

15 March 2018 | 1100 hrs | 042/2018

Last year, foreign students attending English language courses at local licensed English Language Teaching (ELT) schools numbered 87,190, equivalent to an increase of 13.6 per cent over 2016.

## Teaching English as a Foreign Language: 2017

The majority of students attending English language courses in Malta came from Italy (29.4 per cent), Germany (11.8 per cent) and France (10.5 per cent). Together these accounted for more than half of total students (Table 1).

The largest share of language students were aged 15 years or less, making up 32.2 per cent of total students. Students aged 50 and over were in the minority and numbered 5,741. Female students outnumbered males in all age categories, and accounted for 59.7 per cent of the entire student population under review (Table 3).

July was the busiest month for local licensed ELT schools with 21,567 arrivals, or 24.7 per cent of the annual total. This was followed by August and March with 10.8 and 10.0 per cent of total arrivals respectively (Table 4).

The most popular course offered by local licensed ELT schools is General English. A total of 62,317 students - 71.5 per cent - studying during 2017 opted for this course. This was followed by the Intensive English course, with 16.5 per cent of total students (Table 5).

The share of foreign students attending English language courses in 2017 when compared to total inbound tourists for the same year, stood at 3.8 per cent. Of this share, 3.0 per cent were males and 4.7 per cent were females (Table 6).

Foreign students enrolled in local licensed ELT schools spent a total of 244,202 weeks in Malta. The average length of stay during the year under review stood at 2.8 weeks, down by 0.2 weeks when compared to 2016 (Table 8). With an average of 12.2 weeks, students from Colombia recorded the highest average duration. These were followed by South Korean and Turkish students with an average duration of 9.3 and 7.2 weeks respectively (Table 10).

In 2017, teaching staff in local licensed ELT schools amounted to 1,225. The largest share of teaching staff (37.6 per cent) was aged between 18 and 24. Female teachers accounted for 71.4 per cent of the total teaching staff. Non-teaching staff amounted to 759, of which 56.3 per cent were employed on a full-time basis (Tables 11 and 12) ■

**Table 1. Foreign students following courses in local licensed ELT schools by sex and citizenship\***

Citizenship	Male	Female	Total	Male	Females	Total
	2016			2017		
Italy	7,931	10,867	18,798	11,209	14,385	25,594
Germany	4,517	6,400	10,917	4,275	6,002	10,277
France	3,426	5,091	8,517	3,572	5,566	9,138
Russia	1,431	2,725	4,156	1,876	2,942	4,818
Brazil	881	1,740	2,621	1,594	2,925	4,519
Poland	1,034	2,097	3,131	1,513	2,999	4,512
Spain	1,383	2,594	3,977	1,380	2,231	3,611
Austria	1,569	1,965	3,534	1,436	1,671	3,107
Japan	584	1,810	2,394	744	2,180	2,924
Switzerland	819	1,146	1,965	995	1,387	2,382
Turkey	1,625	1,127	2,752	1,363	966	2,329
Czech Republic	502	895	1,397	518	957	1,475
Colombia	439	654	1,093	523	765	1,288
Netherlands	305	831	1,136	357	822	1,179
South Korea	255	571	826	305	726	1,031
Ukraine	277	379	656	326	456	782
Belgium	240	503	743	267	474	741
Slovakia	222	396	618	251	413	664
Sweden	427	874	1,301	116	514	630
Other countries <sup>1</sup>	2,499	3,699	6,198	2,492	3,697	6,189
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,366</b>	<b>46,364</b>	<b>76,730</b>	<b>35,112</b>	<b>52,078</b>	<b>87,190</b>

