

Projected Aims and Costs of Education in Malta in the Year 2001

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A teacher does not work in a vacuum. Nor does a classroom or a school exist in one. There is a complex machine that runs the education system in the country. What are the main goals of the ministry and division running the system? How is spending subdivided among the elements that make up that system? We believe that few teachers are aware of this important knowledge at the base of Education in Malta. This article is intended to address that lack of knowledge.



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Successive governments have invested heavily in education, with an increase in the annual education budget each consecutive year. The budget is a process by means of which one transforms financial capital into human capital: investing in people through education.

The budget of the Ministry of Education covers the following main areas:

- The Ministry
- The Education Division
- The Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology
- The University of Malta
- The European Union Programmes Unit (EUPU)
- The Institute for Child and parent Learning Support (ICPLS)
- The Department of Culture
- The Department for Youth and Sports
- The Department of Libraries and Archives
- The Department of Museums
- The Malta Council for Science and Technology
- The Mediterranean Conference Centre (MCC)
- The Manoel Theatre
- The National Orchestra
- The Malta Centre for Restoration (MCR)
- The Centre for Creativity at St. James Cavalier
- The Public Broadcasting Services Ltd (PBS)

In this article I will just give a brief resume of the main goals of the Ministry of Education as well as the Division of Education, and how they are planning to finance these targets. Such information should give us an idea of the main projects being undertaken and by whom, and possibly appreciate more what we often take for granted. The included tables give detailed information, as presented to Parliament in the Ministry of Finance *Financial Estimates 2001* (published by the Budget Office, Malta).

Main goals of the Ministry of Education

- The implementation of the National Curriculum
- The exploration for alternative forms of financing tomorrow's schools
- The promotion of a safe school environment in all its aspects

The updating of the 1980 Code of Behaviour and Discipline in Schools

- The spread of technology, including information technology
- The evolution of schools as community centres
- The continuation of the decentralisation process
- The empowerment of the various institutions concerned.

Main goals of the Division of Education

- Provide a quality education for all Maltese citizens of compulsory school age and beyond
- Provide a holistic education that encompasses the development of intellectual, civil, human, ethical and spiritual growth and the recognition of fundamental rights and responsibilities
- Ensure that optimum standards are attained
- Ensure that a wide spectrum of opportunities is provided to all students at all levels.

The following are the main major programmes of the Departments within the Division of Education

Department for Planning and Development

- Strengthen its provision of training courses for all levels of the teaching profession through its In-Service Training Programme (INSET) and the Senior Staff Development Programme (SSDP)
- More courses specifically targeted for key administrators and teachers responsible for the implementation of the national Curriculum
- Use of European Union and Council of Europe opportunities in teacher training
- Organise and annual Council of Europe Seminar in March
- Participate in the Eurydice project (education statistics) of the EU

Department of Curriculum Development, Implementation and Review

The year 2001 is the year of the implementation of the revised National Curriculum. This will involve

- The building of a strong and reliable administrative and other infrastructure to support the implementation process
- A renewed and intensive programme of activities in the area of programme and syllabi design and development of teaching materials;
- An effective training programme at both national and school levels
- Capacity building in the area of action research at both school and Education Division levels
- School Development Planning as the main vehicle for curriculum development and implementation
- Evaluation of established programmes such as the Peripatetic Services, Resource centres, and the Information and Communication Technology Training Unit to enable them to meet emerging challenges created by the revised National Curriculum

Services and International Relations Department

- Reviewing departmental management structures with a view of achieving a full complement of staff at both Division of Education and school levels;
- Contributing meaningfully to the development and implementation of programmes developed by the

Institute for Child and Parent Learning Support (ICPLS) which targets students at risk of school failure and their parents;

- Developing the current provision of psychosocial and career guidance services;
- Ensuring effective implementation of the three new policy documents outlining procedures regarding cases of child abuse, substance abuse and bullying;
- Supporting the implementation process of the revised National Curriculum through further development of the School Library Service, the student exchange and sports awareness programmes, and the setting up of more Student Councils in secondary schools;
- Promoting student participation in the major educational activities of international organisations; and
- in synergy with non-government organisations and parents, ensuring the further development of inclusive and special education and transition programmes.

