Overview of efforts to alleviate the ESL situation in Malta

Ms Maria Mc Namara
College Principal, St Margaret College
Ministry for Education and Employment
Definition of *Early School Leavers*

- ‘In Malta, early school leavers are defined as *18 to 24-year-olds* who have not obtained a grade between 1 and 7 in at least five Secondary Education Certificate (SEC) exams or equivalent and who are not in education or training.’

*(Early School Leaving Unit 2015, A report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Prevention of Early School Leaving in Malta 2014, Directorate for Lifelong Learning & Early School Leavers, p. viii)*
The ESL percentage is measured by the Labour Force Survey (LFS) through quarterly samplings by the National Statistics Office (NSO). The European Union (EU) has set the reducing of ESL to less than 10% as one of its headline targets for 2020. In November 2013 Malta had set the same target. The rate of ESL in the EU has gone down from 14.2% to 11.1% between 2009 and 2014. In Malta, the ESL rate dropped from 25.7% in 2009 to 20.3% in 2014. Although it decreased at a higher rate than it has across the EU, ESL in Malta is still the second highest in Europe.

‘One of the main objectives of this Strategy is to improve the quality and effectiveness of our country and to develop a society which is competent, resourceful, critically conscious, and competitive in a global economy driven by information, knowledge and innovation. Other objectives include the provision of a relevant curriculum built on a learning outcomes approach, a variety of learning experiences and qualifications anchored to the Malta Qualifications Framework, different tracks and opportunities to increase relevance of learning to the labour market, preparation for highly skilled jobs through post-secondary education while ensuring that every learner becomes an active member of a democratic society.’

(Early School Leaving Unit 2015. A report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Prevention of Early School Leaving in Malta 2014, Directorate for Lifelong Learning & Early School Leavers, p. 1)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
<td>29.9%</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>25.2%</td>
<td>23.2%</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>18.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Early School Leaving Unit 2015, A report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Prevention of Early School Leaving in Malta 2014, p.1, Table 1.1, source Eurostat)
Main reasons for ESL

- Different attitudes, skills and way of learning among male and female students.
- Students at risk of poverty and with high absenteeism incidence.
- Students with educational, physical and social deficiencies.
- The increase of migrant students.
- Some parents who have not understood that education is the best investment for their children’s future.
- Educators that need to be continuously trained, in order to offer innovative, creative and effective learning situations to all students.
Assisting Parents

90 Child Care centres registered with the Free Childcare Scheme amongst them 13 run by the Foundation of Educational Services (FES)


The founding of the Malta Association of Parents of State Schools Students (MAPSSS), January 2015

National Literacy Agency initiatives to involve Parents in their children’s education:

- Klabb 3-16
- SkolaSajf (FES)

N.W.A.R
AQRA MIEGHI
Assisting Migrant Learners and their parents

The set-up of the Cultural Integration Unit within MEDE
Assisting Educators in our Classrooms

Reform in Curriculum

The introduction of the Learning Outcome Framework

Identifying the learning outcomes for all cycles of Compulsory Education.

(http://www.schoolslearningoutcomes.edu.mt/en/)

Digital Infrastructure investment:

- Interactive Whiteboards
- Laptops
- Tablets for year 4 pupils
- VLE platform with a Parents’ portal.

The Institute for Education

(Legal Notice 140/2015)

CPD for educators

- Tapping EU funding;
- collaborates with NLA, DCM, DLL & ESL

(http://instituteforeducation.gov.mt/)
Assisting our students

- **Inclusion**: Statemented students included in mainstream.
- **Co-education**: To decrease the gap between male and female students
- **Gifted and talented students**
  Activities such as:
  - High 5 Junior Mathematics Challenge
  - Malta Junior Science Olympiad
  - Maths Olympiad
  - Setting the Stage for Budding Rosckstars
Assisting our students
Career orientation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vocational Subjects</th>
<th>Activities in all Colleges</th>
<th>PSD evolving into PSCD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Agribusiness</td>
<td>Year 6 Transition</td>
<td>The integrating of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Engineering</td>
<td>Year 8 into Year 9 Option</td>
<td>Career Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>Exercise</td>
<td>as part and parcel of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Health and Social</td>
<td>Year 10 Job Shadowing</td>
<td>the Personal and Social</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care</td>
<td>Year 11 talks for students</td>
<td>Development subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Hospitality</td>
<td>and parents re. Post-</td>
<td>offered to Secondary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Information</td>
<td>Secondary paths and</td>
<td>school students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>choices</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 11, I Choose, careers'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>’ fair</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 11, Walk-in Service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>after SEC results.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Secondary School Certificate and Profile (SSC&P): pegged at MQF level 3 for each subject studied and as a general certificate.
Supporting our Students along their compulsory schooling

