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NEWS REPORT

Country:	Malta
Title:	LEAD - Political party launches project to increase participation of women in politics between September 2017 and September 2027
Date:	24 July 2017
Expert:	Romina Bartolo
<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	Participation of women in politics
Ground of discrimination:	Sex
Source:	Policy development
Field:	Politics, leadership
Applicable law:	Internal rules of Labour Party in Malta

Content

Policy development: In July 2017, Miriam Dalli, a member of the European Parliament and representative of the Labour Party in Malta launched a project called LEAD aiming to increase the representation of women in the Labour Party. The Programme is divided into four phases with the aim of ensuring that by 2027 half of the candidates contesting the general elections on behalf of the Labour Party will be women.

In order to manage to reach such an ambitious target, the Labour Party aims to have 40% women candidates for the upcoming European Parliament elections and 35% women candidates for the Local Council elections, in 2019.

The Labour Party is aiming for minimum 35% women candidates by the next general elections, 50% for the following European Parliament elections and 40% for the following Local Council elections, in order to reach 50% candidates by 2027.

In order to reach the targets of the plan, the Labour Party will choose around 48 women over a four year period and implement the Programme called LEAD through six main methods. The women participants will be mentored, they will apply what they learn on tangible experiences, a development plan will be set out and they will be given opportunities on the media. A national campaign and networking activities will also be launched.

The first call for participants will be launched in September 2017 and participants will be asked to commit themselves to stand as candidates for the general elections with the Labour Party. Childcare facilities will be offered throughout the programme and during election campaigns as well as during activities of a political nature.

Key points of analysis: The number of candidates fielded by political parties in Malta is dominated by men. Research shows that the possibility of electing more women in

decision-making positions increases if the number of candidates is high. It is important to nurture possible candidates at an early stage and not on the eve of elections.

Internet link source: <http://www.one.com.mt/news/2017/07/16/il-mara-bi-pjan-ghal-iktar-nisa/> (accessed 24 July 2017)