

sociological sketches

malta 1972

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SOCIOLOGICAL SKETCHES

MALTA 1972

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by the author
Gunnar Hägglund

Gunnar Hägglund
(Fil.lic., Stockholm)



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Foreword

The following pages contain eight articles, or rather sketches, written for the Maltese public by a Swedish sociologist.

The first sketch presents the science of sociology as well as its position and possible future in Malta. The second deals with the way "The Times of Malta" and "The Malta News" cover what happens in the field of trade and industrial relations. Then mobility in a Valletta slum is dealt with, followed by a pilot study regarding the permanent residents and a study about foreign experts. The sixth, about the contents in Maltese broadcasting, was first published in the May 1972 issue of "The Cobweb". The next sketch appeared in the October 1971 number of "The Bureaucrat" and reports on a Swedish expenditure survey, apropos a planned similar Maltese project. Finally a letter to the Editor of "The Malta News" of August 25, 1971, gives some of the characteristics of the penal system in Sweden as comments to an article in the same paper about the prisons in Malta. The sketches with Swedish connections are included here because the first one gives an example of the use of sociological research methods and the second exemplifies that a certain word — in this case penal reform — has a different meaning in different contexts, in that the Swedish reality is far away from the Maltese debate.

Presented together the sketches might give rise to a public debate about the potentials of sociology in the newly independent Malta.

Numerous people have been more or less involved in the work, which eventually resulted in this booklet. May they, nobody mentioned and nobody forgotten, accept my deep thanks, while I dedicate the work to Rita and our daughter Maja.

Malta September 1972
Gunnar Hägglund

Sociology and its future in Malta

The word sociology, from Latin socius = society and Greek logos = science, was coined by Auguste Comte (1798-1857). He considered sociology to be the most complex of all sciences, a sort of summary and end product.

Three sciences about human behaviour are closely related.

Psychology concentrates on the individual, both in a laboratory situation, when the capacities of the senses are studied, and in various life situations, as when a child has difficulties in learning how to read.

Social psychology tries to come to grips with what happens to the individuals, mostly face to face, in a group situation, e.g. at a place of work.

Sociology, although using the results from psychology and social psychology, is in principle more anonymous, as the individuals and the small groups are usually summed up into bigger units like institutions and societies and also into statistical group constructions as "all persons subscribing to a certain newspaper".

When individuals, groups and institutions act in the economical field the science of economics studies that behaviour and when they act in the field of politics the science of government does the same. These fields and others are special fields inside sociology, which tries to describe, understand and predict internal and external behaviour of the individual (alone or in groups of various types), who is at the same time a **miniature of the whole society** and a **part** of that same society.

Proto-sociological knowledge has always been used, as long as human society has existed.*

*Notice for instance the wisdom expressed in proverbs. Regarding Malta see Joseph Aquilina "A Comparative Dictionary of Maltese Proverbs", Malta 1972, 694 p.p.

But it is no longer convenient, for individuals and society alike, to rely only on local tradition and ambiguous common sense, when there is a wealth of sociological facts and tested research methods available in the nearest set of text-books and hand-books. To make a quotation: ".....the modern sociologist must apply systematic tests of all of its/sociology/store of principles, so that the false generalisations so abundant in folk-sociology and in practical life will be discarded, allowing the principles which survive the methodological trials to form the content of an intellectually satisfying and practically applicable science."*

It might be useful to elaborate a little more on the role of the sociologist. He who takes up sociology as a profession for life will most probably do some complicated pieces of research to qualify academically and also do a lot of teaching.

The consumer of the research and the teaching, in a way also a sociologist, is, ideally, all the general public but usually professionals like civil servants, lawyers, politicians and so on. The politician needs sociology to formulate his programme and to win supporters for it. The business man should think in terms of consumers' attitudes in his marketing and advertising. Thus examples of the importance of sociology for modern planned society could go on and on.

The amount of planning needed is less a function of political preferences than of the complexity reached by a certain society. In Malta one comes across the idea that sociology is a sort of suspect Communism, i.e. Socialism, while in fact U.S.A. is the country which most extensively has accepted sociology as a working tool. In my opinion the Maltese society has now reached the complexity where applied sociology in a big scale can be of great help.

*Robert E.L. Faris, editor of the "Handbook of Modern Sociology" (Chicago 1964, 1088 p.p.), on page 2.

Sociology has its distinct brand and history for each country, to say nothing of the universities. In Sweden, for instance, the positivistic sociology has dominated. Positivism considers all sciences as a unity regarding research ideals, with validity and reliability as key words. It is pro-empiristic and anti-speculative. Some critics observed, that such a sociology could be used and abused in the hands of good and bad alike. But that is just why sociology could not be left out. The good ends were decided on in the usual political way and by the big organisations and so on, then sociology was applied. Now sociology is taught in the schools, and the universities are crowded also by those who would like to add sociology to their original professional training as e.g. architects and business administrators.

The undetermined attitude to sociology in Malta so far has its historical explanation. The British had all the social experts at hand, when they liked, while the Maltese upper-class studied theology, law and medicine. A few years ago only a handful of students chose social science at the R.U.M.*, while, to give an example, in Stockholm University close to two thousand students were enrolled in the Department of Sociology alone — a development since 1954, when the chair was created.

As at the moment only a few people in Malta have personal experience of the usefulness of advanced sociology, a similar development here would take too long a time. Therefore the Maltese Government should decide explicitly on an extensive sociology policy.

The following steps should prove realistic: 1) Post-graduate economics students at R.U.M., who complain they are without adequate jobs, should be employed by Government in the way that they, under guidance of temporary foreign experts and in small groups, carry out summary descriptive research, and later more sophisticated research, regarding all major institutions in society, as the family, the school, the industry and so on. 2) The same students could thereafter function as teachers at various levels: at the University — with a chair in sociology — at schools, trade courses, internal courses for civil service personnel, by TV, in study circles and so on. Alternatively the students could be absorbed by the Government Departments.

*The Royal University of Malta, Tal-Qroqq, Msida, Malta.

Much money and good will will be gained by Government through the use of sociology. A bad mistake, regrettably repeated over and over again in most countries, is to carry out changes and reforms without careful mapping of the wishes and the needs and later checking of the real results. A country which tries to avoid this mistake is open for improvements through self criticism, in the long run a better procedure than the build-up of dissatisfaction up to the point of unrest.

Malta could be noted in the field of sociology for various reasons. First: Malta could be made one of the few happy nations, as the population shares the same language and race, religion and democratic values — the village knew of no oppressors among the Maltese themselves. In the so called more emancipated countries a lot of bad mistakes were let to grow strong, e.g. neglect of family life, severe conflicts between employers and employees and use of drugs, with higher criminality as one of the consequences. These and other problems can be studied in sociological terms, and experience from abroad could be of help to prevent a grave repetition in Malta. Secondly: Here it could be possible for sociologists from all over the world to work by testing their theories, as the conditions are clear cut and similar to those in a laboratory, and the politicians and other policy forming and acting bodies are few and traditionally ready to give information and collaboration.

It could prove convincing to examine the **types of research projects** I consider important for Malta and to give some examples of these latter.

1) **Fact finding about each major institution** in society as a base for policy making and reform and aid in the line of social justice. In this context the annual department reports and the demographical data already gathered through the censuses should be mentioned, but whenever you like to formulate a specific policy, for instance a child-allowance scheme, the facts there are useful only as a starting point. The general research I advocate here is one more advanced than the mentioned reports. Of course even more detailed

information regarding each specific reform is needed, until the limited money can be directed to the right pockets. And to be effective the reforms must be looked to to **reach all** they were intended for — another sociological problem. In Sweden the expression "service democracy" has been used, and the idea is, that a problem is tackled through research **before** it becomes acute. Let us by imagination apply the procedure to Malta on a special sector: more than 3,000 engaged couples applied to the Government for 10 newly built, subsidised flats, while a "service democracy" alternative would have been to go out at an early stage and register the need of flats through sociological procedures and then divert, through political steps, the resources of the country according to the preferences of the inhabitants.