\* includes only students arriving in 2016 and 2017

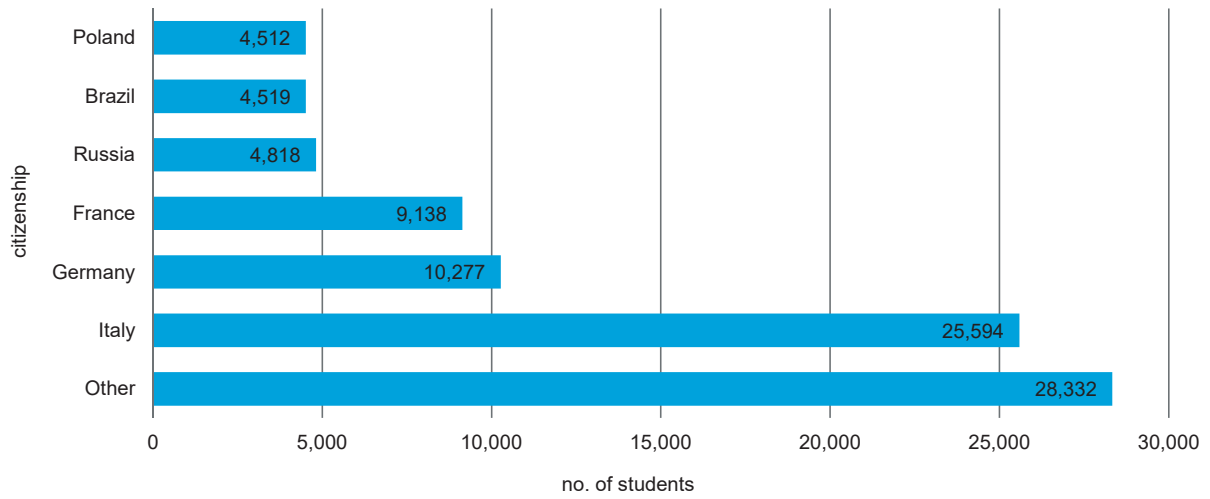
Note: <sup>1</sup> includes students whose citizenship is unknown

**Table 2. Foreign students following courses in local licensed ELT schools by citizenship and age group\* - top six countries: 2017**

Age group	Citizenship					
	Italy	Germany	France	Russia	Brazil	Poland
15 and under	10,391	3,144	4,058	2,032	88	1,809
16-17	8,046	1,598	2,039	515	108	499
18-25	3,048	1,447	1,834	685	1,456	235
26-35	1,352	1,024	440	839	1,810	426
36-49	1,602	1,616	429	566	639	1,088
50 and over	1,142	1,446	336	178	418	442
Unspecified	13	2	2	3	-	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,594</b>	<b>10,277</b>	<b>9,138</b>	<b>4,818</b>	<b>4,519</b>	<b>4,512</b>

\* includes only students arriving in 2017

**Chart 1. Foreign students following courses in local licensed ELT schools by citizenship\*:  
2017**



**Table 3. Foreign students following courses in local licensed ELT schools  
by sex and age group\***

Age group	2016	2017	Change	Percentage change
	<b>Males</b>			
15 and under	9,728	11,576	1,848	19.0
16-17	5,932	7,230	1,298	21.9
18-25	6,178	7,062	884	14.3
26-35	3,528	3,790	262	7.4
36-49	3,108	3,386	278	8.9
50 and over	1,847	2,043	196	10.6
Unspecified	45	25	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,366</b>	<b>35,112</b>	<b>4,746</b>	<b>15.6</b>
<b>Females</b>				
15 and under	14,277	16,484	2,207	15.5
16-17	8,373	9,866	1,493	17.8
18-25	9,600	9,796	196	2.0
26-35	5,720	6,337	617	10.8
36-49	5,073	5,867	794	15.7
50 and over	3,224	3,698	474	14.7
Unspecified	97	30	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,364</b>	<b>52,078</b>	<b>5,714</b>	<b>12.3</b>
<b>Total</b>				
15 and under	24,005	28,060	4,055	16.9
16-17	14,305	17,096	2,791	19.5
18-25	15,778	16,858	1,080	6.8
26-35	9,248	10,127	879	9.5
36-49	8,181	9,253	1,072	13.1
50 and over	5,071	5,741	670	13.2
Unspecified	142	55	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,730</b>	<b>87,190</b>	<b>10,460</b>	<b>13.6</b>

