

Educational Research in Malta

SINCLAIR GRIMA

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INTRODUCTION

The Maltese Educational System:

1. Childcare → 0 to 3 years
2. Kindergarten (3 to 5 years) and Compulsory School (5 to 16 years)
 - Early Years → Kindergarten 1 and 2, Years 1 - 2 (Primary school)
 - Junior Years → Years 3 - 6 (Primary School)
 - Middle Years → Years 7 - 8 (Secondary School)
 - Senior Years → Years 9 - 11 (Secondary School)
3. Post Secondary Institution
4. Tertiary Institution



There are three school sectors in Malta: State (run by the State), Church (run by diverse Catholic orders), and Independent (Board of Directors).

INTRODUCTION

State Sector	Church Sector	Independent Sector
c. 60%	c. 30%	c. 10%

Student Population	Educator Population
c. 60,000	c. 8,000 (State) c. 2,500 (Church) c. 1,500 (Independent)

Number of Primary Schools	Number of Middle and Secondary Schools
100	60



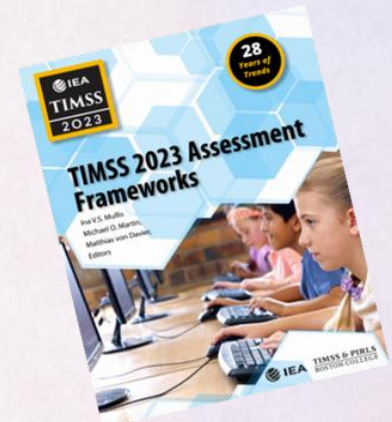
Research



RESEARCH

Educational Research in Malta is carried out by these institutions:

- The Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation
- University of Malta
- Institute for Education
- Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology
- Malta Union of Teachers



Educational Research is also available through international studies.



MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION, SPORT, YOUTH, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION (MEYR)

The Research Unit within MEYR conducts studies for the following:

- Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) for Malta
- To inform policy making
- To compile information for Eurydice
- Additional *ad hoc* research e.g. budgetary measures, initiatives by MEYR

Permanent Secretary



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION,
SPORT, YOUTH, RESEARCH
AND INNOVATION

RESEARCH BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MALTA

The University of Malta (UM) contributes to the educational research literature through:

- Dissertations (some of which are eventually published), and
- Research by members of the Faculty of Education (published in diverse journals including UM's own Malta Review of Educational Research).



RESEARCH BY THE INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION (IfE)

IfE is an entity within the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation that provides initial teacher training and continuous professional development.

It conducts educational research through:

- Dissertations (some of which are published), and
- IfE members who publish in the IfE's own Malta Journal of Education.



RESEARCH BY THE MALTA COLLEGE FOR ARTS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (MCAST)

MCAST is a vocational and professional education and training institution.

At MCAST, vocational and applied research is carried out by:

- Researchers, and
- Professionals working with MCAST with its collaborative partners from the industry.



This research is published in the MCAST's own *Journal of Applied Research and Practice*.

RESEARCH BY MALTA UNION OF TEACHERS (MUT)

MUT is the main trade union representing educators in Malta. It is also a professional educational organisation.

MUT publishes educational papers in its own peer-reviewed journal, *The Educator* with the objective of presenting new or updated research in the field of education.



RESEARCH COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL BODIES

The Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation (MEYR) collaborates with IEA and OECD to conduct international comparative studies in educational achievement, namely:

- TIMSS,
- PIRLS,
- ICCS,
- ICILS, and
- PISA.



All schools (State, Church, and Independent) take part in these studies and results are published on MEYR's website.

MALTA'S PARTICIPATION IN IEA STUDIES

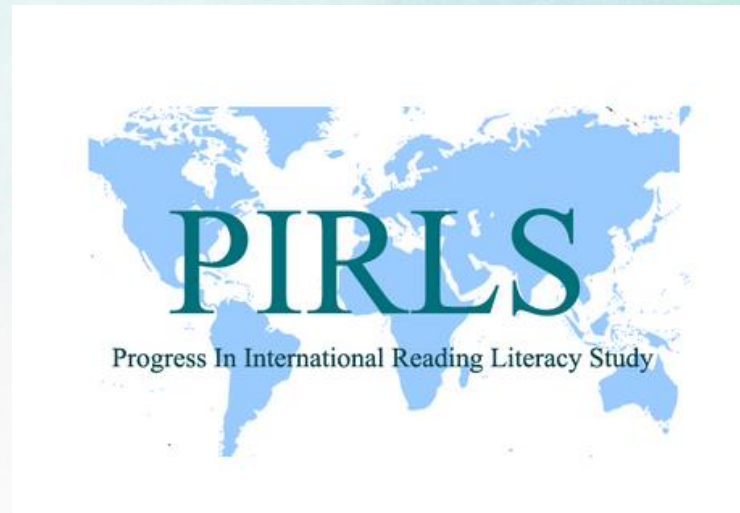


PIRLS	TIMSS	ICCS	ICILS
2011	2007	2009	2023 (for the first time this year)
2016	2011	2016	
2021	2015	2022	
	2019		
	2023		

