



PARLAMENT TA' MALTA

IT-TNAX-IL LEGIŻLATURA

P.L. 6265

Dokument imqiegħed fuq il-Mejda tal-Kamra tad-Deputati fis-Seduta Numru 340 tal-15 ta' Diċembru 2015 mill-Ministru għall-Edukazzjoni u x-Xogħol.

Raymond Scicluna
Skrivan tal-Kamra

SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF MALTA CAMPUS COTTONERA SITE

**Marvin Formosa PhD
Joe Gerada MA, FCIPD**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Project description**
- 1.2 Social Impact Assessment**
- 1.3 Methodology**

2 SIA PHASE 1: THE COTTONERA COMMUNITY

- 2.1 The historical context**
- 2.2 The cultural context**
 - 2.2.1 Community**
 - 2.2.2 Sense of place and safety**
- 2.3 Population and socio-economic structures**
 - 2.3.1 Population**
 - 2.3.2 Education**
 - 2.3.3 Employment**
 - 2.3.4 Risk-of-poverty**
 - 2.3.5 Housing**
 - 2.3.6 Health**

3 SIA PHASE 2: ASSESSING THE SOCIAL IMPACT

- 3.1 Population impacts**
- 3.2 Community/Institutional arrangements**
- 3.3 Possible conflicts**
- 3.4 Individual and family level impacts**
- 3.5 Community infrastructure needs**
- 3.6 Mitigation issues**

4 CONCLUSION

REFERENCES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Considerations of the social impacts of major projects would not be complete if the perceptions of the residents and stakeholders are overlooked. This Social Impact Assessment focuses on the possibility that the American University of Malta opens a campus in Cottonera. Following Burdge's (2004) informative advice on the theory of and methodology for Social Impact Assessments, the present research report included three major steps: (i) community scoping and profiling, (ii) identification of possible social impacts as the result of the setting up of the American University of Malta in Cottonera and (iii), proposals for mitigation, remediation and enhancement, as well as monitoring. Indeed, this Social Impact Assessment studied the community's views, in terms of their positive or negative feelings, towards the establishment of a campus operated by the American University of Malta. Residents and stakeholders in Cottonera were in favour to the possibility that a foreign university - the American University of Malta - establishes a campus in Cottonera. Stakeholders and residents were receptive to large-scale international investments that would introduce much needed financial capital in the area - as this would not only increase the available range of job opportunities for residents in the Cottonera and adjoining localities, but would also have a spill-over positive economic effect on business ventures and even renting prospects.

Fieldwork uncovered key concerns on behalf of residents who raised some concerns about possible negative implications if the American University of Malta opens a campus in Cottonera. Three issues stood out - namely, an increase in traffic, a decrease in parking spaces, and a surge in air pollution. The Social Impact Assessment also asked residents living in Cottonera (convenience sample) to respond 'Yes', 'No comment', or 'No' to a statement reading 'Are you in favour of the possibility of the establishment of a campus operated by the American University of Malta?' As can be seen from the statistical figures, quantitative results confirm qualitative data in that the majority of residents in all four localities in the Cottonera region expressed affirmative views on the possibility of the establishment of a campus operated by the American University of Malta. Residents and stakeholders in Cottonera were asked for their ideas on what actions should the government take to safeguard their interests and optimise outcomes if the American University of Malta opens a campus in Cottonera. Four key issues emerged - namely, traffic and parking issues, transparency concerns and demands for active citizenship procedures. As a result, this Social Impact Assessment also enquired respondents about the possible mitigation that they would wish the government to implement so as to safeguard their interests and optimise outcomes for their local communities. Mitigation possibilities included making suitable arrangements for traffic and parking spaces management, as well as continuous involvement of the Local Councils in all decision-making procedures.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project description

Government is considering various sites for the location of the proposed American University of Malta. One of the sites that is presently being considered, amongst others, is Cottonera. The proposed University will comprise five colleges and all the amenities expected in a modern-day university. These colleges will include buildings not exceeding three floors and will also take into consideration the topography of the existing sites and the surrounding environments. As to facilities, it will include what is generally expected of any contemporary day university, including lecture halls, labs, workshops, research and development areas, library, dormitory and ample sport facilities. Not only will the American University of Malta give importance to the surrounding environment in its plans but it will be sensitive to surrounding properties so that their market value will possibly grow.

The American University of Malta will be focusing on Engineering, Communications, Information Technology and Medical Science. Degrees awarded by the American University of Malta will be accepted by any country that recognises the Bologna accredited degrees. This means that the degrees issued by the American University of Malta will be recognised in each and every member state of the European Union. Courses will be offered at Bachelors, Masters and Doctorate levels. The American University of Malta has, in fact, already submitted courses for five Bachelor, one Masters and four Doctorates to the National Commission for Further & Higher Education for its accreditation process. Furthermore, it is in this University's plans to offer courses in more than 60 different subjects with additional courses being introduced later, in line with market demands.

The government perceived this project as reflecting its economic vision to strengthen the economy and internationalise the higher education sector. Having some 17 per cent of all students based in Malta following private tuition, as well as another unaccounted number of Maltese students following studies overseas, shows that there is potential in this market both for Maltese as well as to attract more foreign students to our islands. Three main concerns raised from an education point of view - namely, that due to this project education quality standards are going to be lowered to accommodate the investors; there is not going to be an element of research as is required of an university; and that the recent changes in the legislation where made to allow government to grant education licenses directly without the necessary requirements and processes - government insisted that there is in fact going to be a strong element of research at the American University of Malta and that the amendments presented though a recent legal notice does give further regulatory powers to the National Commission for Further and Higher Education to ensure standards.

The fact that studies show that the average income of families in the South Region of Malta is 11 per cent lower when compared to other regions has also been emphasised by the government. It is expected that this project builds on the government's present economic vision and will have a substantial income for Malta, particularly the South of the Island, with an estimated €115 million investment across three years bringing to Malta due to some incoming 4,000 foreign students. These students are expected to pay around €12.5 million in tuition fees and spend €1.8 million on property rental. Studies based on the United Kingdom show that foreign student influx generates further tourism income brought by family visits whilst the students are expected to spend around €15,000 each per year. The same studies show that every €1.00 spent on tertiary education repays the economy with €2.50.

The American University of Malta's Cospicua site, which is the target of this Social Impact Assessment study, shall host the 'Business & Management' and 'Arts & Education' Faculties. It is planned that the former will also host a 'Hospitality & Hotel Management' courses as well.

1.2 Social Impact Assessment

A *Social Impact Assessment* (SIA) was undertaken as part of the sustainability evaluation for the setting up of a foreign university, the American University of Malta, in Cottonera and Marsascala. This SIA report focuses exclusively on the possible social impacts that the establishment of the American University of Malta will have on Cottonera site.

As Misra (2004) points out, SIAs are premised on the idea that development interventions have social consequences, and therefore, it is necessary that governments understand the effects of their decisions before policies are implemented and have emotional impacts upon communities. While SIAs are normally undertaken within relevant national environmental policy frameworks, SIAs are not restricted to this, and SIA as a process and methodology has the potential to contribute greatly to the planning process. The function of SIAs is to render projects responsive to social development concerns, giving actors a voice in decisions affecting the future of their communities, whilst minimising and compensating for adverse social impacts. Hence, SIAs can be understood in terms of efforts to assess or estimate, in advance, the social consequences that are likely to follow specific government interventions. It is a process that provides a framework for prioritising, gathering, analysing, and incorporating social information and participation into the design and delivery of novel policy decisions. SIAs ensure that policy interventions are informed and take into account the key relevant social issues, and incorporate a participation strategy for involving a wide range of stakeholders. At this point the definition of 'social impact/s' is central to the elicited assessment data. This report defines 'social impact/s' as:

The consequences to human populations of any public or private actions that alter the ways in which people live, work, play, relate to one another, organise to meet their needs and generally cope as members of society. The term also includes cultural impacts involving changes to the norms, values and beliefs that guide and rationalise their cognition of themselves and their society. (Burdge, 2004 : 3)

In more practical terms, SIAs include the processes of analysing, monitoring and managing the intended and unintended social consequences, both positive and negative, of planned interventions, and any social change processes invoked by those interventions (International Association for Impact Assessment, 2003). According to the Interorganizational Committee on Guidelines and Principles for Social Impact Assessment (1994), SIAs are carried out through processes of assessing or estimating, in advance, the social consequences that are likely to follow from specific policy actions or project development, particularly in the context of appropriate national, state, or provincial environmental policy. Social impacts include all social and cultural consequences to human populations of any public or private actions that alter the ways in which people live, work, play, relate to one another, organize to meet their needs, and generally cope as members of society. Cultural impacts involve changes to the norms, values, and beliefs of individuals that guide and rationalize their cognition of themselves and their society. Indeed, good practice in SIA is based upon the premise that social, economic and biophysical impacts are inextricably interconnected, and that change in any of these domains will lead to changes in other domains. SIA must, therefore, develop an understanding of the

impact pathways that are created when change in one domain impacts other domains (International Association for Impact Assessment, 2003).

This SIA sought to understand the observations and discernments of stakeholders and residents in the Cottonera community vis-à-vis the following query: what will change and what social impacts will occur as a result of the establishment of a campus on behalf of the American university of Malta in Cottonera? The subsequent section provides a brief overview of the methodological design guiding the carrying out of the herein SIA.

1.3 Methodology

Following Burdge's (2004) informative advice on the theory of and methodology for Social Impact Assessments, the present research report included three major steps: (i) community scoping and profiling, (ii) the setting up of the American University of Malta in Cottonera, and (iii), proposals for mitigation, remediation and enhancement, as well as monitoring.

The *first* phase included scoping and profiling of the Cottonera community, especially the identification of the existing environment, and identification of social variables of interest. The goal was to outline the definition of the existing physical and socio-economic context, personal/social values of the stakeholders in this community, and the detection of social effects typically associated with the establishment of a tertiary educational institution. The objectives for phase one are presented in Box 1.1.

Box 1.1 Phase I Objectives: Scoping and profiling of the Cottonera community
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ What are the community's basic demographics?▪ Who are the stakeholders in the community?▪ Who are the key community/voluntary organisations in the community?▪ What is this community's key cultural identity?▪ Which key social values characterise this community?▪ What are this community's key aspirations?▪ What do local residents see as the primary needs for this community?▪ What are the education, employment, risk-of-poverty and health levels of residents in Cottonera?

