



**L-Università  
ta' Malta**



**European  
Commission**



**OpenAIRE**

# **RESEARCH IN TUNE TO SOCIETY: MAINSTREAMING RRI**

**DR EDWARD DUCA**

**SCIENCE AND INNOVATION COMMUNICATION LECTURER**

**CENTRE FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND BUSINESS INCUBATION, UNIVERSITY OF MALTA**

**[edward.duca@um.edu.mt](mailto:edward.duca@um.edu.mt)**



NOBODY DIED FROM COVID 19  
ALL DIED FROM KNOWN CAUSES  
DO NOT LIVE IN FEAR & LIES  
WEARING MASKS = CRIMINAL IDEA  
SPREADING HARM

WAKE UP!

WE WANT TO BE RECOGNIZED AS  
ELECTRODISCRIMINATED PERSONS  
REQUIRING SPECIAL PROTECTION  
THAT IS NEGOTIABLE!!

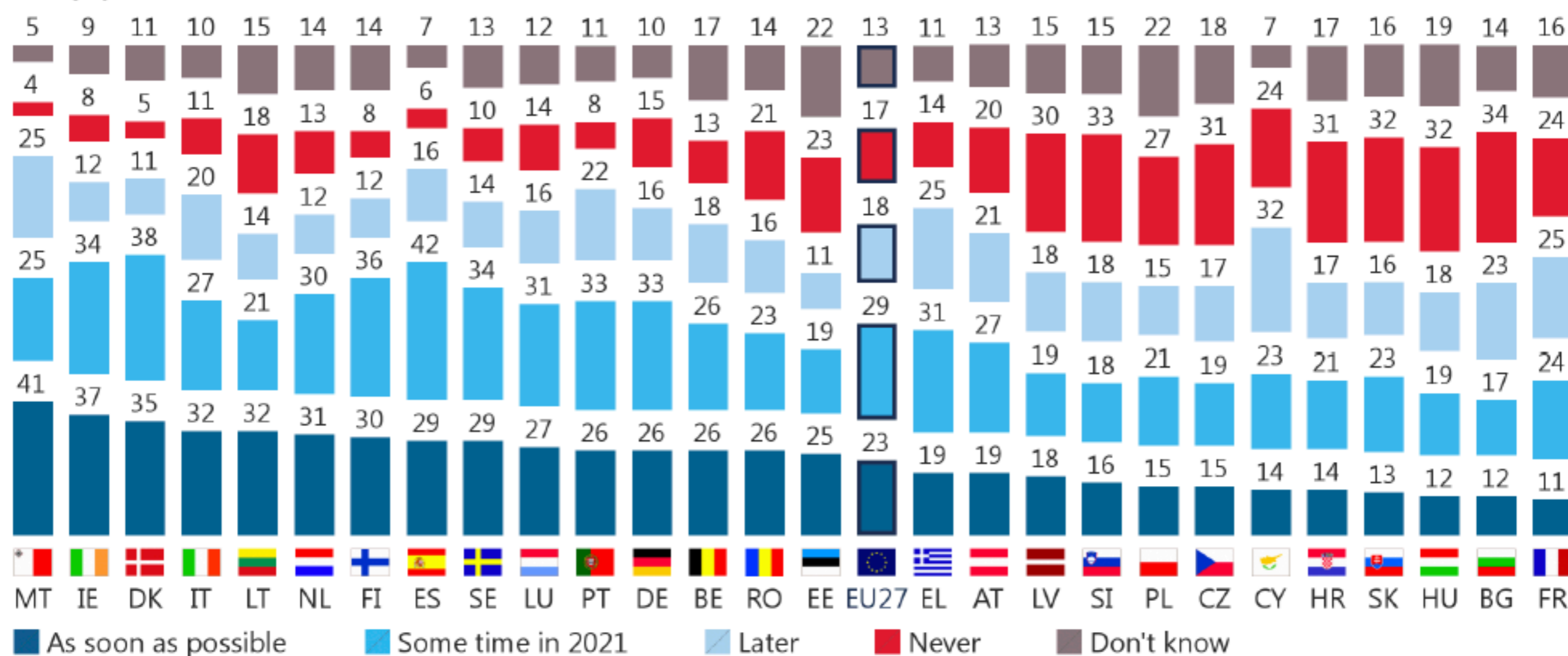
WE WANT TO LIVE!  
WE WANT TO LIVE!  
WE WANT TO LIVE!  
WE WANT TO LIVE!  
WE WANT TO LIVE!