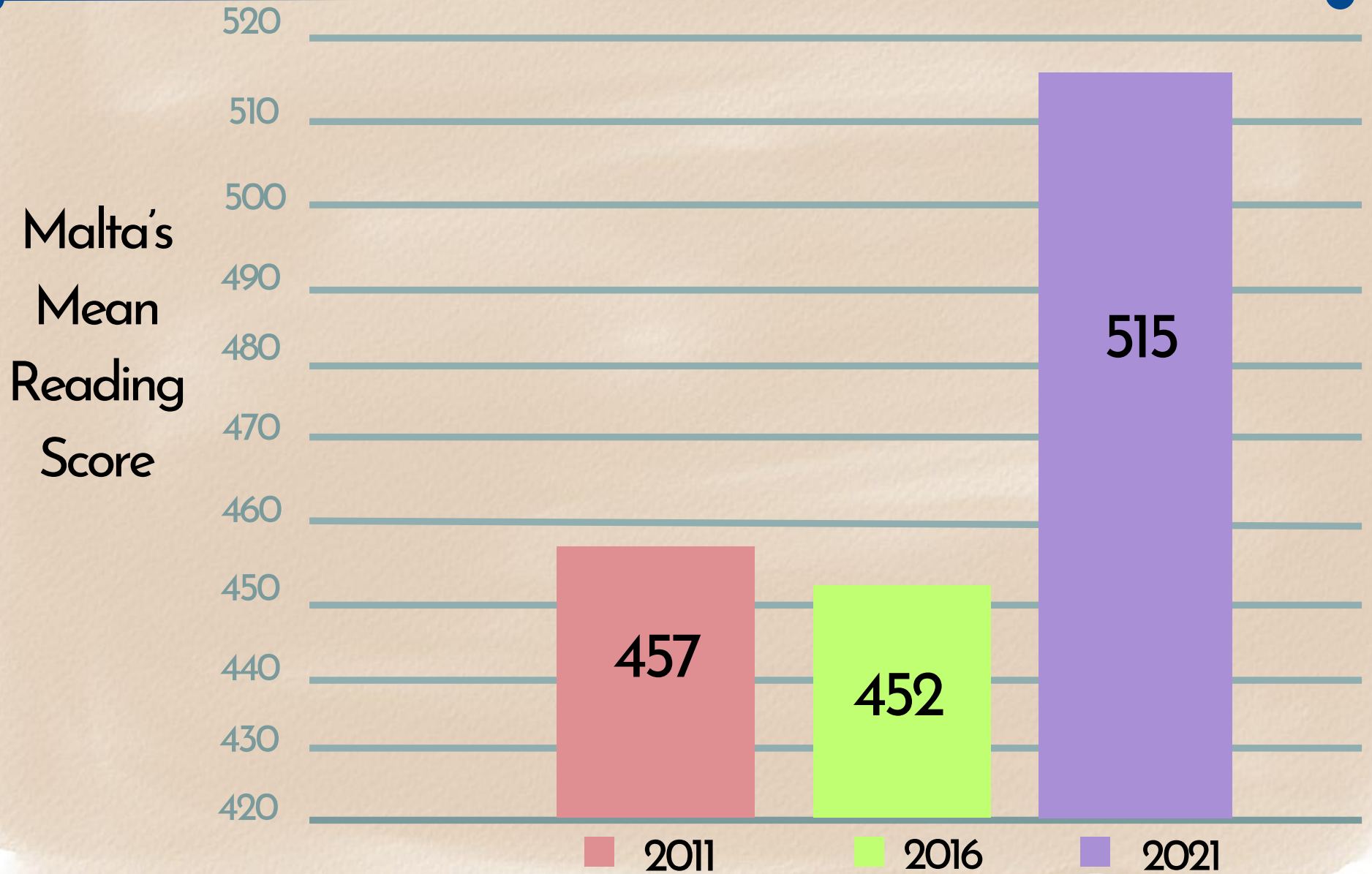
MALTA'S PARTICIPATION IN IEA STUDIES -

PIRLS

- In 2021, language of test was chosen by the students (Maltese or English).
- All 100 Primary Schools participated.



MALTA'S PARTICIPATION IN IEA STUDIES - PIRLS



RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOWING PIRLS' RESULTS

- Improving students' behaviour during lessons
- Reducing student bullying 
- Improving preparedness and readiness for students to learn

These points also featured in the pre-consultation process of the National Education Strategy 2024-2030 which currently is in the drafting process.

