



# FIFTEEN YEARS OF EMN

ANNA CATANIA, EMN OFFICER - PDPI

This year the European Migration Network (EMN) celebrates its 15th year anniversary. It all started in June 2003 when, at its meeting in Thessaloniki, the European Council recognised the need for monitoring and analysis of the various aspects of migration. The EMN was, from its inception, based on closer practical cooperation between Member States, and improved exchange of information. Eventually, the EMN was legally established in 2008 by Council Decision 2008/381/EC. Since then, the non-EU Member States have also joined the EMN, while others enjoy Observer Status.

In 2008 the Maltese EMN National Contact Point was set up within the then Ministry for Justice and Home Affairs. Over these last 15 EMN Malta has been organising national conferences, seminars, and twinning meetings with national contact points of other Member States. EMN Malta Officers have attended National Contact Point (NCP) meetings in Brussels as well as Steering Board Meetings. The Steering Board is responsible for the approval of work programmes and related matters discussed in the NCP meetings. EMN Malta officials have also participated in Glossary meetings and translated migration-related terms into Maltese. The Glossary, which comprises terms in Maltese, was published over the course of 2012/4. EMN Malta has also responded to Ad Hoc Queries launched by other Member States. Throughout the years EMN Malta has also produced national reports on study topics related to migration and asylum, which were proposed by various Member States.

From the early stages of its inception EMN Malta has also published its own newsletter.

In the broader European perspective, the EMN has remained relevant notwithstanding the shifting needs and priorities in the migration field. Indeed, the EMN is even more relevant now than it was back in 2008, as we have more challenges that need to be tackled at the European level. In this scenario, the EMN is well placed, through its National Contact Points (NCPs), to facilitate ongoing liaison among its members. Over the last years the EMN continued to place emphasis on the dissemination of information to policy makers, to enable evidence-based policy making. The EMN has also enhanced its output by creating awareness among the public, including civil society.

The recent challenges faced across the globe, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, and the displacements of persons due to various causes, point to the need for ongoing studies and evaluation of the situation on the ground. The EMN is clearly well placed to fulfil this role. For this reason, the EMN is at the forefront when it comes to liaison with other European Institutions and Member States on migration management and information dissemination.



# TOWARDS A SECOND INTEGRATION GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

ALEXANDER TORTELL, INTEGRATION & ANTI-RACISM ADVISOR HUMAN RIGHTS DIRECTORATE

Data from recent National Statistics Office publications shows that on Census Day, 21 November 2021, more than one in five residents were foreign, with 115,499 non-Maltese persons residing in Malta and Gozo. That same day, the total population stood at 519,562, from 417,432 residents in 2011 (equal to a 24.5 per cent increase over just ten years).

With such data, which in reality only confirms our lived experience on the ground, anyone who wonders whether or not the country should have effective and smart integration policies and services is sadly out of touch with reality. The “if ship,” as I like to put it, has long sailed, and precious time was wasted in nostalgia of a land without immigration which, in reality, never existed. It is the “how ship” which is an urgent priority and, fortunately, current directions in public policy are catching up with the urgency to chart and implement the required responses.

But what is integration, after all? This question is important, because integration can mean a lot of different things to different people and, furthermore, the discussion on the topic tends to elicit an emotional response. On the other hand, I today take a pragmatic view of the matter, and tend to focus more time and energy on the assessment of potential successful outcomes for peoples’ lives and for Maltese society, rather than hold endless discussions on nomenclature that ultimately lead to little or no outcomes. So, call it what you wish: integration, intercultural inclusion, multiculturalism, and so on. What I think is important is that we use the data I started off with to say that, in the simplest terms possible (and I emphasize simple) integration is the successful management of the complex two-way relationship between the host society (four-fifths of the current population) and newcomers to Maltese society (the one-fifth, the 115,499).



The factors that complicate integration outcomes are endless, and this is not the place to explore them, except to say that Malta’s approach to integration governance must remain one which addresses the greatest number of them. One example. “Non-Maltese residents” simultaneously says a lot and nothing. Today, five years down the line from Integration = Belonging, our first integration strategy, we are more aware of the heterogenous make-up of this “one-fifth,” and the need, to the greatest extent possible, to design policies and services accordingly. Another example is that second and third generation persons of migrant background cannot easily fit in one category or another.

The Human Rights Directorate, together with partners and stakeholders within both the public service as well as in civil society, is currently working on the second national integration governance framework. We are keen to hear your views on the ideas expressed here, or others. Email us at <<integration@gov.mt>>.

