

Il-Qagħda tal-Ilsien Malti

ST#ARRIĠ NAZZJONALI 2021

bi sħab mal-Uffiċċju Nazzjonali
tal-Istatistika (NSO)



**Il-Kunsill Nazzjonali
tal-Ilsien Malti**



L-Università ta' Malta
Il-Fakultà tal-Arti

Id-Dipartiment
tal-Malti

Il-Qagħda tal-Ilsien Malti

STHARRIĠ NAZZJONALI 2021

Il-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ilsien Malti u d-Dipartiment tal-Malti, fi ħdan il-Fakultà tal-Arti fl-Università ta' Malta, għamlu sŧharrig nazzjonali fuq l-użu tal-Malti u l-Ingliż f'sitwazzjonijiet soċjali differenti. Dan l-istharrig sar mill-Uffiċċju Nazzjonali tal-Istatistika f'Novembru u Diċembru 2020 fuq kampjun ta' 1,025 ruħ ta' bejn 18 u 80 sena li għandhom iċ-ċittadinanza Maltija. L-istatistika tista' tvarja bi 3.1%.

Tabella 1. Il-parteċipanti mqassmin skont is-sess u l-età

ETÀ	SESS					
	Irgjel		Nisa		Total	
	Nru	%	Nru	%	Nru	%
18 - 24	162	31.7	159	30.9	321	31.3
25 - 54	178	34.8	179	34.8	357	34.8
55 - 80	171	33.5	176	34.2	347	33.9
Total	511	100	514	100	1,025	100

Tabella 2. Il-parteċipanti mqassmin skont is-sess u r-reġjun fejn jgħixu

REĠJUN	SESS					
	Irgjel		Nisa		Total	
	Nru	%	Nru	%	Nru	%
In-Naħa t'Isfel tal-Port il-Kbir	77	15.1	76	14.8	153	14.9
In-Naħa ta' Fuq tal-Port il-Kbir	134	26.2	134	26.1	268	26.1
Ix-Xlokk	75	14.7	75	14.6	150	14.6
Il-Punent	76	14.9	78	15.2	154	15.0
It-Tramuntana	75	14.7	75	14.6	150	14.6
Għawdex	74	14.5	76	14.8	150	14.6
Total	511	100	514	100	1,025	100

IX-XEJRIET EWLENIN

Il-Malti l-ewwel lingwa ta' 97% tal-Maltin

Ir-riżultat ewlieni hu li 97% tal-popolazzjoni b'ċittadinanza Maltija, ta' bejn it-18 u t-80 sena, jistqarru li l-Malti hu l-ewwel lingwa tagħhom. Dan ir-riżultat hu konsistenti ma' xejriet li ħarġu minn studji xjentifiċi oħrajn li saru fl-aħħar snin.

Dan hu riżultat għoli ferm meta tqis li **(a)** ħafna komunikazzjoni ssir bl-Ingliż, u **(b)** mill-istħarriġ stess joħroġ li 7% għexu għal iktar minn 5 snin barra minn Malta, il-biċċa l-kbira f'pajjiżi li jtkellmu bl-Ingliż.

L-istħarriġ soċjolingwistiku ta' Sciriha u Vassallo (*Malta - a linguistic landscape*) li sar fuq kampjun ta' 500 ruħ minn 15-il sena 'l fuq, u li kien ippubblikat fl-2001, jindika li 98.6% tal-parteċipanti qiesu l-Malti bħala l-lingwa nattivha tagħhom.

Mill-istħarriġ (*Bilingual Malta*) li sar mill-MaltaToday fl-2018 lil kampjun ta' 553 ruħ, u li jista' jvarja b'4.2%, ħareġ li fid-dar 79% jużaw il-Malti biss, 3% l-Ingliż biss, u 19% iż-żewġ lingwi.

Il-Malti b'saħħtu u jikkumplementa lill-Ingliż

Mill-istħarriġ joħroġ li f'Malta, pajjiż bilingwi espost ħafna għall-Ingliż (u, sa ċertu punt, għal ilsna oħra bħat-Taljan) speċjalment fil-kummerċ, fit-tagħlim, fil-komunikazzjoni tal-massa u fil-ħajja ta' kuljum, aktar u aktar bl-immigrazzjoni, il-Malti hu

b'saħħtu ħafna fost il-Maltin. Din ix-xejra nsibuha wkoll fost iż-żgħażaġħ, indikazzjoni pożittiva għall-ġejjieni tal-ilsien nazzjonali.