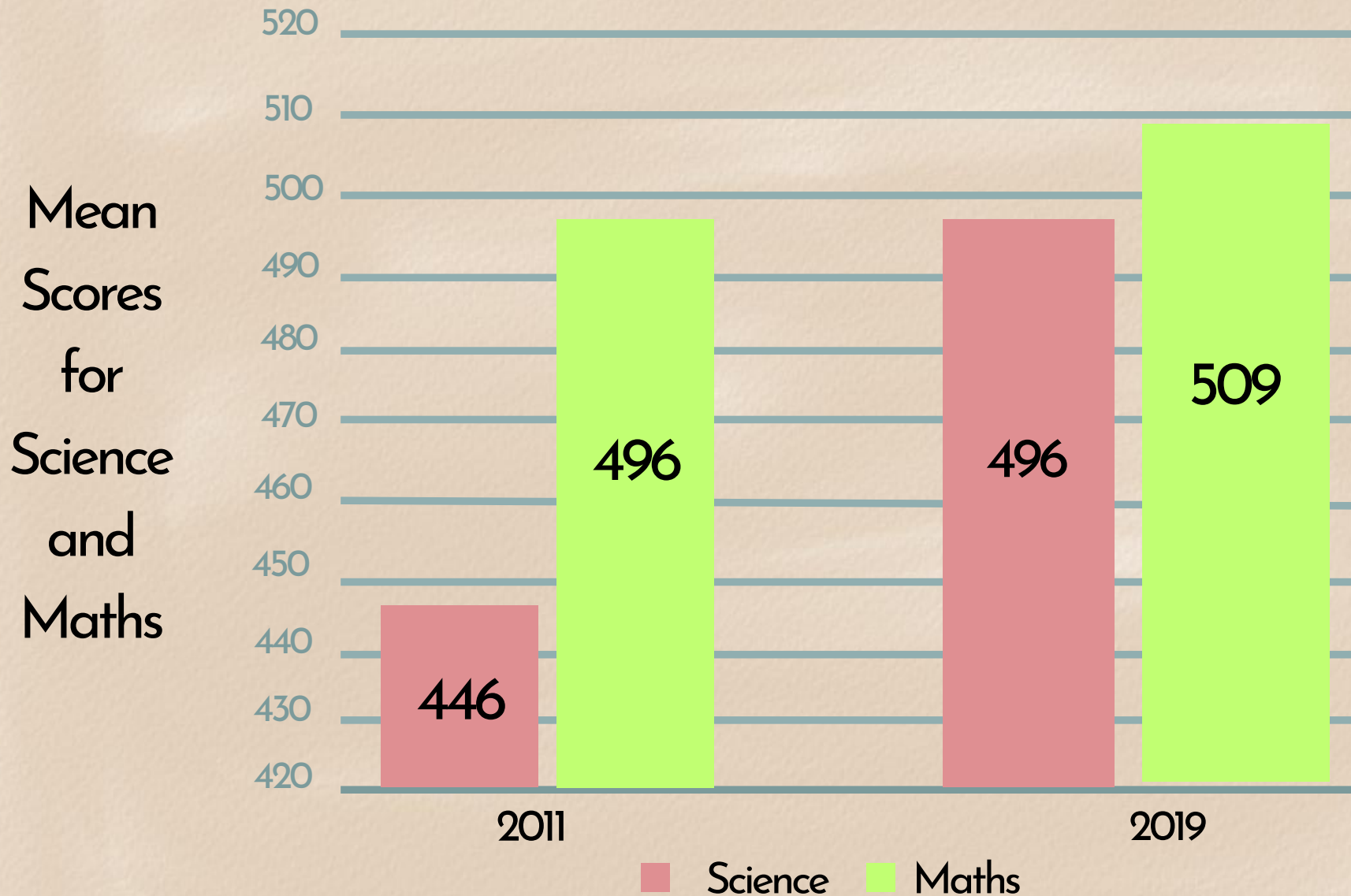


MALTA'S PARTICIPATION IN IEA STUDIES - TIMSS

- Malta participated in this year's session (2023).
- Malta alternates its participation between Year 5 and Year 9. Therefore, Year 5 cohort in 2011 and Year 5 cohort in 2019 could be compared.
- In 2019, tablets were used for the first time.



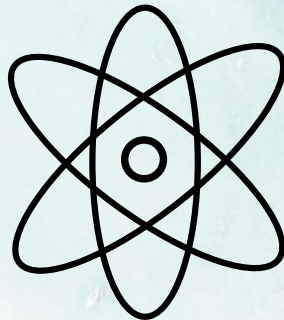
MALTA'S PARTICIPATION IN IEA STUDIES



Malta's registered progress was a result of a STEM vision and strategic decisions.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOWING TIMSS

- Tackle student absenteeism.
- Increase the number of hours of teaching and learning in Science at Primary level to become at par with other countries.
- Encourage teachers to enhance the skills required for the Digital environment surrounding us.



MALTA'S PARTICIPATION IN IEA STUDIES - ICCS

One of the main conclusions:

- Students' civic knowledge attainment is related to parental education, occupation and income, socio-economic status and number of books at home.



Thank You

The image features a soft, multi-colored gradient background transitioning from light yellow at the top to light purple at the bottom. Scattered throughout the background are numerous small, rectangular confetti pieces in various colors, including light blue, light red, light green, and light yellow. The text "Thank You" is written in a large, elegant, black cursive font, centered horizontally and slightly below the vertical center of the image.