This stage utilised both secondary and primary sources of data. Secondary sources consist of data that have already been produced in other research, with this report making use of the National 2011 Census (National Statistics Office, 2014) and other local studies on Cottonera (Aquilina and Cassar, 2001; Harvey, 2006; Abela, 2007; Scicluna, 2008; Vella, 2010; Cutajar, 2014). Primary sources, on the other hand, consist of data collected by researchers themselves during the course of their research. In this SIA, primary sources of data were examined through exploratory research which, as Strebbins (2001 : 3) points out, consists in "broad-ranging, purposive, systematic, prearranged undertaking designed to maximise the discovery of generalizations leading to description and understanding of an area of social or psychological life. Exploration research was conducted through the 'fieldwork' strategy, which typically involves the researcher observing and recording behaviour and events in their natural setting. The researcher physically goes to the people, setting, or site in order to meet the goal and objectives of the study by immersing him/herself in the contextual background. Although conversational

probes elicited a rich variety of data, the key method of data collection utilised throughout the fieldwork consisted of 'non-directive' interviews. Non-directive interviews were conducted with residential and business community groups, and stakeholders. In non-directive interviews, the interviewer refrains from offering opinions, avoids expressions of approval and disapproval, and often, will spend some time trying to establish rapport with the interviewee prior to the interview. This is usually done by simply talking informally before the interview proper starts. Once the interviewee feels that they are not going to be criticised or judged, that they can talk freely, it generally follows that they will talk with honesty and openness. In locating informants for interviews this SIA opted for convenience sampling where researchers simply use as participants those individuals who are easy to get: people are selected on the basis of their availability and willingness to respond. The analysis of data followed the 'coding' strategy which is carried out through three subsequent stages (Strauss and Corbin, 1997): (i) open coding which is concerned with identifying, naming, categorising and describing diverse phenomena found in the data, (ii) axial coding which is the process of relating codes to each other, via a combination of inductive and deductive thinking, and (iii), selective coding which is the process of choosing one category to be the core category, and relating all other categories to that category.

The *second* stage consisted of further fieldwork to elicit data on perceived social impacts, on behalf of residents and stakeholders in Cottonera, as the result of the establishment of a foreign university. Similar to the precedent phase, the key methods of data collection and analysis consisted of conversational probes and non-directive interviews, and coding procedures respectively. The objectives for phase two are presented in Box 1.2.

Box 1.2: Phase 2 Objectives: Social Impact Assessment - Cottonera site
<p>Wide-ranging impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What are the community's views on the establishment of a campus on behalf of the American University of Malta in Cottonera? ▪ What are the key issues driving the community's perceptions on this possible development? ▪ What is the community mostly concerned about? ▪ What are the key risks associated with the establishment of a campus on behalf of the American University of Malta in Cottonera? ▪ What the key drawbacks, as perceived by the community, on the possibility of the establishment of a campus on behalf of the American University of Malta in Cottonera? ▪ Do residents anticipate any change in the following social attributes as the result of the establishment of a foreign university in Cottonera? <p>Mitigation issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is there anything the government could do to lessen people's concerns? ▪ If this project was to proceed, what conditions would the community wish to see implemented to make it acceptable? ▪ What monitoring can be done so that the establishment of a foreign university in Cottonera does not impact upon the daily lives of residents? ▪ What would give the community confidence that this project is being managed well, both in the near and long-term future?

The 26 SIA variables in Box 1.3 represent the type of effects arising from planned change in communities (Burdge, 1998). Each variable has the potential to inform the decision-maker of the consequences of the proposed action which can be measured in advance of the project.

Box 1.3: Social Impact Assessment Themes - Cottonera site
Population impacts <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Population change2. Influx or outflow of temporary workers3. Presence of seasonal (leisure) residents4. Relocation of individuals and families5. Dissimilarity in age, gender, racial, or ethnic composition.
Community/Institutional arrangements <ol style="list-style-type: none">6. Formation of attitudes toward the project7. Interest group activity8. Alteration in size and structure of local government9. Presence of planning and zoning activity10. Industrial diversification11. Enhanced economic inequities12. Change in employment equity of minority groups13. Change in occupational opportunities
Conflicts between local residents and newcomers <ol style="list-style-type: none">14. Presence of an outside agency15. Introduction of new social classes16. Change in the commercial/industrial focus of the community17. Presence of weekend residents (recreational)
Individual and family level impacts <ol style="list-style-type: none">18. Disruption in daily living19. Dissimilarity in religious practices20. Alteration in family structure21. Disruption in social networks22. Perceptions of public health and safety23. Change in leisure opportunities
Community infrastructure needs <ol style="list-style-type: none">24. Change in community infrastructure25. Land acquisition and disposal26. Effects on known historical, historical, sacred and archaeological resources

During this phase of data collection, interviews were conducted with stakeholders in Cottonera - hence, with people who will be affected by socio-economic development in the area. Fieldwork uncovered two key 'non-elite' stakeholders - namely,

Residents. The people who live in Cottonera region, and who may be further sub-grouped in the following sectors: children, youths, adults, older persons, disabled, men and women, and those residing at the city core versus those living in the outskirts of the three cities including Kalkara.

Business operators. The Cottonera region includes various business companies that range from groceries, village bars/pubs, stationeries, beauty salons, pet shops, hairdresser saloons, butchers to haberdasheries.

Non-governmental organisations. Such organisations are key players in any community. The Cottonera region is no exception and whilst most residents are members in one or more, the voices and opinions of local non-governmental organisations are given special attention by the local governance.

A strategic part of the second stage of fieldwork consisted in interviewing 'key informants' having knowledge of the Cottonera community. Elite interviews can be helpful in the following ways: (i) identifying community concerns; (ii) aiding the discovery of population and organisations that should be involved in SIAs; (iii) building support for project implementation; (v) evaluation of mitigation effects; and (iv), establishing priorities among programme alternatives. The employment of semi-structured interview guide sought to measure change in human populations, communities, and social relationships resulting from the construction of the establishment of a foreign university in Cottonera. Elite interviews were conducted with:

- Mayor, Cospicua Local Council;
- Mayor, Senglea Local Council;
- Mayor, Vittoriosa Local Council;
- Service Area Leader / Senior Social Worker, Cottonera Community Service - LEAP Centre.
- Spokesperson, Front Harsien ODZ

The *third* and final phase of social impact assessment involved recommendations for mitigation, remediation and enhancement, as well as monitoring. This phase focused on developing alleviating and management options for the social impacts elicited in phase two. Preliminary ideas about monitoring the perceived social impacts were also deliberated.

2 SIA PHASE 1: THE COTTONERA COMMUNITY

The Cottonera is a collective description of the three fortified cities of Cospicua, Vittoriosa, and Senglea, which are enclosed by the massive line of fortification created by the Knights of St. John.

2.1 The historical context

Malta's Grand Harbour is undoubtedly one of the finest deep sea harbours in the Mediterranean. Its central position has throughout the ages rendered it an indispensable landfall on the sea routes between Europe and North Africa; at one stage, it was an essential coaling station between Gibraltar and the Far East, particularly after the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 (Bugeja, 2014, as cited in Cutajar, 2014). The three cities of Cottonera and Kalkara form the hub of the maritime history of Malta and the Grand Harbour shaped the socio-economic and cultural make-up of the residents of this region since recorded history. The Cottonera area is a densely populated, residential and industrial expanse harbouring dockyards and other maritime-related activities, in fact it was a British naval and military base until 1979 (Cutajar, 2014). The three cities developed and assumed importance when the Knights of the Order of Saint John came to Malta in 1530 and established a base at Fort Sant' Angelo Vittoriosa and eventually making Vittoriosa the seat of Government at the time. On the other hand Cospicua was used as a summer residence of the Knights and their bailiffs. They built docks in the harbour of Cospicua and eventually, one of them became a lead docking centre for ship repair in the Mediterranean, especially during the British era in Malta (ibid.).

In 1553 the French Grand Master Fra Claude de La Sengle transformed the promontory across the water from Vittoriosa into a fortified city which bears his name 'Senglea'. The local typology couples with the natural beauty of a peninsula jutting out in the middle of the Grand Harbour made the "Isola" a favourite place for the recreation of the Knights. Following the Great Siege of 1565, the Knights renamed Bormla as 'Cospicua', Vittoriosa became Citta Vittoriosa and Senglea carried the title of Citta Invicta, all in acknowledgement for the brave contribution of their residents in the siege. The socio-economic situation of the Three Cities improved during the stay of the Knights of Saint John in Malta, although the importance of the area waned once they left for Valletta. However, the arrival of the British helped boost the economy of the three cities once again. The sheltered creeks on the eastern side of the Grand Harbour provided the naval fleet with a safe haven in winter while the bastions facilitated its defence. In the first half of the 19th century, the British Government, erected a state-of-the-art hospital at Bighi Kalkara, then within the parochial confines of Vittoriosa. This hospital would later play an important part in labelling Malta as the "nurse of the Mediterranean" especially during the Crimean war. A modern bakery to cater for the whole of the Mediterranean fleet was built in the place where the Vittoriosa arsenale once stood while in 1992 it was restored to house the Malta Maritime Museum.

During the British period, ship-repair facilities were moved from Vittoriosa to Cospicua. The first dry dock built by the British was Dock No. 1. Grima, stated that it was the first dry dock to be constructed in the Mediterranean by the British. Fort St Angelo housed part of the British navy offices while Villa Portelli in Kalkara became the home for the British Admiral of the fleet in the Mediterranean. Cottonera was also dotted with married quarters for the families of the British forces, private properties were rented out to the British, shops selling up market products opened while hundreds of jobs were created by the British naval forces that were

mostly taken up by people from the area. Nevertheless, the dockyards in the area were the main source of employment for the Maltese until the early 1960s. The population which flocked to the Three Cities to work in the Naval Dockyards, the Royal or Merchant Navy, were both skilled and unskilled (Cutajar, 2014). Fenech in 2008 stated that by 1921, a quarter of the population of Malta was living in the Grand Harbour area which was increased by the number of foreign workers who came over in search of work. The economic slump which followed the short-lived economic boom generated by World War 1, eventually led to the first trade union being formed by the yard workers. Subsequent political developments led to the Cottonera area becoming a prime mover for political and social change in Malta. During World War 2, the Three Cities suffered intensive bombing whenever enemy planes attacked the Grand Harbour, due to their proximity to the dockyards. The war and devastation that followed led to massive outmigration from the area. After the war, the professional and educated portion of the populace was replaced by a poorer and socially more depressed working- class population than it had before its elite moved out (Cutajar, 2014).

