

# **RESPONDING TO THE AAI**

## **INNOVATIONS IN ACTIVE AGEING POLICIES IN MALTA**

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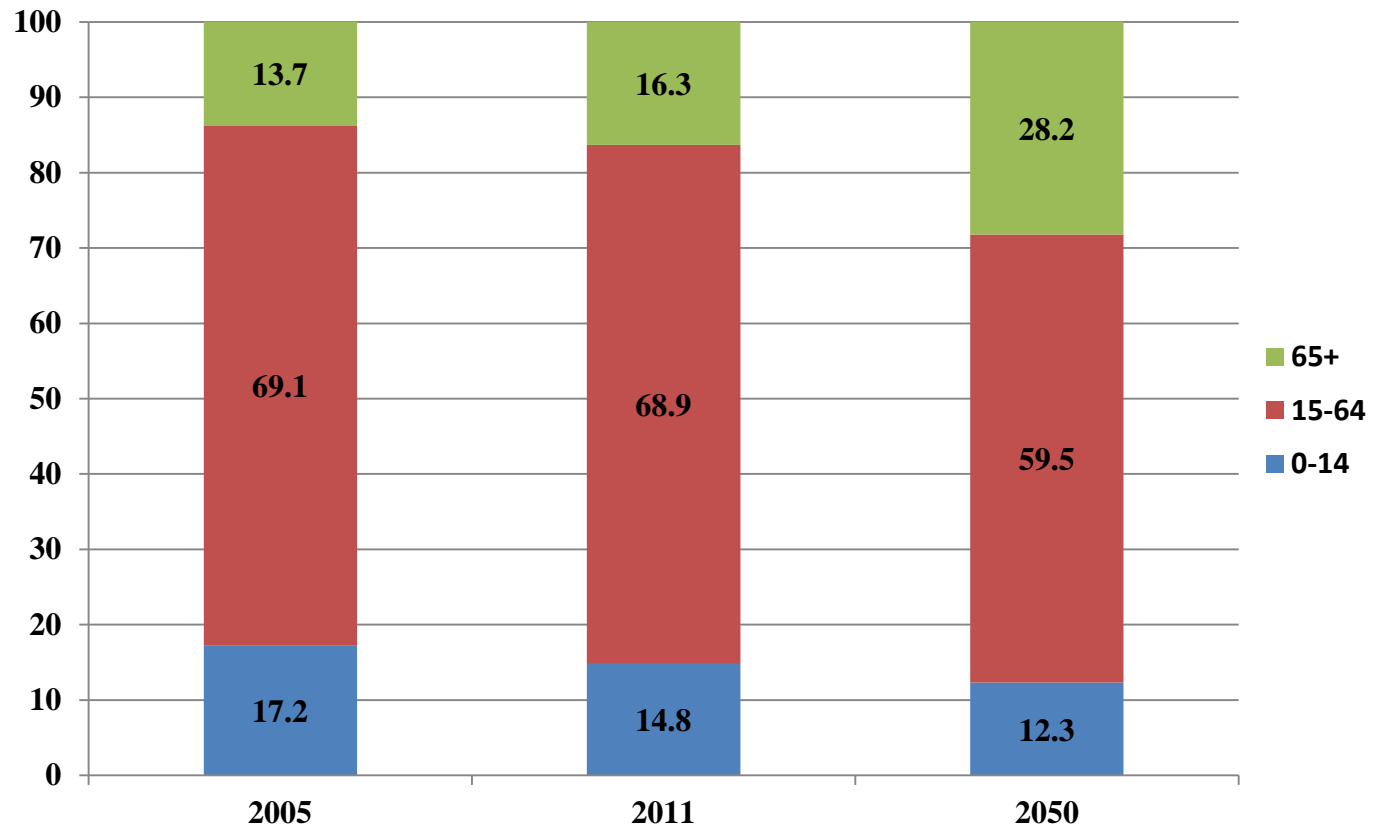
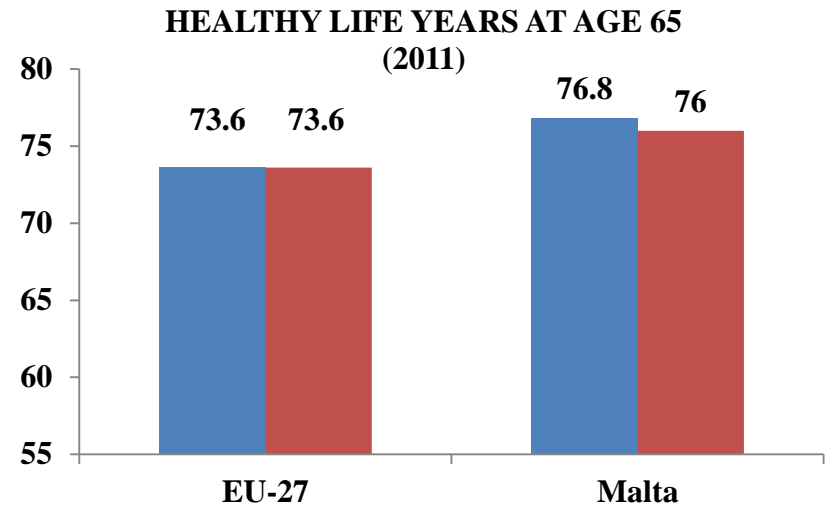
