

**Title:**

A Changing Society as a Result of Immigration

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## A Changing Society As A Result Of Immigration

By Hailey Camilleri, Chanel Cassar, Kylie Psaila, Hayley Schembri,  
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Immigration is a problem found in most nations and continents. It is one of the biggest and most influential conflict in today's society. This is because of multiple opinions held by the public regarding this

"We may all have come in different ships, but we are in the same boat now."

Martin Luther King Jr.

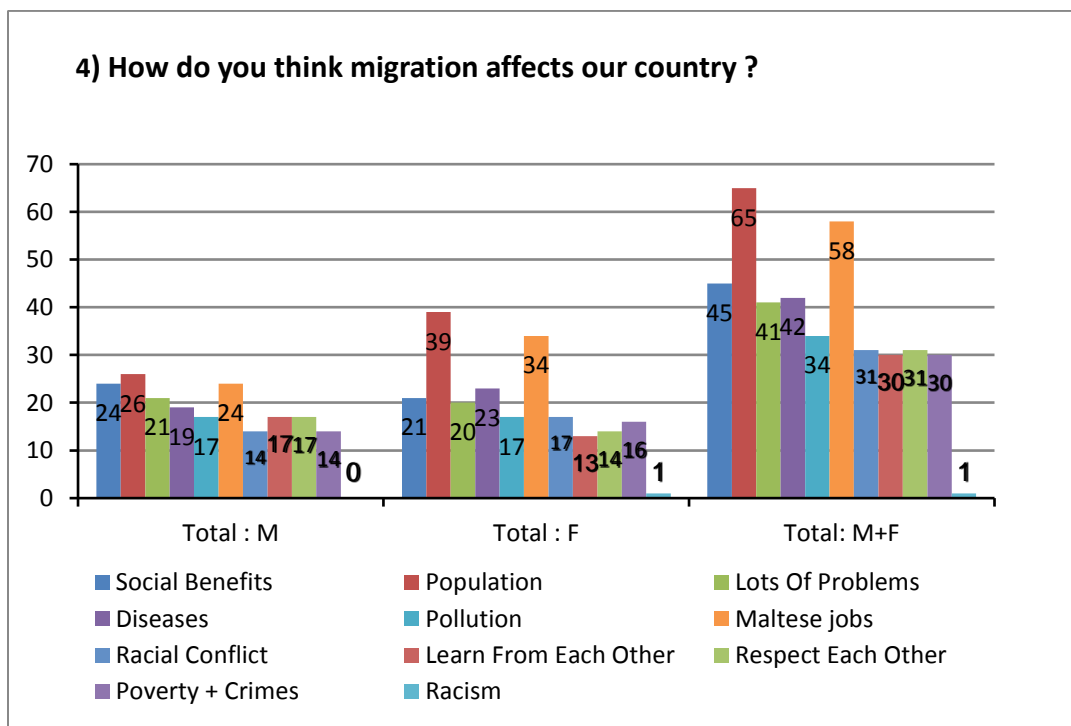
issue. As a result of this major problem, racism, unwanted hate and terrorist attacks are causing war that affects adults and children all over the world. In his article in The Telegraph (21<sup>st</sup> July 2013) Colin Freeman reports that;

'Malta has received 17,743 mainly African migrants this decade - the equivalent, in Britain, of 2.5 million people.'

Furthermore, he quotes the Prime Minister, Joseph Muscat, as saying that Malta "is struggling to cope" with this large number of immigrants. Immigration is one of the top headlines mentioned all around the world, and everyone, the whole world over, is talking about it, from world leaders to the man in the street. Therefore, as a group, we felt the need

to carry out this research to investigate the attitude of Maltese people towards migrants and migration.

We gave out 100 questionnaires to males and females from different age groups. An analysis of the questionnaires reveals that the majority of the participants think that illegal immigration is a very serious issue in Malta, 57% saying that it is very important and 27% saying that it is important. However, the data regarding how people perceive migration in Malta is inconclusive, seeing that 23% of respondents said that the situation is quite good and another 23% said that it is very negative and 24% said that it is neutral.

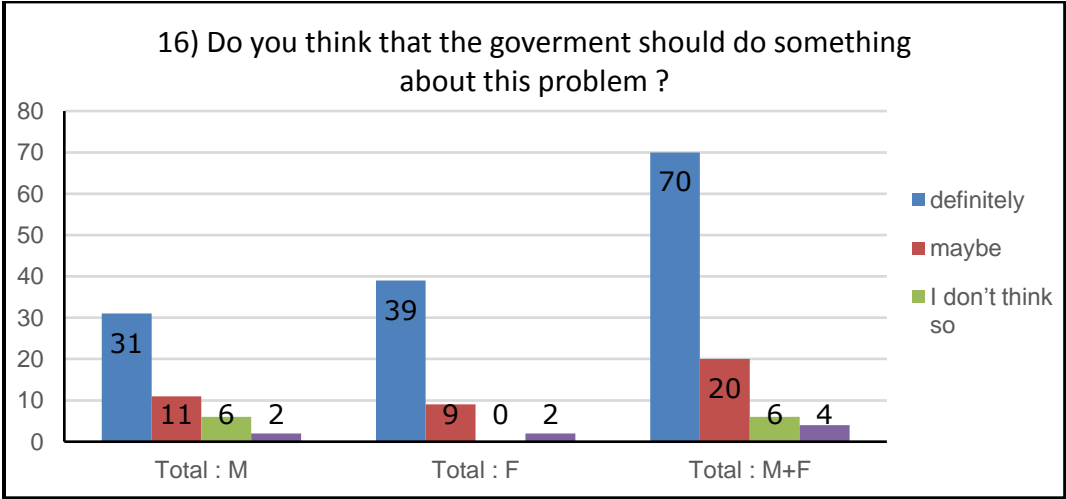


Notwithstanding this neutral result, when asked specifically 'How do you think migration affects our country?', the answers tended to be more negative, with overpopulation (65%) and lack of jobs for the Maltese (58%) very much in the lead.

Moreover, 28% disagree and 23% strongly disagree that the government should accept illegal migrants. Furthermore, when asked if they agree that the Maltese government should give the immigrants social benefits, only 28% of the respondents said that they agree, whereas 23% disagree and 17% strongly disagree. 27% disagree and 18% strongly disagree that migrants should be allowed to build their own place of worship, and 25% strongly agree and 13% agree that migrants should be sent back to their own country. Thus we see that the Maltese are quite intolerant towards immigrants. This is supported by the fact that 16% of respondents strongly agree and 25% agree that Maltese people are racists.

However, given that we live in the same world where America wants to build a wall on the Mexican border so that migrants cannot enter the country, where Donald Trump wants to ban migrants from 6 Islamic countries, where a Hungarian mayor has banned Islamic migrants and the practice of Islamic religion and culture in his town, and where many

people think that every Muslim they see is a terrorist, we think that, in comparison, Maltese people have adopted quite a cautious attitude to migrants. This is supported by the fact that many of our respondents answered 'I don't know' to these queries, showing that they have not automatically condemned migrants just because they are migrants. Furthermore 59% of our respondents they would be polite and feel comfortable if an immigrant were to talk to them. Only 19% have no interaction with migrants in any way, and 35% think that they do not behave well in Malta.



However, in spite of this caution, a staggering 70% think that the government definitely needs to find a solution to the problem of migration.

As a group, we think that the government, the Church, the media and, especially, schools should address Maltese citizens and their fears regarding this problematic situation, and encourage them to treat immigrants equally, for they are human beings with dignity and worthy of respect. However, it is perfectly true that there is a big problem due to overpopulation in Malta, and it would help if other developed countries in the EU could help in sharing of immigrants.

'Malta is the smallest state, and we are carrying a burden that is much bigger than any other country'

(The Prime Minister of Malta, Joseph Muscat)

On the other hand, the International Organization for Migration calculates that in 2015 alone, Europe has received, 1,005,504 migrants, which is 'the highest migration flow since World War II'. (Matthew Aguis, 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2015; on behalf of Malta Today).

Thus, it can be seen that we are not the only country suffering because of migration, and, though we need to find a solution to this problem, no sustainable attempt to control migration should go against the basic human right of migrants.

In the words of His Holiness Pope Francis, for the World Day of Migrants and refugees 2017,

'It is absolutely necessary, therefore, to deal with the causes which trigger migrations in the countries of origin. This requires, as a first step, the commitment of the whole international community to eliminate the conflicts and violence that force people to flee. Furthermore, far-sighted perspectives are called for, capable of offering adequate programmes for areas struck by the worst injustice and instability, in order that access to authentic development can be guaranteed for all. This development should promote the good of boys and girls, who are humanity's hope.'

(Pope Francis, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017)

So let us all work together so as not to let fear, doubts and anger take away our humanity, which is so precious.



## References and Acknowledgements:

### References

Agius Matthew, 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2015, *Malta's total refugee and irregular migrant arrivals in 2015*

[http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/world/60554/maltas\\_total\\_refugees\\_and\\_irregular\\_migrant\\_arrivals\\_in\\_2015\\_105#.WMmMaPkrLIU](http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/world/60554/maltas_total_refugees_and_irregular_migrant_arrivals_in_2015_105#.WMmMaPkrLIU)

Freeman Colin, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2013, *EU immigration: 'Malta is the smallest state, and we are carrying a burden that is much bigger than any other country'*

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Martin Luther King Jr quotation

[https://www.google.com.mt/search?q=martin+luther+king+jr+quote+we+may+all+have+come+on+different+boats&tbm=isch&imgil=2ls8hG2DdX7\\_IM%253A%253BTsdc5AMXrem93M%253Bhttps%25253A%25252F%25252Fwww.pinterest.com%25252Fpin%25252F147774431495387839%25252F&source=iu&pf=m&fir=2ls8hG2DdX7\\_IM%253A%252CTsdc5AMXrem93M%252C\\_&usq=\\_zlvvVHmQusPuDLc59x53q8nEHM%3D&biw=1352&bih=824&ved=0ahUKEwjf4NS9--7SAhXLEiwKHbs\\_DFOQyjcIKg&ei=NvnUWN\\_tM8ulsAG7\\_7DoBQ#imgsrc=2ls8hG2DdX7\\_IM:](https://www.google.com.mt/search?q=martin+luther+king+jr+quote+we+may+all+have+come+on+different+boats&tbm=isch&imgil=2ls8hG2DdX7_IM%253A%253BTsdc5AMXrem93M%253Bhttps%25253A%25252F%25252Fwww.pinterest.com%25252Fpin%25252F147774431495387839%25252F&source=iu&pf=m&fir=2ls8hG2DdX7_IM%253A%252CTsdc5AMXrem93M%252C_&usq=_zlvvVHmQusPuDLc59x53q8nEHM%3D&biw=1352&bih=824&ved=0ahUKEwjf4NS9--7SAhXLEiwKHbs_DFOQyjcIKg&ei=NvnUWN_tM8ulsAG7_7DoBQ#imgsrc=2ls8hG2DdX7_IM:)

**Acknowledgements:**

As a group we would like to thank all the respondents that helped us carry out this research by filling in our questionnaires.

## **Proof of Dissemination**

As required, our project is exhibited on the school premises and it is also accessible on the school website ([www.saintfrancisecondary.com](http://www.saintfrancisecondary.com)).

We have also sent our report to *The Sunday Times* and *The Malta Independent on Sunday*, though we have no guarantee that it will be published.

**Appendix 1: Sample of respondents**

100 respondents									
50 Males					50 Females				
10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
16-25	26-35	36-45	46-60	60+	16-25	26-35	36-45	46-60	60+
years	years	years	years	years	years	years	years	years	years

## Appendix 2: Template for Questionnaires

Sex	
Male	
Female	

Age	
16-25	
26-35	
36-45	
46-60	
60+	

1. Do you think illegal immigration is an important issue in Malta?

Very Important	
Important	
Not that Important	
Not Important	
I don't know	

2. How would you describe the reality of migration in Malta?

Very positive		Not so good	
Quite good		Very negative	
Neutral		I don't know	

3. Do you think that migrants are treated well in Malta?

Often	
Regularly	
Rarely	
Never	
I don't know	

4. How do you think migration affect our country

They put a strain on our resources	
They need social benefits, so our economy suffers	
Over population	
They cause a lot of problems	
They bring a lot of diseases into the country	
They increase the level of pollution and environmental problems	
They take Maltese people's jobs	
There is a rise in racial conflict	
People form different countries learn form each other	
People learn to be tolerant and to respect each other	
There is an increase in poverty and crime	

Other:

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5. Do you think:

	Strongly agree	Agree	I don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree
That the Maltese government should accept illegal migrants ?					
That the Maltese government should give migrants social benefits?					
That migrants should be allowed to build their own places of worship?					
That migrants should be sent back to their country?					
That Maltese are racist					
That, in general, migrants in Malta behave well					

6. If an immigrant came up to you how would you react? What would you do?

I'd try to be polite but I'd feel uncomfortable.	
I avoid sitting next to him on the bus.	
I'd ask him to leave me alone.	

7. Can there be a solution for immigration?

Yes	
No	

Maybe	
I don't know	

8. Do you communicate with migrants in any way?

At work	
At school	
On the bus	
In the street	

Others: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Have you ever heard a Maltese person insulting a migrant with racist comments?