By the early nineties the state of neglect of the Marina Grande, presented a veritable wasteland (Bugeja, 2014). However in 1992, the National Maritime Museum on the site of the British Naval Bakery, was opened. This was a bold attempt towards the regeneration of Vittoriosa and its environs as the conversion of the former Naval bakery into a Maritime Museum is a good harbinger of the potential renaissance of Vittoriosa (ibid.). This development was the first in a series of re-generation projects some of which have already come to fruition while others are at various stages of development. The revitalization of the Vittoriosa Marina Grande, with its thriving yacht marina along the sheltered creek, as well as the ship and yacht repair facilities, is ushering in a new era for this historic harbour and the Three Cities (ibid.). The new promenade at Cospicua transformed the environment from a noisy, polluting and dirty ship repairing yard to a modern water front accompanied by excellent landscaping and a serene atmosphere. Smart City at Kalkara also placed the region on the business map of the island which replaced the old industrial estate which had fell in disuse many years before.

2.2 The cultural context

2.2.1 Community

The study of a culture in any particular context is a very important aspect for historians to explore as the understanding of the way of life of a particular society helps to ensure that any developments of the place are in line with the culture of the residents. The culture in Cottonera is intrinsically intertwined with its Maritime history. Related activities brought an influx of foreign people to the Maltese shores who came as workers but also as visitors. Indeed, Mifsud Bonnici (as cited in Cutajar, 2014) mentioned Italian and Dalmatian exiles that came to Malta, a number of whom settled in the Three Cities. Mifsud Bonnici (ibid.) noted that the people of the Three Cities intermarried with these foreigners and the presence of the latter led to a number of cultural developments. With the advent of the British forces in Malta and their particular influence in Cottonera, the number of Maltese children with British surnames living in the area increased substantially. English was a language that even the uneducated in the area were able to use well to communicate with. Diversity of nationality for the Cottonera people was second nature who not only embraced it but found ways of capitalizing on and making it work for them. Mifsud Bonnici also mentioned the formation of clubs and cites the *camera di lettura*, band clubs, dramatic societies and football clubs as a result of the integration of foreigners in the local communities. In fact, the Saint George's Band Club of Cospicua was the first of its kind in Malta (Mifsud Bonnici, as cited in Cutajar, 2014) while Kalkara boasted with some of

the best cricket players in Malta. Some food recipes especially those associated with special events like Christmas and Easter used by the locals, still bear the influence of the British era.

The dockyard with its role as the source of livelihood for so many generations, as well as, the memories of the tragedies associate with this health hazard work environment is still strong in the collective psyche of the local community. Even after nearly a decade has pasted since the dock yard ceased to operate, anything that is associated with this industry and the location generates emotions. For many, the place was not only a centre of excellence for local trades but also a 'centre of learning'. It gave the opportunity to many apprentices most of whom, academically prepared by colleges such as the Della Salle College. For decades the dockyard apprenticeship school was the main producer of skilled tradesmen in Malta and in this regards many young people from Cottonera took this route for their education and employment prospects. In the Second World War the inhabitants had to leave their home-town hurriedly to seek refuge in less exposed towns and villages, and by the time many of them returned, following years of reconstruction of ruined houses, tradition had been interrupted and several customs and practices were either forgotten or lost their significance in comparison with the pre-war period. By and large, the generation that came to live in post- War Cottonera was not made up of real bearers of tradition, and among them were outsiders who had no ties whatever with the locality. However, some traditions withstood the test of time and the three cities stage an impressive spectacle for the Good Friday procession, which has remained unchanged for centuries, reflecting its rich historical and cultural heritage. The statutes at Vittoriosa are still clothed in real vestments remarkable for its precious silk and velvet embroidered in exquisite brocade, a tradition brought over from Spain by Vittoriosa merchants and seafarers in the early eighteenth century.

The highlight of the Easter tradition at Cottonera is undoubtedly the procession on Easter Sunday with the statue of the Risen Christ. The three cities, have a strong and deeply rooted Easter tradition, the practice of carrying the statue at a run at certain specified spots of the traditional route, has spread to various other localities in recent years. Kalkara has followed suit in recent years. In addition, the number of religious convents attest to the importance given to the area by the church some of which go back centuries. Of particular interest is the role that the Capuchin Convent at Kalkara played in the planning of the insurgence of the Maltese against the French at the height of Napoleon's might in the Mediterranean. Other cultural aspects that epitomise the Cottonera are the feast of the Bambina on the 8th of September which celebrates the victories of the island over the Ottomans in 1565 and the Axis forces of World War II, as well as, the venerated statute of ir-Redentur which attracts thousands of faithful for the yearly pilgrimage. Not least are the feasts of Il-Kuncizzjoni of Cospicua which bears heavy association with the second World War while the San Lawrenz feast in Vittoriosa goes back to the times when the church of St Lawrence was the conventual church of the Order of St John. The regatta sport spectacle is closely associated with the two Great Sieges of Malta and over the years have assumed considerable rivalry between the Cottonera communities which has now spread to other communities including Valletta. The re-enactment events at Vittoriosa and Kalkara brought to life and for the education of present and future generations, some significant moments in the long checkered history of the region. In addition, the greater consciousness of the local communities of the rich cultural and historical heritage of their region, coupled with the various conservation, restoration and landscaping projects in the area, brought a new renaissance for Cottonera, albeit not necessarily a balanced one. In fact, a cause of conflict between the localities in Cottonera is the fact that more money is being invested in one locality than in the others. The Cospicua Bastions, Fort Ricasoli at Rinella and the warehouses of the Order of St John at Dock Number 1 are some examples of historical artefacts cited by the locals

as in dire need for restoration. All historical artefacts are valuable and help in promoting the economic and social wellbeing of both the locality in question and Malta in general. By choosing to regenerate one area over another, policy makers are conveying a silent message that one community is more worth of attention than the others and this message is internalised by the residents of the said areas (Cutajar, 2014).

In 2011, the chairman of the Malta Housing Authority underlined that regeneration projects have a positive impact on the health, educational, employments and environmental development within a locality. In the same year, the department of information stressed in a press release that the regeneration of Dock No.1 does not rest solely on embellishing the environment of the area, but on increasing its economic activity- something which is much needed (Cutajar, 2014).

2.2.2 Sense of place

In recent survey (Cutajar, 2014), Cospicua residents were asked why they had taken up residence in Cospicua. The majority (48 per cent) said they were born and bred there and few envisaged moving out of the city. Others moved there either because their spouse was from Cospicua (13 per cent) or to be close to relatives or friends (13 per cent). Those not motivated by blood ties went to live in Cospicua because the property was comparatively cheaper to rent or buy (7 per cent), or because employment opportunities were plentiful (1 per cent), mainly in the heyday of the dockyards. Two respondents said they had chosen to move to Cospicua because of its historical heritage. Others were sent to the city by social housing personnel (9 per cent). A few chose to live in Cospicua as they inherited property (4 per cent). Around 6 per cent had 'other' reasons, namely they belonged to a religious order and the convent was situated in Cospicua or they were older persons, living in the Cospicua home for the elderly as it had vacancies when they were looking for a home. When asked about plans for the future, the overwhelming majority of respondents (78 per cent) said they would remain living in Cospicua. A few (5 per cent) said they would find alternative accommodation in the city. Many (16 per cent) wanted to move out of Cospicua for good.

The same survey (ibid.) found presented to respondents a number of statements to elicit how respondents perceived Cospicua as a locality and what they thought other perceived it to be. The overwhelming majority of respondents (95 per cent) agreed with the statement that the people of Cospicua were very helpful. Less (69 per cent) agreed with the statement that they were proud to say they were from Cospicua. Respondents were also less likely to agree (65 per cent) with the statement that Cospicua was a nice place to live in. These results show that for the respondents, it was the people living in Cospicua which made the city a nice place. These answers underline that the majority of residents were proud of being from Cospicua (*Bormliżi*). Many mentioned Cospicua's 'golden age' - the pre-war years - when Cospicua was considered the hub of cultural activities of the time. Many made reference to a number of politicians who originated from Cospicua, to underline how important the city had been in the past. References were additionally made to past and present prowess in games and sport - in Sudoku and the annual Regatta, among others. However, many respondents also felt that Cospicua had a negative, national reputation and this could be linked to how the media represented the city and its inhabitants, pointing out that the media did not portray the locality in a positive way. Respondents were also asked whether the quality of life in Cospicua had changed in the five years prior to the survey, with 30 per cent of participants claiming that the locality had remained the same, whereas 33 per cent felt it had worsened. Elderly respondents and people who had

lived in Cospicua all their lives were more likely to feel it had worsened, especially when comparing pre- and post-war Cospicua.

2.2.3 Safety

A needs assessment survey (Cutajar, 2010) carried out in Cospicua during 2009-2010 uncovered that the perceived key types of criminal and antisocial behaviours included drug-related crime, children who ran round unsupervised by parents or guardians, and theft from vehicles. The majority of respondents (53 per cent) believed that the Local Council and police authorities should take action when crime against property took place. However, only 38 per cent of respondents felt that the police or Local Council should intervene when person-related crime was involved, despite the respondents feeling strongly about the relative neglect of some children. Two-thirds of respondents who had contacted the police claimed that they were either satisfied or slightly satisfied with the response, with the remaining third stating the contrary. The reasons given by those who were unsatisfied were amalgamated under a number of categories, but mostly feeling that the police had not done enough to settle the issue or that the police did not show any interest in the case when the report was made.

Despite the relative lack of trust of the community in the police and the weak ability of the Local Council to deal with antisocial behaviours and crime, on average, 66 per cent of the respondents felt safe living in Cospicua. Most respondents felt safe in their own homes by day, although this sense of security dropped at night. They also felt safe in the areas where they lived, although this feeling of safety differed by zone, marital status, gender and age. Respondents felt safer during the day and in inhabited areas, but less safe in uninhabited areas like those between the bastions. Female respondents were more likely to state they felt safe in their neighbourhoods and homes by day than their male counterparts. They were, however, more likely to say they did not feel safe at night. In relation to age, respondents aged 37 to 60 years were more likely to say they felt less safe in their neighbourhood and at home. Such a high level of insecurity among this age group forced some of the older residents of Cospicua to seek shelter with relatives or at a home for the elderly once they reached pensionable age. Respondents living on their own were also more likely to feel unsafe, although they mentioned the precautions they took to protect themselves that ranged from spending the night with relatives to asking a relative to sleep with them.

2.3 **Population and socio-economic structures**

2.3.1 Population

While in other parts of Malta experienced positive population growth, the Cottonera region experienced negative growth (Cutajar, 2014). Nevertheless, the Cottonera region remains characterised by high residential density and suffer from lack of open spaces. As shown in Table 1, 79,438 persons lived in the Southern Harbour region in 2011, in which one finds the three cities of Cottonera and Kalkara. Amongst the latter, Cospicua had the highest number of residents (5,279) in 2011, followed by Kalkara (2,946), Senglea (2,740), and Vittoriosa (2,489). It is noteworthy that although the number of women surpassed men on both district and national levels, as well as in Cospicua, the opposite was true for Senglea, Kalkara, and Vittoriosa.

