

**MIRRORS AND
WINDOWS 2:
MALTESE
YOUNG PEOPLE'S
PERCEPTIONS,
EXPERIENCES AND
EXPECTATIONS
OF EDUCATION,
EMPLOYMENT
AND LIFESTYLES**



As part of the wider implementation of the the National Youth Policy: Towards 2020, between July 2018 and June 2019, Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ carried out a project entitled Polifest. This project consisted of 12 National Youth Meetings, each of which celebrated a particular United Nations Day, aptly starting on the International Youth Day. During each national youth meeting a group of youth workers and 9 young leaders facilitated a series of workshops, through which over 900 young participants had the opportunity to work together towards developing 9 policy recommendations that were presented to policymakers for their consideration.

As part of this project Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ designed a national youth survey that was commissioned to the National Statistics Office. The results of this survey, presented in the following document, were used by young people and policy makers during workshops in an effort to ensure a solid evidence-base during the formulation of the policy recommendations.

Polifest was co-funded through Erasmus+ programme of the European Union.

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FOREWORD

I am happy to have the opportunity of writing the foreword to this report that presents the findings of a survey on young people's experiences, expectations and views on education, employment and lifestyles.

Our national youth policy, *Towards 2020 - A shared vision for the future of young people*, has a strong focus on engaging with and consulting young people on their views, concerns and aspirations and is committed to ongoing research on the lives of young people in Malta and ensuring that youth policy is evidence-based and outcome-focused.

The new EU Youth Strategy, which covers the period 2019 to 2027, includes among its aims the need to improve policy decisions with regard to their impact on young people across all sectors and particularly in employment, education, health and social inclusion. The EU Youth Dialogue, which is an integral part of the new strategy, also aims to promote consultation with young people and evidence-based research.

The Government is committed to ongoing research on the lives of young people in Malta and ensuring that youth policy is evidence-based and outcome-focused. Aġenzija Żgħażaġh has published a number of reports and surveys relating to the lives of young people as well as contributing to the EU Youth report and other international reports. This report is a follow-up to *Mirrors and Windows: Maltese young people's perception of themselves, their families, communities and society*, which was published in 2012 and was the first report of its kind in Malta.

This report on the results of a survey, which was conducted by the National Statistics Office for Aġenzija Żgħażaġh in

September 2018, is encouraging for all of us that work with and support young people. In general, young people express overall satisfaction with the education they receive and with their employment. They also display positive and constructive social attitudes and behaviours.

However, a number of issues are highlighted in the report that need further consideration and action. In particular, we need to redouble our efforts to ensure that women have the supports and opportunity to fully engage in education, learning and employment. The number of young people in employment and part-time education is relatively low by European standards. The report also further highlights the lack of physical exercise among young people and young women in particular. The low level of participation in voluntary organisations is a recurring feature of surveys of young people in Malta.

I would like to thank Aġenzija Żgħażaġh and the National Statistics Office for their hard work and initiative in producing a report that is both informative and enlightening as well as prompting action on the part of all of us working for and with young people.

Hon. Dr Clifton Grima

Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations



INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

Malta's national youth policy, *Towards 2020 - A shared vision for the future of young people*, includes a specific action plan aimed at awareness raising, listening to and supporting the voices of young people under which initiatives are being undertaken to enhance young people's social and political awareness and that enables their voices to be heard on issues that impact of their lives. *Towards 2020* also provides for a research and knowledge building programme aimed at gathering relevant and up-to-date information and data on young people, their experiences, expectations and views, so as to help ensure future evidence-based youth policy that addresses these experiences, expectations and views.

Since its establishment in 2010, Aġenzija Żgħażaġh has carried out, or commissioned, a number of research projects and surveys on young people's experiences, expectations and views in such areas as leisure and recreation, political participation, and as part of the Vote 16 campaign. Through its interactive web portal the agency is able to be in regular contact with young people and garner their views and responses on a range of relevant topics.

In 2012, Aġenzija Żgħażaġh published *Mirrors and Windows: Maltese young people's perceptions of themselves, their families, communities and society*, the first study of its kind in Malta. This study is effectively a follow-up to that of 2012 which not only seeks to enhance our research and knowledge base on young people's lives, views and expectations but also to chart shifts and changes over time. The aim is that such studies and surveys will be conducted on a regular basis, at least every five years, to landscape the changing lives of young people over time. This has a twofold purpose. First, to raise awareness among young people, their families, communities and the wider society of how young people's lives are changing and the nature of these changes. Second, to enable politicians and

policy makers to develop and implement relevant and focused youth policy and to enable ministries, state bodies, and voluntary organisations to provide services and supports that meet the changing needs and aspirations of young people.

The targeting and survey of young people as well as the breakdown of the data in the report were carried out by the National Statistics Office.

The report comprises the following sections. First, the aims and methodology of the survey of young people are set out. Second, the responses of young people (participants) to questions on education and employment are analysed and considered and are also broken down in terms of sex and age. Third, the responses of participants to questions on lifestyles are analyzed and considered and are also broken down in terms of sex and age under a wide range of headings: quality of life, trends in society, free time, identity, physical exercise, arts, culture, friends, marriage, religion, refugees, poverty, discrimination, voluntary participation and civic engagement. The responses from Gozo are also considered under each heading.

In conclusion, the main findings and trends emerging from the survey are analyzed, particularly in terms of sex and age, and their implications for youth policy, supports and services considered.

Miriam Teuma
Chief Executive Officer

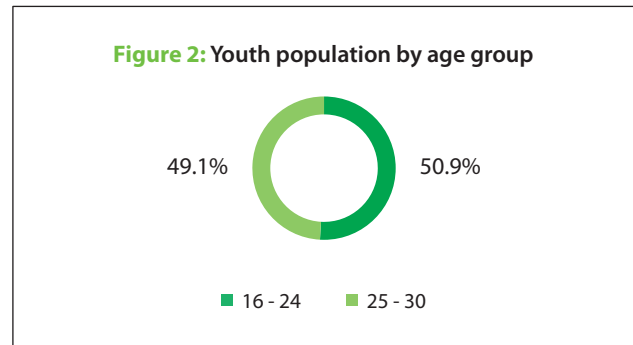
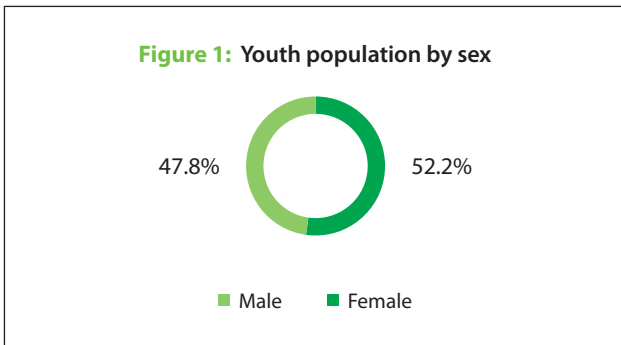
AIM AND METHODOLOGY

The aim of the survey was to gauge and assess the experiences, expectations and views of a representative sample of young people in Malta on issues relating to education, employment and lifestyles. The target group, the conducting of the survey and breakdown of the resulting responses (data) were undertaken by the National Statistics Office.