2) More limited but **deenging projects** making use of more sophistic sociological research techniques. For instance: the inclination to work has a fundamental influence on the production and service performed in a society, so there is a reason to learn more about what is considered as an incentive to work and what causes dislike of work.

Let me prove the existence of the problem of productivity in Malta. In winter time one and a half years ago I simply watched what happened during a working day on a public works project. Every five minutes I took down notes about how many workers were actually at work at that moment. As a maximum six employees were in action out of twenty-one present, and as a minimum one was active out of sixteen present. (I leave out the situation during the breaks and the start and end of work, of course). Research could reveal if the crucial point is the planning engineering function or the group standards of work performance or what else.

Another project is to trace and improve the lot for those who work too much or in unhealthy conditions and with inadequate tools.

3) At the University research and teaching in the **theory and methodology** of sociology should be carried on at the same time as the above results from the society are piling up under mutual efforts. To this more demanding type of research could be counted the present author's preparation of an ecological factor analysis of Malta.

These pages are meant to point to the potentialities of sociology in Malta and to call for an explicit Governmental policy in support of sociology both as a research tool in society and as a University subject with a Professor's chair, all in the spirit of the following quotation: "Sociology can thrive only under freedom. Indeed, the extent to which sociologists may pursue their interests, fully publish their results, and freely state their conclusions is one important index of the degree to which a nation qualifies as a free and open society".*

*The final words in Alex Inkeles "What is Sociology?: An introduction to the discipline and profession", Englewood Cliffs, 1964, 120 p.p.

Industrial relations in 'The Times of Malta' and 'The Malta News'

This is an analysis of all the contents dealing with economy and industrial relations, except parliamentary reports and advertising, in the most important English-spoken newspapers of Malta, "The Times of Malta" (TM) and "The Malta News" (MN) during the period January 22 — February 25, 1971.*

During this period the Nationalist Party formed the Government and the Malta Labour Party was in opposition. Neither TM nor MN are Party organs. In short it can be said that TM talks for the Establishment, while MN is dominated by the General Workers Union.

A convenient point of departure for the discussion of the procedure and symbols used in the contents analysis is this relatively short text from MN of February 2, 1971:

"HOTEL FORCES WORKERS TO TAKE UNPAID LEAVE
Valletta, Thursday.

The secretary of the Hotels, Foods and Allied Trades Section of the General Workers' Union, Mr Vincent Esposito said today in a meeting for Preluna Hotel employees, that the union did not intend to allow the management to force the workers to take unpaid leave.

Mr Esposito, addressing the meeting held at the Workers' Building, said that the workers must first of all receive their paid leave entitlement. The union would agree that this entitlement of paid leave be taken during the period of slack business at the hotel. Then, if the situation remains unchanged, the union would be willing to be consulted about the action management intends to take, actions which involve workers, Mr. Esposito maintained.

*Both "The Times of Malta" and "The Malta News" are six days a week newspapers. Here the weekly "The Sunday Times of Malta" is included in "The Times of Malta" for analysis.

Here he referred to written orders issued by certain Preluna heads of departments who has ordered that were the workers not to take unpaid leave immediately, discharges would result.

At the meeting Mr. John Azzopardi was elected shop steward and Mr. V. Debono was elected collector. A shop committee was also elected."

I abstain from a detailed analysis of every explicit or implicit relation extractable from the texts and treat each text as one piece of information. Only one marking is given to each text, whether long or short, according to a triangle model.* The model consists of a triangle where the points represent the employees (E), the Government (G) and the management (M) respectively. Each point can be studied separately and each side of the triangle can be considered either in terms of support or in terms of conflict between two of the three bodies. The same holds for the whole triangle, with all bodies involved, but this type of support or conflict is not represented here.

In the terms of the triangle model the quoted text is a relation of conflict type between E and M. The heading puts the stress on management turning down the employees' rights. A closer look at the text reveals, though, that what is said in the heading might have been old news, already reported in the Press, while the steps taken by the employees at the meeting — "the union did not intend to allow the management to force the workers to take unpaid leave" — is the real news in form of a warning to the management. Such a 'thumb down' is symbolised X.

A suggestion based on criticism is given the symbol !, (thus giving the conflict type of relation a bit more of nuance). 'Thumb up' is pictured +. An agreement between two bodies is marked ++ and a disagreement XX.

The symbols can be used in several combinations. When no relation between two bodies is involved, the notations are of the following type: +E, as when an article tells about an

*Thanks go to Dr. Gerard Kester from the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, for the model, which was made use of during seminars about bipartite collective bargaining, tripartite consultations and tripartite collective planning at the Royal University of Malta during 1971.

employee, who has returned to Malta after a successful training abroad and XG, as when the editorial blames Government for a reason, without suggesting alternatives — in which case !G has been used.

When there is a relation between two bodies the actor is placed first: M×E, as when a firm is reported to have sacked personnel, and so on. In case of agreement and disagreement between two bodies the letters are placed in alphabetical order: e.g. E++M, as when a collective agreement is reached between employees and management.

The result of the analysis of the texts is summed up in Table 1. The number of texts in the two newspapers is about

Table 1. Numbers of texts and symbols for various topics in TM and MN.

Topics	The Times of Malta				The Malta News			
	Number of texts	+*	X**	!	Number of texts	+*	X**	!
Agriculture	20	14	2	4	14	2	9	3
Civil Service	31	14	8	10	40	16	24	6
Consumption	4	1	2	1	11	1	6	4
Drydocks	16	5	8	4	15	8	8	1
Housing	11	2	4	5	16	1	14	1
Industry	90	65	12	17	73	57	21	8
Port	15	5	8	2	22	6	12	6
Services	4	2	6	0	23	7	12	6
Tourism	17	13	2	2	16	9	7	2
Transport	8	5	0	3	16	9	9	2
Totally	216	126	52	48	246	116	122	39

* including ++, counted double
 ** including XX, counted double

the same, 216 in TM and 246 in MN, which is convenient. The various topics ranked in order of the number of texts devoted to them correlate only slightly for the two papers (Spearman's rank correlation coefficient = 0,3). Industry and civil service are the most numerously represented in both papers, but there is a great discrepancy for the Services and to a smaller degree for agriculture. It is striking how few the texts dealing

with consumption are. There is practically no critical or analysing information about consumer-goods, Malta-made or not, counterbalancing an extensive advertising, and this holds for both papers.

Another aspect of Table 1 is in what direction the publicity goes for the various topics. It can be stated, that as a whole TM contains significantly less criticism than MN, as calculated from the sums of the three symbols +, × and ! ($X^2=24,4$; $df=2$).

The detailed figures for agriculture are presented in Table 2 to point to the possibilities of the approach used. The

Table 2. Numbers of texts in TM and MN about agriculture in various symbol combinations.

Combination	Numbers of texts	
	TM	MN
+G	8	2
×G	1	1
!G	1	0
G+E	1	0
G+M	4	0
G×M	0	1
M×G	1	6
M!G	4	3
M×M	0	1
Totally	20	14

topic of agriculture is reported differently by the two newspapers. While TM contains 14 praises, 2 attacks and 4 suggestions, MN contains 2 praises, 9 attacks and 3 suggestions. (If the attacks and the suggestions are lumped together and a cell with $N=2$ is accepted, the difference is significant on

the 1%-level; $X^2=10,4$; $df=1$). It is interesting to notify that in TM (more close to the then Government) G is praised eight times, criticised only twice and given certain recommendations after due criticisms five times, while in MN (more inclined to the then Opposition) G is praised only twice, criticised seven times and given suggestions three times.

