



# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2011

## **Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector** **Draft Annual Report 2011**

### **The Composition of the Council**

The MCVS was composed of the following members during 2011:

Mr. Robert Farrugia	-	Chairperson
Prof. Kenneth Wain	-	Vice Chairperson (ex-ufficio)
Mr. Ian Azzopardi	-	Member
Ms. Doris Bingley	-	Member
Mr. Rueben Buttigieg	-	Member
Mr. Nathan Farrugia	-	Member
Perit Anthony Fenech Vella	-	Member
Mr. Joe Gerada	-	Member (resigned in August 2011)
Ms. Louise Gusman	-	Member
Ms. Frank Mifsud	-	Member
Ms. Claudia Taylor-East	-	Member
Mr. Lawrence Farrugia	-	Member (appointed in November 2011)
Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandalo	-	Executive Secretary and Secretary to the Council

### **The Work of the Council**

The Council met twelve times during the year. Amongst the issues discussed were the European Year of Volunteering (EYV), amendments to the Voluntary Organisations (VO) Act, the Terms of reference for MCVS Sub-Committees, MEUSAC Core Group, Good Practice /Code of Ethics document, the Volunteering Award, the Volunteer Centre Project, amongst other issues. There were also three sub-committees namely the EYV 2011 Activities, Training and the Advisory Committee to the Commissioner; and the VO Fund Board of Administration, which met regularly during the year. These Sub Committees were composed as follows:

#### *EYV 2011 Activities Sub-Committee*

Mr. Robert Farrugia – Chairman  
Mr. Ian Azzopardi  
Mr. Nathan Farrugia  
Ms Claudia Taylor East

*Training Sub-Committee*

Mr. Nathan Farrugia – Chairman  
Ms Doris Bingley  
Mr. Joe Gerada (until July 2011)  
Mr. Ian Azzopardi (from September 2011)

*Advisory Sub-Committee to the Commissioner*

Mr. Frank Mifsud – Chairman  
Mr. Reuben Buttigieg  
Ms. Louise Gusman

*VO Fund Board of Administrators*

Mr. Robert Farrugia – Chairman  
Mr. Ian Azzopardi  
Ms Doris Bingley

During the course of the year there were three important courtesy visits made by the Council, namely to the President of the Republic, His Excellency Dr. George Abela; the Prime Minister, the Hon. Dr. Lawrence Gonzi and the Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Joseph Muscat. There were also a series of meetings between a delegation from the Council and various Ministers to discuss issues relevant to the voluntary sector and how these could be addressed by the relative Ministry. These meetings were with the Minister of Education, Employment and the Family, the Hon. Dolores Cristina; the Minister for Finance, the Economy and Investment, the Hon. Mr. Tonio Fenech; the Minister for Infrastructure and the Environment, the Hon. George Pullicino; and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon. Dr. Tonio Borg.

During 2011 the MCVS circulated seven issues of the e-newsletter *MCVS News* which was intended to keep voluntary organisation and the public informed of its activities and upcoming events.

## **2011 – European Year of Volunteering**

The 2011 was a particular year in the life of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS), being the year dedicated by the European Commission to Volunteering and the same Council being appointed by the Maltese Government as the National Coordinating Body. The year served to raise general awareness on the importance of volunteering as an expression of civic participation which contributes to issues which are of common concern of all Member States, such as a harmonious societal development and social cohesion. It was also the intention of the Council to use the year to celebrate volunteers and their organisations by providing them with the space to expose their work.



**European Year of Volunteering 2011**

## **The Priorities 2011**

The MCVS decided to focus on three particular areas during this year as its priorities and these were the Youths, Elder Citizens and Corporate Volunteering.

## **The Activities 2011**

### ***28<sup>th</sup> January 2011***

Launch of the European Year dedicated to Volunteers at St. James Cavalier, Valletta in the presence of representatives from the Voluntary Sector. The launch was done under the patronage of the Minister for Education, Employment and the Family, the Hon. Dolores Cristina.



The event was addressed by the Chairperson of MCVS Mr. Robert Farrugia and the Commissioner of Voluntary Organisations, Prof. Kenneth Wain.

**26<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

This half day National Conference entitled “Volunteer! You Make a Difference” aimed to share the experiences of volunteers and get to know more on how to support volunteers. The conference discussed the participation, contribution, management



and support of volunteers with a particular focus on youth, retired persons and entrepreneurs. During the conference various guests from the sector were invited to give their experience in the area. These were Ms Marvic Debono (ZAK), Mr John Debono (“Anzjan tas-Sena”), Ms Christiana Frendo, Mr Jesmond Bartolo (Scouts), Ms Nora Macelli (St. Jean Antide Foundation), Ms Bernardette Briffa (Hospice), Ms Danjela Falzon (Inspire) and Ms Anne Toledo (Caritas). The conference contributed towards a discussion on issues of *Working towards an enabling and facilitating environment for volunteering locally; Empowering volunteer organisations and improve the quality of volunteering; Rewarding and recognising achievements gained in volunteering activities; and Raising awareness of the value and importance of volunteering.*

**10<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

The Malta Council for the Volunteer Sector (MCVS) as part of the activities celebrating EYV 2011 joined the Annual Parade Organised by the Scouts and Girl Guides which took place in Valletta finishing at St. George’s Square where his Excellency the President of the Republic was accorded a salute by the Scouts and Girl Guides. The aim of the participation was to celebrate volunteers and for this occasion MCVS invited volunteer organisations and volunteers to participate and



accompany the MCVS streamers promoting messages to celebrate and encourage volunteers and volunteering.