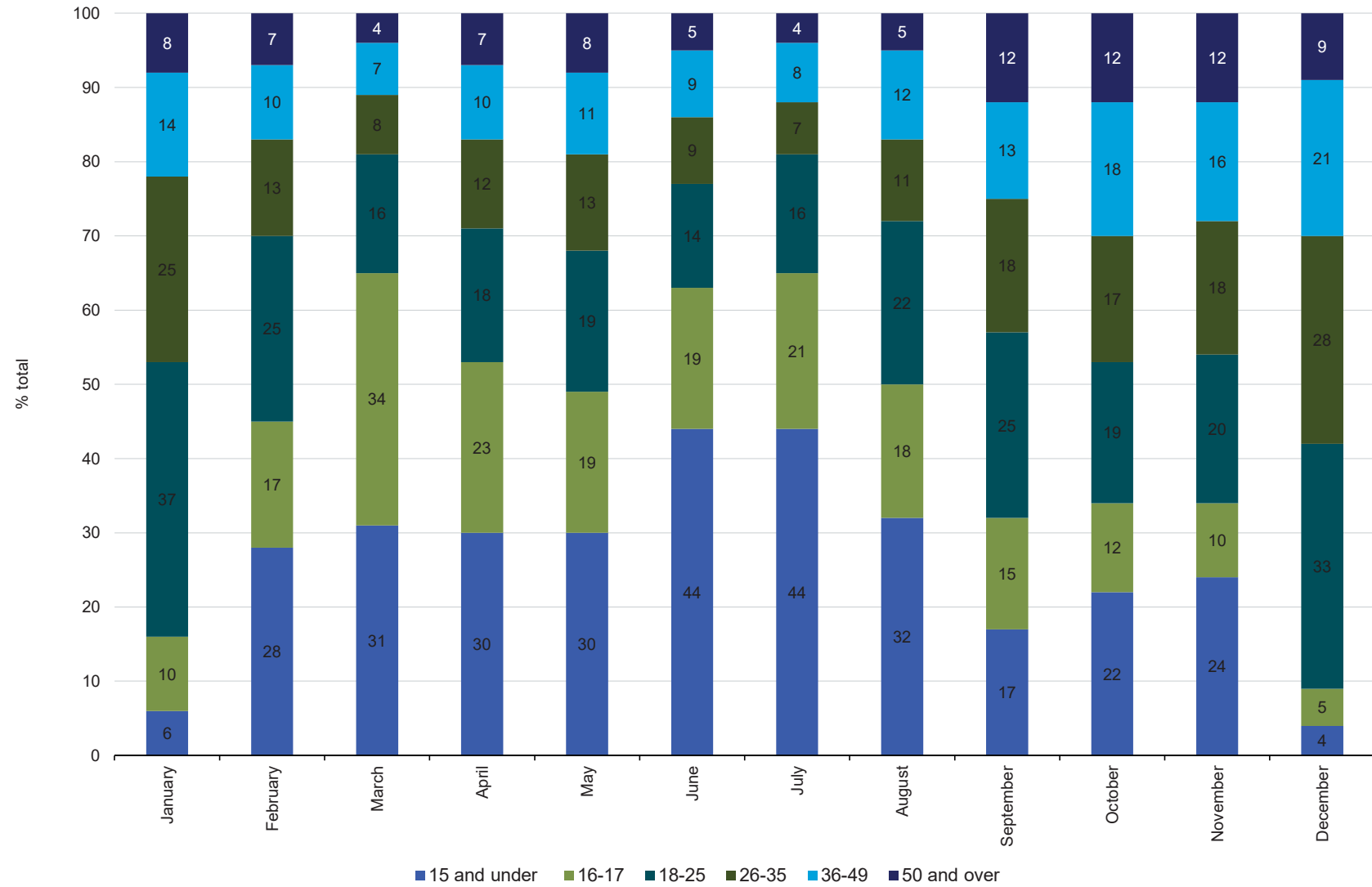
\* includes only students arriving in 2016 and 2017

**Table 4. Foreign students following courses in local licensed ELT schools  
by sex and month of arrival\***

Month of arrival	2016	2017	Change	Percentage change
	<b>Males</b>			
January	1,206	1,483	277	23.0
February	1,566	1,949	383	24.5
March	1,953	3,841	1,888	96.7
April	2,927	3,182	255	8.7
May	2,215	3,024	809	36.5
June	3,254	3,365	111	3.4
July	7,452	8,151	699	9.4
August	3,875	3,575	-300	-7.7
September	2,159	2,441	282	13.1
October	2,208	2,387	179	8.1
November	1,098	1,300	202	18.4
December	453	414	-39	-8.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,366</b>	<b>35,112</b>	<b>4,746</b>	<b>15.6</b>
	<b>Females</b>			
January	1,555	2,021	466	30.0
February	2,275	2,643	368	16.2
March	3,066	4,864	1,798	58.6
April	4,029	4,225	196	4.9
May	3,455	4,234	779	22.5
June	5,194	5,287	93	1.8
July	11,882	13,416	1,534	12.9
August	6,044	5,822	-222	-3.7
September	3,590	3,920	330	9.2
October	3,248	3,444	196	6.0
November	1,471	1,667	196	13.3
December	555	535	-20	-3.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,364</b>	<b>52,078</b>	<b>5,714</b>	<b>12.3</b>
	<b>Total</b>			
January	2,761	3,504	743	26.9
February	3,841	4,592	751	19.6
March	5,019	8,705	3,686	73.4
April	6,956	7,407	451	6.5
May	5,670	7,258	1,588	28.0
June	8,448	8,652	204	2.4
July	19,334	21,567	2,233	11.5
August	9,919	9,397	-522	-5.3
September	5,749	6,361	612	10.6
October	5,456	5,831	375	6.9
November	2,569	2,967	398	15.5
December	1,008	949	-59	-5.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,730</b>	<b>87,190</b>	<b>10,460</b>	<b>13.6</b>

