

Nationalities in contact with FSWS services

Cases opened in 2022



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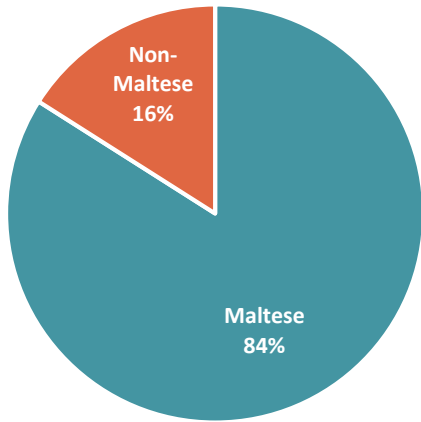
Stephanie Dimech

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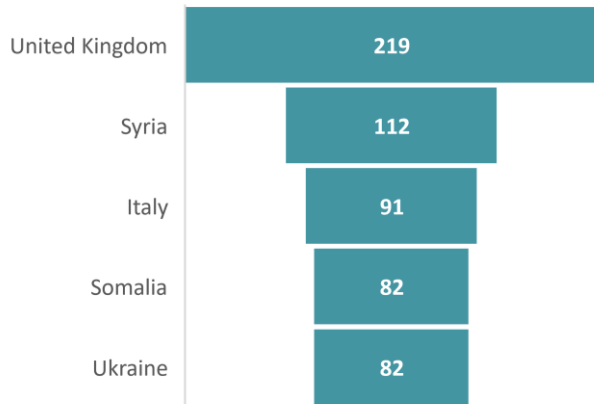
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Highlights

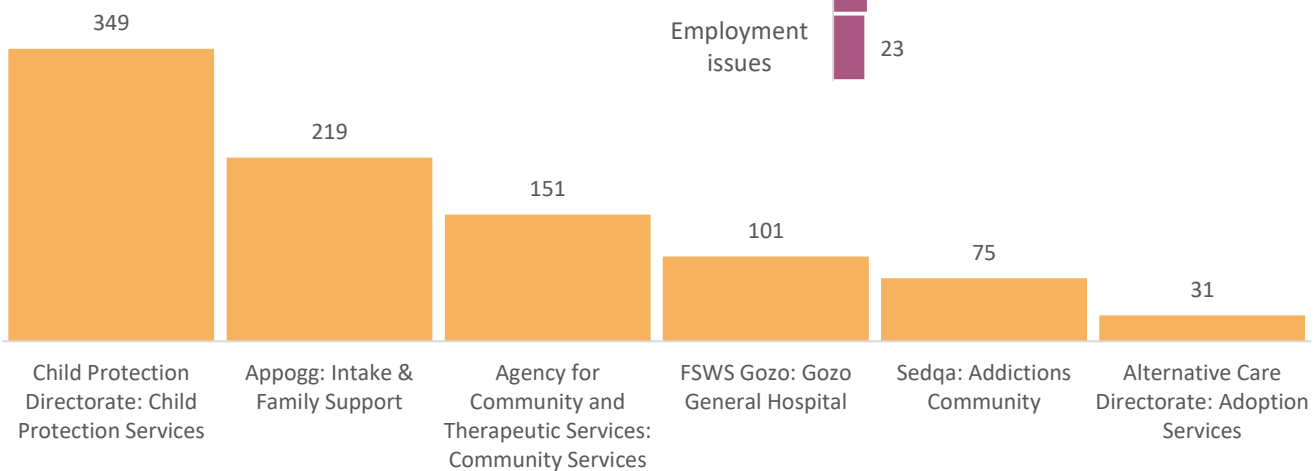
Cases Opened by nationality



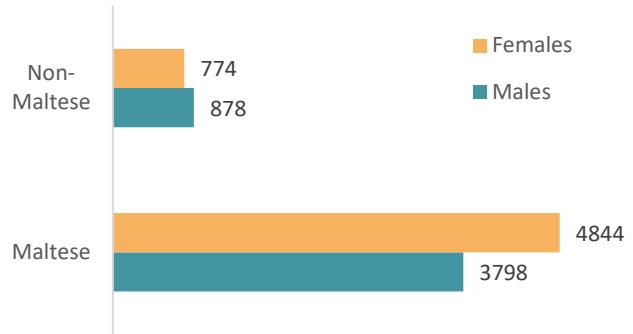
Most reported non-Maltese nationalities by country



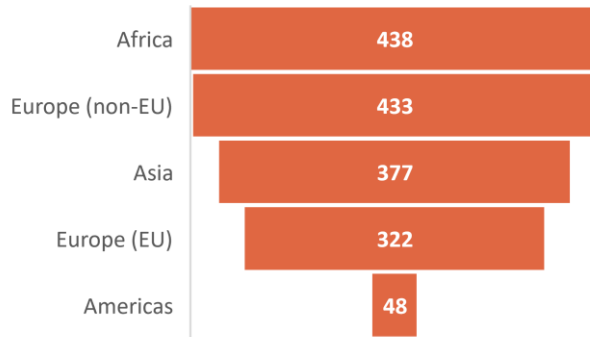
Services with the highest number of non-Maltese cases opened per Agency



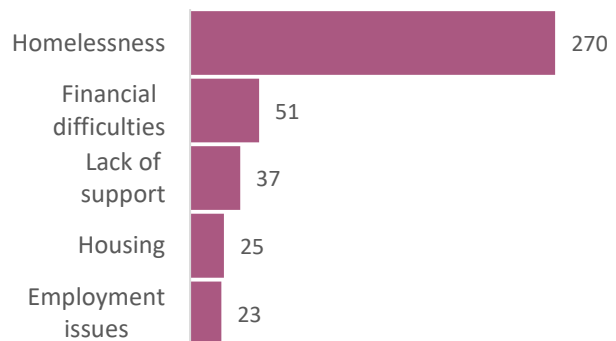
Cases opened by gender and nationality



Number of non-Maltese cases opened by continent of nationality



Primary problems faced by non-Maltese



Background

Migration

The concept of nationality needs to be studied to truly understand the lived experiences of migrants in a host country, which includes effective provision of services and benefits and their inclusion in a host country. There is no universal definition of nationality although it is often used synonymously with citizenship (Juškevičienė, 2014; Piattoeva, 2016). According to Juškevičienė (2014), nationality can either be independent or related to one's residence within a country. Nationality is one's sense of connection with the nation or community, whilst citizenship is related to one's place of residence (Juškevičienė, 2014).

Some migrants face several barriers in a host country. Cultural norms and unwelcoming attitudes by natives could undermine meaningful active participation of migrants in a host country, including economic, social and political participation, which in turn could adversely impact their quality of life and their marginalization (United Nations, 2018; Kellezi et al., 2021). Migrants often experience intersectionality due to interconnected social positions, such as race, gender, and socioeconomic status (Bauer et al., 2021). For instance, language has a large implication on the integration of migrants in a host country. The lack of proficiency of the host country language, or other popular languages, like for example English, makes it the more difficult for foreigners to access social protection and other services (UN, 2018). These include support services such as those related to support survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking.

There is also evidence of migrants experiencing further discrimination on grounds of their gender. Migrant women are more likely to be employed in traditionally female-dominated occupations, including those related to domestic and care work, in contrast with migrant males, and non-migrant females (United Nations, 2018). Migrants could experience disadvantages due to bias in legislation and policies in the host country (UN, 2018). For example, there is a greater propensity among female migrants losing their residence permit in cases of separation from their spouses in a host country.

Limitations in legislation and policies can also adversely impact migrants in other ways. Undocumented migrants are more likely to access only emergency health care services in a host destination (Stanciole & Huber, 2009). Irregular migrants that are engaged in employment in the host country are more likely to be offered working opportunities and conditions that are inferior when compared with the native counterparts. Such employment opportunities are confined to those that are informal, low-paying and unstable. Migrants with temporary visas are likely to experience similar issues, in addition to the prospect of experiencing abusive employment practices such as the confiscation of their passport by the employers, restriction of movement, and confinement at the workplace. The issue of poverty

among migrant workers could also arise from inadequate accreditation procedures of a host country for qualifications earned by migrants in their country of origin (UN, 2018).

