

Children's Worlds National Report

MALTA



Carmel Cefai¹, Natalie Galea²

University of Malta

¹ Director, Centre for Resilience & Socio-Emotional Health, University of Malta

² Research Officer, Centre for Resilience & Socio-Emotional Health, University of Malta

1. Introduction

1.1 Context and population

Population

In the year 2017 total population for Malta and Gozo stood at 442,978 and 32,723 persons, respectively (NSO, 2019).

Geography

Malta is an independent state made up of three islands: Malta, Gozo and Comino, located in the Central Mediterranean. The Maltese archipelago has an area of c. 316 square kilometres (Malta: 246 km²; Gozo: 67 km²; Comino: 3.5 km²). Malta forms part of the European Union.

For statistical purposes, the Maltese Islands are regarded as constituting two regions: Malta and Gozo. Malta is sub-divided into 6 districts, as illustrated in **Map 1** below. Districts are then further subdivided into 68 localities.

Map 1. District Map of the Maltese Islands (Source: NSO, 2019)

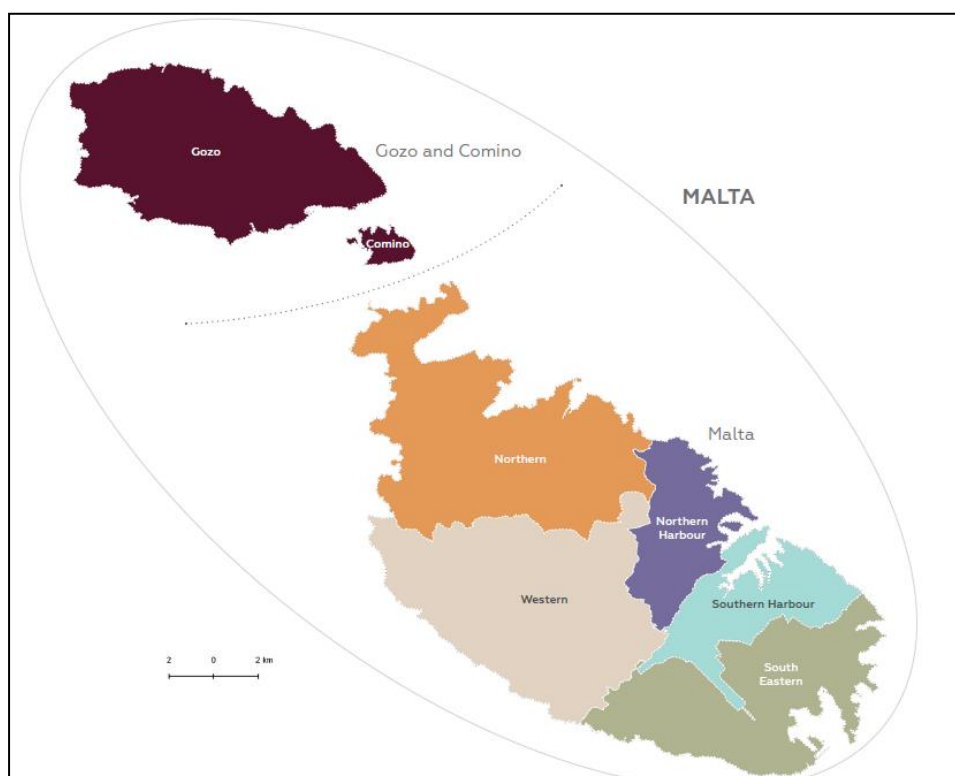


Table 1 below highlights the total population by age group and district as at 2017.

Table 1. Population by Age and District (Source: NSO, 2019)

