

**PRESS STATEMENT:**

**Malta in the 2017 Global Gender Gap Report**

The 2017 World Economic Forum's *Global Gender Gap Report*, just published, provides rankings and scores for 144 countries, among them Malta.

The Global Gender Gap Report “was developed in part to address the need for a consistent and comprehensive measure for gender equality that can track a country’s progress over time”<sup>1</sup>. It uses **four sub-indices** to measure the gender gap – (i) economic participation and opportunity, (ii) educational attainment, (iii) health and survival, and (iv) political empowerment.

The relevance of the Global Gender Gap Report in the national context lies in recognising that the Report measures exclusively gaps between women and men. It is not concerned with levels of development. 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. It is to be noted that where scores are concerned the Global Gender Gap Report provides the highest possible score of one (1) where there is full equality and a score of zero (0) signifying inequality.

A look at developments in Malta shows that in 2017, globally Malta ranked **93rd** out of 144 countries compared to 108th in 2016. In the EU28 context, Malta ranked 27th compared to 28th in 2016. A slight increase was registered in all 2017 scores for all four sub-indices compared to 2016.

The score for **economic participation and opportunity** has been steadily increasing since 2015 mainly in the gap in labour force participation, wage equality for similar work, estimated earned income and legislators senior officials, and managers. On the other hand, Malta scored slightly lower than in 2016 when it comes to the gap in professional and technical workers.

The same can be noted for the sub-index of **health and survival** which remained unchanged in sex ratio at birth while there was a slight increase in healthy life expectancy.

**Political empowerment** is still an area of concern. A decrease in 2017 scores is noted where women in parliament and ministerial positions are concerned, whereas a steady increase since 2015 has been achieved for the indicator looking at number of years with female head of state.

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to Report - [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GGGR\\_2017.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2017.pdf)

As in 2015, Malta once again ranked 1st globally in all indicators of the **educational attainment** sub-index, achieving the highest possible score of one (1) in all indicators falling under educational attainment.

The National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) notes that the results for Malta as published in the 2017 Global Gender Gap Report point to both progress and challenges in relation to gender equality. Economic participation and political empowerment still need to be addressed. This is being acknowledged at government level through stronger policy to address these areas of concern as can be seen in the positive impact of initiatives undertaken in the last years.

NCPE looks forward to more focused actions in order that the gender gap in the different sectors narrows and Malta continues to register progress in the coming years.

**Monday 6th November 2017**