



# The Migrant Crisis in Malta and the EU



A Bird's Eye View

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# Introduction

The aim of this survey was to determine how the Maltese general population views the current refugee crisis and how it thinks we should solve it.

The prompt question of this survey was;

“How do you feel about the Migrant Crisis captivating the Maltese Islands and the European Union once more?”

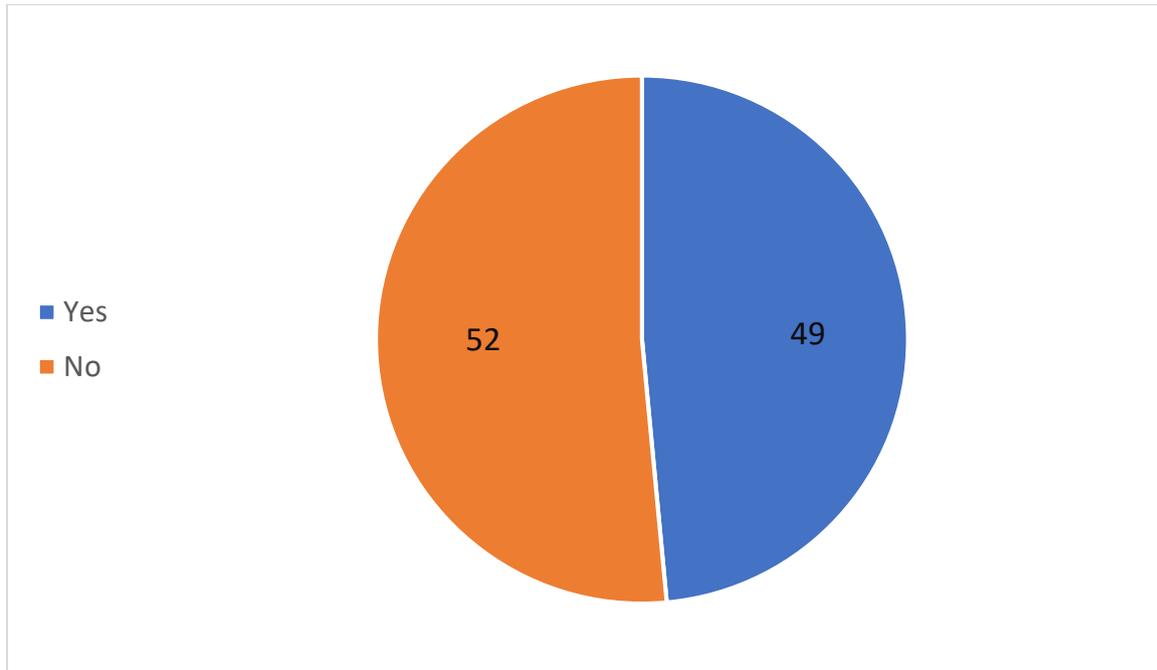
Controversy has once again risen regarding the Migrant Crisis after the new Italian Government closed its borders to Boat Migrants and is forcing European countries and Malta to take up what they call a ‘burden’ themselves.”

This survey has reached a total of 101 respondents.



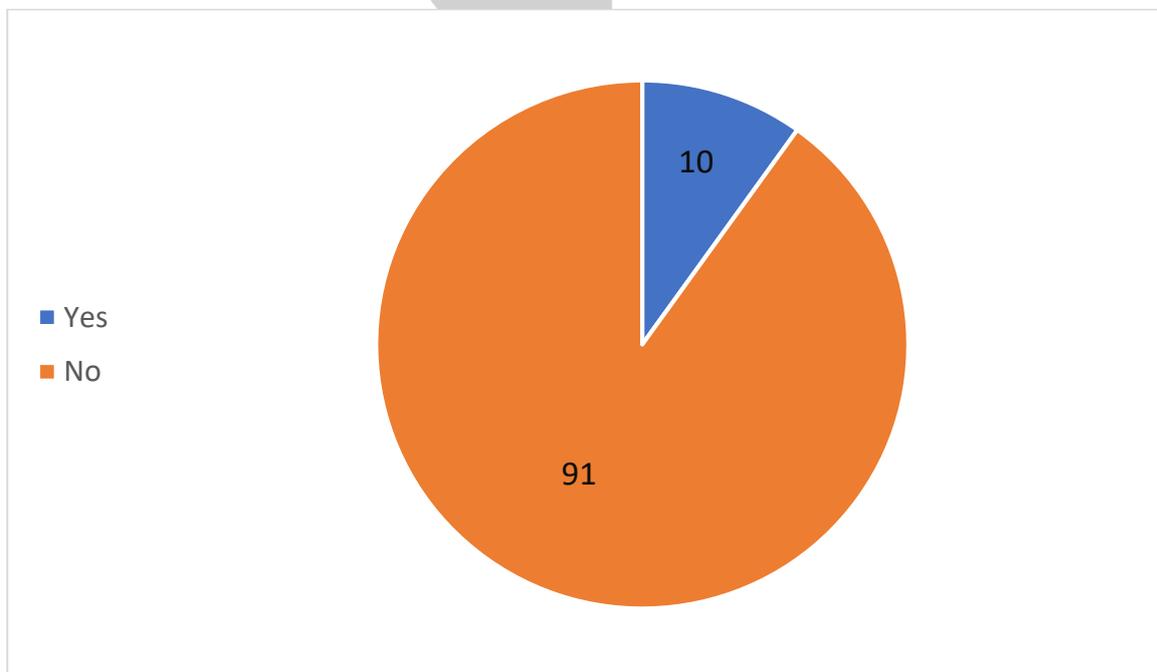
Question 1:

