



# 2017 Figures for English Language Teaching in Malta



Published **Bernice Camilleri** on Monday, March 19, 2018



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Newly published figures for 2017 show that the English Language Teaching sector in Malta registered an increase of 13.6% in the number of students over the previous year. This was revealed at a press conference addressed by Tourism Minister Dr Konrad Mizzi, National Statistics Office Acting Director General Mr Etienne Caruana, and ELT Council Chairperson Dr Daniel Xerri.

Dr Xerri spoke about how every year the ELT Council collects data from the 39 private English language schools in Malta and passes this information to the NSO for further analysis. This collaboration manages to shed light on how the ELT sector in Malta is fairing in comparison to previous years as well as in relation to the country's tourism sector.

Dr Xerri said, "2017 saw a significant increase in the number of students visiting Malta for the purpose of learning English. The growing strength of the country's ELT sector is due to the huge investment made by all the schools and the good reputation Malta has as a language learning destination. The efforts made by different

stakeholders in the past few years to increase the quality of the services offered by schools are paying off."

Mr Caruana declared that the top three countries from where students arrived in 2017 were Italy with 29.4%, Germany with 11.8%, and France with 10.5%. The majority of students were under 18 years of age. The summer months were the busiest months for the ELT sector, peaking in July with 21,567 arrivals, or 24.7% of the annual total. General English was the most popular course chosen by students visiting Malta last year.

English language students represented 3.8% of the total number of tourists who visited Malta in 2017. The average duration of stay of students was 2.8 weeks. The ELT sector in Malta is also seeing a number of long-stay students. In 2017, students from Colombia recorded the highest average duration at 12.2 weeks per stay. These were followed by South Korean and Turkish students, with an average duration of 9.3 and 7.2 weeks respectively.

Dr Mizzi described the given statistics as figures which are "extremely interesting and which show how important this sector is for Malta". Dr Mizzi described the ELT sector in Malta as a "pioneer which helps to add bed-nights especially in the off-peak season". In conclusion, the Minister thanked all stakeholders and congratulated the industry on the good work it does.

Ms Sue Falzon, ELT Council Chief Executive Officer, stated that the increase in students is partly the result of the regulatory framework that governs the ELT sector in Malta. This sector has turned Malta's bilingualism and tradition of hospitality into major assets for sustainable growth.

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