\* includes only students arriving in 2016 and 2017

Chart 2. Percentage of student following courses in local licensed ELT schools by month of arrival and age-group: 2017



**Table 5. Foreign students following courses in local licensed ELT schools by type of course followed and citizenship\*: 2017**

<b>Citizenship</b>	<b>General English</b>	<b>Intensive English</b>	<b>English specific purposes<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Other<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>
Italy	19,149	2,007	3,369	1,069	<b>25,594</b>
Germany	6,079	2,804	568	826	<b>10,277</b>
France	7,215	1,476	136	311	<b>9,138</b>
Russia	3,642	706	80	390	<b>4,818</b>
Brazil	3,368	922	28	201	<b>4,519</b>
Poland	3,158	672	313	369	<b>4,512</b>
Spain	2,670	671	75	195	<b>3,611</b>
Austria	2,750	239	28	90	<b>3,107</b>
Japan	2,019	723	34	148	<b>2,924</b>
Switzerland	1,319	706	46	311	<b>2,382</b>
Turkey	1,781	386	33	129	<b>2,329</b>
Czech Republic	1,101	270	27	77	<b>1,475</b>
Colombia	667	487	45	89	<b>1,288</b>
Netherlands	793	264	40	82	<b>1,179</b>
South Korea	690	246	14	81	<b>1,031</b>
Ukraine	569	127	17	69	<b>782</b>
Belgium	420	268	26	27	<b>741</b>
Slovakia	459	140	23	42	<b>664</b>
Sweden	565	39	10	16	<b>630</b>
Other countries <sup>3</sup>	3,903	1,202	459	625	<b>6,189</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>62,317</b>	<b>14,355</b>	<b>5,371</b>	<b>5,147</b>	<b>87,190</b>

\* includes only students arriving in 2017

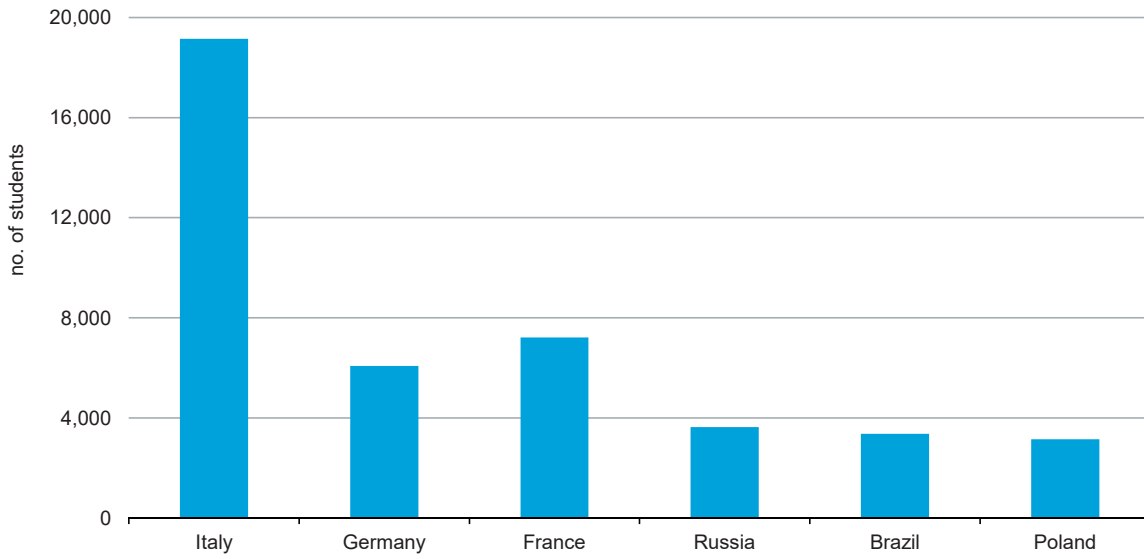
Notes:

<sup>1</sup> includes Business English

<sup>2</sup> includes Exam Preparation Courses, One to One lessons and other courses

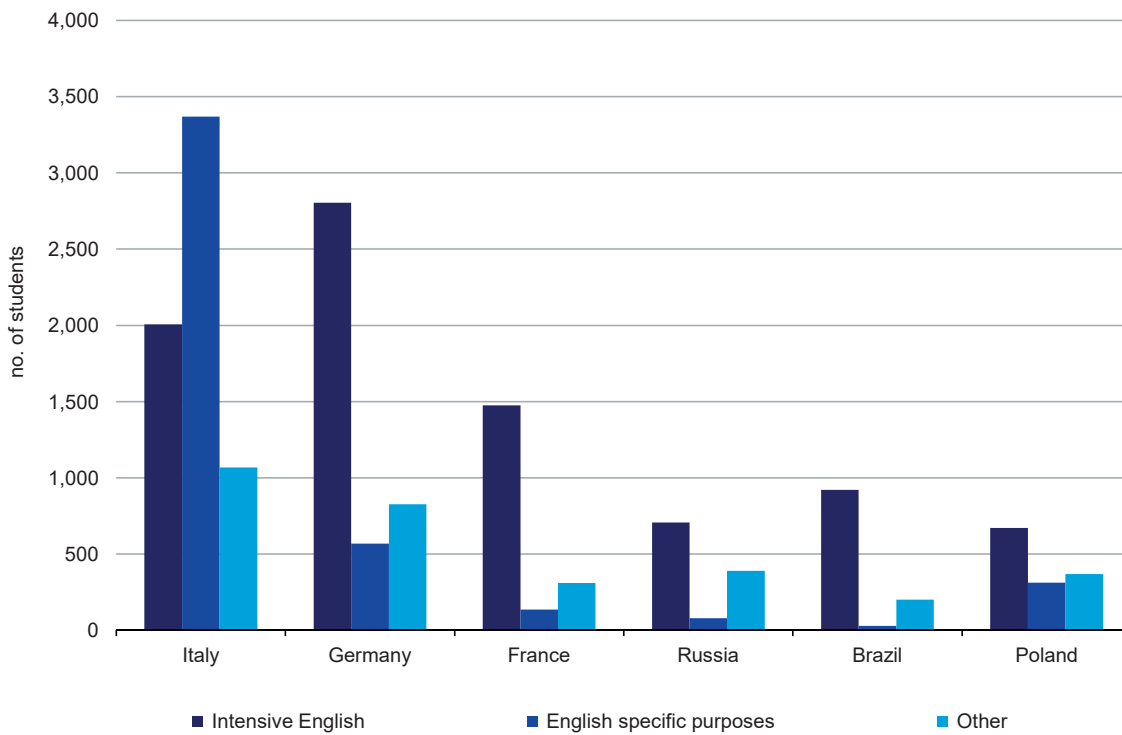
<sup>3</sup> includes students whose citizenship is unknown

**Chart 3. Students attending local licensed ELT schools by citizenship following the General English course\*: 2017**



\* includes only students arriving in 2017

**Chart 4. Students attending local licensed ELT schools by citizenship and course followed (excluding General English)\*: 2017**



\* includes only students arriving in 2017



**Table 6. Foreign students following courses in local licensed ELT schools  
and inbound tourists by sex and month of arrival: 2017**