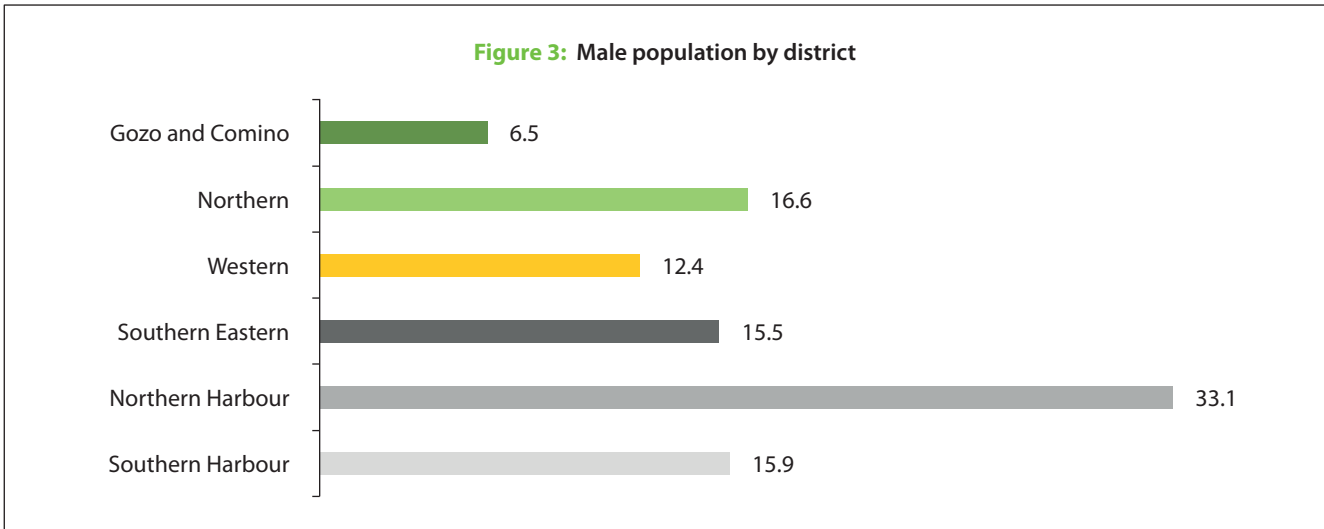
Target group and responses

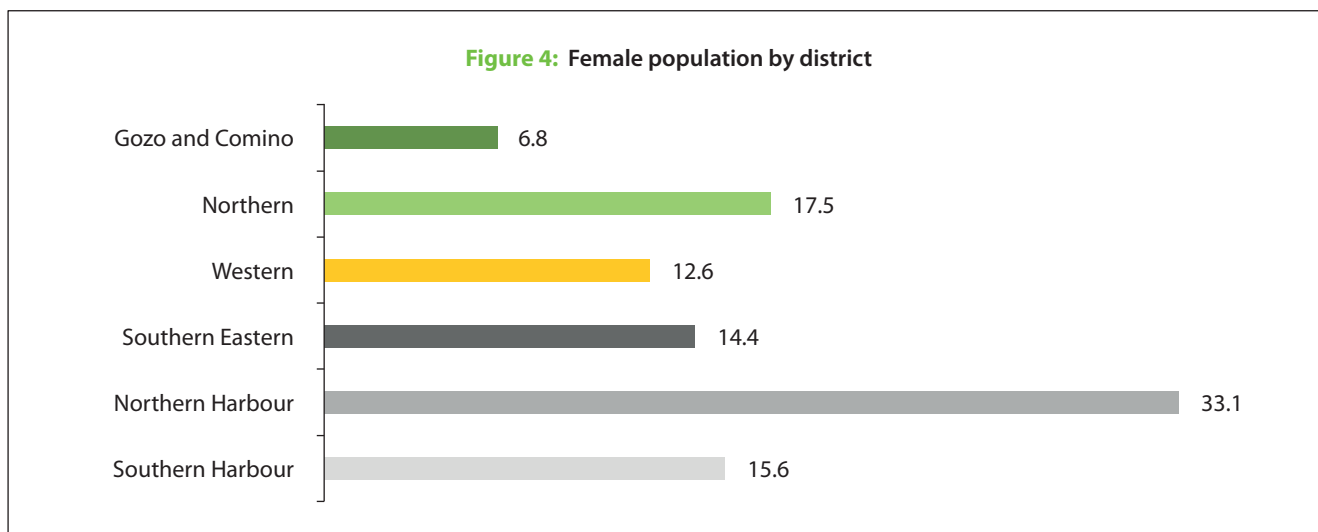
The target population for the survey comprised young people aged between 16 and 30 years of age. A total of 97,654 young people were eligible to participate in the survey. Figures 1 to 4 below illustrate the distribution of young people by sex and age group, and the distribution of young people by sex and district.

Distribution of youth population by sex and age group



Distribution of population by sex and district





A total of 1,521 young people were initially contacted to participate in the survey and 511 subsequently participated, while another 886 young people were deemed ineligible to participate. Ineligible cases included 579 young people who did not respond to contact calls and others who for various reasons did not wish to participate.

The 511 young people who responded to the survey are referred to as the participants in this report.

The National Statistic Office contacted each participant by

phone, identifying themselves and indicated the nature and purpose of the survey and that it was being conducted on behalf of Aġenzija Żgħażaġh and that they had been randomly selected to participate. The participants were informed that the survey would take some five minutes to complete and that the responses provided would be confidential and only used for statistical purposes.

Figures 5 and 6 illustrate the distribution of the net sample group by sex and age group, while Figures 7 and 8 illustrates the distribution of the net sample group by sex and district.

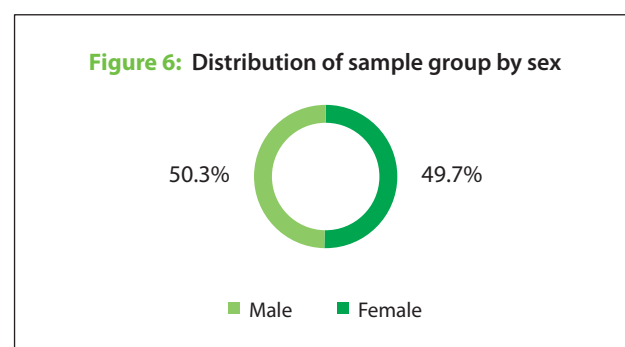
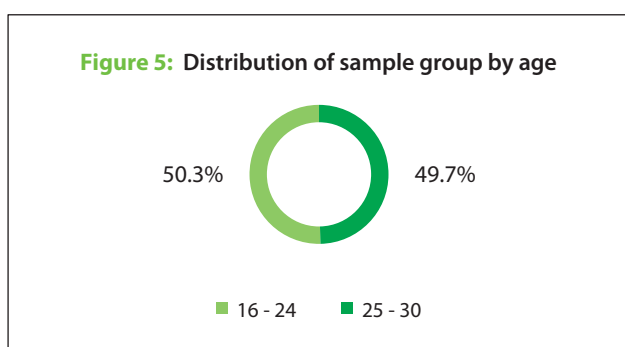
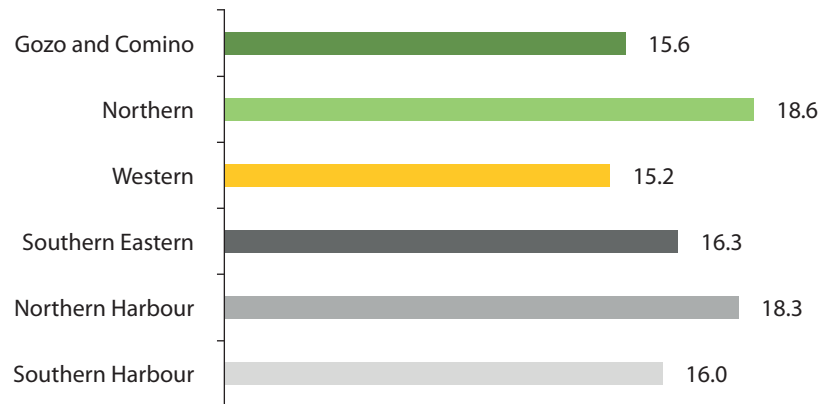
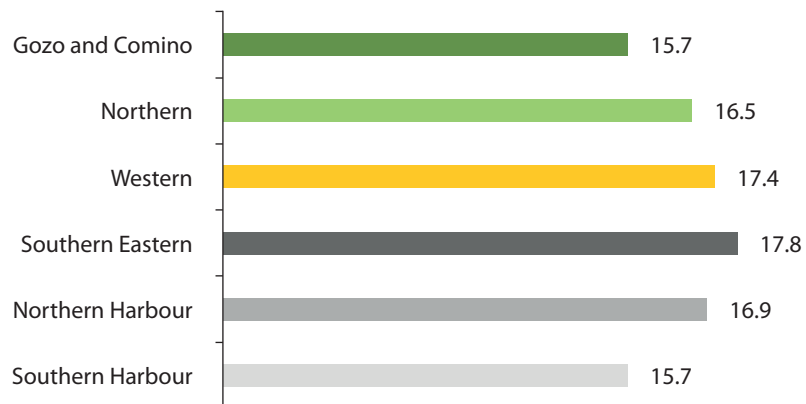


Figure 7: Male sample group distribution by district**Figure 8: Female sample group distribution by district**

Of the 511 young people that completed the survey, slightly more than half were male and there were slightly more in the 25-30 age group than in the 16-24 age group.

Data Collection

Data was collected by means of Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) between 24 and 26 September 2018. In CATI, although respondents are contacted by telephone, computers are used to enter the data obtained from respondents during the interview. In addition, another important aspect of CATI surveys is that each sampling unit is randomly assigned among interviewers, and hence reduces interviewer bias to a bare minimum.

Quality Control

A series of measures were implemented to certify that optimum quality was achieved in this survey. These consisted of quality checks and in-built validation rules in the data collection program to limit the occurrence of non-sampling errors. The data-entry program had a number of in-built validations so that skip patterns are executed exactly as intended while responses are within a specific range. In addition, constant supervision during the data collection stage ensured a harmonised data collection process.

Weighting of results

Missing data are often a problem in surveys, arising when sampled units do not respond to a particular question. A technique known as 'imputation' was used whereby missing values were filled in to create a complete dataset that can then be analyzed to the full. A Hot-deck imputation method was used. Observations were grouped according to relevant demographics and other questions. The mode of the respective category was then taken as the imputed value.

The dataset was further subject to a series of other checks during the data-editing stage in order to identify any remaining incorrect or logically misleading data.

Survey data was weighted to correct for any biases present in the final sample of participating units arising from different response rates observed in different categories. This served to align and gross-up sample estimates with the benchmark distribution in terms of sex, age group, and district of residence.



ANALYSIS OF THE DATA

1. Employment and Education

Over 60% of participant in the survey were in employment only, while 18.5% were in education only. However, while over 80% of those in the 25-30 age group were in employment, only 38.3 of those in the 16-24 age group were in employment. Conversely, while 34.8% of those in the 16-24 age group were students, only 1.6% of those in the 25-30 age group were students. In terms of sex, slightly more males (66.4%) were in employment when compared to females (53.4%) while 16.5% of males and 20.7% of females were in education only.

Those in full-time employment and in part-time education amounted to 7.4%, while those in full-time education and in part-time employment amounted to 8.8%. Slightly over 5% of participants were in neither education nor employment (NEET).

Of the 16-24 age group, 6.8% were in full-time employment

and in part-time education while 15.2% were full-time students and in part-time employment. Of the 25-30 age group, 8% were in full-time employment and part-time education while only 2.1% were full-time students in part-time employment. Roughly the same number in both age groups were NEET.

More females (9.2%) than males (5.7%) were in full-time employment and in part-time education, while roughly the same number of males and females (8.6% and 8.9%) were in full-time education and part-time employment. The number of females who were NEET was, however, three times higher than for males, 7.8% compared to 2.8%.

In the case of Gozo, while there were roughly the same number in employment only, there were more in education only (31.1%). The figures for those combining employment and education or in neither employment nor education were significantly lower.