**Do you see refugees as a major threat to Malta?**



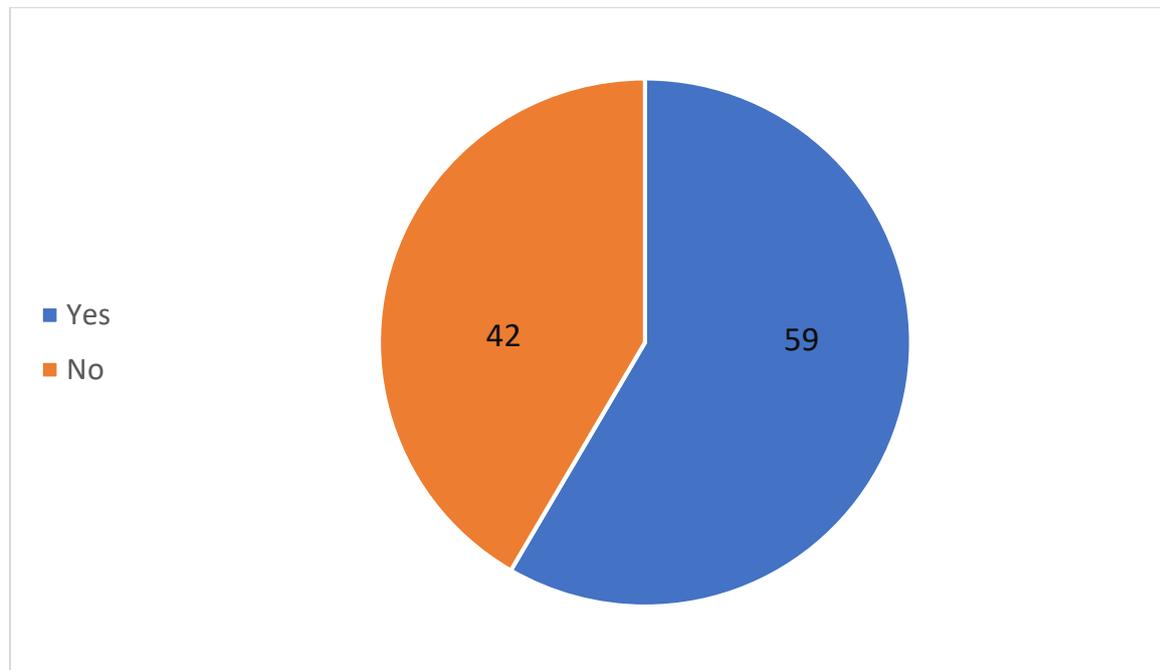
Question 2:

**Are you happy with how the EU is handling the refugee crisis?**



Question 3:

**Do you believe that Malta should allow irregular migrants to seek asylum in Malta?**



Question 4:

**Why or why not?**

*[same answers taken together]*

- People cannot be left to drown.
- It is not their fault. The immigrants are only trying to find a place where they feel safe and will have a better life, for them and for their families. If it was the other way around, I would be devastated if me and my family had to suffer in our countries conditions and wouldn't be able to leave for a better life.
- Asylum should be a genuine right, and it's the duty of the more fortunate to help the less.
- Clearly their life is in danger and thus need help.
- I think it's important to assist people that require it.
- Illegal immigrants should not have the same rights as legal Maltese citizens. They should have the proper paperwork, become citizens and be integrated in our culture.
- Malta is overpopulated.
- There's something fishy about the migrants.
- Although I do believe that these irregular migrants deserve to seek asylum, Malta is one of the very few EU member countries that took up the rightful amount of irregular migrants in the country.
- They should be granted asylum since that faced dangers at home, however they mustn't stay in Malta, they should just be given protection and other necessities and taken to other European countries since Malta cannot house this many people.