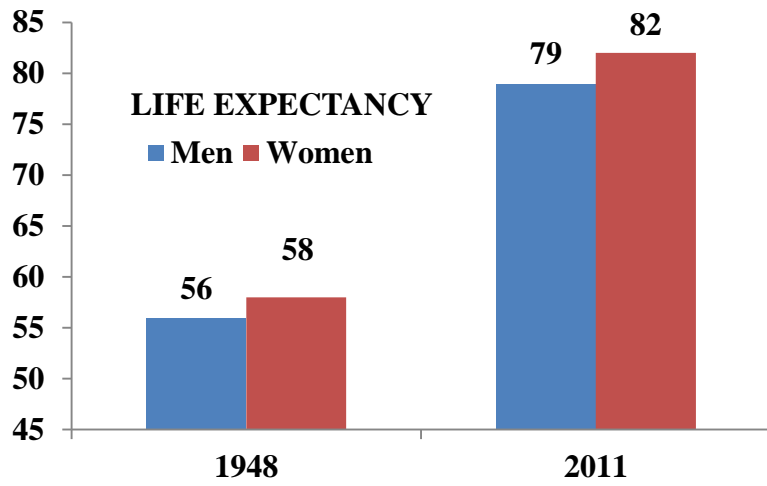
...A lot of water has flowed under the bridge since, in their anticipation of a Turkish invasion, in **1564** the Order of St. John perceived older persons as ‘useless civilians’ and evacuated them to Sicily.