Figure 9: Participants by employment and/or education

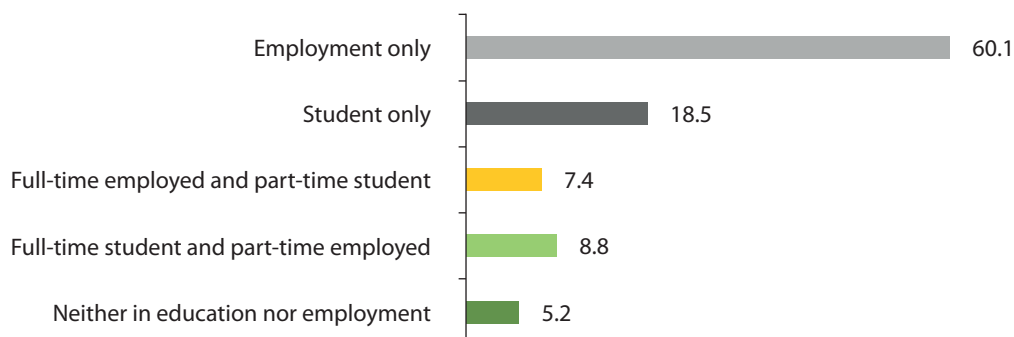


Table 1

Participants by employment and/or education and sex			
Employment, education and sex	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
Employed only	66.4	53.4	60.1
Student only	16.5	20.7	18.5
Full-time employed and part-time student	5.7	9.2	7.4
Full-time student and part-time employed	8.6	8.9	8.8
Neither in education nor employment	2.8	7.8	5.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 2

Participants by employment and/or education and age group			
Employment, education and age group	16-24	25-30	Total
	%	%	%
Employed only	38.3	82.8	60.1
Student only	34.8	1.6	18.5
Full-time employed and part-time student	6.8	8.0	7.4
Full-time student and part-time employed	15.2	2.1	8.8
Neither in education nor employment	4.9	5.5	5.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

In the context of study/learning opportunities, 78.1% of participants were satisfied with the learning opportunities available to them, while 21.9% were not. When it came to the availability of employment/job opportunities, 65.9% were satisfied while 34.1% were not. The two age groups roughly reflected these figures with the 25-30 age group being slightly less satisfied with both learning and job opportunities. In Gozo, more were satisfied with learning opportunities and fewer were satisfied with job opportunities. Over 80% of males and over 70% of females were satisfied with the learning opportunities available to them, while the figures were slightly lower (69.1% for males and 62.4% for females) with regard to the availability of job opportunities.

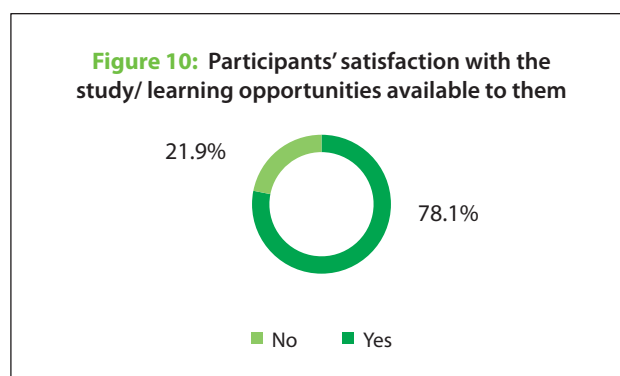


Table 3

Participants' satisfaction with the study/learning opportunities available to them by sex			
Study/learning opportunities by sex	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
Yes	81.5	74.4	78.1
No	18.5	25.6	21.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 4

Participants' satisfaction with the study/learning opportunities available to them by age group			
Study/learning opportunities by age group	16-24	25-30	Total
	%	%	%
Yes	79.4	76.7	78.1
No	20.6	23.3	21.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

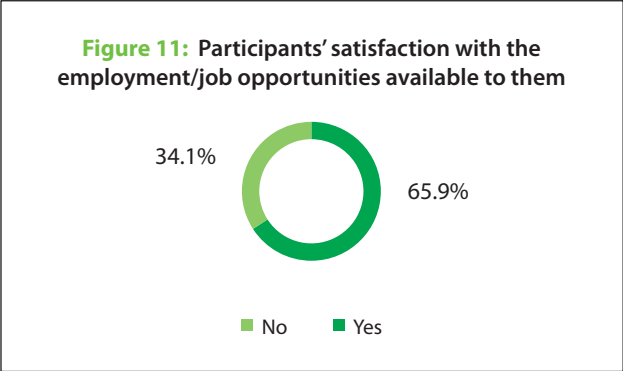


Table 5

Participants' satisfaction with the employment/job opportunities available to them by sex

Employment/job opportunities by sex	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
Yes	69.1	62.4	65.9
No	30.9	37.6	34.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 6

Participants' satisfaction with the employment/job opportunities available to them by age group

Employment/job opportunities by age group	16-24	25-30	Total
	%	%	%
Yes	67.3	64.4	65.9
No	32.7	35.6	34.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Two-thirds (67.6%) of those in education either strongly agreed or agreed that the education they are receiving prepares them well for the transition from school to work, while an additional 25.3% somewhat agreed. Only 7.1% expressed disagreement. Those participants in the 25-30 age group agreed even more strongly than in the 16-24 age group.

In Gozo, over 75% either strongly agreed or agreed while none disagreed. While over 60% of males and 70% of females either strongly agreed or agreed, twice as many males as females somewhat agreed and over four times as many females (11.2%) as males (2.7%) expressed disagreement.

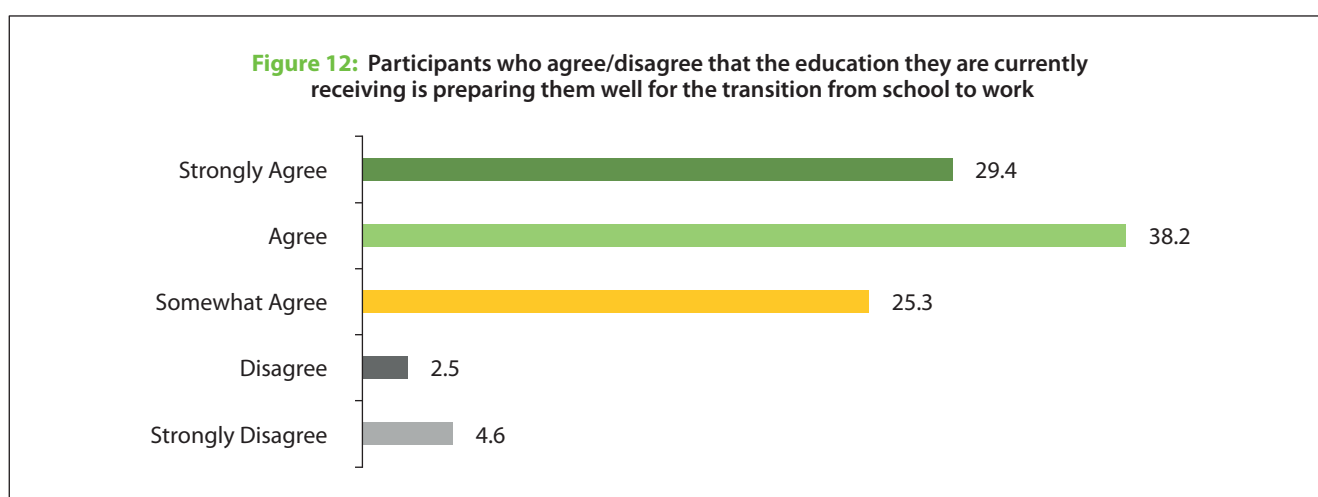


Table 7

Participants who agree/disagree that the education they are currently receiving is preparing them well for the transition from school to work by sex			
Transition from school to work by sex	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
Strongly disagree	1.4	7.6	4.6
Disagree	1.3	3.6	2.5
Somewhat agree	34.2	17.2	25.3
Agree	38.0	38.2	38.2
Strongly agree	25.1	33.4	29.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 8

Participants who agree/disagree that the education they are currently receiving is preparing them well for the transition from school to work by age group			
Transition from school to work by age group	16-24	25-30	Total
	%	%	%
Strongly disagree	5.0	-	4.6
Disagree	2.1	7.9	2.5
Somewhat agree	26.8	4.1	25.3
Agree	35.8	70.3	38.2
Strongly agree	30.3	17.7	29.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Almost 60% of those in employment either strongly agreed or agreed that the education they received prepared them well for the transition from school to work. An additional 22.9% somewhat agreed while 17.6% indicated that they had not been well prepared for the transition. The responses in terms of age group were broadly similar. In terms of sex, 19.2% of

males and 15.6% of females expressed disagreement. In Gozo, almost 75% strongly agreed or agreed that they have been well prepared while a little over 10% indicated that they were not well prepared.

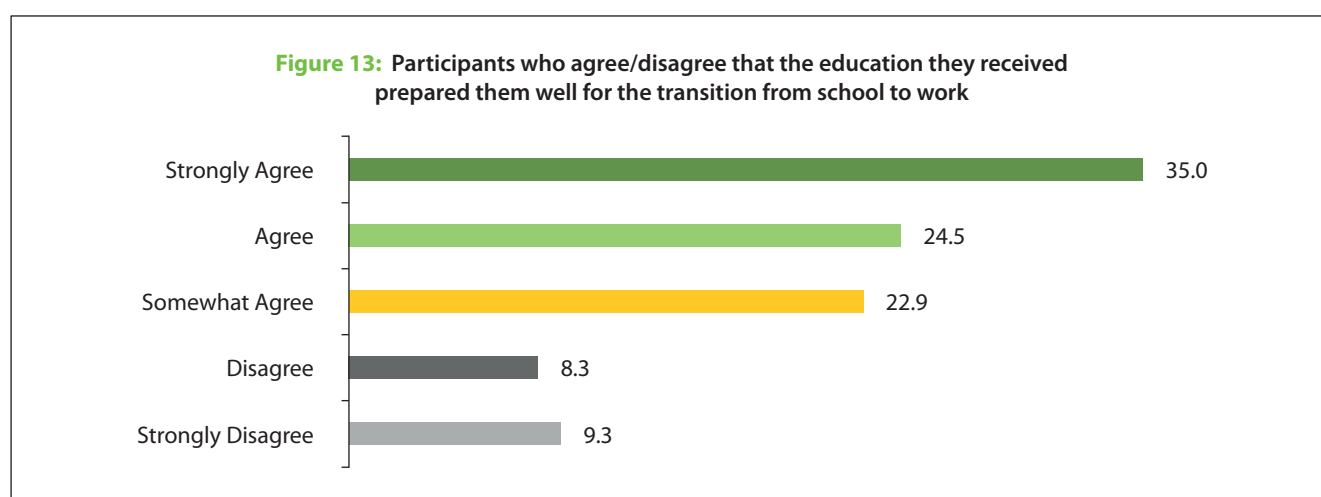


Table 9

Participants who agree/disagree that the education they received prepared them well for the transition from school to work by sex			
Transition from school to work by sex	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
Strongly disagree	10.1	8.3	9.3
Disagree	9.1	7.3	8.3
Somewhat agree	23.3	22.3	22.9
Agree	23.9	25.2	24.5
Strongly agree	33.6	36.9	35.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 10

Participants who agree/disagree that the education they received prepared them well for the transition from school to work by age group			
Transition from school to work by age group	16-24	25-30	Total
	%	%	%
Strongly disagree	6.2	10.8	9.3
Disagree	10.9	7.0	8.3
Somewhat agree	19.2	24.7	22.9
Agree	23.3	25.1	24.5
Strongly agree	40.4	32.4	35.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Of those full-time students who have taken up part-time employment, 68.1% did so for financial reasons while 31.9 did so to gain experience in their field of study. The figures for sex

are similar. For the 25-30 age group financial reasons are cited only. In Gozo, the comparable figures are 50% respectively.

