

ABSTRACT

In this study I apply the theory of structuration to technological frame research and present an examination for the growing interest towards the Internet in Malta. Over the past twenty years or so substantial investment has been undertaken by national Maltese administrations to foster an Internet inclined mentality. As I map recent Maltese history and interpret various ICT policies and other related literature I identify the concerns policy makers have towards the ways potential end users may choose to make use of the Internet.

Semi-structured interviews were undertaken with six policy makers and sixteen lecturers in a post secondary setting. Emerging data shows that there is a disparity between the aims of policy makers and the experiences of end users. The success in the paradigm shift the Maltese Government expects to achieve relies on the outcomes of a healthy dialogue between implementors and implicated parties. But the contrasting scenario that emerges between policy makers' perspectives and a specific group of end users implicated by the policies shows otherwise.

Findings suggest that regulative rules underlying policies relayed by the Government of Malta to potential users may be losing strength as the end users concerned enact new constitutive rules through practice. Also, while theory states that technological frames with respect to a particular technology tend to be context specific, data indicates that individuals can have multiple and even diverging technological frames by contextualising the technology in different aspects of their lives. The implications for policy, practices and research are considered.