

**Press Statement:**

**Overview of the 2016 Global Gender Gap Report**

In the context of the discussion on the 2016 Global Gender Gap Report (World Economic Forum), the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) has carried out an in-depth analysis of the Report. The NCPE is hereby highlighting the salient points emerging from Malta's score and ranking as well as the scope of the Global Gender Gap Report.

Scope of report

The relevance of the Global Gender Gap Report to the national context lies in recognizing that the Report is not concerned with levels of development; it measures exclusively gaps between women and men. Thus, countries with challenging realities such as high unemployment rates might obtain a good score and ranking in the report, if the employment gap between the sexes is narrow. In such cases, the score would not be indicative of a better situation for women, but only indicative of a situation that is equally hard for women and men.

In this context, to track progress in the country's gender gap over time, it is more useful to look at scores rather than rankings, since the latter depend primarily on the scores of other countries rather than the performance of that particular country.

Malta's 2016 results

The Global Gender Gap Report uses four indicators to measure the gender gap – (i) economic participation and opportunity, (ii) educational attainment, (iii) health and survival, and (iv) political empowerment.

Malta slightly improved its score in the indicators of **economic opportunity and participation** and **political empowerment**. Although the score in these two areas has improved, it is still relatively low. This reflects the low, albeit rapidly increasing, participation of women in the labour market and the consistently low representation of women in political decision-making.

The score for the **health** indicator, where Malta has almost full equality, has not changed.

Malta obtained a lower score in the area of **educational attainment**. This decrease was due to Malta registering a lower score in the education sub-indicators of enrolment in primary and secondary education. This is inexplicable considering that enrolment in Malta is equally obligatory for both girls and boys. It was this decrease in the educational attainment score that led to lower overall score in the Report compared with the previous year.

The results for Malta of the 2016 Global Gender Gap Report point to both progress and challenges in relation to gender equality. These results are only fully understood by bearing in mind that the Report looks at gaps and not levels of development.

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017**