To see how E, G and M are evaluated within each of the ten topics, an index of appreciation has been constructed by summation, where a received + is given two points plus, × is given two minus points and ! one minus point. The result is presented in Table 3, and some comments are due.

Table 3. Summation of appreciation received (+ = 2, × = -2, ! = -1) by E, G and M within ten topics.

		Employees			Government			Management		
		No. of texts	No. of points	Average points	No. of texts	No. of points	Average points	No. of texts	No. of points	Average points
Agriculture	TM	1	2	(2,00)	15	9	0,60	4	8	(2,00)
	MN	0	0	—	12	-12	-1,00	2	-4	(-2,00)
Civil Service	TM	13	7	0,54	18	-7	-0,39	0	0	—
	MN	14	-3	-0,21	23	-27	-1,17	0	0	—
Consumption	TM	0	0	—	1	2	(2,00)	3	-5	(-1,67)
	MN	7	-8	(-1,14)	4	-6	(-1,50)	0	0	—
Drydocks	TM	7	-6	(-0,86)	4	-6	(-1,50)	8	-4	(-0,50)
	MN	5	-2	(-0,40)	1	-2	(-2,00)	9	-3	(-0,33)
Housing	TM	3	0	(0,00)	8	-10	(-1,25)	3	0	(0,00)
	MN	3	-6	(-2,00)	11	-17	-1,55	2	-4	(-2,00)
Industry	TM	17	20	1,18	32	10	0,31	49	45	0,92
	MN	25	25	1,00	15	-10	-0,67	46	32	0,67
Port	TM	3	-2	(-0,67)	6	1	(0,17)	6	-8	(-1,33)
	MN	1	2	(2,00)	5	-4	(-0,80)	16	-20	-1,25
Services	TM	4	-3	(-0,75)	0	0	—	3	-3	(-0,33)
	MN	8	-7	(-0,88)	5	-5	(-1,00)	10	-10	-1,00
Tourism	TM	3	3	(1,00)	8	9	(1,13)	7	7	1,00
	MN	3	6	(2,00)	2	-2	(-1,00)	11	0	0,00
Transport	TM	1	2	(2,00)	3	-3	(-1,00)	4	8	(2,00)
	MN	1	2	(2,00)	5	-9	(-1,80)	10	-7	-0,70

Agriculture. TM presents agriculture in a positive way, as when a Minister plants trees, while MN is critical to the Government.

Civil service. TM is more moderate than MN in the attacks on Government. (That the figures have a negative sign tells about an independent Press). MN also contains attacks on civil servants.

Consumption. The texts are too few for a comment.

Drydocks. In both papers the picture given of the 'Docks is sad.

Housing. The Government is blamed (housing shortage).

Industry (a "rest" topic — because of boundaries which are difficult to define — including small and big industry, with the exception of the Drydocks, as well as commerce and banking). Both papers treat employees and management favourably, while Government lags behind and has a negative sign in MN.

Port. M (here the Port Authorities) is attacked in both TM and MN with repercussions to G (the politicians) in MN.

Services. A gloomy picture with MN more on the alert in reporting.

Tourism. A rosy picture — but too rosy on occasions as when the papers uncritically accept information transmitted by the Tourist Board.

Table 3 is summed up separately for the two newspapers in Table 4. TM contains almost as great an appreciation of em-

Table 4. Appreciation received by E, G and M in "The Times of Malta" and "The Malta News"; summary of Table 3.

	Employees			Government			Management		
	No. of texts	No. of points	Average points	No. of texts	No. of points	Average points	No. of texts	No. of points	Average points
TM	52	23	0,44	92	5	0,09	87	50	0,58
MN	67	9	0,13	83	-94	-1,13	106	-16	-0,15

ployees as of management and is, all taken on average, neutral to Government. MN is moderately negative to management and more so to Government.

The texts can be divided into direction and non-direction ones. In terms of our model the non-direction texts deal with the points of the triangle by praising, blaming or suggesting to E, G or M. The direction texts are represented by the sides of the triangle, where one body is acting in the direction of another by giving praise, blame or a suggestion.

The non-direction texts, all topics together, are presented in Table 5 with the same symbols as before. The Government

Table 5. Number of various non-direction texts in TM and MN.

	TM	MN
+E	17	8
×E	1	0
! E	2	2
+G	36	6
×G	6	11
! G	10	3
+M	35	23
×M	6	3
! M	0	3

is more fully reported in TM and in a significantly more praising way than in MN ($X^2=15,65$; $df=2$).

The non-direction texts might be of a great importance at the present stage of Malta's development, as they encourage successful employees and firms by giving full reports of their activities, but a more extended criticism directed against E and M (as distinct from the mostly anonymous and already criticised G) could be healthy.

Table 6 sums up the direction texts.

Table 6. Number of various direction texts in TM and MN; ++ and ×× cases excluded.

	TM	MN
E+E	0	7
E×E	0	0
E!E	0	1
E+G	1	1
E×G	4	13
E!G	6	11
E+M	0	1
E×M	4	30
E!M	6	6
G+E	8	4
G×E	5	15
G!E	1	1
G+G	0	0
G×G	1	0
G!G	2	0
G+M	10	4
G×M	4	9
G!M	3	2
M+E	1	6
M×E	1	9
M!E	0	0
M+G	0	1
M×G	3	10
M!G	8	7
M+M	3	2
M×M	6	4
M!M	1	0

Comments from E to E occur only in MN and in a positive way. G commenting on G is rare, while among M especially the conflicts are aired, e.g. through reports from the courtroom. E is active against G according to both papers with overweight for MN. E attacks M in MN, where, typically, there is a picture of a Union meeting in the Workers' Memorial Building in Valletta and a text describing the action taken. MN also reports more attacks from G on E than does TM, which reports more often when G thanks its E. G to M has ten appreciations against seven criticism in TM and is quite negative in MN with four appreciations and eleven criticisms. M actions towards E are more fully reported in MN than in TM, both positive and negative ones. M is not contented with G, and the criticism is reported more outspokenly in MN.

It is now possible to analyse the sum total for all topics of the non-direction and direction texts plus the double symbol texts under the distinction senders and receivers, where a sender is defined as E, G, or M in front of +, ×, !, ++ or ××, and a receiver is defined as E, G, or M in the position after +, ×, ! ++ or ××.

The senders are presented in Table 7. When E and M are

Table 7. Number of various senders in TM and MN.

	TM	MN
E+	8	34
E×	11	48
M!	13	7
G+	19	9
G×	10	24
G!	9	3
M+	4	9
M×	10	23
E!	9	18

grouped against G and + against ×+!, the difference is significant on the 1%-level ($X^2=7.6$; $df=1$) in TM and nonexistent in MN. In TM G is reported as even in giving praise and blame

(+=19, ×+!=19), while the so called free sector is significantly more negative (+=12, ×+!=43). In MN G is involved as sender in about the same number of texts (N=36) as in TM (N=38), but more often so with negative implications (+=9, ×+!=27), while the free sector is mentioned as sender in a significantly higher number of cases (N=139) in MN than in TM (N=55), ($X^2=11,6$; $df=1$). In all cases there is a sender of appraisal or non-appraisal, there is also a receiver. Hence the sums of senders, 93 in TM and 175 in MN, indicate that MN is more keen on presenting texts involving industrial relations than is TM.

The receivers are treated in Table 8. In TM G received

Table 8. Number of various receivers in TM and MN.

