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## Foreword

by the Chief Executive Officer – Joanne Grima

Maltese schools have experienced an influx of international students during the past years and the educators within these schools were expected to cater for the needs of everyone under their care. The challenges created due to this influx were various since students brought with them different mother languages, experiences, cultures, traditions, beliefs, and ways of life. This baggage inflicted challenges on educators but several researchers took up the opportunity to study the various situations from different angles and perspectives. This was truly required in order to understand, take stock and develop recommendations on the way forward. Such recommendations are required to ensure the creation of the right environment conducive to learning for all students, international or not, and to guarantee the best educational journey for all. The Institute for Education felt the need to contribute in this aspect by disseminating these research findings for educators to be in a position to adapt practices, to react to circumstances experienced at school and, where possible, be proactive. The Institute believes that through such studies, schools will be in more favourable positions to create their own structure to integrate international learners and assist all learners to become beneficial resources for one another; thus, enriching the learning experience of each other. It also aims to reach educators and support them in their different scenarios since some have experienced the influx gradually while others experienced a change in the demography of their school population overnight. We have heard on various occasions that practice should be based on research and for this to be actually possible, one must be aware of such studies. The Institute will offer a yearly platform through this journal to expose research, share it with educators and provide them with the information to develop the tools required to function effectively.