# EMN ANNUAL POLICY REPORT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM

XYLONA SPITERI, EMN OFFICER – PDPI

Annual policy reports on migration and asylum are produced by EMN Malta on a yearly basis. Reports highlight the most important developments from the political and legislative perspectives. The aim of this article is to present an overview of major developments in the fields of asylum and migration in Malta during in 2022.

Russia`s invasion of Ukraine on 24th February caused an extensive shift in migration patterns in the course of 2022. Indeed, the provisions of EU Directive 2001/55, which regulates Temporary Protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons, were activated for the first time. Thereby, Ukrainian nationals and residents who were displaced because of the Russian invasion of Ukraine that began on 24th February 2022 became eligible for temporary protection in the EU Member States in accordance with Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 of 4th March 2022. As a result of these developments, Malta awards temporary protection to the following persons who have been displaced from Ukraine on or after the 24th of February 2022:

- **Ukrainian nationals who resided in Ukraine before 24th February 2022,**
- **stateless persons, and nationals of third countries other than Ukraine, who benefited from international protection or equivalent national protection in Ukraine before 24th February 2022;**
- **family members of the persons referred to above;**
- **Third country nationals and stateless persons who were legally residing in Ukraine before 24th February 2022; provided that they have been issued with a valid permanent residence permit in accordance with Ukrainian Law and provided further that they cannot return to their country of origin (due to unsafe conditions).**

In 2022, the Human Rights Directorate in Malta stepped up its efforts to support the integration and inclusion of migrants living in Malta. This was done by way of various initiatives intended to promote the active participation of migrants in society, while engaging receiving communities. These initiatives comprise the new “Turning the Tables” and “Equality for All in Malta” programmes. Moreover, the Directorate worked on the development of a Second National Integration Policy and Action Plan covering the period 2024-2027, which will replace the Migrant Integration Strategy and Action Plan: Vision 2020.



The Human Rights Directorate was also active in the anti-discrimination field, as attested by the implementation of the Anti-Racism Strategy, 2021-2023. Efforts to combat human trafficking were also pursued, particularly by way of strengthening cooperation among various agencies, improving coordination of existing processes, and promoting an active approach in the fight against all forms of human trafficking. This work paves the way for a new National Anti-Trafficking Strategy.

Another important development during the reporting period relates to unaccompanied minors. Changes in Subsidiary Legislation 420.07 on Procedural Standards for Granting and Withdrawing International Protection Regulations, enable the Chief Executive Officer of Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers to appoint an interim legal guardian for any prohibited migrant who is deemed to be under eighteen (18) years of age, particularly if s/he is unaccompanied. This initiative is intended to ensure that the interests of minors are always protected, even in the interval between arrival in Malta and the appointment of a legal guardian by the Court.

This year’s EMN Malta report highlights important developments that comprise response to an international crisis, as well as measures intended to support migrants and vulnerable persons. During the year under review, moreover, EMN Malta continued to promote networking between authorities involved in the different aspects of migration. For more information on EMN Malta and our initiatives please follow the link: [www.emn.gov.mt](http://www.emn.gov.mt).



# COMBATTING RACISM

JULIAN MICALLEF, SENIOR OFFICER - PDPI



Following the launch of a national Anti-Racism Strategy in 2021, a lot of work is being done to adopt action plans by each Ministry to tackle this matter. The first national action plan is aimed against racism, xenophobia, and other forms of intolerance.

The Ministry for Home Affairs, Security, Reforms and Equality, together with all the departments and entities under its responsibility, has devised measures aimed at addressing and combatting racism. Several entities are already implementing various actions, often in collaboration with other specialised organisations in this regard.

And more is set to follow as measures continue to be put in place. Officials are participating in training sessions being conducted across the public service and organised by the Human Rights Directorate. Various entities are also undertaking multiple measures to train their personnel and make them more aware of issues relating to racism and discrimination. These, and other measures are set to continue and be further enhanced across all entities in line with the national strategy. Information and training are deemed to be key.

At the EU level, an anti-racism action plan published in 2020 is also in place for the period till 2025. It is to be recalled that the motto of the European Union is: 'United in diversity'. In 2021, a European Commission coordinator for anti-racism was also appointed. National plans and strengthened partnerships, including with local and international actors, form part of this EU action plan. The involvement of the business community and civil society are also included in the plan.

The main thrust of all of these initiatives underlines that racism has no place in our society.