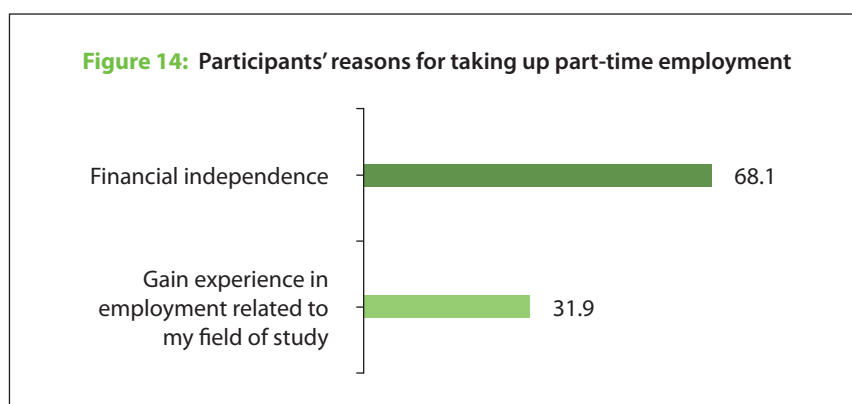


Table 11

Participants' reasons for taking up part-time employment by sex			
Reasons for taking up part-time employment by sex	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
Gain experience in employment related to my field of study	32.8	30.9	31.9
Financial independence	67.2	69.1	68.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 12

Participants' reasons for taking up part-time employment by age group			
Reasons for taking up part-time employment by age group	16-24	25-30	Total
	%	%	%
Gain experience in employment related to my field of study	36.1	-	31.9
Financial independence	63.9	100.0	68.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Of those in employment, over 75% were very satisfied or satisfied with their employment, while only 7% were dissatisfied, but almost twice as many females (9.9%)

as males (4.9%) expressed dissatisfaction. In Gozo, job satisfaction was even higher at almost 86%, while only 3.5% were dissatisfied.

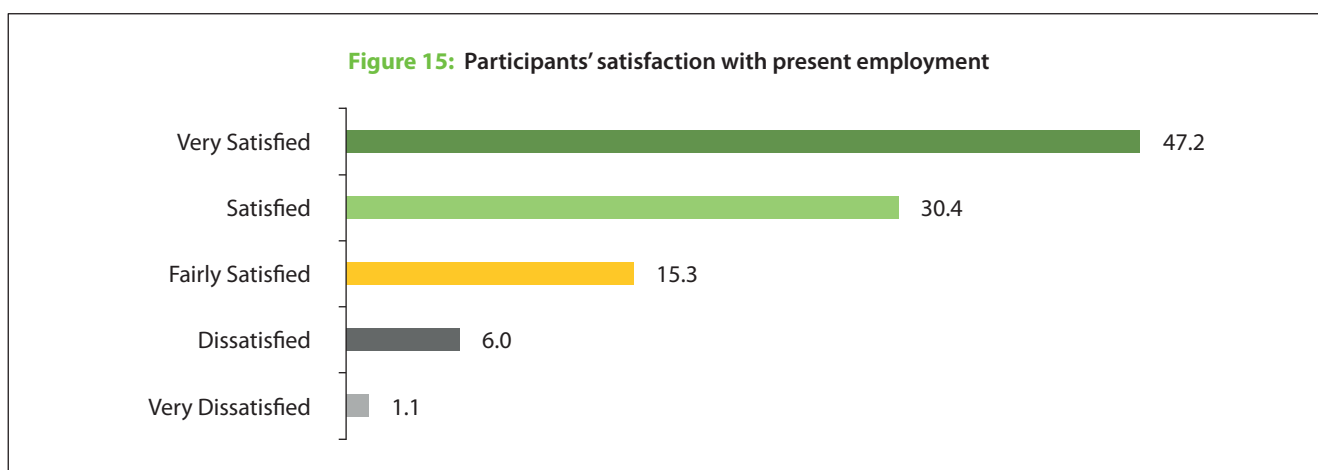


Table 13

Participants' satisfaction with present employment by sex			
Satisfaction with present employment by sex	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
Very Dissatisfied	2.0	-	1.1
Dissatisfied	2.9	9.9	6.0
Fairly Satisfied	15.5	14.9	15.3
Satisfied	34.3	25.6	30.4
Very Satisfied	45.3	49.6	47.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 14

Participants' satisfaction with present employment by age group			
Satisfaction with present employment by age group	16-24	25-30	Total
	%	%	%
Very Dissatisfied	0.9	1.2	1.1
Dissatisfied	4.9	6.6	6.0
Fairly Satisfied	14.9	15.5	15.3
Satisfied	24.1	33.7	30.4
Very Satisfied	55.2	43.0	47.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



2. Lifestyles – Attitudes

When asked the question as regards the quality of life in Malta, almost 74% of participants expressed themselves as either satisfied or very satisfied, with

less than 4% describing themselves as dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. The levels of satisfaction and dissatisfaction were broadly similar for both males and females. The level of satisfaction was slightly higher among 16-24 year olds (76.1%) and higher overall in Gozo (80.2%).

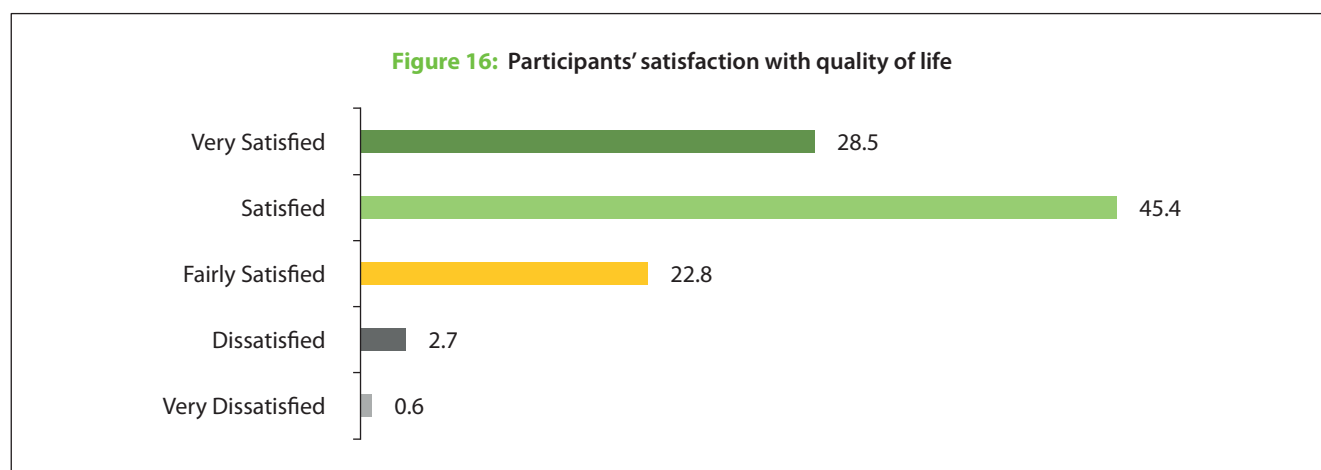


Table 15

Participants' satisfaction with quality of life by sex			
Satisfaction with quality of life by sex	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
Very Dissatisfied	0.5	0.8	0.6
Dissatisfied	3.2	2.2	2.7
Fairly Satisfied	21.3	24.4	22.8
Satisfied	45.8	44.8	45.4
Very Satisfied	29.2	27.8	28.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 16

Participants' satisfaction with quality of life by age group			
Satisfaction with quality of life by age group	16-24	25-30	Total
	%	%	%
Very Dissatisfied	-	1.3	0.6
Dissatisfied	3.3	2.2	2.7
Fairly Satisfied	20.7	25.0	22.8
Satisfied	44.3	46.4	45.4
Very Satisfied	31.7	25.2	28.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

When it came to trends in today’s society, 58.7% described themselves as generally happy with the way society was evolving, with slightly more 16-24 year olds (66.1%), males (62.5%) and Gozitans (62.2%) expressing this view. However, over a fifth of participants (22.6%) expressed the view that trends in society were generally too liberal as opposed to less than 1 in 10 (9.9%) who thought them too conservative.

Participants in the 25-30 age group were twice as likely to see trends in society as too liberal when compared with those in the 16-24 age group. Slightly more females (24.9%) than males (20.5) expressed the view that society was generally too liberal while roughly 10% of both males and females thought it too conservative.