Administration issues could also arise in situations where professionals and other supporting staff lack proper awareness of what services and benefits migrants are entitled to; prejudiced attitudes held by such professionals and other support staff; and the extent of consistency of implementing legislations and policies to support migrants. The deficiencies migrants experience in the provision of services, including referrals to appropriate individuals or organisations, could also result in situations where the migrants' needs may not be adequately met or worse (UN Habitat, 2021).

The situation in Malta

Throughout the last decade, Malta has experienced notable demographic changes in its population. According to the National Statistics Office (2021), the estimated population in the Maltese islands stood at 516,100 at the end of the year 2020. Persons under 18 years of age constituted 15.9% of the population, while persons aged 65 years and above constituted a further 18.9% (NSO, 2021). Throughout the past decade, there has been a considerable population influx, which at least in part was due to the expansion of the local economy (Central Bank of Malta, 2019). The influx of migrants is also reflected within the FSWS.

The underpinning rationale of this report is to examine trends of non-Maltese service users within FSWS, and to monitor the primary problems for which they seek support. The homelessness report drawn up by FSWS (2018) shows that non-Maltese nationals who lack informal social support were more likely to be in a position of vulnerability. The same report adds that non-Maltese nationals are more likely to have FSWS as their sole means of support. Person-centred approaches are needed to provide meaningful support to vulnerable individuals, whilst at the same time facilitate non-Maltese nationals' participation in mainstream society. Studies also show the importance of understanding the social context when rendering services to non-Maltese service users (Kellezi et al., 2021). It is through such understandings that non-Maltese service users would enhance their feeling of belonging and social support within the community, and at the same time reduce feelings of loneliness (Kellezi et al., 2021).

There are a number of benefits as to why migrants should be included in the Maltese society more effectively. Further inclusion of migrants means more people in the labour workforce and greater contribution to the growth of the Maltese economy through the payment of taxes, and acquisition of local products, services, and facilities. It would also mean an upsurge of younger people in the local workforce, which in turn would help keeping social security services sustainable. On a qualitative level, migrants could potentially contribute to the Maltese economy and the Maltese society in general through the application of their talents, skills and knowledge (UN, 2018).

FSWS offers its wide array of services on issues such as homelessness, domestic violence, and child protection. As the number of cases involving non-Maltese nationals are increasing, FSWS can allocate more human and economic resources, develop more services, improve its operations, and develop more effective outreach programmes to cater better for this reality. It could also contribute better to the development of more inclusive and effective policies to address gaps on access to services for non-Maltese nationals. In order to achieve these goals, FSWS continues to persevere in conducting evidence-based research in order to ensure that the support services rendered reflect the current realities in the Maltese islands, while at the same time reflect the subjective needs of each service user.

Written by: Michael Debattista

Methods Used

The aim of this report is to provide an overview of the nationalities of FSWS service users and examine trends over time. This report provides a snapshot of the cases opened (both new and re-contact cases) at FSWS by nationality of service users, where available. The nationality is reported according to the information provided by the service users when compiling the first contact sheet with the professionals. In cases of a service user holding dual nationalities, the service user specifies which nationality they prefer to be listed under. The same service user could have had multiple cases opened within multiple services at the same time so there will be some duplicate cases.

The data was mainly analysed by continent of nationality. In some instances, the data was stratified as Maltese and non-Maltese. The data was also presented as European referring to European services users with nationality from European countries both within the European Union (EU), for example, Malta, France and Spain and European countries that are not members of the European Union (non-EU), for example, Norway, Serbia, Ukraine and United Kingdom. For the purpose of this report, the data related to the United Kingdom was categorised as a European country within the EU [Europe (EU)] from 2018 to 2019, and a European country outside the EU [Europe (non-EU)] from 2020 onwards. This is considered as one of the limitations of the report as increases in European services users outside the EU, account largely due to this shift.

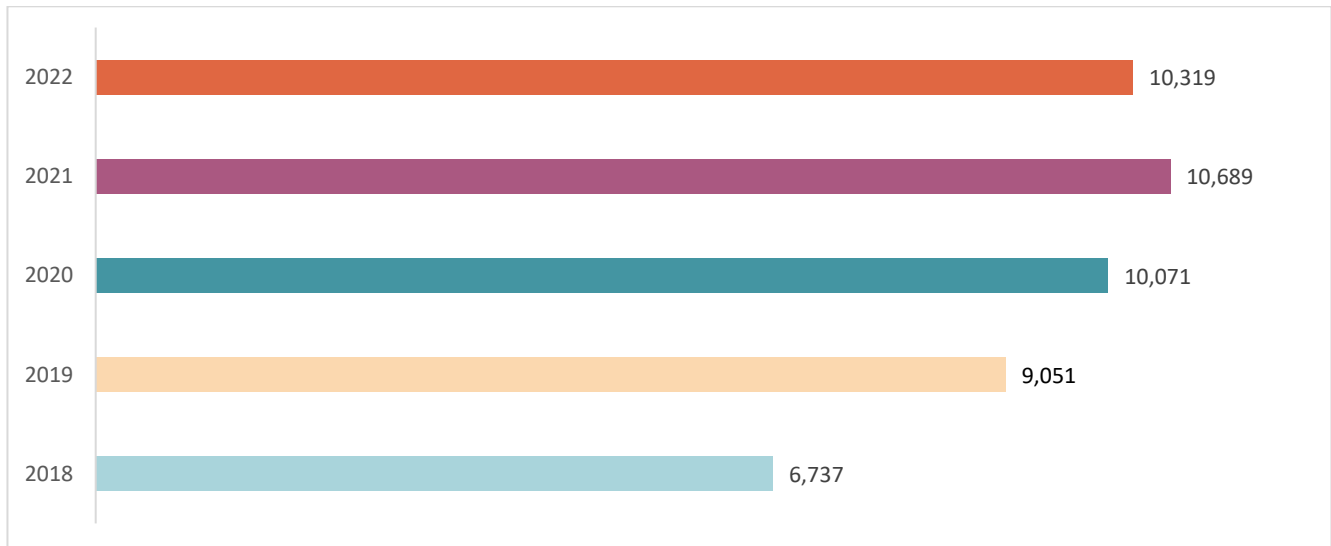
England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales are considered as countries in their own right. However, in this report when presenting data by country, the term United Kingdom is used. When referring to nationality, the nationality specified by the service users are used (e.g. British, Scottish and Welsh).

The term 'Not Known' in the report refers to cases where the nationality has not been recorded at all and we do not know whether the service user is Maltese or non-Maltese. The term 'Other Not Known' refers to cases where nationality has been recorded as non-Maltese, but the specific nationality was not recorded.



