

Maryanne Gauci

Service Manager, Appogg Agency, Foundation for Welfare Services, Malta



Organised in cooperation with:

INTEGRATING MIGRANT CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES-THE MALTESE CONTEXT

Mary Anne Gauci

Foundation for Social Welfare Services Malta

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Malta's/National Foundation for Social Welfare Services' (FSWS) efforts towards Integration-past and present

- ▶ FSWS's Agency, Appogg's Community Services (Qawra, Valletta, B'kara 2009, Msida 2012):

Social Workers and Community Workers in the community, support migrants and jointly run projects bringing migrants and local citizens together to enhance integration.

Efforts so far have been *ad hoc*.

Irregular migrants, refugees, integration, and unaccompanied children irregular migrant policy documents, 2005.

- ▶ Equal Project 2004-2006:

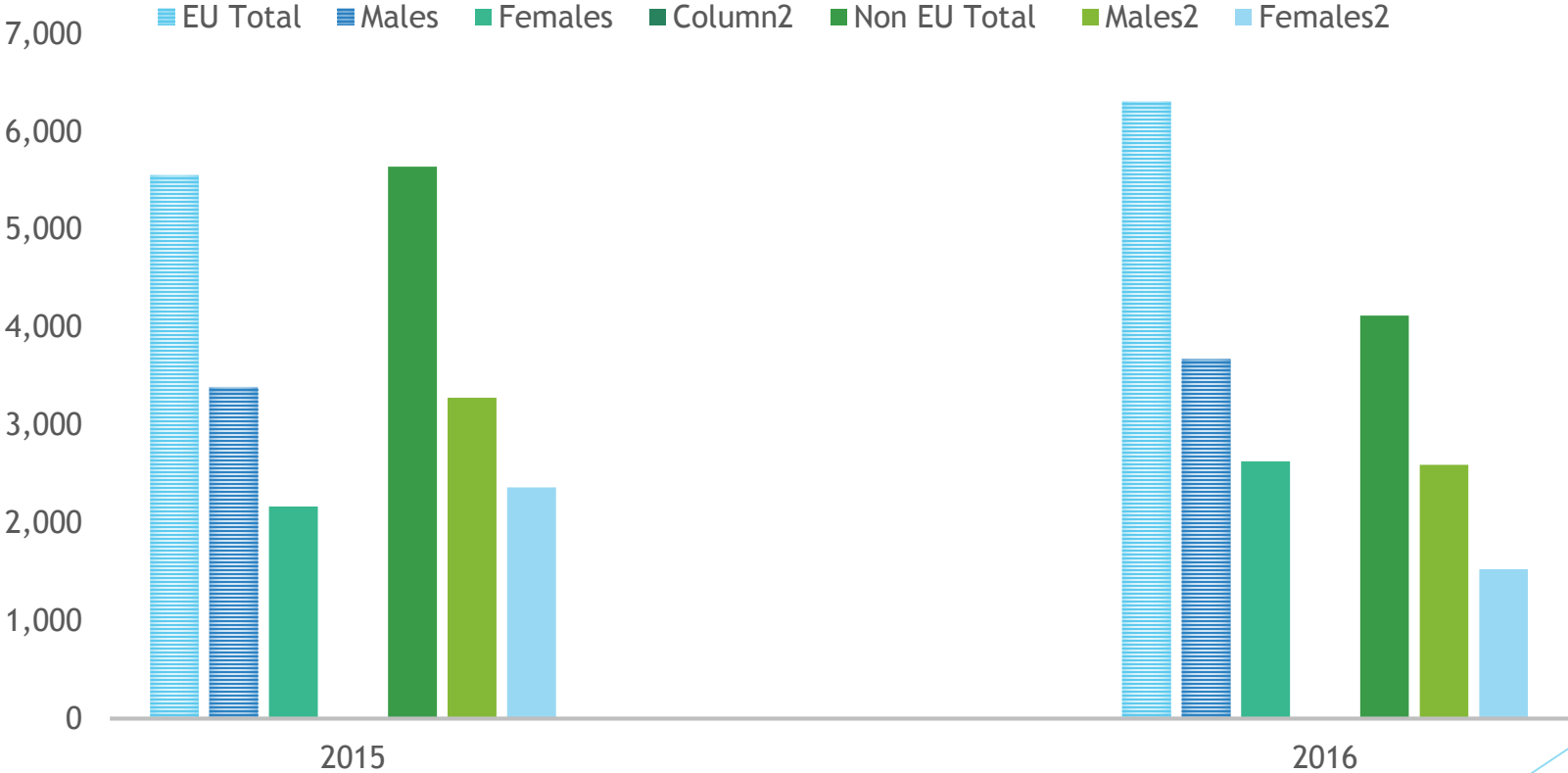
'Integration of Asylum Seekers into Maltese Society'.