Table 1. Population in Malta, Southern Harbour and Cottonera (2011)

Location	2011		
	Males	Females	Total
Total population	207,625	209,807	417,432

Southern Harbour	39,575	39,863	79,438
Cospicua	2,601	2,648	5,249
Senglea	1,382	1,358	2,740
Kalkara	1,499	1,447	2,946
Vittoriosa	1,269	1,220	2,489

Source: National Statistics Office, (2014).

Table 2 provides information on the total population in Cospicua, Kalkara, Senglea and Vittoriosa by age (frequency and percentage) as issued in the last Census (2011). Whilst in Cospicua, Kalkara, and Senglea, most of the residents are in the 50-59 age bracket (14.1, 16.1 and 16.6 per cent respectively), in Vittoriosa it is the 60-69 age bracket that is the most populous (17 per cent). This means that all four cities have a relatively ageing population, Vittoriosa in particular. In fact, table 3 notes that the average age of the population living in the Maltese Islands is 40.5 years, with all three cities registering higher average ages: Cospicua 41.5 years, Senglea 43.6 years, Vittoriosa 45.1 years, and Kalkara 39.8 years. As to be expected, Vittoriosa registers the highest ageing index, 183.5, since 22 per cent of its resident population is aged 65 years and older.

Table 2. Total population by age category and locality in Cottonera (2011)

Age	Cospicua		Kalkara		Senglea		Vittoriosa	
	total	%	total	%	total	%	total	%
0-9	540	10.3	257	8.7	217	7.9	190	7.6
10-19	636	12.1	383	13.0	302	11.0	229	9.2
20-29	695	13.2	437	14.8	353	12.9	300	12.1
30-39	661	12.6	368	12.5	302	11.0	286	11.5
40-49	558	10.6	405	13.7	311	11.4	278	11.2
50-59	739	14.1	473	16.1	455	16.6	408	16.4
60-69	701	13.4	357	12.1	416	15.2	422	17.0
70-79	451	8.6	185	6.3	248	9.1	266	10.7
80-89	233	4.4	75	2.5	120	4.4	102	4.1
90-99	35	0.7	6	0.2	16	0.6	8	0.3
Total	5,249	100	2,946	100	2,740	100	2,489	100

Source: National Statistics Office, (2014).

Table 3: Average age [AA] and Ageing Index [AI] by locality and 65+ age group (2011)

Region	AA	65+ (%)	AI	Locality	AA	65+ (%)	AI
Maltese Islands	40.5	16.3	110.3	Malta	40.4	16.1	109.1
Gozo/Comino	41.6	18.3	125.9				
Southern Harbour	41.8	18.8	132.0				
Cospicua	41.5	19.7	123.4	Senglea	43.6	20.5	161.3
Vittoriosa	45.1	22.0	183.5	Kalkara	39.8	14.6	103.4

Source: National Statistics Office, (2014).

2.3.2 Education

The data from the census of 2005 revealed that the highest proportion of people with no educational qualifications were living in the Southern Harbour District (Cutajar, 2014). While

Cottonera represents 4 per cent of the Maltese population, only 1.5 per cent of university graduates hailed from this area in 2006. Statistics cited by Debono in 2007, showed that one of the localities that was least represented by the vocationally-oriented Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) was Senglea. Additionally, when it came to student representation at the Junior College, the three cities were very low represented- Senglea 0.9 per cent of student population, Cospicua 1 per cent, Vittoriosa 1.6 per cent. On the other hand, the percentages of these localities in Higher Secondary were 0.2 per cent in Senglea, 0.2 per cent in Cospicua, and 0.6 per cent in Kalkara. Senglea was the locality with the lowest percentage of students attending any post-secondary institutions in 2007 (Debono, as cited in Cutajar, 2014). Debono highlighted that students from Cottonera were more likely to attend MCAST than the Junior College. In 2007, only 18 students at Junior College were from Cottonera, whereas 79 students from this area attended MCAST. Cospicua was the least represented locality at the Junior College 1 per cent of young people aged between 15 to 24 years, although their presence was more numerous at MCAST (4.8 per cent of the student population). In 2008 Cospicua emerged as the locality with the lowest percentage of 15 to 24-year old attending university and MCAST, as only 4 per cent frequented those institutions that year. Things did not improve in 2009 as only 59 students entered university from the Grand Harbour area - 2.3 per cent of the total number of new entrants (Cutajar, 2014).

Data published by Debono (as cited in Cutajar, 2014) in 2010 about the same year revealed the same bleak picture. Only 0.4 per cent of university students hailed from the Three Cities, when residents there accounted for 2.8 per cent of the Maltese population. This situation is in stark contrast with the fact that a lot of educational establishments which exist today have emerged from Cottonera including Cospicua. This happened due to the population being larger in the past and the area bigger. The schools in this area are private, church and state schools. Some of the reputedly best schools on the Maltese Islands originated from this locality, but have been recently relocated elsewhere. The community is proud that certain, renowned church and private schools first opened their doors in Cospicua. Amongst these schools one can find De La Salle College, Saint Edward's College, Saint Joseph School, Saint Francis Primary School, MacKay School, Saint Angela Kindergarten and Saint Margaret College (Cutajar, 2014).

With regards to University statistics in terms of students who graduated from the Cottonera area between 2003-2011 one can find that 107 graduates were from Kalkara, 85 graduates from Cospicua, 54 from Vittoriosa, and 50 from Senglea (Cutajar, 2014). Debono 2011 wrote that in 2010-11, only 59 students from the inner harbour area entered university, making up 2.35 per cent of the total intake for that academic year. In 2010 only 0.4 per cent of the graduates came from the Three Cities, amounting to 2.8 per cent of all graduates for that year (Debono, as cited in Cutajar, 2014). This confirms that Cottonera students are under-represented in post-secondary educational institutions, even when these provide vocational education. When the number of students who graduated from the different institutes that comprise MCAST is analysed, it is evident that no one from the Cottonera area graduated between 2006 and 2010 from the Institute of Applied Science or the Maritime Institute (Cutajar, 2014). From 2008 onwards, the number of MCAST graduates surpassed that of university graduates. Table 4 includes information on the number of University and MCAST graduates from Cottonera for the years 2006-2011.

Table 4. University (Univ) and MCAST (MST) graduates from Cottonera (2006-2011)

Locality	2006-7		2007-8		2008-9		2009-10		2010-11	
	Univ	MST	Univ	MST	Univ	MST	Univ	MST	Univ	MST
Cospicua	6	20	9	15	12	21	12	15	9	22

Senglea	7	6	9	9	8	13	1	10	4	18
Vittoriosa	5	13	5	12	6	11	1	9	6	9
Kalkara	16	14	18	14	13	24	14	18	6	29

Source: Cutajar, (2014)

2.3.3 Employment

The human capital is embodied in the skills and knowledge acquired by an individual who through changes in the relations among persons facilitate action. Like other forms of capital, social capital is productive, making possible the achievement of certain ends that in its absence would not be possible. In this regard it is important to look closer at the social class of the residents which among other structural characteristics, influence social capital and possibility of upward social mobility. People residing in the Southern Harbour district in 2011 were more likely to find employment in occupational sectors such as the armed forces, elementary occupations, craft and related trades, plant and machine operators and assemblers (table 5). The percentage of people working in these occupation categories was higher among Southern Harbour district residents in comparison to the rest of Malta. Such data show that the Southern Harbour contains a higher proportion of manual workers than the rest of Malta.

Table 5: Employed persons aged 15-plus by district and main occupation.

Occupation	Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo & Comino	Total
Armed Forces occupations	387	404	308	164	211	139	1,613
Managers	1,791	6,706	1,919	2,952	3,820	812	18,000
Professionals	3,338	8,511	3,638	4,755	4,732	1,975	26,949
Technicians and associate professionals	3,610	6,715	3,796	3,469	3,844	1,239	22,673
Clerical support workers	3,461	5,975	3,021	2,723	3,152	1,163	19,495
Service and sales workers	6,101	9,792	5,029	4,505	5,669	2,764	33,860
Skills agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	176	202	400	519	538	404	2,239
Craft and related trades workers	3,850	4,829	3,441	2,633	2,952	1,427	19,132
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	2,872	2,574	2,557	1,435	1,338	606	11,382
Elementary occupations	3,975	4,402	2,700	2,030	2,065	1,340	16,512

Source: National Statistics Office, (2014).

The 2011 Census also shows that employees residing in the Southern Harbour district were over-represented in the manufacturing sector and many were in jobs that required a secondary level of education or low (table 6) (National Statistics Office, 2014).

Table 6: Employed persons aged 15-plus by district and economic activity (2011)

Economic Activity	Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo & Comino	Total
Total	29,561	50,110	26,809	25,185	28,321	11,869	171,855
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	141	197	374	463	508	352	2,035
Mining and quarrying	106	154	137	102	149	56	704
Manufacturing	5,142	5,452	4,709	3,035	2,617	1,111	22,066
Electricity, gas, stream and air conditioning supply	306	303	413	312	215	70	1,619
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	415	373	441	258	208	198	1,893
Construction	1,744	2,676	1,917	1,563	2,060	1,030	10,990
Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	4,630	9,255	3,502	3,992	4,660	1,551	27,590
Transportation and storage	1,976	2,903	1,845	1,368	1,461	535	10,088
Accommodation and food service activities	2,071	4,483	1,640	1,691	3,497	984	14,366
Information and communication	955	1,958	799	911	1,039	212	5,874
Financial and insurance activities	1,031	2,583	1,142	1,291	1,395	306	7,748
Real estate activities	84	411	89	120	220	96	1,020
Professional, scientific and technical activities	959	2,818	818	1,328	1,398	269	7,590
Administrative and support service activities	1,452	2,267	1,058	905	1,169	382	7,233
Public administration and defence, compulsory social security	2,873	3,588	2,438	1,891	1,904	1,439	14,133
Education	2,148	4,316	2,232	2,517	2,465	1,629	15,307
Human health and social work activities	2,307	3,399	2,231	2,323	1,890	1,184	13,334
Arts, entertainment and recreation	558	1,565	452	486	670	192	3,923
Other service activities	588	1,188	528	550	716	261	3,831
Activities of household as employers	23	64	13	22	18	8	148
Activities of extraterritorial organization and bodies	52	157	31	57	62	4	363

Source: National Statistics Office, (2014).