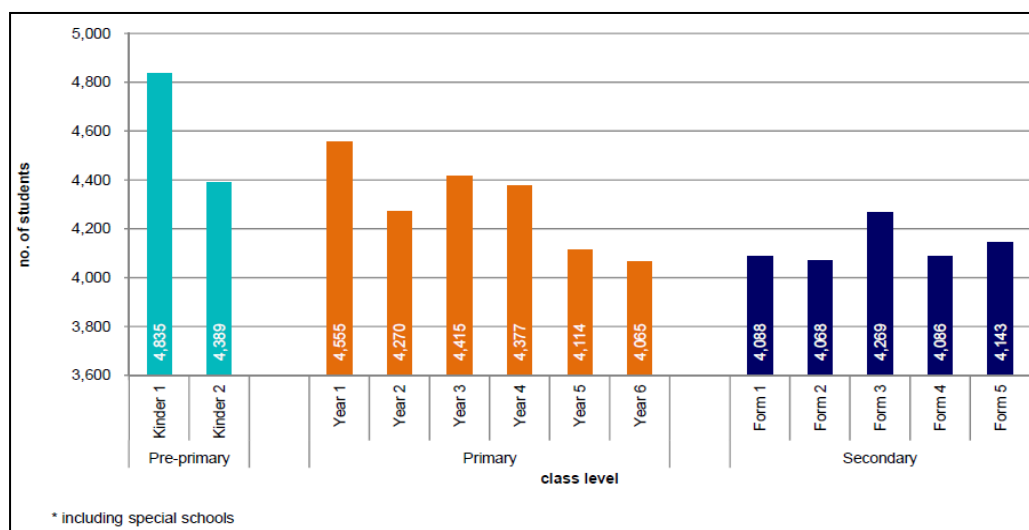
NATIONAL	MALTA							
NUTS 3	Malta						Gozo and Comino	
LAU 1			Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo and Comino
0-9	45 458	42 565	7 362	13 844	7 411	5 664	8 284	2 893
10-19	43 449	40 343	7 607	12 649	7 011	5 941	7 135	3 106
20-29	71 231	66 646	10 956	24 277	10 537	8 608	12 268	4 585
30-39	75 127	70 758	12 040	25 506	11 483	8 696	13 033	4 369
40-49	61 835	58 109	10 011	19 263	9 708	7 992	11 135	3 726
50-59	59 051	54 420	9 589	17 922	8 407	8 183	10 319	4 631
60-69	59 335	54 900	11 271	18 423	8 580	8 046	8 580	4 435
70-79	40 276	37 042	8 202	13 226	5 170	5 031	5 413	3 234
80-89	17 155	15 694	3 791	5 765	1 962	2 136	2 040	1 461
90+	2 784	2 501	753	789	221	395	343	283
Total	475 701	442 978	81 582	151 664	70 490	60 692	78 550	32 723

Percentage of school children

During scholastic year 2016-17, 25,796 students were enrolled in primary education. 57.5 per cent of total student population attended state schools (NSO, 2018). During the same year 20,654 students were enrolled in secondary education (NSO, 2018). Between scholastic years 2012/3 and 2016/7, 57.6% of students attended state schools, 29.2% attended church schools and 13.2% attended independent schools (NSO, 2018). During scholastic year 2012/2013 the share of non-Maltese students stood at 4.5% whereas during scholastic year 2016/7, the share stood at 9.7% (NSO, 2018).

Figure 1 shows the number of students by class level during academic year 2016/2017 (total number of students = 55, 674). The percentage of students in Year 3 and Year 4 (primary) amounted to 7.9%, respectively. Students in Form 1 and Form 2 (middle school) amounted to 7.3%, respectively.

Figure 1. Student Population during scholastic year 2016/7 by class level (Source: NSO, 2018)



Religion

The main religion in Malta is Roman Catholicism (98%); it is also declared as the state religion in the Constitution of Malta. The Catholic religion is taught in classes but religion is not a compulsory subject. In fact, students who do not wish to be educated in the Roman Catholic Faith can choose to follow Ethics instead. (Eurydice, 2018). There is also a substantial minority of Moslem people in Malta, mostly coming North Africa and the Middle East.

Ethnicity

“Presently the National Statistics Office (NSO) and service providers (e.g. hospitals) in Malta do not collect data on ethnicity” (PFC, para. 2). However, though there is not any major ethnic group in Malta, recently Malta has seen an unprecedented rise in growth population with migration being the main drive behind the growth. 9% of children in Malta are not Maltese, mostly of parents from Europe and other countries who are employed here or from asylum seeking parents. Maltese society is therefore becoming more diverse and multicultural.

Economic context

In 2017, GDP at market prices in the regions of Malta, and Gozo and Comino was estimated at €10 806.1 million and €473.4 million, respectively (NSO, 2019). Even though employment in jobs increased year-on-year in both regions, employment growth lagged GDP growth during the period under consideration (NSO, 2019). GDP per capita at market prices increased year-on-year in both regions. The per capita GDP at market prices for the Malta

region as a percentage of the national was 102.7 per cent while that of the Gozo and Comino region was of 60.9 per cent (NSO, 2019)

1.2 Sampling: Strategy and outcome

The sample for Malta was designed to achieve a nationally representative sample of school children around the ages of 8, 10 and 12. The sample was designed on children in Primary school Year 3 (aged 6 to 8 years old) and Year 5 (aged 8 to 10 years old) and Secondary school Year 7 (aged 10 – 12), with at least 1,000 children in each age group.

Approximately, less than 2% of the child population were excluded from the sample, namely:

- Schools which do not have Year 3/ Year 5 or Year 7/Form 1 class groups (i.e. these schools were excluded because they were not eligible to participate since they do not have children within the age groups of 8, 10, 12 year olds)
- Severely disabled children in special schools/ resource centres (less than 1% of the school population); most children with disability attend mainstream school
- Children who are absent from school on a long-term basis due to chronic illness or injury.

The primary sampling unit was the three mainstream school sectors in Malta (i.e. State schools, Church schools and Independent schools). Separate samples were drawn for Years 3 and 5 (primary school education) and Year 7/Form 1 (secondary school education). Both samples followed the same methodology. First percentages of students attending the different types of school sectors were obtained in order to calculate the number of students required for the corresponding sample from each sector. This ensured that the sample reflects the proportion of children in each school sector. The sampling frame was further stratified by various variables namely geographic region, gender and school size.

