



Malta

National Reform Programme

Annex Table 3

Reporting on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights: Description of Main Measures and their Estimated impact

Ministry for Finance and Employment
April 2022

Pillar principle	List of main contributing measures	Estimated impact of the measures (qualitative and/or quantitative)
1. Education, training and lifelong learning	<p>Delivery of courses for Stage 1 and Stage 2 applicants of the <i>I Belong</i> Programme</p> <p>Stage 1: beginner's course in Maltese, English and Maltese Culture.</p> <p>Stage 2: further learning in Maltese language and Culture. Upon completion, students are awarded recognised certifications, which can be used for entry into the labour market.</p> <p>This measure also contributes to Principle 3 - Equal Opportunities.</p>	<p>Learning the mother tongue and national culture are vital for migrants' full integration within Maltese society and national efforts to combat social segregation based on nationality, race and ethnicity. Successful participants becoming eligible to apply for long-term residency.</p> <p>Over 5,217 individuals have applied under the Programme since its inception in 2018. 1,277 graduates have successfully completed Stage 1 thus far.</p>
	<p>Provision of training to over 650 healthcare practitioners on addressing barriers to LGBTIQ inclusive healthcare</p> <p>This measure also contributes to Principle 3 - Equal Opportunities.</p>	<p>Training was given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 107 GPs and family doctors • 40 Accident and Emergency (A&E) and ART Clinic staff • 180 healthcare practitioners • 320 reception staff in health settings • 34 psychiatry trainees
	<p>Training of care workers in elderly care settings on making care homes LGBTIQ inclusive</p> <p>This measure also contributes to Principle 3 - Equal Opportunities.</p>	<p>Training was given to 50 persons.</p>
	<p>Intercept</p>	<p>The project is aiming to motivate, mobilise and support persons not in employment, education or training (NEETs) through a Green Career Pathway which will lead to 300 trained youths in green skills in three countries, of which 100 participants will be trained in Malta.</p>

	Smartly	The priority of the programme is to adapt vocational education and training to labour market needs while strengthening the employability of young people in a changing world of work.
	Skills Development Scheme This measure also contributes to Principle 4 - Active Support to Employment.	Supports business undertakings to provide training to upgrade skills of employees, address skills shortages, facilitate re-skilling, tackle skill mismatches and work towards developing a knowledge-based workforce. In 2021, 138 beneficiaries were supported with €1.5 million.
	Get Qualified Scheme This measure also contributes to Principle 4 - Active Support to Employment.	This incentive is mainly intended to support persons who have completed formal education and who are seeking to further their education in areas that are relevant to Maltese industries. Under the Get Qualified Scheme, in 2021, 2,227 applications were processed, amounting to around €5 million in awarded tax credits.
	The National Literacy Agency promotes literacy in the community across all ages by means of nationwide campaigns and reading programmes.	While on the immediate level the impact of this measure is palpable when parents and/or educators report increased interest in books, in reading and/or in writing, in the long-term these measures are expected to contribute, together with other variables like ongoing family support and school input, towards the improvement of literacy levels that enable participation in society and enhance job prospects.
	The National Literacy Agency promotes literacy through the production and/or distribution of literacy resources.	Children who have reading books and materials that are readily available are more likely to become good readers and writers as adults.

	<p>The National Literacy Agency provides/ supports the provision of professional development courses for educators in literacy development and/or intervention strategies.</p> <p>It also provides information sessions for parents/guardians on early literacy.</p>	<p>The provision of quality professional development opportunities is envisaged to result in improved student outcomes.</p> <p>Increasing awareness and helping parents/guardians gain skills that promote literacy learning are expected to promote better outcomes for their children.</p>
	<p>Support and widen the integration of language learning across the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology</p>	<p>Increase the take-up of foreign language modules/short courses offered by MCAST to students, staff and the community.</p>
	<p>Identify pedagogical and programme changes to embed better the development of key skills within MCAST programmes.</p>	<p>To enrich further the curricula of all MQF levels 1-5 students</p>
	<p>Widen the online MCAST part-time options available to the public.</p>	<p>To primarily increase the number of study options and consequently increase the number of students.</p>
	<p>The Institute for Education offers part-time courses which are blended or completely online to increase flexibility and accessibility.</p>	<p>In the next three years it is estimated that over 350 persons would have benefitted from these courses to become qualified teachers or heads of school.</p>
	<p>The Institute for Education has included a micro placement module in industry in its initial teacher training courses. Course participants are required to spend a number of hours working in industry and reflect on the competencies learnt in order to transfer them to their own students. Micro placement offers the possibility to experience competencies that cannot be learnt at school or during a lecture and therefore it is important to equip those who have the role of preparing our future generations for the world of work and to become active citizens.</p>	<p>All those undergoing an initial teacher training course with the Institute for Education will benefit from this. Consequently, it will have a cascading effect on the students who will be taught by these future qualified teachers.</p> <p>Presently, over 40 contributors from different industries collaborate with the Institute for Education to provide the work placements where such competencies can be acquired.</p>

	In December 2021, the Directorate for Research, Lifelong Learning and Employability (DRLLE) launched learningbox.edu.mt – an asynchronous adult learning online platform.	The platform offers an opportunity to adult learners to follow learning programmes at their own pace. It is Estimated that during the first year it will attract about 400 unique learners.
	Online hub in the Msida Adult Learning Centre, for persons who either do not know how to access online courses or do not have the technology or cannot afford it. This measure also contributes to Principle 20 - Access to essential services.	This initiative was taken to lessen the digital divide and has so far accommodated over 120 persons.
	Revision of craft course programmes to include the skills necessary for young learners to be able to turn their craft into an enterprise.	This initiative is targeted to reach around seventy- five young people per year.
	At the Institute of Tourism Studies (ITS), some programmes are offered on a part-time and full-time basis, which allows more flexibility. Some of the courses are also offered online only or blended.	This aims to increase the number of students and attract foreign students, whilst encouraging distance learning.
	Different languages, including English and Maltese for foreign workers, are incorporated within all the programmes offered at ITS from Foundation to Degree level.	This reduces the language barrier of locals and foreigners and increases in communication skills when working within the industry.
2. Gender equality	Gender Corrective Mechanism to ensure gender parity in Parliament	If the under-represented sex comprises less than 40% of all seats after the election outcome is known, the mechanism will kick in to elect a maximum of 12 additional MPs – six on either side of the House. It will only kick in if two parties are elected to Parliament and will remain in force for 20 years.
	Gender Mainstreaming Strategy as per Government policy, is an ongoing measure.	In 2021, the NCPE received 138 reports.

	<p>OPM Circular No. 15/2012 ensures that policies and practices are gender mainstreamed, as well as to obtain a consolidated yearly report on gender equality and gender mainstreaming in governmental departments and entities.</p>	
	<p>Equality Mark Certification for companies that foster gender equality in their policies and practices.</p>	<p>There were 123 certified companies employing around 29,250 employees by 2021.</p>
	<p>A set of initiatives to raise awareness on the gender pay gap: (i) Study on the tools on equal pay; (ii) Study on equal pay for work of equal value between women and men in collective bargaining; (iii) Career guidance sessions; (iv) Consultation sessions with trade union representatives; (v) Seminar on the gender pay gap, inactivity and the gender pension gap; (vi) Awareness campaign as part of an EU co-funded project <i>Preparing the Ground for Economic Independence (2018 - 2020)</i></p>	<p><i>(i) Research study on existent equal pay tools in Europe and the development of technical specifications for the Equal Pay Tool: Study is available here. Following the study, an Equal Pay Tool was developed for the Equality Mark certification process. This Tool is currently being fine-tuned.</i></p> <p><i>(ii) Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value between Women and Men in Collective Bargaining: Study is available here. Following the study, consultation sessions were held with trade unions representatives.</i></p> <p><i>(iii) Consultation sessions with trade union representatives: 2 sessions with trade unions: 10 participants</i></p> <p><i>(iv) Career guidance sessions: 2 Training Sessions to Career Guidance Teachers; and 1 Training Session to Career Advisors: 67 participants</i></p> <p><i>(v) Seminar on the Gender Pay Gap, Inactivity and the Gender Pension Gap: 90 participants</i></p>