Department of Further Studies and Adult Education

- Support the development of the Malta College of Arts, Science and technology (MCAST)
- Support the national Vocational and Professional Qualifications System
- Support the Board of Governors of MCAST as facilitate the integration of existing schools with MCAST
- Organise training courses for the use of modern teaching and assessment methodologies for the certification of vocational skills and knowledge
- Re-organisation of current course so that adults will be enabled to gain certificates awarded by the National Vocational And Professional Qualifications Council

Operations Department

- Inclusive education measures will be strengthened. Support and guidance will continue to be offered to schools to enable them to develop and strengthen school-based measures. Training courses will be provided to classroom support personnel working with students with special educational needs in mainstream schools;
- Expansions introduced in the area of technology education in secondary schools in 2000 will be monitored. Training courses targeting Instructors will be provided;
- Technical support will continue to be provided to schools in the areas of school development planning and reviews;

- The school-based implementation of the computerised School Information System (SIS) will be closely monitored. Timely technical support regarding the utilisation of newly-introduced modules will be extended to school administrative personnel;
- While seeking to fulfil the target of Health and Safety Teachers in all Schools, more teachers will be recruited in this field and specialist training provided to those in post;
- In fulfilment of the aim of the National Curriculum to provide a welcoming and safe environment for students and teaching personnel, the school upgrading and refurbishment will be stepped up.

Department of Finance and Administration

- Consolidate existing initiatives that strengthen the new administration and procurement branch,
- Promote an Information Technology culture across all sections of the Department, computerise vacation and sick leave records and provide staff development opportunities,
- Launch a Research Center for General Service Grades
- Enlarge the Registry Section,
- Provide financial incentives to General Service employees who are interested in following courses outside office hours,
- Enhance reforms in the Maintenance Section,

Examinations Department

- Upgrade examination facilities by undertaking building restoration and refurbishment works at the Biagio Centre and the St. Elmo Examination Centre;
- Continue to be administratively responsible for the processing of registrations as well as the organisation and conduct of the MATSEC examinations;
- Continue to facilitate services to prospective candidates on behalf of Edexcel of London University, the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, City and Guilds International and the Associated Examining Board as well as an increasing number of professional bodies and foreign universities;
- Improve facilities of its customer Service Unit;
- Introduce photocopying facilities for service users;
- Extend its contacts with Local Councils;
- Upgrade the Internet Home Page to enable applicants to register for examinations through the web-site;
- Sustain services at the Gozo Examination Branch;

● The computerised Examination Results Management System will incorporate the accumulation of longitudinal data on

examination results of every candidate taking examinations with the department. The system will also be used to confirm results.