State schools were selected by stratified sampling. One school was randomly selected from each of the ten colleges. The fact that state schools are region bound ensured that all districts were represented in the sample. Selection of the other remaining state schools was based on probabilities proportional to their size (i.e. schools were selected from colleges/regions characterized by large student populations). Church and Independent schools were selected on the basis of size/student populations and gender. However, it was ensured that schools were selected from around across the different regions in the country.

On a general note, two representative classes were randomly selected by the Head of School³ for each age group. Since students aged 8 and 10 years are attending Primary schools, the same schools were selected for data collection for the two age groups. Therefore, four classes were selected from each primary school in the study. In the case of

³Classes were selected by each school according to clear instructions provided in the information sheet (eg: if classes are based on children's ability or other factors, the implications of this need to be carefully considered during the selection process.)

Secondary schools, large schools comprised an average of six classes for 12 year olds. In such schools, four classes were selected. The survey began in late 2017 and was completed by January 2018.

Table 1.2.1 Frequency of achieved sample

	State	Church	Independent	Total
8 year old	300	214	53	567
10 year old	319	273	38	630
12 year old	444	380	0	824
Total	1063	867	91	2021

Weights have been applied to the sample used in the analysis so that the proportion of students in the data set in each stratum is equivalent to the proportion of students in that stratum in the population. Additional weighting was also applied to balance the weighting across the three age groups. This used the existing weights but adjusted them so that each age group has an equal weight in the analysis. The resulting numbers are shown in Table 1.2.2.

Table 1.2.2 Frequency of weighted sample

	State	Church	Independent	Total
8 year old	380	199	94	673
10 year old	401	214	59	674
12 year old	363	311	0	674
Total	1144	724	153	2021

2. Results

2.1 The participants

The sample consisted of about 2000 school students, with about 660-670 in each of the three cohorts; there is a good gender balance in the primary school cohorts but there is a gender imbalance in the secondary in favour of boys (Table 2.1.1 & Table 2.1.2).

Table 2.1.1 Age by gender(Weighted) (Numbers, (%))

	8 year old	10 year old	12 year old	Total
Boy	365(54.6)	344(51.5)	388(58.8)	1097(55.0)
Girl	303(45.4)	324(48.5)	272(41.2)	899(45.0)

Total	668(100.0)	668(100.0)	660(100.0)	1996(100.0)
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Nmissing 25

Table 2.1.2 Age by gender (Achieved Sample) (Numbers, (%))

	8 year old	10 year old	12 year old	Total
Boy	309(54.9)	353(56.4)	474(58.7)	1136(56.9)
Girl	254(45.1)	273(43.6)	333(41.3)	860(43.1)
Total	563(100.0)	626(100.0)	807(100.0)	1996(100.0)

Nmissing 25

2.2 The home and the people the participants live with

Table 2.2.1 illustrates that the great majority of 10 and 12 year old children sleep/live in the same home every night (90.4%), with 10% reporting to live and sleep in different homes regularly. The vast majority (98%) of Maltese 10 year old and 12 year old children live together with their families (Table 2.2.2).

Table 2.2.1 Home living patterns (10y & 12y) (%)

	%
Always or usually sleep in the same home	90.4
Live in two home with different adults	9.6

Nmissing 695

Table 2.2.2 Home type (10y & 12y) (%)

I live with my family	98.3
I live in a foster home	0.2
I live in a children's home	0.5
I live in another type of home	1.0
Total	100.0

Nmissing 695

Tables 2.2.3-2.2.4 show that the majority of Maltese children reported high levels of satisfaction with the people they live with. 81.3% of 8 year old children are very happy and 72.8% of 10 year old and 12 year old were totally satisfied. When compared with 12 year old children, 10 year olds seem to have higher levels of satisfaction with the people they live with (See Appendix, Table A1).

Table 2.2.3 Satisfaction with the people you live with (8y) (%)

Satisfaction with ...					
People that you live with	1.2	0.5	3.1	13.9	81.3

Nmissing 1354

Table 2.2.4 Satisfaction with the people you live with (10y & 12y) (%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
People that you live with	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.2	0.7	2.3	1.4	2.9	6.0	11.9	72.8

Nmissing 709

Overall, the great majority of Maltese children reported positive relationships with other family members particularly in terms of people who care about them, that if they have a problem their family will help, feeling safe at home and having a good time with their family. The mean scores were slightly lower for 'parents listen to what they have to say' and when making decisions about them. There were no significant differences between the different age groups (Table 2.2.5).

