

## MALTA

Compiled from the questionnaire response prepared by *Antohny Attards* (St. James Cavallier Centre for Creativity, Valetta)

### 1. CULTURAL EMPLOYMENT IN FIGURES (2005)

Total employment		Cultural employment		Cultural employment in %
148 000		3 400		2,3%
Employed	Self-employed	Employed	Self-employed	
87%	13%	89,3%	10,7%	

Source: EUROSTAT, EU Labor Force Survey, 2005.

### 2. RECENT DEBATES ON THE MOBILITY OF CULTURAL PROFESSIONALS

- The geographic conditions of an island state makes mobility an obvious topic in the debate concerning the professionalisation of the arts in Malta. Maltese artists have always sought to advance their work beyond the limitations of the country. Following Malta's accession to the EU, a large number of young people have capitalised on new creative opportunities to advance their studies, develop new work or simply explore the European cultural scene. Determining whether the cultural brain drain will eventually transform into a brain gain for Malta is difficult to forecast since most have left on their own will and their perception of a sustainable creative profession in Malta is difficult to gauge.
- Artists based in Malta are constantly seeking opportunities to expose their works abroad. Also, the tag of presenting work abroad can often be a determining factor in the perceived credibility of the artist back home. Artists often manage single-handedly to export their work via their personal contacts, lobbying or commissions by foreign organisations. This has led to a number of artists mainly in the visual arts sector to present their work in collective or solo shows abroad. This however, does not exclude the fact that initial contacts between Maltese artists and their foreign counterparts are carried out by national cultural organisations and foreign cultural institutes in Malta. National cultural organisations are also important contact points for foreign cultural organisations to search for potential partners.
- Vis-à-vis European programmes, Maltese artists are not fully engaged in such programmes due to lack of national co-funding measures or the size of a project which often transcends the financial or administrative resources. On the other hand smaller programmes such as the Leonardo and life-long learning programmes often include the direct participation of artists and cultural professionals.
- Artists often question official selections of artists representing Malta abroad since these are often hand picked by Ambassadors, Ministers or high ranking government officials. On a lighter note, the most fervent and possibly only public media debate regarding artist mobility is often reduced to the amount of money spent on sending a singer and entourage abroad to participate in the Eurovision song contest.
- Even though the mobility of artists and of artistic works is predominant in all sectors, there is no formal strategy supporting mobility. The newly appointed Minister for Culture has recently announced in the media that mobility will become an integral part of cultural policy. Malta is currently also contributing to the Working group on improving the conditions for the mobility of artists and other professionals in the culture field. The Culture ministry is currently working on the creation of an Arts Fund and the development of its criteria. One of the categories included is a Mobility Fund, and one of its aims is also to assist mobility for short training courses.

### 3. MAIN TYPES OF MOBILITY SCHEMES

Type of mobility schemes	Outgoing Schemes available in the country for nationals/residents (-N)	Incoming Schemes to bring foreign cultural professionals (FCPs) into the country (-F)
Artists / writers residencies (AR)	X	X
Event participation grants (EP)	X	X
Scholarships for further / postgraduate training courses (FT)	X	--
"Go and see" or short-term exploration grants (GS)	X	--
Market development grants (MD)	--	--
Support for the participation of professsio- nals in trans-national networking (NW)	X	--
Project or production grants (PR)	--	X
"Research" grants or scholarships (RS)	--	--
Touring incentives for groups (TO)	X	X

### 4. MOBILITY SCHEMES: IMPORTANT EXAMPLES

#### NB:

- The schemes below are classified according to whether they target nationals/residents or foreign cultural professionals
- Those marked with an \* are open to both nationals/residents and foreign cultural professionals

#### 4.1 Outgoing schemes available for nationals/residents

##### Malta Government Scholarship Fund

([http://www.education.gov.mt/mgss\\_pg.htm](http://www.education.gov.mt/mgss_pg.htm))

Objective:	Is the increase of research and development activity in Malta, the development of new academics and fields of study and research, an ever more highly skilled workforce and the precious impact and social benefit of groundbreaking discoveries.
Administered by:	Ministry of Education
Type of scheme:	FT-N
Main destination:	Any country
Funding:	The postgraduate scholarships cover tuition fees for the duration of one year, up to a maximum of EUR 6 990 per annum for full-time Masters and PhD studies. In 2006 and 2007 ten scholarships were granted in relation to the arts and mainly related to music performance.
Eligibility:	Nationality: Maltese citizen, or is otherwise permitted to work in Malta; Other: Candidates must: be applying for either a Masters degree studies equivalent to NQF Level 7 or Doctoral degree studies equivalent to NQF Level 8; not already be in a course of post-graduate studies of the same level as that applied for; and hold by application deadline the following qualifications from a recognised higher education institution:

## **Media Training Scholarship**

[\(http://www.media.org.mt/\)](http://www.media.org.mt/)

Objective: To support participation in Media funded training courses  
Administered by: Media Desk Malta within the Ministry of Tourism and Culture  
Type of scheme: FT-N  
Main destination: All European countries  
Funding: Total number of beneficiaries: 9 (scheme funding average 1 000 EUR per beneficiary);  
Grants cover pre-financing, reimbursement of travel and training costs and subsistence allowance.  
Eligibility: Nationality: only for people living in Malta;  
Profession: only for those working in the audio-visual industry.

## **Cultural Support - Artist mobility sponsored by MCCA**

[\(http://www.maltaculture.com/page.asp?n=csupport&l=1\)](http://www.maltaculture.com/page.asp?n=csupport&l=1)

Objective: Is the promotion or sustainment of Maltese Folklore and Culture, Encouragement of Maltese Literature, Drama, Music or Language, and the Arts Development in a specific field related to Maltese Culture  
Administered by: Malta Council for Culture and the Arts (Government entity)  
Type of scheme: EP-N, PR-N, NW-N, TO-N  
Main destination: Different destinations in Europe and Africa.  
Funding: Year: 2006  
Total support 10 700 EUR  
Year: 2007  
Total support 3 000 EUR  
Eligibility: Nationality: Maltese;  
Profession: Artists.

## **\*VCCA – St. James Cavalier exchange programme**

[\(http://www.sjcav.org/page.asp?p=6703&l=1\)](http://www.sjcav.org/page.asp?p=6703&l=1)

Objective: Exchange programme  
Administered by: St. James Cavalier Centre for Creativity  
Type of scheme: AR-N / AR-F  
Main destination: USA  
Funding: 6 artists have been selected to undertake a 4 – 6 week residency programme and the Virginia Centre for the Creative arts. Accommodation and subsistence allowance is covered by the programme.  
Eligibility: Nationality: Maltese;  
Profession: Artists;  
Other: Selection is based on quality of proposal and development of creative ideas.