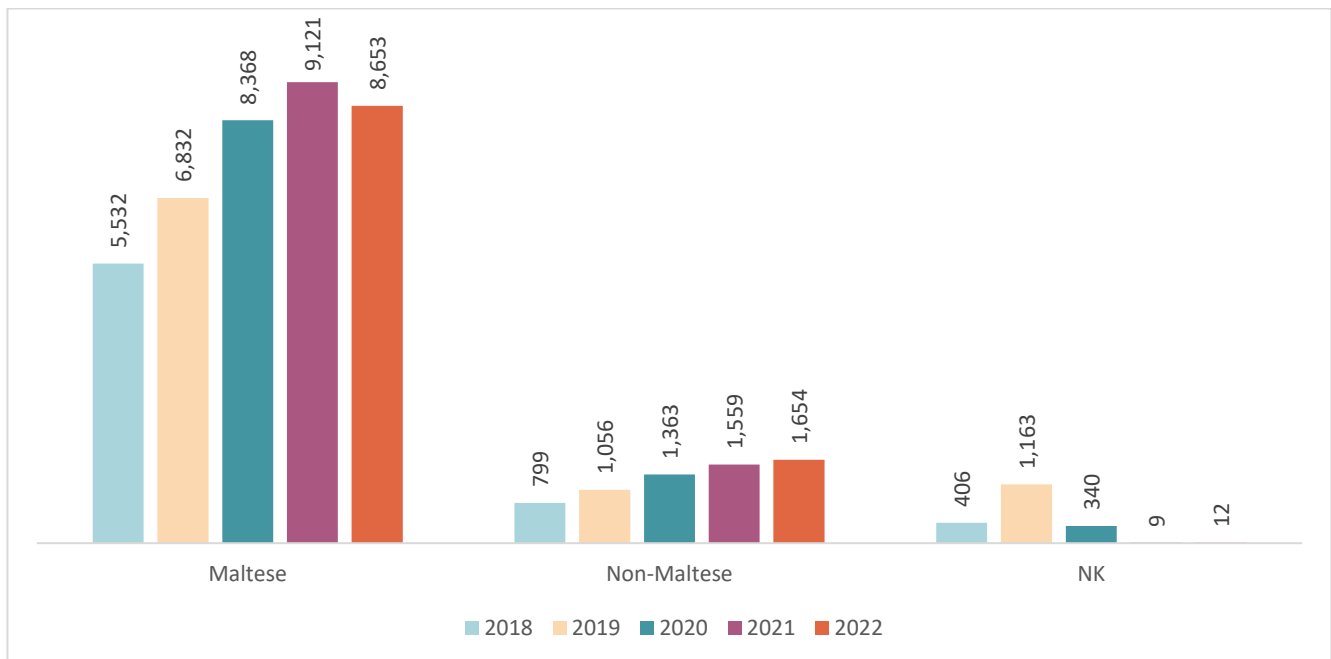
Cases opened by nationality

Total number of new and recontact cases opened at FSWS by year



The number of cases opened at FSWS have been increasing through the years, with a slight decrease registered in 2022.

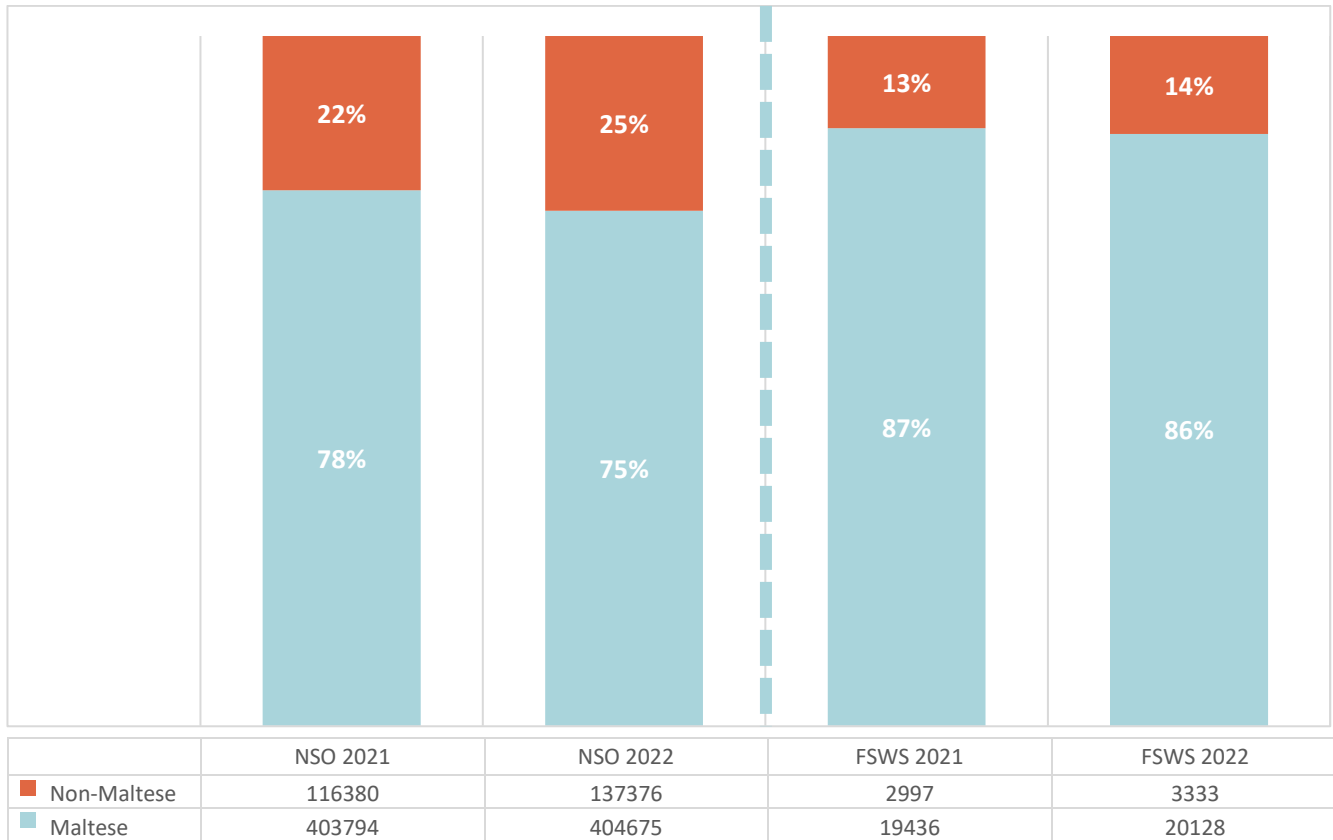
Number of cases opened at FSWS by nationality and year



When stratifying cases opened at FSWS by nationality, a slight decrease in the number of Maltese cases opened in 2022 was recorded while the number of non-Maltese cases opened has been steadily increasing through the years. In 2022 84% of cases opened were Maltese vs 16% non-Maltese (similar to 2021 rates of 85% vs 15%).

Nationalities in contact with FSWS during 2022

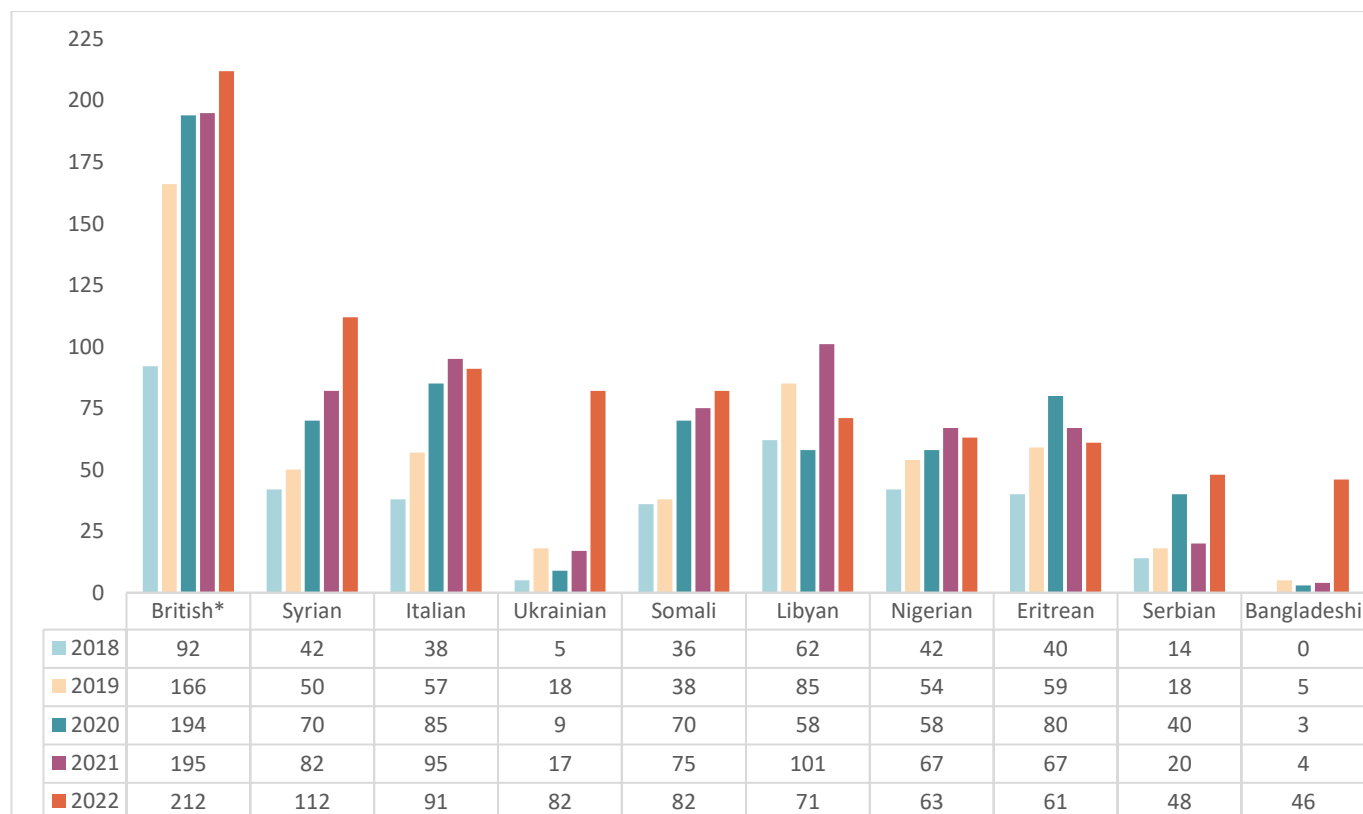
Number of cases worked with at FSWS in comparison to NSO data on the population in Malta