Table 2.2.5 Variations in questions about home and family (All age groups; means)

	Family care	Family help problem	Good time together	Feel safe	Parents listen	Make joint decision*
8 year-old	3.66	3.67	3.65	3.57	3.26	-
10 year-old	3.73	3.64	3.60	3.60	3.27	3.32
12 year-old	3.74	3.61	3.54	3.67	3.35	3.28
Total	3.71	3.64	3.59	3.62	3.30	3.30




* Question not included in 8y questionnaire

2.3 The home where children live

When asked whether they are happy with the home that they live in, all age groups reported high levels of satisfaction; 81% of 8 year old children reported that they are very happy (Table 2.3.1). The percentage among 10 year old and 12 year old participants is 70.6% but a 10-point scale is used instead of 5-point scale. In addition, another 18% of secondary school students also scored high on the satisfaction scale (Table 2.3.2). There is a higher

tendency among 12 year old students to be more satisfied with the home they live in when compared with 10 year olds (See Appendix, Table A2).

Table 2.3.1 Satisfaction with the home where you live (8y) (%)

Satisfaction with ...					
The home that you live in	2.0	1.8	6.0	9.3	81.0

Nmissing 1367

Table 2.3.2 Satisfaction with the home where you live (10y &12y) (%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The home that you live in	1.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	1.2	2.7	1.2	3.9	5.6	12.3	70.6

Nmissing 703

Half of the 10 and 12 year old participants reported to have their own room to sleep in (50.7%) whereas the other half share a room with others (49.3%) (Table 2.3.4); the great majority (86.1%) have their own bed (86.1%) (Table 2.3.4). The great majority (88.7%) also have a space to study at home (Table 2.3.3).

Table 2.3.3 Things you have (10y & 12y) (%)





Whether you have ...	10 & 12 year-old
Own room ¹	50.7
Own bed ²	86.1
Place to study ³	88.7

Nmissing ¹698, ²700, ³697

2.4 Friends

The vast majority of 8 year olds are happy or very happy with their friends (93.7%); 74.6% of 10 and 12 year olds are also satisfied with their friends (Tables 2.4.1-2.4.2). Ten year olds reported higher levels of satisfaction than 12 year olds (See Appendix, Table A3).

Table 2.4.1 Satisfaction with your friends (8y) (%)

Satisfaction with ...					
Your friends	1.5	1.5	3.3	15.9	77.8

Nmissing 1360

Table 2.4.2 Satisfaction with your friends (10y &12y) (%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Your friends	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.5	3.7	2.6	4.0	12.0	17.3	57.3

Nmissing 701

Overall, the majority of Maltese participants reported positive and supportive relations with their friends. 79% reported that they have enough friends and that their friends are nice to them, although 14% reported that they do not have enough friends. Over 86% reported that they get along well with their friends and that their friends are supportive (Table 2.4.3).

Table 2.4.3 Friends (All ages) (%)






	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
I have enough friends¹	9.4	4.5	7.0	18.6	60.4
My friends are usually nice to me²	2.5	5.3	12.9	22.9	56.4
Me and my friends get along well together³	1.8	4.1	7.9	21.5	64.7
If I have a problem, I have a friend who will support me⁴	3.1	3.9	6.5	18.3	68.2

Nmissing 150¹, 102², 96³, 140⁴

2.5 School

The great majority of Maltese 8 year old participants are satisfied with their life as a student (84.4%), the things learned at school (91%) and with the other children in their class (88%) (Table 2.5.1). Over 70% of 10 year old and 12 year old children reported to feel satisfied with their life as a student and with other children in their class, whilst over 83% were satisfied with the things learned at school (Table 2.5.2). Younger students appear to be happier, with ten year olds reporting higher levels of satisfaction with life at school than 12 year olds (See Appendix, Table A4).

Table 2.5.1 Satisfaction with school life (8y) (%)

Satisfaction with ...					
Your life as a student¹	3.5	2.4	9.6	17.0	67.4
The things you have learned at school²	.6	1.8	6.7	16.5	74.5
The other children in your class³	1.6	1.5	8.8	18.3	69.8

Nmissing 1366¹, 1368², 1377³

Table 2.5.2 Satisfaction with school life (10y & 12y) (%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Your life as a student¹	2.7	1.1	.8	1.5	1.5	6.5	4.1	7.7	11.6	15.8	46.8
The things you have learned at school²	1.2	.2	1.0	1.1	1.3	3.1	3.4	4.8	10.3	18.0	55.6
The other children in your class³	1.4	.5	1.5	1.9	3.5	6.3	4.0	9.5	10.1	16.9	44.4

Nmissing 698¹, 697², 704³

Maltese students exhibited positive views towards teachers and other children at school. The great majority of totally agree/agree that teachers care about them (91.2%), will help them if they have a problem (90.4%) and listen to them and take them seriously (83.9%) and that they feel safe at school (83.4%). Over 76% also reported that other children will help them if they have a problem and that they have opportunities to make decisions at school. When asked whether there are a lot of arguments in their class, there were mixed reactions; 48.5% do not agree or agree a little bit, whilst 36.4% of participants totally agree/agree (Table 2.5.3)

Table 2.5.3 Views about school (All age groups) (%)

