



# COUNTRY FACTSHEET: MALTA 2013

## EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK

### 1. Introduction

This EMN Country Factsheet provides a factual overview of the main policy developments in migration and international protection in Malta during 2013, including latest statistics.

### 2. Legal Migration and Mobility

#### 2.1. PROMOTING LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS

In order to raise the awareness of third-country nationals in relation to employment in Malta, the Employment and Training Corporation (ETC) received co-financing from the Responsible Authority of the General Programme Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows for the project "Training for ETC front liners on Cultural Awareness and Integration of Third-Country Nationals" under the European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals (EIF). Through this project, 50 ETC front liners were trained on cultural awareness and integration of TCNs. The training was delivered in collaboration with Malta's International Organization for Migration (IOM). Various awareness raising materials were also produced by the ETC, for example, a leaflet containing details of the various entities responsible for issues relating to employment of third country nationals.

#### 2.2. ECONOMIC MIGRATION

EURES Malta strives to **attract more highly skilled** individuals especially in areas where labour market shortages exist (particularly in sectors such as construction, hospitality and caring). In an effort to attract highly skilled individuals to Malta, the ETC issues employment licences to third-country nationals after rigorous checks, including labour market considerations.

In order **to achieve the long-term goals of the Lisbon Strategy** (2000-2010) as well as the Europe 2020 Strategy, the Government of **Malta continued to heavily invest** in the provision of scholarships to further **promote and encourage international student mobility** in further and higher education. Throughout the year 2012, the Government of Malta

awarded a total of 372 scholarships from the scholarship schemes available.

#### 2.3. FAMILY REUNIFICATION

No new policies or developments were introduced/reported regarding family reunification.

#### 2.4. INTEGRATION

In 2013, the Responsible Authority of the **General Programme Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows** continued the implementation of activities under the EIF and the European Refugee Fund (ERF). Within the 2013 Annual Programmes for both funds, a number of actions to promote integration were included. For example, under the ERF projects were also implemented with the aim of integrating asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection into Maltese society<sup>1</sup>. Under the EIF, actions aimed to support the **implementation of the common basic principles for the integration of immigrants** in the EU and also to build capacities and intercultural knowledge within policy and coordination on various levels, especially within governmental departments. An increase in the number of projects submitted<sup>2</sup> under the EIF was observed in 2013 compared to 2012. The increase reflects the growing need for supporting integration activities in Malta. Other EIF projects aimed at integrating third-country nationals in the labour market were implemented. For instance, one particular project implemented by the IOM focused on fostering labour market integration of third-country nationals. The project organised a Pan-

<sup>1</sup> Projects included: the "Provision of Support Services to Residents of the Marsa Open Centre", "Horticulture training as means to enhance skills of refugees and asylum seekers in order to increase employment and participation in society", "Refugee Empowerment and Action for Community Transformation" and "Language Learning and Parental Support for Integration".

<sup>2</sup> Projects included the "Creation and Translation of publication aimed to assist third country nationals wishing to reside and work in Malta", "Facilitating the integration of third country nationals into Gozitan society", "Inception of a one stop migrant resource centre", "Intercultural Competence Programme - Adapting knowledge skills and attitudes in the work place" and "Malta Integration Network".

European Conference whereby Maltese stakeholders shared experiences and existing good practices, as well as their potential transferability to the national integration policy.

With regard to **future priorities for integration**, attention will be given to identifying the needs of third-country national children and addressing them within schools. As for adult third-country nationals, the ETC will be providing training to improve their knowledge of the host society's language, history, institutions, socio-economic features, cultural life, etc.

As far as **non-discrimination** is concerned, since 2012, the **National Commission for the Promotion of Equality** (NCPE)'s remit was widened to include additional grounds of discrimination, including race or ethnic origin in employment, education or vocational guidance, as well as by banks and financial institutions. The NCPE is empowered to investigate complaints of alleged discrimination on these grounds, as well as to raise awareness and disseminate information on rights and responsibilities.