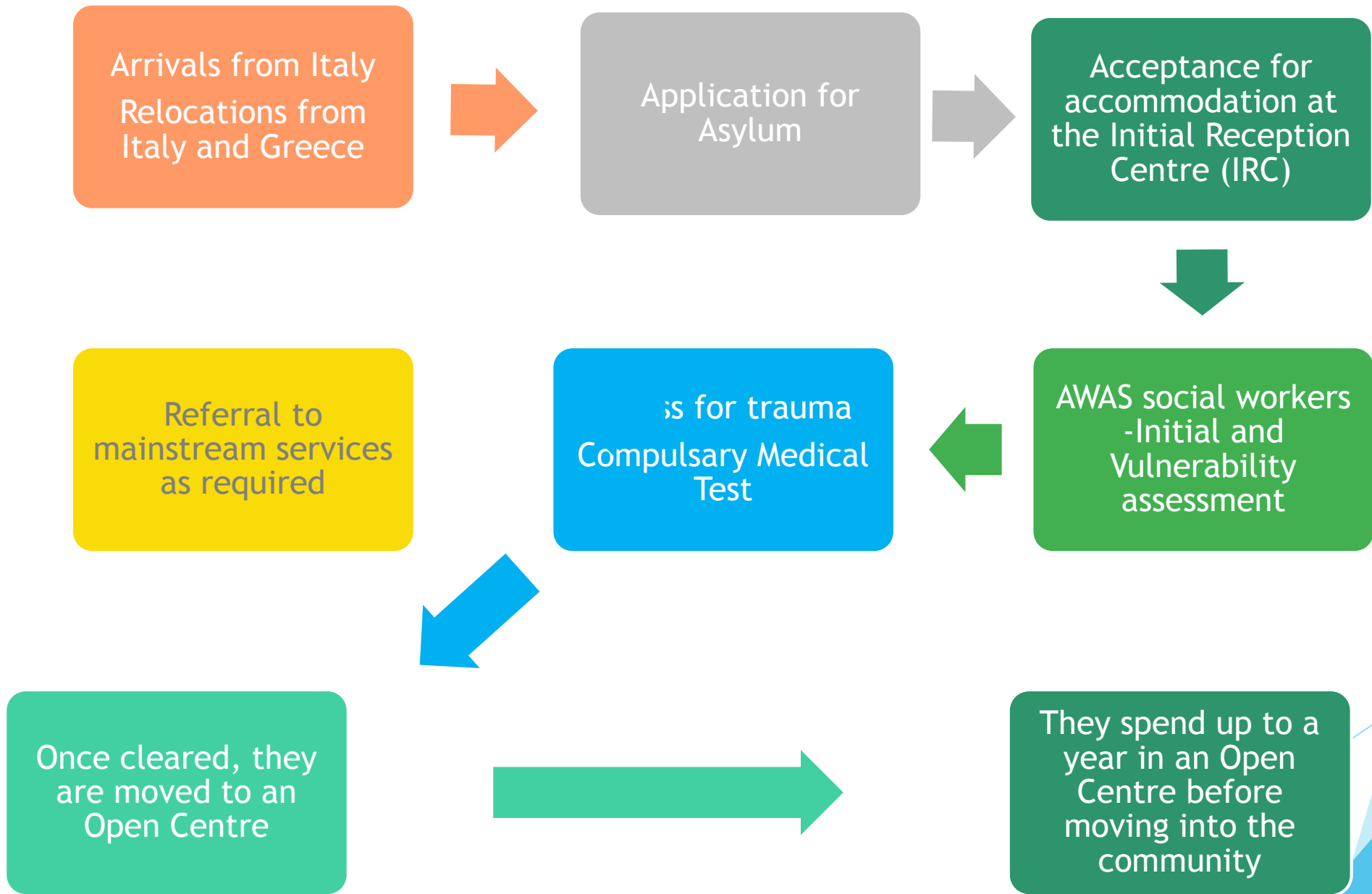
- ▶ Draft Integration Policy 2015 (Malta):

to be implemented in December, 2017.

