



**L-Università
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Addressing Linguistic Diversity in Malta: Teacher Education and Classroom Pedagogy in Early and Primary Education

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The Early Childhood and Primary Education Research Group (ECPE Research Group), of the Department of Early Childhood and Primary Education, was awarded University of Malta Excellence Research Funds (2024-2026) in the research category of Social Sciences and Education to support this research project.

This project seeks to create understanding and awareness, as well as generate new knowledge, about the linguistic scenario in local Maltese schools, at early and primary education levels. The concept idea of this study stems from global mobility trends which brought about increased linguistic diversity. In State schools 21% of students are non-Maltese (NSO, 2024) and 28.1% of the population in Malta being non-Maltese (NSO, 2024), the need to bring to light the current language and literacy diversities in local schools is pressing.

Through triangulation of the data collected (research in progress) the study aims to answer the following research question:

Where does Malta stand at the intersection between teacher education, classroom pedagogy and linguistic diversity in early and primary education?

To work towards the aims of this project data is in the process of being collected thorough a mixed methods investigation as follows:

- i) a systematic literature review;
- ii) a comparative analysis of policy documents and teacher training;
- iii) a pre-service and in-service teacher survey; and
- iv) qualitative teacher narratives.

Thus, the project aims to provide stakeholders with a snapshot of the local situation and explore how in-service and pre-service educators are navigating linguistic diversity in their everyday practice with learners in early and primary education.