

„Your voice matters“

VLT project

Research findings

Background

In the framework of VLT Project we were interested in how foreigners, somehow affiliated with Valletta, think and feel about the city. We carried out a small scale online survey and have received 45 answers.

Data collection method

An online survey was created. Then a call for participation was announced through different channels, but only over the Internet:

- Professional network of SOS Malta
- Various Facebook groups
- Expat-forum.com
- Couchsurfing.org

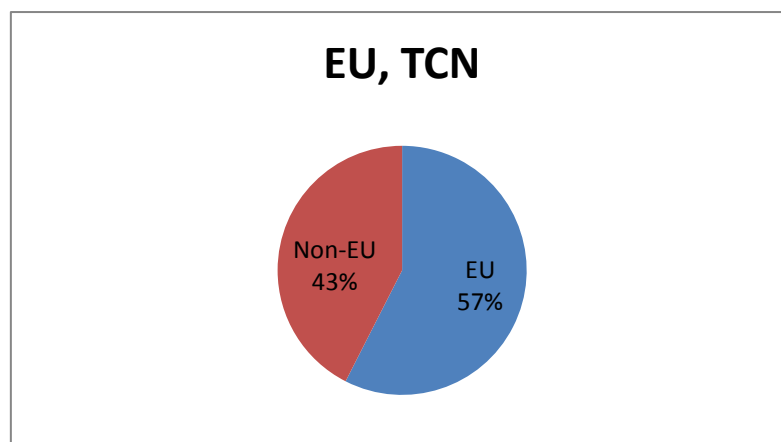
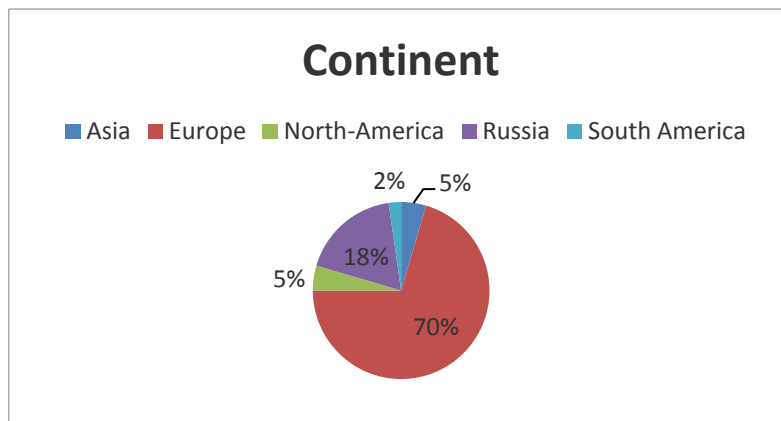
Questions asked

These are the questions that were asked. The detailed list of responses can be found in the annex.

1. What is your affiliation with Valletta?
2. How often do you attend events and activities in Valletta?
3. What kind of events do you usually attend?
4. What types of events would you attend if they were held in Valletta?
5. What do you like most about Valletta?
6. What do you like least about Valletta?
7. What changes would most improve this neighbourhood?
8. For how long have you been living in Malta?
9. How strong do you think is the sense of community in Valletta? How do you feel about it?
10. Do you experience any difficulties when accessing public services?
11. Do you receive info from the Local Council? If so, in what format?
12. What kind of information would you like to receive from the Council? What are the questions you have, that the Council could answer for you?
13. How would you like to receive info from the Council and in what format?
14. What is your country of origin?
15. What is your age?
16. What is your gender?
17. What is your profession?
18. Do you feel that you would like to contribute with any of your skills or knowledge to the development of Valletta?
19. Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns?
20. Would you like to get further information about Valletta development, news, activities later on?
21. If yes, please enter your email address (we will send updates there):
22. From where did you hear about this survey?

First impressions coming from the results

- The survey was filled out mostly by EU nationals and people coming from first world countries. (see charts below)
- In the scale and framework of the research we could not collect answers from people from countries where economic and political refugees usually come from.
- None of the responses provided surprisingly new information, which also means that our previous assumptions were correct. Results, in fact, were supporting the strategic ideas we are considering being included in the Strategic Plan.



What people like about Valletta

- It's quite and beautiful
- Atmosphere
- The landscape, the amazing view and its history
- Perfect little city with a great architecture.
- Position
- Architecture....
- I love its friendly people, the architecture of this fabulous city, the restaurants and social life.
- It is a charming city
- The cultural heritage, the lively Friday and Saturday evenings, the tiny contemporary art scene (St. James Cavalier, Blitz, Studio 104, Malta Design Days, etc.), the "new generation" projects like Renzo Piano's citygate.

- I like the friendly and helpful attitude of my neighbours and the general atmosphere of goodwill.
- Malta Society of Arts, St James, St Paul's Shipwreck Bar, China Cultural Centre, Italian Culture Centre, German Maltese Circle
- The proximity of places and people, walking distance; the historical heritage; the view of the sea from many streets; the uniqueness of being a capital city within walls: the cultural activities; being Belti...:)
- It is a living city. Walking and strolling. The sense of history and its beauty. A lot is going on. That one can swim in a Capitol!
- People, weather and culture
- Architecture, culture, shops, atmosphere, fairly car free in the main streets.
- Amazingly relaxed for a Capital City
- The spirit of it, its architecture
- I like the bustling, as well as the little nooks and crannies you tend to find while walking around.
- The atmosphere
- Car free
- historical sites
- Beautiful views and buildings
- Compactness
- Gardens
- Natural air condition system in hot summer months. Plan of the city.
- It is very authentic and the city is growing again. I see it as the new Monaco
- It's beautiful, dynamic, has a lot of great shops, restaurants, coffees, theatre, museums. I love Lower and Upper Barrakka gardens as well.
- History, culture, beauty of the old buildings.
- Free of traffic and beautiful
- Almost everything, except the treatment in government departments, that really needs to improve a lot. Valletta is capital but the cleanliness is not up to the standard.
- Architecture, location & sea.
- shopping environment, culture and historical sites and atmosphere
- The overall atmosphere - a wonderful city!
- architecture
- The architecture the setting the history
- Being enclosed in these beautiful big walls
- Architecture surrounding nice restaurants
- It is a beautiful city-village and unique in the world
- Walking around. The architecture. The Historical Aspects.
- So many places to eat, cultural venues and historical architecture
- It is small and compact. Beautiful buildings.

Major issues identified

- Garbage collection, litter on the streets.
- Lack of information.
- Information available in Maltese language only.
- Traffic, noise, density, cars

Areas in which development may be effectively achieved

see Annex for detailed answers

Communication

- Practical information about city management (e.g. garbage collection, public hearings, road constructions, detours, etc.)
- Information about events, activities, fiestas taking place in Valletta
- Information, provided in English as well.
- Information distributed by email.
- Regular email newsletters.

Awareness raising, information providing

- Encouraging selective garbage collection
- Improving road signs and maps, directions (e.g. administrative offices, not only touristic places)

Community development

- More public hearings, and also information about them.
- More community based volunteer events.

Conclusion

Our assumption was that even with very limited resources a lot can be achieved in terms of improving the ICC aspects of Valletta, including diversity management, standard of living and prevention of cross cultural conflicts. Based on the feedback received, we feel that there are a number of beneficial recommendations, seconded by the public, that we can include in the ICC Development Strategic Plan.