The Southern Harbour region also includes the highest unemployment rates (table 7) (National Statistics Office, 2014). According to Cutajar (2014), young adults in Cospicua are more likely to face unemployment than their peers in Senglea and Vittoriosa, as well as the rest of Malta. Her survey found that the majority of the residents of Cospicua who registered as unemployed were 34 years old or younger, whilst on a national basis, the age category with the highest

percentage of people who registered as unemployed was that of those aged between 45 and 54 years old (ibid.).

Table 7. Unemployed persons aged 15-plus by district and last main occupation (2011).

Occupation	Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo & Comino	Total
Total	2,063	2,404	1,551	848	1,076	602	8,544
Armed Forces	6	6	5	6	8	2	33
Managers	42	155	31	38	55	13	334
Professionals	53	152	52	44	68	39	408
Technicians & professionals	127	201	82	59	96	45	610
Clerical support workers	119	227	115	91	99	40	691
Service and sales workers	405	622	245	196	309	139	1916
Skilled agriculture	11	17	16	11	8	19	82
Craft and related trades workers	410	351	309	152	168	114	1504
Plant and machine operators	314	203	241	99	85	72	1014
Elementary occupations	576	470	455	152	180	119	1952

Source: National Statistics Office, (2014).

2.3.4 Risk of Poverty

The Cottonera region is over represented as welfare recipients and while that has not always been the case, it seems that the cycle of poverty experienced by the poorer people who moved to the area after World War 2 is still present. Cutajar argues that a substantial number of people in the Cottonera area are more likely to face unemployment or employed in unskilled occupations. In 2009, the residents of Cospicua (15.6 per cent) and Senglea (14.7 per cent) were among the localities with the highest number of social benefit recipients. In 2009 the rate of persons at risk of poverty in the Southern Harbour district according to the *Income and Living Conditions Survey* stood at 18.3 per cent, whereas the national average was 15.1 per cent (National Statistics Office, 2011). In addition the largest number of single parents were found in the Inner Harbour mainly Cottonera, though not exclusively.

2.3.5 Housing

The demand for social housing is among the highest in the area. Between 2004 and 2008 Cospicua ranked second after Valletta for applications for social housing. Statistics provided by the Housing Authority show that in 2007, 16 per cent of all rented units falling under the Lands department were in the Cottonera area, as were 15 per cent of flats/blocks owned by the Housing Authority (Cutajar, 2014). A view held by most people is that social housing in Cospicua is used to house people with social problems coming from other localities and the perception is that this transient population detracts from the unity of the community. Letki noted that the low socio-economic status of a person or persons often leads to negative attitudes and lack of trust of out-group members (Letki, as cited in Cutajar, 2004).

2.3.6 Health

Material deprivation is highly correlated with disability and long-term health conditions. Statistics derived from the 2011 Census demonstrates that the Southern Harbour district registered 23.5 per cent of its population with long-term illness and or health condition, which is higher than the national average of 19.9 per cent (table 8).

Table 8. Total population by long-term illness / health condition and district

District	With illness/ health condition		Without illness / health condition		Total	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Malta	83,102	19.9	334,330	80.1	417,432	100
Southern Harbour	18,670	23.5	60,768	76.5	79,438	100
Northern Harbour	25,156	20.8	95,293	79.2	120,449	100
South eastern	11,920	18.5	52,356	81.5	64,276	100
Western	11,333	24.2	46,796	75.8	58,129	100
Northern	10,850	17.0	52,915	83.0	63,765	100
Gozo and Comino	5,173	16.5	26,202	83.5	31,375	100

Source: National Statistics Office, (2014).

Table 9. Type of disability / difficulty among total population by district

Type of Disability / difficulty	Southern Harbour	Northern Harbour	South Eastern	Western	Northern	Gozo & Comino	Total
Mental health condition	1,563	1,959	951	1,027	898	647	7,045
Deafness or partial hearing loss	1,109	1,817	776	737	760	474	5,673
Blindness or partial sight loss	1,519	2,301	1,039	853	950	447	7,109
Intellectual disability	334	378	248	297	181	107	1,545
Specific learning difficulty	628	1,003	484	639	534	213	3,501
Development disorder	212	271	131	224	144	58	1,040
Physical disability	1,897	2,914	1,203	1,487	1,428	723	9,652
Other disability	19	45	14	19	26	12	135

Source: National Statistics Office, (2014).

The Census also reported that an extensive number of residents in the Southern Harbour region suffer from disability. Most experience physical disability, followed by some mental health condition, blindness or partial sight loss, deafness or partial hearing loss, specific learning difficulty, intellectual disability, and development disorder respectively (table 9) (National Statistics Office, 2014).

3 SIA PHASE 2: ASSESSING THE SOCIAL IMPACT

3.1 Population impacts

Variable 1: Population change

SIA studies the movement of people into or out of a specified geopolitical area, over a period of time, as a result of the project. This is because the magnitude and rate of population change has important implications for community infrastructure requirements and may be a major determinant of other financial and social impacts in the region. As far as the size of population change, the density of population in Cottonera, and the rate of influx or outflow of residents, this SIA study finds that there will be relatively limited change, and therefore no social impact, as the result of the establishment of a campus operated by the American University of Malta. The inflow of some 4,000 foreign students - across two campuses - plus minimal foreign tutors can be easily absorbed in university dormitories and rented private residences in Cottonera and adjoining localities. Impact on the medical infrastructure at the Cospicua Health Polyclinic will also be limited since foreign students tend to have private health insurances.

Variable 2: Influx or outflow of temporary workers

SIA projects research the temporary movement into or out of workers in a specific geographical area, over a specific period of time, as a result of the planned project. This is because some of the social impacts of a project can be traced to the number and composition of the construction and associated workers who are introduced in the area. Some of the impacts of the workers are temporary (such as housing and health needs), whilst others will be more permanent (such as unused infrastructure capacity). Considering that Malta is a micro-state, and hence, workers will not opt for residence in the Cottonera area, there will be relatively no impact as regards temporary movement into or out of workers in this locality.

Variable 3: Presence of seasonal (leisure) residents

SIA projects research whether there will be either a permanent/seasonal increase/decrease in the population of the impact area resulting from the project development as this may lead to the rapid development of motels, gas stations, and seasonal housing. Such development may be a source of negative impacts of local zoning are inadequate, as well as having a negative effect on the community's infrastructure such as employment patterns, business practices, and disruption of basic services. Since the intended project of establishing a campus operated by the American University of Malta will bring no additional seasonal residents one anticipates, no negative social impacts as far as permanent/seasonal increases/decreases of seasonal residents in Cottonera is concerned. Considering that Malta is a micro-state, one envisages that family relatives visiting the students will opt for accommodation in other areas of Malta though they can be important patrons to the Boutique Hotels that the mayor of Vittoriosa is trying to attract.

Variable 4: Relocation of individuals and families

The number of people who are relocated, voluntary or involuntarily, as a result of intended major projects is also a significant concern of SIAs. The establishment of a campus operated by the American University of Malta is not anticipated to result in any relocation of families residing in Cottonera, and hence, no social impacts are expected on this front in the locality.

Variable 5: Dissimilarity in age, gender, racial and ethnic composition

Another key aspect of SIAs is the determination of the instruction into the impact area of a sizeable group of persons dissimilar to the resident population in one or more characteristics of age, gender, race or ethnicity. The establishment of a campus operated by the American University of Malta certainly means that a larger number of younger persons will be residing in Cottonera. This phenomenon will actually result in a positive social impact in the region since the cities making up Cottonera are all composed of ageing populations.

3.2 Community/Institutional arrangements

Variable 6: Formation of attitudes toward the project

This SIA studied the community's views, in terms of their positive or negative feelings, towards the project under focus. Residents and stakeholders in Cottonera were in favour to the possibility that a foreign university - the American University of Malta - establishes a campus in Cottonera. Stakeholders and residents were receptive to large-scale international investments that would introduce much needed financial capital in the area - as this would not only increase the available range of job opportunities for residents in the Cottonera and adjoining localities, but would also have a spill-over positive economic effect on business ventures and even renting prospects. To cite some typical responses,

Hawnhekk hawn hafna b'zonn ta' investment. Beda jsir xi haġa iżda għadna 'l bogħod fejn lokalitajiet oħra. Hawn potenzjal iżda mingħajr investment mhu se nagħmlu xejn. Bormla tista' ssir ġojjell ta' Malta imma għandna b'zonn aktar għajjnuna mill-Gvern... L-idea li tinbena Università barranija hawnhekk jew li nużaw xi bini li diġà għandna li hu vojt naqbel magħha hafna. Kulhadd jaqbel ma' din l-idea hawnhekk.

L-Università żgur li tagħti iżjed opportunitajiet li jkun hawn xogħol għaż-żgħażaġh tagħna li hafna minnhom jew jaħdmu f'xogħlijiet mhux tajbin jew anki ma jaħdmux. Għandna hafna problemi fil-familji fejn iż-żgħażaġh ma jsibux xogħol adekwat... Jien nemmen li Università li jkollha hafna studenti, speċjalment barranin, żgur li tippovdi opportunitajiet ta' xogħol għal kulhadd, anki part-time. Hawn hafna b'zonn ta' xogħol.

Li jkun hawn studenti barranin u forsi anki għalliema barranin huwa tajjeb għan-negozju. In-negozju hawn la hu hażin u lanqas tajjeb, hekk u hekk. Żgur li ma jaqbillekx tiftaħ xi hanut ġdid bħalissa. Jekk ikun hawn studenti barranin, nimmagina li dawn mhux hafjin, u żgur li hafna minnhom se jixtru prodotti li jinbiegħu hawn, fejn naf jien, take aways, stationary, u anki ikel u xorb. Trid tkun mohħok mhux hemm biex tirrifjuta din l-opportunità!

Naqbel, iva, hafna, hawn hafna postijiet battala li forsi jistgħu jiġu mikrijin. Forsi anki jinbiegħu. Jekk tara Tas-Sliema, ikollok post jew flat hemmhekk tikrih mar-radd tas-salib, għax ifittxuh. Min ifittex li joqgħod fis-south, għidli int? Jien naħseb li jekk ikun hawn università barranija r-rotta d'dur għal kulhadd. Jien anki niħajjar nixtri flat biex nikrih jekk nara li l-affarijiet se jrin sewwa u li din mhux xi haġa ta' sena jew tnejn.