		<i>(vi) Awareness campaign through different medias.</i>
	Seminar in 2021 to mark Equal Pay Day, including the effects of the Directive on Pay Transparency on the national scenario	2021 Equal Pay Day Seminar: 175 participants
	Directory of Professional Women to enhance their visibility and opportunities for appointment on boards and committees	There are currently 270 women registered in the Directory. The National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) carries out regular updates to the profiles and disseminates the Directory through the Government Intranet.
	Equal Treatment in Employment Regulations S.L. 452.95	Ensures the right to equal pay for work of equal value for women and men.
	Launch the Equality Policy, the Harassment Policy, and the Gender Equality Plan at MCAST	The documents were approved by MCAST Director and will be launched in the coming months.
3. Equal opportunities	<p>The Anti-Racism Strategy 2021-2023, Malta's first national action plan against racism and xenophobia, was adopted by Cabinet on 28 July 2021. Outreach and awareness-raising activities will take place throughout and across all levels of society, particularly the grassroots.</p> <p>Anti-racism Inter-Ministerial Committee</p>	<p>The document incorporates 22 measures. It makes anti-racism and anti-discrimination both individual and collective responsibilities across all sectors of society - the Government and the public sector, democratic and political institutions, the media, but also the private sector, civil society, and the general population.</p> <p>A high-level Inter-Ministerial Committee has been set up to ensure a whole-of-Government approach to anti-racism and intercultural inclusion to reach all policy fields and public services; while also mainstreaming anti-racism and intercultural inclusion across all policy fields and public services. The first Inter-Ministerial Committee on anti-racism action plan was held on 6 December 2021.</p>

	<p>The Anti-Racism Platform has been convened and supported by the HRD. It is composed of representatives from civil society, academia, and social partners.</p>	<p>An average of 14 participants have attended these meetings.</p>
	<p>Intra-ministerial action</p>	<p>HRD is collaborating with each Ministry to design an intra-ministerial anti-racism action plan to address the policy-making, employment and service provision functions relevant to the Ministry and their contribution under each of these functions to achieve intercultural inclusion.</p>
	<p>The EU project 'Equality for all in Malta', funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme, is tackling the issue of underreporting of cases of discrimination based on the grounds of race/ethnic origin and belief/religion.</p>	<p>This 2-year long project is targeting racial, ethnic and religious minority organisations and communities as well as the general public in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training is being provided to 120 members of racial, ethnic and religious minorities to empower them to effectively enjoy their rights and the new remedies laid down in the law. • A campaign targeting the general public raised awareness on non-discrimination and equality in December 2021 /January 2022. • Outreach to 68 local councils will help to develop further non-discrimination tools for action at the local level already utilised in a migrant integration setting.
	<p>Delivery of courses for Stage 1 and Stage 2 applicants of the <i>I Belong</i> Programme</p>	<p>Please refer to Principle 1 - Education, Training and Life-long Learning above.</p>
	<p>Diploma in Education for Cultural Mediation</p>	<p>Started being offered in October 2021.</p>

	Provision of training to over 650 Health Care practitioners on addressing barriers to LGBTIQ inclusive health care	Please refer to Principle 1 - Education, Training and Life-long Learning above.
	Training of Care Workers in Elderly Care Settings on making care homes LGBTIQ inclusive	Please refer to Principle 1 - Education, Training and Life-long Learning above.
	Training provided to Police Recruits on LGBTIQ legislation and policy	80 police recruits were trained.
	Awareness-raising campaign aimed at LGBTIQ community on Sexual Health, Mental Health and the Services of the Gender Wellbeing Clinic	10,000 leaflets were disseminated in health settings. 3 animated videos and a number of banners were disseminated and boosted on various social media platforms.
	Publication of Malta Government Guidelines on the Recognition of Sex, Sexuality and Gender	Training to public officers is set to take place from 2022 onwards.
	Launch of website aimed at health practitioners providing information on trans health care	The website is available on: www.transhealth.gov.mt .
	A set of initiatives in relation to sexual orientation, gender identity, sex characteristics and gender expression: (i) study on LGBTIQ+ discrimination; (ii) workshops with LGBTIQ+ community; (iii) capacity building for NCPE staff; (iv) awareness raising as part of the EU co-funded project <i>Empowerment for Diversity (2020-2022)</i>	<p>(i) <i>Study on LGBTIQ+ discrimination</i>: aimed at increasing NCPE's knowledge and expertise in the field of LGBTIQ+.</p> <p>(ii) <i>Workshops with LGBTIQ+ Community</i>: Three 2-hour workshops are planned to take place in 2022. For each workshop 20 persons will be invited to participate.</p> <p>(iii) <i>Capacity Building for NCPE Staff</i>: 13 NCPE staff members attended 4 capacity building sessions in 2021</p> <p>(iv) <i>Awareness raising (status ongoing)</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 Facebook stream adverts are being produced and will reach a minimum of 180,000 impressions

		1 newspaper advert (1 in English & 1 in Maltese) was published on 7 local Sunday newspapers
	Facilitating Work Life for Individuals with Disability Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employers and self-employed people can apply for this grant towards the cost of adapting or making the workplace more accessible for employees with disabilities. The aid under this scheme will be awarded in the form of a cash grant and will cover 90% of incurred eligible costs up to a maximum grant of €10,000 for every project.
4. Active support to employment	In Malta, all registered unemployed receive a Personal Action Plan (PAP) within one month of registration. Personal Action Plans (PAP) are multi-level programmes which offers jobseekers step-by-step practical support aimed at empowering and preparing them for employment.	Increasing the number of employed persons by providing personal assistance to jobseekers in order to ensure targeted and effective response.
	On becoming long-term unemployed (LTU), registered unemployed undergo an individualised in-depth reassessment and are provided with a PAP tailored to the specific needs of LTU. Moreover, since 2021, the training and assistance offered through the VASTE Programme have been expanded to include long-term unemployed.	The VASTE Programme aims at bringing vulnerable persons closer to the labour market through training and job exposure opportunities, which could lead to employment in the open market or self-employment.
	The Youth Guarantee includes a number of schemes which are designed to help young people under the age of 30 years to continue their education or increase their chances of finding satisfaction and success in the world of work. Measures include the NEET Activation Scheme, ICT courses, SEC Revision Classes, and MCAST Preventive Classes.	The Youth Guarantee aims at increasing the sustainable integration of youths into the labour market or education.

	Skills Development Scheme	Please refer to Pillar 1 – Education, training and life-long learning above.
	Get Qualified Scheme	Please refer to Principle 1 - Education, Training and Life-long Learning above.
	<p>Introduced a package of active labour market initiatives aimed at making work pay. The package comprised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the In-Work Benefit scheme provides additional income for working parents with children under the age of 23. - Beneficiaries who were in receipt of Social Assistance for at least one year who enter into a gainful occupation are eligible for the Tapering of Benefits Scheme. The beneficiary is paid 65% of the social benefit for the first year, 45% of the social benefit for the second year and 25% of the social benefit for the third. The employer is paid 25% of the social benefit for the duration of the three years. <p>This measure also contributes to Principle 5 – Secure and adaptable employment and Principle 14 – Minimum income.</p>	<p>These measures had a positive impact leading to a decline in the dependency on social benefits. As at 31 December 2021, Malta has recorded 56% less beneficiaries of Social Assistance when compared to December 2013.</p> <p>As at December 2013 the number of social assistance beneficiaries stood at 13,949, whereas at December 2021, the figure stood at 6,191 beneficiaries.</p>
	Liaise with employers and employer representatives to offer training opportunities for MCAST staff to keep abreast of developments in industry.	<p>Sustain the Industrial Placement opportunity during the Post-Graduate Diploma in Vocational Education Applied Research 4.0.</p> <p>Sustain the Observation of Learning in industry and Leading Learning in industry placement units of the Bachelor of Vocational Education and Training 4.0.</p> <p>Increase the number of CPD opportunities for staff which have an industry relevance</p>

	MCAST to offer part-time pedagogy training opportunities for participants who are not serving as teachers (including industry professionals) to contribute to the teaching and learning process within the College.	Increase the number of non-teaching professionals following MCAST teacher education courses and other training opportunities.
5. Secure and adaptable employment	Malta Enterprise is supporting entrepreneurship with different schemes targeted at start-ups in different stages for example Micro Invest, Start-up Finance or Business Start	<p>The Micro Invest scheme: during 2021, 3,049 certificates have been issued, with a total value of around €39 million.</p> <p>Under the B.Start scheme, 21 beneficiaries have been supported, with total disbursements amounting to €186,000.</p> <p>The Start-up Finance scheme: provisional data show that during 2021, Malta Enterprise approved around €12 million in assistance in favour of 28 beneficiaries.</p>
	Active labour market initiatives: Tapering of Benefits and In-work benefit scheme This measure also contributes to Principle 4: Active Support to Employment above and Principle 14: Minimum income.	Please refer to Principle 4 – Active Support to Employment above.
	<p>The Maltese social protection scheme already provides a sound degree of coverage following a short period of employment.</p> <p>Malta has embarked on a national study to determine the level of access to social protection and its adequacy available to workers in different benefits. The study is expected to be completed in 2024.</p> <p>This measure also contributes to Principle 11: Childcare and support to children.</p>	Workers are provided with coverage following the completion of a short period of employment.