Often	
Sometimes	
Occasionally	
Rarely	
Never	
I don't know	

10. Have you heard a migrant insulting a Maltese person with racist comments or treating him badly?

Often	
Sometimes	
Occasionally	

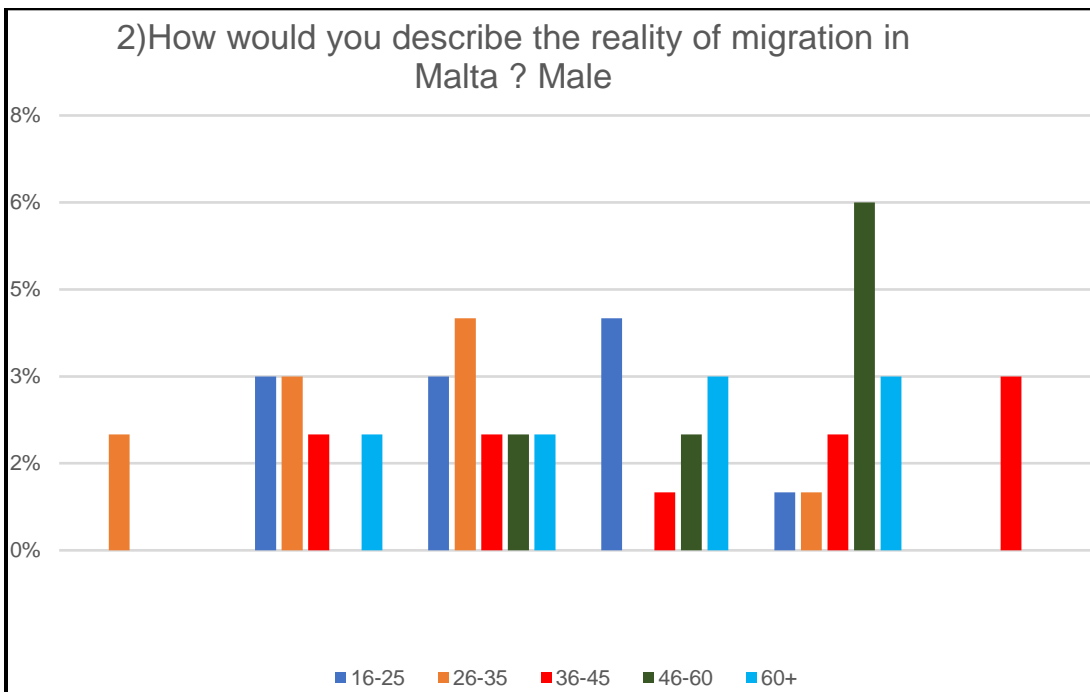
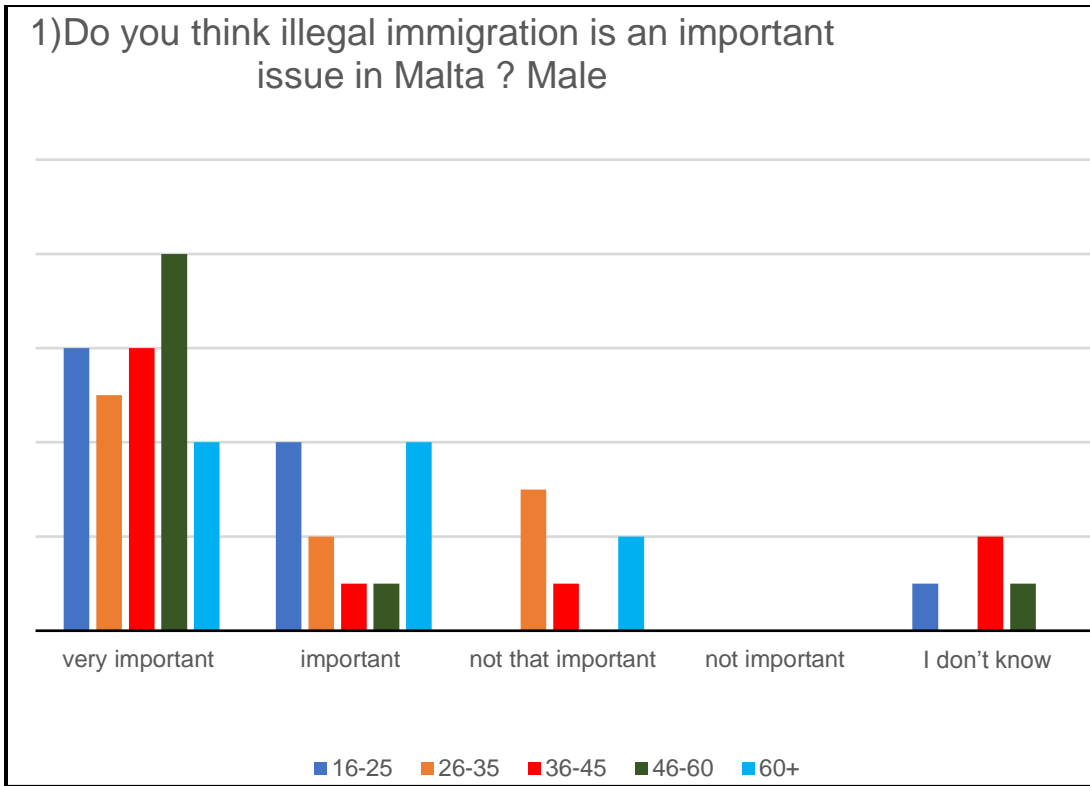


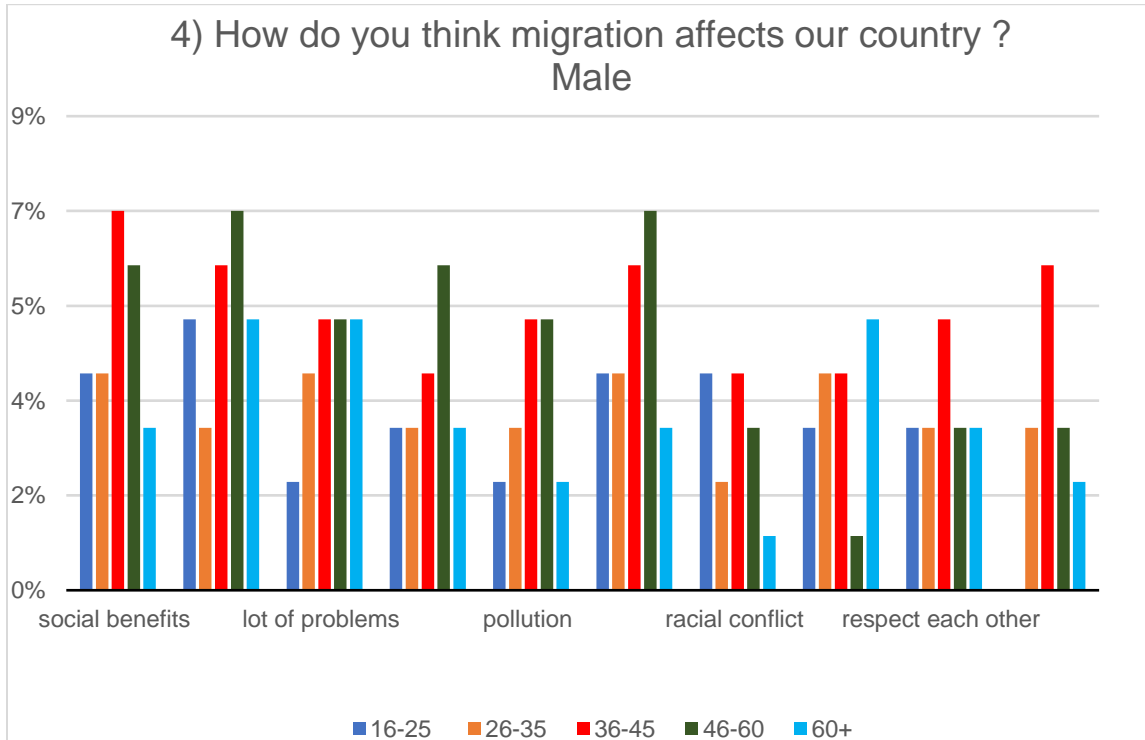
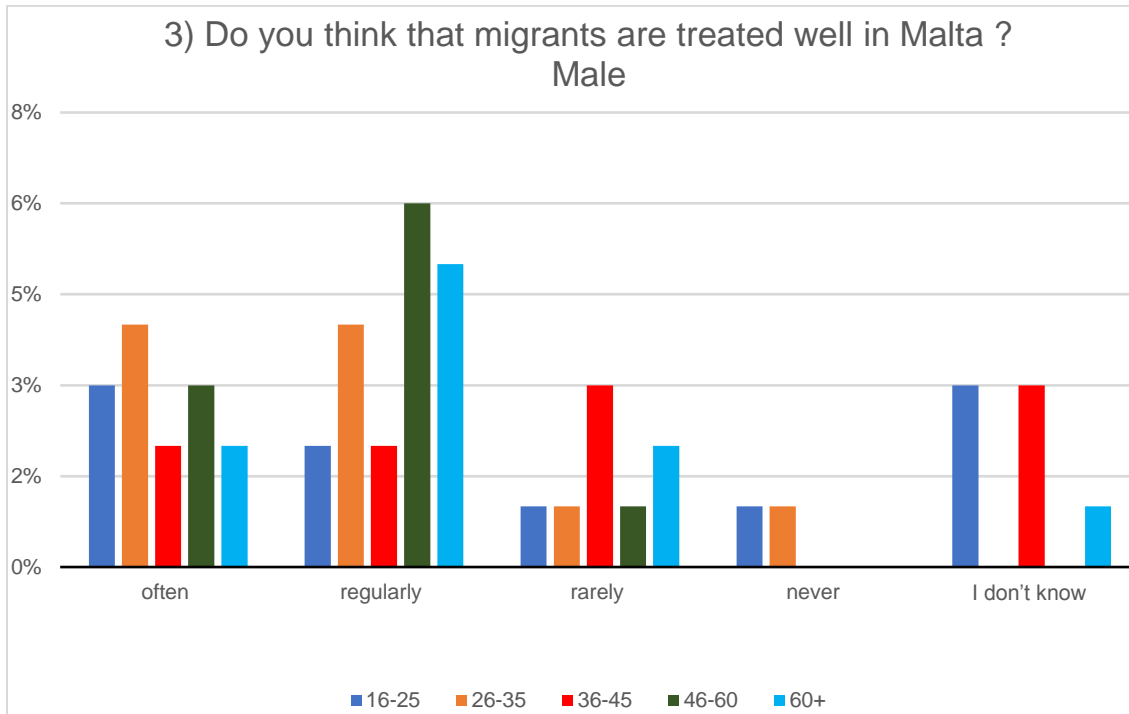
Rarely	
Never	
I don't know	

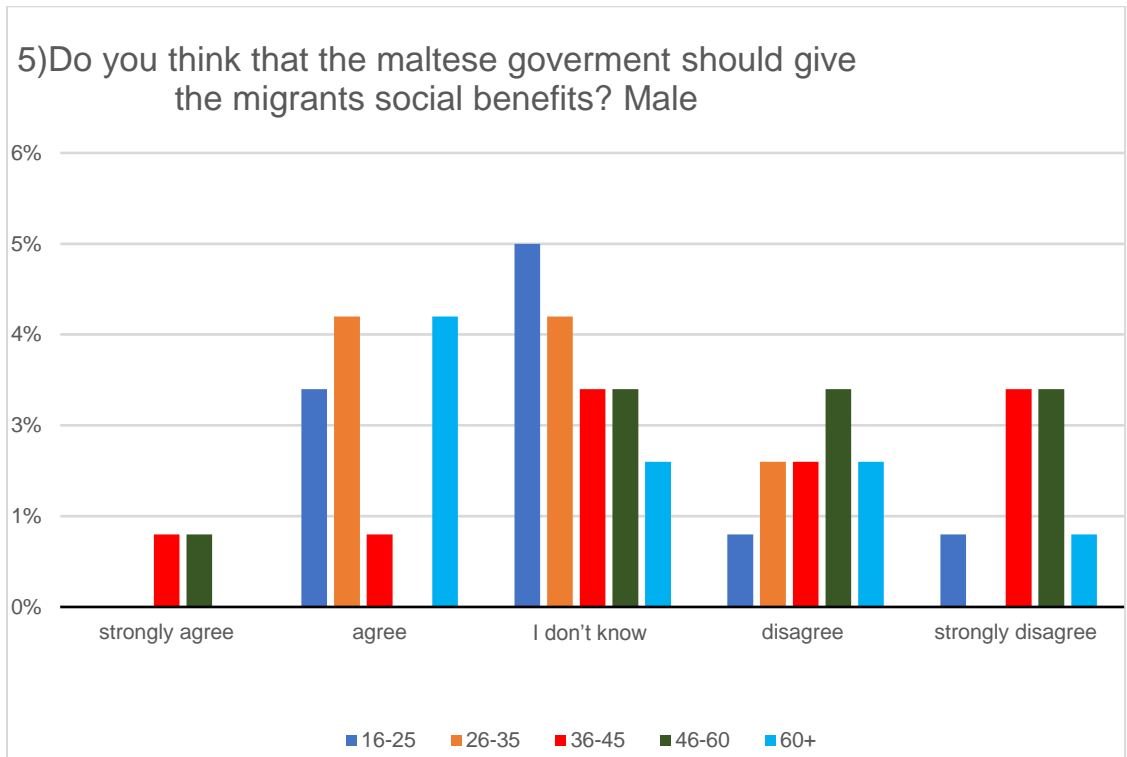
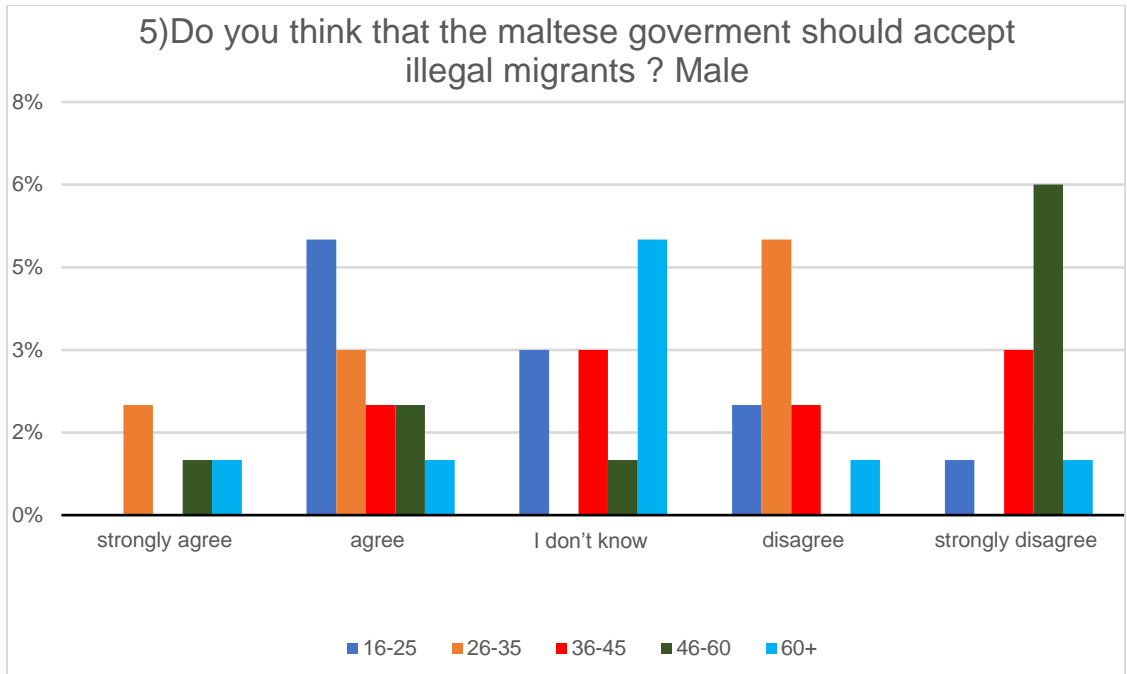
11. Do you think that the government should do something about this problem?