Month of arrival	Students*			Inbound tourists			% of students per incoming tourists		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
January	1,483	2,021	3,504	56,112	47,957	104,069	2.6	4.2	3.4
February	1,949	2,643	4,592	56,070	47,829	103,899	3.5	5.5	4.4
March	3,841	4,864	8,705	75,899	65,023	140,922	5.1	7.5	6.2
April	3,182	4,225	7,407	104,247	95,339	199,586	3.1	4.4	3.7
May	3,024	4,234	7,258	110,733	104,640	215,373	2.7	4.0	3.4
June	3,365	5,287	8,652	110,548	115,786	226,333	3.0	4.6	3.8
July	8,151	13,416	21,567	128,552	122,514	251,066	6.3	11.0	8.6
August	3,575	5,822	9,397	143,812	141,032	284,844	2.5	4.1	3.3
September	2,441	3,920	6,361	118,157	117,724	235,881	2.1	3.3	2.7
October	2,387	3,444	5,831	120,320	119,792	240,113	2.0	2.9	2.4
November	1,300	1,667	2,967	87,147	75,383	162,530	1.5	2.2	1.8
December	414	535	949	57,333	51,889	109,222	0.7	1.0	0.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,112</b>	<b>52,078</b>	<b>87,190</b>	<b>1,168,929</b>	<b>1,104,908</b>	<b>2,273,837</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>3.8</b>

\* includes only students arriving in 2017

**Table 7. Foreign students following courses in local licensed ELT schools  
by sex and type of accommodation\***

Type of accommodation	2016	2017	Change	Percentage change
	<b>Males</b>			
Hotel	5,351	5,880	529	9.9
5 Star	22	18	-4	-18.2
4 Star	2,590	2,559	-31	-1.2
3 Star	2,739	3,303	564	20.6
Other collective accommodation <sup>1</sup>	7,372	6,414	-958	-13.0
Host families	8,061	9,945	1,884	23.4
Self catering accommodation	2,986	4,303	1,317	44.1
Other <sup>2</sup>	6,596	8,570	1,974	29.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,366</b>	<b>35,112</b>	<b>4,746</b>	<b>15.6</b>
	<b>Females</b>			
Hotel	7,548	8,278	730	9.7
5 Star	20	25	5	25.0
4 Star	3,346	3,262	-84	-2.5
3 Star	4,182	4,991	809	19.3
Other collective accommodation <sup>1</sup>	10,856	10,014	-842	-7.8
Host families	13,136	16,585	3,449	26.3
Self catering accommodation	4,536	6,258	1,722	38.0
Other <sup>2</sup>	10,288	10,943	655	6.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,364</b>	<b>52,078</b>	<b>5,714</b>	<b>12.3</b>
	<b>Total</b>			
Hotel	12,899	14,158	1,259	9.8
5 Star	42	43	1	2.4
4 Star	5,936	5,821	-115	-1.9
3 Star	6,921	8,294	1,373	19.8
Other collective accommodation <sup>1</sup>	18,228	16,428	-1,800	-9.9
Host families	21,197	26,530	5,333	25.2
Self catering accommodation	7,522	10,561	3,039	40.4
Other <sup>2</sup>	16,884	19,513	2,629	15.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,730</b>	<b>87,190</b>	<b>10,460</b>	<b>13.6</b>

\* includes only students arriving in 2016 and 2017

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> includes residences, hostels and guesthouses

<sup>2</sup> includes accommodation not provided by the school

Table 8. Total number of foreign student weeks by sex and month of arrival\*

Month of arrival	Number of weeks <sup>1</sup>			Average number of weeks per student <sup>2</sup>		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
	2017					
January	2,954	3,972	6,925	2.0	2.0	2.0
February	4,898	6,444	11,343	2.5	2.4	2.5
March	7,686	9,984	17,670	2.0	2.1	2.0
April	7,899	10,609	18,508	2.5	2.5	2.5
May	8,366	12,197	20,562	2.8	2.9	2.8
June	8,806	13,038	21,844	2.6	2.5	2.5
July	18,348	30,021	48,369	2.3	2.2	2.2
August	13,659	20,572	34,232	3.8	3.5	3.6
September	7,623	11,478	19,101	3.1	2.9	3.0
October	8,008	11,857	19,865	3.4	3.4	3.4
November	6,894	8,825	15,720	5.3	5.3	5.3
December	4,610	5,453	10,062	11.1	10.2	10.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>99,752</b>	<b>144,450</b>	<b>244,202</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.8</b>
2016						
January	2,307	3,080	5,386	1.9	2.0	2.0
February	4,247	5,970	10,217	2.7	2.6	2.7
March	6,122	8,821	14,942	3.1	2.9	3.0
April	7,034	9,698	16,732	2.4	2.4	2.4
May	7,385	10,741	18,126	3.3	3.1	3.2
June	8,354	12,791	21,145	2.6	2.5	2.5
July	18,437	28,527	46,964	2.5	2.4	2.4
August	14,036	20,000	34,036	3.6	3.3	3.4
September	7,364	10,892	18,255	3.4	3.0	3.2
October	7,501	10,760	18,261	3.4	3.3	3.3
November	6,204	8,323	14,527	5.6	5.7	5.7
December	4,748	5,665	10,414	10.5	10.2	10.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,738</b>	<b>135,268</b>	<b>229,005</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.0</b>

