

PARTICIPATION IN SOCRATES

As from this year Malta may participate in the EU education programme. The programme is of interest to universities, university students and lecturers, schools, teachers and pupils as well as those interested in adult education, open and distance learning and language training. In the coming academic year, 100 university students will be able to spend a semester of their course in EU universities.

PARTICIPATION IN LEONARDO DA VINCI

As from this year Malta may participate in the EU training programme, Leonardo da Vinci. This programme promotes vocational training and continued re-training. It is of interest to youth, trainees, students, trainers, training institutions, trade unions and other organisations interested in vocational training. Local training institutions are currently teaming up with EU training colleges to enter into joint projects.

PARTICIPATION IN THE EU YOUTH PROGRAMME

As from this year Malta may participate in the EU youth programme, YOUTH Community Action Programme, although effective participation may only start from next year. This programme promotes youth initiatives such as mobility and youth exchanges, youth leadership and voluntary service. Malta is currently already participating in the Mediterranean counterpart of the Youth Action Programme.

EUROPEAN UNION PROGRAMMES UNIT (EUPU)

In order to enable Malta to participate effectively in the EU programmes, the Ministry of Education has set up the European Union Programmes Unit (EUPU), the Maltese national agency responsible for the management of EU Programmes. This unit brings together the national contact points on the Socrates, Leonardo, Youth and other EU Programmes. Malta will pay for its participation in EU programmes partly from EU pre-accession funds and partly from the Maltese Treasury. Upon membership, Malta's participation will be fully funded from the EU budget to which, all Member States contribute.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND RECOGNITION OF TRAINING

Malta is already represented on the governing board of the European Training Foundation and will be participating in the European agency for training, CEDEFOP. Locally, a Vocational College for Applied Arts, Science and Technology will be set up this year which will issue certificates that will be recognised in the EU upon membership. A Professional and Vocational Qualification Council will also be set up this year in Malta to provide certification and recognition to local skilled workers, even on the basis of experience.

FREE MOVEMENT OF STUDENTS

Upon membership, students will be entitled to study in any country of the EU on the same conditions as nationals of that country on the basis of equality of treatment, except for payment of a maintenance grant (stipend). In Malta too, stipends will continue to be paid only to Maltese students. In addition, Maltese students on temporary study visits in EU universities under the Socrates programme will receive a grant as well as payment of their Maltese stipend.

CHILDREN OF EU WORKERS

Upon membership, children of EU workers, whether Maltese in the EU or EU residents in Malta, are entitled to education on the same conditions as nationals. This includes, where applicable, tuition and maintenance grants, provided that the parents work in the host country and pay their due taxes.

EUROPASS

Upon membership, the Employment and Training Corporation (ETC) will issue the Europass Training Document which would certify any period of training undergone by a Maltese in another Member State.