

Stqarrija għall-istampa

Din hi r-reazzjoni ta' għaxar entitajiet li jaħdmu b'risq il-Malti u l-Ingliż għad-dokument "Il-Politika Nazzjonali tat-Tagħlim tal-Malti bħala Lingwa Barranija fil-Qafas tal-Bilingwiżmu u l-Plurilingwiżmu 2019" ippubblikat mill-Ministeru għall-Edukazzjoni u x-Xogħol.

Id-dokument iħares lejn il-qagħda bilingwi u, sa ċeru punt, plurilingwi f'pajjiżna b'mod pożittiv u san, jagħraf il-vantaġġi tiegħu fil-proċess konjittiv u jišhaq fuq l-importanza li, tul il-proċess edukattiv sa mis-snin bikrija, jinżamm bilanċ bejn il-Malti u l-Ingliż, kemm fit-tagħlim taż-żewġ lingwi bħala suġġetti kif ukoll bħala mezz ta' komunikazzjoni fil-klassi u fl-iskola inġenerali.

Jgħid ukoll li l-ebda student m'għandu jġi eżentat mit-tagħlim tal-Malti, filwaqt li kull edukatur għandu jkollu kwalifika fil-Malti jew fil-Malti bħala Lingwa Barranija (MLB), biex ikun jista' jgħallem bil-Malti. Id-dokument jagħmilha ċara li t-tagħlim tal-MLB lil dawk li jeħtiġuh għandu jibda sa mis-snin bikrija u jibqa' sejjer sas-sekondarja. Ta' min ifaħħar ukoll il-possibiltà li l-istudenti tal-MLB b'ħakma tajba tal-Malti fil-primarja u fil-medja jkunu jistgħu jidhlu fir-rota tal-Malti.

Dan kollu, jekk iseħħ, ikun mezz tajjeb u qawwi biex il-Malti mhux biss iżomm postu bħala l-ilsien nazzjonali, imma jservi wkoll bħala mezz ta' integrazzjoni li jwassal għal armonija u koeżjoni soċjali ikbar.

Press Release

Ten bodies involved with Maltese and English have considered the document entitled "The National Policy for the Teaching of Maltese as a Foreign Language in the Framework of Bilingualism and Plurilingualism 2019" published by the Ministry for Education and Employment.

The document regards the bilingual and, to a certain extent, multilingual situation in the country in a positive and healthy way, acknowledging its advantages for the cognitive process. It stresses the importance of maintaining a balance, beginning with the early school years, between Maltese and English both in the teaching of these two languages as a subject and also as a means of communication within the classroom and the school in general.

It also declares that no student should be exempted from learning Maltese and insists that every educator should be qualified either in Maltese or in Maltese as a Foreign Language (MFL) to be able to teach in Maltese. The policy makes it clear that the teaching of Maltese as a foreign language to those who need it should commence from the early years and continue up to secondary level. The possibility envisaged for primary and middle school MFL students with a good command of Maltese to switch to the Maltese path, is also positive.

Depending on its success, this arrangement would not only constitute a powerful means for Maltese to keep its place as the national

Aħna naqblu li t-fal/l-istudenti migranti (b'żewġ ġenituri/kustodji mhux Maltin) ikollhom l-opportunità u r-riżorsi biex jitgħallmu l-MLB. Izda ma nistgħux naqblu mal-punt imsemmi f'paġna 9 li "għat-tagħlim tal-MLB għandhom jiġu rreġistrati tfal/studenti migranti, u jekk jixtiequ, tfal/studenti li għandhom xi ħadd mill-ġenituri/kustodji b'karta tal-identità mhux Maltija" u lanqas ma' dak li jingħad f'paġna 10, li "it-tfal migranti, jew dawk li jkollhom ġenitur wieħed b'karta ta' identità mhux Maltija, qabel jidhlu fit-tielet sena tal-primarja (fl-età ta' 7 snin) għandu jiġi determinat permezz tal-assessjar jekk jeżiġix lezzjonijiet fl-MLB jew fil-Malti." U dan għaliex tfal/studenti b'ġenitur/kustodju Malti wieħed u li qed jgħixu f'Malta għandhom il-kuntest ideali biex il-Malti jitgħallmuh u jistudjawn bħala lsien nattiv u xorta jaslu għal bilingwiżmu integrattiv b'għarfien xieraq taż-żewġ lingwi.

