

Beyond aspirations

by Claudette Abela Baldacchino

We should be proud of our progress but we need to ensure that what we have attained we will keep, and what we desire and need does not become mere aspiration.

Culture, creativity and innovation are the key sources of growth, investment and new jobs. For this to be achieved there must be early, pre-school learning and primary education for the development of basic competences, that is, the knowledge, skills and attitudes that equip people to live and work in modern European society, and to acquire additional knowledge.

Society is changing, but whatever the change we must still have the right to the pursuit of happiness. Social inclusion and or exclusion are related to various aspects of life – ranging from employment to education, culture and leisure, housing to social welfare – limited time and human needs. Social exclusion is not just about basic conditions. It is about not having access to the things most people take for granted – basic skills, a job, and a decent home, a sufficient income and contact with friends and family. It is about not having power over your life and your future. There are new challenges ahead.

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