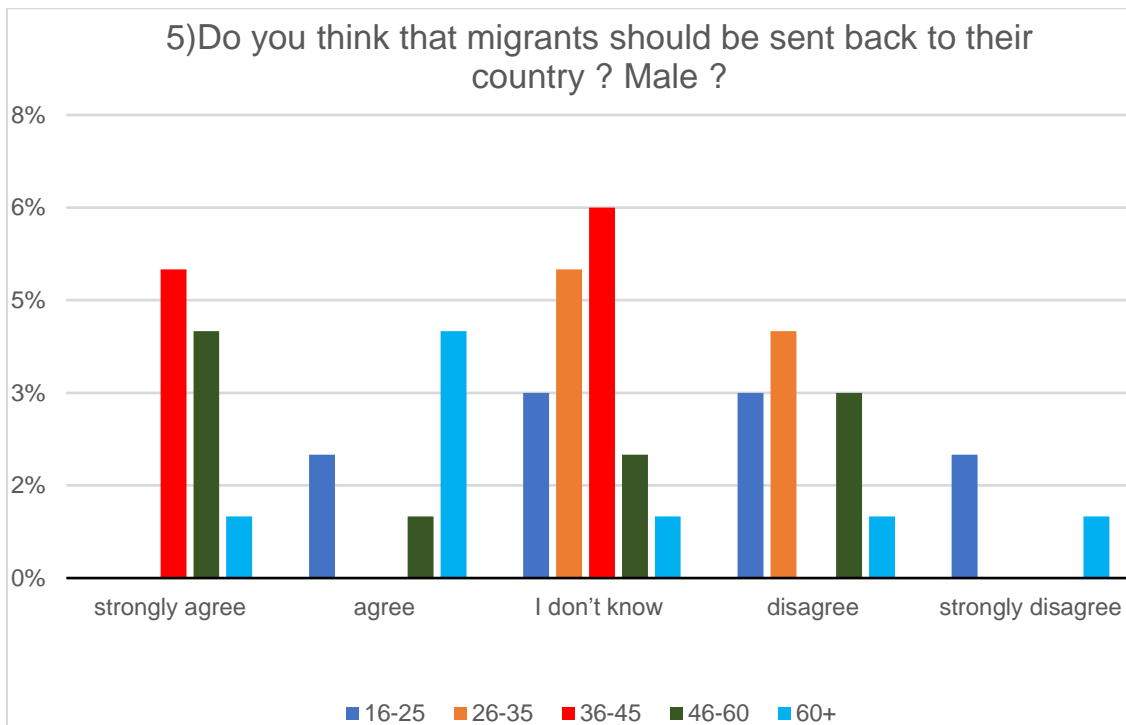
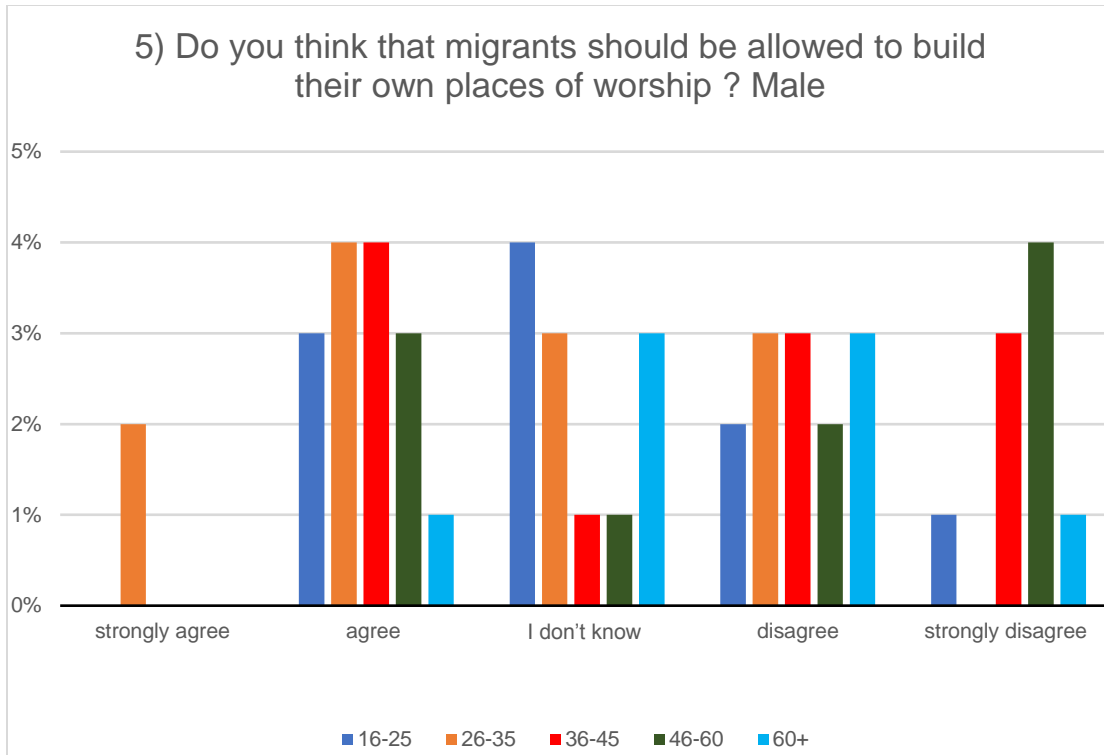
Definitely	
Maybe	
I don't think so	
I don't know	

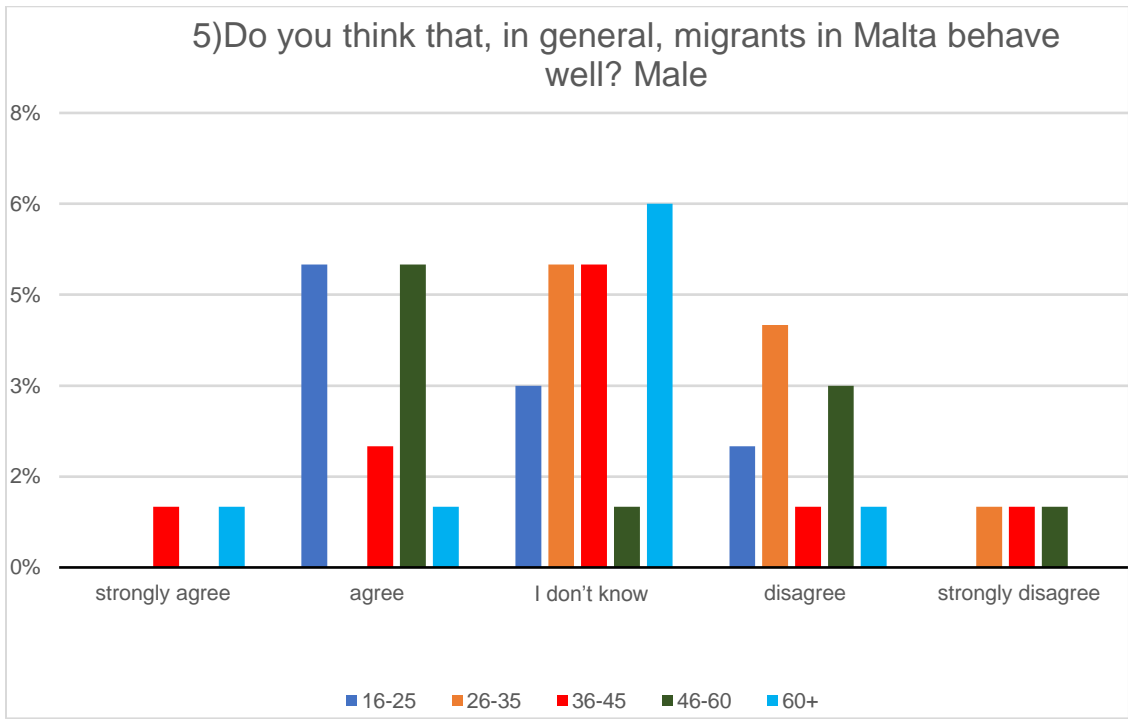
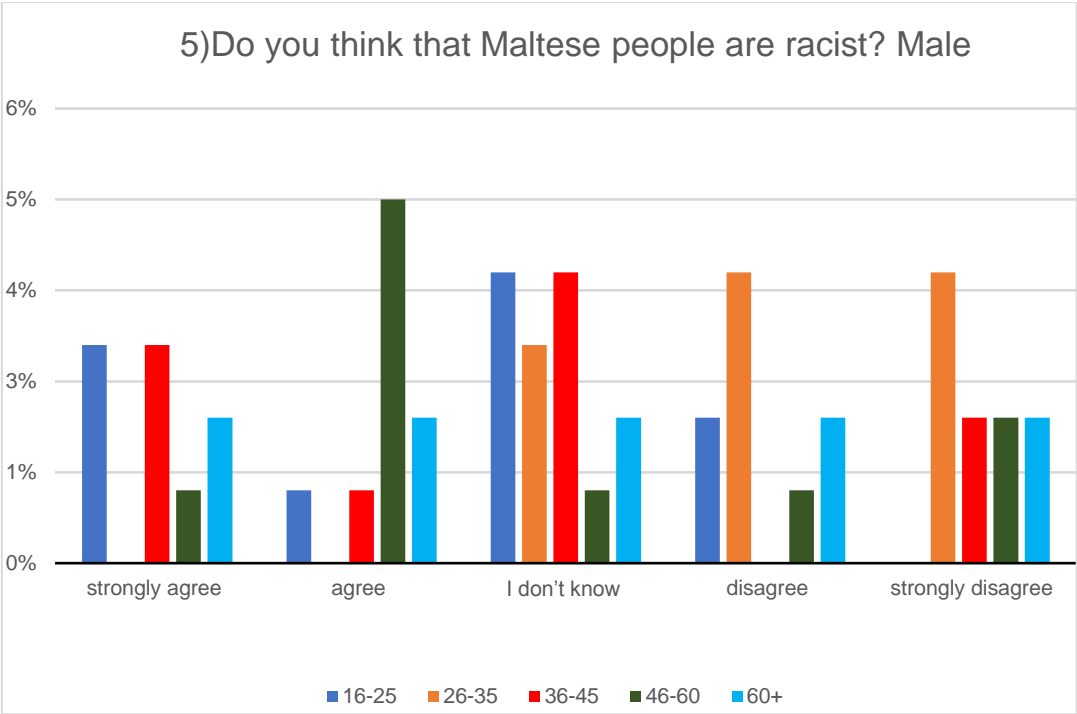
**Appendix 3: Data gathered from our research**

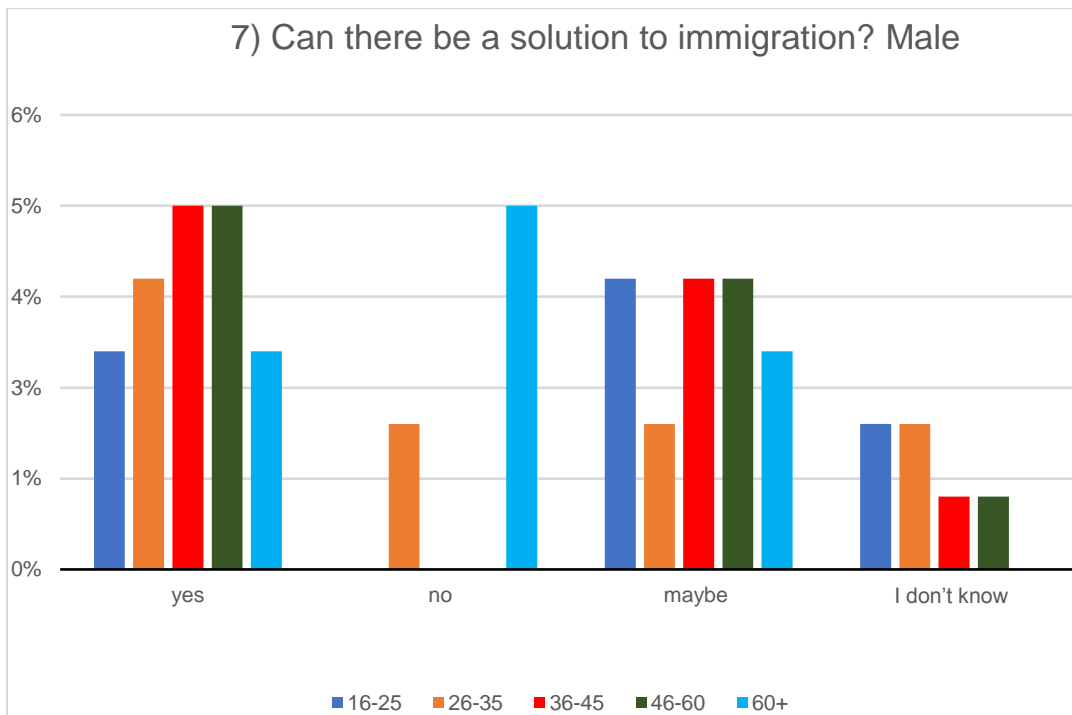
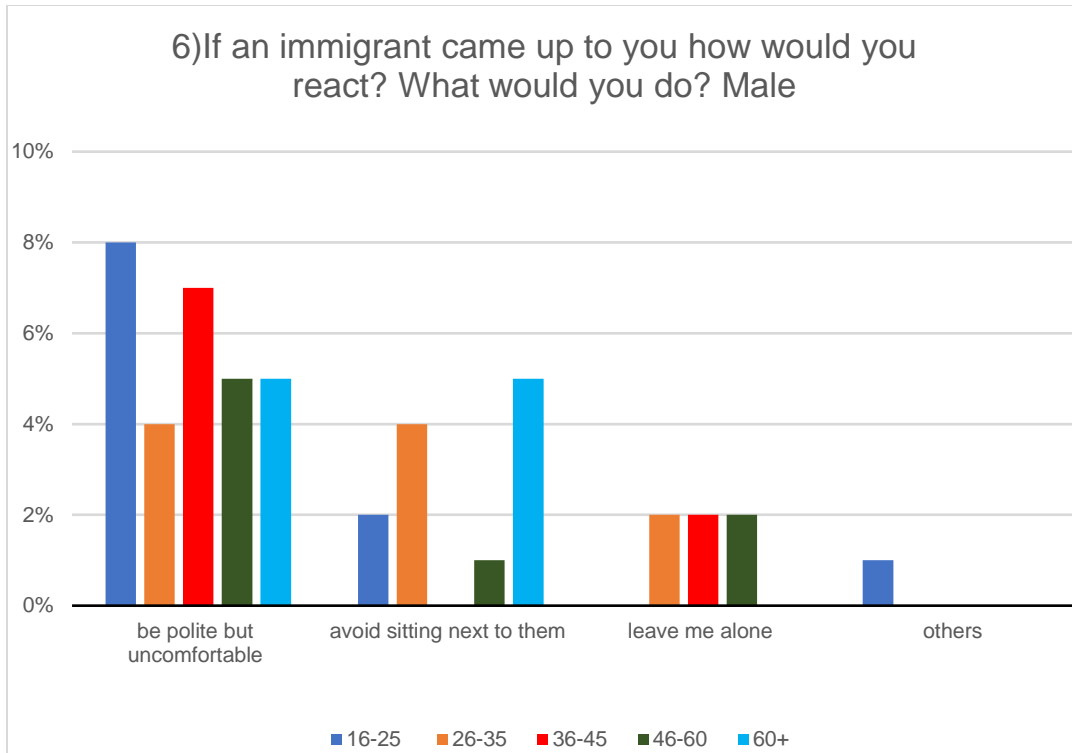