- **Students with Severe Emotional and Behaviour Difficulties (SEBD)**
  - Nurture Groups (Primary Schools)
  - Learning Zones (Secondary Schools)
  - Learning Support Centres
  - Resource Centres

- **Core Curriculum Programme (CCP)**
  Students learn in small groups using a more hands-on approach.

- **Programmes originated at College Level**
  - **St Margaret College**
    - Art & Design
    - Sports
    - Home and Care

- **Prince’s Trust xi Programme**
  Through the collaboration between HSBC Malta and MEDE
  Personal Development and Employability Programme
  Pegged at MQF Level 1, 2, 3

- **Alternative Learning Programme**
  Programme for Year 11 students who followed the CCP
  or are not sitting for any SEC exams.

- **Revision Classes for Year 10 & 11**
  National revision classes for Year 11 students assisting them in their resits for SEC exams in Core Subjects’
  St Margaret College in collaboration with the Cottonera University Resource Centre offers revision classes for Year 10 and 11 in preparation for SEC exams.
# Assisting our Students: Post-Secondary Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foundation Certificate Programme (MCAST):</strong></td>
<td>Programme which is vocational and hands-on with an emphasis on literacy, numeracy and ICT.</td>
<td><a href="www.mcast.edu.mt/">www.mcast.edu.mt/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foundation Programme in Hospitality &amp; Tourism (ITS):</strong></td>
<td>Programme for those who did not achieve the qualifications needed to pursue their studies at this Institute.</td>
<td><a href="www.its.edu.mt/">www.its.edu.mt/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GEM16+:</strong></td>
<td>Programme which enables students who sat for SEC exams and failed.</td>
<td><a href="education.gov.mt/gem16plus">education.gov.mt/gem16plus</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary School, Malta</strong></td>
<td>Courses for students who achieved two or more SEC exams but not enough to continue their Post-Secondary studies.</td>
<td><a href="gchss.edu.mt/">gchss.edu.mt/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sir M.A. Refalo Sixth Form, Gozo</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="smarc.sko.edu.mt/">smarc.sko.edu.mt/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assisting our Students: Post-Secondary Education

- **Pathway Programme:**
  2-year-programme for youths with mild disabilities (MCAST)
  Helping them to integrate in the world of work
  At GCHSS programmes tailor-made for the particular student based on an IEP.

- **DSS Pathway Programme:**
  Programmes for severe disabled young people to enable them gain vocational and life skills. They follow the Moving On Curriculum - an extension of the Equals Curriculum, which is streamlined with the National Curriculum.
  Dun Manwel Attard, Young Adult Resource Centre, Wardija
  Helen Keller resource Centre, Qrendi

- **Agenzija Zghazagh, Youth.Inc:**
  Full-time youth work-based learning experience aimed specifically at young people who have completed compulsory education without having acquired the basic qualifications.

- **FSWS, Embark for Life Programme:**
  Targeted at vulnerable young people with the intention of helping them re-engage in education and prepare themselves for employment.

- **Youth Guarantee Scheme (EU funded):**
  Tackling youth unemployment through jobs, apprenticeships, traineeships or continued education.
  Some initiatives funded through this scheme: Revision SEC classes; Remedial classes for MCAST students who failed the Foundation Certificate Programme.
Other Support in our Colleges

- Social Workers, monitoring absenteeism.
- Counsellors & Guidance teachers.
- Educational Psychologist.
- Career Advisors.
- Prefect for Discipline.
- Youth Worker.
Way Forward

- **Education for All**
  - Document auditing the Inclusion system in our schools

- **Respect for All Framework**
  - A set of policies covering healthy living, anti-bullying, anti-substance abuse, etc.

- **Education Act**
  - (in consultation phase)
  - Home tuition
  - Board for Educational Matters
  - **Secondary education:** 3 Pillars
Thanks for your patience