. Many also participate in some of the activities in the community, with the highest being social activities and sports activities. Such activities can be capitalised on by the Regional and Local Councils to try and integrate foreigners further.

Ultimately, through the semi-structured survey, it became clear that most of the foreign communities might not be aware of the Local nor of the Regional Councils, and only those who were aware of them felt they could approach them. Yet, even those being aware of their existence, sometimes felt that the Local Councils and Regional Councils did to address their specific needs and concerns.

It is worth noting that this semi-structured survey and this additional part of the study aim to give a general overview of the current situation with regards to foreigners in Regjun Port, however, in no way should it be generalised to all foreigners who are also diverse within their own nationalities and groups. Nevertheless, it should be considered as a first step to understanding the perceptions of quality of life and the awareness of foreigners in terms of the Local and Regional Councils.

The research team would recommend that following such a preliminary study, the Regional Council, together with the support of the Local Councils, would carry out a more in-depth study

specifically on the foreign residents residing in their localities. By further understanding their needs and current challenges, the Regional Council would be able to come up with a needs-based action plan, which could also act as a fulfillment to the Integration Policy obligation that each locality has.

In light of the changing demographics and the increased presence of foreign individuals in the communities, the Local and Regional Councils, might be the best placed entities to find ways to use available spaces (both physical as well as cultural or societal) in which residents are brought together and find practical and tangible ways to transform the notion of ‘inclusion’ found in policies into actual every-day practices.



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APPENDIX A

Table 3*Change in foreign nationals per locality from 2021 Census to September 2023 PQ data*

Reġjun Port	NSO Census 2021	PQ - Sept 2023	% in foreign population
Birgu	302	386	27.81%
Bormla	437	601	37.53%
Fgura	1,701	2,170	27.57%
Floriana	347	475	36.89%
Valletta	671	784	16.84%
Isla	255	399	56.47%
Kalkara	312	444	42.31%
Raħal Ġdid	2,028	1,838	-9.37%
Tarxien	833	1,058	27.01%
Xgħajra	356	586	64.61%
Żabbar	1,118	1,786	59.75%
Total	8,360	10,527	25.92%

APPENDIX B

Social Impact Assessment - Regional Councils

Semi Structured Interviews – with Foreign National Representatives

This semi-structured interview is part of a social impact assessment study in terms of regional councils in Malta and Gozo. As a representative you are kindly asked to answer the below questions in relation to the lived experience of the _____ community members you represent, residing in *the Port, Eastern, Northern, Southern and Western Regions* (with localities in each region outlined in the table below).²

In case you are aware of different lived experiences, depending on the localities of residence it would be greatly appreciated if you could indicate/ mention these in the answers below.

² Port Region includes the following localities: Birgu, Bormla, Fgura, Furjana, Il-Belt, Isla, Kalkara, Paola, Tarxien, Xgħajra, Żabbar

Eastern Region includes the following localities: Birkirkara, Gharghur, Gżira, Hal Lija, Iklin, Msida, Pembroke, Pieta, San Ġiljan, Sliema, Swieqi, Ta' Xbiex

Northern Region includes the following localities: Hal Balzan, H'Attard, Il-Mellieħa, Il-Mosta, In-Naxxar, L-Imġarr, L-Imtarfa, San Ġwann, San Pawl Il-Baħar

Southern Region includes the following localities: Birżebbuġa, Hal Ghaxaq, Hal Qormi, Il-Gudja, Il-Marsa, Iz-Żejtun, Marsaskala, Marsaxlokk, Santa Luċija, Santa Venera, Hal Luqa, Il-Hamrun

Western Region includes the following localities: L-Imdina, Haż-Żebbuġ, Is-Siġġiewi, Had-Dingli, Hal-Kirkop, L-Imqabba, Il-Qrendi, Ir-Rabat, Hal-Safi, Iz-Żurrieq

Sociodemographic Details of representative

1. Which foreign community are you representing? _____
2. How long have you been representing this community?

3. What do you think are the major factors which attract the group you represent to reside in localities they currently live in. (Tick all that apply) (Kindly indicate if any of the chosen options is specific to a particular locality/region they reside in)
 - People from the same country already living here _____
 - Close to their workplace _____
 - Close to amenities/ services _____
 - Rent rates _____
 - Safety _____
 - Other (please specify) _____

QUALITY OF LIFE

4. Do you think, the people you are representing, are satisfied or dissatisfied with the regions in which they live? (Tick Satisfied/ Dissatisfied for each Region)

	Port	Eastern	Northern	Southern	Western
Satisfied					
Dissatisfied					

5. What are they most satisfied with in the locality/ies they reside in? (If particular to a locality, kindly specify which one)

6. What are they most dissatisfied with in the locality/ies they reside in? (If particular to a locality, kindly specify which one)

7. Do the people you are representing make use of any of the below services in the community? (Tick all that apply, for each region).

Region	Port	Eastern	Northern	Southern	Western
Public and green spaces					
Sports and leisure facilities					
Public transport					
Schools in the locality					

Religious services					
None					

Other (please specify) _____

8. Are the people you are representing active in the life of the community? (Tick all that apply, for each region).

Region	Port	Eastern	Northern	Southern	Western
Musical activities					
Cultural/ Historical activities					
Sports activities					
Social activities					
Religious activities					
None – not active					

9. Other (please specify) _____

10. Do you think the people you represent feel integrated in the regions they live in?

Region	Port	Eastern	Northern	Southern	Western
Yes, integrated					
No, not integrated					

- If yes, in what way/s?

- If no, why is this the case? -

11. What could help integrating them (further?)

LOCAL COUNCIL

12. Overall, do you think the people you represent are:

- a. Familiar with their local council and what local councillors do?

- Yes
 No

- b. Satisfied with their local council?

- Yes
- No

c. Involved in the activities /events of the local council?

- Yes
- No

13. Do you think they feel that their concerns are addressed by the local council of their area? (Please give 2 or 3 specific examples of when concerns are or are not addressed that justify your answer)

REGIONAL COUNCIL

14. Overall, do you think the people you represent are:

a. Familiar with their regional council?

- Yes
- No

b. Satisfied with their regional council?

- Yes
- No

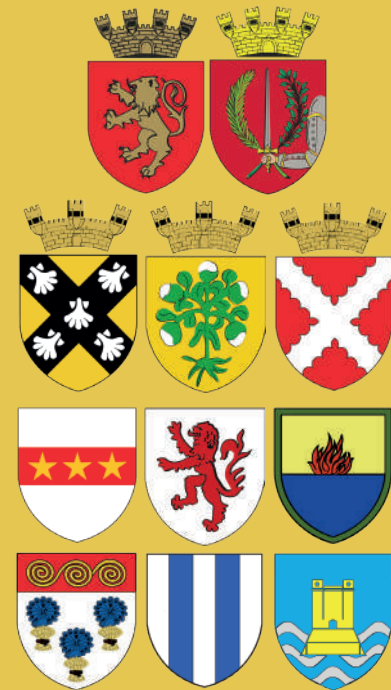
c. Involved in the activities /events of the regional council?

- Yes
- No

15. Do you think they feel that their concerns are addressed by the regional council? (Please give 2 or 3 specific examples of when concerns are or are not addressed that justify your answer)

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

16. Would you like to add anything else?



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Social Impact Assessment

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