- As our country is being overridden with migrants, I believe they should be granted asylum in the country closest to their port of origin
- Because this is not solving the problem, the problem could be better solved if all countries help by crushing the hostile forces militarily together as a European force and let the refugees take back their homes.
- The rule of law is absolute. Break a country's criminal code and you end up in jail. Break a country's immigration law, and consequences should exist as well
- It depends on how you see it. Right now, we are too overpopulated. In the past when we weren't, it wasn't an issue since it's the humanitarian way to go. There needs to be burden sharing with other countries.
- Yes, but by setting a yearly cap.
- They are people too and therefore deserve safety and security. Everyone needs to do their share.
- They could have been me. I'm not on a boat like them not because of some great personal achievement that distinguishes me from them and that gives me rights that they never worked for, but simply because I happened to be born in country where we don't have what they're experiencing at home.
- Because they're people and it would be inhumane to not help provide asylum. They flee their homes for a reason. The public should know that people wouldn't leave the comfort of their homes just because.
- Irregular migrants are mostly economic migrants, and this is borne out by the statistics. If I was assured that failed asylum seekers are repatriated immediately then I would support processing of asylum claims in Malta. But most are not repatriated with less than 40% of Italian failed asylum seekers repatriated. Therefore, I am sorry, but I am now in favour of zero tolerance to all irregular migration.
- So long as the burden is shared proportionately with all EU countries.
- Saving human lives must always be given top priority, however Malta's case has come to a point where our increasing population cannot take any huger migrant arrivals, and this must be done in moderation, with assistance from other European states.
- Way too densely populated and leads up to them accumulating in certain areas. This is in turn causes "no go" zones in my own country.
- The vast overwhelming majority are illegal, economic migrants who are simply bypassing actual legal channels. Moreover, they have absolutely no intention of actual integration.
- They should be allowed purely for humanitarian reasons. It should not be acceptable that people are left to die in open sea just because two countries have a dispute. What happens after they are saved though, is another issue.
- We don't really have a proper way of vetting them and there should be a limited amount of migrants allowed asylum for the sake of cultural and integration reasons.
- Cost; 2. Terrorist attack threat; 3. Crime rate rises after asylum is granted; 4. Labour market shocks; 5. Adds infrastructure pressure and unsustainable population density on an already-pressured island; 6. Changes social fabric of society that is already under threat.
- I might sound contradictory in my answers, but I would never leave someone at sea or send back to a war zone. having said that, without proper integration they can be a major threat to Malta. We can't afford to have gangs and ghettos form they seem to ignore all customs, culture and rules of their host country. We're too small for that. for proper integration there needs to be constant media and leader bombardment on how to do it at micro level.



- Human trafficking
- My impressions are that immigrants are often not refugees at all in the true sense, but rather economic immigrants. The recent refugee crisis and the immigration is part of a plan to replace the Western, native populations of Europe.
- Because they have inalienable human rights like everyone else.
- If a migrant has legitimate reasons for seeking asylum in Malta and couldn't enter legally they should be accepted as sending them home can endanger them
- Many irregular migrants are in fact not fleeing war but poverty. Even if they went through literal torture to get to Europe they should have no right to claim asylum. And if poverty is a good excuse to seek asylum like some far liberals think, then Europe would be obliged to take in every poor immigrant from Russia, Ukraine, Baltics etc. Irregular migrants have almost nothing to offer the country and are taken in with no standards. These irregular migrants most of the time have very little qualifications to show, if any at all, and so the only work they will find is construction and manual labour, which mostly benefits those 10% who are profiting from their low wages. Above all, these irregular migrants come from lawless countries with harmful cultures. It astounds me that some people can't accept the fact that when you import Africans, you get African culture, not European or American or any other culture. It is plain as day through statistics, surveys, and simple observation in the news and everyday life that these immigrants' culture is radical and bad. And it is a fact that they are committing more crime than regular Europeans. And when these illegal immigrants severely break the law (ex. assault, rape) or go back to bad habits, they should be sent back to their country of origin regardless of what criminal gang they claim want their head.
- No one should risk their lives in crossing the sea there are other ways and also this finances traffickers.
- Asylum is a humanitarian issue. economic migrants are a different matter.
- They should only be allowed after strict security and background checks since amongst these irregular migrants there might be people trying to steal our jobs, drug dealers, terrorists whom no one would want in their country.
- Because Europe should be for Europeans. Illegal immigrants should try to come through legal channels and because a huge percentage of them are economic migrants.
- These migrants are migrating for a better life. Who are we to stand in the way of this goal?
- Malta is already very overcrowded, we cannot favour a migrant over a Maltese citizen.
- We have more than enough. All the other countries should take refugees since this is a global problem.
- It is our duty as members of the same species to ensure that these mistreated and weather-beaten souls find a safe place to rest.
- I think immigrants should seek asylum in Malta temporarily they should seek asylum until they can be relocated elsewhere or emigrated back to their country of origin.
- I believe there are much better options for places where refugees might stay. Both for Malta and for them. Malta doesn't have enough space to support all these immigrants, at least in humane conditions. Abroad there will also be several more job opportunities, which will help them start a family there.