### 2.5. MANAGING MIGRATION AND MOBILITY<sup>3</sup>

Regarding **border control**, during the first quarter of 2013, Malta conducted the final tests for the migration from Schengen Information System (SIS) I to SIS II. SIS II became operational on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2013. An Intensive Monitoring Period of the new system was conducted until 8<sup>th</sup> June 2013. Also, during 2012 and 2013, formal and informal **training, mentoring and support** were also provided **to the Malta Police Force**. This was required in order to enable the staff to effectively operate the SIS II and SIRENE systems and applications. Moreover, during the period under consideration, all border control officers underwent a comprehensive training course. Malta reported that efforts will be further placed in the future, in order to conduct similar training initiatives on a regular basis.

During the reporting period, Malta benefitted from co-financing under the External Borders Fund (EBF), implementing projects to enhance border control capabilities. Projects included amongst others: the purchasing of equipment, a gap analysis for the integration of the existing police and border control systems with the Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS) implemented by the Malta Police Force, the strengthening of Malta's capacity in the Visa Information System (VIS), as well as the maximisation of Malta's capacity to issue visas through the setting up of Schengen compliant Consulates in third countries implemented by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

### 3. International Protection and Asylum

With regard to measures undertaken to **safeguard or improve the quality of the national asylum**

**system**, throughout 2013, the Office of the Refugee Commissioner focussed on further improving the quality of the asylum decision process. To this end, the Office extensively trained the staff involved in the asylum determination procedure. Staff also attended training provided by the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) - train-the-trainer modules. In order to **improve the efficiency of the national asylum system**, the Office of the Refugee Commissioner committed to ensure that all asylum applications would be concluded within six months from the lodging of the application. The Office reached this target with most of the applications lodged in 2013.

With regard to **legislative changes pertaining to asylum**, by the end of 2013, a draft law was being prepared aiming to transpose, the **Qualification Directive** (2011/95/EU) as well as the recast Directive on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection (2013/32/EU), into national legislation.

Concerning **participation in EASO activities**, Malta is represented by two Ministry officials within the Management Board of the Agency who are regularly involved in discussions on the Agency's objectives and activities. Moreover, during 2013, two officials from the Office of the Refugee Commissioner have been deployed as experts to support the EASO. Officials from relevant offices have regularly participated in EASO expert meetings throughout 2013. Finally, the Office of the Refugee Commissioner has participated actively in training initiatives organised by EASO.

In 2013, under the extension of the Pilot Project for the relocation of beneficiaries of international protection from Malta (**EUREMA II**), a total of six persons were relocated to Poland. The Pilot Project ended in December 2013. Moreover, in 2013, a total of ten persons were relocated to Ireland on a bilateral basis.

### 4. Unaccompanied Minors and other Vulnerable Groups

No new policies or developments were introduced/reported during 2013.

### 5. Actions against Trafficking in Human Beings

On 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013, the Monitoring Committee concluded and approved the Second **National Action Plan against Human Trafficking**, which covers the period January 2013 - December 2014. The Second National Action Plan, however, includes some elements from the first National Action Plan, as these required further attention and also to ensure continuity and completion of tasks. Such elements include for example, the running of an awareness campaign and the launching of a national study. The implementation of the Action Plan will also ensure that the objectives of the **EU Strategy** towards the Eradication of

<sup>3</sup> "Managing migration and mobility" refers to the following themes: visa policy, Schengen governance and border monitoring.

Trafficking in Human Beings are fully met by Malta. Concerning the implementation of the EU strategy and, more specifically, data-collection, an exercise is underway **to create a common tool to harmonise data collection** amongst all relevant actors active in this field. The Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Committee has overall responsibility over the development of this tool.

## 6. External Dimension of EU Migration Policy

During 2013, Malta continued to support the EU Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM), an important framework for deepening dialogue and cooperation with countries outside the EU and for taking measures to strengthen the positive link between migration and development. With regard to the **strengthening of cooperation with third countries** of transit and origin on migration management, in 2013, the Maltese migration authorities held various bilateral meetings with their Libyan counterparts. Such meetings aimed to improve the exchange of information and, consequently, the performance of both countries in the fight against illegal migration. More specifically, the Maltese authorities have offered to provide assistance in relation to border control issues, particularly through training initiatives.

