



Press Release

Another 15 organisations awarded with the Equality Mark & Research on Teenage Parents launched.

The National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) formally certified another fifteen organisations with the Equality Mark during an award ceremony presided by Hon Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family Dr Chris Said. The organisations certified are: ADI & Associates, Besedo, Burger King, Department for Health, Information and Research (DHIR), Department for Social Welfare Standards (DSWS - MJDF), Directorate for Corporate Services (DCS - MJDF), KFC, MSV, Northway, PAHRO, Pizza Hut, Programme Implementation Directorate (Social Affairs - MJDF), RSM Malta, Studio Seven and Uniblue.

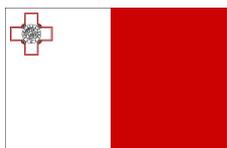
These organisations have been certified as true equal opportunities employers in relation to gender and hence are authorised to use the Equality Mark logo on their publications and documentation. The certification and accompanying logo is valid for two years from the date of award. This brings the number of companies certified with the Equality Mark to a total of 51 certified companies and 15,253 employees working under gender certified conditions.

During a half day final conference, NCPE launched the outcomes of the longitudinal research study 'Life Prospects of Teenage Parents' that form part of the same European Social Fund Project '*Unlocking the Female Potential*'. This is the result of two year longitudinal study, with a total of 100 participants who became parents during their teenage years and forming the basis of this study that among other objectives delved into the perceptions, attitudes and views of teenage parents. The study also identified the respondent profile; overall feelings and perceptions of teenage parents; educational prospects and job prospects among teenage parents; lifestyle and hobbies/pastimes; immediate family's reaction to respondent becoming a teenage parent and views and attitudes on sex among teenage parents as well as their relationship with the other parent.

Moreover the findings of the Analysis of the Equality Mark were presented. This Study analysed the impact of the Equality Mark and sought ways to develop, strengthen and enhance it, by seeking similar initiatives carried out in other EU Member States. The aim of this analysis was to create a tool supporting equal opportunities far beyond the project's lifetime, by strengthening the projects' longevity, as well as utilizing the full potential of the Equality Mark as a positive tool of change.

Policy recommendations which were also included in the report, were discussed in detail with stakeholders during the conference.

For more information on the Equality Mark certificate and its application process, log on to www.equality.gov.mt or contact NCPE either by email on equality@gov.mt or by phone on 2590 3850.



Operational Programme II – Cohesion Policy 2007-2013
Empowering People for More Jobs and a Better Quality of Life
Project part-financed by the European Union
European Social Fund (ESF)
Co-financing rate: 85% EU Funds; 15% National Funds



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