

Background Information: Higher Education System in Malta



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Higher Education System in Malta

I. General Characteristics

Population	
Total population (I.I.2013) (million) ¹	0.42
Population density (2013) (persons per square kilometre) ²	1339.8
Population Structure (2013) (share of total population %)³	
0-14 years	14.6
15-24 years	13.2
25-49 years	33.8
50-64 years	21.3
65 years and over	17.1
GDP	
GDP per capita in PPS (2013), EU 28 = 100 ⁴	86
GDP year-on-year growth rate (2013) ⁵	2.7
Education (2011/2012) (All levels)⁶	
Enrolment	
Total (ISCED 0-6)	79,095
Tertiary Level of Education (ISCED 5-6)	12,203
Tertiary Education	
Population aged 25-64 years with tertiary education (2012) (%) ⁷	17.6
Population aged 30 – 34 years with tertiary education (2012) (%) ⁷	24.9
Public expenditure on tertiary education (percentage of GDP) (2011) ⁸	1.11

¹ European Commission. (2013). *Eurostat Compact Guides: Basic Figures on the EU, Winter 2013/2014 Edition*. Luxembourg: Publications office of the European Union

² Eurostat. (2013). *Population density*. Retrieved from <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tps00003&plugin=0>

³ Eurostat (2013). *People by age group*. Retrieved from <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/refreshTableAction.do?tab=table&plugin=1&pcode=tps00010&language=en>

⁴ Eurostat. (2013). *GDP per capita in PPS*. Retrieved from <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&plugin=1&language=en&pcode=teco0114>

⁵ Eurostat. (2013). *Real GDP growth rate*. Retrieved from <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&plugin=1&language=en&pcode=teco0115>

⁶ Eurostat. (2014). *Students by ISCED level, age, and sex*. Retrieved from http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=educ_en1rt1&lang=en

⁷ Eurostat. (2014). *Population with tertiary education attainment by sex and age*. Retrieved from http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=edat_lfse_07&lang=en

⁸ Eurostat (2014). *Expenditure on education as % of GDP or public expenditure*. Retrieved from <http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>

2. Types of Higher Education Institutions

Higher education in Malta is provided by public and private higher education institutions. Public higher education institutions include a publicly-funded university and two vocational institutions namely Malta College of Arts Science and Technology and the Institute of Tourism Studies. The University of Malta focuses on academic research offering programmes in the entire range of fields of study and degrees in the first (Bachelor), second (Master), and third (Doctoral) cycle qualifications.

The Malta College of Arts Science and Technology focuses on vocational education and training and offers courses in agribusiness, applied science, computing, art and design, business, community services, or engineering. The college offers degrees only in the first cycle qualification.

The Institute of Tourism Studies provides programmes at ISCED 2011 level 1 to 5, including certificate, diploma, and higher national diploma levels. The higher national diploma programmes are equivalent to the first year of a Bachelor degree. Students may thereafter register for the second year of the Bachelor degree in Tourism Studies at the University of Malta.

3. Study Structure

Malta joined the Bologna Process in 1999⁹ and has finished implementing the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). Higher education attainment and student's performance are measured in credit points compatible with the ECTS with 60 ECTS credits equivalent to one year of full-time studies and 30 ECTS credits equivalent to one year of part-time studies.

Short-cycle higher education – ISCED 2011 level 5 / Malta Qualifications Framework level 5

- Academic higher education degrees at ISCED 2011 level 5 are awarded after obtaining 30 to 90 ECTS credits.

First cycle qualification (Bachelor)

- The first cycle qualification includes a Bachelor degree, with study duration of three to four years at the University of Malta.
- The workload associated with a Bachelor degree is 180 to 240 ECTS credits.

Second cycle qualification (Master)

- A second cycle Master degree requires one and a half to two years of studies.
- Academic higher education awards at ISCED 2011 level 7 are awarded after obtaining 60 to 120 ECTS.