	TM	MN
+E	27	26
×E	8	24
!E	12	4
+G	39	13
×G	17	46
!G	39	22
+M	53	51
×M	22	47
!M	11	11

more blame (56) than praise (39), while the opposite (53 against 80) was the situation for the free sector in a significant way ($X^2=8,8$; $df=1$). MN contains a more negative than positive presentation of all three bodies, but G is so badly out (68 against 13), that the significant difference from the free sector prevails ($X^2=11,6$ $df=1$).

The picture of a topic presented by a newspaper is built up by news, correspondents' reports, editorials and letters from the public. But that there can exist a difference in attitudes between the mentioned sources of the texts is demonstrated

in Table 9.

Table 9. The sources of the texts in TM.

		Senders		Receivers	
		E+M	G	E+M	G
News-releases	+	7	14	53	19
	×+!	17	5	12	16
Correspondents' reports	+	3	5	31	17
	×+!	16	12	27	29
Editorials	+	0	0	0	3
	×+!	2	1	7	4
Letters to the editor	+	2	0	4	0
	×+!	8	1	4	12

In TM, Table 9, G gives good news and E plus M give bad news to others, while it is striking that reporters are in contact with both E plus M and G to write critical articles. The news-releases, especially, are in favour of the free sector, while editorials and letters are more often critical than not. The latter are comparatively few, but might be extensively read.

In MN the news releases and texts by own reporters are not specified separately. The editorials and the letters to the editor dealing with economy and industrial relations are both twice as numerous — and attacking — in MN than in TM.

In this account one of many possible approaches to contents analysis has been presented. Obvious possible improvements are e.g.: the time period investigated can be longer, the analyst of the texts can repeat the reading of the texts to see if the same symbols are given, two or more persons can analyse the same texts, two equally long consecutive periods can be analysed in a kind of split-half procedure, also the Maltese-spoken Press could be analysed and, most interesting, a similar analysis could be done after another year or so with the new Government in power, to see if the critical attitude towards the Government prevails in MN and if TM is so polite to the Government also when it is run by Labour.

Mobility in Valletta's slum

Last year a team of architects made a visual examination of the houses in Valletta, the capital of Malta, and reported their findings and gave recommendations for slum clearance to the Maltese Government.*

The physical condition of the houses in a slum does not tell the whole story: bad houses might be inhabited by a stable population (low mobility) or by more occasional residents (high mobility). It is a sociologist's job to identify eventual high- and low-mobility slum areas. **

The 1967 census forms are under secrecy by law, why it is of interest to see if the available electoral registers could be a useful research tool to measure mobility.

The electoral registers of December 1961 and April 1971 were chosen for a comparison, flat by flat, of the presence of people with the same family names after some substantial time (in this case ten years).*** They were erected in accordance with the provisions of Subsection (3) of section 33 of the Electoral (Franchise, Method of Election and Registration of Voters) Ordinance. The registers give no information about what percentage of the population is over 21 years of age (which is the age limit for voting) and what percentage is excluded from the register because of e.g. criminality and mental ill health, but here a figure in the region of 5% was mentioned in the TV comments to the 1971 elections.

*E. Micallef, J. Vanek, M. Wexler, "Housing: Valletta", Stencil, Public Works Department, Valletta, January 1972.

**Op. cit., Appendix XII, "Analysis of Voting Registration Patterns", 2 pages, by M. Wexler was based on the present author's figures, which are presented and commented on here.

***The Malta Government Gazette, n. 11,353, December 14, 1961 and n. 12,523, April 13, 1971, Department of Information, Valletta.

The electoral registers are arranged according to 1) electoral division (Valletta belongs to the first), 2) locality (Valletta), 3) parish (there are three in Valletta), 4) street (in alphabetical order), 5) family name (in alphabetical order) followed by Christian name (in alphabetical order, and revealing sex), eventually a flat number and the street number.

Only streets and parts of streets classified by the architects as slum areas are included in the following table.

The number of persons registered in the eleven streets was 918 in 1961 (A) and 796 in 1971 (B), an average decrease of 13,3% (C) although as many as five streets showed an increase. This is in accordance with the general decline of Valletta's population, which was calculated to be 18,283 in 1961 and 15,464 in December 1970, a decrease of 15,4%. On the other hand there was simultaneously only a 2,6% decrease from 426 (K) to 415 (L) in the total number of place locations, i.e. combination flat/family name, which brought down the average number of persons, in the registered ages N.B., per place location from 2.13 in 1961 (M) to 1.92 in 1971 (N).

Development Area	Street	Number of registered persons		Direction and % of change	Percentage of men		Direction and % of change
		1961	1971		1961	1971	
		A	B		C	D	
St. Charles/ Bull	1. St. Charles	73	61	-16,5	44	46	+ 4,5
	2. Bull	56	62	+10,7	37	53	+43,5
	3. Fountain	61	54	-11,5	34	32	- 5,9
St. Joseph/ Fountain	4. St. Joseph	338	251	-25,7	46	45	- 2,1
	5. St. Anne	63	47	-25,4	46	51	+10,9
	6. Strait (100-107)	14	17	+21,4	43	18	-58,1
	7. St. Dominic (107-120)	47	51	+ 8,5	51	45	-11,8
Lower Kingsway	8. St. Nicholas (76-106)	47	51	+ 8,5	38	45	+18,4
	9. Kingsway (92-149)	128	117	- 8,6	47	49	+ 4,3
	10. Spur	45	29	-35,5	42	45	+ 7,1
	11. St. Elmo Place	46	56	+21,7	52	54	+ 3,9
Totally	1.—11.	918	796	-13,3	45	46	+ 2,2

In two streets in 1961 (D) and in three streets in 1971 (E) the men were in a slight majority, otherwise the women outnumbered them. Column F indicates an unusual increase of men in Bull Street, while Strait Street 100—107 was almost taken over by the women during the ten years' period. These were usually living alone as is shown by the figure 1.21 persons per place locality in 1971 (N).

The figures in columns O and P give a drastic proof of the discriminatory power of the present procedure to identify mobility. Of those registered in 1961 (O) the percentage of cases where a certain family name was registered in the same flat also in 1971 varied from 0% (Strait Street) to 82% (St. Elmo Place), leaving five percentage figures higher and five lower than the median 52%. The equivalent values for the 1971 register (P) as compared with that of 1961 are 0% (Strait Street), 80% (Bull Street) and Md=50%.

The values in O and P taken street by street are close (in statistical language: Spearman's rank correlation coefficient $\rho=0.89$ with significance at the 0.1%-level; $t=6$, $df=9$ according to Kendall), which is important, as the percentage figures calculated on the total

Street	Place locations registered on only one occasion		Place locations registered on both occasions		Total number of place locations		Persons per place location		Percentages of place locations, same surname on both occasions	
	G	H	Same Different sur- sur- name name		K	L	M	N	O	P
	1961	1971	I	J	1961	1971	1961	1971	1961	1971
1.	18	13	15	6	39	34	1,87	1,79	38	44
2.	2	0	20	5	27	25	2,07	2,48	74	80
3	17	17	9	12	38	38	1,61	1,42	24	24
4.	37	24	61	36	134	121	2,52	2,07	46	50
5.	13	12	14	9	36	35	1,75	1,34	30	40
6.	11	14	0	0	11	14	1,27	1,21	0	0
7.	4	1	15	5	24	21	1,96	2,41	62	71
8.	4	11	10	5	19	26	2,47	1,96	53	38
9.	8	10	35	15	58	60	2,21	1,95	60	58
10.	5	4	12	6	23	22	1,95	1,32	52	55
11.	0	2	14	3	17	19	2,70	2,94	82	74
1.—11.	119	108	205	102	426	415	2,13	1,92		

number of place locations are lower than the recommended 30 in more than half of the cases.