Table 1: Recurrent Expenditure: Education

Education				Vote 18 Recurrent		
Expenditure by Standard Item		Actual Expenditure 1999 Lm	Approved Estimate 2000 Lm	Estimate 2001 Lm		
Summary						
Personal Emoluments		33,064,654	35,144,000	42,099,000		
Operational and Maintenance Expenses		3,952,980	4,242,000	4,243,000		
Special Expenditure		38,600	25,000	25,000		
Programmes and Initiatives		1,521,575	1,541,000	1,861,000		
Contributions to Government Entities		---	---	---		
Total Vote		38,577,809	40,952,000	48,228,000		
Personal Emoluments						
11	Holders of Political Office	---	---	---		
12	Staff – salaries and Wages	27,775,880	29,413,000	35,386,000		
13	Bonus	677,730	750,000	735,000		
14	Income Supplement	512,654	670,000	630,000		
15	Social Security Contributions	2,770,872	2,941,000	3,522,000		
16	Allowances	1,296,560	1,310,000	1,769,000		
17	Overtime	30,958	60,000	57,000		
	Total: Personal Emoluments	33,064,654	35,144,000	42,099,000		
Operational and Maintenance Expenses						
21	Utilities	351,827	400,000	388,000		
22	Materials and Supplies	1,120,316	1,169,000	1,170,000		
23	Repair and Upkeep	229,303	276,000	280,000		
24	Rent	849,302	850,000	850,000		
25	International Memberships	428	1,000	1,000		
26	Office Services	39,150	48,000	40,000		
27	Transport	1,220,549	1,100,000	1,113,000		
28	Travel	10,211	16,000	13,000		
29	Information Services	1,835	5,000	5,000		
30	Contractual Services	35,864	35,000	37,000		
31	Professional Services	29,440	35,000	40,000		
32	Training	60,841	300,000	300,000		
33	Hospitality	1,123	3,000	2,000		
34	Incidental Expenses	2,791	4,000	4,000		
	Total: Operational and maintenance Expenses	3,952,980	4,242,000	4,243,000		
Special Expenditure						
40	Improvements to Property	0	10,000	10,000		
41	Equipment	38,600	15,000	15,000		
	Total: Special Expenditure	38,600	25,000	25,000		
Programmes and Initiatives						
5015	Scholarships and Bursaries granted under various Cultural Agreements	19,533	20,000	20,000		
5021	St. Patrick Industrial School	270,000	270,000	300,000		
5023	Media Education Broadcasting	99,933	100,000	95,000		
5026	Adult Education	15,891	16,000	16,000		
5027	Technician Apprenticeship Scheme	494,964	450,000	500,000		
5030	Science Laboratory Technicians Scheme	13,289	15,000	15,000		
5245	Extended Skills Training Scheme Subsidy	373,115	300,000	300,000		
5270	Special Education Programme	224,151	240,000	240,000		
5316	Skola Sajf	10,008	25,000	150,000		
5367	Careers Convention	---	5,000	5,000		
5368	Trade Schools Reform	---	10,000	10,000		
5369	National Minimum Curriculum	---	30,000	150,000		
5370	Literacy and Teaching Unit	---	20,000	20,000		
5371	Let me Learn Project	---	15,000	15,000		
5372	Specific Learning Difficulty Unit	---	15,000	15,000		
5373	Development of Science Centre	---	10,000	10,000		
	[Nautical School Trainees Allowance Scheme]	691	---	---		
	Total: Programmes and Initiatives	1,521,575	1,541,000	1,861,000		
	Total: Education	38,577,809	40,952,000	48,228,000		

Table 4: Capital Expenditure: Ministry of Education

Ministry of Education				Vote III Capital		
Details of Expenditure		Actual Expenditure 1999 Lm	Approved Estimate 2000 Lm	Estimate 2001 Lm		
7001	Information Technology (a)					
	(i) Infrastructure and application maintenance/support			332,000		
	(ii) Work-in-progress and new investment			243,000		
		465,057	650,000	575,000		
7021	University of Malta – Construction, adaptation, refurbishment works and equipment	2,833,000	2,095,000	800,000		
7022	Malta Centre for Restoration: [Restoration Studies Centre] – Rehabilitation Works and equipment	253,949	400,000	50,000		
7023	Malta College of [Applied] Arts, Science and Technology	---	900,000	450,000		
7024	Malta council for Science and Technology – Rehabilitation of Villa Bighi	---	50,000	30,000		
7025	Examinations Department: Improvements at Examinations Centres	9,911	65,000	50,000		
	Total: Ministry of Education	3,561,917	4,160,000	1,955,000		

Table 2: Capital Expenditure: Education

Education				Vote III Capital		
Details of Expenditure		Actual Expenditure 1999 Lm	Approved Estimate 2000 Lm	Estimate 2001 Lm		
7026	Construction and adaptation works in Government Schools	2,599,430	2,600,000	2,600,000		
7027	Equipment for Government Schools	472,983	500,000	500,000		
7028	Information Technology in Government Schools	1,191,309	1,000,000	1,000,000		
7029	Internet in Government Schools	---	---	300,000		
7030	Refurbishment and maintenance of Government Schools	499,621	750,000	500,000		
7031	Equipment for Education Support Services	49,792	20,000	20,000		
	Total Education	4,813,126	4,870,000	4,920,000		