The Directorate for the Maltese Living Abroad was also established in January 2013. The Directorate acts as a focal point of information and as a centre of advocacy for the rights and interests of the **Maltese Diaspora** around the world. It also plans national policies and actions to connect local Diaspora communities not only to their homeland but also to the EU.

## 7. Irregular Migration

With regard to **prevention of irregular migration**, the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) continued to undertake regular patrolling, including both routine patrolling activities as well as intelligence-driven operations, which focused on specific threat information gathered either at national level or provided by third parties such as FRONTEXRAU.

Malta also participated in the SEA HORSE MEDITERRANEO project. Moreover, Malta participated in six FRONTEX Joint Operations, as well as in the European Patrols Network (EPN) programme, in Commission-led surveillance programmes such as EUROSUR and EU-led projects such as the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE).

With regard to **sanctions on employers who employ legally-staying migrants irregularly**, Malta punishes individuals who employ migrants in an irregular manner. The fines imposed are considered to be quite dissuasive (between € 232 and € 2,329) and legislation also exists for the suspension of employer's licences. **Following the transposition of the Employers' Sanctions Directive** (2009/52/EC),

necessary action was also taken in order to reflect the obligations imposed by this Directive in the national system. **Inspections have continued** during the reporting period and efforts were made to conduct such inspections on a more regular basis. All third-country nationals found working in an irregular manner were referred to the proper authorities whilst criminal action was taken against their employers.

As far as **return** is concerned, the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security **continued its collaboration with the IOM** on an EU co-financed project for assisted voluntary return and reintegration (Restart IV). Also, in 2013, the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security, in cooperation with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and other project partners, participated in the FReM Project (Forced Return Monitoring). The aim of the latter is to create a European pool of Forced Return Monitors, which would be available to the countries when implementing a forced return monitoring system.

With regard to return of illegally staying third-country nationals, **legislative amendments** to the Common Standard and Procedures for returning Illegally Staying Third Country Nationals Regulations (S.L 217.12) were underway with a view **to periodically reviewing grounds for detention**. Also, during 2013, the Responsible Authority of the **General Programme Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows** continued to implement activities of forced returns under the European Return Fund (RF) whereby third-country nationals illegally residing in Malta were returned to their home country by the Malta Police Force. In addition, the Responsible Authority also continued to monitor the project "Cooperation between Malta and African Countries to enhance migration dialogue and developments (CoMAM)" aimed at promoting cooperation between Maltese authorities and relevant third countries of origin in order to enhance the effectiveness of the management of assisted voluntary returns.

## 8. Provision and Exchange of Information to support Policy Development

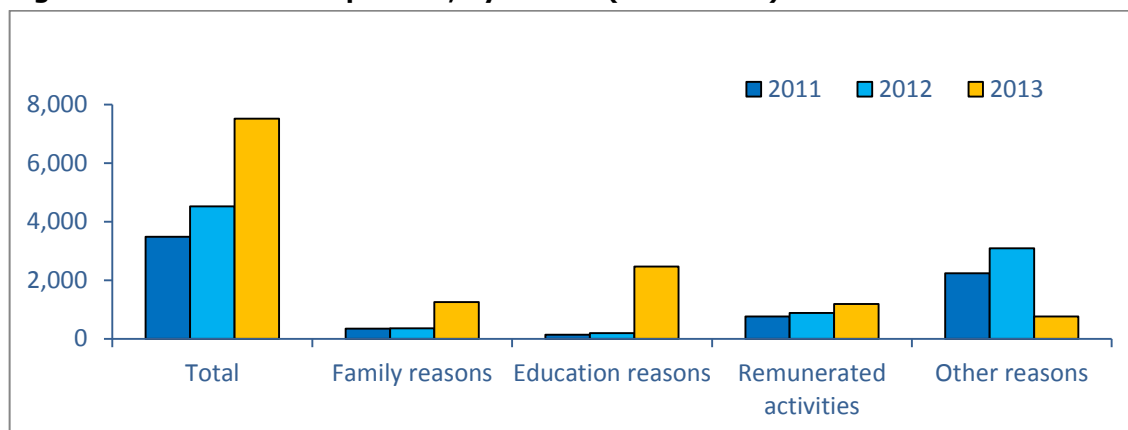
Malta continued to take an active part in the exchange of information through the EASO, including through its meetings held at various levels, as well as through the European Migration Network.