	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
My teachers care about me¹	1.3	3.2	4.2	21.4	69.8
If I have a problem at school my teachers will help me²	1.9	2.6	5.1	21.0	69.4
If I have a problem at school other children will help me³	5.2	5.8	12.6	25.7	50.7
There are a lot of arguments between children in my class⁴	29.8	18.7	15.1	12.7	23.7
My teachers listen to me and take me seriously⁵	3.4	4.7	8.1	19.8	64.1
At school I have opportunities to make decisions about things that are important to me^{6*}	5.1	5.9	9.9	22.5	56.6
I feel safe at school⁷	5.1	4.0	7.6	17.2	66.2

Nmissing 97¹, 73², 141³, 222⁴, 162⁵, 822⁶, 127⁷. * Question not included in 8y questionnaire

When asked about bullying and exclusion at school during the past month, the majority reported that they were never hit (66.9%), called unkind names (61.5%) or left out by other children (64.9%). However, 19% reported that during the past month they were frequently hit by other children and/or left out (two or three times or more) and 21.6% said that they were frequently called unkind names (Table 2.5.4).

Table 2.5.4 Bullying (All age groups) (%)






	Never	Once	Two or three times	More than three times
Hit by other children in your school (not including fighting or play fighting) ¹	66.9	14.5	8.7	10.0
Called unkind names by other children in your school ²	61.5	17.0	10.0	11.6
Left out by other children in your class ³	64.9	16.5	9.5	9.2

Nmissing 144¹, 161², 207³

2.6 The area where children live

The great majority of 10 and 12 year old participants are satisfied with the area where they live (81.5%); 8 year olds reported slightly higher levels of satisfaction (89.4%) (Tables 2.6.1-2.6.2). There was not any significant difference in the level of satisfaction of 10 and 12 year olds.

Table 2.6.1 Satisfaction with local area (8y) (%)

Satisfaction with ...					
The area where you live	3.8	1.2	5.7	14.0	75.4

Nmissing 1380

Table 2.6.2 Satisfaction with local area (10y & 12y) (%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The area where you live	2.1	.7	.2	1.3	1.8	4.4	2.8	5.2	9.0	13.7	58.8

Nmissing 708. Not significant by age (p<0.68)

The great majority of Maltese participants are satisfied with the area where they live, though a substantial percentage (11% to 24%) expressed dissatisfaction with their area and another 10% had mixed feelings. 76.4% feel safe when they walk around in the area where they live (in contrast to 13% who do not); 66.3% think there are enough places to play and have a good time (in contrast to 23.5% who do not think so); 67.7% believe that if they have a problem, there are people in their local area who will help them (in contrast to 21.8% who do not believe so); 79.1% believe that adults in their local area are kind to children (in contrast to 10.9% who do not think so); 65.1% believe that in their local area, they have opportunities to participate in decisions about things that are important to children (in contrast to 23.3% who do not think so); 71.5% think that adults in their area listen to children and take them seriously (in contrast to 16.7% who do not think so) (Table 2.6.3).

Table 2.6.3 Views about local area (All age groups) (%)

	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
I feel safe when I walk around in the area I live in ¹	6.8	6.2	10.7	21.2	55.2
In my area there are enough places to play and have a good time ²	14.5	9.0	10.2	19.6	46.7
If I have a problem there are people in my local area who will help me ³	12.1	9.7	10.5	17.4	50.3
Adults in my local area are kind to children ⁴	5.1	5.8	10.0	20.1	59.0
In my local area, I have opportunities to participate in decisions about things that are important to children ^{5*}	14.4	8.9	11.6	22.9	42.2
Adults in my area listen to children and take them seriously ⁶	9.4	7.3	11.9	20.5	51.0

Nmissing 148¹, 145², 260³, 264⁴, 944⁵, 426⁶. * Question not included in 8y questionnaire

2.7 Money and the things children have






Table 2.7.1 shows that whilst the majority of Maltese children are not worried about how much money their family has, however, 26.7% are. Younger students at primary school appear to worry more often than Secondary School students.

Table 2.7.1 How often do you worry about how much money your family has? (%)

	8 year-old	10 year-old	12 year-old	Total
Never	49.1	42.9	40.4	43.9
Sometimes	16.0	33.8	36.7	29.4
Often	5.7	9.1	13.1	9.5
Always	29.2	14.2	9.8	17.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The great majority of 8 year olds (86.4%) are completely satisfied with the things they have. The percentage is 73.4% among 10 year old and 12 year old children but a 10-point scale is used instead of 5-point scale with 8 year old children; there was no significant difference between 10 and 12 year olds' level of satisfaction. The rate of dissatisfaction among all age cohorts was very low, between 1% - 2% (Table 2.7.2-2.7.3).