Table 3: Recurrent Expenditure: Ministry of Education

Ministry of Education				Vote 17 Recurrent		
Expenditure by Standard Item		Actual Expenditure 1999 Lm	Approved Estimate 2000 Lm	Estimate 2001 Lm		
Summary						
Personal Emoluments		577,314	598,000	789,000		
Operational and Maintenance Expenses		333,584	301,000	294,000		
Special Expenditure		22,223	20,000	10,000		
Programmes and Initiatives		14,765,244	14,797,000	17,815,000		
Contributions to Government Entities		8,872,257	8,941,000	10,191,000		
Total Vote		24,570,622	24,657,000	29,099,000		
Personal Emoluments						
11	Holders of Political Office	19,674	20,614	26,763		
12	Staff – salaries and Wages	426,909	436,000	594,393		
13	Bonus	9,865	11,000	11,000		
14	Income Supplement	11,239	10,000	10,000		
15	Social Security Contributions	40,835	43,386	59,000		
16	Allowances	61,803	70,000	80,844		
17	Overtime	6,989	7,000	7,000		
	Total: Personal Emoluments	577,314	598,000	789,000		
Operational and maintenance Expenses						
21	Utilities	42,961	45,000	44,000		
22	Materials and Supplies	19,737	26,000	26,000		
23	Repair and Upkeep	9,193	12,000	12,000		
24	Rent	620	1,000	1,000		
25	International Memberships	18,641	19,000	19,000		
26	Office Services	26,328	25,000	21,000		
27	Transport	36,351	35,000	32,000		
28	Travel	28,406	20,000	18,000		
29	Information Services	44,330	60,000	60,000		
30	Contractual Services	56,670	12,000	19,000		
31	Professional Services	21,816	18,000	19,000		
32	Training	1,793	1,000	1,000		
33	Hospitality	22,556	20,000	15,000		
34	Incidental Expenses	4,182	7,000	7,000		
	Total: Operational and maintenance Expenses	333,584	301,000	294,000		
Special Expenditure						
40	Improvements to Property	0	5,000	5,000		
41	Equipment	22,223	15,000	5,000		
	Total: Special Expenditure	22,223	20,000	10,000		
Programmes and Initiatives						
5004	Institute for Child and Parent Learning Support	---	---	60,000		
5006	Premju Letterarju u Sussidji	70	10,000	10,000		
5008	Subsidy to the Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce	30,000	30,000	30,000		
3024	Contribution towards the Financing of Church Schools	7,499,99	7,080,000	9,000,000		
5364	Students' Maintenance Grants	---	7,000,000	7,000,000		
5386	National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis	---	---	1,215,000		
5400	Support to Private School Students	---	---	500,000		
	[Students' Remuneration for Summer Projects]	569,099	300,000	---		
	[Contribution towards the President's Award]	1,000	1,000	---		
	[Contribution to support the Commonwealth of Learning Project]	5,387	5,000	---		
	[E.U. Programmes: Leonardo, Socrates, and Youth for Europe]	31,699	175,000	---		
	[School Councils]	150	1,000	---		
	[E.U. Fifth Framework Programme]	---	125,000	---		
	[Challenge 2000]	---	70,000	---		
	[Stipends to University Students]	4,683,655	---	---		
	[Stipends to Sixth forms/Junior College Students]	1,886,763	---	---		
	[General Educational Initiatives]	55,302	---	---		
	[National Commission for Education]	2,150	---	---		
	Total: Programmes and Initiatives	14,765,244	14,797,000	17,815,000		
Contributions to Government Entities						
6202	Foundation for International Studies	85,613	90,000	90,000		
6374	Junior College	1,290,000	1,300,000	1,400,000		
6432	Malta Council for Science and Technology	150,000	150,000	120,000		
6454	Maltese National Commission for UNESCO	0	6,000	6,000		
6456	Malta Centre for Restoration	---	50,000	150,000		
6457	Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology	---	100,000	400,000		
6485	National Commission for Information Technology	121,482	20,000	20,000		
6623	Office of the University Ombudsman	5,162	5,000	5,000		
6701	University of Malta	7,220,000	7,222,000	8,000,000		
	Total Contributions to Government Entities	8,872,257	8,941,000	10,191,000		
	TOTAL Ministry of Education	24,570,622	24,657,000	29,099,000		

source: Financial Estimates 2001 (published by the Budget Office, Malta)