Figure 17: Participants’ perception of trends in today’s society

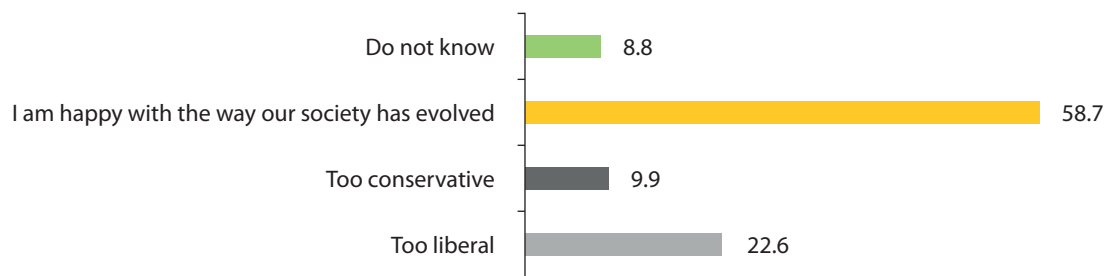


Table 17

Participants’ perception of trends in today’s society by sex			
Perception of trends in today’s society by sex	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
Too Liberal	20.5	24.9	22.6
Too Conservative	10.4	9.4	9.9
I am happy with the way our society has evolved	62.5	54.6	58.7
Do not know	6.6	11.1	8.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 18

Participants’ perception of trends in today’s society by age group			
Perception of trends in today’s society by age group	16-24	25-30	Total
	%	%	%
Too Liberal	15.7	29.6	22.6
Too Conservative	10.0	9.7	9.9
I am happy with the way our society has evolved	66.2	51.2	58.7
Do not know	8.1	9.5	8.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

When asked the question as to whether they agreed that social media influenced and affected their decision making, slightly over half of the participants (51.7%) agreed or strongly agreed, 19.1% somewhat agreed, while 29.2% disagreed or strongly disagreed. Significantly more in the 16-24 age group (61%) agreed as to the influence of social media than in the 25-30 age group (42.1%) and slightly more in Gozo (60.5%)

agreed. In terms of sex, 57.1% of females and 46.8% of males agreed or strongly agreed on the influence of social media, while 34.5% of males and 23.5% of females either disagreed or strongly disagreed.

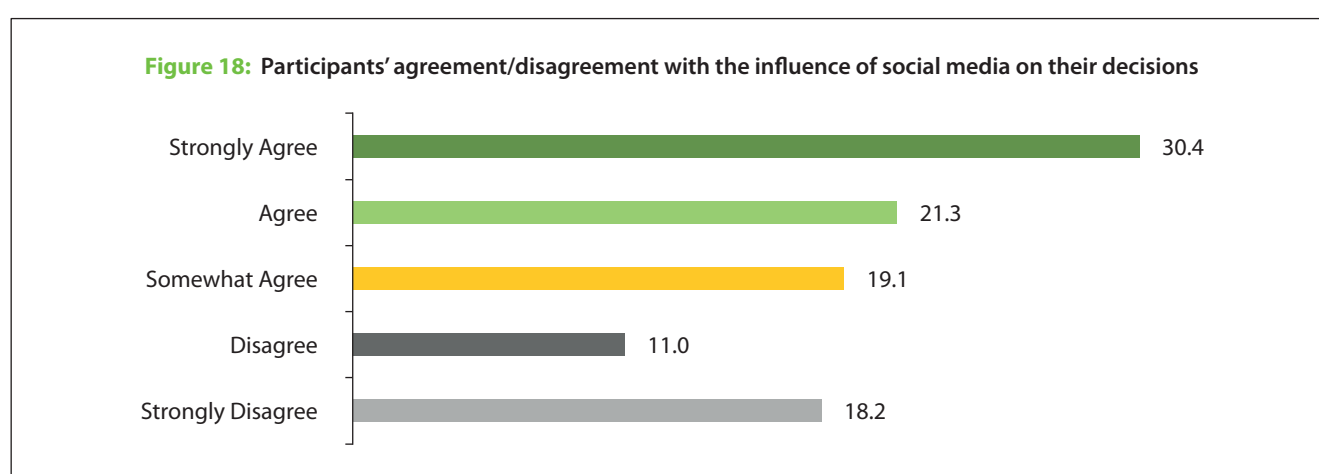


Table 19

Participants' agreement/disagreement with the influence of social media on their decisions by sex			
Influence of social media by sex	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
Strongly disagree	19.1	17.2	18.2
Disagree	15.4	6.3	11.0
Somewhat agree	18.7	19.4	19.1
Agree	18.6	24.3	21.3
Strongly agree	28.2	32.8	30.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 20

Participants' agreement/disagreement with the influence of social media on their decisions by age group			
Influence of social media by age group	16-24	25-30	Total
	%	%	%
Strongly disagree	13.5	23.0	18.2
Disagree	10.5	11.6	11.0
Somewhat agree	15.0	23.3	19.1
Agree	25.8	16.7	21.3
Strongly agree	35.2	25.4	30.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

When it came to the question of identity, the vast majority of participants described themselves as either Maltese and European (60.8%) or Maltese (33.4%). Interestingly, only 3.0% described themselves as European and Maltese. The figures

were broadly the same for both males and females and for age group.

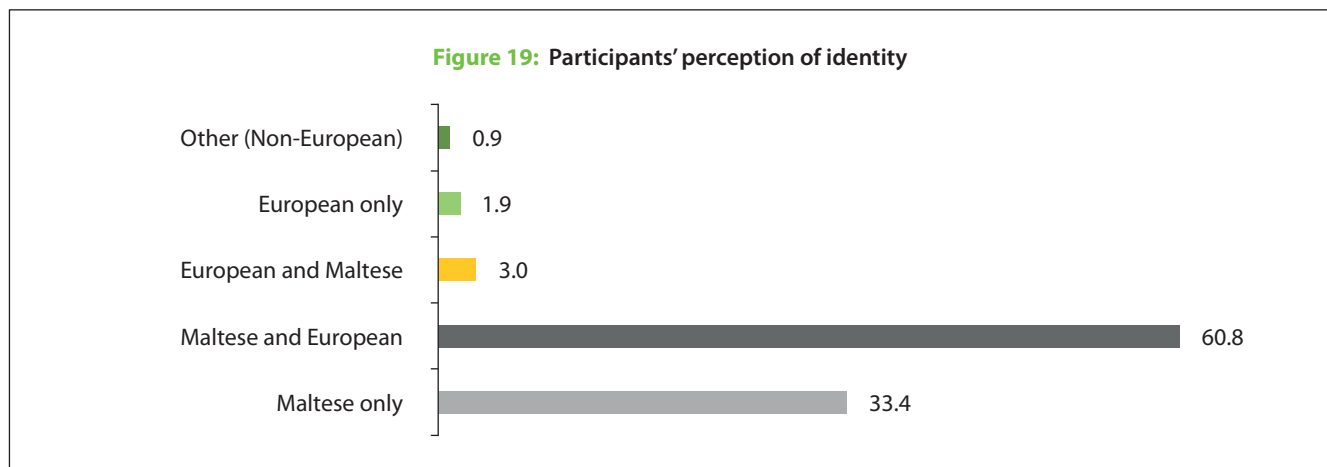


Table 21

Participants' perception of identity by sex			
Perception of identity by sex	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
Maltese Only	34.7	32.0	33.4
Maltese and European	58.8	62.9	60.8
European and Maltese	3.5	2.4	3.0
European only	2.0	1.9	1.9
Other (Non-European)	1.0	0.8	0.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 22

Participants' perception of identity by age group			
Perception of identity by age group	16-24	25-30	Total
	%	%	%
Maltese Only	34.0	32.8	33.4
Maltese and European	61.3	60.2	60.8
European and Maltese	2.9	3.1	3.0
European only	1.1	2.8	1.9
Other (Non-European)	0.7	1.1	0.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

When asked whether they would consider marrying someone from a different religion, 35.9% said yes while 47.5% said no. However, 55% of females compared with 40.6% of males said no. In the case of Gozo, the difference was 20.9% (yes)

to 65.1% (no). Participants in the 16 -24 age group were also slightly more open to the concept than those in the 25-30 age group.

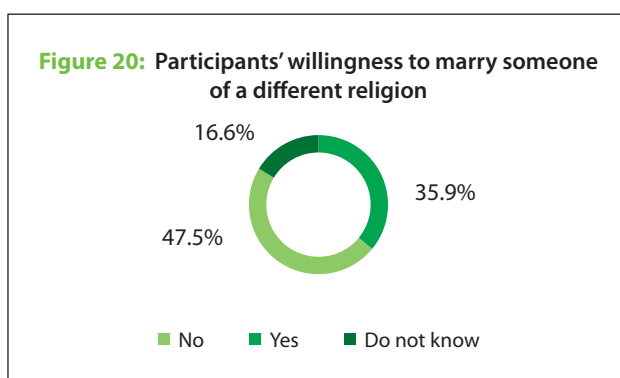


Table 23

Participants' willingness to marry someone of a different religion by sex			
Marriage and Religion by sex	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
Yes	40.3	31.1	35.9
No	40.6	55.0	47.5
Do not know	19.1	13.9	16.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 24

Participants' willingness to marry someone of a different religion by age group			
Marriage and Religion by age group	16-24	25-30	Total
	%	%	%
Yes	39.5	32.2	35.9
No	41.3	53.9	47.5
Do not know	19.2	13.9	16.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

When asked as to their willingness to welcome and provide shelter for refugees in their communities, 71.2% said yes while 28.8% said no. There was little difference in the response

based on age group. More females (74.9%) than males (67.8%) were positive in welcoming and sheltering refugees.

