

THE MALTA WELLBEING INDEX
Preliminary Meeting of the High-Level Advisory Board
12TH January 2021

Welcome Note

by

H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca

Chair of The Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society

Good afternoon

I would like to welcome you to this preliminary meeting, and also thank you, for your commitment to participate on this High-Level Advisory Board to develop a Malta Wellbeing Index.

Before going further, I would like to briefly tell you what The Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society stands for.

Our ethos revolves around the mission to work towards an inclusive, just, equitable and eco-friendly society, where all people may grow, enjoy a quality of life which is sustainable, and engage in productive and meaningful relationships.

We invest in research, advocacy and tangible initiatives. We aim to influence policy and bring about the necessary change in society.

We invest in Children in the context of the family and the community.

The Foundation was set up in June 2014, when I was serving in the role of President of Malta.

When my term as President of Malta came to an end in April 2019, the Cabinet of Ministers decided that I should continue to lead the Foundation.

The Foundation is publicly funded, however we are autonomous and independent of government.

We have been advocating for the development of a wellbeing index to go beyond GDP since 2014 and our call was further emphasized through the Annual Wellbeing Conference which was held in 2015.

In 2018, the Foundation commissioned the National Statistics Office to collect further and focused data on wellbeing, through the already existing indicators established by EU-SILC.

Some months ago, after a months of deliberation, the Board of Administrators of the Foundation decided on a tangible holistic way forward, by approving the project for the setting up of The Malta Wellbeing Index.

We think that this is the right time for the development of a wellbeing index. There is an urge for wellbeing to be measured. We could see this through a number of sporadic but important initiatives by some non-governmental organizations and other organizations in Malta.

Through our project we want to bring everybody together on a collaborative platform, so that none of the work that has been done so far is ignored.

The Board of Administrators of the Foundation decide to seek the collaboration of the University of Malta, as a main partner.

In the process of building the necessary structure for the project, we saw the need for a High-Level Advisory Board to help us through shared global and

regional experience and expertise. This will help us avoid mistakes and keep on route towards our objective.

We look forward to your advice as valued contributors, towards the fulfilment of the project. Your technical assistance, as Advisors to the project, would also much valued.

We want to develop a Wellbeing Index for Malta to ensure that the multidimensional components of Wellbeing will be at the core of national and community-based policies, so as to that the people living on the Maltese Islands, would enjoy the dignity and quality of life that they rightfully deserve.

We want to develop a comprehensive tool kit to provide our policy makers and authorities with the necessary evidence and scientific data for meaningful and effective policies.

Finally, I would like to reiterate our thanks for your commitment to support this invaluable project.