The Maltese Government was the first nation to bring a motion before the United Nations that called for an action plan in regard to the world's ageing population. This occurred in **1968**...with ‘population ageing’ being successfully included on the agenda of the 24th session of the General Assembly.

Chairperson of the United Nations’ World Assembly on Ageing in **1980** was a Maltese citizen.

In **1986**, the United Nations reached an official agreement with the Government of Malta to establish an International Institute on Ageing as an autonomous body under the auspices of the United Nations, which was opened in 1987.

In the same year, **1987**, Malta was one of the first countries whose ministerial cabinet had a Junior Ministry for the Care of the Elderly



## **Malta and the AAI (EU-27) (2012)**

Malta fared in the **19th** place in the overall index.

The low rates of older workers put Malta in the **26th** place as far as the ‘employment’ domain is concerned.

A mid-table position as far as ‘social participation’ and ‘independent living’ are concerned, in the **15th** and **17th** places respectively.

A somewhat better position was achieved with respect to the domain for ‘capacity for active ageing’, as Malta placed in the **13th** place.

As regards the breakdown of results by **gender**, the AAI rates for Maltese men and women were 35 and 26.9 respectively

**2013**

Junior Ministry for the Care of the Elderly

renamed as

Junior Ministry for the Rights of Persons with Disability  
and Active Ageing.

**Elderly care**



**Active citizenship**

# **IMMEDIATE POLICY INITIATIVES**

## **Outreach social work practice**

### **Day Centres for Older Persons & Care Homes**

- ↳ Representative Committees
- ↳ Lifelong Learning Hubs

### **Nationwide pre-retirement learning programmes**

### **Memorandum of Understanding between Junior Ministry & University of Malta:**

- ↳ A third and fourth Centre for the U3A
- ↳ Master degree in Ageing and Dementia Studies

# IMMEDIATE LEGISLATION INITIATIVES

## Elder abuse legislation

Deterrent measures have been incorporated in the Maltese Criminal Code, specifically dealing with abuse, which so far had been defined in a very broad manner:

...government's efforts to deter elder abuse is only the beginning...we are in the process of drafting the second batch of amendments... [which] will make a substantial difference by enhancing professional and public awareness of elder abuse and establishing a range of legal remedies that protect older people...

Another noteworthy legislation in the pipeline concerns the possibility whereby persons convicted of crimes where older persons are victims will be automatically liable for damages upon sentencing. Hence, eliminating the need for the older person to pursue the perpetrator for damages through a civil case.

# National Minimum Standards for Long Term Care

An Act that safeguards residents in care homes for older people the following rights:

- Adequate health and personal care;
- Daily constructive activities;
- Complaints and protection;
- A homely environment - rather than an institutional setting, and should always be well maintained, tidy, attractive and clean
- Acceptable and sufficient staffing
- Professional management and administration





**..a vision for policy in which facilitating the rights of older people will enable the expanding population to remain health (reducing the burden of health and social care systems), stay in employment longer (reducing longer pension costs), whilst also fully participating in community and political processes.**

- society for all ages**
- intergenerational equity**
- empowerment**

# NATIONAL STRATEGIC POLICY FOR ACTIVE AGEING

MALTA 2014-2020

# NSPAA:

## Three major themes

**ACTIVE  
PARTICIPATION  
IN THE  
LABOUR  
MARKET**

**PARTICIPATION  
IN SOCIETY**

**INDEPENDENT  
LIVING**

## Improving / Establishing:



ACTIVE  
PARTICIPATION IN  
THE LABOUR  
MARKET

- Continuing vocational education / training
- Healthy working conditions
- Age management
- Employment services for older workers
- Mitigation against ageism and age discrimination
- Employment-friendly tax/benefit systems
- Mentoring opportunities
- Reconciliation of work and care



PARTICIPATION  
IN SOCIETY

- Enabling elders (esp. women) to pay missing national insurances to receive full pension;
- Free transport to day centres, cultural activities and social events so as to improve levels of social inclusion;
- Working on policies and legislation that facilitate older volunteering and grandparenting roles;
- Implementing a widening participation agenda for participation in older adult learning;
- Free courses in ICT for persons aged 60-plus (almost 1% of the older population benefitted)
- Extending unpaid leave and opportunities for flexihours for employees who care/support their parents;



INDEPENDENT  
LIVING

- Furthering health prevention and promotion marketing;
- Increase the number of medical, applied health professional and social workers personnel in acute and geriatric rehabilitation;
- Initiate (a) a Dementia intervention team and (b) a Geriatric Mental Health Resource Team, to both work in community settings;
- Improving community care services e.g. from upgrading Telecare to Telecare Plus;
- Commencing discussion on the much misunderstood and polemical topic of end-of-life Care, especially advanced directives;

# National Dementia Strategy



- Launched 2 April 2015
- Increasing awareness and understanding of dementia;
- Timely diagnosis and intervention;
- Workforce development;
- Improving dementia management and care;
- Research;

**THANK YOU**

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