6. Wages	The National Agreement of the Minimum Wage, 2017, allowed for the setting up of a Low Wage Commission (LWC)	<p>The LWC is tasked with establishing an effective mechanism for determining whether the minimum wage will need reviewing. The LWC is made up of equal representations of Trade Unions and employers represented on the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development (MCESD) together with government representatives.</p> <p>Terms of Reference for the engagement of technical experts will be issued to provide recommendations to the LWC, in this regard.</p>
7. Information about employment conditions and protection in case of dismissals	An online portal will be launched in 2022 with sample templates of work contracts	The online portal is meant to assist employers in providing correct contracts to workers, while workers will be better informed as to what information needs to be included in their work contract.
8. Social dialogue and involvement of workers	The Malta Council for Economic and Social Development (MCESD) is currently running an ESF funded project titled <i>Enhancing the positive contribution of social dialogue through evidence-based research</i> , which has a total budget of €111,250. It will be targeting research and training activities to promote the capacity-building of the MCESD in the field of social dialogue.	<p>Leading researchers will delve into four thematic subjects according to their field of expertise, with the aim of presenting the outcome to MCESD and other stakeholders. The four research themes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing female participation in social dialogue • Improving the technical capacity of social partners • Expanding investments in R&D and in the new economy • Reduction of greenhouse gases <p>The outcome of the research will be disseminated to stakeholders.</p>
9. Work-life balance	A set of initiatives to raise awareness on the benefits of sharing work-life balance measures: (i) consultation sessions with	<i>(i) Consultation sessions with employers: 4 consultation sessions with employers were held in 2017: 77 participants</i>

	<p>employers; (ii) business breakfast for employers; (iii) theatre in education sessions to challenge gender stereotypes; (iv) awareness raising as part of the EU co-funded project <i>Equality beyond Gender Roles (2016 - 2017)</i></p>	<p><i>(ii) Business Breakfast for Employers:</i> Sought to create a space where employers and HR managers can obtain information on family-friendly measures and flexible working arrangements: 66 participants</p> <p><i>(iii) Theatre in education session:</i> 21 sessions with secondary school students: 2,032 students</p> <p><i>(iv) Awareness raising:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Online Social Media Campaign on YouTube and Facebook reached 139,666 reaches and 18,612 clicks 2. A Roving Van Exhibition: the van visited 6 post-secondary and tertiary schools. In 58 days, a total of 881 comments by male students were collected 3. A set of 6 A3 project posters were disseminated in 65 different departments around secondary, post-secondary and tertiary educational institutions 4. 5 TV adverts with a total airing of 90 and 1 radio advert with a total of 140 airings were produced 5. Two public events were organised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An event for University students that included 2 debates, 6 stands, a book art workshop and a photo exhibition reached 200 students <p>An event for the general public - Noti Kkuluriti: 300 participants</p>
<p>10. Healthy, safe and well-adapted work environment and data protection</p>	<p>The OHSA published a number of guidance documents and organised several webinars to disseminate information and raise awareness about the benefits of adequate</p>	<p>A well-informed workforce, where the workers are aware of their rights and duties with regard to occupational health and safety.</p>

	<p>standards of occupational health and safety. These initiatives also targeted foreign workers, who are considered as a vulnerable group.</p> <p>The OHSA carried out 4,159 workplace inspections, and OHS Officers issued a total of 573 orders to stop work activities, 1,065 improvement notices, sent 780 letters of intimation to parties deemed in breach of legislation, resulting in a total of €297,750 fines being imposed, and commenced judicial proceedings in 164 instances.</p>	<p>Decrease in trends for injury and fatality rates for workers in all occupations.</p>
	<p>The national OHS strategy is in the process of being discussed by the OHS Board and will be published later on this year.</p>	<p>The national strategy gives a sense of direction and establishes the priorities for action, taking into account both the EU framework and the national context.</p>
11. Childcare and support to children	<p>The Free Childcare Scheme assists parents/guardians in finding a better work-life balance whilst promoting female participation in the labour market by providing free childcare services to those families where both parents/guardians work and to single parents/guardians who were engaged in employment. In subsequent Budgets, the scheme was further widened to include parents who were in education were also eligible to participate, as well as extended to workers working in the evening, during weekends or organised in shifts.</p> <p>Children and young people are listed as one of the four main target groups in Malta's National Strategic Policy for Poverty Reduction and for Social Inclusion 2014-2024. Numerous measures have been implemented with the aim to reduce the at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rates for</p>	<p>Since the start-up of the Free Childcare Scheme in April 2014 until December 2021, over 25,825 children have benefitted from the service at one point in time. There were 4,176 new applications between January and December 2021.</p> <p>The Implementation and Evaluation reports aim to provide comprehensive evaluations of the effectiveness of the policy.</p> <p>Implementation and Evaluation Report 2014 - 2016 - https://family.gov.mt/wp-</p>

	<p>children, targeting each of the dimensions of well-being stipulated in the Strategy (Income and Social Benefits, Health and Environment, Social Welfare Services, Education, Employment, and Culture).</p>	<p>content/uploads/2021/05/Implementation-and-Evaluation-Report-2014-2016.pdf Implementation and Evaluation Report 2017 - 2019 - https://family.gov.mt/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/NSP-Web.pdf</p>
	<p>The Maltese Social Protection Scheme provides for a number of benefit measures intended for children, namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An income-related child allowance whereby low-income families are paid the highest rate of benefits whilst still guaranteeing a fixed rate of payment for high earning families as well as a flat rate child allowance supplement based on the same parameters; 2. A flat rate disabled child allowance; 3. A foster care allowance is awarded to authorised foster carers providing a foster care service to a child, until the child reaches 21 years of age; 4. A childbirth bonus for each new born or adopted child in order to cater for the initial financial expenses brought about by a new child in the family; 5. An orphan allowance for orphans under the age of 16 years and an orphan's supplementary allowance for orphans between the age of 16 and 21 years which 	<p>Almost 43,500 persons benefitted from children's allowance between January and September 2021.</p> <p>1,731 persons benefitted from children's allowance between January and September 2021.</p> <p>190 persons benefitted from foster care allowance between January and September 2021.</p> <p>2,365 persons benefitted from child and adoption bonus between January and September 2021.</p> <p>8 persons benefitted from orphan's allowance between January and September 2021.</p>

	<p>remains payable even if the orphan is in employment;</p> <p>6. A pension supplement for widow/ers' pension recipients when raising under age children.</p>	No data is yet available.									
	<p>In 2021, a new healthcare service for children in alternative care was set up aiming to provide a holistic medical plan, ensuring all are properly vaccinated, have proper dental care and the children's emotional wellbeing is being adhered to.</p> <p>Minors living in alternative care often come from disadvantaged backgrounds and are known to be at a greater risk for health problems than the average minor. This measure is aimed to provide adequate and ongoing healthcare.</p> <p>The objectives of the initial health assessments and review health assessments that follow are mainly to improve the health needs and outcomes of Looked After Children (LAC).</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="1442 421 1861 608">Initial Health Assessment (IHA) - where LAC minors were reviewed for the first time by looked after children healthcare service (LACHS)</td> <td data-bbox="1861 421 1984 608">278</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1442 608 1861 834">Review Health assessment (RHA) of the initial health assessment takes place around six months later unless acute problems are identified earlier</td> <td data-bbox="1861 608 1984 834">73</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1442 834 1861 1094">ADHOC reviews includes assessment of minors seen for other reasons apart from IHA or RHA e.g. Administration of vaccines; new onset health complaint, children to be adopted etc.</td> <td data-bbox="1861 834 1984 1094">213</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1442 1094 1861 1134">Total</td> <td data-bbox="1861 1094 1984 1134">564</td> </tr> </table>		Initial Health Assessment (IHA) - where LAC minors were reviewed for the first time by looked after children healthcare service (LACHS)	278	Review Health assessment (RHA) of the initial health assessment takes place around six months later unless acute problems are identified earlier	73	ADHOC reviews includes assessment of minors seen for other reasons apart from IHA or RHA e.g. Administration of vaccines; new onset health complaint, children to be adopted etc.	213	Total	564
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	<p>The Directorate for Child Protection Services focuses on investigating reports of child abuse and taking any necessary action so as to ensure the protection of minors.</p> <p>Through a highly specialised forensic system, this multi-disciplinary team engages children</p>	<p>Between January and June 2021, Child Protection Services (CPS) worked with 2,053 cases between 0-17 years of age.</p>									

	and their families to determine the difficulties that hinder the well-being of the minors.	
	In accordance with the Minors' Protection (Alternative Care) Act, Chapter 602 of the Laws of Malta, all children in alternative care have to be so declared by Court decree, whereby they then become the responsibility, as per the same Act, of the Director for Alternative Care.	Better quality of care and personalised care, in line with Malta's constant commitment to address de-institutionalisation. Between January and December 2021, 473 children benefitted from the service for alternative care.
	Strengthening the foster care system for children who cannot stay with their families by ensuring that all foster placements are given all the necessary support, in a drive to attract more foster families. Malta has also increased the benefit given to foster carers, for the second time round, in an attempt to further aid these families. In 2021, the helpline for foster carers - 1778 - was launched.	In 2021, the Fostering Services worked with 234 minors and 41 individuals who were over 18 years of age.
	Support to individuals or families who are considering adoption, are in the process of adopting, and those who have adopted a child or children. The service provides training as a form of preparation for families who wish to adopt. Sessions include information on children, biological parents, inter-country adoptions, and trauma. Every inter-country adoption benefits from a maximum of €10,000 on presentation of the original receipts. Local adoptions benefit up to €1,000 for those children adopted.	Between January and June 2021, the Adoption Service worked with 196 cases between 0 and 17 years of age.
	The professionals who work within the LAC Service work with minors who reside in out-of-home care placements within the Children's Directorate (Alternative Care). Ages vary from babies to adolescents, who receive the necessary care and attention	In 2021, the LAC Services worked with 480 children.