L-istħarriġ juri li l-Malti u l-Ingliż, aktar milli qegħdin f'kompetizzjoni, jikkumplementaw lil xulxin għax jintużaw f'ċirkostanzi differenti.

Il-Maltin iridu iktar materjal bil-Malti

L-istħarriġ jindika ċar li l-biċċa l-kbira tal-Maltin jaqblu li s-siti elettronici tal-Gvern, il-fuljetti li jirċievu d-dar, u t-tabelli pubbliċi jkunu bil-Malti u bl-Ingliż. Joħroġ ukoll li r-reklami bil-Malti huma iktar effettivi u li l-Maltin jixtiequ jisimgħu iktar mużika bil-Malti fuq ir-radjijiet.

Joħorġu tliet messagġi ċari għas-soċjetà Maltija:

1. Biex tirnexxi, biex toffri x-xogħol tiegħek, u biex toffri servizzi u prodotti fis-suq Malti, il-Malti hu u se jibqa' importanti għall-komunikazzjoni mal-impjegaturi u mal-klijenti tiegħek.
2. Il-Maltin jużaw l-Ingliż f'ċirkostanzi partikolari u preċiżi, imma jridu iktar informazzjoni, komunikazzjoni u divertiment bil-Malti u mhux a skapitu tal-Ingliż.
3. Għandna fejn intejbu biex insaħħu l-ħiliet fil-Malti u l-Ingliż u, idealment fit-tielet lingwa, kif tirrakkomanda l-Unjoni Ewropea.