### **6<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

MCVS participated in this half-day activity held in St George's Square, Valletta, organised by the European



Representation in Malta, which was transformed into an interactive, educational, and colourful space where some 300 primary school children took part. The Europe Direct Centres, the Commissioner for Children and MEUSAC also had their own respective stands.

### **20<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

MCVS commissioned the compilation of a VO Directory – a directory with information on a vast number of non-governmental organizations registered in Malta, which will be distributed in CD version. This will also be available electronically for downloading on the MCVS website. In the directory both enrolled and non-enrolled VO's with the Commissioner for VO's were listed.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> June - 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2011**

The MCVS in collaboration with the Ministry for Education, Employment and the Family participated in the Malta Trade Fair. The idea of the MCVS participation was not simply to promote volunteering in general through its work but also to support at least four different Voluntary Organisations every day on its stand



where they could also promote their organisation. 35 voluntary organisations coming

from various areas of the sector participated during the ten-days event, showcasing their organisation and promoting volunteering. During the event with the assistance of the MCVS, Greenhouse Malta, an NGO made up of University students, organised a 'Project Volunteer Auction'. This novel concept consisted of an auction of artwork donated by artists with bids taking the form of 'volunteer hours' rather than money. Bidders had the opportunity to choose from a number of voluntary organisations with which they would like to volunteer with. The bidder placed his or her bid in the form of hours s/he would be ready to dedicate volunteering with this organisation.

### **31<sup>st</sup> August 2011**

The MCVS launched the Children's art competition and exhibition with Skolasajf, Student Services Department, Ministry of Education, Employment and the Family themed 'Volunteer! Make a Difference!' This first edition of the MCVS Children's art competition (ages 7 – 12 years) was organised together with Skolasajf centres which total to over 80 centres in Malta and Gozo. The children were asked to paint a Volunteering theme – which will require some imagination but will be a rewarding experience.



The prize giving ceremony was held on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August, 2011 at St. Vincent DePaule Hospital, Luqa which saw a closure of a relay of Volunteering events aimed at the Skolasajf children, one of which was the adoption of a 'grandparent' in an old people's home. The exhibits were put up for display for a period of time at St. Vincent De Paule and the children were awarded prizes related to art.

### **10<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

MCVS commissioned a research project "A Comparative Study of NGO Legislation in Selected EU States". The proposed research consisted of a comparative study

between five EU states; Malta, Italy, France, Germany and the UK. The research provided a comparison of the different NGO legislation structures that have developed in these countries. Most of the countries chosen have a Civil Law system but they have developed a different legislative structure to regulate voluntary organisations. The research was aimed at comparing and contrasting their different legal structures.

### **28<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

The second National Conference was entitled “Employee Supported Volunteering” – a conference for delegates coming from the Human Resources and the VO sectors, together with members of the general public. The participation of people in voluntary



organisations is the backbone of our community. Across the country, thousands of people serve in a wide range of roles essential to the successful running of the Voluntary Sector. Some of these roles are well known, however, many others, although no less essential to the accountability and effectiveness of organisations, are far less visible and, as a result, far less appreciated and understood.

This conference objective was to educate and encourage employers to allow their staff to volunteer for these important roles and to help employers appreciate the value of employee volunteering, both to their business, their staff and to the organisations with which the employees volunteer. Employee volunteering can build skills and confidence and expose the employee to information and circumstances that can be fruitful to the business of the employer. In return, the organisation with whom the employee volunteers can benefit from the vast range of skills acquired by the volunteer employee.

The success of the voluntary sector needs the backing of both employees and employers. It is hoped that this conference will go a long way in giving prominence to



the roles on offer and how people can get involved. The Malta Chamber of Commerce was also a key partner in this conference.

### **28<sup>th</sup> November – 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector officially opened the European Year of Volunteering 2011 (EYV) Tour event in Valletta taking place in the Old Bus Terminus ‘PUTIRJAL’. The Chairperson, Mr Robert Farrugia, at the opening speech stated ‘that although this event brings to an end this year dedicated to the volunteers it also marks the beginning of a responsibility put upon us for the coming years, to continue spreading the message that volunteering makes a difference.’ Two other addresses were delivered by the Hon. Dr. Stephen Spiteri,



Parliamentary Assistant in the Ministry of Education, Employment and the Family who stressed on the importance of volunteering in the Maltese society at the level of community. Mr. Angelo Chetcuti, from the European Union Representation in Malta, in his speech, mentioned the commitment of the EU to support volunteering dedicating this year to the sector as well as the coming year to active ageing.