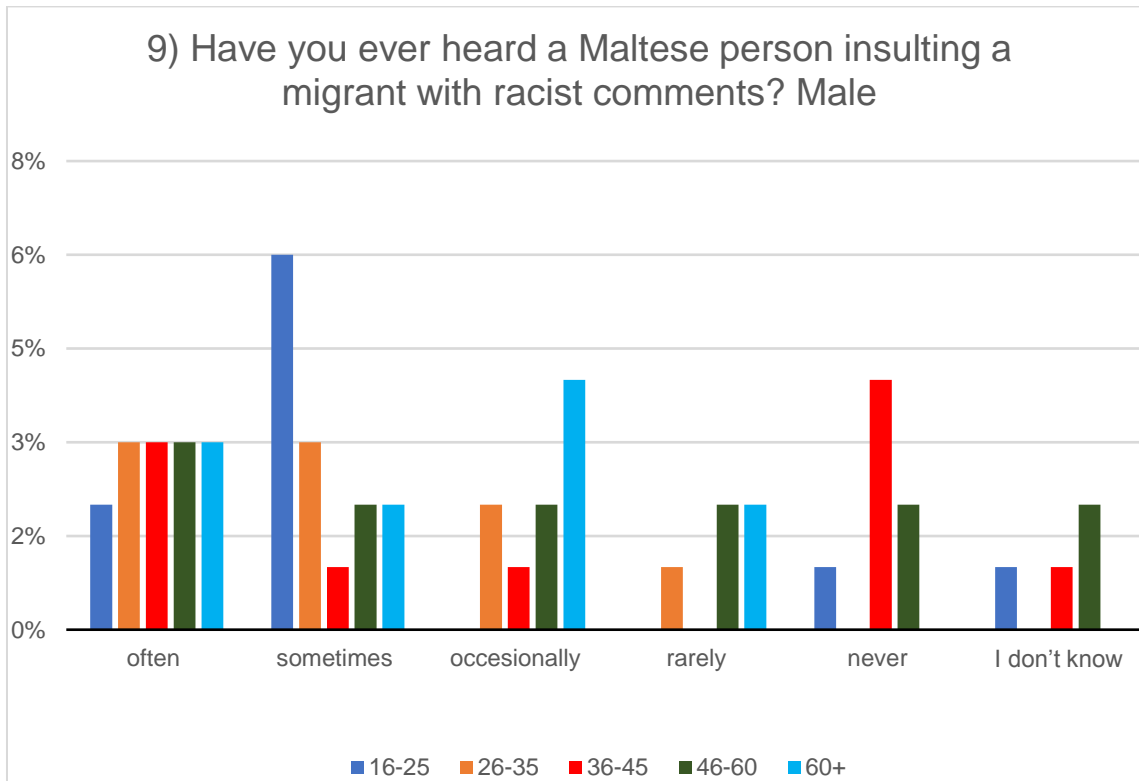
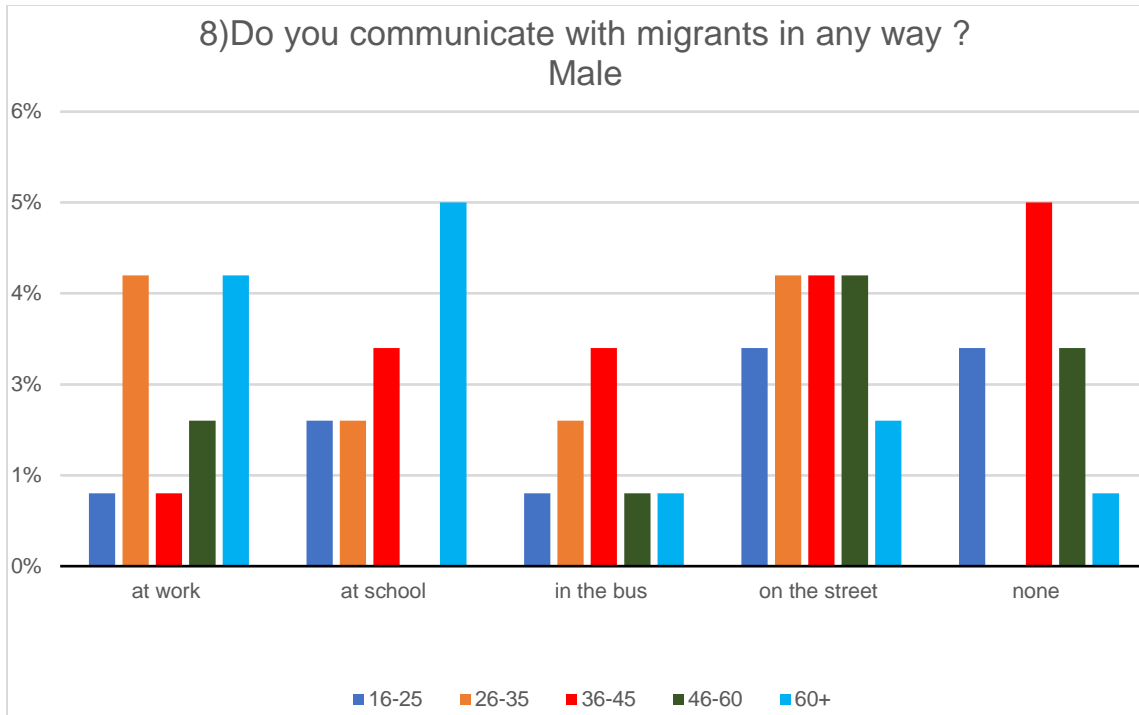




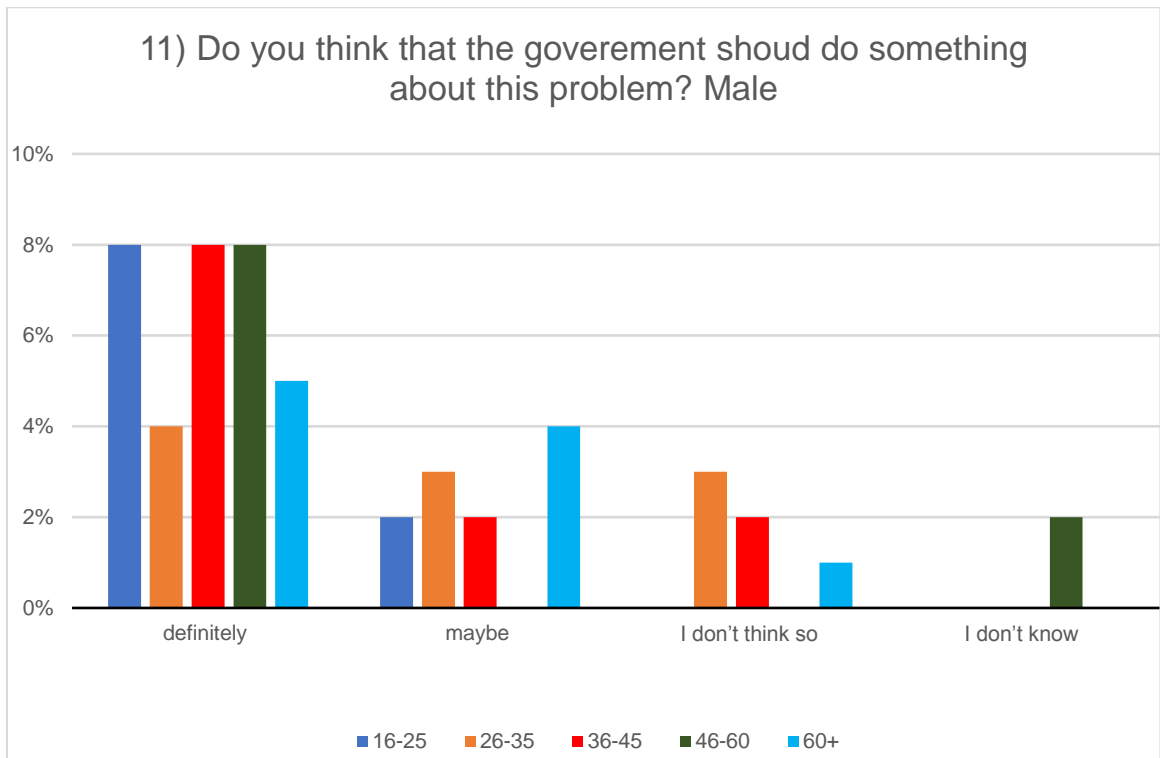
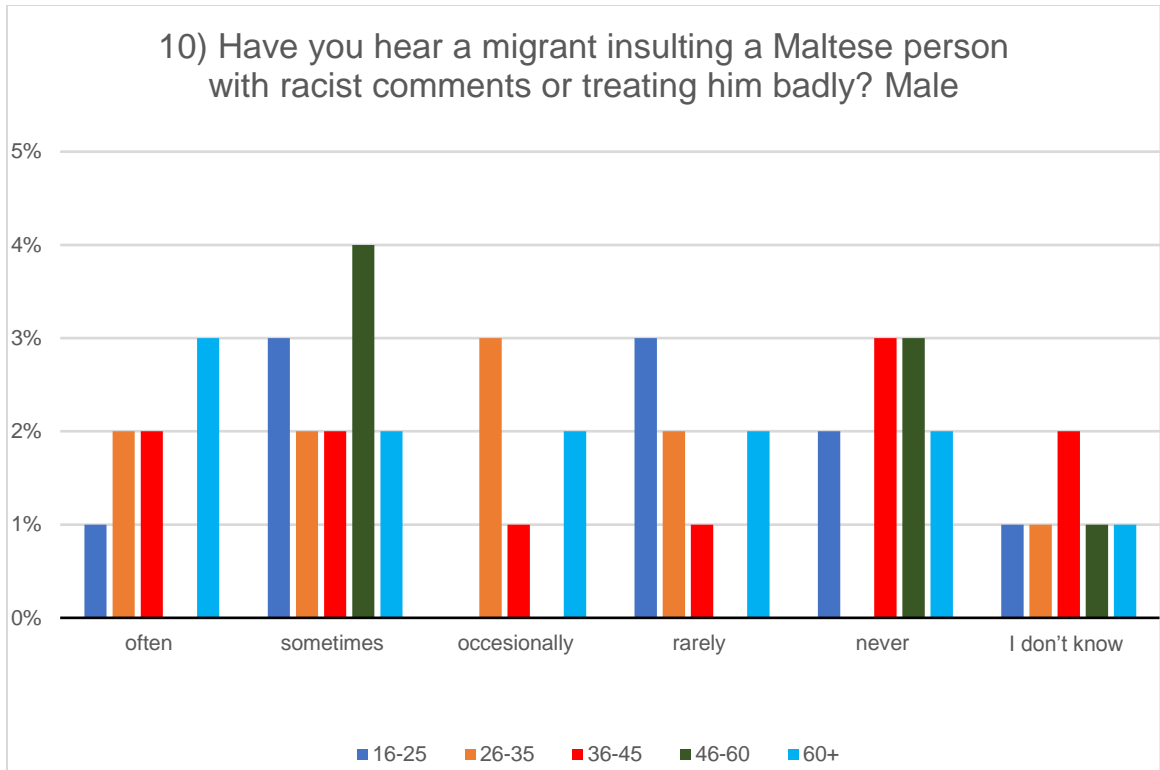


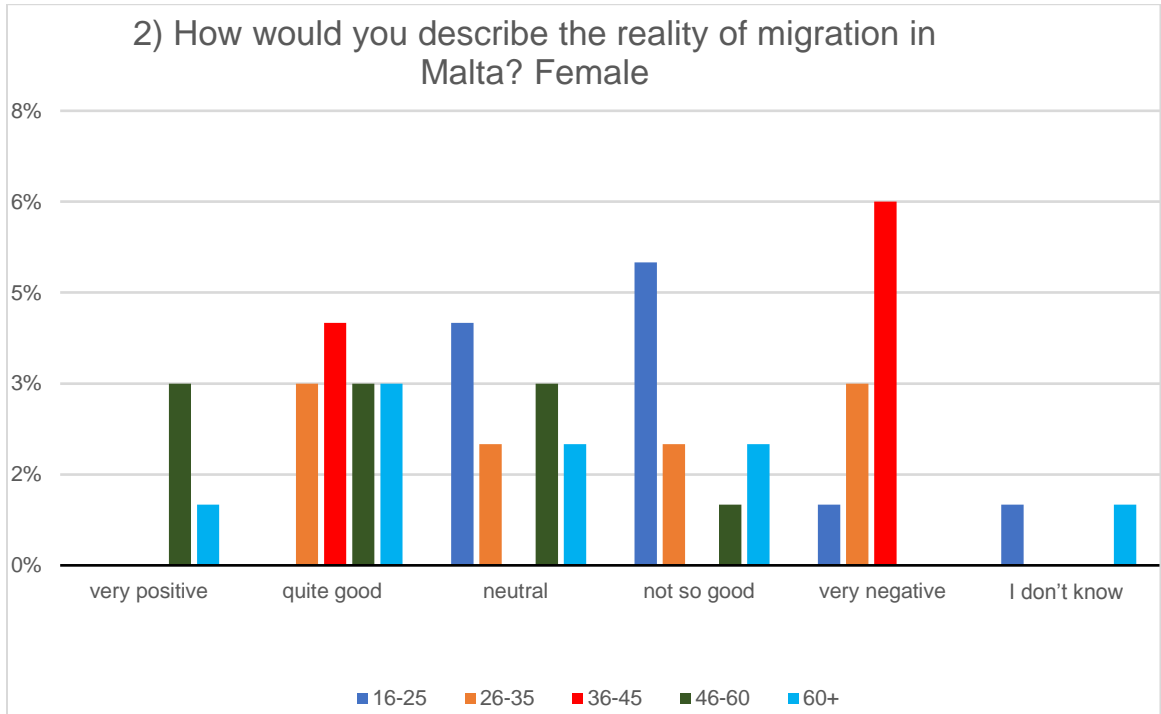
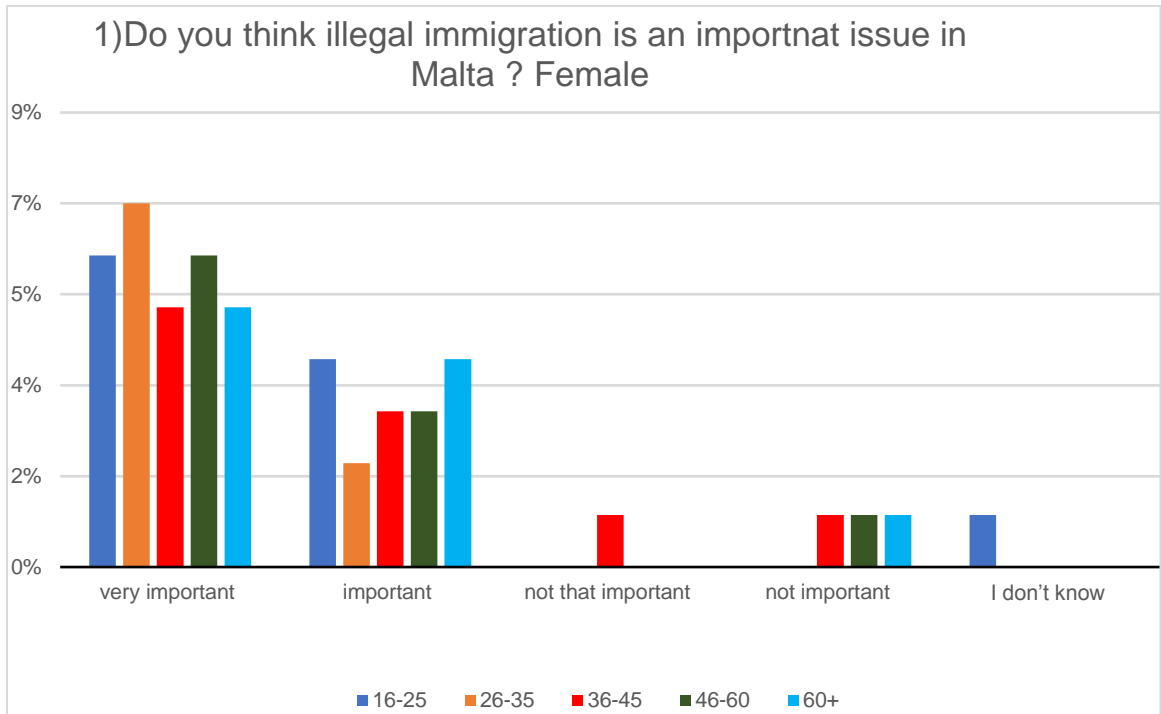