### Question 5:

#### **What do you think should be done to better the situation?**

*[same answers taken together]*

- Safer routes particularly across desert, in Libya, and across Mediterranean, help civil society development in European and African countries, combat corruption in European and African countries.
- The EU should help America and Russia crush the Islamic terrorist state and assemble new democracies in the middle east, thus reducing significantly the number of illegal immigrants.
- Let them continue to Mainland Europe or just send back to where they came from.
- The situation is not ours, its theirs.
- The EU should try and discuss the situation with all the continents, including the countries with a lot of emigrants. A lot of such countries' main problem is money, the EU and the other continents in this case, should help financially stable poorer countries and help increase the level of education.
- Greater integration programmes, efforts to prevent the exploitation of cheap labour.
- Share responsibility with other EU member states and have proper programs set up for asylum seekers to feel welcome and be included within the society.
- Malta could accept more refugees and migrants, and actively work to support them once they arrive.
- I think it's time that these irregular migrants start being 'divided' into other countries in EU member states and not continue overpopulating countries such as Malta, France, Britain etc. By this I mean, every EU member state should take up the amount it was proposed for it to take over in the first place which all the EU member states have failed to do except for Malta and Ireland.
- Bring only refugees, send back economic migrants, process them offshore or make a legal migration system like Canada's.
- The EU and NATO should tackle the problems which are bringing these poor souls to our shores. Remove the spider not the web.
- Send the migrants back to the port of origin.
- Refugees should be thought how to keep a stable economy, population and culture and once the problem within their country is solved or the training of the individual is done they should be sent back to solve their countries problem.
- Faster processing of asylum application, co-operation with north African authorities to arrest the smugglers. Reduce trade barriers and EU wide protectionism which contributes to poverty in Africa in the first place.
- Burden sharing according to the size of EU country, with no one shirking their responsibilities. Better care for immigrants once they arrive in the country.
- Creating safe legal routes to enter the EU. Proper European plan to tackle migration and distribute migrants fairly.
- Less immigration can only happen if the situation in their own countries. Until that happens, we all need to help resettle every single one of them. We are ourselves all descendants of settlers, after all.
- To start with, educate the people to not be ignorant and close minded. Distribution of migrants should be bettered for their own benefit and for the benefit of the host country.



