

Worksheet C6.1.4

To identify and discuss the global dimension of Malta.

For our interest: Read and think.

1. What do we mean when we say that Malta / the Maltese also have their global dimension?

Malta is an independent republic and also a member of the European Union (EU). In the past, various Maltese had to emigrate to be able to find a job. Malta does business (commerce) with many other countries around the world. So we can say that the Maltese did not remain only on these islands, but that as a people they mixed with various other diverse cultures.

2. What does it mean to be a member of the EU?

We are both Maltese citizens as well European Union citizens. We can travel to EU countries by using only our identity card. The Maltese language is one of the European languages and six Maltese representatives who are members of the European Parliament can speak in Maltese during the meetings of this same Parliament.

3. Who are the emigrants?

Emigrants are those persons who try to start a new life in a foreign country.

4. Why did many Maltese emigrate in the past?

Many Maltese emigrated because, many times, Malta did not offer enough work for everyone.

5. Where did the Maltese emigrate to?

The major part of the Maltese emigrated to Canada, the United States of America, England and Australia.

6. Where did they emigrate to the most?

The largest number of Maltese emigrants went to Australia, as shown in these two examples:

- Between 1921 and 1954, 4,128 Maltese persons went to America, 488 to Canada, 686 to England and 21,576 to Australia.

- Between 1955 and 1964, 1,650 Maltese persons went to America, 570 to Canada, 175 to England and 30,540 to Australia.

7. Do Maltese still emigrate nowadays?

Only a little; but we have to mention that there are about 400 Maltese people who are working with European Institutions, mostly in Brussels, Belgium.

8. Was there something which helped us to acquire this global dimension?

The English language has helped us a lot. Since we were a British colony, the English language became really important in Malta. Through English we could communicate with other populations. Do not forget that in America, Canada, England and Australia (the places where the Maltese emigrated to the most), the English language is used.

9. What other contacts does Malta have with foreign countries?

Malta does business (commerce) with many other countries. Besides importing from and exporting to European countries, we also do commerce with many other countries, especially North Africa and even with very far away countries like China. In the Freeport of Birżebbuġa many large ships enter filled with hundreds of containers. These containers are unloaded and then loaded again on smaller ships in order to go to many different countries around the world.



10. What role does tourism play in the global dimension of Malta?

There is no doubt that the thousands of tourists who visit the Maltese Islands to appreciate our historical heritage, culture, the weather and our beaches, talk about Malta when they return to their countries. Tourism is one of the main factors that is helping Malta to become increasingly known worldwide.