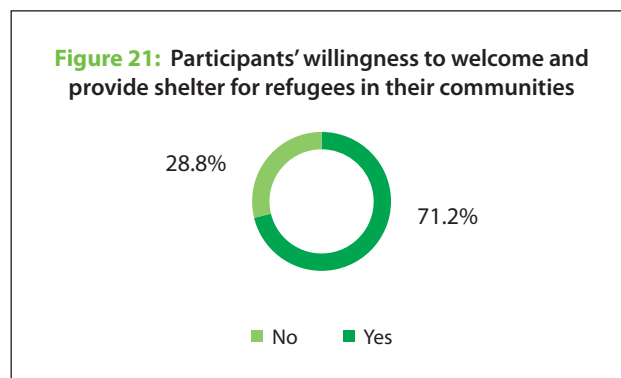


Table 25

Participants' willingness to welcome and provide shelter for refugees in their communities by sex			
Welcome and shelter refugees by sex	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
Yes	67.8	74.9	71.2
No	32.2	25.1	28.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 26

Participants' willingness to welcome and provide shelter for refugees in their communities by age group			
Welcome and shelter refugees by age group	16-24	25-30	Total
	%	%	%
Yes	69.7	72.8	71.2
No	30.3	27.2	28.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

When asked if they were concerned about poverty, discrimination and lack of opportunity for others, slightly less than half of the participants described themselves as either concerned or very concerned, while 33.4% described themselves as somewhat concerned and 18.3% indicated little

or no concern. The figures for males and females were broadly similar, but females expressed a greater level of concern. The level of overall concern was slightly lower in the 25-30 age group and in Gozo.

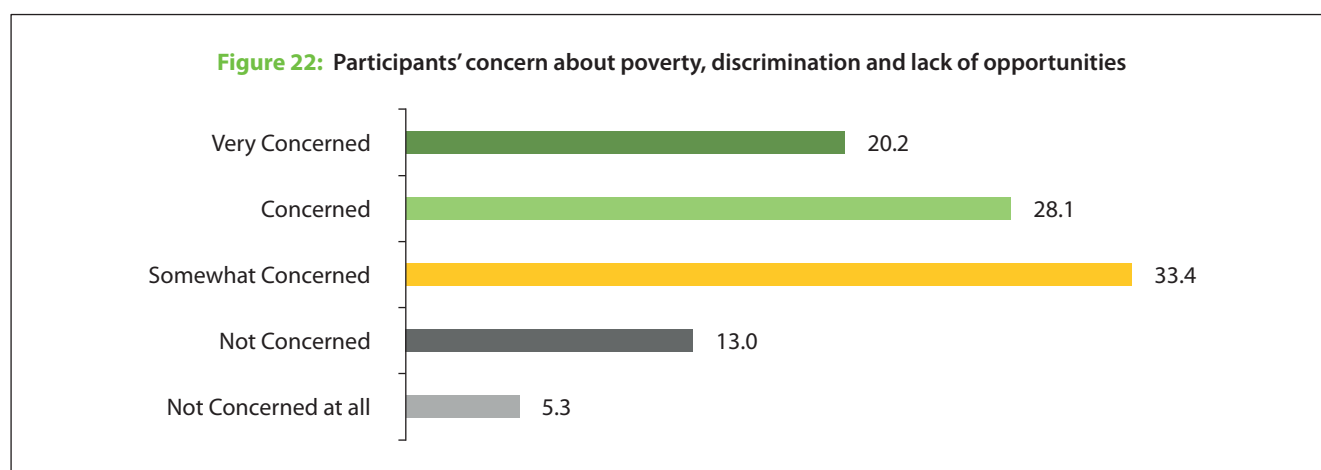


Table 27

Participants' concern about poverty, discrimination and lack of opportunities by sex			
Concerns about poverty, discrimination and lack of opportunities by sex	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
Not concerned at all	7.5	2.8	5.3
Not concerned	13.5	12.5	13.0
Somewhat concerned	35.7	31.0	33.4
Concerned	25.4	31.0	28.1
Very concerned	17.9	22.7	20.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 28

Participants' concern about poverty, discrimination and lack of opportunities by age group			
Concerns about poverty, discrimination and lack of opportunities by age group	16-24	25-30	Total
	%	%	%
Not concerned at all	3.3	7.3	5.3
Not concerned	12.5	13.6	13.0
Somewhat concerned	29.7	37.3	33.4
Concerned	30.1	25.9	28.1
Very concerned	24.4	15.9	20.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

On the question of being an active citizen, the vast majority of participants (92.9%) saw it as either important or very important, while 85.2% were of the view that civic education

should be given a more prominent role in education. There was little difference in response based on age and sex.

Figure 23: Participants views on importance of active citizenship

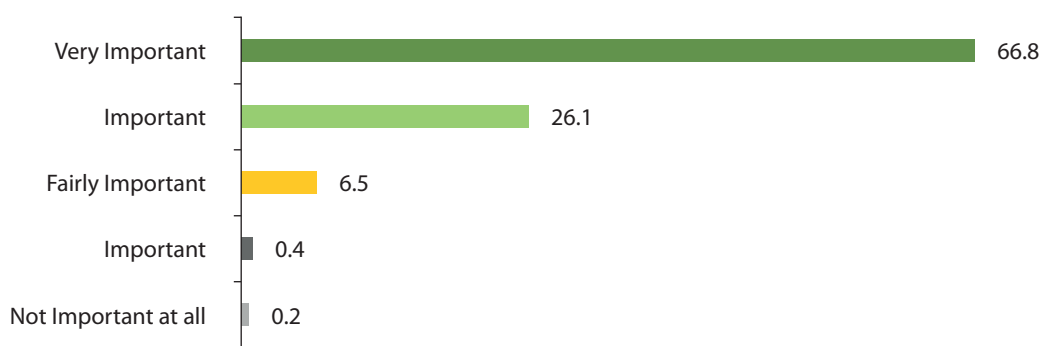


Table 29

Participants views on importance of active citizenship by sex			
Active citizenship by sex	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
Not Important at all	0.4	-	0.2
Not Important	0.5	0.2	0.4
Fairly Important	8.3	4.6	6.5
Important	25.5	26.8	26.1
Very Important	65.3	68.4	66.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 30

Participants views on importance of active citizenship by age group			
Active citizenship by age group	16-24	25-30	Total
	%	%	%
Not Important at all	0.4	-	0.2
Not Important	0.2	0.5	0.4
Fairly Important	5.0	8.1	6.5
Important	28.0	24.2	26.1
Very Important	66.4	67.2	66.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

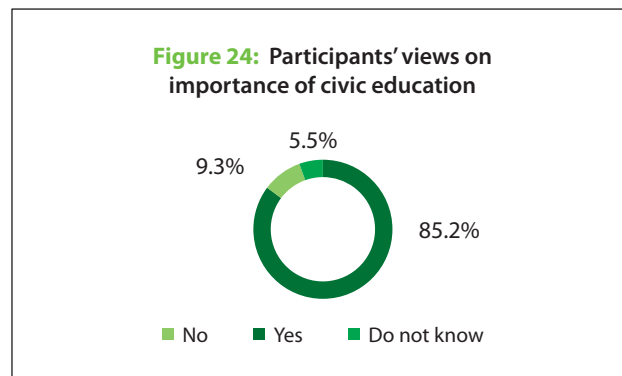
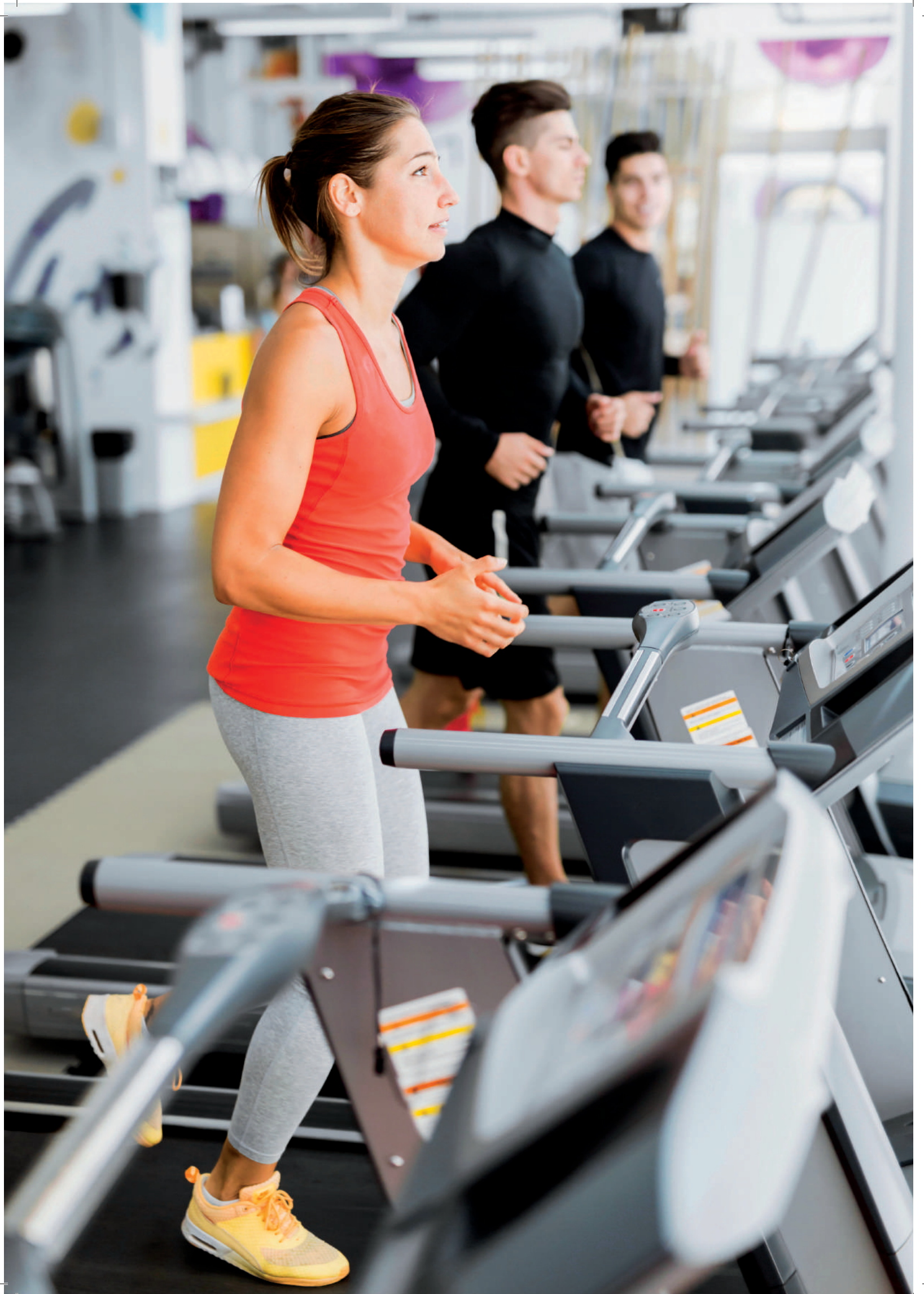


Table 31

Participants' views on importance of civic education by sex			
Civic education by sex	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
Yes	83.0	87.7	85.2
No	10.4	8.1	9.3
Do not know	6.6	4.2	5.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 32

Participants' views on importance of civic education by age group			
Civic education by age group	16-24	25-30	Total
	%	%	%
Yes	85.1	85.3	85.2
No	9.3	9.4	9.3
Do not know	5.6	5.3	5.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



3. Lifestyles – Behaviours

A Almost two thirds of participants (63.5%) responded that they had enough free time to spend as they wished. Those in the 16-24 age group indicated that they had

slightly more free time (67%) while those in the 25-30 age group indicated that they had slightly less (59.9%). In terms of sex, more males (69.1%) than females (57.4%) responded that they had enough free time. Participants in Gozo also indicated slightly less free time (58.9%).