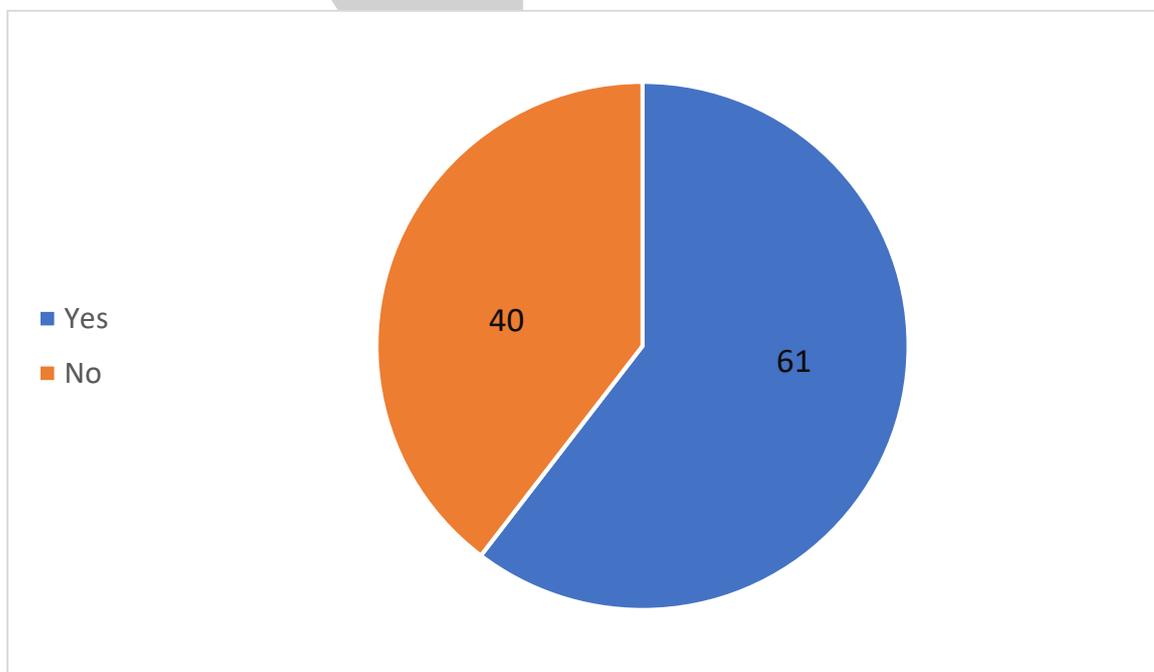
- Offshore processing of migrants. Refugees should be sent to larger countries while economic migrants should be sent back.
- Europe should use its economic and military muscle to force change in the source countries. Sovereign countries should only have their sovereignty respected if they can take care of their own citizens.
- The migrant open centre needs to be renovated to cater better for migrant arrivals. There needs to be more encouragement for burden sharing at a European level and more guarantees that it will be implemented through solidarity.
- Complete pushback, have actual safe zones in Libya and other countries manned by non-corruptible European representatives, with regular audits and immaculate paper trails.
- Education to end racism.
- The EU must stop the cause of migration. It must stop selling arms to areas of conflict.
- The area of sea designated to each country is clearly defined. If found in one country's area, they are responsible to rescue those lives. However, after the country brings them in, burden sharing between the EU is a must. It is inconceivable that countries with a much larger land mass take a much smaller percentage than smaller countries such as Malta. The EU is either a union in all matters, or not at all.
- Make sure that migrants who wish to stay here adopt our culture and language and have them become Maltese in terms of identity. Also, removal of ghettos.
- 1) Better integration efforts by media, 2) I heard there are educational programs about our ways of living. If this is being done, that is awesome, 3) Better analysis and control over distribution of people across the island, 4) Ease of access to other countries, 5) Adaptation to our cultures and way of life.
- Governments need to make a better job of encouraging integration.
- 1) Political leaders stop using inflammatory language and rhetoric, 2) Programme to place refugees in homes and jobs, 3) Incentives to the public for support, 4) Resume life-saving exercises at sea, 5) Support conflict resolution in countries of origin and in non-EU countries carrying the burden of migration.
- The E.U setting up asylum processing stations on the African and Middle East continent as to separate legitimate asylum seekers from economic migrants.
- The obvious solution is to have some standards regarding who gets work visas. What should be included is the ability to communicate in English and at the very least a high school level of education. But of course, we know that governments won't do that because they profit over the low wages of immigrant worker.
- Setup a processing centre on a big ship in the Mediterranean. Rescued migrants are sent there to be processed.
- Bigger EU countries need to put in real efforts and not just rely on Italy.
- Refurbishment of abandoned buildings so that they can house refugees and more people in need.
- Rescuing everyone but keeping them detained, whilst strict background checks are carried out, only letting the irregular migrants out after their identity is found and it is declared safe that they are released. However, I don't believe in integrating them with Maltese society but rather to keep them safe in Malta until they can go back to their country.
- I think that increased security and regulations when it comes to refugee behaviour would greatly improve the situation. That way, migrants who are only trouble should be sent back while those behaving well can stay.



- Europe needs migrants/asylum seekers, as its population is aging. They should be allowed to come and be part of our societies. And stop calling them burdens. Of course, all of Europe should take in asylum seekers as Italy and Malta alone cannot do so. Also there is a need to review the language used and discourse as well.
- There should be a true fair share of the immigrants and instead of sending them from country to country, we should try to find out a way to improve their life conditions in their country.
- EU must work together in equity. Each country should allow a number of immigrants into their land based on the country's size and/or population.
- To improve security on the reasons the refugees reasons to seek asylum onto Malta so no economic refugees can take advantage of people in real need of asylum.
- 1) Educate the young that illegal immigrants aren't after our jobs or wealth. Compassion 2) To better the resources and instead of keeping them in overcrowded places, they should be given the opportunity to give back.
- Better rehabilitation centres for immigrants.
- Even after Malta saves the immigrants from the sea, and gives them refuge until they are moved elsewhere, they should placed in a larger country.
- Enforcement of burden sharing, with larger costs applied to countries resisting sharing. Widespread education programmes not solely for the reinterpretation of refugees but mostly for the education of the 'locals', especially those prone to racism and xenophobia.

Question 6:

**Do you believe that such immigrants would benefit our society?**



## Question 7:

### **How / Why not?**

*[same answers taken together]*

- If they integrate and become citizens they will benefit as much as any other Maltese citizen.
- Malta is overpopulated.
- Many are using them.
- Immigrants will always benefit the society. Citizens will get to learn how to live with other cultures and races, therefore racism is decreased. Although, unfortunately, there are still many people who are racist. Other than that, in a multicultural society, communities will continue develop in language, cuisines, cultural, etc. [ex: When Germany had a lot of Turkish immigrants, their society changed tremendously].
- More people earning, paying tax and working together for the long-term.
- Diversity leads to innovation.
- Unskilled. Conflict of cultures.
- Yes and no. Most immigrants do jobs that most locals do not want to do but, as though as I hate to generalize; crime rates in Malta have increased rapidly and most of them are committed by immigrants.
- Economic migrants create wealth and contribute to society, refugees leech off the governments.
- They bring in new skills and ideas.
- As they work illegally on almost non-existent wages. The Maltese would get more work done sufficiently and legally.
- Diversity, economically and an educational form also to open the eyes of people to better understand their world.
- Legal immigrants benefit the economy, not illegal immigrants.
- They take jobs that Maltese don't want to do.
- More cultural exposure. More labour power to combat ageing population.
- By being alive and not dead in the sea.
- People would become more accepting once they get to know others due to multiculturalism.
- The idea that one country should have one race is far-fetched and far from realistic. Through migration, different cultures are introduced in different countries. Ideas, knowledge and beliefs are spread rather than contained within the borders of one country.
- Most are unskilled and generally uneducated. Most do not speak English and try little to integrate into society. Lack of education causes crime and ghettos.
- Most are unskilled and are either untrainable or cost too much to train for a productive life in a western country. There have been exceptions such as the exodus of much of the Iraqi and Syrian professional class over the years, especially after the first gulf war. But Somalis for example are incredibly hard to train and integrate. There will always be exceptions.
- Migrants bring a necessary input for our economy, since they end up doing jobs which Maltese citizens often don't feel motivated enough to do, and the form part of the diverse nature of our country as a part of Europe.
- They are uneducated, with no intention of integration. Furthermore, we have no idea of their background, they may be criminals, or carriers of highly contagious disease. HIV rates have skyrocketed in the last decade in Malta.