Tabella 3. L-użu tal-lingwi f'kuntesti differenti

▨ Bil-Malti biss
 ■ BI-Ingliż biss

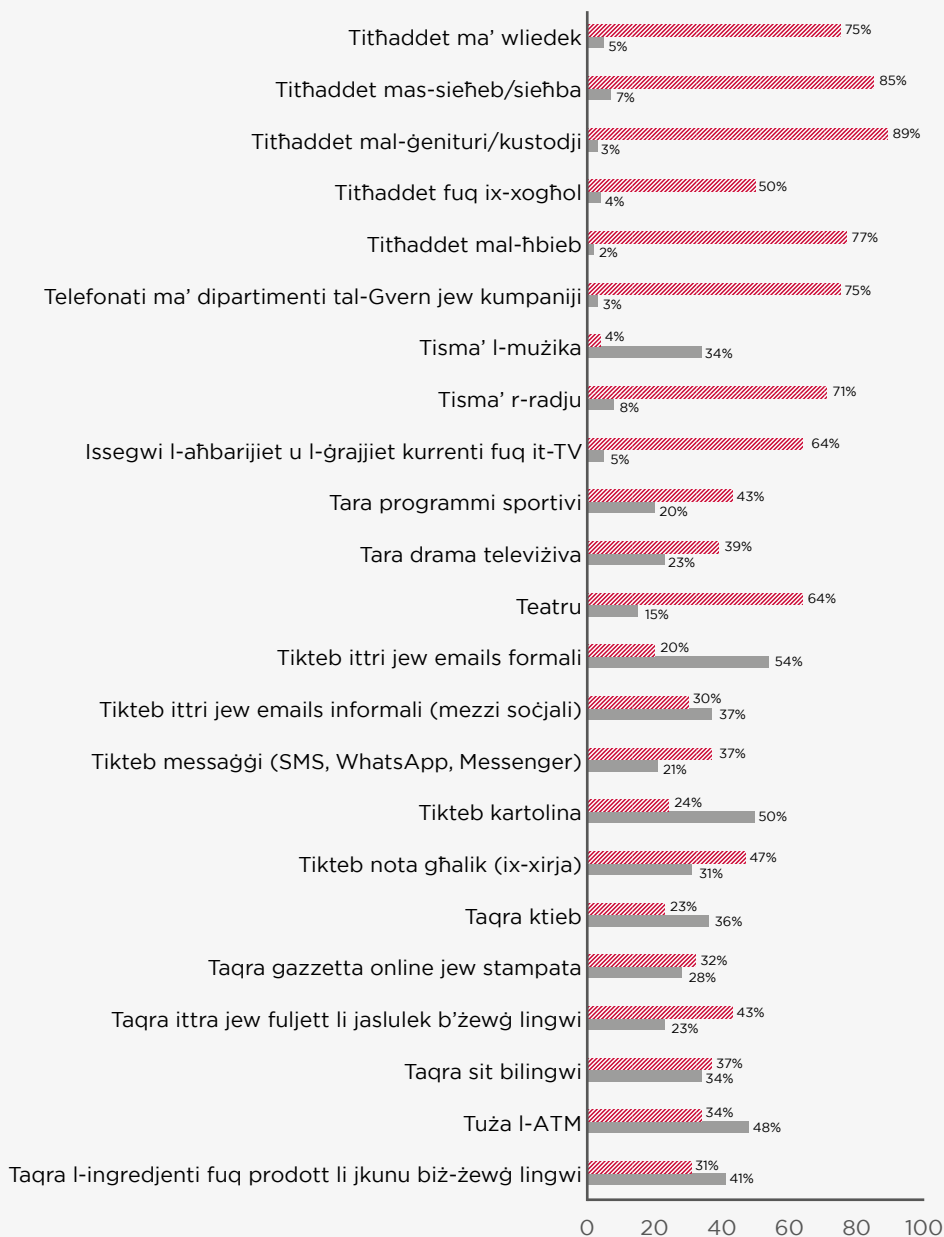


Tabella 3 tiġbor ir-riżultati ta' dawk li stqarrew li jużaw il-Malti biss jew l-Ingliż biss fil-kuntesti differenti. Fi kliem ieħor, teskludi lil min juża ż-żewġ lingwi, indaqs jew mhux, inkella lingwa oħra (eż. biex jara programmi sportivi jew jisma' l-mużika).

Tabella 4. L-attitudnijiet tal-pubbliku għall-Malti u l-Ingliż

Naqbel
Ma naqbilx

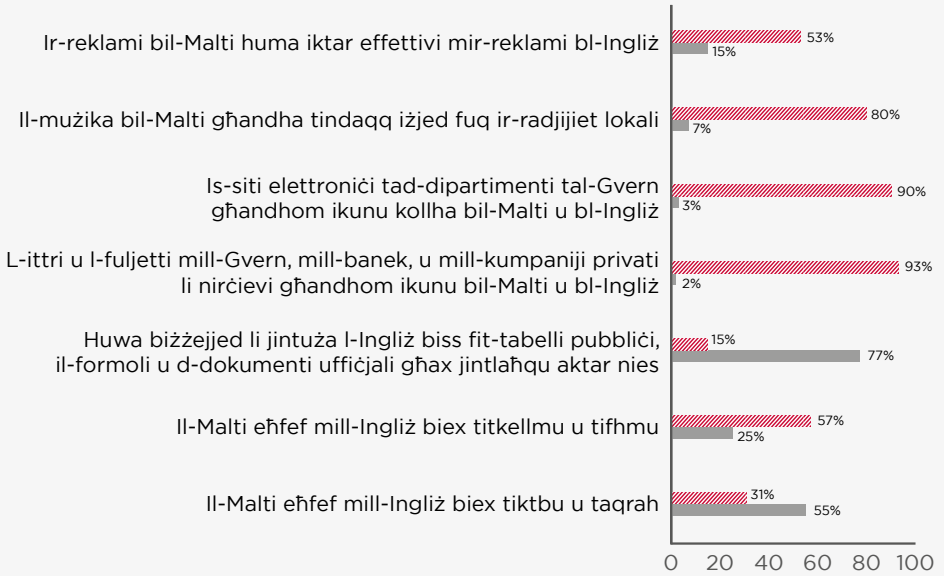


Tabella 4 tippreżenta r-riżultati bl-attitudnijiet tal-pubbliku għal numru ta' stqarrijiet dwar il-lingwi u teskludi lil dawk li ma wrew l-ebda preferenza.

Hajr: Prof. Albert Borg, Prof. Joseph M. Brincat, Prof. Ray Fabri, Dr George Farrugia, Prof. Bernard Micallef, Prof. Manwel Mifsud, Dr Michael Spagnol, Dr Olvin Vella, Thomas Pace, John Zammit



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Għal tagħrif ieħor idhol fis-sit

www.kunsilltalmalti.gov.mt

The State of the Maltese Language

NATIONAL SURVEY 2021

in collaboration with the
National Statistics Office (NSO)



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The State of the Maltese Language

NATIONAL SURVEY 2021

The National Council for the Maltese Language and the Department of Maltese, within the Faculty of Arts, at the University of Malta conducted a national survey on the use of Maltese and English in different social domains. This study was carried out by the National Statistics Office (NSO) in November and December 2020 on a sample of 1,025 Maltese citizens between the ages of 18 and 80. The margin of error is 3.1%.