	<p>from the foster care or residential placements.</p> <p>The service aims to formulate regular care plans that develop according to the needs of the children and young persons in concern. The care plan is discussed and confirmed by a Review Board. The LAC professionals ensure that the minors have stability in their placements by conducting regular visits, and also by maintaining frequent contact with the biological parents and other professionals involved in the case.</p>	
	<p>More support to persons leaving care to facilitate their independent living and ensure a good quality of life. This support is offered whilst children are still in care, in order to monitor them during their transition into adulthood.</p>	<p>The service started in July 2021. Since July 2021, the service worked with 74 persons.</p>
	<p>Supervised Access Visits (SAVs) are supervised meetings between children and the non-custodial parents or other family members when access is not possible otherwise.</p>	<p>In January-June 2021, SAVs worked with 283 cases, out of which 36 cases were between 0 and 17 years of age.</p>
	<p>Courts Services: In situations deemed appropriate by the Judge of the Family Court, a social worker is appointed to prepare a court report. Following an assessment, the social worker submits recommendations relating to care and custody of minors or on other issues. In cases of separation, Court Services may be appointed by the Family Court to investigate allegations of abuse of minors. As part of the investigation, Court Experts interview the parents and children, as well as other professionals who are or were in contact with</p>	<p>This initiative supports, or influences, 90 to 100 families per year. In total, this would amount to approximately 200 children and more.</p>

	the family. The Court Expert draws up recommendations, taking into consideration the feedback from all the involved parties.	
	BeSmartOnline! is the internet helpline where the general public can reach out for support on online-related issues, especially issues relating to cyberbullying, sexting and grooming.	<p>Between January and June 2021, there were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 172 reports to the hotline. These refer to URLs containing child sexual abuse material which are reported through the online reporting platform: childwebalert.gov.mt. - 536 reports to the helpline. These cases are received through the Support tline (179) or through referrals from schools, other professionals, parents or caregivers, or children themselves who would need help and support regarding internet-related risks such as cyberbullying, grooming, sexting or over-exposure online.
	Services aimed at informing the general public as well as helping people to lead healthy lifestyles away from addictions are also offered.	Between January and June 2021, 9,848 children were reached through the different initiatives.
	Support services within the health sector offer a range of services for children and adolescents and their families who are facing some sort of difficulties with the involvement of the children themselves as well as their family members.	Between January and June 2021, the Children and Young Person's Support (CYPS) worked with 375 cases that are between 0 and 17 years of age.
	The Support line 179 is the Maltese National Helpline. The Support line is a free phone number which is accessible on a 24/7 basis	A total of 7,145 calls were received between January and June 2021 from all ages. 99 calls were identified as minors.

	<p>and which offers support, information about local social welfare services and other agencies. It is also a referral system to callers who require support and a service for those who are in times of difficulty and crisis.</p>	
	<p>'Youth in Focus' provides social work intervention to adolescents and young persons, aged between 13 and 18.</p>	<p>Between January and June 2021, 'Youth in Focus' worked with 179 cases between 0 and 17 years of age. In total, the service worked with 225 clients.</p>
	<p>The Adolescent Day Programme (ADP) addresses the needs of young people who are at risk of poverty and social exclusion. The service caters for young people between the ages of 14 and 18 who exhibit challenging behaviour.</p>	<p>Between January and June 2021, the Adolescent Day Programme (ADP) worked with 9 cases between 0 and 17 years of age. In total, the service worked with 10 clients.</p>
	<p>'Embark for Life' addresses the needs of young people who are at risk of social exclusion. These include youth between the ages of 15 and 25, who, for various reasons and life situations, face difficulties in finding or maintaining employment.</p>	<p>Between January and June 2021, the 'Embark for Life' (E4L) worked with 417 cases between 15 and 25 years of age.</p>
	<p>'Opportunity Knocks' (OK) project works with youth to learn and enhance skills, boost their employment possibilities and other opportunities to help them reach their goals and advance in their career.</p>	<p>2,129 youths were reached through the prevention campaigns held in different settings such as schools, scout groups, youth groups and football centres, amongst others.</p> <p>The multi-disciplinary team of professionals offered integrated services to a total of 456 youths, whilst 154 of these benefitted from an opportunity and 55 youths benefitted from therapeutic workshops. A total of 22 youths resided in a safe house and benefitted from the OK project.</p> <p>In the meantime, the Project Promoter (PP) also focused upon augmenting its collaboration with other stakeholders</p>

		<p>involved in the field of children and youth. Various meetings (a total of 110 formal meetings) are being held with the Department of Education, the Department of Health and other similar entities in order to promote the project and its objectives whilst building bridges for further collaboration. A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed between the FSWS and the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) to facilitate educational opportunities targeting the shared cohort.</p> <p>Moreover, 12 training modules were offered to professionals in various subjects such as youth mental health first aid, management of actual or potential aggression, suicidal and non-suicidal self-injuries risk assessment, emotional intelligence, positive parenting for parents of teenagers, and influencing behaviour.</p>
	<p>Provision of Community Services, whereby services of social work and mentoring are offered in the following communities: Qawra, Mosta, Msida, Birkirkara, Valletta, Cottonera and Żabbar.</p>	<p>There were 1,185 one-to-one interventions/family interventions who benefitted from the Community Services, out of which 53 were children between 0- 17 years of age.</p> <p>Every community service carries out group interventions, such as the Dawra Durella Club in Qawra. These amount to 203 which are disaggregated as follows:</p>

		Qawra	28 participants
		Valletta	11 participants
		Cottonera	73 participants
		Xgħajra/Żabbar	16 participants
		Southern Community Services	58 participants
		Msida and Birkirkara	17 participants
		TOTAL	203 participants
	<p>The Home-Based Therapeutic Services (HBTS) is composed of a multi-disciplinary team of professionals, providing therapeutic support to families, children, and individuals around Malta and Gozo.</p> <p>The Incredible Years® Parent and Children Programmes form one of the pillars falling under Home-Based Therapeutic Services. It works on the prevention and treatment of behavioural problems among children and parenting difficulties. Home-Based Parenting Programme can be provided for parents, in their family home setting, on a one-to-one basis.</p>	<p>Between January and June 2021, the HBTS worked with 531 cases, out of which 219 were children between 0 and 17 years of age.</p> <p>Between January and June 2021, the Incredible Years® worked with 233 cases.</p>	
	<p>Intake and Family Support Service (IFSS) provides social work interventions and assistance to children and their families. This</p>	<p>Between January and June 2021, the IFSS worked with 894 cases, out of which 118 were children between 0 and 17 years of age.</p>	