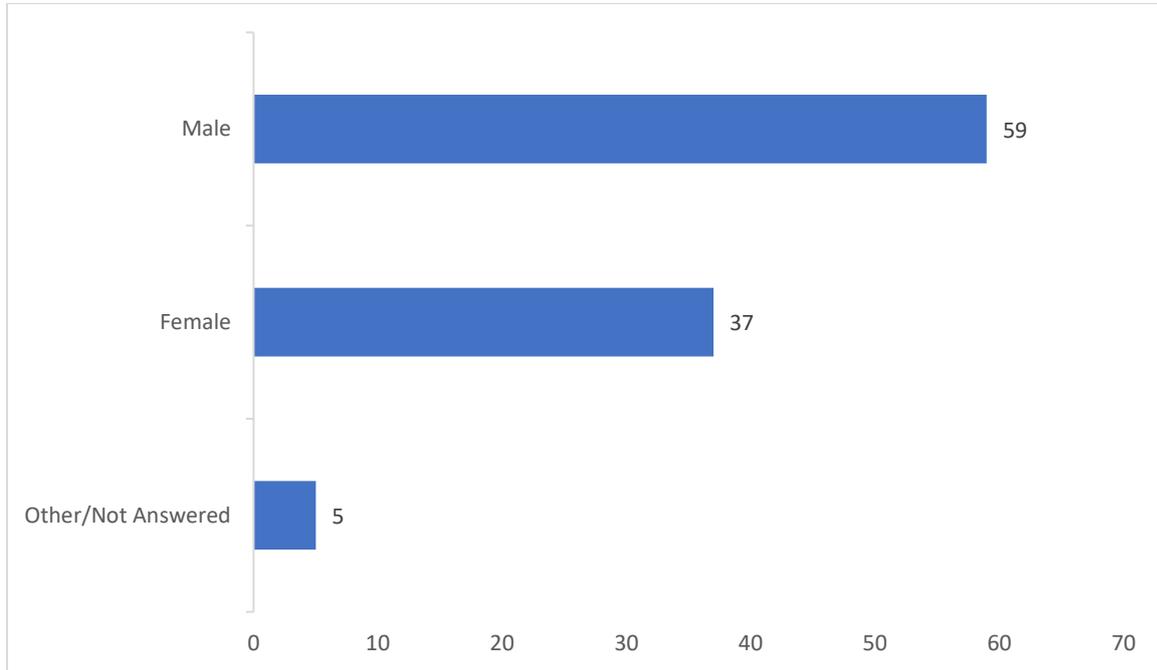
- It mostly depends on the individuals. There are immigrants with actual work experience and education. Although I do not believe they can be properly fully integrated to our culture, providing that their culture is so different, I do believe that given the opportunity, a number of them could benefit society / economy in general.
- We depend on many sort of immigrants for work and there is a lot to learn from other cultures as well.
- There is a legal process to bring in immigrants who can benefit society and there is no need for illegal entry for such people.
- The percentage of these that are educated, to me seems low. I stand to be corrected. On top of this, the difference in the ways of doing things and what we consider hygienic compared to their standards have an impact as well. This generates conflict, stress, rebellion and lack of respect within society.
- Our country's status I'd imagine is better than theirs since they leaving for other options.
- Look at Sweden. You'll get hordes of people dependent on welfare. Skewed male/female ratio and no-go-zones.
- Brings in new workers in an ageing society.
- When integration is done properly we all benefit.
- Human resources are always crucial, especially when we don't have natural resources.
- During their stay in Malta, until they find jobs they are relying on Maltese social benefits, coming from taxpayers' pockets.
- Many jobs such as janitors, garbagemen etc. are jobs that not many Maltese hold, nor would want to. Migrants at least fill up these menial jobs. A problem with them however, is that they greatly affect the housing prices/value/class of the area many of them are found.
- If they contribute to the good of the society, by for example working and having proper security then they could be of benefit to society.
- With this substantial amount of people, be it immigrants or local people and with the correct resources, society can benefit greatly. Keep in mind some of these people are qualified and educated.
- Building a better anti-racist, multicultural society.
- Although it teaches us about different cultures or how other people around the world might be living, or work in jobs which local people would rather not such as garbage collection or street sweeper, I think they will be more of a burden for the country and society rather than an asset.
- Cultural richness, economic development, increased dialogue between countries and peoples, and to put it crudely, richer, more varied genetic pool.



## Personal Questions

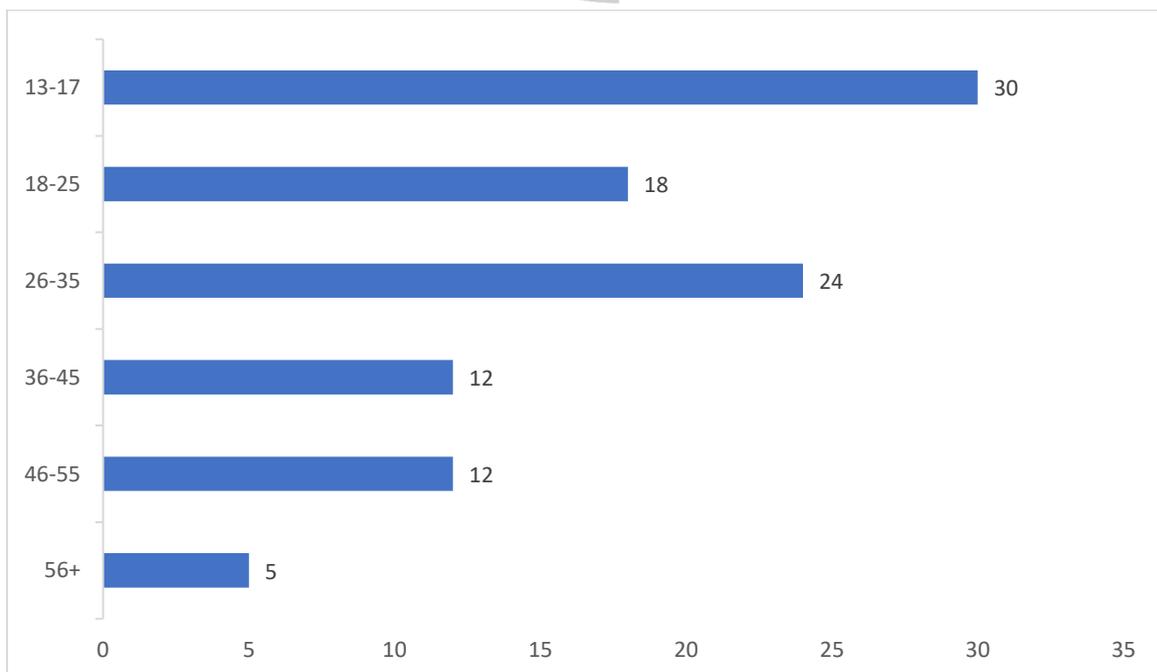
### Question 8:

#### Gender



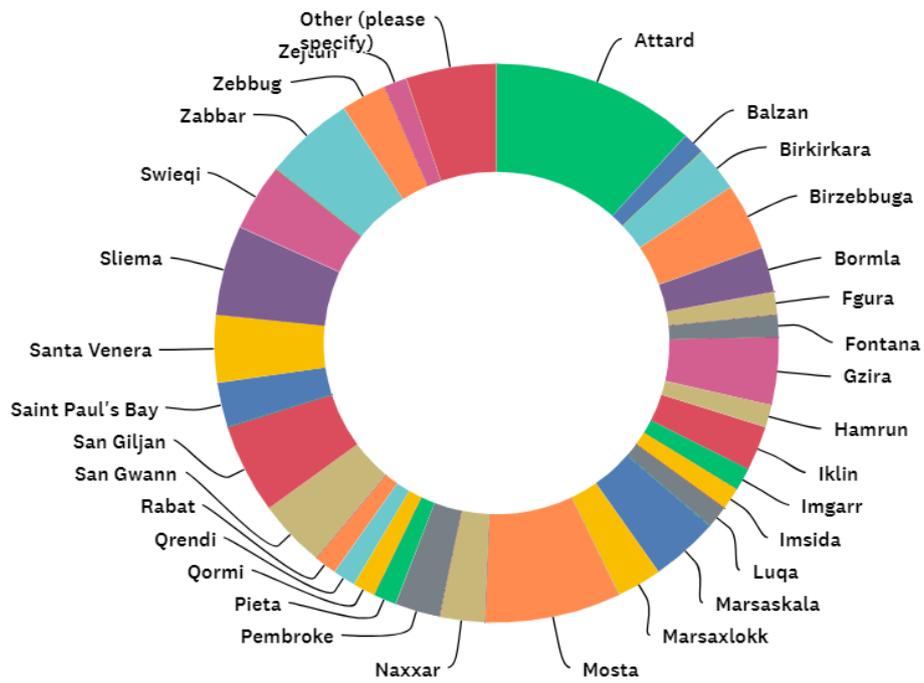
### Question 9:

#### Age



Question 10:

**Locality**



## The Migrant Crisis in Malta and the European Union – Survey Results

Attard	11.69%	9
Mosta	7.79%	6
Other (please specify)	5.19%	4
Zabbar	5.19%	4
Sliema	5.19%	4
San Giljan	5.19%	4
Gzira	3.90%	3
Swieqi	3.90%	3
Santa Venera	3.90%	3
Marsaskala	3.90%	3
Birzebbuga	3.90%	3
San Gwann	3.90%	3
Saint Paul's Bay	2.60%	2
Zebbug	2.60%	2
Marsaxlokk	2.60%	2
Iklin	2.60%	2
Birkirkara	2.60%	2
Naxxar	2.60%	2
Pembroke	2.60%	2
Bormla	2.60%	2
Imsida	1.30%	1
Qormi	1.30%	1
Rabat	1.30%	1
Pieta	1.30%	1
Balzan	1.30%	1
Luqa	1.30%	1
Qrendi	1.30%	1
Imgarr	1.30%	1
Hamrun	1.30%	1
Fontana	1.30%	1
Fgura	1.30%	1
Zejtun	1.30%	1