Third cycle qualification (Doctoral)

⁹ Europa. (2010). The Bologna process: setting up the European Higher Education Area. Retrieved from http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/education_training_youth/lifelong_learning/c11088_en.htm

- A Doctoral degree at the University of Malta requires the submission of the thesis by the student as well as the oral defence of the thesis.

4. Admission Requirements^{10 11 12}

The entry requirements include the Matriculation Certificate as well as passing the Secondary Education Certificate Examination at grade 5 or better in Maltese, English, and Mathematics. The admission requirements for a Diploma or Certificate course include passing the proficiency tests and/or interviews. Moreover, applicants who are mature students (at least 23 years of age at the time of beginning the course) and who do not meet the necessary criteria may be considered as well, provided they demonstrate sufficient skills and expertise in their chosen field of study based on their background and experience since completing secondary school education. The faculty and the University Admission Board then assess each applicant to determine if the candidate has relevant experience and background to successfully complete the course of their choice.

The admission to a Master programme in Malta requires a relevant first degree from the University of Malta or any other university approved by the senate. Additionally, students are required to hold a first cycle Honours degree. Admission to a postgraduate Diploma or certificate course requires a first cycle degree without any classification necessary.

In order to be admitted to a programme leading to a Doctoral degree, a relevant Master degree from the University of Malta or any other university is generally required. Also, applicants should produce a First Class Honours or Second Class Honours certificate as well as have a strong background and knowledge in the their proposed area of research.

5. Enrolment Levels

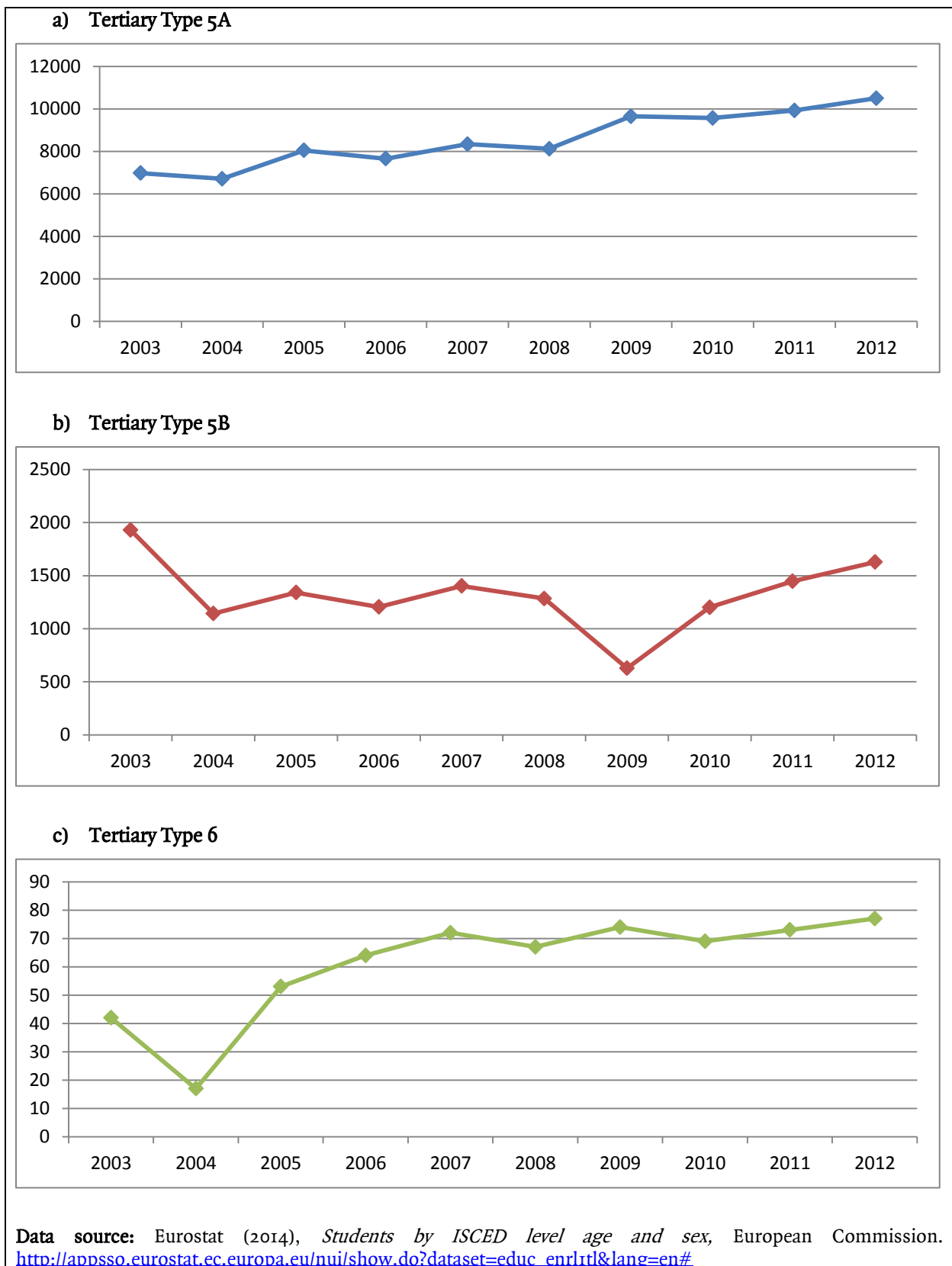
Figure 1 shows trends in enrolment levels (ISCED 5, 5B and 6, ISCED 97) in Malta between 2003 and 2012. The enrolment level in Tertiary Type 5A and Tertiary Type 6 have increased considerably (more than 50 %), whereas enrolment levels in Tertiary Type 5B have remained stable.