The EYV 2011 Tour had visited each of the 27 EU member states over a one-year period. The idea of the Tour was to provide opportunities for volunteers and volunteer organisations to showcase their work and engage with policy makers and the public. The Malta Council for the



Voluntary Sector hosted an 8-day interactive program all around the theme of volunteering including discussions with experts and the general public as well as presentations on the subject of volunteering. The event was structured into thematic

areas such as Education, Youth, Arts and Culture, Environment, Social and Humanitarian and others. More than fifty voluntary organisations participated during

the event which was visited by more than two thousand people. Apart from the voluntary organisations, various entities supported the event during the period making it a success, namely the Ministry of Education, Employment and the Family, the European Representation in Malta, MEUSAC, the

Ministry of Resources and Rural Affairs, EUPA, Kunsill Malti għall-iSport, PBS, the Malta Film Commission as well as various other important activities.

### **30<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

The Voluntary Organisations Fund (VOF) within the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS), launched the 'Small Initiatives Support Scheme' or 'SIS' to support small initiatives by Voluntary Organisations. Voluntary Organisations enrolled with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations could apply under the Small Initiatives Support Scheme for small projects costing not less than €1,000 and not more than €3,000. The project should be completed within 12 months of the funding decision. 70% of the approved grant will be given to the promoter on signing of the agreement and the balance of 30% will be given to the promoter on closure of the project. Projects under the Small Initiatives Support Scheme encourages projects in areas such as training courses for volunteers or the public, events such as exhibitions, festivals etc., web sites, publications and other initiatives related to the voluntary sector.

### **5<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

A new *Interactive Website*, [www.volontarjatmalta.com](http://www.volontarjatmalta.com), was launched. This includes a wealth of information on the voluntary sector and a number of good practices and the value of volunteering and the voluntary sector. The main focus of this web site is to serve as a tool to match the needs of Voluntary Organisations, individuals and

corporate entities. This website will be used to give broad coverage of voluntary activities where Volunteers find Organisations and Organisations find Volunteers!

### **5<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

The National Volunteer Award was launched by MCVS to recognise the important work carried out by those who volunteer with voluntary organisations. The award is intended to contribute towards the rewarding and recognition of achievements

gained in volunteering activities and the raising of awareness of the value and importance of volunteering. The launch was chaired by Mr Robert Farrugia, Chairperson MCVS who in his speech talked about the valuable contribution that volunteers give towards society, a contribution that is not



only that of solidarity and support but also a tangible contribution which can be financially quantified. He also said that “through this award we will honour those men and women who, for no material gain, dedicate themselves to help others or work for a cause.” He also said that we are duty bound to raise public awareness of the crucial role volunteers play in our society and therefore they should be encouraged and supported.

Members of the general public and organisations were asked to nominate individuals they believe to be deserving of the award. The recipient of the award was selected by an independent board appointed by MCVS and the presentation of the award took place on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2011. The adjudication board was composed of Mr. Joe Dimech (Journalist), Ms Louise Gusman (Council Member MCVS) and Ms Miriam Teuma (CEO Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ). The National Volunteer Award 2011 was given as follows:

- 1st Place: Mr Joseph Mifsud (Mission Fund)
- Joint 2nd Place: Ms Helen Muscat (Action for Breast Cancer), and  
Ms Miriam Bonnici (Malta Society of the Blind)
- 3rd Place: Mr John L. Peel (National Parents Society for Persons with  
Disability)

The Awards were presented by Mr. Robert Farrugia, Chairperson MCVS, Mr. Martin Bugelli, Head EU Representation in Malta and Prof. Kenneth Wain, Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations.

### **14<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

The European Year of Volunteering ended on a remarkable note for MCVS and the voluntary organisations, with the commitment from Government of the transformation of the old slaughterhouse into a Volunteer Centre. The 17th century dilapidated building, situated right next to the Auberge de Baviere in Valletta, will be eventually passed on to the Malta Council



for the Voluntary Sector to be used by organisations. The Minister for Resources and Rural Affairs, the Hon. George Pullicino said that the restoration and the revitalisation of this building will mark the commitment of Government to volunteers and voluntary organisation with this monumental landmark ending the year dedicated to volunteers. He said that the Government is committed to support the regeneration of this area with the investment of around €1 million, mainly in the restoration and refurbishing of the building, converting what was a delapidated building into a live Volunteer Centre.

The Volunteer Centre will be providing various facilities. There will be one floor

converted into a centre for creativity housing exhibitions and music gigs among others, another floor will be taken up as office space and common facilities, equipped with meeting and training rooms which will be used on a time sharing basis by those Voluntray Organisations needing a base for their operations. The premises

will also be provided with IT facilities, storage facilities for individual organisations as well as a postal address to receive their organisation's correspondence. The Volunteer Centre will also include two larger conference halls. As part of the project, hostel facilities will also be provided to cater for foreign guests, exchanges and live-in seminars. This building will also host the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector from where it will manage its operation, including training, support and capacity building of the Sector, including the provision of a resource centre/library.



*Mauro Pace Parascandalo*  
*Executive Secretary*  
MCVS