The end of year population estimates provided by NSO (2023), are the latest available data capturing the population in Malta. Overall, the percentage of Maltese citizens in comparison to the non-Maltese citizens decreased from 78% (vs 23%) in 2021 to 73% (vs 25%) in 2022.

Although the number of non-Maltese cases worked with at FSWS has been increasing (from 2997 in 2021 to 3333 in 2022), the proportion to the Maltese cases remained rather stable between 2021 and 2022 (from 13% to 14%).

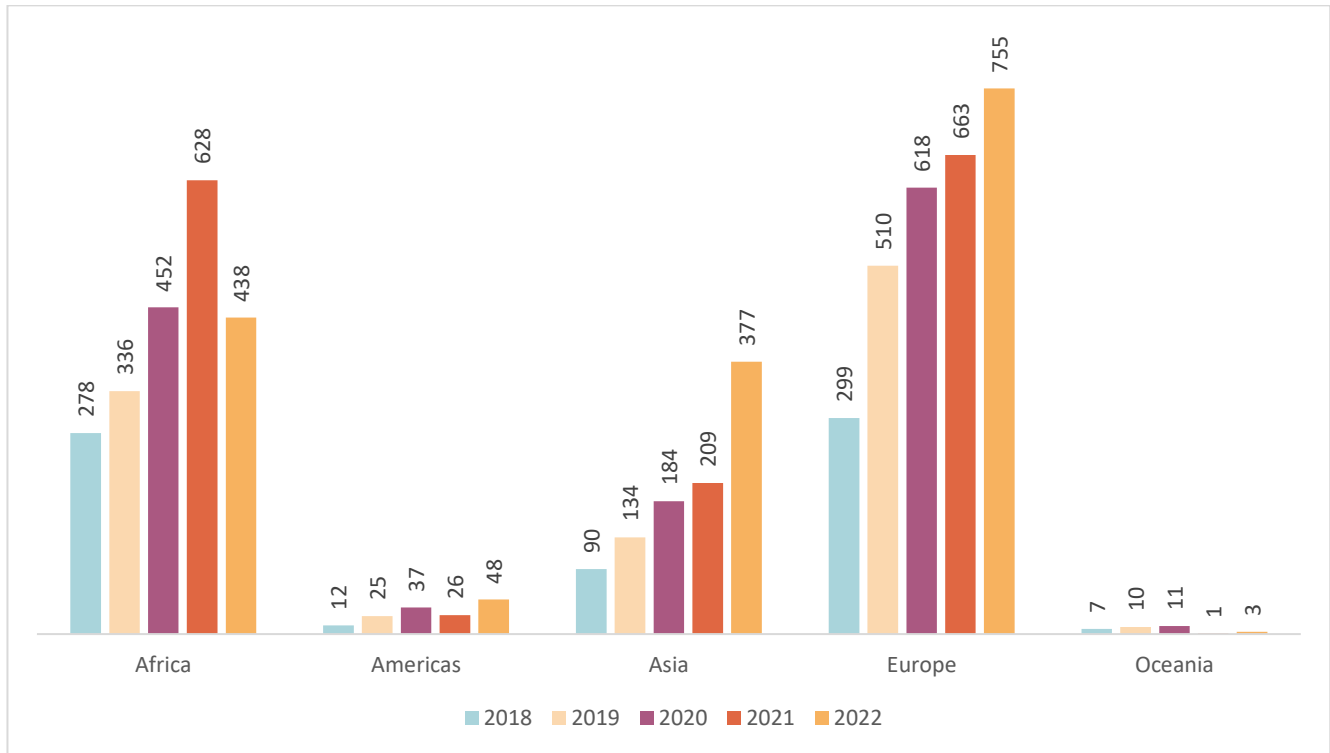
Number of most common non-Maltese nationalities among new and recontact cases within FSWS by year



**does not include service users who identified themselves as Scottish or Welsh*

The highest number of non-Maltese service users have been British throughout the last five years. However, the largest increase was recorded for Ukrainian new and recontact cases opened, from 17 in 2021 to 82 in 2022. Another substantial increase was recorded among Bangladeshi service users, from 4 service users in 2021 to 46 in 2022.

Number of non-Maltese new and recontact cases opened at FSWS by continent of nationality and year



