



2018 Country Report for Malta

Key points for EASPD members

I. Employment and Labour Market Policy

- The employment rate rose for both women and men, reaching 71.8 % in Q3 of 2017, close to the EU average.
- The unemployment rate has reduced further to 4 % in 2017 and long-term unemployment is very low.
- The employment rate of people with disabilities is low, potentially reflecting the lack of effectiveness of the measures to support their employment.
- Difficulties for people with disabilities on the labour market could be linked to the gap in educational attainment between people with and without disabilities (also the largest in the EU), reflecting partly the difficulties of children with disabilities in reaching their full education potential.

II. Education Policy

- Learning outcomes are strongly influenced by socio-economic background and type of school.
- Despite improvement in recent years, the early school leaving (ESL) rate continues to be a challenge.
- The tertiary educational attainment rate is rising steadily but still below the EU average.

III. Social Policy

- The elderly and people with disabilities face a relative increase of their risk of poverty and social exclusion, as they mainly depend on social transfers.
- Malta's welfare system does go some way protecting people with disabilities, but the lack of inclusion in education and the labour market creates a high degree of benefit dependency.

IV. Anything else?

- The high gender employment gap merits attention.
- Important reforms have significantly increased female labour market participation especially of younger women, but the employment rate of women is still comparatively low.



Additional Information

- European Commission: 2018 Country Report for [Malta](#)
- EASPD [Activities on the European Semester](#)

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This position paper has been produced with the financial support of the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation “EaSI” (2014-2020). The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the official position of the European Commission.