Table 2.7.2 Satisfaction with all the things you have (8y) (%)

Satisfaction with ...					
All the things you have	.6	1.2	3.7	8.2	86.4

Nmissing 1389

Table 2.7.3 Satisfaction with all the things you have (10y & 12y) (%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
All the things you have	1.0	.1	.2	.1	.6	1.2	1.8	2.3	5.4	13.9	73.4

Nmissing 726, Not significant by age (p<0.438)

The great majority of Maltese children reported that they have enough food to eat on a daily basis (91.6%), with only 1.1% claiming that they never have enough food particularly 8 year old children (2.2%) (Table 2.7.4). Table 2.7.5 shows that the majority also enjoy economic wellbeing: over 95% reported to have clothes in good condition (96.1%), enough money for school activities (96.0%), access to internet at home (95.6%), two pairs of shoes in good condition (96.8%) and school equipment (97.5%). 89.5% have sports equipment, 84.9% pocket money and 63.6% a mobile phone. When compared between the different age groups, it appears that 12 year olds have more access to these basic necessities than younger students.

Over 98% of children reported to have one or more bathroom at home as well as a washing machine. Slightly more than half of respondents (50.7%) reported to share their bedroom with someone else but the remaining half have their own bedroom (49.3%). Almost half of respondents reported that their families have two cars (48.6%) whereas 5.7% do not own any means of private transport. The great majority of children have two or more computers at home (88.4%) whereas only 2.4% do not possess any computer at home. During the last twelve months, 31% of children went on a holiday with their families and 47.7% of children have travelled twice or more on holiday in contrast to 21.1% who did not (Table 2.7.6).

Table 2.7.4 Do you have enough food to eat each day? (%)

	8 year-old	10 year-old	12 year-old	Total
Never	2.2	0.8	0.2	1.1
Sometimes	4.0	4.2	1.1	3.1
Often	2.9	5.0	4.9	4.3
Always	90.9	90.1	93.8	91.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 2.7.5 The things children have (%)

Which of the following do you have	8 year-old		10 year-old		12 year-old		Total	
	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Clothes in good condition	8.5	91.5	2.3	97.7	1.0	99.0	3.9	96.1
Enough money for school trips and activities	7.8	92.2	2.9	97.1	1.5	98.5	4.0	96.0
Access to the Internet at home	9.4	90.6	2.1	97.9	1.8	98.2	4.4	95.6
The equipment/things you need for sports and hobbies	16.7	83.3	8.6	91.4	6.1	93.9	10.5	89.5
Pocket money/ money to spend on yourself	22.0	78.0	14.7	85.3	8.4	91.6	15.1	84.9
Two pairs of shoes	7.2	92.8	1.8	98.2	0.6	99.4	3.2	96.8
A mobile phone	56.8	43.2	38.9	61.1	12.9	87.1	36.4	63.6
The equipment/things you need for school	4.3	95.7	2.4	97.6	0.6	99.4	2.5	97.5

Table 2.7.6 Descriptive statistics on material possessions (Scale B) (10 & 12 years-old) (%)





How many bathrooms are in your home?¹	
None	0.7
One	29.3
Two	54.6
More than two	15.4
Do you sleep in your own room or do you share a room?²	
I sleep in a room on my own	50.7
I sleep in a room that I share with other people	49.3
Does your family own a car, van or truck?³	
No	5.7
One	23.6
Two	48.6
Three or more	22.1
In the last 12 months, how many times did you travel away on holiday with your family?⁴	
Not at all	21.1
Once	31.0
Twice	21.1
More than twice	26.6
How many computers do your family own?⁵	
None	2.4
One	9.2
Two	19.2
More than two	69.2
Does your home have a washing machine?⁶	
No	1.3
Yes	98.7
Total	100.0

Nmissing 700¹, 698², 705³, 727⁴, 715⁵, 717⁶

2.8 Time use

72.5% of 8 year old children are completely satisfied with how they use their time (Table 2.8.1) in contrast to over 56.2 % of 10 year old and 12 year olds; more than half of the latter cohort are also completely satisfied with the free time they have (57.6%). An additional 28.3% were relatively satisfied with time use and 20.2% with free time (Table 2.8.2). When taking a closer look at older participants, 10 year old children seem to be more satisfied with both time use and free time than 12 year olds (See Appendix, Table A5).

Table 2.8.1 Satisfaction with time use (8y) (%)

Satisfaction with ...					
How you use your time	1.1	1.2	10.6	14.6	72.5
How much free time you have to do what you want*	-	-	-	-	-

* Question not included in 8y questionnaire

Table 2.8.2 Satisfaction with time use (10y & 12y) (%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
How you use your time ¹	1.2	.2	.4	.8	.7	3.2	4.2	4.7	12.5	15.8	56.2
How much free time you have ²	2.1	.9	.8	1.3	1.7	4.9	4.5	5.9	8.5	11.7	57.6

Nmissing 737¹, 743²

2.9 Subjective well-being: how children feel about their lives

In general, the different measures of children's subjective wellbeing show that Maltese participants are satisfied with their lives. Tables 2.9.1 -2.9.2 show that 77.2% of 8 year old children are satisfied about their life as a whole while 2.4% are dissatisfied. The percentage among 10 year old and 12 year old students is 72.7% and 1.9% respectively, but a 10-point scale is used instead of 5-point scale.

