

# The Malta national lifelong learning strategy 2020



## Timeline



ID number 28671

## Background

The low level of participation of adults in adult education, early school leavers, low skills achievement and education attainment, as well as the low number of women active in the labour market or engaged in lifelong learning, were identified as challenges that guided the drafting of the strategy.

## Objectives

- (a) stimulate participation in lifelong learning;
- (b) place the learner at the centre by optimising all possible types of innovative learning methods and environments;
- (c) improve skills sets that contribute to professional development, employment mobility and active citizenship;
- (d) develop support structures for adult learning;
- (e) improve governance in the lifelong learning sector.

## Description

The *Malta National Lifelong learning strategy 2020* consolidated ideas and processes that were already taking shape in different organisations and institutions in Malta, such as to ensure a single, coherent location to guide actions in lifelong learning. This strategy is not a stand-alone document but interrelates with other important national documents published in the same period whose recommendations dovetail with those in this strategy. It also builds on the recommendations of contemporary seminal studies and a number of international documents relating to adult learning.

During its implementation, adult learning has become more community-based and took on a more hands-on approach. Informal learning was adopted in order to give access to a new cohort of participants that would not feel equipped or confident to follow formal learning approaches.

The Directorate for Research, Lifelong Learning and Employability (DRLE), of the education ministry is the focal point for the implementation of the strategy.

## 2015 Approved/Agreed

### 2016 Implementation

Implementation continued with no major developments.

### 2017 Implementation

Implementation continued with no major developments.

### 2018 Implementation

Implementation continued with no major developments.

### 2019 Implementation

In 2019, two new programmes were introduced, mainly related to community learning, ease of access of adult learning to marginal groups, and themes of sustainability.

With a focus on sustainable development and citizenship education for adults, DRLLLE launched Active citizenship education (ACE), a programme involving different partnerships with NGOs, including Friends of the Earth (environmental NGO), the Union Haddiema Maghqudin (UHM) Voice of the Workers and the General Workers Union (GWU) (trade unions), The *People of Malta* (photographic association), Aditus (human rights foundation) and Integra (migrants' integration and wellbeing foundation). Every part of the programme was conducted within community and involved informal learning strategies to engage the attending public.

DRLLLE embarked also on a Schools as community learning spaces (SCLS) programme, which it had piloted the previous year. The aim of this programme is to widen the range of adult education within the community, providing tailor-made programmes in local primary schools during school hours, focusing on skills and needs with particular attention to parents whose child might be in risk of early school leaving. This brought adult learning to more communities, especially parents of learners attending village primary schools. The programme also attracted a large number of migrants.

### 2020 Completed

During the academic year 2019/20, in response to COVID-19 restrictions, most of the face-to-face learning programmes shifted to online learning mode. DRLLLE established a support centre for both the adult educators and learners to aid the technical shift of learning. The directorate organised training programmes specifically designed to upskill educators in online teaching.

The *Malta national lifelong learning strategy 2020* reached the end of its cycle. Following a review of this strategy, the first draft of a new lifelong learning strategy covering the years 2021–30 was disseminated internally within the education ministry and its entities for further feedback and development.

The DRLLLE initiated the design of a further five VET programmes which would mostly appeal to young adults.

## Bodies responsible

- Ministry for Education (MFED)(until 2022)
- Ministry of Education and Employment (MEDE) (until 2020)

## Target group

## Learners

Adult learners  
Low-skilled/qualified persons

## Thematic categories

### Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Coordinating VET and other policies  
Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

### Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

### Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications

Learners' possibilities of accumulation, validation and recognition of learning outcomes acquired non-formally and informally

### Teachers, trainers and school leaders competences

Supporting teachers and trainers for and through digital

### Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

## Subsystem

IVET CVET

## Further reading

[The Malta national lifelong learning strategy 2020](#)

[Strategic plan for the prevention of early school leaving in Malta 2014-20](#)

### “ ... ” Cite as

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