Table 1. Participants according to gender and age

AGE	GENDER					
	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
18 - 24	162	31.7	159	30.9	321	31.3
25 - 54	178	34.8	179	34.8	357	34.8
55 - 80	171	33.5	176	34.2	347	33.9
Total	511	100	514	100	1,025	100

Table 2. Participants according to gender and region of residence

REGION	GENDER					
	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Southern Harbour area	77	15.1	76	14.8	153	14.9
Northern Harbour area	134	26.2	134	26.1	268	26.1
Southeast	75	14.7	75	14.6	150	14.6
West	76	14.9	78	15.2	154	15.0
North	75	14.7	75	14.6	150	14.6
Gozo	74	14.5	76	14.8	150	14.6
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MAIN TRENDS

Maltese is the first language of 97% of the Maltese population

The main result is that 97% of Maltese citizens aged between 18 and 80 state that Maltese is their first language. This result is consistent with trends that were found in other surveys carried out in the last few years.

This is a very high score, considering that (a) communication in English is widespread, and (b) 7% of respondents claim to have resided abroad for more than 5 years, mainly in countries in which English is spoken.

The sociolinguistic study by Scirihha and Vassallo (*Malta - a linguistic landscape*) that had a sample of 500 respondents over 15 years of age, published in 2001, shows that 98.6% of participants considered Maltese to be their native language.

The MaltaToday 2018 study (*Bilingual Malta*) on a sample of 553 participants, with a margin of error of 4.2%, found that 79% use only Maltese at home, 3% use only English and 19% use both.

Maltese is going strong and complements English

The study shows that Maltese is very strong among Maltese nationals, even though, being a bilingual country, the Maltese are particularly exposed to English (as well as, to a lesser extent, to other languages, like Italian), especially in domains such as commerce, education, mass communication as well as in their daily life, in particular because of immigration.

We also find this trend among the young generation, a positive sign for the future of the national language.

The survey shows that Maltese and English are used in different situations and, rather than being in competition, they complement each other.

The Maltese want more material in Maltese

The study also clearly shows that most Maltese believe that material they receive at home, public signs and notices, and government websites should be in both Maltese and English. It also shows that publicity in Maltese is more effective, and that people would like to listen to more music in Maltese on the radio.

The responses to the questions set in this study highlight three clear messages for Maltese society:

1. In order to succeed and to offer your work, services and products on the local market, Maltese is and will remain important for communication with your employers and clients.
2. Maltese citizens use English in particular situations, but they would like to have more information, communication and entertainment in Maltese, though not to the detriment of English.
3. We need to improve matters in order to strengthen people's language skills in Maltese and in English and, ideally, in a third language, as is recommended by the European Union.