The fact that this large-scale international investment did not entail the building and operation of factories related to the manufacturing industry was another positive issue raised during interviews. Residents and stakeholders remarked that the presence of a foreign university's campus in Cottonera would also result in increasing the symbolic capital of the locality, plus also functioning to accentuate the locality's cultural capital. The latter view was especially a strong point for residents as many believed that many Maltese citizens hold a derogatory and disparaging image of Cottonera, a situation that led to extreme negative prejudice towards its residents. Indeed, it was widely believed that the strong presence of a foreign university's campus would result in improved nationwide perceptions of Cottonera and neighbouring localities. To cite some typical responses,

Jien naħseb li jekk tiġi din l-università tkun xi haġa differenti u li żgur li thalli effett pożittiv. Jien dejjem kont nibża' li żvillipp f'dawn l-inħawi jkunu fabbriki jew xi dockyard intensiva li jhallu ntejjien u arja mahmuġa. Skejjel bħal din l-università żgur li mhux se jhallu dawn l-effetti negattivi, mhux se jħammġu żgur. Vera jaf ikun hawn iżjed skart milli hawn issa, iżda dan mhux xi haġa li wiehed ma jistax jikkontrollaha.

Il-problema tal-Kottonera hi li kulma naghmlu dejjem jitqies hażin jew aghar minn dak li jagħmlu lokalitajiet oħra bħal Tas-Sliema u Pembroke. Ix-xogħol li niproduċu ahna u n-nies li jgħixu hawnhekk jingħata ftit rispettt jekk mhux xejn affattu. Inħoss li jekk ikollna binja ta' xi università fostna ningħataw iżjed rispettt u niġu iżjed irrispettati bħal kif konna hafna snin ilu. Università hawnhekk tfigħer li l-Kottonera tiġi ttrattata b'iżjed rispettt.

Bormla u lokalitajiet oħra, bħal Birgu, għandhom hafna x'joffru lil pajjiżna. Ahna għandna storja u kultura rikka [sic] hafna, dawn il-partijiet ta' Malta kienu l-benniena ta' hafna żvilluppi u hija hasra li hafna Malta qatt ma ġew f'dawn l-inħawi. Hawn hafna mużewijiet u bini bi storja kbira. Irridu naħdmu b'saħħitna kollha sabiex dawn l-affarijiet ma jintesux...L-Università barranija taf għandha tkun iċ-ċavetta sabiex dan kollu jirnexxi.

Din l-università taf tkun pass importanti sabiex il-Kottonera terġa' tqum fuq saqajha. Sfortunatament hafna jaħsbu li hliel single mothers u persuni drogati ma hawnx hawnhekk li mhux il-każ. Għandna l-problemi soċjali tagħna, imma min m'għandux? L-Università, jekk tiġi dejjem hawn, taf tibda tagħti stampa iżjed pożittiva ta' dawn l-inħawi u tan-nies li joqogħdu hawn, u tikkumbatti l-isterjotipi li l-Kottonera tiġi mogħtija fl-inews u t-televisin.

Stakeholders and residents also argued that the establishment of a foreign university's campus in Cottonera is in line with previous and current governments' quest to re-generate and rehabilitate this area after many years of relative abandonment and neglect. Residents were not concerned in which locality in Cottonera the American University of Malta would set up its campus because most believed that this development would result in wide-ranging positive implications for all Cottonera. Many understood that a foreign university's campus in Cottonera is far from a cosmetic attempt to improve the image of this locality but it would result in widespread and concrete social, economic, and cultural positive outcomes: an influx of relatively affluent foreigners, an inflow of different cultures which would enrich the multi-cultural character of the locality, plus leading to the presence of academic and researchers. To cite some typical responses,

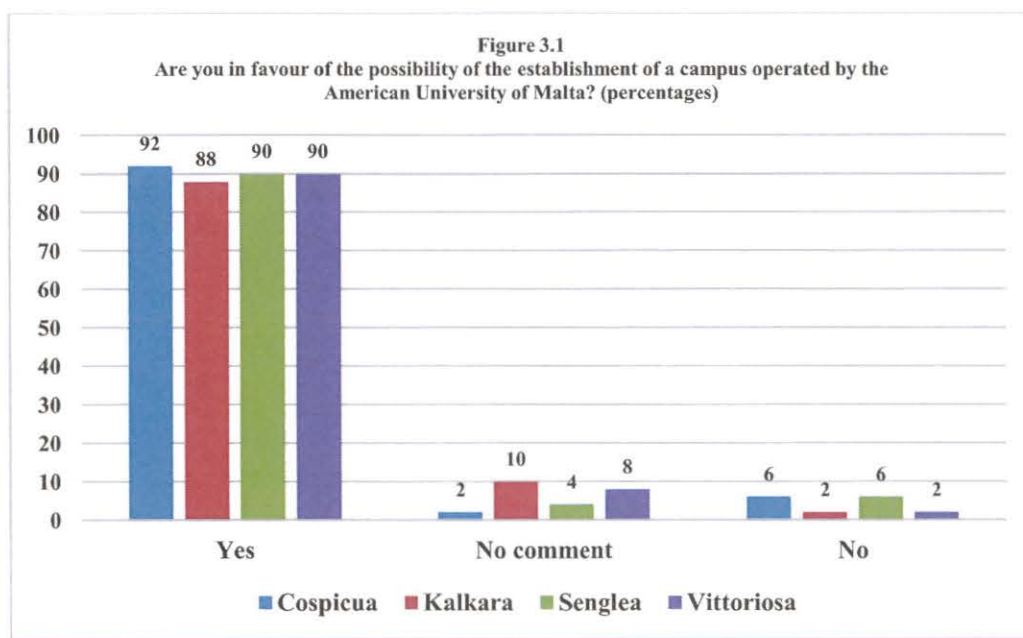
Kull Gvern f'dawn l-aħħar tletin sena wiegħed li se jtejjeb il-Kottonera u naħseb li kull Gvern żamm kelmtu xi ftit jew wisq. Pero' naħseb li jekk l-Università Amerikana tiġi

hawn inkunu ħadna daqqa tajba ħafna għax dan huwa biss żvilupp ekonomiku iżda wieħed ukoll kulturali li, biex inkun sinċier, naħseb li kien nieqes ħafna f'dawn l-aħħar ftit snin. L-Università hawnhekk tkun tfisser li l-Gvern qed jagħti verament priorità lill-Kottonera.

Malta żghira u l-Kottonera iżgħar u għalhekk mhux daqshekk importanti f'liema belt din tiġi mwaqqfa għax żgur li tkun fejn tkun se thalli impatt kbir u wiesa' ferm. L-investiment ekonomiku se jkun wieħed estensiv li żgur se jhalli frott fuq ħafna lokalitajiet, bil-ħwienet f'dawn il-lokalitajiet igawdu ferm minn kummerċ aħjar. Imma naħseb li l-Kottonera kollha tgawdi ħafna jekk ikollna università barranija hawnhekk.

Mhux talli m'hemm xejn x'titlef li jkollok *foreign* università iżda persważ li se jkun hemm vantaġġi għal kulhadd. Permezz ta' din l-università se jkun hawn ħafna studenti barranin li żgur se jġibu ħafna flus magħhom, ħafna kulturi li żgur ikomplu jsebbħu lill-Kottonera, u ma rridux ninsew li ħafna minn dawn l-istudenti jkollhom żjarat mill-familji tagħhom, haġa li se tkompli trendi tajjeb lil Malta u lill-Kottonera.

Stakeholders and residents were not sympathetic to the position taken by the Front Harsien Outside Development Zones even though the latter is backed up by over 30 organisations. Many argued that the realities facing Cottonera and Marsascalea were highly diverse, since the two localities face different social challenges and hold dissimilar socio-economic and cultural histories, with unlike target resident populations. Whilst it was pointed out by many that very limited, if any, land in Cottonera lies outside development zones, some even expressed doubt about the real motives of the Front Harsien ODZ, claiming that social movements are rarely to be politically neutral. The SIA also asked residents living in Cottonera (convenience sample) to respond 'Yes', 'No comment', or 'No' to a statement reading 'Are you in favour of the possibility of the establishment of a campus operated by the University of Malta?' The results of replies administered to a convenience sample of residents in Cospicua, Kalkara, Senglea and Vittoriosa is presented in Figure 3.1.



As can be seen from this figure, quantitative results confirm qualitative data in that the majority of residents in all four localities in the Cottonera region expressed affirmative views on the possibility of the establishment of a campus operated by the American University of Malta.

Variable 7: Interest group activity

SIAs study the formation, or renewed activity, of formal and informal interest organisations stating positions for or against the project or policy change. This is because interest groups and organisations are identifiable forces active in the community that represent subcategories of the population which stand to gain or lose by the proposed project or change in policy.

Service Area Leader / Senior Social Worker, Cottonera Community Service - LEAP Centre. Interviewee believed that one positive aspect of the possibility of the establishment of a campus operated by the American University of Malta is that this project has the potential to lead to a re-generation of Cottonera - especially a higher value appreciation of edifices, and more investment in property and services. Another positive aspect related to the possible creation of employment opportunities in the area, since for some residents the idea of working outside the area is daunting, and prefer employment in the vicinity. This is especially true to prospective employees interested in cleaning work, but also skilled maintenance workers who used to work at the dockyard, and who may find a related job at the university campus. In her own words, "the experience of the film facilities shows that once employment is provided in the area, many will flock to benefit from it, and that this project will have the same effect on local residents". The fact that the university campus may also stimulate the interest of the younger generation to apply for higher education programmes, as the University shall have a physical presence in the area, was another perceived benefit. The idea of going to University shall no longer appear as a distant possibility but as an actual possibility, one that is closer to home. At the same time, interviewee warned that the increase in the demand for rented accommodation may affect negatively those residents who experience at-risk-of-poverty lifestyles as these individuals may find it harder to find accommodation at affordable prices. Another concern related to the historical value of the area and the necessity that any development has to be sensitive to the environment and history of the region. Interviewee welcomed a regeneration of existing buildings, rather than building anew, and commented that the re-generation that has been done so far has already had a positive impact on the community. So as to minimise and even overcome any possible adverse effects of the project, interviewee emphasised the importance of close monitoring and wide consultation with local community networks. She underlines that since the perception of the local community is that past governments have often dumped social ills on the region, so that the community has grown to mistrust the intentions of the authorities, if the authorities are to enjoy credibility with the locals, they would need to involve them, as early as possible, at the planning stage and keep communication open even after the establishment of the campus. In this respect, a formal agreement with the Local Councils in Cottonera will help to develop a trusting relationship. This will enable residents to visualise a direct link between the project and a possibility of an improved quality of life. Finally, she stated that this development will need proper planning procedures, especially as there are some functions, such as the Tuesday open market, which for locals is untouchable. Therefore, authorities will need to plan around community needs and interests.

