Reflection Paper on the Social Dimension of Europe: the Maltese case study

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Permanent Representation of Malta to the EU

Content

- Social Dimension: The European context
- Social Dimension: The Maltese context

■ The three options presented in the Reflection Paper on the

Social Dimension vis-à-vis Malta

Social Dimension: The European context

The EU and its Social Dimension

	European Pillar of Social Rights European Solidarity Corps	2017	2015 Sustainable Development Goals	sive
W-B L-:	Youth Initiative	2013	A STATE OF THE STA	nclu th
Well-being, solidarity between generations, cohesion	Lisbon Treaty and EU Charter	2000	2010 G20-Social Protection Inter-Agency Coordination Board (ILD/World Bank)	Digital Revolution & inclusive growth approach
	of Fundamental Rights	2009	Financial crisis	Revo
	European Globalisation Adjustment Fund	2006		Digital
	Amsterdam Treaty and the European Employment Strategy	1997	2000 Millennium Development Goals	et
	Maastricht Treaty and the Social Protocol	1992		Global Economy & market based approach
	Community Charter Fundamental Social Rights of Workers	Fall of Berlin Wall	Global Eco based	
	Erasmus Programme	1987		J
Minimum requirements in health and safety of	Single European Act	1986		
workers	European Court of Justice rulings	1980s		ansion
	The first Social Action Programme for Europe	1974		are exp d appro
	European Economic Community adopts vocational training policy		1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural	f welf base
Free movement of workers, non-discrimination, gender equality, health & safety in	Council of Europe: European Social Charter	1961	Rights (ICESCR)	Golden Age of welfare expansion & a rights based approach
the workplace	Treaty of Rome and European Social Fund	1957	1952 International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention	Gold
	European Convention on Human Rights	1950	on Social Security 1948 UN Declaration of Human Rights	al
	Beveridge Report introducing universal coverage	1942	World War II	Origins of European social models
	universal coverage		1933 Roosevelt's New Deal	Europe
	Denmark introduces	1890	World War I	ins of
	pensions Bismarck pioneers health			Orig
	insurance and pensions	1883		



The European Social Model

"Huge challenges await us. It is up to us to shape these challenges. If we want a role to play in the future we have to play it now. It is up to us to ensure that the handwriting of the European Social Model is clearly visible in everything we do. Because Europe is the protective shield for all of us who can call this magnificent content their home."

Jean-Claude Juncker
President of the European Commission
Strasbourg, 22 October 2014

Social Dimension: The Maltese context

Malta and the Social Scoreboard

Equal opportunities and access to the labour market:

Female labour market participation: highest increase, widest gender employment gap

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion: poverty and social exclusion risks are declining but substantial for children, the elderly and the low-skilled

Education: increase in educational attainment, drop in Early School Leavers but still at a relatively high rate, share of 30 to 34 year olds with tertiary education increased continuously between 2008 – 2015

Malta and the Social Scoreboard

Dynamic labour markets and fair working conditions:

Labour force structure: increase in employment rate, decrease in unemployment rate, labour and skills shortage

Social protection and inclusion:

Healthcare: low share of the population cannot meet their medical needs

Digital access: half the population have at least basic digital skills

Malta and the EU 2020 targets

	UNIT	REFERENCE PERIOD						TARGET	TABLE	
		2008	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016			
75% of t	75% of the population aged 20-64 should be employed									
Employ ment rate - age group 20-64	% of populati on aged 20-64	59.2	63.1	64.8	66.4	67.8	69.6	70		

Malta and the EU 2020 targets

The share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of 30-34 years old should have completed a tertiary or equivalent education

Early leavers from education and training	% of population aged 18-24	27.2	21.1	20.5	20.3 ^(b)	19.8	19.7	10	
Tertiary educational attainment	% of population aged 30-34	21.0	24.9	26.0	26.5 ^(b)	27.8	29.9	33	

National Practices

- Female labour market participation: free child care, breakfast clubs, Klabb 3 16, one year tax credit
- Inclusive labour market: quota for the employment of persons with disability, National Integration Strategy by end of 2017
- Work-life balance: flexi-time and tele-working
- Poverty and Social Exclusion: tapering of benefits, in-work benefit, first-time buyer scheme
- Skills mismatch: Investing in Skills scheme, Training Pays scheme

The Maltese Presidency and the Social Dimension

- Legislative dossiers: Revision of Regulation 883, the European Accessibility
 Act, the Posting of Workers Directive, Carcinogens Directive
- Informal EPSCO Council: Making Work Pay
- Council Conclusions on Making Work Pay
- Council Conclusions on the Enhancing of Skills of women and men in the labour market
- The European Social Fund: Past, Present and Future Conference

Maltese characteristics and context

- Eurozone member
- Geographical location
- Strong economy
- Small public administration
- Skills shortage and human resources supply
- Brexit and potential upcoming relocations

The three options of the Reflection Paper on the Social Dimension of Europe

Option 1: Limiting the 'Social Dimension' to free movement

- Basic level of legislation
- Example of legislation that would apply: Posting of Workers Directive,
 Regulation 883/04, Recognition of Academic Qualifications, Patients' Rights
 Directive.
- No exchange of best practices
- Less or no funding or co-funding

Option 2: Those who want to do more in the social field do more

- Eurozone Member States VS non-Eurozone Member states
- Enhanced co-operation
- Two-speed Europe
- Different players in the social field

Option 3: The EU-27 deepen the Social Dimension of Europe together

- Common social standards intertwined in the single market
- Revaluation of all four instruments: legislation, cooperation, guidance and funding.
- European Social Model VS European Social Models
- Beyond minimum standards, towards harmonisation
- The establishment of a European Social Standards Union
- Higher conditionality in terms of eligibility of EU funds

Moving forward

- Changing EU context
- Social considerations that go beyond the 'classical' social policy
- Social Summit for fair jobs and growth on 17th November
- Different national backgrounds, same goal
- Common upcoming challenges, different potential approaches