In terms of the subjective well-being scale, table 2.9.3 shows that the great majority of Maltese children reported high levels of life satisfaction. Around 80% of students reported positive life views in terms of enjoying their life (81.4%), life is going well (78.6%), have a good life (82.1%), like their life (79.7%) and are happy with their life (82.3%). Similarly, 70.5% of students reported that the things that are happening in their life are excellent. The rate of those who are not satisfied or hardly satisfied with life is very low, from 1% to 2%.

Similar positive trends can be seen in the level of satisfaction with different life domains (Table 2.9.4). Over 84% of Maltese children are satisfied with the people they live with. Three fourths of the students are also satisfied with their friends (74.6%), the area where






they live (72.5%) and the way that they look (75.8%). Whilst only 62.6% of students are satisfied with their lives as students, more than one fourth are relatively satisfied (29.9%).

Table 2.9.5 shows that overall Maltese students reported higher positive affect scores (i.e. happy, calm and full of energy) and lower negative affects scores (i.e. sad, stressed and bored). When asked how they felt during the past two weeks, over 75% of students felt very happy and full of energy. Only 48.1% of students however, felt calm during the last two weeks and nearly 11% reported to feel less calm or not calm at all.

Maltese children also scored high on the satisfaction scale with regards to psychological attributes to wellbeing. Around 71% and 74% reported satisfaction with managing their daily responsibilities (71.8%), that people are 'generally friendly towards them' (71.2%), that they have 'enough choice how they can spend their time' (73.2%). Maltese students scored also high on a number of items, suggesting they are relatively happier (80.9%), more positive about the future (77.9%) and are learning a lot (76.9%). The rate of those who are not satisfied or hardly satisfied is very low, from 1% to less than 3%.

OLS (Overall Subjective Well-Being)

Table 2.9.1 Satisfaction with life as a whole (8 year old) (%)

Satisfaction with ...					
Your life as a whole	2.4	1.1	6.1	13.2	77.2

Nmissing 1380

Table 2.9.2 Satisfaction with life as a whole (10 &12 year old) (%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Your life as a whole	1.9	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.6	2.6	1.9	3.4	5.7	10.3	72.7

Nmissing 827

CW-SWBS (Children's Worlds Subjective Well-Being Scale)

Table 2.9.3 CW-SWBS items (%)

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I enjoy my life ¹	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.6	1.2	2.4	2.6	4.4	5.5	11.0	70.4
My life is going well ²	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.7	1.6	3.2	2.8	4.5	6.9	15.5	63.1
I have a good life ³	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.8	1.3	2.2	2.5	3.7	5.6	9.4	72.7
The things that happen in my life are excellent ⁴	1.0	0.7	1.2	0.8	1.7	5.3	3.6	5.7	9.4	16.9	53.6
I like my life ⁵	1.2	0.9	1.1	0.7	1.8	2.9	2.8	3.3	5.5	11.7	68.0
I am happy with my life ⁶	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.9	2.4	4.1	4.9	8.8	73.5

Nmissing 705¹, 706², 717³, 703⁴, 703⁵, 704⁶

CW-DBSWBS (Children's Worlds Domain Based Subjective Well-Being Scale), 2003)

Table 2.9.4 CW- DBSWBS items (%)

Satisfaction with	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The people you live with ¹	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.2	0.7	2.3	1.4	2.9	6.0	11.9	72.8
Your friends ²	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.5	3.7	2.6	4.0	12.0	17.3	57.3
Your life as a student ³	2.7	1.1	0.8	1.5	1.5	6.5	4.1	7.7	11.6	15.8	46.8
The area where you live ⁴	2.1	0.7	0.2	1.3	1.8	4.4	2.8	5.2	9.0	13.7	58.8
The way that you look ⁵	1.4	1.0	0.5	0.7	1.8	3.9	2.6	5.0	7.2	11.8	64.0

Nmissing 709¹, 701², 698³, 708⁴, 816⁵**CW-PNAS (Children's Worlds Positive and Negative Affects Scale)**

Table 2.9.5 CW-PNAS items (%)

Last two weeks: How often feeling	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Happy ¹	0.8	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.6	2.7	2.4	4.4	8.9	11.9	67.2
Calm ²	6.0	2.4	2.4	4.3	2.7	11.6	6.3	6.9	9.4	9.6	38.5
Full of energy ³	2.5	1.0	0.8	1.1	1.5	3.6	3.2	4.7	5.8	9.7	66.2
Sad ⁴	35.1	13.0	9.6	8.3	6.2	8.9	2.9	4.2	3.3	2.7	5.8
Stressed ⁵	27.2	8.3	6.2	7.2	5.0	9.5	3.8	6.0	6.3	5.1	15.4
Bored ⁶	35.5	9.4	6.5	6.5	5.2	8.9	4.0	3.7	4.2	4.1	12.2

Nmissing 815¹, 833², 825³, 826⁴, 833⁵, 829⁶**CW-PSWBS (Children's Worlds Psychological Subjective Well-Being Scale)-**

Table 2.9.6 CW- PSWBS items (%)