### STATISTICAL ANNEX

The Statistical Annex provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Malta on aspects of migration and asylum (2011-2013), including residence, asylum, unaccompanied minors, irregular migration, return and visas. Where statistics are not yet available, this is indicated in the Annex as "N/A".

## Statistical Annex: Immigration and Asylum in Malta (2011-2013)

**Figure 1: First residence permits, by reason (2011-2013)**



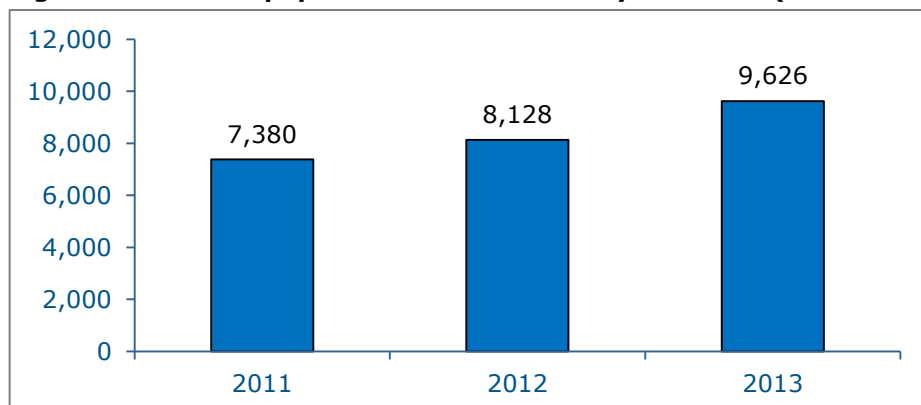
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_resfirst), extracted 4 June 2014: 2013 provisional data obtained from in the 2013 APR National Statistical Contributions to the EMN.

**Table 1: First residence permits: Top five third-country nationalities (2011-2012)**

| 2011                        | 2012                        | 2013 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------|
| <b>1. Somalia</b> – 418     | <b>1. Somalia</b> – 1,092   | N/A  |
| <b>2. Eritrea</b> – 279     | <b>2. Libya</b> – 461       | N/A  |
| <b>3. Russia</b> – 266      | <b>3. Russia</b> – 330      | N/A  |
| <b>4. Philippines</b> – 182 | <b>4. Philippines</b> – 248 | N/A  |
| <b>5. China</b> – 181       | <b>5. Serbia</b> – 240      | N/A  |

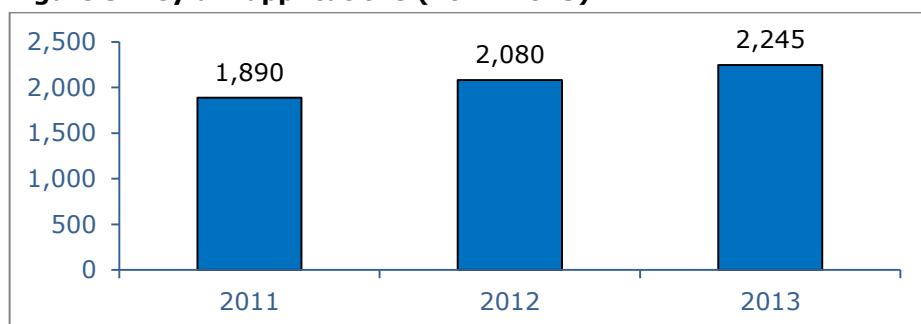
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_resfirst), extracted 4 June 2014