	<p>service has sub-teams working on homelessness and human trafficking.</p>	
	<p>Out of Hours Emergency Service: A team of social workers who are on call after office hours to intervene in special situations requiring immediate assistance, primarily cases related to child protection, domestic violence and children in care.</p>	<p>The Out of Hours Emergency Service dealt with 176 interventions of minors aged between 0 and 17 years for the period January to June 2021.</p>
	<p>The Children's Fund is a collective voluntary effort to raise funds to support children in need who currently use the services provided by the FSWS.</p> <p>The Fund assists children to provide them with equal opportunities in life as their peers. It tries its best to provide basic amenities for each child, and the help provided varies according to the different needs which are identified by the social workers, and which are presented in the application.</p>	<p>250 kids benefitted from the Children's Fund in 2021.</p>
	<p>Home Start Service (Malta and Gozo): Home Start provides one-to-one and other support for parents. Typically, trained volunteers visit the family's home for a couple of hours every week. Volunteers adapt their support to the needs of the parents and children.</p>	<p>Between January and June 2021, Home Start Malta worked with 55 cases whilst Home Start Gozo worked with 66 cases.</p>
	<p>The Government provides food packages aimed at assisting families at risk of poverty and social exclusion through the Fund for the European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) as well as the State Funded Food Distribution (SFFD)</p>	<p>SFFD: There were two distributions in 2021 where 15,088 and 14,342 boxes were collected.</p> <p>FEAD: There were three distributions where 2,503, 2,062, and 2,106 boxes were collected.</p> <p>TOTAL: 36,101 boxes</p>
	<p>The FSWS branch in Gozo provides the following children's services:</p>	<p>The FSWS has set up the Gozo Directorate to ensure that its services to vulnerable</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - generic social work service; - Home Start Gozo; - fostering; - LAC; - HBTS; - social work service provided at the Gozo General Hospital; - SAVs; - Emergency On-Call Service; - generic social work within the community of Marsalforn; - psychotherapist services; <p>TFAL 3 and TFAL 5 Preventive Programmes.</p>	<p>persons are extended to Gozo without any compromise in quality. This obviously improves accessibility.</p> <p>The following is a brief overview of the figures between January and June 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - generic social work service: 159 cases (all cases, not only minors); - Home Start Gozo: 66 cases; - social work service provided at the Gozo General Hospital: 377 (all cases, not only minors); <p>generic social work within the community of Marsalforn: 79 cases (all cases, not only minors).</p>
	<p>The Psychological Services offer a generic service and host an interdisciplinary team made up of psychologists, family therapists, psychotherapists and counsellors.</p> <p>The service also offers positive parenting courses and courses for parenting when separated.</p>	<p>Between January and June 2021, the Psychological Services worked with 721 cases, out of which 198 were children between 0 and 17 years of age.</p>
	<p>The Foundation for Educational Services (FES) employs a Programme Coordinator (Inclusion) who supports those children that have disabilities and / or have been diagnosed with medical conditions. The FES also accepts such children on a reduced adult-to-child ratio so that a more personalised service is provided.</p>	<p>The FES is striving to support those children with disabilities and / or medical conditions so that they would have equal access to early childhood education and care as those children without disabilities and / or medical conditions.</p>
	<p>The FES has its own Social Board which vets social cases transferred by the FSWS. Depending on the availability of the childcare centre, the FES Social Board accepts such social cases by giving priority to attendance</p>	<p>The FES Social Board is giving access to those parents who are striving to find employment and / or follow a course of studies so that their children, hailing from</p>

	and exemption of fees (even if such social cases do not benefit from the Free Childcare Scheme).	such disadvantaged backgrounds, would have a measure of protection from poverty.
	Implementation of National Standards for Early Childhood Education and Care Services (0 to 3 years of age) published in October 2021.	According to the implementation plan, this will lead to improved quality of service in relation to the physical environment and to improved quality of educational services through the upskilling of the workforce.
	Implementation of the policy on Childhood Education and Care National Policy Framework for Malta and Gozo.	Implementation of the five goals detailed in the policy: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accessibility 2. Upskilling of the workforce 3. Curriculum 4. Monitoring and Evaluation 5. Governance and Funding.
	Implementation of the emergent curriculum as part of the Learning Outcomes Framework. In 2020/21 extensive COPE training was delivered to all kindergarten educators (KGEs) while in 2021/22 this is being given to Year 1 and Year 2 educators (across the three sectors). Implementation started following this training.	This has the potential to improve the education of all students attending early years education in Malta (i.e. childcare, kindergarten, and Years 1 and 2).
	Online documentation and assessment in My School system was developed.	
	The Maltese Social Protection scheme already provides a sound degree of coverage following a short period of employment, in the form of social assistance. This measure also contributes to Pillar 5: Secure and adaptable employment.	Please refer to Pillar 5: Secure and adaptable employment above.
12. Social protection	The sickness benefit provides income security in case of illness. It furthers the fulfilment of the human rights with regard to health and social security, while supporting public health and the prevention of poverty.	Provisional figures for 2021 indicate that 19,468 persons benefitted from this measure.

	For the period covered by the sickness benefit, the insured person will be awarded Social Security Contributions credits provided no part wages or salaries are being paid.	
13. Unemployment benefits	<p>An Invalidity Pension is awarded to an eligible person below retirement age who is certified as being incapable for suitable full-time or part-time employment or self-employment due to a serious disease or physical or mental impairment.</p> <p>It may also be awarded to a person who had a claim for Injury Benefit accepted and was therefore certified to have suffered more than 90% disablement resulting from the same injury or a disease arising out of, or during, the course of his employment or self-employment.</p>	Between January and September 2021, there were 2,988 persons in receipt of an Invalidity Pension.
	In terms of unemployment benefits, the Maltese scheme provides criteria in order to include also self-employed workers under the scope of unemployment benefits.	Provisional figures for 2021 indicate that 1,882 persons benefitted from unemployment benefits.
	Special unemployment benefit may be awarded to an eligible person who also qualifies for the unemployment assistance and is the head of household. A higher rate of unemployment benefit is awarded if the registrant also qualifies for the means-tested unemployment assistance.	Provisional figures for 2021 suggest that 138 persons benefitted from the special unemployment benefits.
14. Minimum income	Malta practices a minimum income scheme through the provisions of the Social Security Act (Cap. 318 of the Laws of Malta), with the objective to ensure that nobody falls behind. Coupled with the introduction of Active Labour Market Policies (ALMP) for persons who reintegrate in a working environment.	The Tapering of Benefits Scheme and the In-Work Benefit Scheme have had a positive impact leading to a decline in the dependency on social benefits. As at 31 December 2021, Malta has recorded 56 per cent less beneficiaries of Social Assistance when compared to December 2013.

	<p>This measure also contributes to Principle 4: Active Support to Employment above and Principle 5: Secure and adaptable employment.</p>	<p>The temporary COVID-19-related support measures were paid to almost 6,700 beneficiaries, thus safeguarding their employment status.</p>
<p>15. Old age income and pensions</p>	<p>Social Regulatory Standards for Residential Services for Senior Citizens Regulations</p> <p>Legal Notice 322 of 2021 dated 6th August 2021</p> <p>This measure also contributes to Principle 18 – Long-term Care and Principle 20 – Access to Essential Services.</p>	<p>The aim of these Social Regulatory Standards is to ensure that senior citizens living in residential care homes receive the best possible care and achieve the best outcomes possible in their circumstances. The Social Regulatory Standards define the service providers’ responsibilities towards their residents, and ensure that service users and their families have information about what to expect when making use of these residential services.</p> <p>Given the increase in such residential services for senior citizens, the Authority introduced these Social Regulatory Standards to ensure consistency in the quality of residential services offered by different service providers.</p> <p>The estimated number of service users is 4,980</p>
	<p>Social Regulatory Standards for High Dependency Chronic Care Services for Older Persons Regulations</p> <p>Legal Notice 36 of 2020 dated 28th February 2020</p> <p>This measure also contributes to Principle 18 – Long-term Care and to Principle 20 – Access to Essential Services.</p>	<p>The aim of these Social Regulatory Standards is to set standards which ensure that persons in residential settings requiring high dependency chronic care services receive specialised assistance to meet their medical and psychological needs. In addition to physical health needs, these Social Regulatory Standards also consider residents’ mental, social and personal health, and include Quality Indicators which uphold the basic principles of dignity, privacy, right</p>

		<p>of choice, security, achievement of personal potential, equality, individuality, and diversity.</p> <p>Through the implementation of these Social Regulatory Standards, all service users in such settings will receive specialised geriatric care which supports their quality of life and will be supported to achieve their goals. For service providers, these Social Regulatory Standards will provide clear guidelines on how they should respect residents' dignity, and provide them with the proper healthcare, social care and personal care.</p> <p>The estimated number of service users is 1,280</p>
	<p>The Maltese Protection scheme addresses old-age income and pensions. The scheme has been reviewed in terms of equality of treatment between men and women whereby all gender-based differences in benefit rates have been addressed and amended accordingly. The pension mechanism is reviewed every five years in order to ensure the adequacy and sustainability of the system. The last review has been completed in 2020.</p>	<p>70,305 persons benefitted from the old-age pensions measure in 2020.</p> <p>17,829 persons benefitted from increases introduced to pensions in relation to widowhood in 2020.</p>
	<p>Increase in the tax exemption cap on pensions in 2019, 2020 and 2021.</p>	<p>The number of pensioners who benefitted from tax reductions was 5,156 between 2019 and 2020.</p>
	<p>Recognition of social security contributions paid before reaching the age of 18 or 19 - implemented in 2021.</p>	<p>Provisional figures for 2021 indicate that 820 persons benefitted from this measure.</p>
	<p>Recognition as widow/widower for those in a civil union or cohabitation, thus enabling</p>	<p>Provisional figures for 2021 indicate that two persons benefitted from this measure</p>

	the survivor to be eligible for widows' pension - implemented in 2021.	
16. Health care	<p>Adding free medicines and treatments by extending the Government Formulary List to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) oncology medicines that treat various types of cancer; (ii) osteoporosis treatment; (iii) new medicines for the treatment of circulatory diseases; (iv) psychiatric medicines; (v) fibromyalgia; (vi) treatment of anaphylaxis; (vii) treatments for patients with inflammatory diseases; (viii) new medicines for the treatment of rare diseases; <p>free medicines for IVF patients.</p>	<p>For 2022, the Government is allocating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) €22 million for treating cancer patients with innovative medicines; (ii) €5.5 million for osteoporosis treatment, which benefits around 20,000 patients; (iii) €5.5 million for medicines for the treatment of circulatory diseases, which benefits around 7,000 patients; (iv) €3 million for psychiatric medicines that will address the needs of around 5,000 patients and reduce the length of time a person has to spend in hospital on psychiatric care; (v) €370,000 for medicines for the treatment of fibromyalgia, that will affect about 2,600 beneficiaries; (vi) €4.6 million for the treatment of anaphylaxis, which is a severe allergic reaction that is also potentially life-threatening. This will benefit around 1,400 patients. The treatment will be provided in 325 schools to be administered to students in case of emergency; (vii) €5 million for treatments of patients with inflammatory diseases; (viii) €900,000 for new medicines for the treatment of rare diseases;