Id-dokument isemmi wkoll iċ-ĊES fil-MLB imma ma jagħti l-ebda indikazzjoni jekk iċ-ĊES fil-MLB u "l-eżami tal-Malti" jiswewx indaqs, jiġifieri jekk għandhomx l-istess livell fl-iskala tal-MQF. Aħna ma naqblux li dawn iż-żewġ eżamijiet ikunu jiswew indaqs għaliex min-natura tagħhom mhux se jkollhom l-istess livell ta' għarfien. Id-dokument lanqas jindika jekk student b'O Level fil-MLB hux se jitħalla, bis-saħħa ta' din il-kwalifika, ikompli l-istudju tal-Malti Intermedju jew Avvanzat, ħaġa oħra li dwarha ma naqblux.

Meta titqiegħed fil-kuntest sħiħ lokali, m'hemmx dubju li din il-proposta tajba jista' jkollha wkoll applikazzjonijiet ta' ħsara li rridu minn issa noqogħdu attenti għalihom. Ngħidu aħna, ma jkunx sewwa kieku bi kwalifika fil-MLB student jitħalla jidhlo l-Università u saħansitra jirreġistra għal korsijiet li għalihom

language, but it would also serve as a means of integration leading to greater social harmony and cohesion.

We agree that migrant children/students (with two non-Maltese parents/custodians) be given the opportunity and the resources to learn Maltese as a foreign language. But we cannot agree that "registration for the learning of MFL should be open to migrant children/students, and, on a voluntary basis, to children/students with one parent/guardian in possession of a foreign ID card" (page 9). Neither do we agree that "migrant children, or those who have one parent in possession of a foreign ID card, should be assessed, before entering the third year of primary school (at 7 years of age), to determine whether they require lessons in MFL or in Maltese" (page 10). The reason is that children/students living in Malta with only one Maltese parent/custodian are in an ideal situation to learn Maltese and to study it as a native language, thereby achieving integrated bilingualism with an adequate knowledge of both languages.

The document also mentions the SEC in MFL but gives no indication whatsoever whether this SEC in MFL and "the Maltese language exam" will have the same standing, that is, whether they will be rated at the same MQF level. We cannot agree that these two exams would have the same rating, because of their very nature, they cannot have the same degree of knowledge. Neither does the document indicate whether a student with an O level in MFL would be allowed to continue with the study of Maltese at Intermediate and Advanced level, on the strength of this qualification. This is another point we disagree with.

il-Malti huwa suġġett mitlub bil-quddiem. Lanqas ikun sew li jinholqu eżamijiet alternattivi għall-Malti għad-dñul fl-Università, għax b'dan il-mod jitwaqqa' l-livell tal-Malti (fil-livell ordinarju) bħala prerekwizit għar-registrazzjoni fl-ogħla istituzzjoni akkademika tal-pajjiż.

Aħna nittamaw li, wara dan il-proċess ta' konsultazzjoni, din il-politika lingwistika nazzjonali, li fil-qofol tagħha hija tajba u ta' ġid għall-iżvilupp sħiħ tal-istudenti Maltin u barranin li jgħixu Malta, titnaddaf minn dawn il-ftit nuqqasijiet li jistonaw fiha, għaliex – għall-kuntrarju tal-bqija tad-dokument – jagħtu l-impressjoni żbaljata li l-ilsien Malti, li huwa l-ilsien nazzjonali, għandu jingħata importanza sekondarja malli jersaq lejha il-ilsien ieħor.

Firmatarji:

L-Akkademja tal-Malti
Id-Dipartiment tal-Malti tal-Università
Id-Dipartiment tal-Malti tal-Junior College (UM)
L-Għaqda tal-Malti – Università
L-Għaqda tal-Qarrejja tal-Provi tal-Malti
L-Għaqda tal-Għalliema tal-Malti
L-Għaqda Poeti Maltin
L-Istitut tal-Lingwistika u t-Teknoloġija tal-Lingwa (UM)
Id-Dipartiment tal-Ingliš (UM)
Id-Dipartiment tal-Ingliš, Junior College (UM)
Il-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Il-sien Malti

There is no doubt that when this positive proposal is placed in the local context as a whole, it can give rise to negative applications which we have to forestall at the outset. Thus it is not right for a student with a qualification in MFL to be allowed to join the University and even to register for courses which have Maltese as a prerequisite. Nor is it right to come up with alternative exams in Maltese for entry into University. This would result in the lowering of the level of Maltese at ordinary level, as a prerequisite for entry into the highest academic institution of the country.

Given that this national linguistic policy is essentially positive and one which should lead to the integral development of Maltese and foreign students in Malta, we earnestly hope that following this process of consultation, it will be revised to do away with the negative elements which stand out in it. In opposition to the thrust of the document in general, these elements give the impression that Maltese, our national language, should be accorded secondary importance in the presence of another language.

Signed by:

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