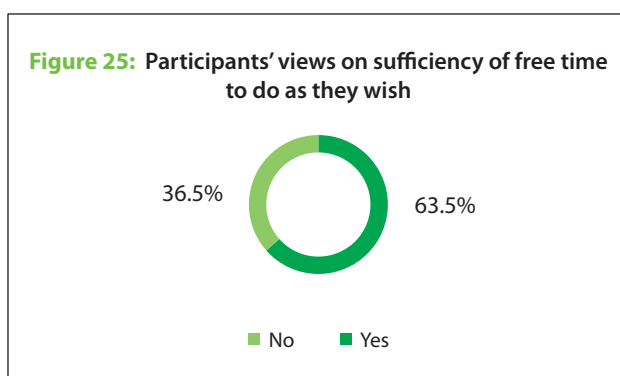


Table 33

Participants' views on sufficiency of free time to do as they wish by sex			
Sufficiency of free time by sex	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
Yes	69.1	57.4	63.5
No	30.9	42.6	36.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 34

Participants' views on sufficiency of free time to do as they wish by age group			
Sufficiency of free time by age group	16-24	25-30	Total
	%	%	%
Yes	67.0	59.9	63.5
No	33.0	40.1	36.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

The survey also included a number of questions on how participants used the free time available to them.

As regards physical exercise, almost half of the participants (48.8%) indicated that they engaged in physical exercise more than once a week, while 18.5% did so at least once a week. However, almost 15% only did physical exercise once a month

or occasionally, while significantly almost 18% indicated that they never did physical exercise. More males (53.6%) than females (43.5%) indicated that they engaged in physical exercise more than once a week, while 21.3% of females indicated they never engaged in physical exercise. Those in the 16-24 age group engaged in more physical exercise than those in the 25-30 age group.

Figure 26: Participants by frequency of physical exercise and/or attendance at gym

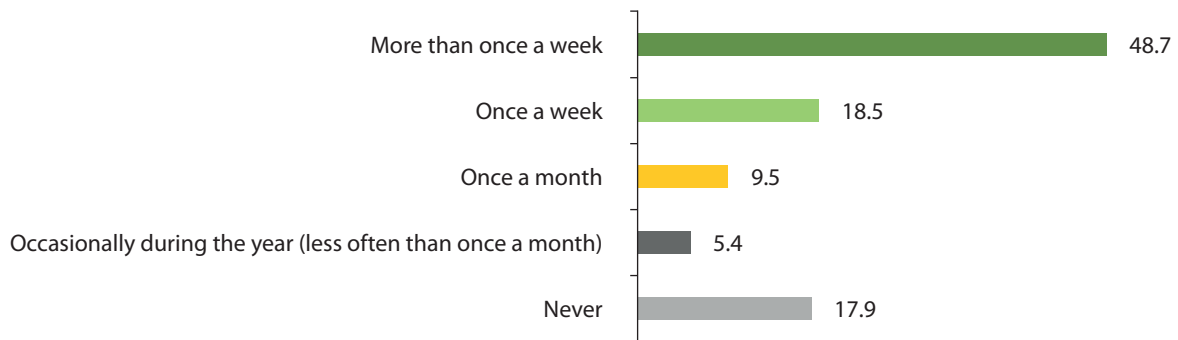


Table 35

Participants by frequency of physical exercise and/or attendance at gym by sex			
Physical exercise by sex	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
Never	14.7	21.3	17.9
Occasionally during the year (less often than once a month)	3.6	7.3	5.4
Once a month	9.0	10.1	9.5
Once a week	19.1	17.8	18.5
More than once a week	53.6	43.5	48.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 36

Participants by frequency of physical exercise and/or attendance at gym by age group			
Physical exercise by age group	16-24	25-30	Total
	%	%	%
Never	16.2	19.6	17.9
Occasionally during the year (less often than once a month)	4.1	6.6	5.4
Once a month	10.5	8.5	9.5
Once a week	21.1	15.8	18.5
More than once a week	48.1	49.5	48.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

When it came to attendance at cultural or artistic events, over two-thirds of participants both males and females (68.4%) said that they had attended in the past year, with slightly more

attending in the 16-24 age group (73.9%) than in the 25-30 age group (63.8%). The figure for attendance in Gozo was slightly lower at 63%.

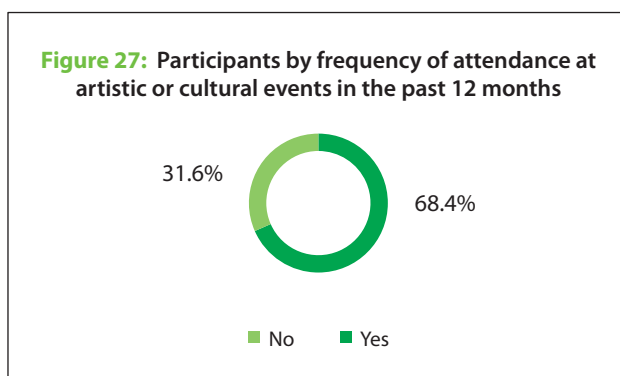


Table 37

Participants by frequency of attendance at artistic or cultural events in the past 12 months by sex			
Artistic/ cultural events by sex	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
Yes	67.8	69.2	68.4
No	32.2	30.8	31.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 38

Participants by frequency of attendance at artistic or cultural events in the past 12 months by age group			
Artistic/ cultural events by age group	16-24	25-30	Total
	%	%	%
Yes	73.0	63.8	68.4
No	27.0	36.2	31.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

As to the number of foreign friends they had, both in Malta and abroad, 36.9% of participants indicated 1 to 5 friends, 18.2% indicated between 6 and 20, while 15.2% had over 20. The figures for males and females were broadly similar. Significantly however, almost a third of participants 29.7% responded that they had no foreign friends, while almost

twice as many males (19.5%) than females (10.6%) had over 20 foreign friends. Those in the 16-24 age group tended to have a broader number of close friends (under 5), while those in the 25-30 age group tended to have a wider circle of friends and this was also the case in Gozo.

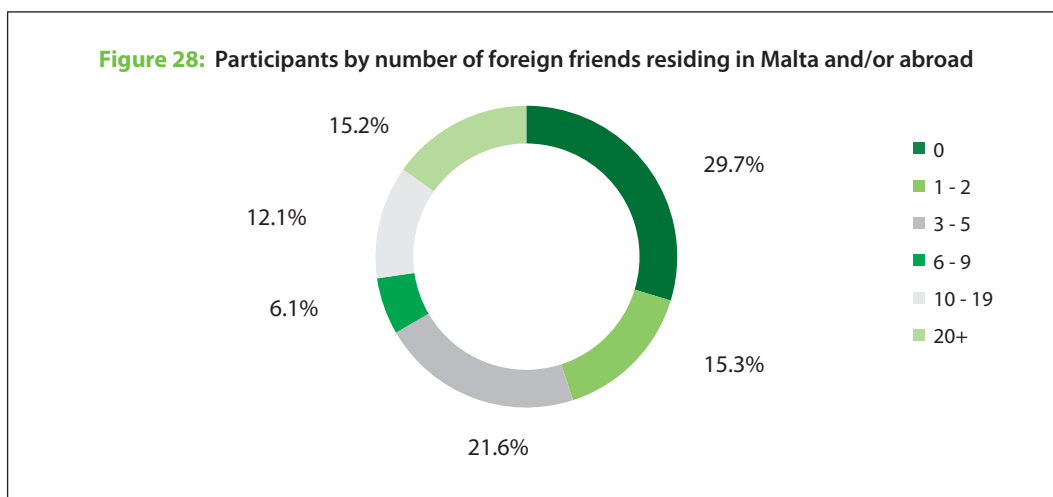


Table 39

Participants by number of foreign friends residing in Malta and/or abroad by sex			
Number of foreign friends by sex	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
0	27.0	32.6	29.7
1-2	16.0	14.6	15.3
3-5	20.1	23.2	21.6
6-9	4.5	7.7	6.1
10-19	12.9	11.3	12.1
20+	19.5	10.6	15.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 40

Participants by number of foreign friends residing in Malta and/or abroad by age group			
Number of foreign friends by age group	16-24	25-30	Total
	%	%	%
0	29.6	29.8	29.7
1-2	19.6	10.9	15.3
3-5	23.3	19.8	21.6
6-9	5.5	6.6	6.1
10-19	10.8	13.5	12.1
20+	11.2	19.4	15.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Over three quarters of participants (76.5%) and more females (80.7%) indicated that they were not members of any organisation (NGOs, youth groups, cultural or sports organisation). While there was no difference as regards age group, membership was slightly higher in Gozo at 33.8%. Of those participants who were members of organisations

however, approximately 70% of both males and females were members from 1 to 10 years. Of those engaged with an organisation only 21.8% carried out voluntary work, with the figure for Gozo being higher at 27.8%.