		€500,000 for free medicines for IVF patients.
	(ix) Continue in the administration of the COVID-19 booster vaccine, according to the advice of the health authorities	(ix) It is expected that this measure will increase the coverage rate among the adult population.
	The Outpatients new building project at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH) will remain a priority	This new building is essential for the health sector in Malta to continue to meet the growing demand for outpatient-based specialist services.
	Work in various health centres will remain a priority	<p>The expected outcomes of this project include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a reduction in morbidity and mortality as a result of the increase in the capacity of health centres and community clinics, and expansion of services to meet the increasing demand for primary healthcare services which reflects the growing and ageing population. • avoidance of up to 37 amenable deaths per annum through prevention, early detection and timely intervention. • annual cost savings of around €3.7 million owing to the transfer of up to around 116,640 patient visits per annum from MDH to Primary HealthCare. These are visits which correctly take place in MDH but following the holistic overhaul of the Primary HealthCare can take place in the latter setting. The cost saving is a result of the lower cost per consultation visit at the Health Centres when compared to that at MDH.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • better management of patients requiring urgent care as a result of the anticipated reduction in waiting time for accident and emergency (A&E) patients. This is by means of offloading from MDH the bottom two tiers of A&E patients, known as Triages 4 and 5, which deal with the least urgent of the medical emergencies. • reduction in waiting lists for consultations as a result of either the provision of new or enhanced services by the Primary HealthCare or investment in medical equipment that enables correct diagnosis at this setting. • reduction in socio-economic inequality through increased accessibility to the services offered by the Primary HealthCare in Health Centres and Community Clinics
	An investment in the extension of the project to build a new blood bank, as well as a specialised centre for the collection of blood, processing and storage of tissues and stem cells	This measure is expected to provide up-to-date standards of the highest quality in healthcare, in order to ensure that the services offered to citizens is based on international quality criteria.
	Investing in the infrastructure of the A&E Department	The demand for Emergency Department services has continued to increase in line with the increase in the local population. Changes are also needed to operate safely in a pandemic situation. This project will also ensure that patients have a one- stop -shop service for the various emergency services offered by the hospital.
	Investing in the infrastructure of the Medical Imaging Department	The demand for diagnostic services, as well as interventions using medical imaging is increasing rapidly. This requires an investment in additional equipment and

		infrastructure to operate in. Therefore, the footprint of this department needs to grow.
	Investment in the infrastructure of the Department of the third Cardiac Catherisation Suite	To date, MDH relies on two Cardiac Catherisation Suites that have been operational since 2007. Today, both the demand of the population and the medical guidelines for the treatment of heart emergencies require an investment in this discipline.
	An investment will be made in MR Linac, which will enable physicians to "see" the tumor tissue more clearly and adjust the radiation dose during treatment according to the daily changes to the patient's organs	Malta will have the currently most advanced technology in the world in the treatment of cancer when it comes to radiotherapy treatment.
	At MDH, additional facilities will be rented to address the growing demand for acute and elective care services in the most efficient and effective way.	MDH's facilities for operating theaters are no longer sufficient for the hospital to meet the demand for elective interventions. This facility will address, at least in part, with this need.
	The project to build the new Acute Psychiatric Hospital, near MDH, continues.	More than 1,500 people are being admitted to Mount Carmel Hospital for acute psychiatric treatment, so the whole country is expected to benefit from this measure.
	A facility for an acute psychiatric hospital will be rented until the new hospital is completed.	This measure will improve acute psychiatric facilities for patients currently admitted for mental health treatment, amounting to more than 1,500 people annually.
	Increasing the capacity of the services offered by Mount Carmel Hospital is expected to translate into a number of initiatives that support assisted living in the community.	About 20,000 people benefit from Community Services.

	<p>The modernisation of the wards of Mount Carmel Hospital will continue.</p>	<p>Mount Carmel Hospital is the only acute psychiatric facility in Malta. More than 1,500 people are admitted to this hospital every year and therefore benefit from this measure. After the new Acute Psychiatric Hospital is operational, the refurbished wards at Mount Carmel Hospital will be used for chronic psychiatric patients and those patients who need longer periods of rehabilitation.</p>
	<p>Remote Patient Monitoring - a pilot project introduced to regularly and continuously monitor the level of sugar in children under the age of 16 with Type I Diabetes - will continue to be sustained and gradually extended to young people aged 17 to 21 suffering from the same condition.</p>	<p>It is estimated that this measure will result in lower hospital admissions among patients participating in remote monitoring for Type I Diabetes.</p>
	<p>Improvements in the quality of life will also be seen by those adults who are born with hearing disabilities and will continue to receive two hearing aids, when clinically indicated.</p>	<p>It is estimated that around 300 patients suffering from hearing impairment can benefit from this measure each year.</p>
	<p>The collaboration with Hospice Malta continues in order to start providing a palliative care service from the San Mikiel Centre to patients who are unfortunately suffering from terminal cancer.</p>	<p>Currently, there is only one ward in the country that offers palliative care at the SAMOC center, which is no longer sufficient to meet the demand. Therefore, these patients are being treated at MDH.</p>
<p>17. Inclusion of people with disabilities</p>	<p>Social Security Act (Chapter 318 of the Laws of Malta): https://legislation.mt/eli/cap/318/eng/pdf</p> <p>Provides for several non-contributory benefits payable in respect of both disabled minors and adults, with total possible benefits payable being commensurate to the national minimum wage.</p>	<p>7,173 disabled persons are currently in receipt of such payments, with total disbursements amounting to €32,590,677.13 for 2021.</p>