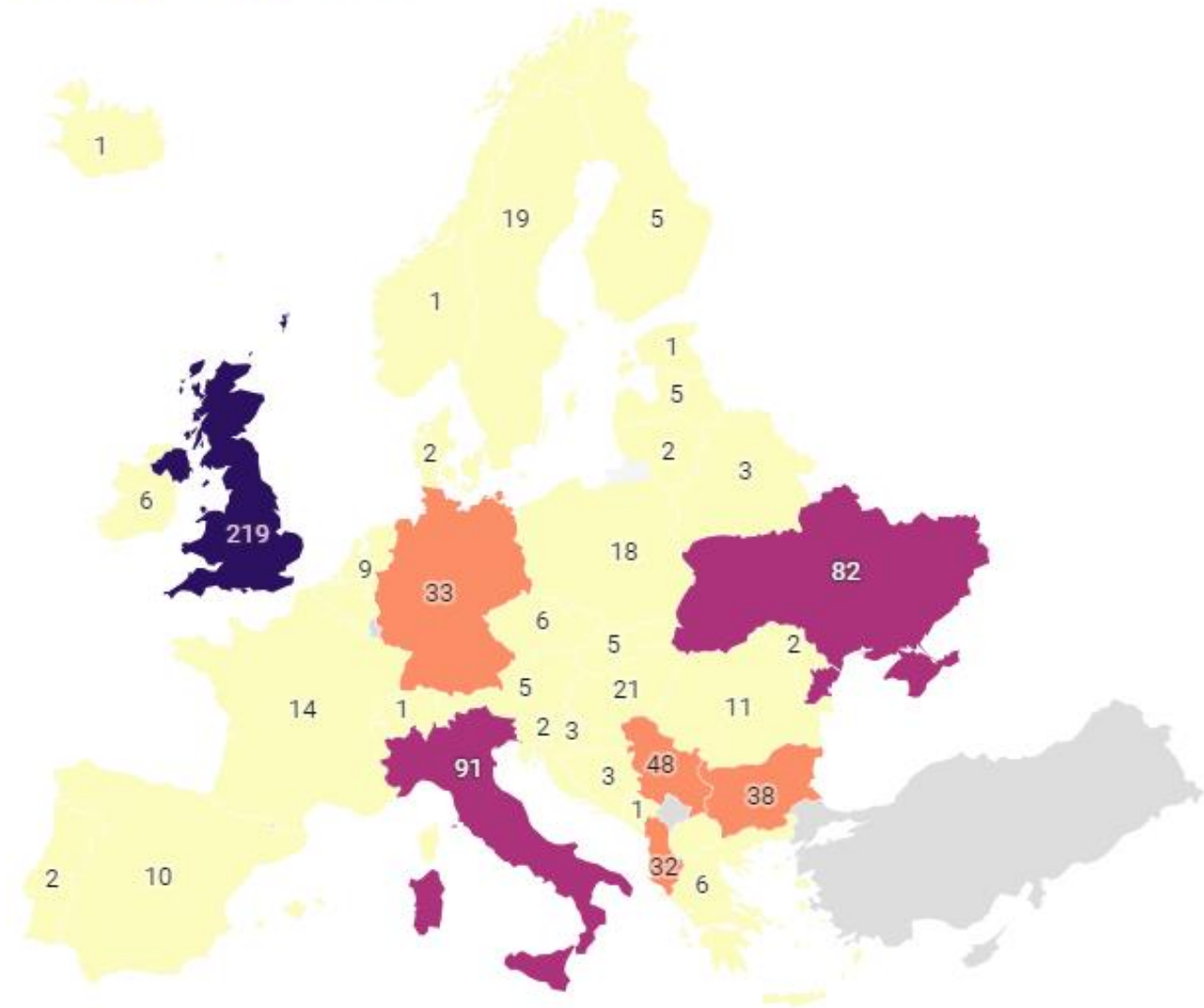
Excluding Maltese and Not Known Cases

After stratifying the data by continent, the largest number of new and recontact cases opened in 2022, had a European nationality, even when excluding Maltese nationals. In 2022, slightly less than half (322) of these European service users, had an EU nationality.

An increase of 81% was recorded in cases opened from Asia in 2022 (from 209 in 2021 to 377 in 2022). The large increase in the number of cases opened from Africa recorded in 2021, decreased by 30% in 2022.

Number of non-Maltese new and recontact cases opened at FSWS among European nationals in 2022

■ < 25
 ■ 25-50
 ■ 50-100
 ■ ≥ 100

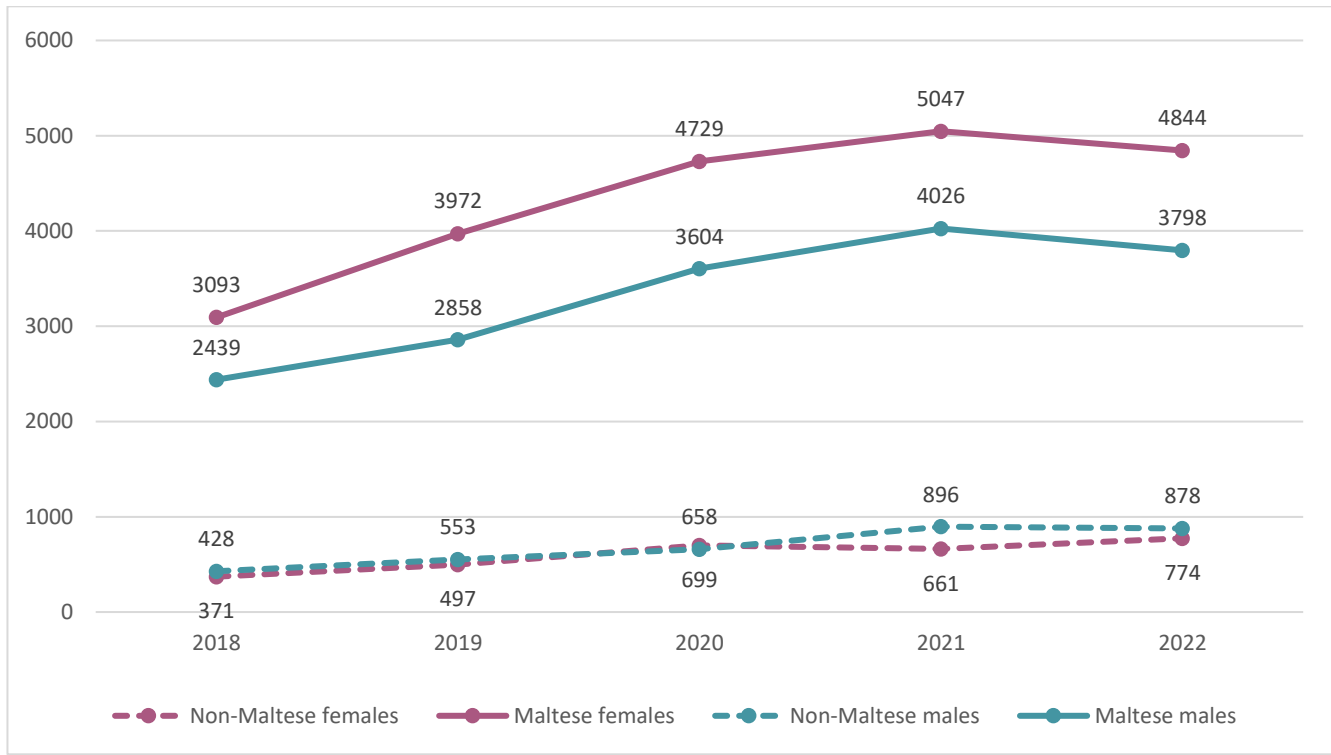


European Map above does not include 28 cases opened of service users from Russia.

The map shows that new and recontact cases opened from the UK (including Scotland and Wales) accounted for the highest number of service users with a European nationality again in 2022, followed by Italy (91 service users). For the first time, FSWS saw a considerable number of cases opened of service users from Ukraine (82), most likely due to the war between Ukraine and Russia.