**Figure 2: Resident population of third-country nationals (2011-2013)**



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_pop1ctz), extracted 4 June 2014

**Figure 3: Asylum applications (2011-2013)**



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_asyappctza), extracted 4 June 2014

**Table 2: Asylum applications: Top five third-country nationalities (2011-2013)**

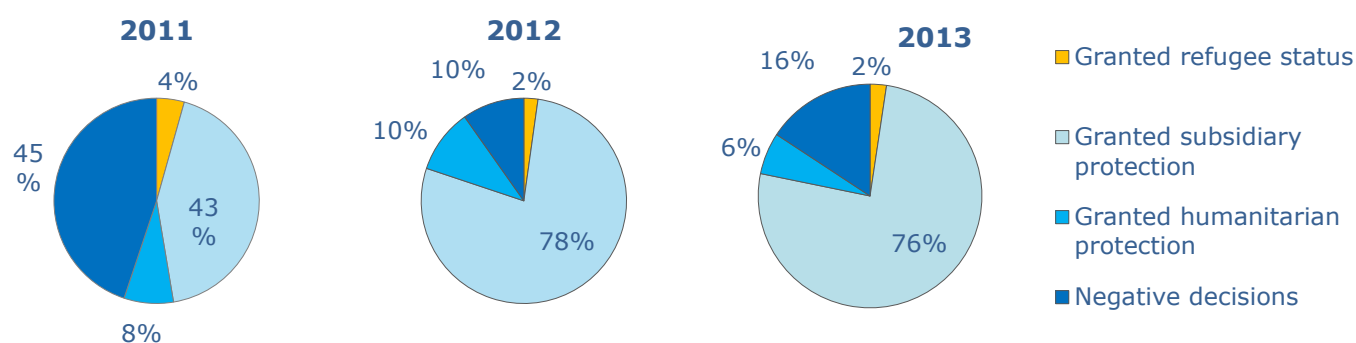
| 2011              | 2012              | 2013              |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Somalia – 455  | 1.Somalia – 1,250 | 1.Somalia – 1,015 |
| 2. Eritrea – 315  | 2. Eritrea – 435  | 2. Eritrea – 475  |
| 3. Nigeria – 250  | 3. Syria – 150    | 3. Syria – 250    |
| 4. Syria – 125    | 4. Nigeria – 70   | 4. Libya – 110    |
| 5. Ethiopia – 115 | 5. Libya – 60     | 5. Nigeria – 95   |

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_asyappctza), extracted 4 June 2014

**Table 3: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2011-2013)**

|      | Total decisions | Positive decisions | Of which:      |                       |                      | Negative decisions |
|------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
|      |                 |                    | Refugee status | Subsidiary protection | Humanitarian reasons |                    |
| 2011 | 1,605           | 885                | 70             | 690                   | 125                  | 720                |
| 2012 | 1,590           | 1,435              | 35             | 1,235                 | 160                  | 155                |
| 2013 | 1,905           | 1,605              | 45             | 1,445                 | 115                  | 300                |

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_asydcfsta), extracted 4 June 2014

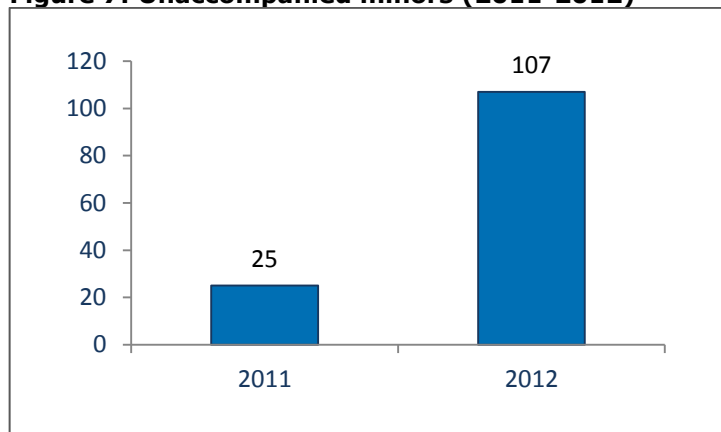
**Figures 4-6: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2011-2013)**