¹⁰ Eurydice. (2014). *Bachelor*. Retrieved from https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/eurydice/index.php/Malta:First_Cycle_Programmes

¹¹ Eurydice. (2014). *Second cycle programmes*. Retrieved from https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/eurydice/index.php/Malta:Second_Cycle_Programmes

¹² Eurydice. (2014). *Third cycle (PhD) programmes*. Retrieved from https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/eurydice/index.php/Malta:Third_Cycle_%28PhD%29_Programmes

Figure 1: Trends in enrolment levels



6. Registration and/or Tuition Fees

Tuition fee at the University of Malta depends on the level of the programme chosen as well as on the student's formal status of enrolment. Undergraduate full-time programmes up to Bachelor level are not subjected to tuition fees. Postgraduate and part-time programmes, which are delivered in the evening, are subject to tuition fees. Fees for undergraduate part-time programmes at the University of Malta vary between 350 and 1,200 Euro per semester while fees for postgraduate full and part-time programmes at the University of Malta vary between 400 and 4,500 Euro¹³.

7. Financial Support for Students

Students enrolled in full-time undergraduate programmes in public higher education institutions are eligible to receive the Student Maintenance Grant, which is provided independent of the parental income on a monthly basis during the academic year. The amount of support provided varies with the course of study, for instance, students enrolled in science and technology programmes receive higher grants compared to students enrolled in other courses. Students enrolled in full-time undergraduate programmes at private higher education institutions in Malta or attending such programmes abroad may apply for various scholarships offered by the Government of Malta.

There is no direct financial aid for students undertaking postgraduate programmes, however, students can apply for various scholarships.

8. Note on the Maltese data provided for EUROSTUDENT V

The Maltese data only captures students enrolled in public higher education institutions, namely the University of Malta, the Malta College of Arts Science and Technology and the Institute of Tourism Studies. Thus, students enrolled in private higher education institutions are not captured in the data.

This report is based on the following sources:

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¹³ University of Malta. (2014). *Course Fees*. Retrieved from <http://www.um.edu.mt/finance/service/coursefees>

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