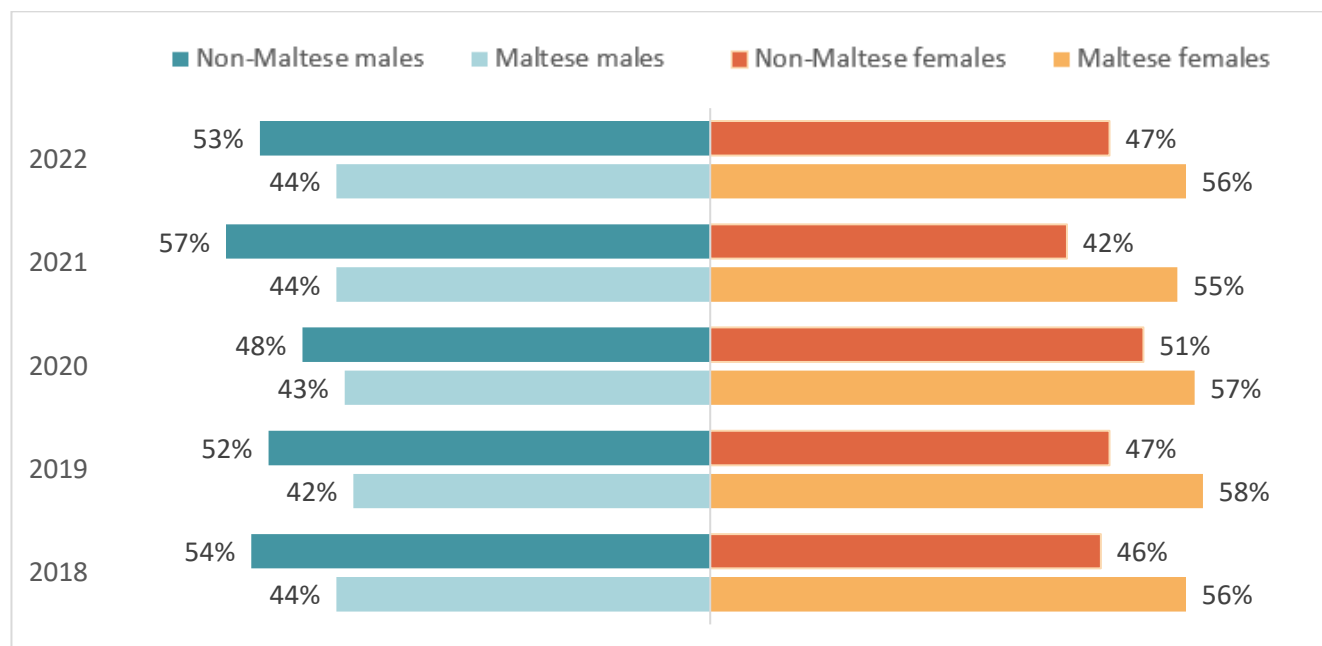
Nationality by demographic factors

Number of new and recontact cases opened by gender and year



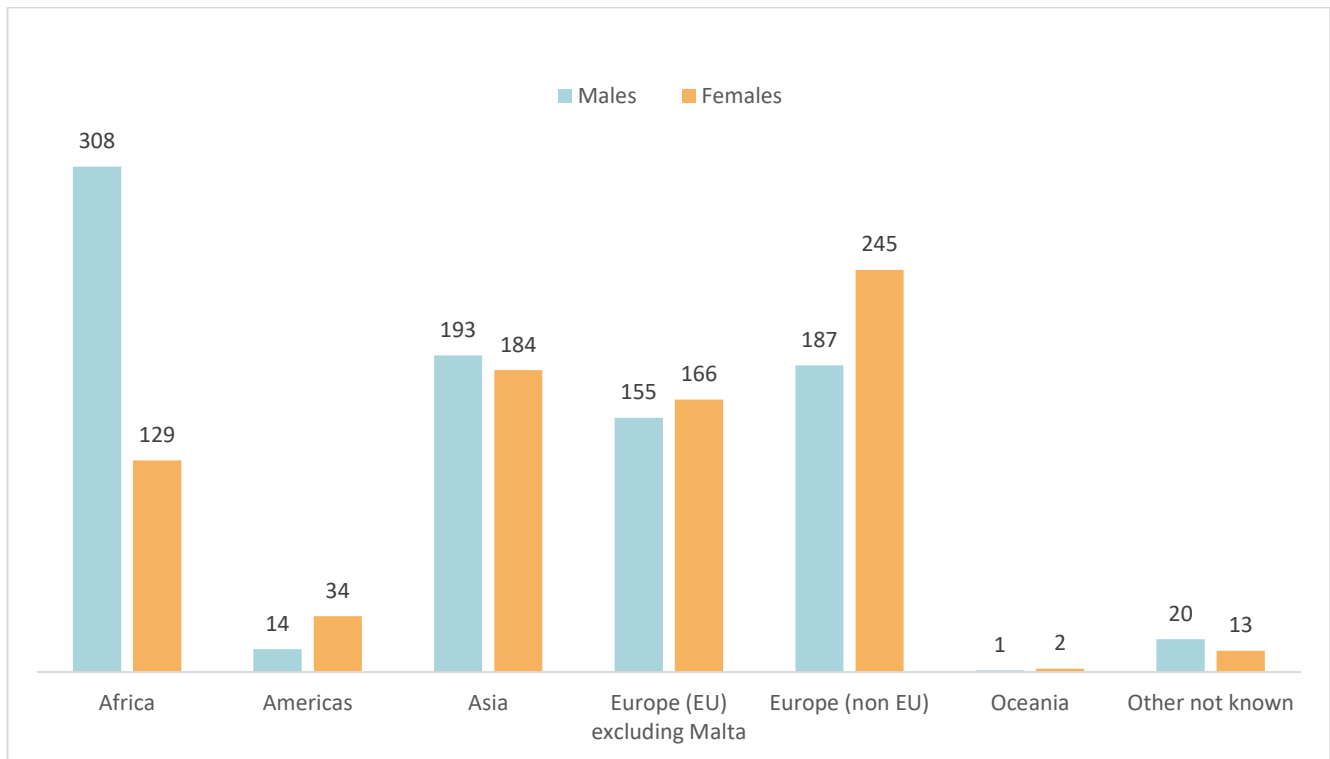
Over the years, the highest number of cases opened were Maltese female service users, however the opposite applies when considering services users of other nationality. In 2022, the cases of non-Maltese female service users accounted for 14% (774) of female cases opened throughout FSWS, which increased slightly from the 12% (661) reported in the previous year. The cases of non-Maltese male service users in 2022, accounted for 19% (878) of all male cases opened throughout FSWS, which remained stable from 18% (896) in 2021.

Number of new and recontact cases opened at FSWS by nationality and gender by year



The trend of having a higher percentage of cases opened of non-Maltese males than non-Maltese females seems to apply through the years, with the exception of 2020 (51% females vs. 48% males). On the contrary, Maltese female services users have sought support from FSWS more than their male counterparts over the last five years. The percentages shown in the figure above may not add up to a 100% due to cases with missing information on gender.

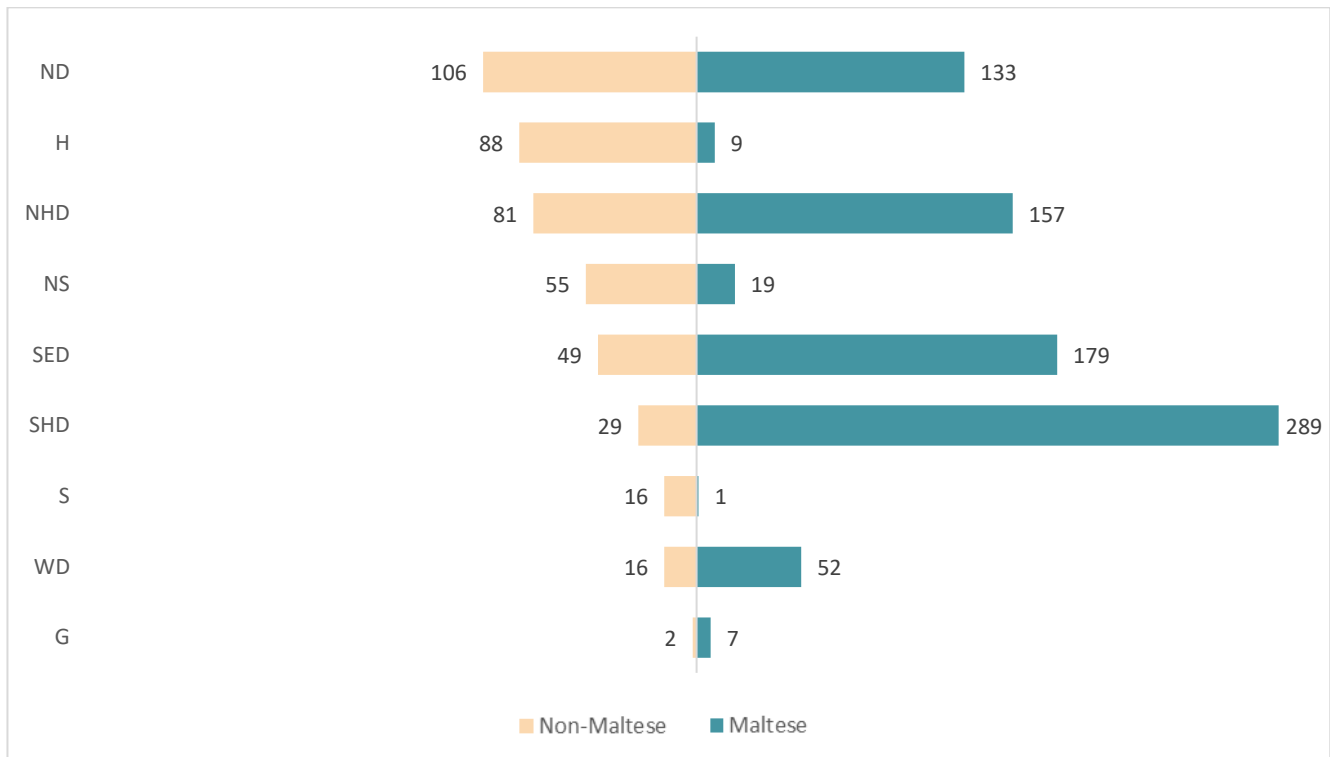
Number of new and recontact cases opened at FSWS by gender and continent of nationality in 2022



Males from Africa make up the group with the highest number of cases opened when stratifying the data by continent of nationality and gender, when Maltese nationals are excluded. The percentage of African males compared to females decreased slightly from 75% (vs. 25%) in 2021 to 70% (vs. 30%) in 2022.

The number of cases opened of females from Europe and the United States of America was higher than their male counterparts. However, these numbers need to be interpreted with caution due to the small numbers and since there are 33 services users that are known to be non-Maltese, but their specific nationality is unknown. In the figure above, these are reported as 'Other not known'.

Number of new and recontact cases opened at IFSS and Community Services by nationality and district of residence in 2022



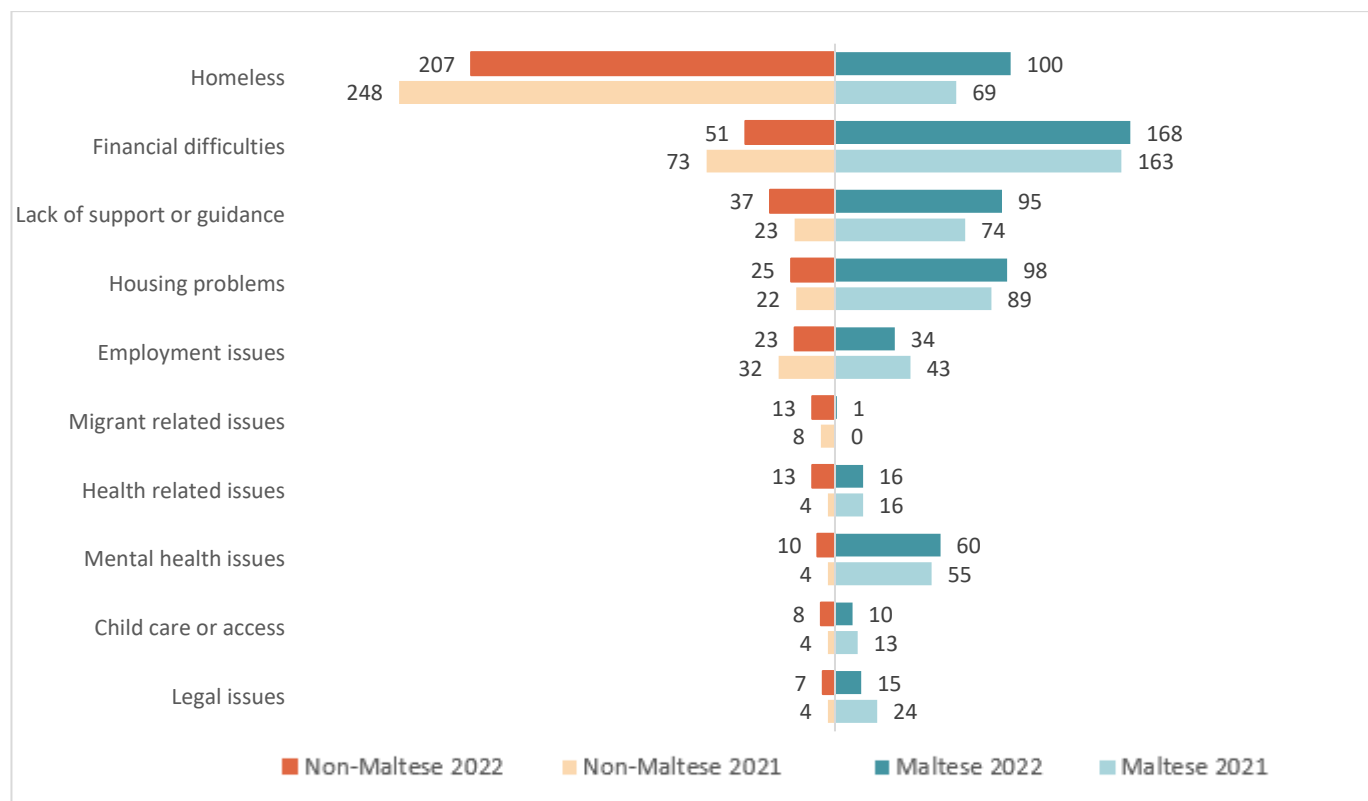
Graph Key. SHD: Southern Harbour District; NHD: Northern Harbour District; SED: Southern Eastern District; ND: Northern District; WD: Western District; G: Gozo; S: Shelter/Institution; H: Homeless; F: Foreign Residence; NS: Not Specified.

A total of 106 cases opened of non-Maltese service users who sought support from IFSS and Community Services, resided in the Northern District. This was a slight increase from 2021, where 90 cases opened of non-Maltese service users residing in this district were reported.

The large number of 114 non-Maltese service users who were homeless in 2021, decreased to 88 service users in 2022. It is important to note that the term homeless here refers to the service users without a postal address as opposed to those accessing FSWS services due to being at risk of homelessness. Hence, the number in the figure above, and the number in the figure titled “Number of cases opened by nationality and primary problem in 2022” presented later, will not match.

The cases opened in 2022, include 55 service users who did not specify the district of residence. Given that the numbers reported are relatively small, this could differentiate the data.

Top 10 of total new and recontact cases opened at IFSS and Community Services by nationality and primary problem in 2021 and 2022



When looking at the top 10 primary issues reported by all cases opened at IFSS and Community Services, homelessness was ranked first among non-Maltese service users. For cases opened of non-Maltese service users this issue was the most reported both in 2021 and 2022, although a slight decrease has been recorded in 2022.

Other primary problems reported by cases opened of non-Maltese service users which ranked high in 2022, are similar to those reported by Maltese service users. Other most common issues reported were financial difficulties, lack of support and housing problems.

Difficulties faced by new and recontact cases opened at IFSS and Community Services by continent of nationality in 2022

	Homelessness	Financial difficulties	Lack of support	Housing problems	Employment issues
Africa	141	17	7	12	11
Americas	5	0	2	0	0
Asia	15	9	12	8	2
Europe (EU)	21	10	1	1	4
Europe (Non-EU)	25	15	15	4	6
Oceania	0	0	0	0	0
Malta	100	168	95	98	34
Other NK	0	0	0	0	0
Not Specified	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	307	219	132	123	57

When stratifying data by continent, the group of new and recontact cases most likely to report homelessness as their primary problem were African nationals (141), followed by Maltese nationals (100). Financial difficulties were reported mostly from service users with a European nationality (EU and non-EU) (25), followed by African service users (17). Again, European nationals (16) ranked highest in lacking support, followed by Asian nationals (12).

