

The Impact of Valletta 2018 on the European Identity of the Maltese Population

Dr Marcello Carammia & Dr Marie Briguglio



The aim of this project is to analyse the impact of the Valletta 2018 Programme on the European identity of Maltese society.

Methodology: This study applies a mixed methodology based on both quantitative and qualitative techniques. A panel study observing a sample of 1000 participants between 2015 and 2019 will be carried out, with the baseline study taking place over the end of 2015 and beginning of 2016. This quantitative data collection will also take place in the final year of the study, while interviews and focus groups will be carried out between 2016 and 2018 to obtain a deeper insight into the nature, degree, and causes of identity change (if any).

Findings: The preliminary findings from the initial data collection indicate that there seems to be a stronger feeling of attachment among the Maltese relative to their European counterparts not only to their town/village and country but also to Europe itself. More Maltese than Europeans tend to admit that being European matters a lot to them. In terms of influence, they feel that their voice counts a lot in the EU, relative to their European counterparts, and are more knowledgeable about their rights. The Maltese tend to trust the European Commission and the European Parliament more than their European counterparts. They also tend to trust Maltese Parliament and National Government to a higher degree than EU citizens trust their own. On the other hand, active cultural participation in Malta tends to be lower than in EU countries in several domains, including in the use of the internet for cultural purposes.

Way forward: Following the initial wave of desk research and quantitative data collection throughout 2015 and early 2016, further analysis on the data collected will be carried out. Focus group sessions and interviews with participants will take place during 2017 and 2018.