Front Harsien Outside Development Zones. This SIA confirms that the *Front Harsien Outside Development Zones* is only willing to discuss option to have a campus operated by American

University of Malta in Cottonera, provided that development at Zonqor and any other Outside Development Zones site dropped. For the *Front Harsien Outside Development Zones*, this

...also includes the construction of roads on ODZ areas due to traffic impact and air quality impact. The Front favour of using already developed sites in Cottonera. But the Front opposes utilizing ODZ land in this densely populated part of the island. Furthermore, it is important that possible sites are available for public consultation given that there may be commonalities and differences in terms of social and environmental impacts of different sites. Comprehensive impact assessment studies should be carried out (EIA, TIA, SIA etc.). Front Harsien ODZ insists that when the possible sites are available for public consultation, this should involve a comprehensive consultation process with local councils, residents, NGOs, experts and other stakeholders.

(email sent to authors, 31 July 2015)

Front Harsien Outside Development Zones underlines that the above should not involve a rushed procedure, but should involve meetings for feedback as well as adequately timed processes for written feedback.

Variable 8: Alteration in the size and structure of Local Government

A change in number and type of positions necessary to operate local government activities in the impact area is a key interest of SIA studies. This is because, following the development of large and extensive projects, local governments tend to begin to operate more formally and bureaucratically as the volume and complexity of its responsibilities increase. As the following excerpts demonstrate the Mayors of the Cospicua, Senglea and Vittoriosa Local Councils were all in favour of the possibility that the American University of Malta opens a campus in Cottonera.

Mayor, Cospicua Local Council. Interviewee welcomes the setting up of a number of faculties of the American University of Malta in the Cottonera, and especially Cospicua. Such a project would put Cospicua in a positive light, generating a higher standards of living, and at the same time aiding to eradicate the stigma that Cospicua is a deprived area. She stated that such a project would create more business for owners of guest houses and rental accommodation, while also increasing business for the retail, grocery and coffee shops. Most of these businesses are run by locals, and therefore, benefit directly the residents of the area. The project might also increase the employment opportunities for those seeking jobs in the area. Interviewee's concerns focused on the possible increase in traffic although she also maintained the area is well served with public transport. Nevertheless, one would surely need to consider increased parking spaces, as well as improved domestic waste disposal system before such a prestigious project is assigned to the area. These and other related concerns may be mitigated by an educational campaign coupled with stronger enforcement. In her own words, the Cospicua Local Council "has already proposed projects to Government in connection with increased parking spaces at Cospicua and we know that these proposals are being actively considered". This development would add justification for more investment in parking opportunities, whilst one may also consider other areas which might be equally suitable for parking in case that this project materialises. Interviewee underlined that such concern can be dealt with if one had to look at the whole area and take comprehensive decisions, as opposed to taking a piecemeal approach. In this regard, the co-operation of the Environmental and transport Authorities would be crucial in finding the right solutions. Interviewee believed that the Cospicua Local Council can play an important role in monitoring the progress of the project if they are involved early on in the planning stage. It can give valuable advice to avoid difficulties and ensure that the

whole project is executed with the minimum of inconveniences. In addition, the people will be kept informed step by step of what is to happen, how and when things will happen. Residents do tolerate some inconvenience if they know that the set deadlines will be respected, and therefore, the Council should be an integral part of the planning and management team to ensure that all local stakeholders are kept on board. With regards to the long term sustainability of the project, interviewee commented that clear contracts should regulate what can and cannot be done by the University in terms of practices that can affect residents. Any future deviations from the original deed should be made in consultation and agreement with the Local Council. If the local Council is an official party to the final contract, the residents would have more confidence that the necessary provisions are seen to so as to ensure that their quality of life will not be negatively affected. Such a positive approach, would go a long way to dispel the common and long-standing belief that the Cottonera was the dumping ground of the nation's social ills. Interviewee concluded that the Local Council would gladly welcome the establishment of a campus on behalf of the American University of Malta, especially if the Dry-docks warehouses is the site in question. Indeed, Cospicua residents hope that the site will be used to attract tourists, and in this respect, have suggested that the warehouses house a museum depicting the history of the area.

Mayor, Senglea Local Council. Interviewee underlined that the establishment of a campus on behalf of the American University of Malta in Cottonera will go a long way to dispel the stigma that the area carries in view of the fact that it was an area of deprivation in the last decades. He added that this perception needs to change, and this project will help in this regard, by even attracting academics and other people of standing to take up residence in the area and improve the social capital of the region. Interviewee perceived parking to arise as an issue in the region since any additional traffic pressure will exacerbate the already traffic problem. However, he thinks that the proposals already made by the Mayor of Cospicua will mitigate this problem, and therefore, Government has a solution that it may apply. Interviewee suggested that Kalkara might be a good site for this project as it seems to have more open spaces than the other Cottonera cities for a project like this. Nevertheless, he emphasised and recommended that if and when the project is approved, there should be public consultations to inform the people accordingly, and keep them posted with development. Provisions need to be made to ensure that any changes to the project in the future should be done in consultation with the local residents.

Mayor, Vittoriosa Local Council. Interviewee stated that the establishment of a campus on behalf of the American University of Malta will certainly attract affluent students with disposable income. This possible new cohort of patrons in the area is good news to local businesses, which might attract further investment to the three cities. The increased business will also possibly create job opportunities for the residents, as well as improve the rental property market to the benefit of the proprietors. One possible negative impact include parking spaces and interviewee stated that he has already proposed a project at Fortini where a multi storage parking may be built. He does not see any more negative issues about the project, and he stated that the issue of decreasing parking spaces can be mitigated by the will to develop more parking spaces. Interviewee also commented that any development should be sensitive to the environment of the area and well-planned to avoid complaints from the residents. This issue can be mitigated by roping in Local Councils early at the planning stage both to advice about solutions and also to be able to keep the residents informed of developments. This approach would put the residents' mind at rest with regards to the progress on the project, and also to ensure that proper safeguards are in place if and when the operators wish to deviate from the original brief in the future. Such an eventuality would only be possible after consultation with

the representatives of the local community. Interviewee concluded that he welcomed such development in the area and stated that this is complimentary to the recent decision taken by Government to grant a lease of tenure of the Armoury in Vittoriosa to the International Institute engaged in anti-terrorism legislation and policy.

Variable 9: Presence of planning and zoning activity

SIA's study the extent that national government can cope with increases in the development, planning, zoning and/or land use regulation. In this respect, the SIA strongly recommends that the government's procedures for planning and zoning requirements are fully in place at an acceptable time-frame before the proposed establishment of the American University of Malta's campus in Cottonera is initiated.

Variable 10: Industrial development

The number and variety of private sector industries - ranging from manufacturers to retailers to services - within the project impact area has potential for major social impact. This is because project development could lead to industrial diversification in the local economy, both directly through its presence as an employer and consumer of equipment, supplies and services produced by its employees. This SIA found business operators to be overwhelmingly positive towards the possible establishment of campus managed by the American University of Malta as this was perceived to have the potential to bring much needed financial capital to the locality both to themselves personally but also to present and prospective employees.

Variable 11: Enhanced economic activities

SIA's research the degree to which employment opportunities of the proposed area or development match the job skills of the unemployed in the impact area. This is because project justification often hinges on the expectation that the development event will contribute to the employment needs of the area. This SIA found that residents held that the establishment of campus managed by the American University of Malta to have a strong potential towards bringing about a new job opportunities that would result in lowering unemployment rates in the Cottonera localities.

Variable 12: Change in employment equity for minority groups

The degree of which employment opportunities of the proposed project match the job skills of minorities - such as low-income, younger persons, ethnic groups, and women - is a key interest in SIA's. This is important because jobs resulting from project development need to be distributed equitably. Since Malta is a micro-state, job opportunities can be accessed equally by diverse sectors of the population. However, this SIA recommends strongly that the government ensures that the job recruitment of potential employees to work at the campus managed by the American University of Malta follows strict industrial relations procedures.

Variable 13: Changing occupational opportunities

SIA's study the degree to which the proposed project or development alters the occupational profile of the impacted area, since such changes may lead to changes in family-income and lifestyle alterations. Since Malta is a micro-state, one expects workers not to set up residence

in Cottonera, and hence, these communities will not experience any impact as far as changing occupational opportunities are concerned.

3.3 Possible conflicts

Variable 14: Presence of an outside agency

SIA's focus on the possibility of a permanent residence in the project area of a government agency or private company that has not previously been in the community and whose management and control is external to the area, since this may be a source of dissatisfaction among local stakeholders, especially if this agency is not responsive to local needs and priorities. The presence of new employer may also be a source of frustration as it may alter existing social and power structures within community. Herein, this SIA recommends strongly that the government ensures that any local and foreign companies connected in some way to the possible establishment of a campus managed by the American University of Malta respect the needs and priorities of the locality's residents and stakeholders.

Variable 15: Introduction of new social classes

SIA projects research the possibility of appearance of a group of people that either expand an existing social class or establish a new social class. This is because the appearance in the community of a group of people who, because of their education, income and/or occupation, have a different lifestyle than those of the existing residents may change the political and power relationships within the community. Since Malta is a micro-state, one does not expect workers employed at the American University of Malta's campus to set up residence in Cottonera, and hence, these communities will not experience any impact as far as introduction of new classes are concerned.

Variable 16: Change in the commercial/industrial focus of the community

A possible change in the traditional commercial/industrial or private sector focus of the community is another key focus of SIA projects. If the area is known as a retirement, farming, or other type of community, the concern is whether the introduction of the project will change this traditional character. Following an establishment of foreign university's campus, this SIA anticipates no change in the commercial/industrial focus of Cottonera other than an improved commercial opportunities for existing business operators and the possibility of new business ventures targeting the needs of students.

Variable 17: Presence of weekend residents

This SIA variable focuses on the possibility of an influx of temporary weekend residents or who have no permanent home in the community as the latter may exploit or use the new project, but then, contribute very little (if any) in return to the community. The establishment of foreign university's campus in Cottonera will not result in the residence of weekend residents in the locality or adjoining neighbourhoods.

3.4 Individual and family level impacts

Variable 18: Disruption in daily living

SIA projects research the possible changes in the routine living and work activities of residents in the impact area caused by alteration to the visual environment, noise and odour levels, transportation routes or the amount of vehicular traffic resulting from the project or development. A change in the community image may also influence whether outsiders will visit, live, or establish businesses in the area. Fieldwork uncovered key concerns on behalf of residents who raised some concerns about possible negative implications if the American University of Malta opens a campus in Cottonera. Three issues stood out - namely, an increase in traffic, a decrease in parking spaces, and a surge in air pollution. In the informants' words,

Jien li nibza' li jkun hawn hafna iżjed traffiku, it-traffiku li hawn digà huwa insopportabbli aħseb u ara jkun hawn università b'ma nafx kemm student... li jridu joqogħdu attenti hu li issa mhux kull student ikollu karozza u jeħdulna l-*parking* kollu, fejn ha jipparkjaw dawn in-nies...jien naqbel li jkun hawn din l-universtà hawn, żgur li hija xi haġa tajba pero' nibza' li b'izjed nies u karozzi jkun hawn hafna dhahen li jniġġsu l-arja...