\* includes only students arriving in 2016 and 2017

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> the number of weeks are distributed according to students' stay

<sup>2</sup> based on student figures as presented in Table 4

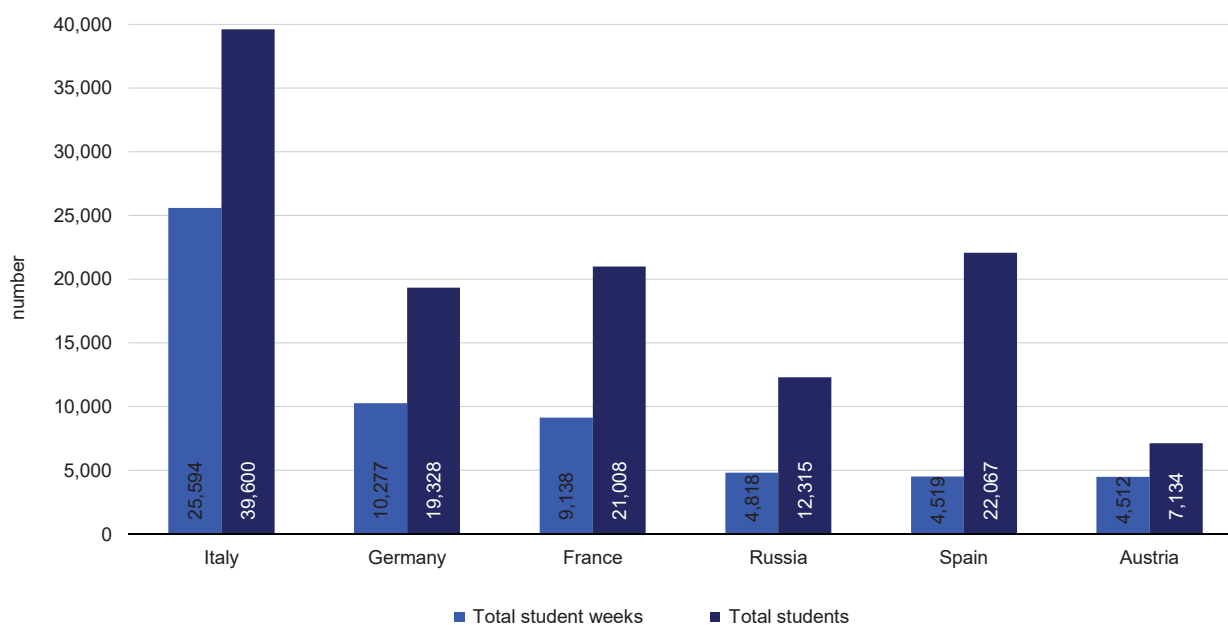
Table 9. Total number of student weeks by age group and citizenship\*: 2017

Citizenship	15 and under	16-17	18-25	26-35	36-49	50 and over	Unspecified	Total
Italy	11,719	10,245	7,902	4,726	3,070	1,914	24	39,600
Germany	4,978	3,114	4,109	2,137	2,611	2,378	1	19,328
France	6,502	4,145	6,878	1,739	1,001	742	1	21,008
Russia	4,124	1,283	2,318	2,686	1,485	412	8	12,315
Brazil	246	453	7,481	8,775	3,166	1,946	-	22,067
Poland	2,327	791	597	914	1,767	724	13	7,134
Spain	1,710	1,317	3,213	2,272	1,669	629	1	10,811
Austria	1,334	1,080	1,070	415	347	247	-	4,492
Japan	667	674	8,480	3,335	1,174	611	-	14,940
Switzerland	822	1,200	2,847	797	739	1,037	4	7,446
Turkey	983	881	9,867	3,665	1,147	287	14	16,844
Czech Republic	700	517	590	434	469	205	-	2,916
Colombia	102	913	7,120	5,601	1,795	222	-	15,752
Netherlands	266	588	1,115	161	110	89	-	2,330
South Korea	244	93	5,686	2,493	999	66	-	9,582
Ukraine	687	202	506	564	372	63	-	2,393
Belgium	278	548	1,110	94	49	81	-	2,159
Slovakia	283	314	323	278	306	136	-	1,641
Sweden	1,188	165	283	66	92	50	-	1,844
Other countries <sup>1</sup>	3,373	2,546	11,110	7,961	3,443	1,124	44	29,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,531</b>	<b>31,070</b>	<b>82,604</b>	<b>49,112</b>	<b>25,811</b>	<b>12,964</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>244,202</b>