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Appendix

Number of service users by nationality and year

Continent	Nationality	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Asia	<i>Afghan</i>	0	0	6	2	6
Europe (non-EU)	<i>Albanian</i>	0	10	14	21	32
Africa	<i>Algerian</i>	3	2	6	5	4
Americas	<i>American</i>	5	6	11	4	7
Europe (EU)	<i>Andorran</i>	0	0	0	1	0
Americas	<i>Argentinian</i>	0	1	0	0	1
Asia	<i>Armenian</i>	1	0	1	0	1
Oceania	<i>Australian</i>	7	9	9	1	3
Europe (EU)	<i>Austrian</i>	2	1	4	6	5
Asia	<i>Azerbaijan</i>	0	0	0	1	1
Asia	<i>Bangladeshi</i>	0	5	3	4	46
Europe (non-EU)	<i>Belarusian</i>	1	0	3	1	3
Europe (EU)	<i>Belgian</i>	4	2	4	3	8
Africa	<i>Beninese</i>	0	1	0	0	0
Europe (non-EU)	<i>Bosnian</i>	1	4	0	2	3
Africa	<i>Botswanan</i>	0	1	0	0	0
Americas	<i>Brazilian</i>	3	4	11	3	7
Europe (non-EU)	<i>British</i>	92	166	194	195	212
Europe (EU)	<i>Bulgarian</i>	16	36	41	36	38
Africa	<i>Burkinabe</i>	0	0	0	1	2
Asia	<i>Cambodian</i>	0	1	8	1	0
Africa	<i>Cameroonian</i>	2	2	3	3	2
Americas	<i>Canadian</i>	2	3	4	12	4
Africa	<i>Chadian</i>	1	2	9	12	5
Americas	<i>Chilean</i>	0	1	0	0	0
Asia	<i>Chinese</i>	0	5	4	9	5
Americas	<i>Colombian</i>	2	6	8	2	19
Africa	<i>Congolese</i>	1	1	0	1	0
Europe (EU)	<i>Croatian</i>	4	1	4	1	3
Americas	<i>Cuban</i>	0	0	0	1	0
Europe (EU)	<i>Cypriot</i>	0	2	0	1	0
Europe (EU)	<i>Czech</i>	3	5	3	9	6
Europe (EU)	<i>Danish</i>	0	3	2	0	2
Americas	<i>Dominican</i>	0	1	0	0	0
Europe (EU)	<i>Dutch</i>	7	11	5	10	9
Africa	<i>Egyptian</i>	22	10	18	16	35
Africa	<i>Emirati</i>	0	0	0	0	1
Africa	<i>Eritrean</i>	40	59	80	67	61
Europe (EU)	<i>Estonian</i>	0	0	0	5	1
Africa	<i>Ethiopian</i>	25	22	36	20	16

Continent	Nationality	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<i>Asia</i>	Filipino	19	19	26	40	43
<i>Europe (EU)</i>	Finnish	3	8	6	13	5
<i>Europe (EU)</i>	French	3	13	10	10	14
<i>Africa</i>	Gabonese	0	0	1	0	0
<i>Africa</i>	Gambian	6	6	5	13	3
<i>Asia</i>	Georgian	3	2	4	1	11
<i>Europe (EU)</i>	German	11	20	11	20	33
<i>Africa</i>	Ghanaian	5	4	7	20	10
<i>Europe (EU)</i>	Greek	2	1	6	5	6
<i>Americas</i>	Guatemalan	0	0	1	1	0
<i>Africa</i>	Guinean	0	2	2	13	4
<i>Europe (EU)</i>	Hungarian	9	14	20	26	21
<i>Europe (non-EU)</i>	Icelander	0	0	1	1	1
<i>Asia</i>	Indian	5	14	15	18	33
<i>Asia</i>	Indonesia	2	1	0	2	1
<i>Asia</i>	Iranian	1	1	0	4	4
<i>Asia</i>	Iraqi	2	2	1	4	1
<i>Europe (EU)</i>	Irish	11	3	8	14	6
<i>Europe (EU)</i>	Italian	38	57	85	95	91
<i>Africa</i>	Ivorian	2	12	7	17	11
<i>Americas</i>	Jamaican	0	0	1	0	1
<i>Asia</i>	Japanese	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Asia</i>	Jordanian	1	0	0	0	2
<i>Asia</i>	Kazakh	0	2	0	1	0
<i>Africa</i>	Kenyan	1	0	2	0	3
<i>Asia</i>	Kurdistan	1	0	0	0	0
<i>Asia</i>	Kyrgyzstan	0	0	0	1	0
<i>Europe (EU)</i>	Latvian	1	3	2	3	5
<i>Asia</i>	Lebanese	1	1	2	0	0
<i>Africa</i>	Liberian	0	1	4	2	3
<i>Africa</i>	Libyan	62	85	58	101	71
<i>Europe (EU)</i>	Lithuanian	2	3	5	4	2
<i>Europe (EU)</i>	Luxembourger	0	0	0	2	0
<i>Europe (non-EU)</i>	Macedonian	5	7	10	15	12
<i>Africa</i>	Malawian	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Asia</i>	Malaysian	0	1	0	0	1
<i>Asia</i>	Maldivian	0	1	0	0	1
<i>Africa</i>	Malian	1	3	2	6	4
<i>Europe (EU)</i>	Maltese	5532	6832	8368	9121	8653
<i>Africa</i>	Mauritanian	5	4	4	2	1
<i>Americas</i>	Mexican	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Europe (non-EU)</i>	Moldavian	3	3	4	4	2
<i>Europe (non-EU)</i>	Monacan	1	0	0	0	0

Continent	Nationality	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Europe (non-EU)	Montenegrin	0	0	0	0	1
Africa	Moroccan	11	19	29	30	24
Asia	Nepalese	1	2	4	16	9
Oceania	New Zealander	0	0	2	0	0
Africa	Nigerian	42	54	58	67	63
Africa	Nigerien	0	0	0	8	5
Europe (non-EU)	Norwegian	1	1	2	4	1
Asia	Pakistani	6	12	22	9	15
Asia	Palestinian	1	3	8	2	4
Americas	Peruvian	0	0	0	0	1
Europe (EU)	Polish	9	22	16	17	18
Europe (EU)	Portuguese	2	5	6	10	2
Europe (EU)	Romanian	12	28	35	28	11
Europe (non-EU)	Russian	17	14	24	19	28
Africa	Rwandan	0	0	1	1	0
Asia	Saudi Arabian	0	1	1	1	3
Europe (non-EU)	Scottish	1	4	10	7	6
Africa	Senegalese	2	3	0	7	0
Europe (non-EU)	Serbian	14	18	40	20	48
Africa	Sierra Leonean	0	1	0	2	13
Asia	Singaporean	0	1	0	0	0
Europe (EU)	Slovakian	0	7	6	6	5
Europe (EU)	Slovenian	1	0	8	0	2
Oceania	Solomon Islander	0	1	0	0	0
Africa	Somali	36	38	70	75	82
Africa	South African	0	6	11	8	7
Asia	South Korean	0	0	1	1	3
Europe (EU)	Spanish	1	1	13	13	10
Asia	Sri Lankan	0	2	1	0	5
Africa	Sudanese	1	11	21	117	44
Europe (EU)	Swedish	16	17	6	15	19
Europe (non-EU)	Swiss	0	0	1	3	1
Asia	Syrian	42	50	70	82	112
Africa	Tanzanian	0	0	1	0	0
Asia	Thai	0	1	1	2	3
Africa	Tobagonian	0	0	0	0	1
Africa	Togolese	1	2	0	5	1
Africa	Tunisian	9	11	13	7	17
Asian	Turkish	2	5	3	6	3
Africa	Ugandian	0	3	1	0	0
Europe (non-EU)	Ukrainian	5	18	9	17	82
Asia	Uzbek	2	1	2	1	1
Americas	Venezuelan	0	3	1	3	3

Continent	Nationality	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<i>Asia</i>	<i>Vietnamese</i>	0	1	1	0	1
<i>Europe (non-EU)</i>	<i>Welsh</i>	0	2	0	1	1
<i>Asia</i>	<i>Yemeni</i>	0	0	0	1	0
<i>Europe (non-EU)</i>	<i>Yugoslavian</i>	1	0	0	0	0
<i>Africa</i>	<i>Zimbabwean</i>	0	1	3	2	2
	<i>NK</i>	406	1163	340	9	12
	<i>Other NK</i>	113	11	61	32	33
	<i>Grand Total</i>	6737	9051	10071	10689	10319



Foundation for Social Welfare Services
Here for you

Research Team

Vision Statement:

Research that educates, inspires, and informs quality responses to improve the wellbeing of children, families, and communities.

Mission Statement:

To contribute to a knowledge base that informs responses to social needs through high quality research.