National Statistics

SOURCE: NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE 2017





Statistics-foreign population by town of Appogg Agency's Community Services

Foreign population by selected towns: As at end 2016

Source: National Statistics Office, Malta

Town	Total	Males	Females
Valletta	202	101	101
Cottonera	494	236	258
Birkirkara	918	481	437
Msida	1,913	1,029	884
St Paul's Bay	5,160	2,841	2,319

Information Session - Qawra



Community services' projects contributing to Integration

Qawra (St Paul's Bay) Community service:

- ▶ Information Sessions : Joint project with NGOs
- ▶ Summer and Winter projects for children: social skills/recreational activities with educational theme, including homework support.
- ▶ Project "Pass Pass", for mothers and fathers (immigrants and local parents) with children 0-3yrs -professionals deliver talks on various themes.
- ▶ Mapping exercise-workers meeting refugees/immigrants, getting to know their needs.
- ▶ Social work service -support immigrant individuals and families with problems-to overcome barriers to integration

Progett Kuluri



Community Services' projects contributing to Integration continued...

▶ **B'Kara/Msida Community Service :**

Migrants project 2015-2016:

- Create awareness/understanding of cultural diversity between different nationalities through a Forum. Questionnaire distributed- 3 main areas of concern.

- Intercultural event 2017:

Focus-integration within the community. NGOs and representatives from different communities participated through traditional music and food displays.

Community Services' projects contributing to Integration continued..

Building Blocks Homework Club (2014-2017):

- Children from different nationalities helped by trained volunteers with their homework. Immigrant children involved with local children through this activity.

Celebrating Diversity Family Day (2018):

Collaboration with local Primary School. Diversity will be celebrated through traditional games/ story telling from different cultures. Children and parents will be involved.

-Regular mapping exercise

Malta's Integration Policy

- ▶ Integration Unit set up-Human Rights and Integration Directorate, within Ministry of Equality and European Affairs.
- ▶ Unit will receive 'Integration requests' from Third Country Nationals (TCN's).
- ▶ Courses offered-information sessions on services; language, Maltese (compulsory) and English, trade skills, and culture. Several hours weekly-60 hour course. Certificates awarded on completion.
- ▶ TCN's will be allocated a caseworker to monitor progress.
- ▶ Once approved by Cabinet in December, 2017, the service will be delivered from January, 2018.
- ▶ Detailed Action Plan will be implemented by 2020-will include awareness raising from early school years to embrace diversity.
- ▶ National Strategy will be adopted by all entities-to give messages of zero tolerance to racial discrimination and 'everyone belongs'.

Case Study - Hannah and her family

Lessons learnt

- ▶ Undiagnosed psychological and /or medical conditions are barriers.
- ▶ Lack of knowledge of host country's language is barrier.
- ▶ Not ALL professionals knowledgeable about migrant issues;
- ▶ lack of access to Interpreters and Cultural mediators-enormous barrier to communication, and in turn to integration .
- ▶ Isolation is a barrier to integration.
- ▶ Financial difficulties/poverty -barriers.
- ▶ Difficulties in accessing , and equal access to decent accommodation, employment, child care, health and other mainstream services are a barrier to integration.
- ▶ Feedback from migrants-lack of information regarding services and rights;
and certain personnel not helpful in disseminating this information.

Overcoming barriers

- ▶ Continuous awareness raising campaigns-address racism. Media on board.
- ▶ Easily accessible information on main services, in many languages. Train personnel disseminating information.
- ▶ FSWS- created intensive number of training opportunities for staff on Migrant issues, including conferences with foreign speakers. Workers more sensitized .
- ▶ Regular activities between local nationals and immigrants exposing diversity-breaking down ignorance/fear- major barriers to integration.
- ▶ Easier access to regularized employment, child care, educational courses, medical care, and legal services, among others.
- ▶ Require eligibility to social security in the interim of gaining employment, or if can't gain work or retain it due to disability/injury issues.
- ▶ Political will/policies on family re-unification.
- ▶ Integrated services/Integrated National Data-base (guide policy)

Thank You for your
Attention