



Maltese data on educational attainment from the EU Labour Force Survey (LFS) are revised from 11/04/2013, as explained below. The revision focuses on the classification of ordinary level qualifications ('O' levels) and aims at increasing further the comparability with other EU Member States (e.g. the United Kingdom).

The procedure has a significant impact on the Europe 2020 headline indicator on 'early leavers from education and training' which is revised down by 8.9 percentage point in 2012 and 9.9 percentage points in 2011. Data on enrolment and graduates from administrative sources are to be revised on Eurostat's website in the second half of 2013 accordingly.

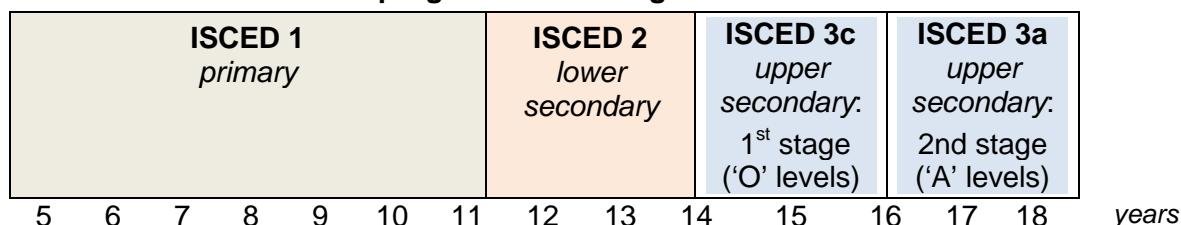
- **Classification of ordinary level qualifications** ('O' levels) in Anglophone countries

The distinction between lower and upper secondary education under [ISCED 1997](#) and [ISCED 2011](#) is largely based on the number of cumulative years since the beginning of ISCED 1 and the existence of sequential programmes granting access to tertiary education.

Programmes leading to 'O' levels and then 'A' levels in Anglophone countries are considered as sequential programmes at upper secondary education level under ISCED.

Under ISCED 1997 in the 2006-2013 LFS¹, qualifications obtained from the 1st stage of the programme can be classified at the ISCED 3c level (programme of 2 years duration or more) while the qualifications obtained from the 2nd stage can be classified at the ISCED 3a level (chart 1). The 1st and 2nd stages lead respectively to partial completion and completion of level 3 under ISCED 2011 (from 2014 in the LFS²).

Chart 1: Classification of programmes leading to 'O' levels and 'A' levels



- **Revision of the ISCED mapping of Malta³**

The setting up of the Malta Qualifications Council in 2005 led to a reassessment of the national classification system of education in parallel to discussions at EU level on the European Qualification Framework ([EQF](#)) and to the introduction of the 2011 version of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) in EU statistics from 2014⁴.

In that context, Eurostat received in 2012 a request from the Maltese Statistical Office for a review of the classification of programmes leading to ordinary level qualifications in EU statistics ('O' levels or their equivalents).

This led to a revision of LFS Maltese data on 11/04/2013 on Eurostat's website in line with the recommendations given above. Before that date, these programmes were considered as ISCED level 2 in Maltese results

¹ Commission Regulation (EC) [No 430/2005](#) of 15 March 2005

² See the [ISCED 2011 operational manual](#) (partial completion of ISCED 3)

³ See also the [information note](#) of 11 February 2013 from the Maltese Statistical Office

⁴ Commission Regulation (EU) [No 317/2013](#) of 8 April 2013