	<p>Freedom to Live: Malta's 2021-2030 National Strategy on the Rights of Disabled Persons (hereinafter 'National Disability Strategy'):</p> <p>Action 1.3: Disability Assessment and Programme Eligibility Reform: The Directorate for Disability Issues (DDI) will continue discussions with key stakeholders to ensure that different disability assessment systems operated by different entities are rolled into one holistic system, managed through a unit set up within Aġenzija Sapport.</p> <p>In conducting relevant reforms, stakeholders should also develop a professional holistic assessment and prioritisation checklist, and ensure that disabled persons and/or their family members and support networks are provided with a comprehensive list of services they could access upon conclusion of the assessment process.</p> <p>Action 2.1: Collaboration on research on innovative assistive technologies for disabled persons. Discussions are to be undertaken between the relevant stakeholders concerning sharing of data and/or experiences and methods or equipment, including Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) methods, designs/prototypes of specialised equipment for disabled persons, and building on existing best practice initiatives, including</p>	<p>As per Outputs described in relevant Strategy Actions, specific costings will be determined through implementation-related discussions between identified stakeholders through Malta's UNCRPD National Coordination Mechanism.</p> <p>The reformed system should be operated by Aġenzija Sapport using functional and social criteria reflecting all aspects of a person's life, to ensure that assessments focus on what support disabled persons require to realise their life plans, instead of strictly medicalised criteria and quantitative outcome methods presently prevalent, since the latter prioritise functional impairments and the opinions of family members, support networks and professionals over the wishes and aspirations of disabled persons.</p> <p>This action is expected to be completed within nine years.</p> <p>As a result of the said ongoing discussions, the Directorate for Disability Issues (DDI) shall put forward to the Government suggestions as to new areas of investment with regard to assistive technologies.</p> <p>This action is expected to be completed within five years.</p>
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	<p>training and provision of guide and service animals.</p> <p>.</p> <p>Action 2.2: Collaboration on research on gaps in leisure activities for disabled minors, teenagers and young persons. Discussions are to be undertaken between relevant departments, institutes and faculties at MCAST, the University of Malta and other entities duly accredited by MFHEA, with representation from DDI, CRPD, the Office of the Commissioner for Children, Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ, and the Officer of the Commissioner for Mental Health, concerning gaps in leisure activities which are accessible and age-appropriate for disabled minors between the ages of 9 to 12 years (tween groups), as well as teenagers and young persons.</p> <p>Objective 4: Accessibility. Specific services and areas such as leisure are targeted for better accessibility coverage and for appropriate enforcement, as are venues used for said activities, as part of the wider infrastructural landscape of the country.</p> <p>This measure also contributes to Principle 20 – Access to Essential Services.</p> <p>Objective 5: Participation in Culture, Leisure, Recreation and Sports. Accessing culture and leisure through the media requires conformity with certain processes, and the inclusion of elements such as closed captioning, also in light of EU legislation binding Malta such as the European</p>	<p>As a result of said ongoing discussions, the Directorate for Disability Inclusion (DDI) shall put forward to the Government suggestions reflecting exploration and outcomes, further to participatory action research having been conducted using key input from disabled minors, teenagers and young persons, carried out in an accessible manner, and with due provision of all necessary supports, towards this gap being addressed by finding solutions to create such activities.</p> <p>This action is expected to be completed within five years.</p> <p>The actions under this Objective are expected to be completed within five to nine years.</p> <p>Most of the actions under this Objective are expected to be completed within five to nine years.</p>
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	<p>Accessibility Act and the Audio-Visual Media Services Directive.</p> <p>Objective 6: Relationships, Family, Sexuality and Parenthood. Actions cover aspects such as the need for sexual education to be appropriate to a person's profile, but to be nonetheless never denied, and for national sexual health policies and strategies to also be disability-inclusive. They call for appropriate guidelines on the right to parenthood, including supported parenthood, to be made available, with the input of disabled persons at their core, and for wide dissemination of such through campaigns, events and the media. The setting up of a Family Unit within Agenzija Sapport would also be a key step towards implementing the content of this Objective.</p> <p>Objective 7: Informal, Formal and Non-Formal Education. Transition planning is one of the key areas where more action is warranted under Objective 7, as are specific features such as ensuring strong frameworks for Individualised Education Plans (IEPs) for all disabled students. Additionally, ensuring that staff are continually trained to enable them to excel in their roles is as crucial to the sector as are specific initiatives, such as those ensuring the spread of and access to digitalisation within the education system.</p> <p>Objective 8: Healthcare. Objective 8 is a crucial yet delicate area. While healthcare is also of utmost importance to disabled persons, it is still a fundamental challenge to</p>	<p>Actions within this Objective are expected to be completed within two, five or nine years.</p> <p>Actions within this Objective are expected to be completed within two, five or nine years.</p> <p>Actions within this Objective are expected to be completed within two, five or nine years.</p>
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	<p>ensure that disability and health are not seen as interchangeable concepts. Rather, health conditions should be seen as a component of disability and, most importantly, access to healthcare in general for disabled persons, and not only in respect of their impairment, should be available to them on an equal basis with others.</p> <p>Objective 9: Work and Employment. An understanding of the social model of disability and of a person-centred approach is crucial towards both taking stock of the current situation and making necessary reforms and policy and practice additions. While a number of incentives were put into place over the past years, such as fiscal incentives for employers and a legislative framework ensuring general reasonable accommodation for disabled employees, together with awareness efforts and enforcement measures, action has to be taken in a number of areas.</p> <p>Objective 10: Living Independently and in the Community, and De-institutionalisation. Specific actions in this respect call for a gap analysis in the field of service provision to take stock of the current situation and address relevant gaps, a strategic plan to strengthen existing community living schemes, mechanisms for better coordination among local service providers, systems in place to curtail abuse against disabled persons that impede independent living, and, very importantly, a focus on</p>	<p>Most of the Actions under this Objective are expected to be completed within two or five years.</p> <p>Actions within this Objective are expected to be completed within two, five or nine years.</p>
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	training existing and new practitioners and creating multipliers.	
	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (Chapter 627 of the Laws of Malta): https://legislation.mt/eli/cap/627/eng/pdf	Provides the legal basis in respect of reasonable accommodation for disabled persons in employment, further to Article 27 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), and Directive 2000/78/EC.
	<p>Persons with Disability (Employment) Act (Chapter 210 of the Laws of Malta): https://legislation.mt/eli/cap/210/eng/pdf (amended in 2021)</p> <p>Assessment system provided (to be revised further to Action 1.3 of the National Disability Strategy) feeds into the employment Register of Disabled Persons (RDP) maintained by Jobsplus, allowing better access to labour market for disabled persons, especially through partnership with the Lino Spiteri Foundation.</p> <p>In 2021, the Government has proposed a legislative amendment to Parliament to make it possible to enforce a law that makes it compulsory on employers of more than 20 people to include 2 per cent of disabled people in their workforce or pay a contribution. The amendment will ensure that action would be taken against those who do not abide by the 2 per cent quota and refused to pay a contribution to make up for this.</p>	<p>Increase the number of persons with disability in employment, thus contributing to inclusion in the labour market and society. The employment in 2014 of people with registered disabilities stood at 2,007 individuals. This has been on an increasing trend since 2015 and since the introduction of the 2 per cent quota. Latest Jobsplus' administrative data (July 2021) in fact shows that 4,098 persons with registered disabilities are engaged in full-time or part-time gainful employment.</p>
	Persons who are considered as unfit for work due to their disability/invalidity are awarded a pension according to the number of social security contributions paid.	The number of beneficiaries during 2021 stood at a provisional figure of 3,391.

18. Long-term care	Phlebotomy Service was extended to all those individuals who cannot leave their homes due to severe mobility problems.	13,473 phlebotomy interventions were made in 2021.
	Improvement of the Home Help Service - Older persons aged 75 and over, living alone, have been provided with an automatic two-hour-a-week service without the need to assess the application. Home visits were made, and service began for identified applicants. This will continue to be done as part of the operation of the Active Ageing and Community Care.	During 2021, 859 elderly aged 75 years and over have been provided with an automatic two-hour-a-week service.
	Improvement of the Telecare Service: Efforts have been made to make the official application accessible online to the public, thus facilitating the application process.	An average of 400 elderly who live alone apply for this service every year. In 2021, a total of 6,576 benefitted from this service.
	Kartanzjan: A call for expressions of interest has been published for companies, businesses and organisations to submit proposals from which seniors over the age of 60 can benefit, such as percentage discounts on purchases. A booklet with benefits has been published. and is also available on the Active Aging website: VoucherBook.pdf (gov.mt)	Estimated persons over 60: 94,000
	Increase the number of beds for the elderly in long-term care facilities in Government homes for the elderly and buying of beds from the private sector	In 2021, the number of long-term care beds were increased by 272 through various buying of beds agreements from the private sector.
	Increase the number of day centres and night shelters for the elderly especially those who have the condition of dementia	In 2021, two new day and night dementia activity centres were opened in Mtarfa and Hal Safi. As at December 2021, 24 elderly were attending the Mtarfa day and night dementia centre, whilst 12 were attending the one in Safi. An Active Ageing Centre was

		opened in Marsascala - 65 members attended this centre.
	During 2021 and January 2022, the Silver T service, which transports elderly people free of charge to their own locality, has expanded to another seven localities so that there are now 24 localities that offer this service.	328 elderly benefitted from this service in 2021 and a total of 8,275 trips were made.
	<p>A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the University of Malta so that more specialised training in different levels is offered to employees. A training on Vulnerabilities in Older Adulthood was held for the Handyman and Home Help employees within the Active Ageing and Community Care. This training focused on how they can be more sensitive to certain aspects and to be able to refer elderly persons for professional help.</p> <p>Another specialised training was given to employees working in Active Ageing Centres about Enhancing Work with Older Adults using Applied Arts. Thus employees in Active Ageing Centres and Residential Homes were trained on how to use the arts to keep the senior citizens active.</p>	Approximately 70 employees benefitted from this measure.
	Increase the 'Carer at Home' scheme from €5,291 to €6,000 per year	<p>As end of December 2021, 573 beneficiaries were benefitting from this measure.</p> <p>With effect from January 2022, around 573 full-time carers will be paid €583.33 (€7,000 per year) instead of the rate of €500 per month (€6,000 per year). This increase will also be reflected pro-rata for those beneficiaries who employ a carer for less than 40 hours per week.</p>