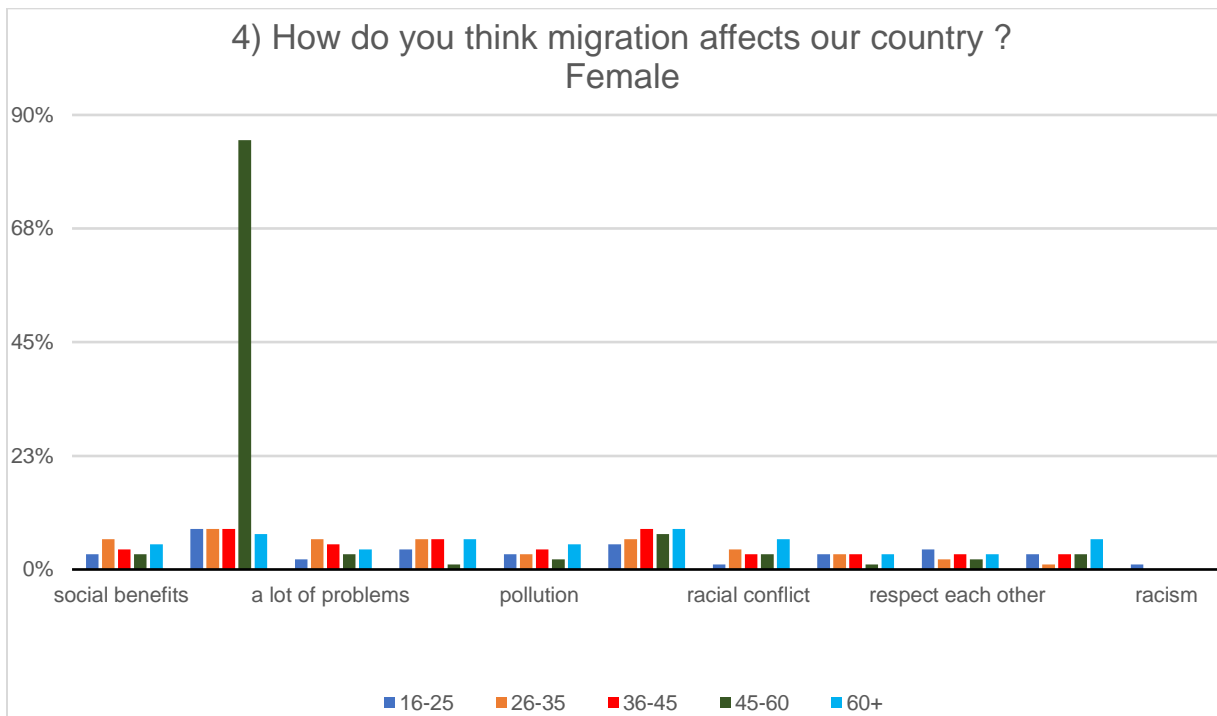
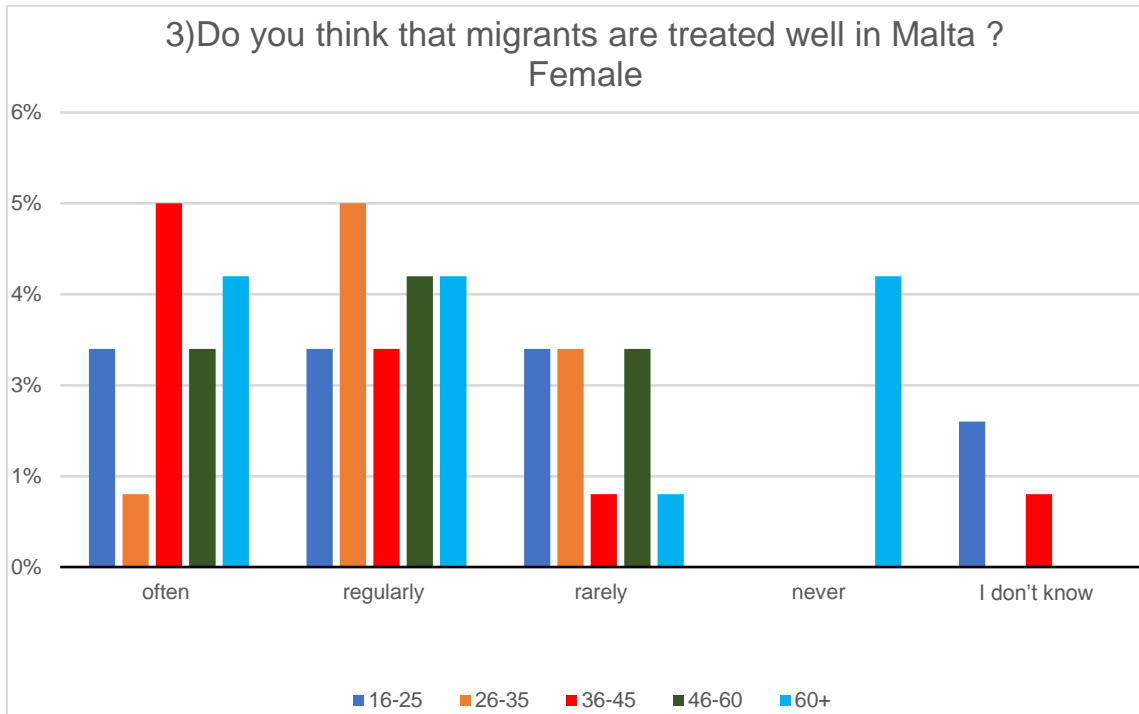


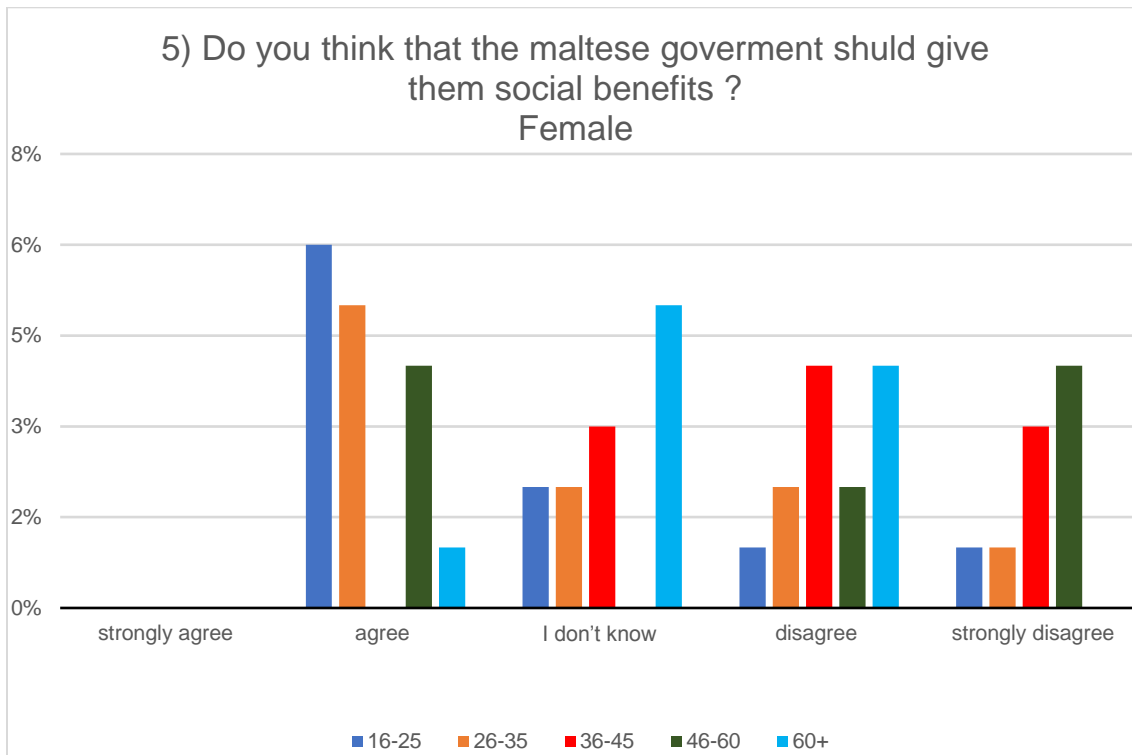
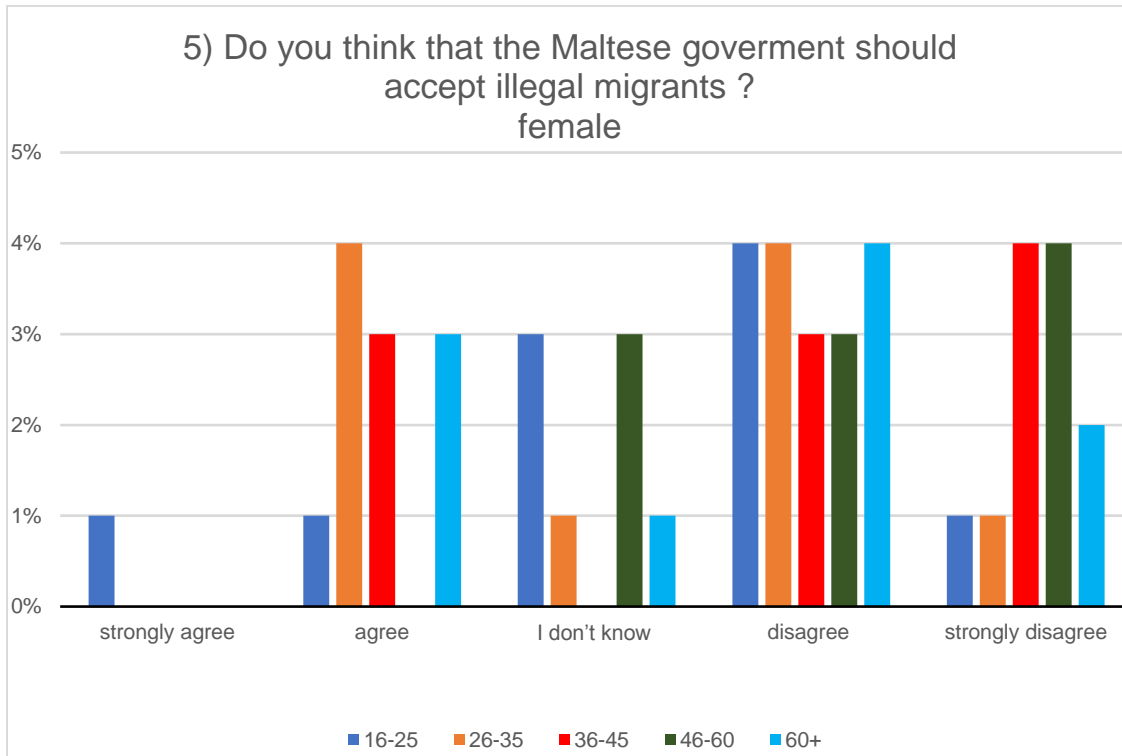


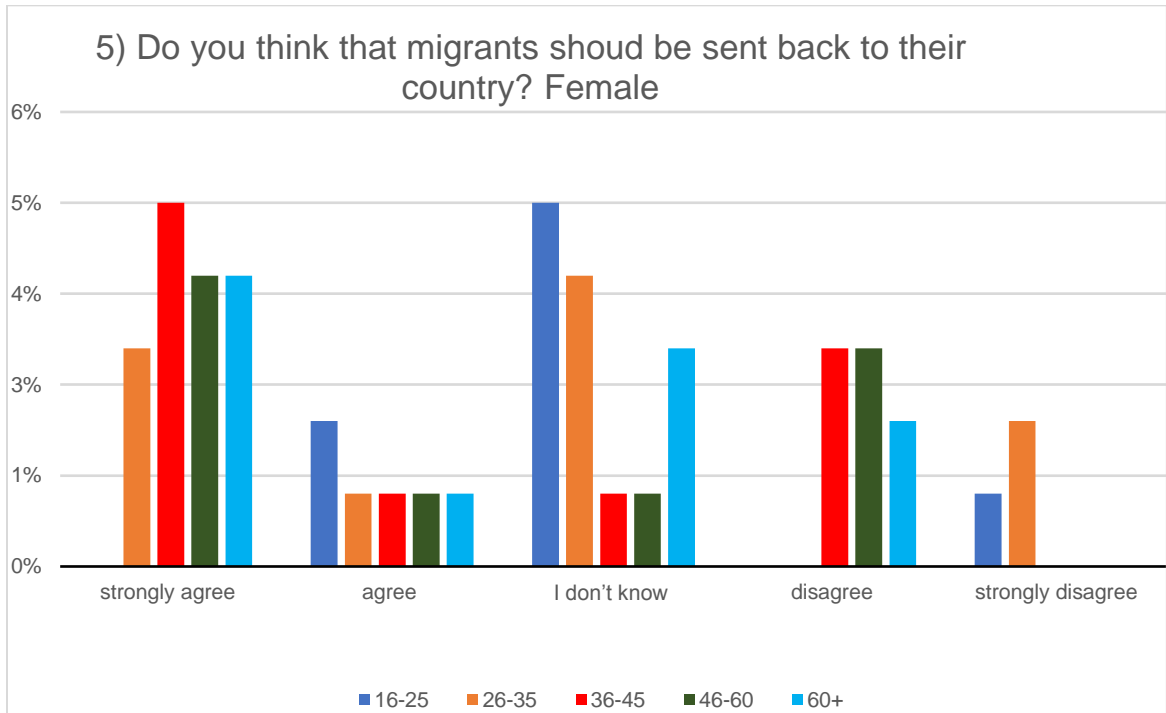
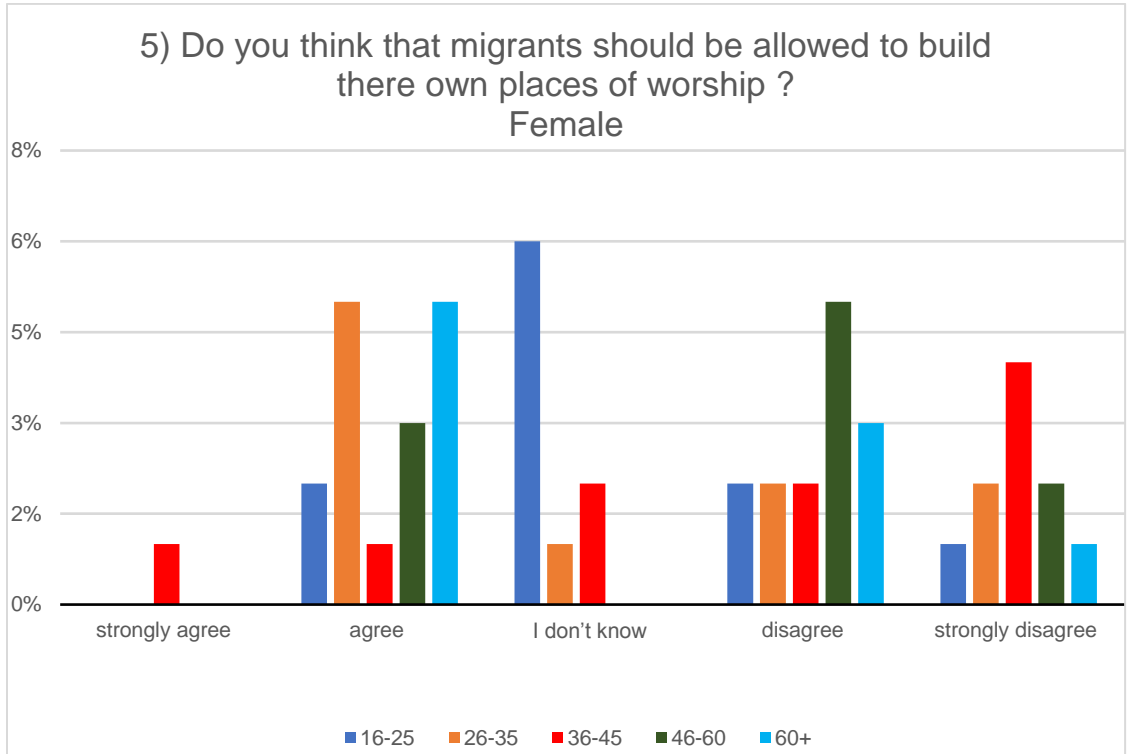