The table can also be read in the other direction, giving individual "portraits" of the streets. Strait Street has already got its comments, while St. Elmo Place can be chosen as a contrast with its 2.94 persons per place locality, the highest figure in column N. St. Elmo Place has also the highest proportion of men, 52% (D) and 54% (E), and the lowest mobility, as shown in O and P.

It is tempting to consider low-mobility as an indicator of estimated social values as community feeling, belonging, security and care. Thanks to the simple procedure described here, the table can be a starting point for theoretical discussions along these lines, eventually leading to the testing of hypotheses by application of more elaborated sociological techniques. The situation is a bit more laboratory-like after the present analysis than if a research project about the causes of mobility in the slum had started at random. If we consider St. Elmo Place with its low mobility as the "ideal" case, we can immediately see that St. Charles Street is a case where the mobility is high, although the number of persons per place location is lower than average, the number of persons being on the decrease. We can further see e.g. that St. Nicholas Street (76-106), which is close to St. Elmo Place in number of registered persons, also has an increase of population, a population density higher than average, but as a contrast has an average mobility in column O and a high mobility according to P.

There are electoral registers available since 1921 and these can be analysed for the whole of Malta along the lines presented here. Based on present knowledge a comparative pilot study of St. Elmo Place and St. Nicholas Street (76-106) by way of interviews, questionnaires and observations would prove interesting for a better understanding of many aspects of what is going on in the Maltese society.

If it is possible to identify high-mobility and low-mobility areas, streets, blocks and flats all over Malta and if we learn that behind low-mobility there are in existence social virtues, the physical and social planning of Malta can be facilitated.

Permanent residents' preferences

Well-to-do people, mostly British, have settled in Malta in small colonies in pleasant areas by the sea, where formerly only Maltese farmers and fishermen lived. It is plausible to think, that the foreign permanent residents like to improve their general conditions of life, and that they have the potential capacity to do so, also by collective efforts in collaboration with the Authorities. On the other hand the Maltese like to safeguard their way of life, and they have limited resources for public works. This contrast situation should, still talking in a hypothetical way, be compensated by common interests. The new settlers are mostly of pensionable age and look for service and comfort, while the local population is interested in customers and salaries for domestic work.

Talking in sociological terms, foreign minorities are usually worse off than the original population, and emanating problems are studied. Here the interesting problem is to follow the development of the contacts between a well experienced and orderly minority and a benevolent host majority. Which will be the mutual influences? In what way can the local and central Authorities and the permanent residents collaborate?

An Anglo-Maltese Association has been formed in St. Paul's Bay, which is a typical place in the context. Its aim is to increase the contact between foreigners and Maltese by organising friendly gatherings and to approach the Authorities occasionally.

From a coffee morning in the "Winter Garden Hotel" organised by the Association in Spring-time 1971 originate interesting results from a small questionnaire given to the members. The topic was formulated: Various **possible fields for research** are listed below. Please express your **preferences** by putting a cross in the appropriate space", the alternative answers being "Very interesting", "Interesting" and "Less interesting". The intention was to map the interest for re-

search about various institutions and conditions of life. The preferences could then be taken as indicators to how important these institutions and life-conditions in St. Paul's Bay were considered to be by the two groups of inhabitants. (The participating Maltese were too few, 5, to permit separate comments).

The two positive answer alternatives were given points, two points for "Very interesting" and one point for "Interesting", and the following table is the result.

Institutions	Permanent Residents			Maltese 4M + 1W	Grand Total
	5 Men	13 Women	Total		
1. Relations Maltese —					
Non-Maltese	6	23	29	6	35
2. Traffic and communications	9	16	25	2	27
3. Standard of living	6	18	24	2	26
4. Cultural life	4	15	19	4	23
5. Pastime activities	6	16	22	1	23
6. Tourist facilities	6	14	20	2	22
7. Shopping facilities	3	16	19	2	21
8. Housing	4	12	16	2	18
9. Religious life	0	10	10	5	15
10. Youth activities	1	12	13	2	15
11. Public institutions	4	9	13	0	13
12. Working conditions	2	7	9	2	11
13. Political life	0	5	5	2	7

Twenty-three persons and thirteen items give 299 possibilities to choose "Very interesting", of which 121 were actually chosen over the whole range of items. "Interesting" was crossed in 14 cases, while the resting 164 cases were either "Less interesting", 31, or omissions to cross, 133.

The figures, emanating from only a few Association-member respondents, can be interpreted as being in line with the above hypothetical discussion, that there exists a goodwill for contacts between the settlers and the original population (item 1, the most preferred for research), and that the permanent residents are mostly interested in matters

where they are directly involved (items 2—8, the next ones in rank of favour) and have no intention of interfering in the more typically Maltese matters (items 9—13).

Further research, on a bigger scale than this little pilot study, can reveal if the results hold generally for St. Paul's Bay. But most of all the research proper is called for, which pre-supposes full support and collaboration from the three main actors, i.e. the local and central Maltese Authorities and the permanent residents.

Foreign experts in Malta

Since 1965 the official statistical year-book of Malta* contains an economic diary, which among other information recounts the arrival of foreign experts to Malta, for what purpose, sponsored by what organisation or Government and for how long time. The last statistical abstract available in September 1972 is for 1969, why an analysis of the facts about the experts is possible for a period of five years, all during Independence and under a Nationalist Government. Only in a few years' time can a similar analysis reveal the expert policy of the present Labour Government for a comparison.

The duration of the stay in Malta was reported for 44 of the 95 experts, as shown in Table 1. The figures must be in-

Table 1. Duration of foreign experts' stay in Malta.

Year	Less than 1 month	Between 1 and 12 months	12 months	More than 12 months	Unspecified	Total number of exp'ts
1965	1	5	4	0	2	14
1966	5	0	1	6	3	16
1967	0	0	0	0	0	18
1968	3	3	3	2	0	8
1969	0	0	1	1	4	7
Totally	9	8	9	9	9	51

terpreted with caution, although 18 of the 51 unknowns belong to one single year, and another year is almost completely reported and shows variation. The table demonstrates even distribution of experts over the used time grouping. The range

*"The Annual Abstract of Statistics", compiled and printed at the Central Office of Statistics, Valletta.

Foreign experts in Malta

is between two days and five years. One month and one year are two standard periods of stay. There is a fluctuation from year to year in the number of experts arriving.

Table 2 sums up the sponsoring international organisations and Governments. Table 3 gives further information.

Table 2. The sponsors of the experts.

Year	UN and agencies	Italy	Germany	China (Taiwan)	Israel	Commonwealth	Unknown
1965	13	-	-	1	-	-	-
1966	27	-	-	1	-	-	3
1967	18	-	-	-	-	-	-
1968	13	2	1	-	2	1	-
1969	7	3	3	-	-	-	-
Totally	78	5	4	2	2	1	3

Table 3. Fields, number of subjects and experts, duration of stays.

	No. of subjects	No. of experts	No. of exp'ts known duration	Average months
1. Agriculture and fisheries	16	29	14	17,4
2. Infrastructure and communication	10	20	8	2,5
3. Administration	8	10	4	12,2
4. Economy and planning	8	13	6	9,0
5. Production	8	10	6	10,1
6. Education and culture	5	5	3	2,0
7. Tourism	3	5	0	-
8. Social service	2	3	3	9,0

As can be seen most experts were working for United Nations (39), or its related agencies FAO (21), UNESCO (6), ILO (5), WHO (3), ITU (2) and UNIDO (2). The direct agreements with Italy, Germany and other Governments were on the increase, a continual pattern to judge from the present (1972) Press reports.

To report every subject the experts dealt with would carry too far, but to give an idea of what was stressed in Malta 1965 — 1969, some examples from each field follow here.