**More than a third would like to get vaccinated as soon as possible in Malta (41%), Ireland (37%) and Denmark (35%), while at least a third declare that they would never get vaccinated in Bulgaria (34%) and Slovenia (33%)**

**Q1** If a vaccine against COVID-19 (coronavirus) is authorised by public authorities and available for you, when would you like to get vaccinated?

(%)



---

# **THE NEED TO ENGAGE & INVOLVE SOCIETY**

- **The rise and spread of fake news, misinformation, mistrust in media & experts (although COVID has increased trust in researchers and medical practitioners)**
- **To address many of the world's global societal challenges many different groups need to work with research & innovation actors**
- **Many buzz words: Informed democracy, active citizenship, knowledge-based economy, evidence-based policy  
— need to happen**

---

# WHY ENGAGED RESEARCH?

## *The Changing Role of Academia*

- Need to address the lack of trust in expertise and academic research
- Need to address negative narrative of “Us vs Them”; university as an “Ivory Tower”
- Need to create more impactful research and enable partners and publics to better understand, appreciate and contribute to the value of academic research

---

# WHAT IS RRI?

***Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) implies that societal actors (researchers, citizens, policy makers, business, third sector organisations, etc.) work together during the whole research and innovation process in order to better align both the process and its outcomes with the values, needs and expectations of society***

---

# **CURRENT HORIZON 2020**

- **Public Engagement**
- **Open Access**
- **Gender**
- **Ethics**
- **Science Education**
- **Governance**

---

# HOW RRI WAS INTERPRETED

***Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) is an approach to research that embraces this shared responsibility throughout the entire process. By engaging with stakeholders like journalists, policymakers, or citizens, research has the opportunity to better address the issues facing society in a more inclusive way.***



**NUCLEUS**





# **MAINSTREAMING RRI IN MALTA**

---

# **INTERNAL STUDY**

- **University of Malta (UM) performed an internal study to understand the situation and perception of RRI at UM.**
- **To achieve this we did an online questionnaire to all staff and students (226 responses) and semi-structured interviews (29)**
- **We also reviewed internal structures, policies and documents**

Accountability vs  
social responsibility

Different attitudes towards PE

Lack of formal recognition of  
academics' PE efforts

**RESPONSIBILITY**

**COLLABORATION**

**FRAGMENTATION**

**POLITICS AND  
MULTIPLE ROLES**

Informal  
connections/  
personal networks  
over formal  
procedures

Territoriality

**KNOWLEDGE-  
CREATING SYSTEM**

Narrative of "Us vs  
them" rather than  
relational

Compartmentalized  
knowledge vs systems  
thinking

Academics  
"wearing multiple  
hats": "boundary  
spanners"

Personal/  
professional risk

Power dynamics

---

# **RESULTS**

- **Dichotomous narrative of “Us vs Them” rather than relational (e.g. co-production, co-development, active listening)**
- **Power dynamics influencing best practices and research outcomes, as well as governance structure**
- **Informal networks over formal procedures**

---

# **ADDRESSING THE RESEARCH FINDINGS**

- **Setting up of CRE — Committee for Research Engagement that includes internal and external stakeholders. It is tasked to review the policies of the University of Malta and embed RRI it within the institution.**
- **Setting up of an executive arm that can carry out the tasks the committee deems the most important in accordance with top management and other stakeholders.**

---

# MAINSTREAM RRI

***R&I missions: Relating EU's research and innovation better to society and citizens' needs; with strong visibility and impact***

HORIZON EUROPE

# KEY HORIZON EUROPE IMPACT PATHWAYS

1. Creating high-quality new knowledge
2. Strengthening human capital in R&I
3. Fostering diffusion of knowledge and Open Science

**Scientific  
Impact**



4. Addressing EU policy priorities & global challenges through R&I
5. Delivering benefits & impact via R&I missions
6. Strengthening the uptake of R&I in society

**Societal  
Impact**



7. Generating innovation-based growth
8. Creating more and better jobs
9. Leveraging investments in R&I

**Economic  
Impact**





L-Università  
ta' Malta



European  
Commission



OpenAIRE

# ANY QUESTIONS?

**DR EDWARD DUCA**

[edward.duca@um.edu.mt](mailto:edward.duca@um.edu.mt)

@DwardD





قنون اسود  
Cannon Asoad  
Za'atay  
Kebbeh