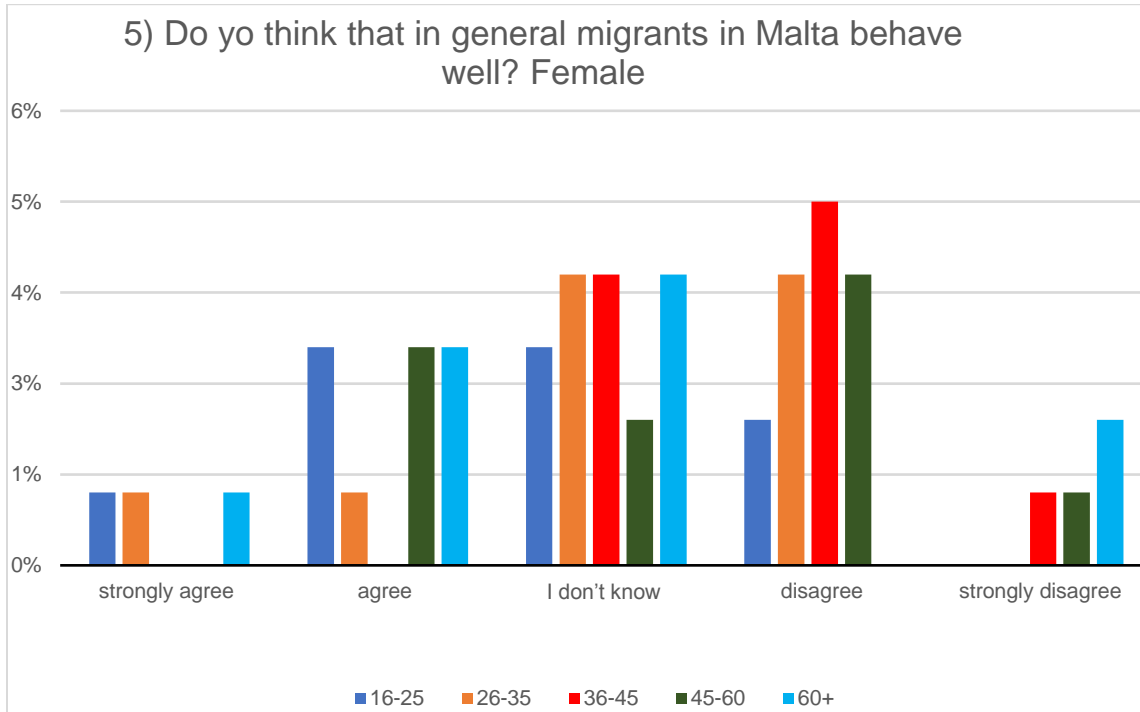
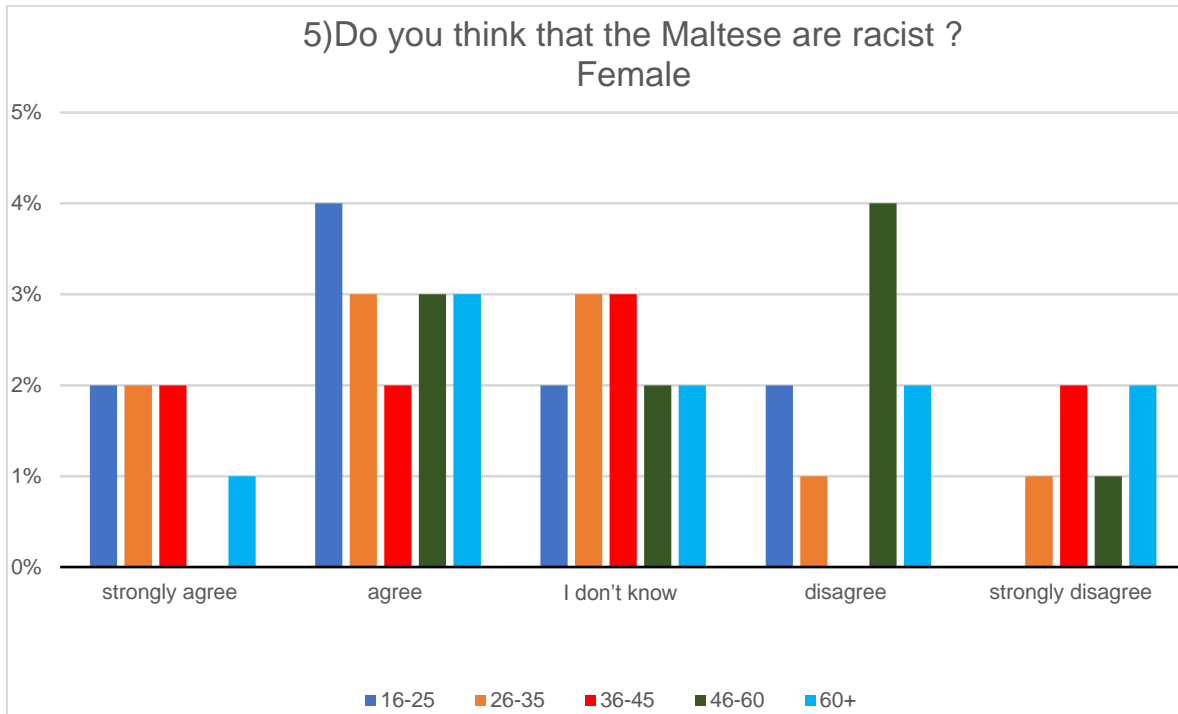


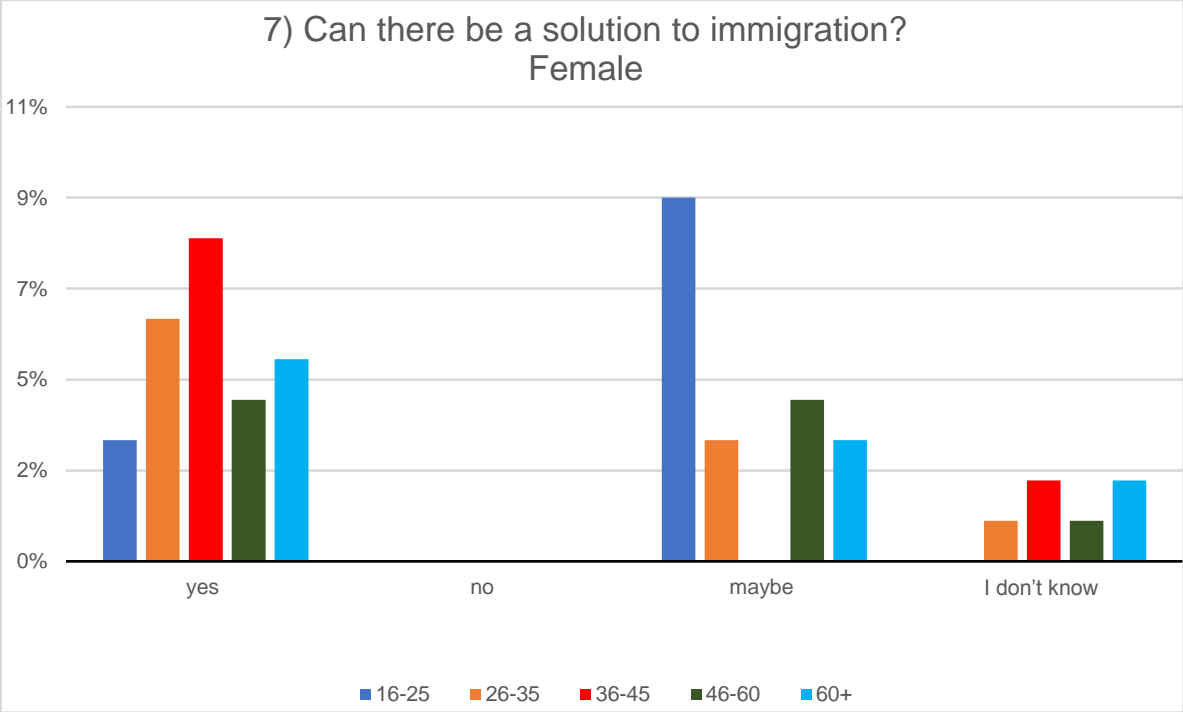
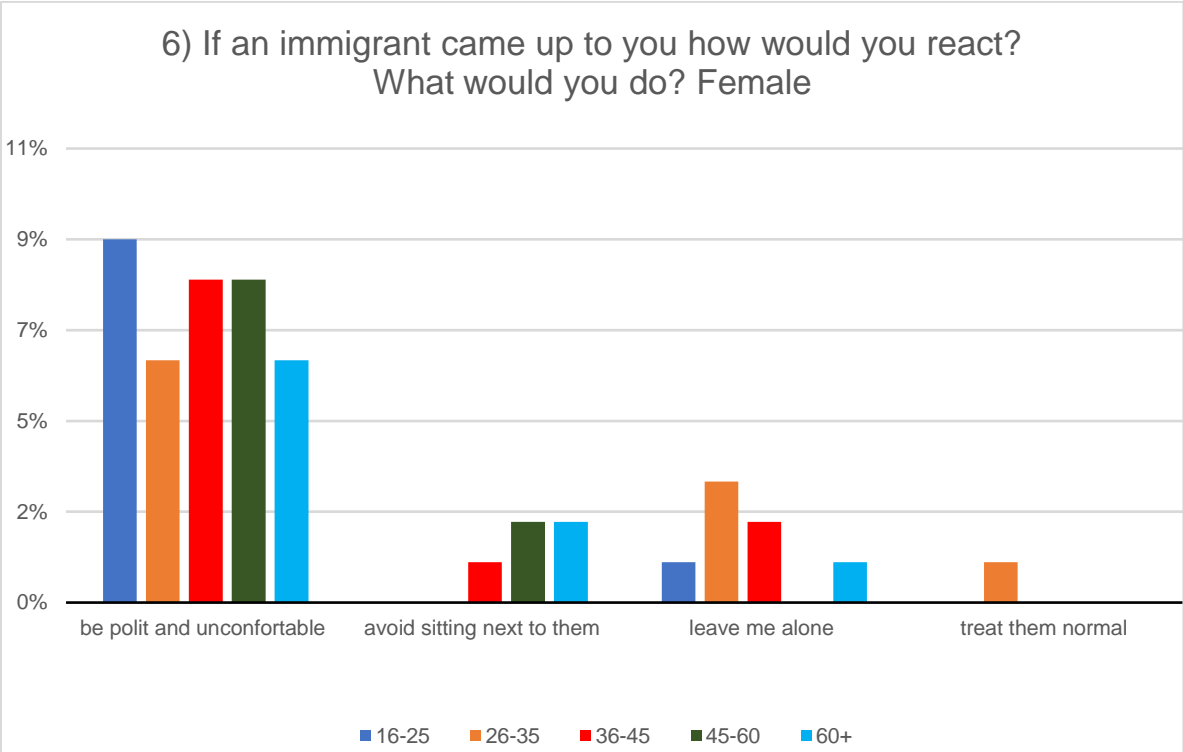


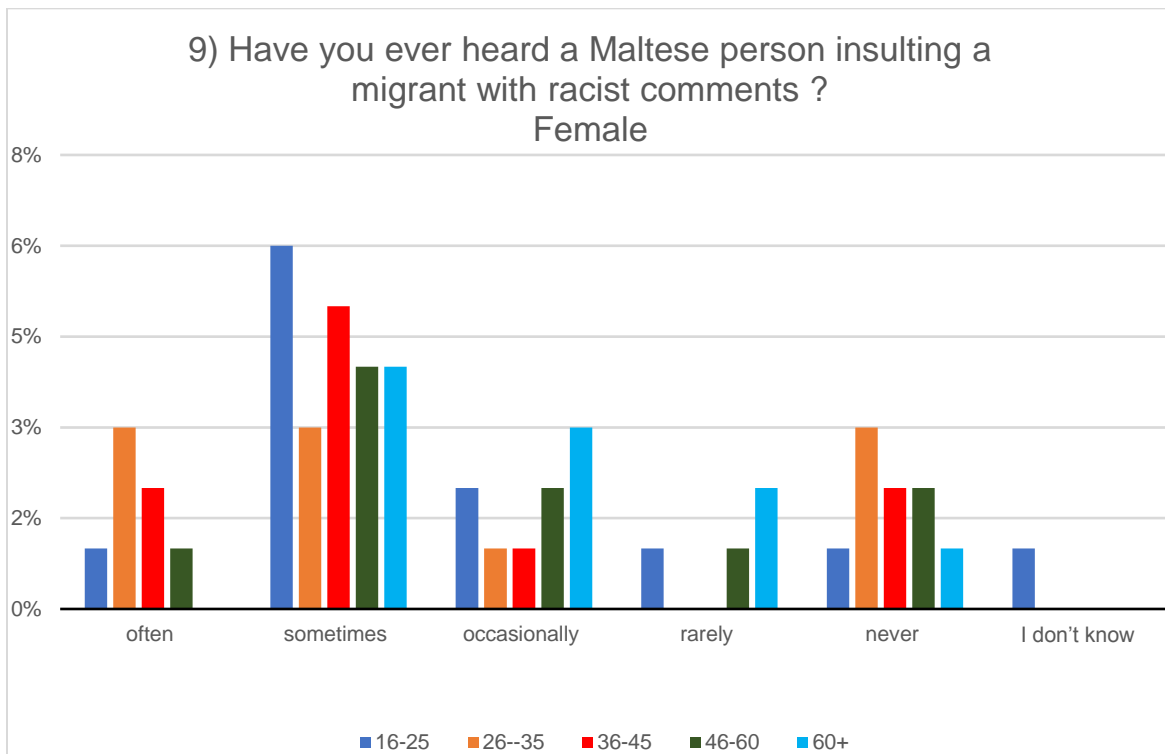
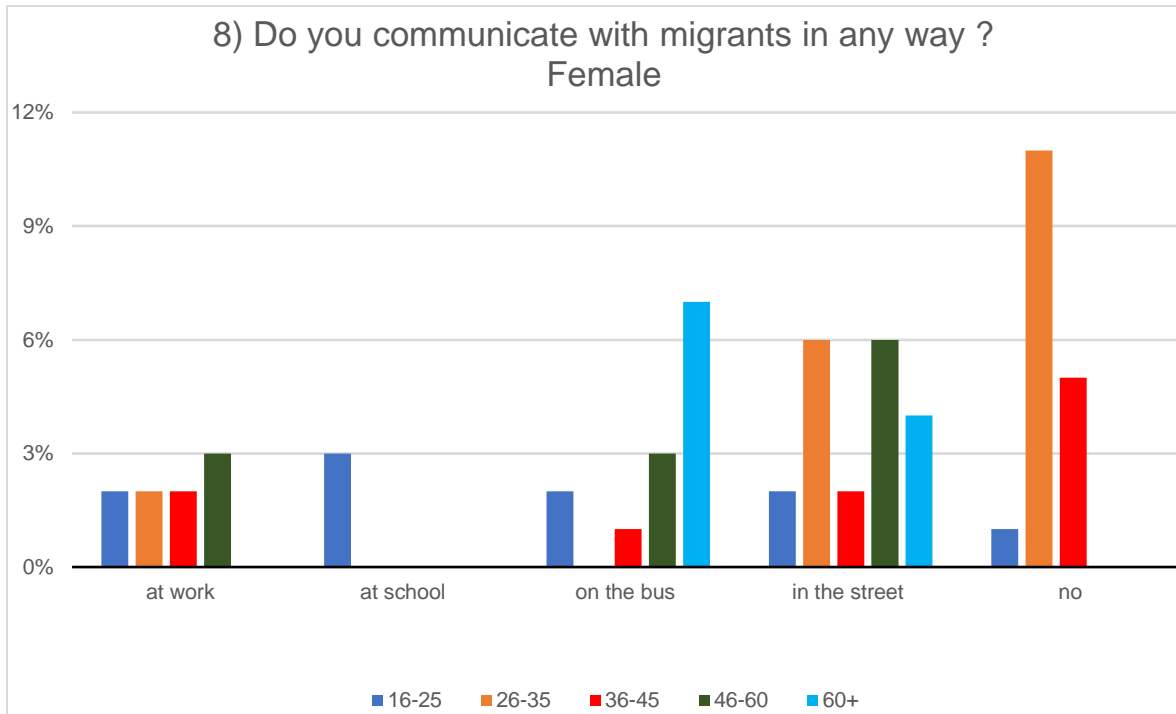