An analysis of possible social impacts on disruption in daily living following the establishment of a foreign university campus in Cottonera is presented in table 3.1.

Table 3.1: Possible social impacts in Cottonera following the establishment of a foreign university campus in Cottonera.

Impact	Comments
Well-being	The project is not anticipated to result in a negative social impact on improving the well-being of residents.
Lifestyle	The project is anticipated to have no negative social impact on how people work and interact with one another on a daily basis
Culture	The project is anticipated to have no negative impact on the communities' shared beliefs, customs, and values.
Identity	The project is anticipated to have no negative social impact on the residents' perception of themselves as members of a distinct locality.
Social capital	The project is anticipated to have no negative social impact on the communities' levels of cohesion, stability, services and facilities.
Sense of place	The project is anticipated to have no negative impact on the residents' attachment to their locality and heritage values.
Recreation	The project is anticipated to have no negative social impact on the residents' ways of leisure and relaxation.
Personal rights	The project is anticipated to have no negative social impact on the residents' personal rights.
Property rights	The project is anticipated to result in a positive social impact on improving property rights of residents.
Tourism	The project is anticipated to result in a positive social impact on improving tourism in Cottonera.
Traffic	Whilst some residents expressed a concern that road traffic will increase, most were optimistic that arrangements will be put in place for a smoother circulation of vehicles in the locality.

Variable 19: Dissimilarity in religious practices

The introduction into the impact area of a new group with religious values, beliefs and practices different from those of the resident population is also a major concern of SIA projects as this may result in social conflict. This SIA anticipates that the establishment of a foreign university campus in Cottonera will not result in any level of dissimilarities in religious practices in the localities in question. However, it is worth noting that those students who may profess the Islamic religion are serviced with a Mosque at Corradino which is located just up the hill from Cospicua and Senglea.

Variable 20: Alteration in family structure

SIA projects focus on the increase or decrease in one or more of the family status categories (e.g., married, never married, with/without children) since, typically, the construction phase of a project will bring large numbers of young and single males into the community. This SIA anticipates that the establishment of a foreign university campus in Cottonera will not result in any alteration in family structure in the localities in question.

Variable 21: Disruption in social networks

SIA projects study the possibility of the termination or disruption of normal community social interaction (e.g., friendship and kin relations) by project development such as through the construction of physical barriers to existing vehicular or pedestrian routes. SIA uncovered no data to suggest that Cottonera will experience any termination or disruption of normal community social interaction following the establishment of a foreign university campus.

Variable 22: Perceptions of public health and safety

SIA projects research the perceptions, attitudes or beliefs on the part of residents in the impact area that their physical health and safety, to include their mental well-being, will be jeopardized by the proposed project or activity. Indeed, projects such as the American University of Malta may lead to perceived risk and stress among local residents. While the public's assessment of risks is subjective in nature, their fears should not be dismissed as irrational or unimportant. If there is a widespread belief that the project will endanger their (and future generations') health, community satisfaction will be diminished, and acceptance of the project and workers will be hindered. However, this SIA anticipates no negative impact on residents' physical health and safety, as well as their mental wellbeing, as the result of the establishment of foreign university campus in Cottonera.

Variable 23: Change in leisure opportunities

An increase or decrease in leisure/recreational opportunities due to changes in the management of resources within the impacted area is a vital concern in SIA studies. This is because the number and type of leisure opportunities available in a community has an important influence on residents' satisfaction within their community. Recreational developments may add to, or change the nature of, available leisure opportunities. Not only residents will be affected, but outsiders' perceptions of the community may change and thereby influence the number of people and business that relocate in the future. SIA uncovered no data to suggest that Cottonera will experience any negative impact in leisure opportunities the establishment of foreign university campus in the locality. On the other hand, a positive social impact is possible if any the foreign campus includes leisure/recreational premises that are made available to the public community.

3.5 Community infrastructure needs

Variable 24: Change in the community infrastructure

SIA projects research the increase decrease in the demands for, and supply of basic infrastructure services and facilities within the impacted area. This is because project developments can alter the demands placed on both private and public sector facilities and services ranging from housing to social work services to public cleaning. This variable is included in SIA reports because the cost and quality of public services have an important influence on residents' wellbeing and satisfaction with their community. Since Malta is a micro-state, it is anticipated that the establishment of foreign university campus will not incur any change in the community infrastructure in Cottonera.

Variable 25: Land acquisition and disposal

SIAs focus on the number of acres of land that will shift from present use classification or ownership as a result of the project or policy change. Land acquisition or disposal resulting from the project represents more than a financial loss or gain to the community since, if the project is a controversial one, land acquisition may be resented by stakeholders. Interviews found residents and stakeholders to support the possibility that vacant land and/or buildings are used to house a foreign university campus.

Variable 26: Effects on known cultural, historical, and archaeological resources

The proposed destruction, diminution or alteration of one or more of known cultural, sacred, historical or archaeological resources within the impact area is of crucial interest to SIA. The destruction of such areas could mean not only the loss of valuable historical data but may also lead to an increase in public opposition to the project and may delay citizen approval. This SIA anticipates that the establishment of a foreign university campus will not have any negative social impact on cultural, historical, religious and archeologically resources.

3.6 Mitigation issues

Residents and stakeholders in Cottonera were asked for their ideas on what actions should the government take to safeguard their interests and optimise outcomes if the American University of Malta opens a campus in Cottonera. Four key issues emerged - namely,

Traffic. Residents and stakeholders expect the government to make suitable transport arrangements so that traffic flow is not disrupted as result of the project.

Parking spaces. Residents and stakeholders expect the government to make suitable parking arrangements so that the project does not result in a decline of parking spaces.

Transparency. Residents and stakeholders expect the government to be sincere and clear as to the possible range of activities falling under the remit of the American University of Malta.

Active citizenship. Residents and stakeholders wish and expect to be as involved as much possible, especially through their Local Councils, in decisions affecting the development of their community, and this initiative towards the opening of a university campus in Cottonera.

4 CONCLUSION

The goal of this SIA was to assess the social impacts if the American University of Malta establishes a campus in Cottonera. Table 5.1 summarises the general social impacts (if any) that the establishment of campus operated by the American University of Malta will have on the communities under focus.

Table 5.1: General social impacts (if any) on the Cottonera following the possibility that the American University of Malta opens a campus in Cottonera

Social Impact	Positive	Negative	None	Uncertain
Population impacts				
Population change			■	
Influx or outflux of temporary workers			■	
Presence of seasonal (leisure) residences			■	
Relocation of individuals and families			■	
Dissimilarity in age/gender/ethnic composition	■			
Community/institutional arrangements				
Formation of attitudes toward the project	■			
Interest group activity	■			
Size of and structure of local government			■	
Presence of planning and zoning activity			■	
Industrial development			■	
Enhanced economic activities	■			
Change in employment for minority groups			■	
Changing occupational opportunities	■			
Possible conflicts				
Presence of an outside agency			■	
Introduction of new classes			■	
Communities' commercial/industrial focus			■	
Presence of weekend residences			■	
Individual and family level impacts				
Disruption in daily living		■*		
Dissimilarity in religious practices			■	
Alteration in family structure			■	
Disruption in social network			■	
Perceptions of public and health safety			■	
Change in leisure opportunities	■			
Community infrastructure				
Change in the community infrastructure	■			
Land acquisition and disposal			■	
Effects on known cultural/historical resources	■			

* possibility of increased traffic and decreased parking spaces

The SIA also enquired respondents about the possible mitigation strategies that they wish the government to implement so as to safeguard their interests and optimise outcomes for their local community, as well as compensate for the inconveniences they will experience as the result of the establishment of a campus operated by the American University of Malta. Mitigation possibilities included making suitable arrangements for traffic and parking spaces management, transparency, and active citizenship / political participation.

REFERENCES

- Abela, A. (2007). *Female perspectives on poverty and urban life: A case study from the San Lazzru area of Cospicua*. Unpublished dissertation presented to the University of Malta in partial fulfillment for the Master of Arts (Geography).
- Aquilina, L. and Cassar, M., (2001). Youth culture in Bormla: Social reality in Cospicua through formal structures. Unpublished dissertation presented to the University of Malta in partial fulfillment for the Bachelor of Arts (Youth Studies).
- Burdge, R.J. (1998). Defining social impact assessment variables for the SIA mode. In R.J. Burdge (ed.), *A conceptual approach to social impact assessment* (pp.41-52). Middleton, WI: Social Ecology Press.
- Burdge, R.J. (2004). *A community guide to social impact assessment* (3rd edition). Middleton, WI: Social Ecology Press.
- Cutajar, J. (2014). *Bormla: A struggling community*. Rabat: Faraxa Publisher.
- Harvey, P. (2006). *Stigma: The throes of a walled city. A analysing stigma and stereotypes of Cospicua and their effects on social work practice with clients from this city*. Unpublished dissertation presented to the University of Malta in partial fulfillment for the Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) (Social Work).
- International Association for Impact Assessment, (2003). *Social Impact Assessment: International Principles*. Special Publications Series No. 2.
- Interorganizational Committee on Guidelines and Principles for Social Impact Assessment, (1994). Guidelines and principles for social impact assessment, *Impact Assessment* 12(2): 107-152.
- National Statistics Office. (2011). *Income and living conditions survey 2009. Malta*: National Statistics Office.
- National Statistics Office. (2014). *Census of population and housing 2011: Final report*. Malta: National Statistics Office.
- Misra, V. (2004). *Social and Environmental Assessment Report*, Proposed Andhra Pradesh Urban Reforms and Municipal Services Project. Accessed on 3/7/13 from <http://www.scribd.com/doc/61085913/Social-Impact-Assessment-Methodology>
- Scicluna, P. (2008). *The perceptions of young people in Cospicua youth centre about their locality*. Unpublished dissertation presented to the University of Malta in partial fulfillment for the Diploma in Youth Studies.
- Strauss, A. and Corbin, J. (1997) *Basic of qualitative research: Techniques and procedures for developing grounded theory*. Thousand Oakes, CA: Sage
- Strebbsins, R.A. (2001). *Exploratory research in the social sciences*. Thousand Oakes, CA: Sage.
- Vella, G. (2010). *Urban development in Cospicua after the Second World War*. Unpublished dissertation presented to the University of Malta in partial fulfillment for the Diploma in Baroque Architecture.