Table 3. The use of language in different contexts

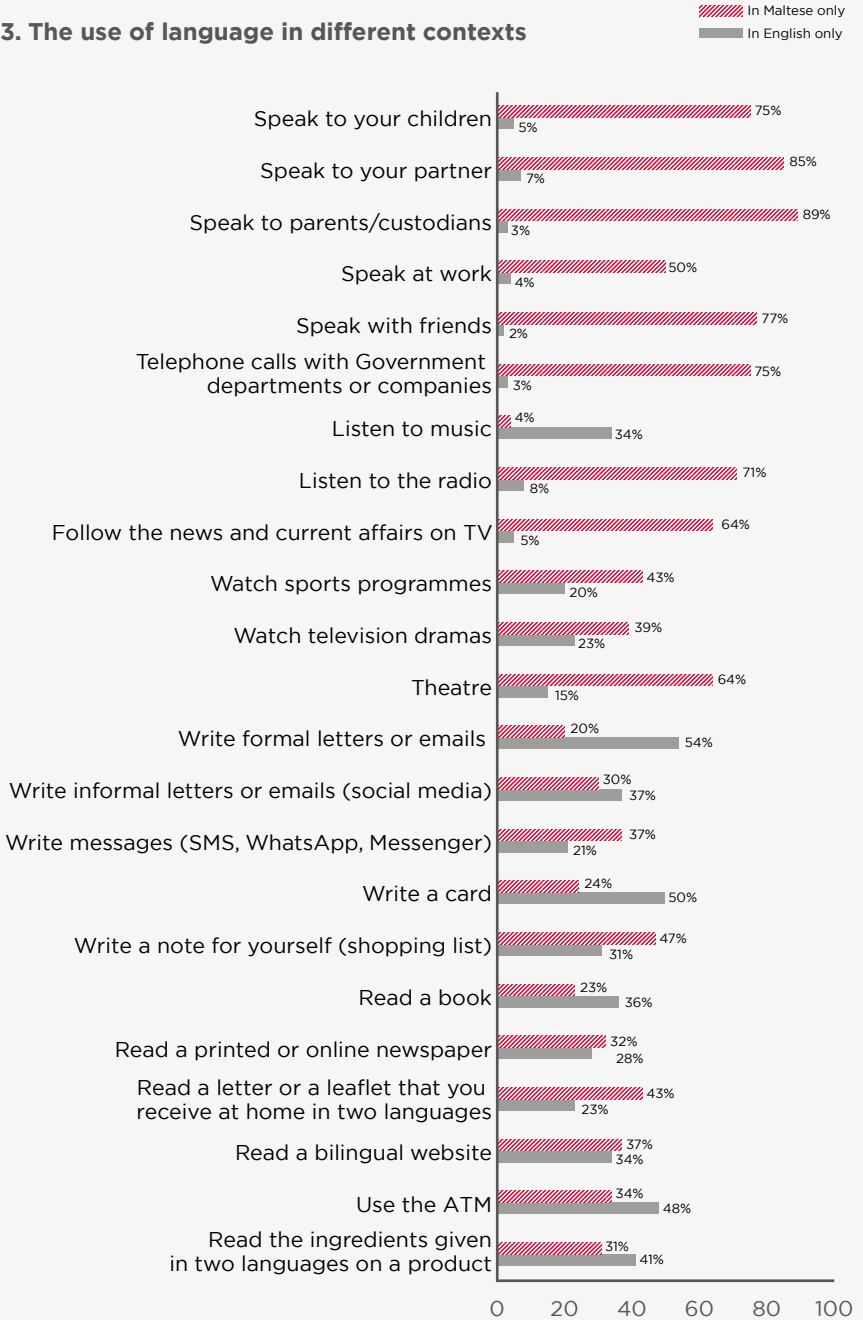


Table 3 shows the results of those who state that they use Maltese only or English only in different contexts. In other words, we exclude those who state that they use both languages, equally or not, or use some other language (for example, to watch a sports programme or to listen to music).

Table 4. Attitudes towards Maltese and English

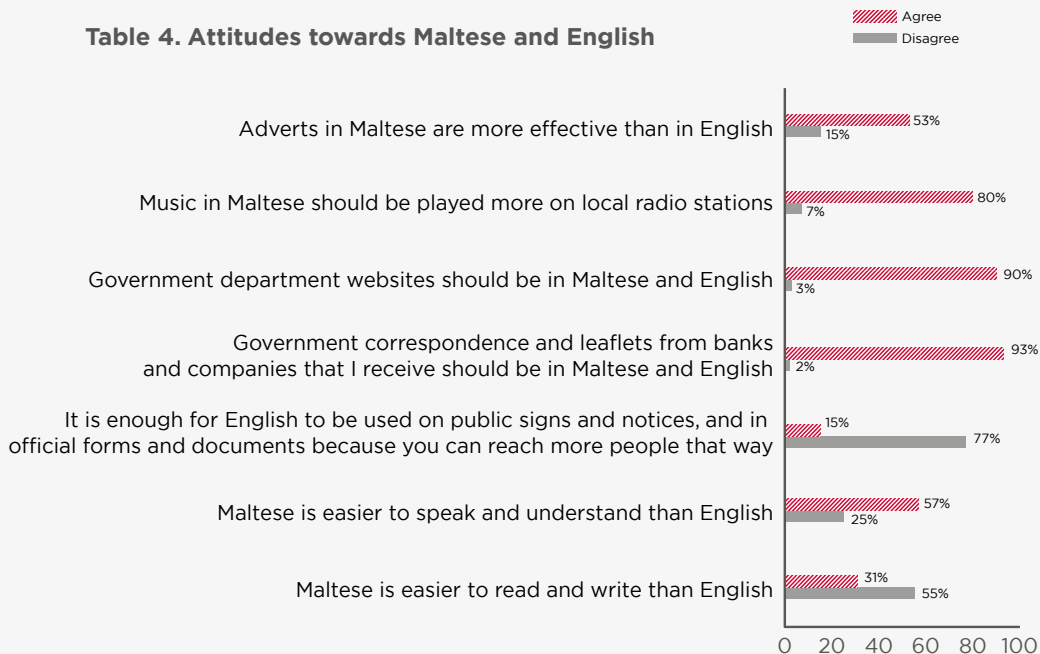


Table 4 shows the responses to a number of statements on the use of Maltese and English and excludes those who did not show any preference.

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