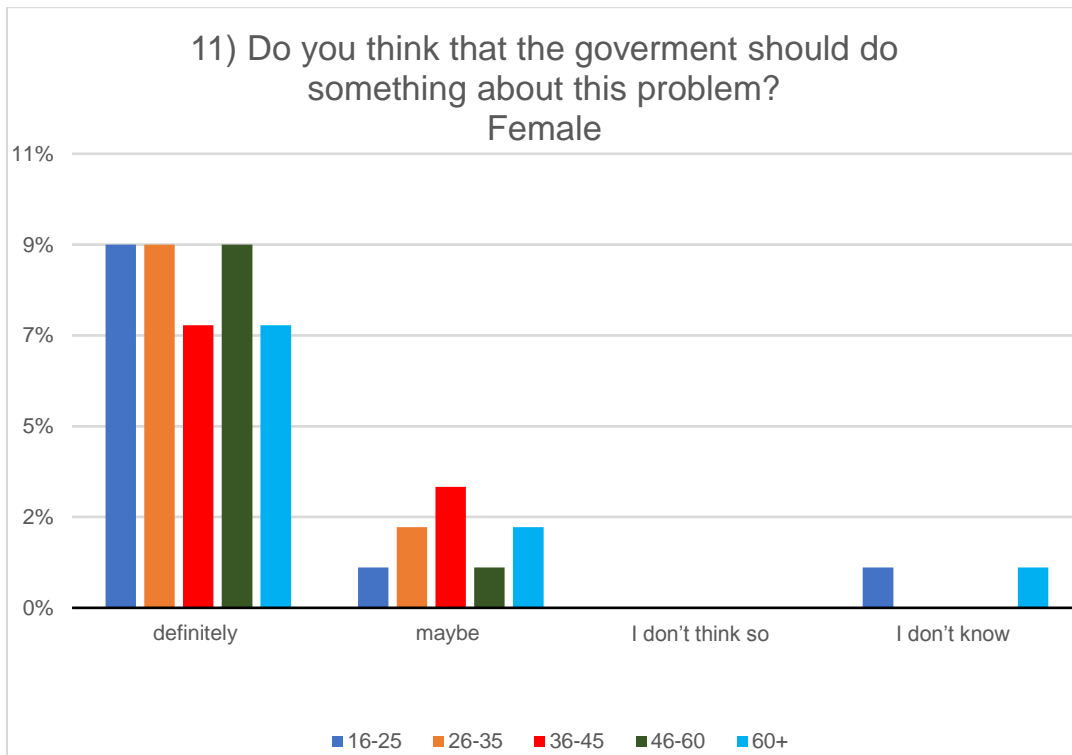
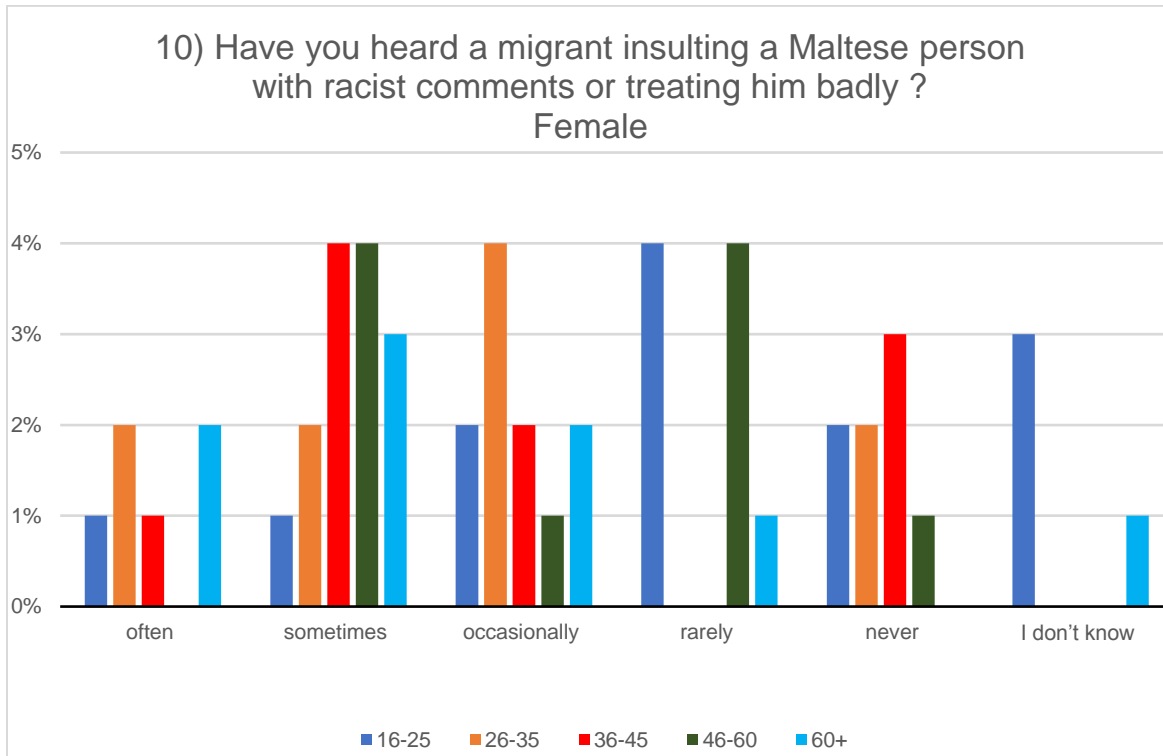




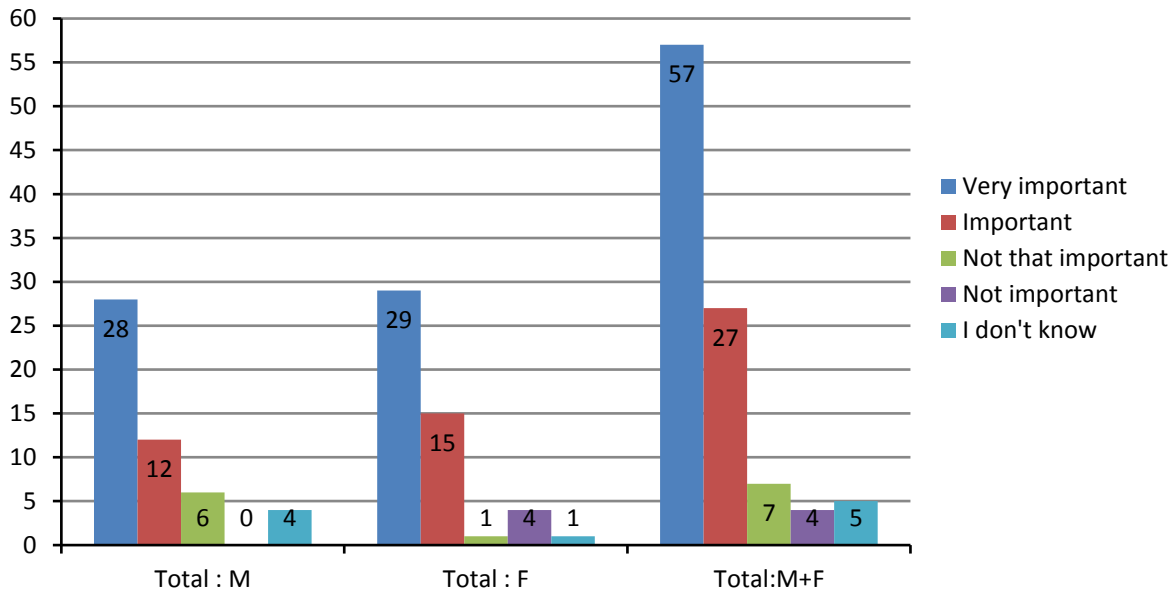




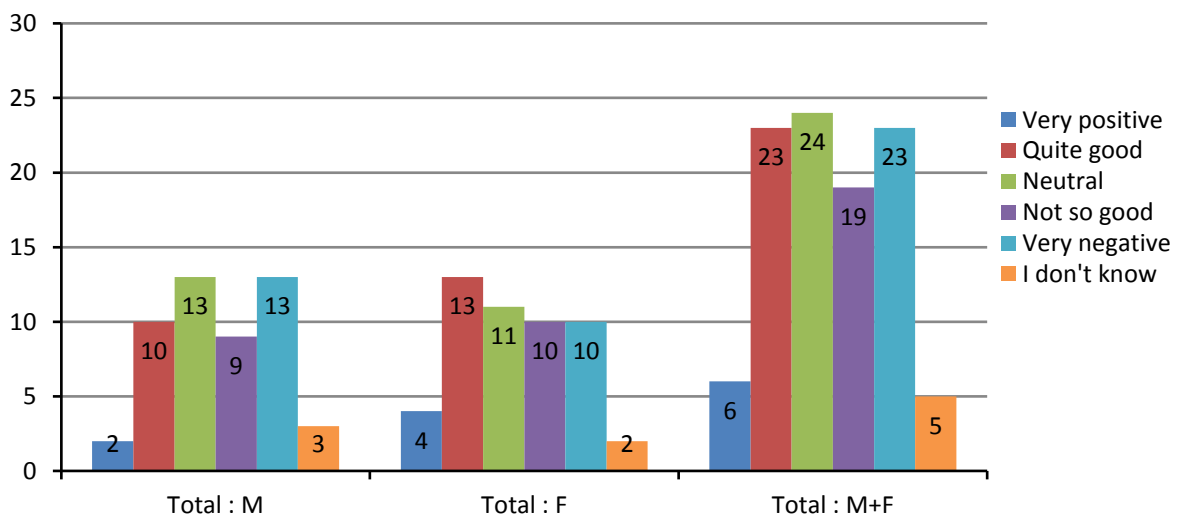




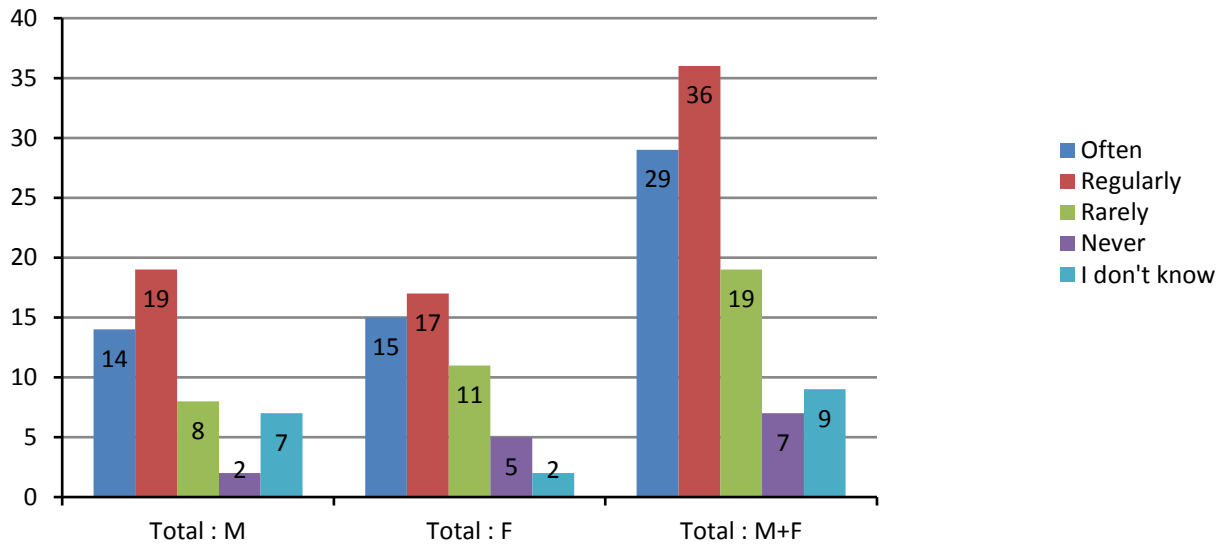
# 1) Do you think illegal immigration is an important issue in Malta?



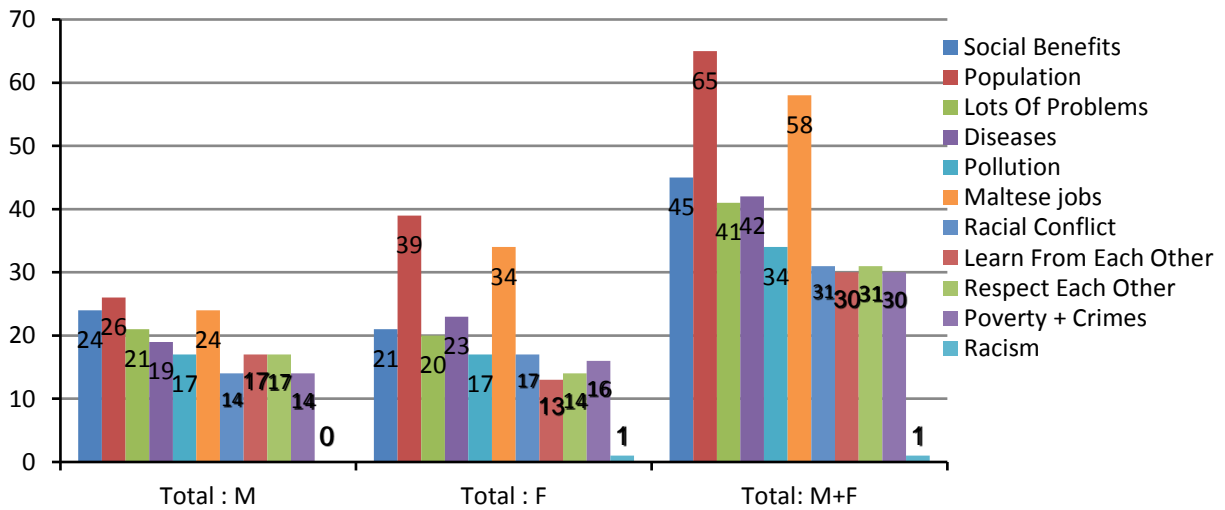
# 2) How would you describe the reality of migration in Malta?