\* includes only students arriving in 2017

Note: <sup>1</sup> includes students whose citizenship is unknown

Chart 5. Number of students and student weeks by citizenship: 2017



\* includes only students arriving in 2017

Table 10. Total number of foreign student weeks by sex and citizenship\*: 2017

Citizenship	Number of weeks			Average number of weeks per student <sup>1</sup>		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Italy	17,471	22,128	39,600	1.6	1.5	1.5
Germany	7,812	11,516	19,328	1.8	1.9	1.9
France	8,017	12,991	21,008	2.2	2.3	2.3
Russia	4,772	7,543	12,315	2.5	2.6	2.6
Brazil	8,055	14,012	22,067	5.1	4.8	4.9
Poland	2,351	4,783	7,134	1.6	1.6	1.6
Spain	4,186	6,624	10,811	3.0	3.0	3.0
Austria	1,934	2,558	4,492	1.3	1.5	1.4
Japan	3,676	11,264	14,940	4.9	5.2	5.1
Switzerland	3,179	4,268	7,446	3.2	3.1	3.1
Turkey	10,229	6,615	16,844	7.5	6.8	7.2
Czech Republic	1,014	1,902	2,916	2.0	2.0	2.0
Colombia	6,349	9,403	15,752	12.1	12.3	12.2
Netherlands	698	1,632	2,330	2.0	2.0	2.0
South Korea	2,627	6,955	9,582	8.6	9.6	9.3
Ukraine	1,048	1,345	2,393	3.2	2.9	3.1
Belgium	871	1,289	2,159	3.3	2.7	2.9
Slovakia	636	1,005	1,641	2.5	2.4	2.5
Sweden	377	1,467	1,844	3.3	2.9	2.9
Other countries <sup>2</sup>	14,449	15,151	29,600	5.8	4.1	4.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>99,752</b>	<b>144,450</b>	<b>244,202</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.8</b>

\* includes only students arriving in 2017

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> based on student figures as presented in Table 1

<sup>2</sup> includes students whose citizenship is unknown

**Table 11. Staff employed in local licensed ELT schools by sex and age group: 2017**

Age group	Males	Females	Total
	Teaching staff*		
18-24	111	349	460
25-34	94	166	260
35-44	37	76	113
45-54	38	113	151
55 and over	70	171	241
<b>Total</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>1,225</b>
	Non-teaching staff		
16-24	160	178	338
25-34	84	114	198
35-44	49	59	108
45-54	31	29	60
55 and over	30	25	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>759</b>
	Total		
16-24	271	527	798
25-34	178	280	458
35-44	86	135	221
45-54	69	142	211
55 and over	100	196	296
<b>Total</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>1,280</b>	<b>1,984</b>

\* this category does not apply for persons aged 16-17 years

**Table 12. Staff in local licensed ELT schools by sex and type of employment: 2017**

Type of employment	Teaching staff			Non-teaching staff			Total		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Full-time	41	88	129	176	251	427	217	339	556
Part-time	113	313	426	30	32	62	143	345	488
Casual part-time	196	474	670	148	122	270	344	596	940
<b>Total</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>1,225</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>1,280</b>	<b>1,984</b>

**Methodological Notes:**

1. Data used in this News Release is based on information collected by the Ministry for Education and Employment which was subsequently analysed by NSO.
2. All schools operating in 2017 responded to this questionnaire.
3. Breakdowns by country are based on the students' citizenship as provided in their passport. Thus figures for foreign citizens are not directly comparable to other tourism figures published by NSO.
4. Only students arriving during 2017 are considered in this release.
5. Persons employed within different schools carrying out the same role are counted once in this release.
6. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
7. A detailed news release calendar is available on [https://nso.gov.mt/en/News\\_Releases/Release\\_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx](https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx)