



## Caritas Cares

Poverty and social  
exclusion among  
young people

## Malta Report

September 2017

### What this report is about

This report describes the main challenges related to poverty and social inclusion of young people in Malta and provides recommendations for policy makers to address these challenges. The recommendations are based on an analysis of the grassroots experience of Caritas Malta, which is compared to official data.

# WHAT THIS REPORT IS ABOUT

- THIS REPORT DESCRIBES THE MAIN CHALLENGES RELATED TO POVERTY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN MALTA AND PROVIDES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY MAKERS TO ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES. THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE BASED ON AN ANALYSIS OF THE GRASSROOTS EXPERIENCE OF CARITAS MALTA, WHICH IS COMPARED TO OFFICIAL DATA.

# CARITAS MALTA

- WE AIM TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY AND PROMOTE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE, PROVIDING A RANGE OF SERVICES WHICH INCLUDE:
  1. DRUG REHAB SERVICES
  2. COUNSELLING AND SOCIAL WORK
  3. COMMUNITY OUTREACH
  4. YOUNG CARITAS



# **HOW DO WE FULFILL OUR MISSION?**

- RENEWS ITS PREFERENTIAL OPTION FOR THE POOR AND GIVES WITNESS OF THIS COMMITMENT WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY
  - RAISES PUBLIC AWARENESS OF POVERTY AND INJUSTICE
  - FACILITATES CO-OPERATION WITHIN AND BEYOND THE CARITAS ORGANIZATION IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THE OLD AND NEW FACES OF POVERTY;
  - ACTS AS THE VOICE OF THE POOR AND ENABLES THE POOR TO BECOME AGENTS OF CHANGE.
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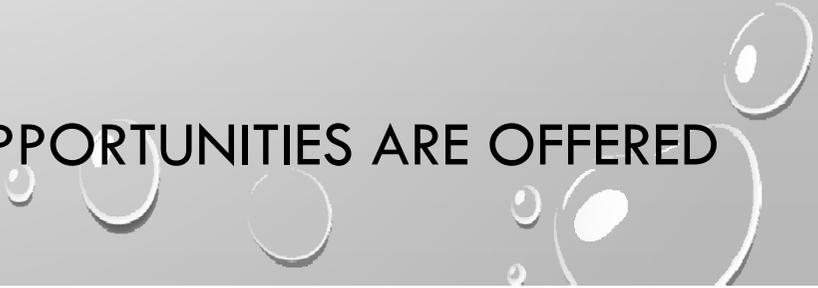
# WHO ARE THOSE WHO ARE BENEFITING FROM OUR SERVICES?

- CARITAS MALTA TREATS AROUND 700 PEOPLE WHO ARE VICTIMS OF DRUG ADDICTION EACH YEAR.
- THE MEDIAN AGE OF DRUG USERS ARE THOSE WHO ARE 27 YEARS OF AGE.
- 73% OF ALL TREATED CLIENTS WERE YOUNGER THAN 35 YEARS OF AGE.



# MALTA'S MAIN CHALLENGES RELATED TO THE POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION OF YOUNG PEOPLE



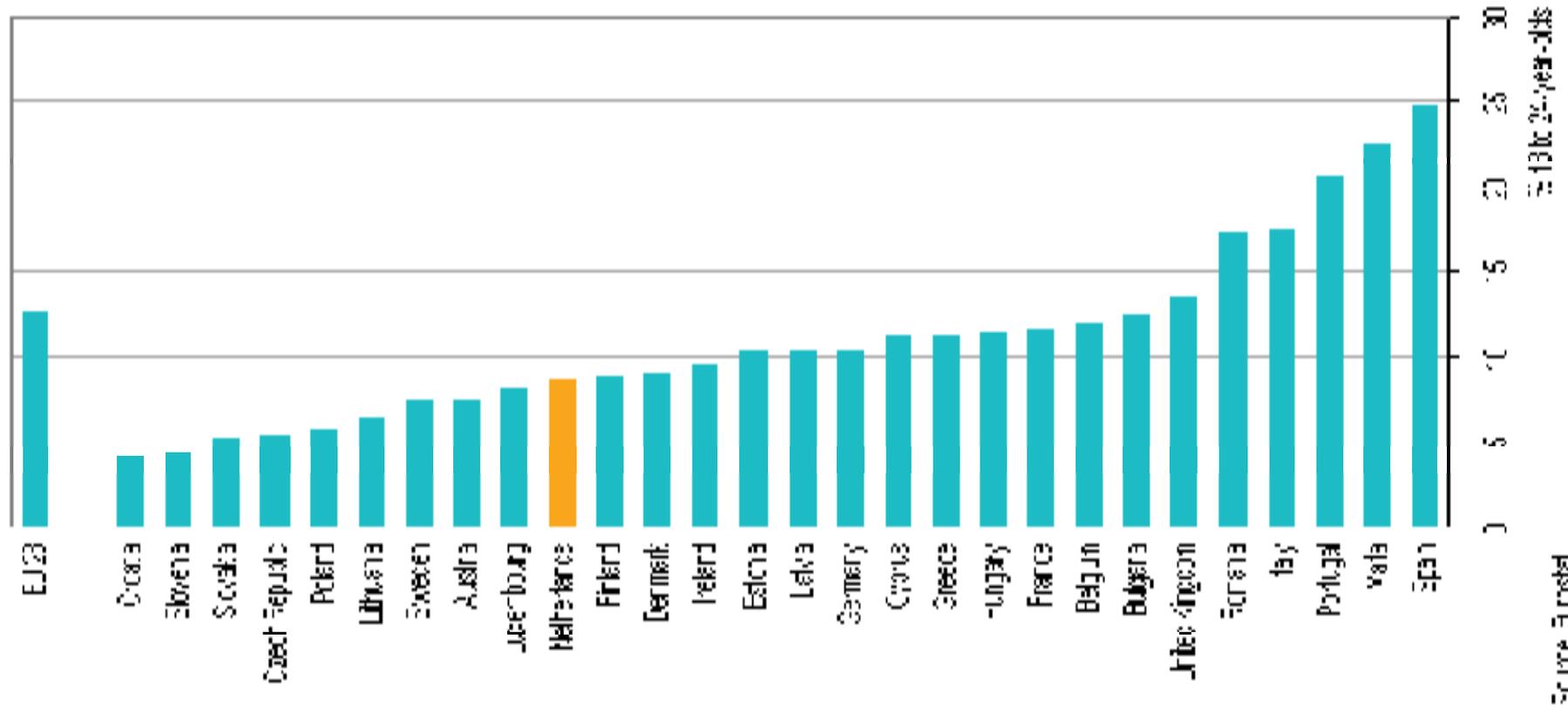
- INCOME POVERTY: MINIMUM INCOME SCHEMES DO NOT PROVIDE FOR A DECENT LIVING
  - EDUCATION TO LABOUR TRANSITION: THE CURRENT SCHOOL SYSTEM IS RIGID AND DOES NOT FACILITATE EMPLOYABILITY.
  - HOUSING: YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE DIFFICULTIES IN EMANCIPATING THEMSELVES FROM THEIR PARENTS' HOME.
  - SOCIAL EXCLUSION: POOR OPPORTUNITIES ARE OFFERED FOR MARGINAL YOUTH.
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# INCOME POVERTY: MINIMUM INCOME SCHEMES DO NOT PROVIDE FOR A DECENT LIVING



A Minimum Budget for a Decent Living: 2016

# INADEQUATE OR POOR QUALITY OF EDUCATION (EARLY SCHOOL LEAVERS)



# YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE MORE DIFFICULTIES IN WHEN IT COMES TO RENT AND HOUSING



Zero unemployment rate..... More difficulties in renting and housing.... What is happening?



## Testimony

*"Living in Malta seems to be like living in paradise. This may be true for tourists who come and visit the island. Unfortunately, for low-income earners it is a struggle, as one cannot plan for the future. I personally cannot save any money until the end of the month as my salary is very low and it is rather difficult to live decently. Three-quarters of my salary is dedicated to the payment of rent and electricity bills. This is rather a struggle for me as I rarely eat decent food and I do not have any social life as I can't afford to go out with my friends. I admit that if I worked harder at school I would not be in such a situation, as I strongly believe that education is one of the keys to success in this country. I am still young and I desire to acquire my own property, but with this income my dream will probably never come true."*

*A young service user, Caritas Malta*

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- ESTABLISH BENCHMARKS TO DEFINE AN ADEQUATE MINIMUM INCOME FOR HOUSEHOLDS WHOSE INCOME IS BELOW THE MINIMUM ESSENTIAL BUDGET, WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON YOUTH.
- EDUCATION REFORM AND TARGETED OFFERS FOR ACTIVE LABOUR MARKET INTEGRATION OF YOUTH. THE EDUCATION SYSTEM, BOTH FORMAL AND INFORMAL, SHOULD BECOME MORE PERMEABLE BETWEEN DIFFERENT TYPES OF EDUCATION (SUCH AS ACADEMIC AND VOCATIONAL), AND BETWEEN DIFFERENT LEVELS (SUCH AS UPPER SECONDARY, OR APPRENTICESHIPS, ETC.).

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- MAKE AFFORDABLE HOUSING AVAILABLE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. POVERTY TARGETED SUBSIDIES SHOULD FOCUS ON RENT, BOTH IN TERMS OF THE PROVISION OF SOCIAL HOUSING AND RENT SUBSIDIES.
- PROVIDE SPECIFIC REHABILITATION FACILITIES FOR UNDER-AGE DRUG USERS: GOVERNMENT MUST URGENTLY PROVIDE TREATMENT PROGRAMMES, SUCH AS REHABILITATION CENTRES FOR MINORS UNDER THE AGE OF 18.
- STRENGTHEN SERVICES FOR THE REINTEGRATION OF YOUNG OFFENDERS. DEVISE SPECIAL SERVICES FOCUSSED ON YOUTH, THAT COMBINE EDUCATIONAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND LABOUR MARKET ENTRY SUPPORT.