How much you agree with	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I like being the way I am ¹	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.1	1.8	2.5	3.3	2.8	6.1	9.1	71.8
I am good at managing my daily responsibilities ²	1.1	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.4	3.3	3.9	6.0	9.9	11.7	60.1
People are generally pretty friendly towards me ³	1.2	0.3	1.1	1.1	2.4	3.0	4.1	6.3	9.4	13.3	57.9
I have enough choice about how I spend my time ⁴	0.9	1.7	0.6	1.7	2.0	3.2	4.2	5.0	7.7	12.8	60.4
I feel that I am learning a lot at the moment ⁵	1.5	0.6	0.4	0.4	1.8	2.7	2.2	5.2	8.2	13.5	63.3
I feel positive about my future ⁶	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.5	3.3	1.9	5.7	6.3	10.6	67.3

Nmissing 1473¹, 1478², 1479³, 1478⁴, 1475⁵, 1476⁶

2.10 Children's rights

When asked whether they know about children's rights they had mixed reactions. Close to one half (47%) of participants are aware of their rights as children, in contrast to 14.7% who are unaware and 38.4% who not sure. When asked about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), 40.2% are not sure about it, followed by 35.4% who do not know about UNCRC; only one fourth reported to know about it. They appear to become more aware of their rights and the children's rights convention as they grow older (Table 2.10.1).

Table 2.10.1 Children's rights (%)

		8-year-olds	10-year-olds	12-year-olds	Total
I know what rights children have	No	27.0	11.8	3.6	14.7
	Not sure	40.1	41.3	33.0	38.4
	Yes	32.9	46.9	63.4	47.0
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
I know about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child	No	48.8	33.9	21.4	35.4
	Not sure	30.8	41.8	49.3	40.2
	Yes	20.4	24.3	29.4	24.4
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

2.11 Conclusions

The great majority of participants in this study provided a very positive view of their subjective wellbeing in the various aspects of their lives such as home, economic wellbeing, school, locality, use of time, safety and friends. They report a very stable home environment with very good relationships with their parents and other family members. They are also happy with the home they live in. The great majority have their own bed and a space to study at home and with half of ten and twelve year olds having their own bedroom. Overall, the great majority have positive and supportive relations with friends and have enough friends. About 14% however, do not have enough friends. Younger participants appear to have better relationships than older ones.

Most of the participants enjoy a good quality of life and economic wellbeing, with the great majority satisfied with the things they have. Few students lack basic necessities, but more than one fourth worry frequently about how much money the family has.

The great majority of participants feel safe and satisfied with the area where they live. A substantial minority, however, expressed dissatisfaction, with close to one fourth saying there are not enough places to play and have a good time, that neighbours are not helpful, and that they do not have enough opportunities to participate in decisions about things that

are important to them. Most of the students are satisfied with their use of time and their free time, with the younger children being more satisfied.

Most students are happy with their school life, having positive relationships with both teachers and peers. They feel safe and supported at school and are satisfied with the things they learn at school. Younger students appear to be happier and more satisfied. On the other hand, more than one third reported frequent arguments and fighting in their class, whilst one in five reported frequent physical or psychological bullying.

The different measures of children's subjective wellbeing consistently show that Maltese participants are highly satisfied with their lives. High positive affect scores were reported regarding feeling happy and full of energy, but nearly 11% of Maltese students appear to feel less calm or not calm at all.

There were mixed reactions to awareness of children's rights, with only about one half of students appearing confident about their awareness of children's rights. Students, however, they become more aware of their rights and of the children's rights convention as they grow older.

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Appendix: Statistical Tables

Table A1 Mean scores of levels of satisfaction with the people that you live with by age (independent sample t-test)

Satisfaction with the people that you live with	Mean	Std. Dev.
10y	9.38*	1.521
12y	9.20*	1.754

*p<0.05

Table A2 Mean scores of levels of satisfaction with the home that you live in by age (independent sample t-test)

		Mean	Std. Dev.
Satisfaction with the home that you live in	10y	9.08*	2.047
	12y	9.25*	1.610

Note: *p<0.1 (0.108) tendency

Table A3 Mean scores of levels of satisfaction with friends by age (independent sample t-test)

		Mean	Std. Dev.
Satisfaction with friends	10y	9.03*	1.863
	12y	8.82*	1.778

Note: *p<0.05

Table A4 Mean scores of levels of satisfaction by school age (independent sample t-test)

		Mean	Std. Dev.
Your life as a student	10y	8.40*	2.509
	12y	8.14*	2.353
The things you have learned at school	10y	8.97**	1.991
	12y	8.63**	1.970
The other children in your class	10y	8.37*	2.309
	12y	8.06*	2.355

Note: *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001

Table A5 Mean scores of satisfaction with time use (10y & 12y) (independent sample t-test)

Satisfaction with...		Mean	Std. Dev.
How you use your time	10y	9.02***	1.833
	12y	8.66***	1.919
How much free time you have	10y	8.80***	2.249
	12y	8.29***	2.415

Note: ***p<0.001