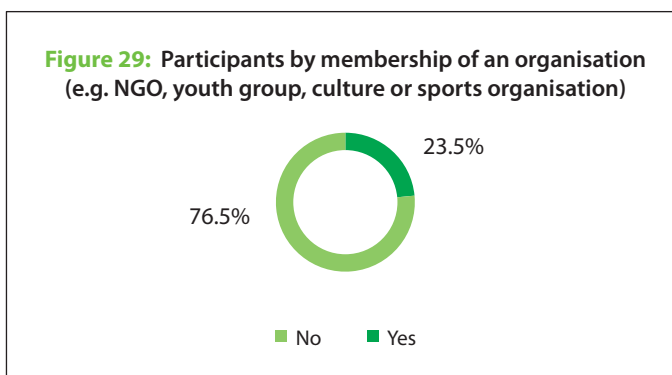


Table 41

Participants by membership of an organisation (e.g. NGO, youth group, culture or sports organisation) by sex			
Membership of an organisation by sex	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
Yes	27.2	19.3	23.5
No	72.8	80.7	76.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 42

Participants by membership of an organisation (e.g. NGO, youth group, culture or sports organisation) by age group			
Membership of an organisation by age group	16-24	25-30	Total
	%	%	%
Yes	23.3	23.7	23.5
No	76.7	76.3	76.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

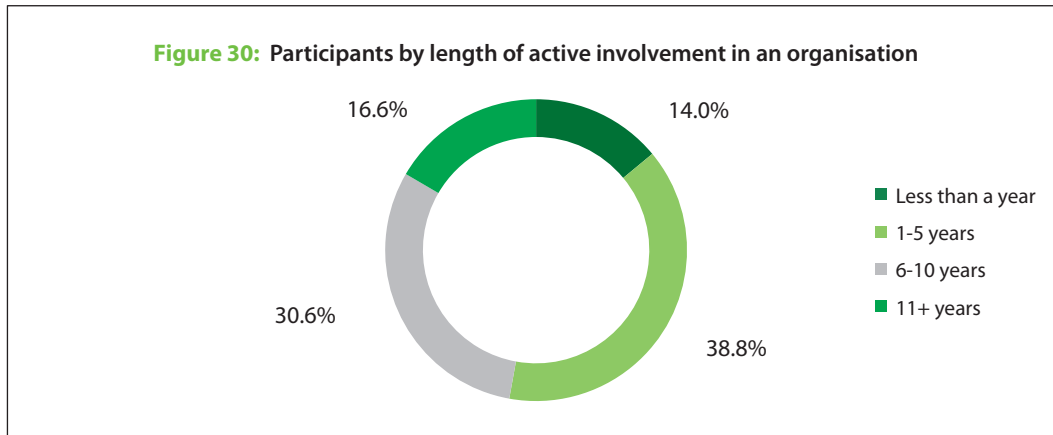


Table 43

Participants by length of active involvement in an organisation by sex			
Length of active involvement by sex	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
Less than a year	12.0	17.1	14.0
1-5 years	29.4	53.3	38.8
6-10 years	38.8	17.9	30.6
11+ years	19.8	11.7	16.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 44

Participants by length of active involvement in an organisation by age group			
Length of active involvement by age group	16-24	25-30	Total
	%	%	%
Less than a year	19.1	8.8	14.0
1-5 years	42.6	35.1	38.8
6-10 years	28.6	32.5	30.6
11+ years	9.7	23.6	16.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

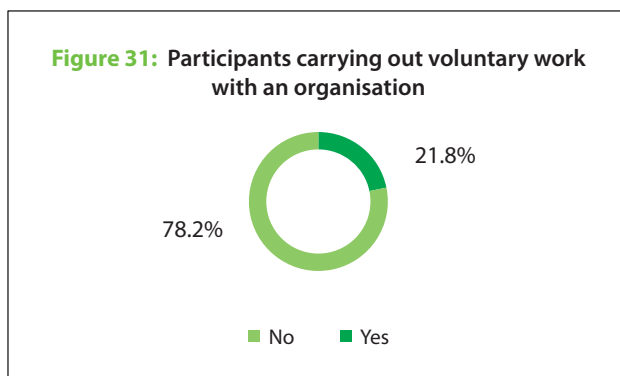


Table 45

Participants carrying out voluntary work with an organisation by sex			
Voluntary work with an organisation by sex	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
Yes	23.4	20.1	21.8
No	76.6	79.9	78.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 46

Participants carrying out voluntary work with an organisation by age group			
Voluntary work with an organisation by age group	16-24	25-30	Total
	%	%	%
Yes	23.6	20.0	21.8
No	76.4	80.0	78.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



MAIN FINDINGS AND TRENDS

While the survey indicates young people's overall satisfaction with employment and education and their positive and constructive social attitudes and behaviours, there are nevertheless a number of issues that are worthy of further consideration and action.

This chapter will consider the main finding and trends emerging from the survey, first under education and employment, and second under attitudes and behaviours. In this context, as well as looking at the overall and general findings and trends, it will focus on sex and age group in particular.

Employment and Education

Over 60% of participant in the survey were in employment only, while less than 20% were in education only. The number of participants, however, in employment and in part-time education is relatively low by European standards. Slightly over 5% of participants were in neither education nor employment (NEET). Unsurprisingly, those in the 25-30 age group had a much higher level of employment than those in the 16-24 age group; while the reverse was the case in terms of education. In terms of sex, males had a higher level of employment than females. The number of females who were NEET was three times higher than for males. This might suggest that participation by females in the labour force and the disproportionate number of females in NEET are issues that need to be further considered and addressed.

Over 80% of males and over 70% of females were satisfied with the learning opportunities available to them, while the figures were lower with regard to the availability of job opportunities. The two age groups roughly reflected these figures with the 25-30 age group being slightly less satisfied with both learning and job opportunities. In Gozo, more were satisfied with learning opportunities and less satisfied with job opportunities. In general, satisfaction with learning opportunities was higher than satisfaction with job opportunities and in both cases satisfaction among females was less.

Two-thirds of those in education, agreed that the education they are receiving prepares them well for the transition from school to work, while less than 10% disagreed. In Gozo, over 75% agreed. However, four times as many females than males disagreed that the education they are receiving prepares them well for the transition from school to work.

Almost 60% of all those in employment agreed that the education they received prepared them well for the transition from school to work, while less than 20% indicated that they had not been well prepared for the transition. Slightly more males than females disagreed, while in Gozo, almost 75% agreed that they had been prepared well for the transition. Financial consideration were the main reason why both males and females took up part-time employment.

Of those in employment, 75% were satisfied with their employment, while only 7% were dissatisfied. However, almost twice as many females than males expressed dissatisfaction. In Gozo, job satisfaction was even higher and job dissatisfaction lower.

In terms of employment and education, while the survey indicates general overall satisfaction with provision and opportunities, females appear less satisfied and more excluded.

Attitudes and Behaviours

Three out of four participants in the survey were satisfied with the quality of life in Malta, with less than 4% describing themselves as dissatisfied. The levels of satisfaction were higher among 16-24 year olds and in Gozo. Almost 60% described themselves as generally happy about the way society was evolving, with slightly more 16-24 year olds, males and Gozitans expressing this view. However, over a fifth of participants expressed the view that trends in society were generally too liberal as opposed to less than 1 in 10 who thought them too conservative. Participants in the 25-30 age group and females were more likely to see trends in society as too liberal. While satisfaction with quality of life was high and social trends viewed as generally positive, the survey suggest that young people retain a basically conservative view of society.

Attitudes to the impact of social media among participants were more divided. Over half of the participants agreed that social media influenced and affected their decisions, but just under one in three disagreed. Females, those in the 16-24 age group and in Gozo agreed more as to the influence of social media.

On the question of identity, the vast majority of participants described themselves as either Maltese and European or Maltese. Just over a third of participants said that they would consider marrying someone from a different religion, but almost half said no. A majority of females and Gozitans also responded negatively. Participants in the 16-24 age group were also slightly more open to the concept than those in the 25-30 age group. The survey suggests that young people have a strong Maltese/European identity, while females, those in Gozo and young people, as they grow older, appear to be both cautious and conservative in terms of their social behaviour and personal lives.

Over 70% of participants had a positive attitude to refugees with females being more positive than males. Slightly less than half of the participants described themselves as concerned about issues of poverty, discrimination and lack of opportunity for others, while just under 20% expressed little or no concern. The level of concern was greater among females but slightly less among 25-30 year olds and in Gozo. The vast majority of participants saw active citizenship and

civic education as important. While a majority of participants expressed support for refugees and the socially excluded, the number expressing little or no concern, while low cannot be considered insignificant.

Almost two-thirds of participants responded that they had enough free time to spend as they wished. Males and those in the 16-24 age group indicated more free time than females, those in the 25-30 age group and in Gozo. Half of the participants indicated that they engaged in physical exercise more than once a week, however, almost one in three only did physical exercise occasionally or not at all. Over one in five females indicated that they never engaged in physical exercise. Over two-thirds of participants both males and females attended cultural or artistic events in the past year. The survey further highlights the issue of lack of physical exercise among young people and young females in particular.

Over 70% of participants indicated that they had foreign friends, but almost 30% had none. Males and those in the 25-30 age group tended to have a wider circle of friends than females, those in the 16-24 age group and in Gozo.

Over three quarters of participants indicated that they were not members of any organisation (NGOs, youth groups, cultural or sports organisation). Of those participants who were members of organisations however, approximately 70% of both males and females were members from 1 to 10 years. Of those engaged with an organisation only one in five undertook voluntary work. The low level of participation in voluntary organisations is a recurring feature of surveys of young people in Malta.