1. Horticulture, greenhouse production and management, fertilising, animal production, fisheries.
2. Sewage purification, waste disposal and water conservation, free port, civil aviation, telecommunications.
3. Public administration, tax policy, accounting and legislation.
4. Physical, economical and town and country planning, export credit guarantees.
5. Industrial development, light industries, handicraft.
6. Educational planning, conservation of monuments.
7. Tourism and hotel classification.
8. National health insurance scheme.

Agriculture and fisheries were fostered, and the experts had an unusually long time at their disposal. Production and the infrastructure and communication it needs to prosper got its share, while the third pillar of the Maltese economy according to the plans, i.e. tourism, got little advice through Government's expert policy.

When it comes to it the only "raw material" abundant in Malta is human talent, but that has to become ennobled by education. Only two experts were sent for in this context, one educational planner and one specialist in vocational training from the United Nations for a four months' period. Also social schemes got only marginal attention, to judge from this material.

The importance of future research about the experts can be seen from a short list of questions, which can not be answered at the moment although they are essential. 1) Is the number and direction of experts adequate for Malta's needs? 2) Can the experts plan, so that rationalisations and new openings counterbalance? 3) Is the advice properly understood and implemented? 4) How can the contents of the expert reports be more easily accessible for the general public debate?

Contents in Maltese broadcasting

The Broadcasting Ordinance, as from 29th September, 1961, states about the programmes (later amendments have not changed the text quoted here):

"7, (1) The Authority shall ensure that the broadcasting services provided under this Ordinance shall be of good quality, both as to the transmission and as to the matter transmitted, and shall be calculated to promote the public interest.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Authority to satisfy itself that, so far as possible, the programmes broadcasted by the Authority comply with the following requirements, that is to say —

(a) that nothing is included in the programmes which offends against religious sentiment, good taste or decency or is likely to encourage or incite to crime or to lead to disorder or to be offensive to public feeling or which contains any offensive representation or reference to a living person;

(b) that the programmes maintain a proper balance in their subject matter;

(c) that any news given in the programmes (in whatever form) is presented with due accuracy and impartiality;

(d) that proper proportions of the recorded and other matter included in the programmes are of Commonwealth origin and Commonwealth performance;

(e) that proper proportions of the recorded and other matter included in the programmes are of Maltese origin and Maltese performance, and that a reasonable part of such programmes is in the Maltese language;

(f) that the programmes broadcast contain a substantial proportion of matter closely designed to appeal to the interests, tastes, and outlook of the people of Malta;

(g) that due impartiality is preserved as respects matters of political or industrial controversy or relating to current public policy and that, subject as hereinafter provided

in this subsection, no matter designed to serve the interests of any political party is included in the programmes;

Provided that nothing in paragraph (g) of this subsection shall prevent the inclusion in the programmes of:—

- (i) political talks made in accordance with a scheme approved by the Authority which fairly apportions facilities and time between persons holding different points of view;
- (ii) properly balanced discussions or debates where the persons taking part express opinions and put forward arguments of a political character; and
- (iii) factual and objective news coverage of events of political interest."

The key words here are "to promote the public interest" and "designed to appeal to the interests, tastes and outlook of the people of Malta." Unfortunately the word "interest" is not only ambiguous but in a serious way contradictory. It can mean "be good for, in a deep sense, with the total effect taken into consideration" (as in the first case above) but also "the now existing preferences in a population". The broadcasting of what happens to be the taste of the population today is not adequate to meet the needs of tomorrow. And educational policy is demanded. It is not only a question of "appeal".

The Malta Broadcasting Authority has in my opinion produced the best series of Maltese official reports available — a sign of its potentials? As can be judged from the annual reports 1961/62 to 1970/71 the M.B.A. has two main difficulties.

(1) To a large extent it has only negative power over the programmes of the commercially organised Rediffusion (Malta) Limited and The Malta Television Service Limited — although it has its own programmes (e.g. 12.93% of the television time in 1970/71.)

(2) The Government has hitherto taken about 65-70% of the licence money for other purposes, leaving the M.B.A. in a weak financial position, preventing radical improvements. It is my belief though, that M.B.A. could get much more out of this money, paradoxically enough, the more it is prepared to concentrate on quality (e.g. educational programmes and features) instead of flirting with the present taste of the general public (e.g. family comedies of foreign extraction sold for profit).

My case is as follows: tables based on the M.B.A. reports from 1962/63, the first activity year with programme figures for both rediffusion and television (Malta still dependent), 1970/71, the last available, and, in between, 1966/67. These three years are sufficient to present here, as an analysis of the intervening six years shows that the changes from one year to another are not great.

REDIFFUSION. Up till now Malta has had only a Rediffusion system with two networks served by cables. It will be interesting to see if the installation of the new "German" wireless station will be followed by a programme policy in line with this article, i.e. promotion of educational and consumers' information programmes, or not.

Table 1, about Rediffusion, see next page, has the advantage that the total figures of weekly hours are nearly the same (about 120 hours) both for the national and for the international networks for all the three years (as the years in between). The percentage figures for the various programme items can thus be increased by one fifth, and the approximate "weekly hours" come out.

Items 1 to 3 (News etc.) are of interest as they mirror the political, economical and social life as well as the international outlook. This is a summary of items 1, 2 and 3. (Same symbols as in Table 1.)

	1962/63			1966/67			1970/71		
	h	%l	%f	h	%l	%f	h	%l	%f
National network	21.90	16.3	1.2	17.35	14.7	0.1	21.46	17.5	0.5
International n.	44.08	0.0	36.5	52.19	0.0	44.0	54.7	7.4	38.5

During the eight years' period the number of hours with material of foreign origin has only slightly increased, while the local production saw an increase of about 50%, accounted for by the international network. The international programme has started to produce local material (the reader is reminded that international in the present context means international from British point of view i.e. for consumption in Malta). Purely political broadcasts/ministerials have started recently (1965/66) while the item talks/discussions shows a decrease: 33 weekly hours 1962/63 and 12 hours 1970/71, 3 hours of which were locally produced.

The religious material, item 4, has held a constant position on the international network and increased about three times since Independence on the local network.

Table 1. Rediffusion.

		1962/63		
		h	%l	%f
1. News/Magazines	N.	2.50	2.0	—
	I.	30.40	—	25.2
2. Talks/Discussions (1962/63 including Political talks)	N.	19.40	14.3	1.2
	I.	13.68	—	11.3
3. Political broadcasts/Ministerials	N.	—	—	—
	I.	—	—	—
4. Religion	N.	2.17	1.3	0.4
	I.	2.66	—	2.2
5. Schools	N.	2.00	1.6	—
	I.	—	—	—
6. Adult education	N.	0.50	0.41	—
	I.	—	—	—
7. Children's informative (1962/73 plus Children's entertainment on International network)	N.	1.00	0.8	—
	I.	0.75	—	0.6
8. Children's entertainment	N.	0.91	0.7	—
	I.	—	—	—
9. Plays/Serials	N.	4.00	3.2	—
	I.	10.75	—	8.9
10. Quizzes/Panel games	N.	0.50	0.4	—
	I.	1.50	—	1.3
11. Variety programmes	N.	1.50	1.21	—
	I.	2.00	—	1.7
12. Sport	N.	1.25	1.0	—
	I.	8.66	—	7.2
13. Serious music	N.	8.00	4.9	1.5
	I.	15.50	—	12.9
Light popular music	N.	80.25	16.1	47.6
	I.	32.58	—	27.2
Women's programmes	N.	—	—	—
	I.	—	—	—
Others	N.	2.00	1.6	—
	I.	1.83	—	1.5
Totally	N.	125.28	49.4	50.6
	I.	120.31	—	100.0

Items 5, 6 and 7, the educational aspect, are summed up thus:

	1962/63			1966/67			1970/71		
	h	%l	%f	h	%l	%f	h	%l	%f
International n.	3.50	2.8	—	4.03	3.3	0.1	10.45	8.8	—
National network	0.75	—	0.6	0.98	—	0.8	0.92	0.6	0.2

		1966/67			1970/71		
		h	%l	%f	h	%l	%f
1.	N.	16.38	13.1	—	17.83	14.5	0.5
	I.	38.25	—	32.2	45.70	5.2	33.0
2.	N.	1.94	0.1	0.1	3.21	2.7	—
	I.	13.94	—	11.8	9.00	2.2	5.5
3.	N.	0.02	—	—	0.42	0.3	—
	I.	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	N.	6.10	4.9	0.2	6.32	5.3	—
	I.	2.32	—	1.9	2.36	0.2	1.8
5.	N.	1.19	1.0	—	1.38	1.2	—
	I.	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	N.	1.74	1.4	0.1	6.19	5.2	—
	I.	0.86	—	—	0.92	0.6	0.2
7.	N.	1.10	0.9	—	2.88	2.4	—
	I.	0.12	—	0.1	—	—	—
8.	N.	0.92	0.8	—	0.50	0.40	—
	I.	0.50	—	0.4	0.07	—	—
9.	N.	8.63	7.2	0.1	10.28	8.7	—
	I.	9.15	—	7.7	11.77	5.0	4.9
10.	N.	0.29	0.2	2.1	0.78	0.1	—
	I.	2.53	—	2.1	2.78	0.3	2.0
11.	N.	2.67	2.1	0.1	1.48	1.2	—
	I.	1.65	—	1.3	2.37	1.0	1.0
12.	N.	1.43	1.2	—	2.23	1.9	—
	I.	9.09	—	7.7	10.01	0.2	8.2
13.	N.	8.04	5.5	1.3	4.48	3.8	—
	I.	7.23	—	6.1	4.30	2.3	1.3
L.p.	N.	55.43	43.8	2.9	49.98	42.7	—
	I.	31.81	—	26.7	28.66	13.5	10.6
W.	N.	4.98	4.1	0.1	4.63	3.9	—
	I.	0.23	—	0.2	0.07	—	—
O.	N.	7.94	6.7	0.2	6.19	5.2	—
	I.	1.28	—	1.1	1.26	1.0	—
Totally	N.	118.80	94.7	5.3	118.78	99.5	0.5
	I.	118.96	—	100.0	119.27	31.5	68.5

h = hours weekly N = National network
 l = local origin I = International network
 f = foreign origin

The rise from 5 hours in 1966/67 to more than double four years later comes mainly because of an increase of adult education on the national programme. I am sure, though, that one hour per day there does not meet the urgent Maltese needs, especially when keeping in mind the different levels within the Maltese population. The same subject needs

one performance for the academically trained people and an entirely different one for adults with practically no schooling. I am afraid that a large section of the population is left without adequate educational programmes.

Half an hour per day for children, (items 7 and 8), seems to be too little in comparison with item 9, plays and serials, — mostly talkative family "comedies", half of them of foreign origin. Items 11 (variety) and 12 (sport) are mainly affairs for the international programme.

The weekly time for serious music in 1970/71 was 8.78 hours, slightly more than a third of the time in 1962/63 — in my opinion a serious cultural decline, as the full pleasure of this kind of music is revealed after long and repeated

Table 2. Television.

	1962/63			
	h	%	l	p
1. News/(news) Magazines	2.89	9.9	2.72	—
1. Magazine programmes	4.04	13.8	—	1.50
1. Documentaries	—	—	—	—
1. Feature films	—	—	—	—
2. Talks/Discussions	1.12	3.8	0.87	0.3
3. Political broadcasts/Ministerials	—	—	—	—
4. Religion	0.93	3.6	0.66	0.2
5. Schools	—	—	—	—
6. Adult education	0.08	0.2	0.08	—
7. Child information	1.21	4.2	0.48	—
8. Child entertainment	4.01	13.8	0.37	—
9. Plays/Serials (total and classic)	8.98	30.6	0.80	—
9. Serials, Adventure	—	—	—	—
9. Serials, Family comedy	—	—	—	—
9. Serials, Others	—	—	—	—
9. Drama	—	—	—	—
10. Panel games/Quizzes	0.51	1.7	0.51	—
11. Variety/Shows	3.04	10.6	0.33	—
12. Sport	1.02	3.5	0.40	—
13. Serious music/Ballet	0.23	0.8	0.11	—
13. Opera/Operetta	0.27	0.9	—	0.23
Art/Literature/Architecture/Archaeology	—	—	—	—
Natural history	—	—	—	—
Folk music/Folklore	—	—	—	—
Anti-smoking clips	—	—	—	—
Others	0.76	2.6	0.69	—
Totally	29.09	100.0	7.11	3.24

listening. As a contrast, light popular music occupies 78.64 hours weekly.

The sponsoring of women's programmes is clearly an important positive step, but the nearly 5 hours per week must be considered as still too little, as there are no special critical programmes for the consumers.

To sum up: Since the pre-Independence years the national programme increased the local origin of the programmes to the double (close to 100%), but the general impression is that the distribution of time to the various items is rather conventional and not adequate to Malta's needs for the cultivation of human talent.

TELEVISION. See Table 2, (here the television statistics are presented with the same item numbers as in Table 1).

	1966/67				1970/71			
	h	%	l	p	h	%	l	p
1.	4.33	14.3	3.92	—	4.89	13.62	4.75	0.16
1.	1.84	6.0	0.42	1.27	1.32	3.67	1.03	0.16
1.	1.62	5.3	—	—	1.95	5.45	0.74	1.11
1.	—	—	—	—	2.85	7.96	—	—
2.	1.14	3.8	1.14	0.11	0.37	1.03	0.36	—
3.	0.02	—	0.02	0.02	0.44	1.21	0.43	0.43
4.	0.86	2.9	0.55	0.06	0.51	1.42	0.43	0.03
5.	0.72	2.3	0.72	0.72	0.72	2.00	0.64	0.70
6.	0.69	2.2	0.01	0.78	0.23	0.65	0.13	0.17
7.	1.73	5.7	1.20	—	0.77	2.16	0.67	—
8.	3.79	12.4	0.56	—	3.92	10.94	0.09	0.25
9.	0.22	0.8	—	0.23	0.70	1.95	—	0.32
9.	4.14	13.4	—	—	3.82	10.64	—	—
9.	2.65	8.6	—	—	3.63	10.11	0.05	—
9.	0.82	2.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	1.97	6.4	0.03	0.90	1.16	3.25	0.11	0.52
10.	0.21	0.6	0.21	0.09	0.10	0.29	0.09	0.01
11.	1.59	5.1	0.18	—	2.45	6.83	0.46	0.12
12.	1.13	3.6	0.55	0.05	1.58	4.40	0.79	0.05
13.	0.47	1.6	0.21	0.26	0.55	1.54	0.13	0.37
13.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
A.	—	—	—	—	0.32	0.90	0.16	0.22
N.	—	—	—	—	0.14	0.39	—	0.14
F.	—	—	—	—	0.24	0.67	0.09	—
A-s	—	—	—	—	0.02	0.04	—	0.02
O.	0.75	2.4	0.75	—	3.19	8.88	2.29	—
Totally	30.69	100.0	10.20	4.54	35.87	100.0	12.91	4.64

h = hours, l = locally produced hours, p = prescribed hours by M.B.A.)

Items 1, 2, plus 3 are with few exceptions locally produced and reached in 1970/71 eleven hours weekly.

Item 4, religion, has lost ground during the eight years, from almost one hour weekly to just above half an hour — in contrast to the trend on rediffusion.