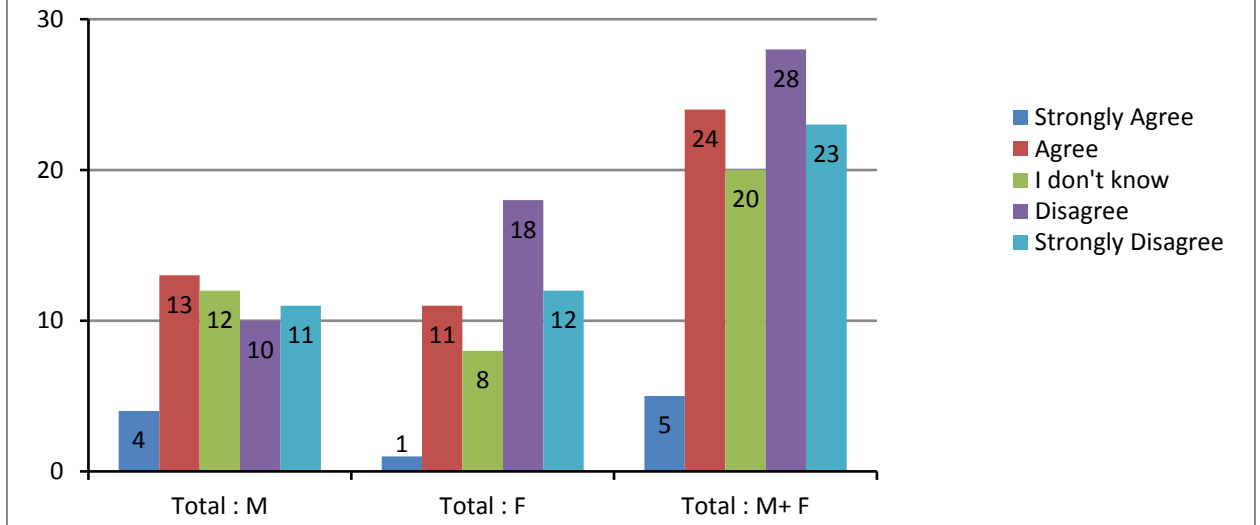
### 3) Do you think that migrants are treated well in Malta ?



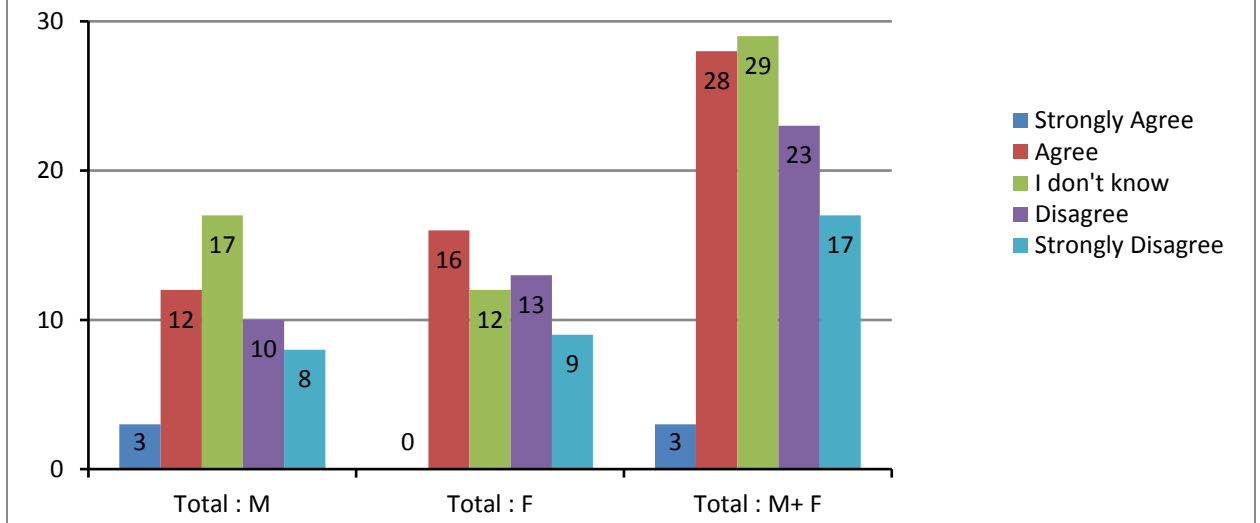
### 4) How do you think migration affects our country ?



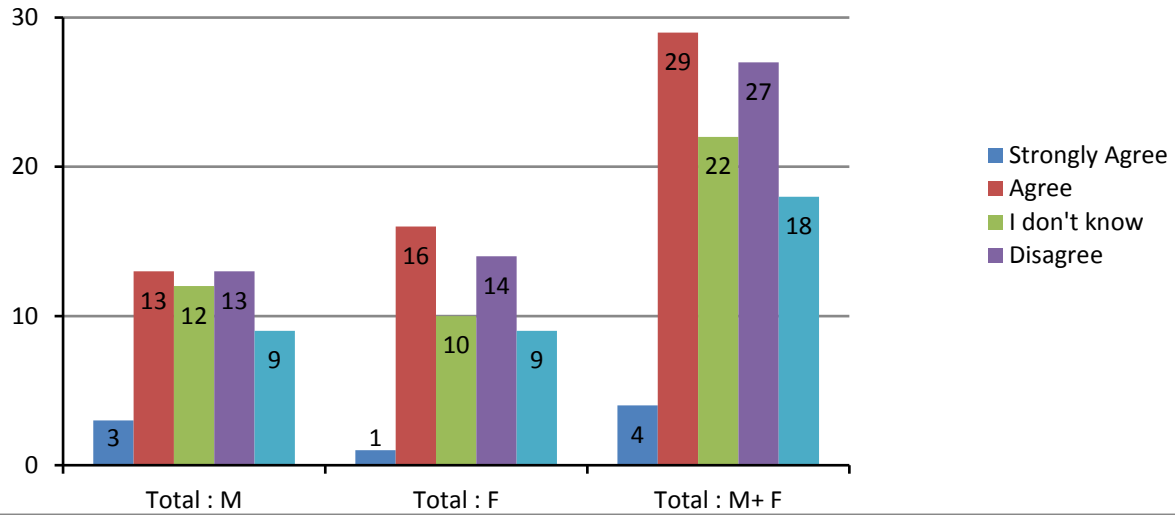
### 5) Do you think that the Maltese government should accept illegal migrants ?



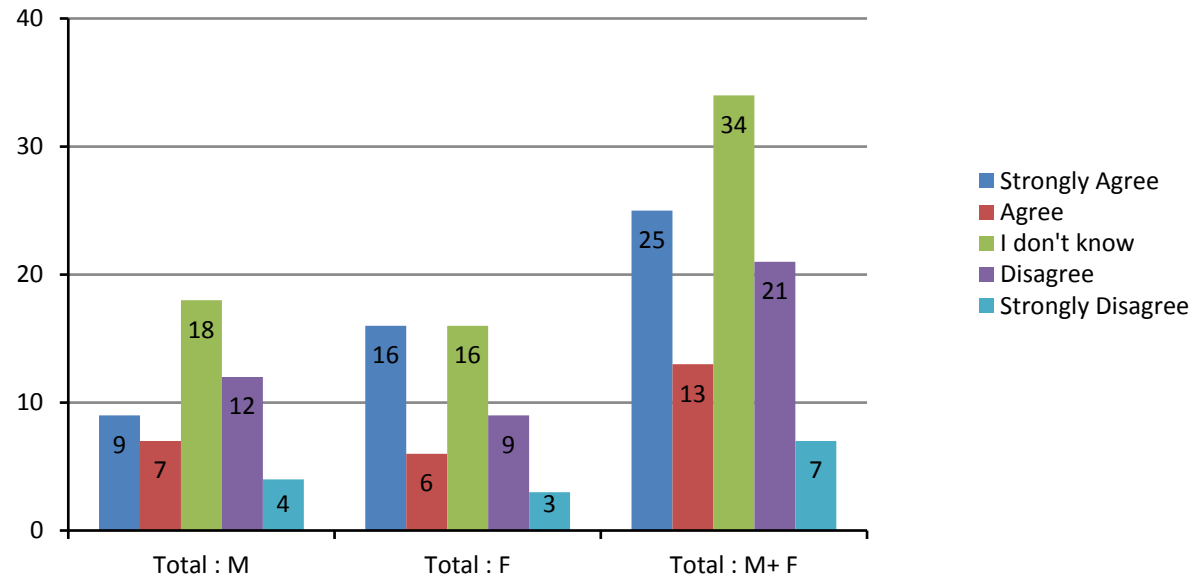
### 6) Do you think that the Maltese government should give migrants social benefits ?



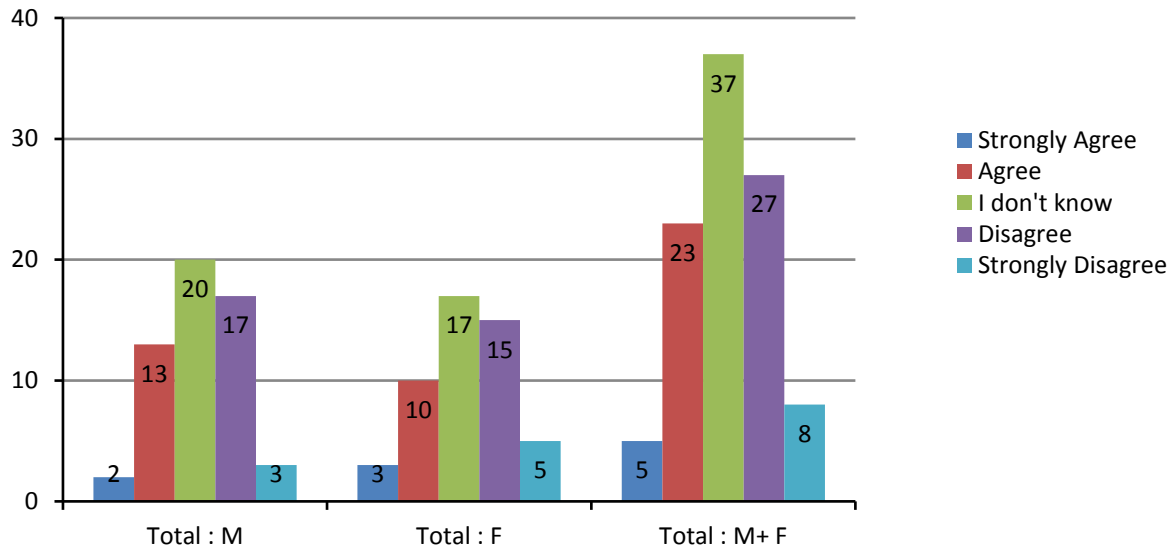
### 7) Do you think that migrants should be allowed to build their own places of worship ?



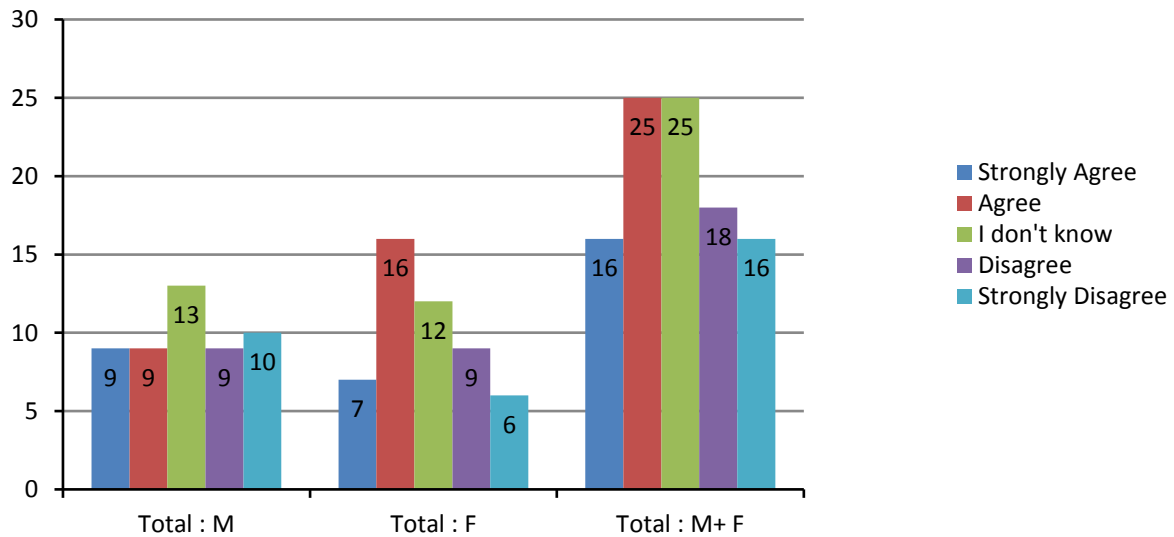
### 8) Do you think that migrants should be sent back to their country ?



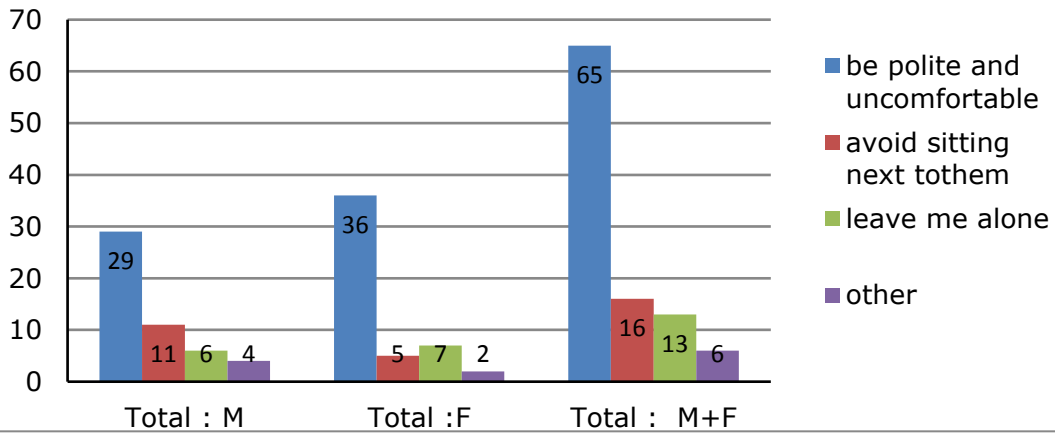
## 10) Do you think that in general migrants in Malta behave well?



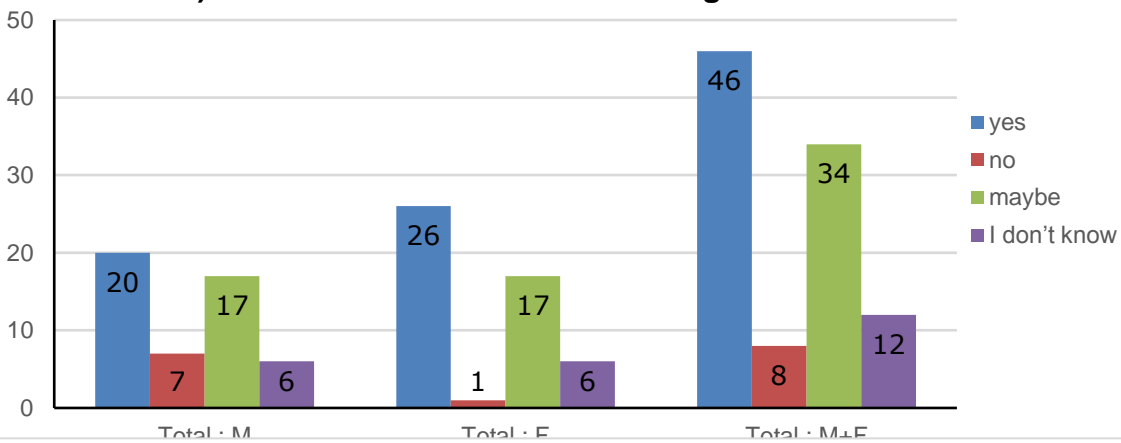
## 9) Do you think that the Maltese are racist?



**11) If an immigrant came up to you how would you react ?**



**12) Can there be a solution to immigration?**



**16) Do you think that the goverment should do something about this problem?**

