

Bridging the Gap: Are Integration Systems in Malta Accessible Enough?

Malta has seen a **sharp rise** in **foreign workers** and **international students**, increasing pressure on **integration systems**. Our project explored whether official programmes, such as the **I Belong Programme**, are truly accessible in everyday life, while also examining how **NGOs help fill these gaps**

We worked with **Blue Door Education** as our main case study because of its focus on language, literacy, digital skills, and practical support for migrants.

Emily's Role: Project manager

- Research
- Organised an interview and scheduling
- Edited the report
- Filmed some B-roll and Conducted the standupper and interview

Jun's Role: Camera Operator & Research Support

- wrote the interview questions
- Helped refine the reporting structure
- cameraman during filming
- Filmed some B-roll footage
- Assisted with research and article development

SWOT ANALYSIS

The SWOT analysis helped us **evaluate the strengths** and **weaknesses** of **our story** while identifying areas where the **production, visuals, and narrative** could have been **improved** further

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Relevant & current topic	Noise during interview	Expand into mini-series	Sensitive migration topic
Engaging Valletta standupper, Strong social-media storytelling	Some answers sounded promotional	Longer documentary format	Risk of perceived bias
Professional NGO interview & classroom visuals	Difficult to visually show integration	More NGO & migrant interviews	Difficulty finding participants

Production & Experimentation



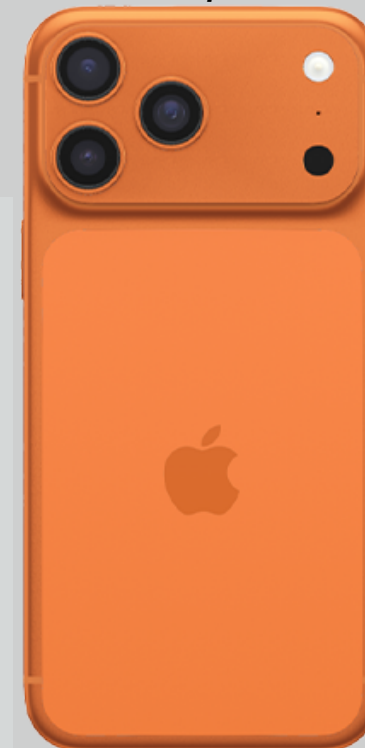
Filming took place on the **27th April in Valletta**. We filmed the **standupper** in **Merchants Street** and the interview outside and inside **Blue Door Education** in **Old Bakery Street** to create a **realistic and engaging environment**.

DJI OSMO 2



Since migration is a sensitive topic, we used **smaller cameras** to create a **more comfortable** environment for both the public and interviewee but for some Broll we used the Canon R6 M 3

iPhone 17 pro max



We experimented with a social-media journalism style through:

- Fast pacing
- Voiceover + soundbite structure
- Lower thirds
- Short-form storytelling

For editing, we experimented with:

- Mysterious but engaging background music
- Audio pacing matching visuals
- Balancing narration and interview clips

Narrative & Visual Material

The narrative evolved throughout production. Early drafts **sounded too promotional**, so we adjusted the tone to become more investigative and question-based.

One challenge was visually representing “integration,” so we used:

- Valletta street visuals
- Classroom footage
- NGO exterior shots
- Everyday public spaces



“if you moved to malta tomorrow , would you actually know how to integrate?”

The standupper was designed specifically for social media using a direct question hook to immediately engage audiences.

Creative Conflicts

- Sir and Jhun suggested adding more voiceover throughout the report.
- More narration was added, but I wanted to keep a balance so the interviewee still had strong screen presence
- Different creative approaches towards the article structure:
I preferred a faster, social-media style format
Jhun preferred a more traditional reporting structure
- Final production was a compromise between both styles

Scheduling & Teamwork

The project required continuous communication and coordination throughout both research and production.

Teamwork Process

We researched the topic together

Emily found most of the NGO and official sources

Jun assisted with emails and article writing

I continued communication with NGOs and organised scheduling

Emily (Project Manager) focused on:

- Scheduling interviews & Coordinating communication
- Editing the video
- Filming part of the B-roll
- Presented the standupper
- Structuring production

Jun mainly focused on

- Main cameraman
- Assisting with filming
- Editing and refining the article structure
- Prepared interview questions
- Supporting research and reporting

Navigating Challenges & Practical Applications

Research Challenges:

- **Data Scarcity:** Accessing real-time updates during the restructuring of official integration systems.
- **Communication Barriers:** Overcoming linguistic nuances during interviews with non-native English speakers.
- **Practical Application:** Our findings highlight the critical need for "Digital Literacy" (smartphone-based learning) as a prerequisite for social integration, offering a blueprint for future NGO educational programs.
- **Navigating Access Challenges:** After facing non-responses from official ministries (Home Affairs & Education), we pivoted to NGOs. A referral from Spark 15 led us to Blue Door Education, which offered a more transparent and practical look at the integration gap.

Conclusion: From Research to Social Impact

Key Takeaway: Digital reporting bridges the gap between cold statistics and human reality. While official systems regroup, NGOs like Blue Door provide the essential infrastructure for integration.

Personal Reflection:

- **Jun:** This project highlighted the importance of rigorous research in supporting visual storytelling, ensuring the "Digital Report" has academic and social weight.
- **Emily:** Demonstrated the power of visual direction in making complex integration policies accessible and engaging for a wider audience.

Final Statement: Integration is a collaborative effort between policy, research, and grassroots action.