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_asydcfsta), extracted 4 June 2014

**Table 4: Third-country nationals relocated and resettled (2011-2013)\***

|                                   | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|------|
| Third-country nationals relocated | N/A  | N/A  | N/A  |
| Third-country nationals resettled | 0    | 0    | 0    |

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_asyresa), extracted 6 June 2014 and Commission Staff Working Document -Accompanying the 5th Annual Report on Immigration and Asylum 2013; \* Some 1,192 beneficiaries of protection were relocated or resettled from Malta between 2011 and 2013.

**Figure 7: Unaccompanied minors (2011-2012)**

Source: EMN, *A Descriptive Analysis of the Impacts of the Stockholm Programme 2010-2013*

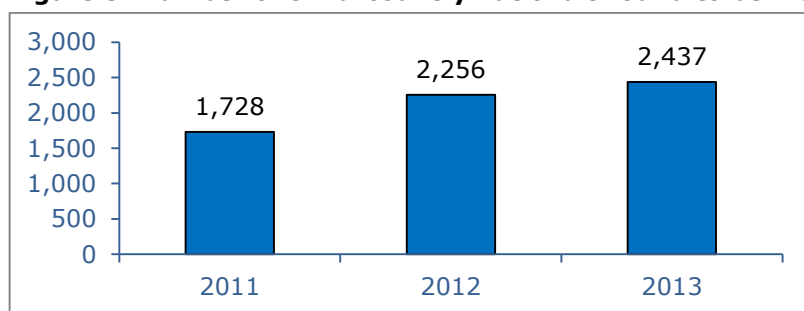
**Table 5: Unaccompanied minors (2011-2013)**

|   | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|---|------|------|------|
| <b>Unaccompanied minors (total)</b>                 | 25   | 107  | N/A  |
| <b>Unaccompanied minors not applying for asylum</b> | N/A  | 0    | N/A  |
| <b>Unaccompanied minor asylum applicants</b>        | 25   | 105  | 335  |

**Table 6: Number of third-country nationals refused entry at external borders (2011-2013)**

|  | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|--|------|------|------|
| <b>Third-country nationals refused entry at external borders</b> | 95   | 202  | 300  |

Source: Information provided by EMN MT National Contact Point

**Figure 8: Number of third-country nationals found to be illegally present (2011-2013)**

Source: Information provided by EMN MT National Contact Point

**Table 7: Third-country nationals returned (2011-2013)**

|             | Third-country nationals ordered to leave* | Returned as part of forced return measures* | Returned voluntarily | Returned through an Assisted Voluntary Return Programme |
|-------------|---|---|----------------------|---|
| <b>2011</b> | 1,728                                     | 128 **                                      | N/A                  | N/A   |
| <b>2012</b> | 2,256                                     | 266 **                                      | 39                   | 39  |
| <b>2013</b> | 2,437                                     | 71 **                                       | 70                   | N/A   |

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (*migr\_eiord*), extracted 4 June 2014 and Commission Staff Working Document - Accompanying the 5th Annual Report on Immigration and Asylum 2013; \* Information provided by EMN MT National Contact Point; \*\* Figure refers to migrants issued with both return decisions and removal orders but is not exclusive to escorted cases.

**Table 8: Number of visas issued by type (2011-2013)**

|   | 2011   | 2012   | 2013   |
|---|--------|--------|--------|
| <b>Total visas</b>                      | 34,506 | 56,356 | 81,951 |
| <b>Schengen visa (short-stay visas)</b> | 31,338 | 50,548 | 72,002 |
| <b>National visa</b>                    | 3,168  | 5,808  | 9,949  |

Source: Information provided by EMN MT National Contact Point