Items 5, 6 and 7 count for education and are summarised thus (weekly hours):

	1962/63	1966/67	1970/71
Local production	0.56	1.93	1.44
Foreign production	0.73	1.21	0.28

The M.B.A. complain that they are bound by old contracts as to the contents of the programmes. Here in television the M.B.A. has apparently been able to prescribe one weekly hour for educational purposes, which is far too little to cover such subjects as information about consumer goods, home and child-care, health and alimentation, industrial relations, political back-ground knowledge, etc..... the list is long.

The position of item 9, plays and serials, has been slightly reduced from 30% of the television time in 1962/63 to 26% (including drama) in 1970/71, of which only one thirteenth is for classical plays.

Variety and shows, item 11, got close to 7% of the time 1970/71. Sport, item 12, is given one and a half hours, half of it locally produced.

Five minutes per day was devoted to serious music etc., item 13. Art, literature, architecture, archaeology, natural history, folk music and folklore account for three quarters of an hour per week and three hours are reported as miscellaneous. (It must be difficult sometimes to classify programmes, and even if only one person is involved he might change norms.)

What was said above as an evaluation of the rediffusion programme policy holds even stronger for the television. What I will call a lack of policy in the true interest of Malta as regards rediffusion and television is to put a good weapon aside and become idle in the fight for knowledge which is necessary for a better life.

The Swedish family expenditure survey

According to reports in the Press Malta is launching an extensive family expenditure survey. The project will take years to finish and surely many a reader of "The Bureaucrat" will take part in the performance of the study as responsible Government employees.

In Sweden a similar project was executed during 1969 and the preliminary results have just appeared, April 20, 1971: "Hushållsbudgetundersökningen 1969" ("The Family Expenditure Survey 1969", available from the National Central Bureau of Statistics, Fack, S10250 Stockholm 27, Sweden). The experience gained from the Swedish survey might be useful.

This is a quotation from the short English summary: "The purpose of the survey was mainly to obtain information on the size of household consumption of different goods and services and the distribution of consumption on household groups. The sample contained 4,086 households and covered all types — except institutional households. The information from each household was collected in three stages: an introductory interview, book-keeping covering a randomly chosen period and an interview performed in February 1970. The book-keeping of a household was to cover a 30 day period when all expenditures were to be taken down. At the end of this period the household members were asked to keep a simplified record for the following two months. Only expenditures over 25 Swedish Crowns /£M2/ were then to be entered. The book-keeping periods were distributed over the whole of 1969."

Let us now go deeper into these matters.

A household was defined as "the group of persons who have common dwelling and have at least one big meal together per day". From the register of the total population 4,343 persons were drawn by equal chance. Of these 257 persons could not be classified as belonging to a household.

They had emigrated or died recently or belonged to a collective household, e.g. a hospital. A household was included in the survey when any of its members was chosen. The 4,086 households thus obtained were further divided at random into 24 groups, so the whole year could be covered, with one group starting its book-keeping period of 30 days every fortnight.

A few days before the beginning of the book-keeping period the household was visited the first time and two functions were performed. Firstly the book-keeping books were delivered and explained to everybody of 12 years of age or more — every household had got three informative letters as a preparation. Secondly the introductory interview was carried out, in which information about every member of the household was collected regarding age, profession, education etc. and about the household, e.g. number and standard of rooms, equipment. The fourth day of the book-keeping period the household was called by telephone to make sure that the activity had started and to help if there were any questions. The second personal visit was done seven days later and the books were gone through. The third personal call took place after the 30 days, when the books were checked and collected and new simpler books for another two months were delivered. The fourth time these books were collected. The last time for a visit was in February — April 1970 for the whole-year (1969) consumption interview regarding purchases of bigger well defined goods and services, taxfree income and the amount of tax paid etc. The personnel carrying out this work were local representatives of the National Central Bureau of Statistics.

The drop-out is always a problem in this kind of data-collection and I translate the Swedish text summing up the result: "The introductory interview could be carried through in 83% of the households, the book-keeping was performed by 79% and the year-interview to 84%. 3,105 households (76%) took part in all three parts. ...The main causes of the drop-out were refusals, lack of time, and illness. Compared with what is usual in interview research the drop-out is higher than normal. The reason is the uniquely high demands that the family expenditure survey put on the participants. The drop-out is low, though, in comparison with similar investigations in other countries."

Every drop-out was replaced at random by another household (with the same characteristics: income, number of persons etc.) which already had been included.

Here I sum up the contents of the survey report. Nearly one thousand items of goods and services are reported under the following fourteen headings (with the number of items): food 183, drink 4, spirits and tobacco 10, clothes 80, shoes 18, housing 44, heating and electricity 10, movables and household utensils 99, transport, communications and travelling 46, personal hygiene 19, health 17, education and amusements 19, other goods 26, other services 50. Of implication to tourism to Malta is item number 801: total costs for longer stays abroad, longer than one night, was 2%. The net income 1969 for households is divided into ten classes ranging from up to 9,000 Swedish Crowns to 60,000 SwCr or more, and the numbers of households are given as well as the average number of persons per household, also divided into under 7 years of age, 7 — 15, and over 15. The value in SwCr of the consumption of each item is then distributed over the ten columns in three different tables: average per household, total consumption in Sweden, percentage of average household's consumption.

There is a wealth of additional information in the report (as well as hints to professional problems not commented on here), and to make best use of the information loaded, any authority or firm in Sweden, to say nothing of the scientist, can ask the computer department for special tables not printed in the report.

The Swedish penal system

In an article in "The Malta News", August 30, titled "Penal reform: a more liberal view", Jonathan Orwell referred to the situation in Scandinavia in these words: "Today it is generally believed that the main aim of a prisoner's confinement is to achieve the necessary reformation in his character which will make him a worthy member of society. And it has been proved in Scandinavia. There the most modern means of penal reform are used..."

Now that the debate has started, I hope it can be of interest to present a few examples of methods used in Swedish prisons. I leave out the youth prisons and also give a hint, that the new treatment law under preparation might give even more striking examples of "modern means of penal reform".

Whether in closed or open (no fences) prisons all healthy prisoners work for a full 45-hour week and are given remunerations according to piece rates, on an average 4 pounds per week, half at immediate disposal, half in form of savings to the day of release. The market value of the production in the prisons for 1965/66 was nearly 5 million pounds, as the most modern machinery especially in the fields of metal and wood works, textiles, plastics and printing is used — all in accordance to the rule: "First build the workshop, then add the prison". In a new "factory prison" for prefabricated timber houses the prisoners get wages according to the conditions on the open labour market and pay the prison for food and lodging — as well as tax to the Government. The goal is to adapt the prisoner to normal life and give him dignity, e.g. shown by the fact that he can join a union and express himself freely in his own prison press, also sold outside.

Those who like and are found to have the ability after one to two months' treatment-investigation by psychologists and tests can have both practical and theoretical vocational training. Study circles are formed, where teachers and par-

The Swedish penal system

ticipants from outside the prison join the prisoners for the courses. The bright prisoners have an open institution connected to Uppsala University. Special furloughs are given on occasions as a funeral in the family, job-hunting before the release and when transferred from one prison to another. Regular furloughs are given after eight or ten months every three or four months, for usually 72 hours, for prisoners from open and closed prisons. They can thus keep closer contact with the family. Out of 10,000 furloughs in 1968 there were failures to return in 9.2% of the cases, which means that the great majority is living up to the confidence given.

A few projects have been carried through recently with very promising results. Long-term prisoners are allowed to go with their families for a few weeks' summer vacation to a certain camp in the country-side. Families hire dwellings inside the prison, so long-time prisoners can live with them there. There are also visitors' hotels, where friends can hire rooms during the week-end and invite the prisoners.

Malta's low criminality is something for the general public to be thankful for in the form of giving full support to prison improvements in the line suggested by Mr Orwell in his article so well worth considering.