	<p>Social Regulatory Standards for Residential Services for Senior Citizens Regulations</p> <p>Legal Notice 322 of 2021 dated 6th August 2021</p>	<p>Please refer to Principle 15 - Old Age Income and Pensions above.</p>
	<p>Social Regulatory Standards for High Dependency Chronic Care Services for Older Persons Regulations</p> <p>Legal Notice 36 of 2020 dated 28th February 2020</p>	<p>Please refer to Principle 15 - Old Age Income and Pensions above.</p>
	<p>Social Regulatory Standards for Community-Based and Outreach Services Regulations</p> <p>Legal Notice 281 of 2020 dated 3rd July 2020</p> <p>This measure also contributes to Principle 20 - Access to Essential Services</p>	<p>These Social Regulatory Standards are intended to set guidelines for service providers which ensure that all persons making use of a community service receive high quality, timely and a client-centred service. Services offered in line with these Social Regulatory Standards will ensure that vulnerable persons are supported to achieve their goals and to progress in life, by assisting them to develop new abilities.</p> <p>For service providers, these Social Regulatory Standards set out indicators which need to be met in order to ensure efficient and accountable community-based and outreach services whilst ensuring the rights, protection and empowerment of community members in fulfilling their potential.</p> <p>Service users will have a better quality of life. This could also empower service users to be autonomous and have control over their own life with the intention of being able to move on from the service. Respect will make them more likely to engage with the service. A</p>

		holistic, respectful and dignified approach to care will enable the self-respect of the person while recognising their capacity and ambitions in their life.
19. Housing and assistance for the homeless	Currently, there are three Public Social Partnerships agreements aimed at assisting the homeless. During 2021, the Government has invested the sum of circa €1 million.	482 persons benefitted as a result of these Public Social Partnerships.
	The construction of 1,700 new social accommodation units in 13 sites around Malta. The strengthening of the ' <i>Nikru Biex Nassistu</i> ' scheme which is a sub-leasing scheme operated by the Housing Authority in conjunction with private landlords, that rents out private rented accommodation to individuals and families on the waiting list for social accommodation for a period of not less than 10 years.	In 2017, which signals the commencement of the measures described herein, the waiting list for social accommodation stood at 3,288 applicants. By the end of 2021, this figure stood at 1,294 persons, which indicates an approximately 60 per cent reduction since the start of the programme.
	The development of specialised accommodation pathways, in collaboration with non-governmental organisations operating in the third sector, following international design competitions co-organised with the Chamber of Architects, for persons receiving specialised care from professionals.	Nine previously derelict public edifices were rehabilitated, housing around 50 persons receiving acute social care by professionals.
	The reform of the various laws regulating private residential leases entered into prior to the 1 st January 1995, wherein tenants were in danger of eviction due to various European Court of Human Rights decisions nullifying the protection granted by these national laws. Following the reform, tenants were granted security of tenure provided that a reasonable increase in rent was paid to	Around 10,000 families were impacted by these reforms and the Housing Authority has already assisted vulnerable tenants involved in over 488 cases through the free legal aid provided by the same Authority, in the first eight months of the reform.

	the landlord, with free legal assistance provided to vulnerable tenants by the Housing Authority.	
20. Access to essential services	Launch of a pilot project by the Central Bank of Malta (CBM) introducing a prepaid payment card for migrants under the responsibility of the Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers (AWAS) in lieu of receiving their benefit by cheque	The aim of the measure is to increase financial inclusiveness of migrants who do not fulfil all the requirements to open a basic payment account with a payment service provider. The card can be used to withdraw physical cash from ATMs or to purchase products online. The initiative will reach its full potential in 2022 when all migrants under the responsibility of AWAS are expected to be on-boarded to the prepaid card project, as the pilot project only covered around 5 per cent of the relevant population. The CBM is also planning to extend the initiative to another category of unbanked migrants who receive social security benefits through paper-based instruments.
	Consumer Education - During 2022, the MFSA will continue carrying out consumer education campaigns to raise awareness on financial services and to enhance consumer confidence in the banking, securities and insurance sectors. This strategy is in line with MFSA's strong commitment to promote the protection and education of consumers of financial services as well as with the European Supervisory Authorities (ESAs)' objectives to promote financial education. The Authority will also continue contributing to the joint initiative as chaired by the European Commission and the OECD, with the aim of developing a financial competence framework for the EU. MFSA is also planning to participate in the next World Investor Week organised by the International	MFSA has planned the following campaigns in 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Q1: Insurance - Insurance-based investment products. - Q2: Banking - Pre-contractual information to be provided to customers/Understanding the Terms and Conditions of different products. - Q3: Investment - Investor awareness (to coincide with the IOSCO Investor Week 2022).

	<p>Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO), which is expected to take place in October 2022.</p>	<p>Q4: Banking – Information related to Equity Release Loan (subject to approval of Equity Release product).</p>
	<p>Launch of an Online Academy, following up on the 'ICT 4 the Elderly' project</p> <p>The 'ICT 4 the Elderly' project was a piloting project with selected senior participants from each country, called Ambassadors. Whilst the project is not new, it is aimed at enhancing the digital skills of the elderly by creating awareness on Internet use among the elderly and their communities. It aimed to create networking and capacity-building between project partners and stakeholders involved from five different countries – Malta as a leading partner together with Slovenia, Germany, Switzerland and Belgium. Consequently, the objective of this project was to facilitate a pathway for up-skilling individuals between the ages of 55 and 75 years in their digital competences and to make them aware of some of the many opportunities and benefits that the Internet has to offer.</p> <p>In order to enable the elderly to continually develop their skills in order to access the digital realm, a new measure was launched within this project. In this regard, a Training Manual together with an Online Academy have been created by expert partners in the field of digital skills, reflecting the current need for digital skills in nowadays' society, at advanced level particularly for those aged 55 years and over. These have been tested</p>	<p>The Online Academy allows participants to study further and helps them to keep practicing at the leisure of their home and as much as they like. The Training Manual also includes training scenarios to ensure that participants are able to relate to Internet use.</p> <p>The objective of the project – a more digitally inclusive elderly society – was reached and will continue to be reached through the dissemination of the project by the participants themselves after following the training. In fact, through their work, the Ambassadors are disseminating and encouraging more seniors to participate. All Ambassadors, seniors themselves, are still very active in society, with two of them working in Active Ageing Centres, another is the Founder of the Grandparents Association and the other Ambassador teaches ICT courses with Life Long Learning Malta to other seniors.</p>

	<p>during two piloting phases with these Ambassadors.</p> <p>Tech.mt is always available to provide assistance with any queries from Ambassadors. Tech.mt is also in discussions to provide students to deliver training to help further with the dissemination and training, and to encourage more seniors to participate.</p>	
	Free Public Transport	From 1st October 2022, public transport will be offered for free to every person in possession of the personalised Tallinja Card (Travel Card). This is expected to further enhance the use of collective transport and incentivise scheduled public transport usage.
	Digital transformation of the Maltese Ship Register and its ancillary services	Through the digital transformation of the Maltese Ship Register and its ancillary services, the Merchant Shipping Directorate (MSD) will directly contribute to the expansion of e-Government services within the Maltese public sector, greatly improving the customer experience, creating public value and additional security of the services provided to external stakeholders and clients.
	Increase the subsidy rate of the 'Home Helper of Your Choice' scheme from a subsidy of €5.50 per hour to €7.00 per hour and thus incentivise older people to choose their helper	There are currently 50 beneficiaries receiving the 'Helper of your Choice' scheme grant.
	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (Chapter 627 of the Laws of Malta): https://legislation.mt/eli/cap/627/eng/pdf	Provides the legal basis in respect of access to such services by disabled persons further to Articles 9, 11, 13, 19, 20, 21, 26, 28 and 30 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)

	Freedom to Live: Malta's 2021-2030 National Strategy on the Rights of Disabled Persons (hereinafter 'National Disability Strategy'): Objective 4: Accessibility	Refer to Principle 17 - Inclusion of People with Disabilities above.
	<p>National Disability Strategy – Objective 12: Disaster Risk Management and Reduction</p> <p>While traditionally understood as preparing for and providing for contingency during phenomena such as natural disasters, this area equally covers any other kind of emergency, and was most recently felt during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the effect it had on disabled persons everywhere, including in Malta. In this respect, aside from Malta's obligations in terms of the Convention, cited in the text of the Objective, its obligations in terms of the UN's Sendai Framework are also cited and must also be adhered to.</p>	<p>As per Outputs described in relevant Strategy Actions, specific costings will be determined through implementation-related discussions between identified stakeholders through Malta's UNCRPD National Coordination Mechanism</p> <p>Actions under this Objective are expected to be completed within 2 years.</p>
	The NCPE investigates cases of alleged discrimination in the access to goods and services as part of its remit	The NCPE received eight complaints with respect to goods and services in 2021: four on the ground of gender and another four on the ground of race and ethnic origin, respectively.
	The Energy Benefit to the most vulnerable in society. This entitlement consists of a direct deduction from the Water and Electricity bill.	In 2021, there were 15,055 beneficiaries who were awarded the Energy Benefit. -
	Water fountains in all state schools	Water fountains have been recently introduced in all State Schools so that staff and students have good drinking water available all day.
	Free school transport to all students	All students have access to free school transport, irrespective of the school they attend.
	Online hub in the Msida Adult Learning Centre, for persons who either lack the	Please refer to Principle 1 - Education, Training and Life-long Learning above.

	technology or knowledge to access online courses.	
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