

Annual Report 2012



Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector Draft Annual Report 2012

The Composition of the Council

The MCVS was composed of the following members during 2012:

Mr. Robert Farrugia	-	Chairperson
Prof. Kenneth Wain	-	Vice Chairperson (ex-ufficcio)
Mr. Ian Azzopardi	-	Member
Ms. Doris Bingley	-	Member
Mr. Rueben Buttigieg	-	Member (resigned in August 2012)
Mr. Nathan Farrugia	-	Member
Perit Anthony Fenech Vella	-	Member
Ms. Louise Gusman	-	Member
Ms. Frank Mifsud	-	Member
Ms. Claudia Taylor-East	-	Member
Mr. Lawrence Farrugia	-	Member
Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandalo	-	Executive Secretary and Secretary to the Council

The Work of the Council

The Council met eleven times during the year. Some of the main issues addressed during 2012 were Training and Capacity Building of VOs, amendments to the Voluntary Organisations (VO) Act, the Good Practice /Code of Ethics document, Budget Proposals, the Small Initiatives Supports Scheme and other funding possibilities for VOs, and the Volunteer Centre Project. There were also three sub-committees namely the *Training Sub-Committee* composed of Council members Mr. Nathan Farrugia, Mr. Ian Azzopardi and Ms Doris Bingley; *EU Proposed Projects Sub Committee* composed of Council Members Ms Claudia Taylor East, Mr. Reuben Buttigieg and Ms Louis Gusman; the *Volunteer Centre and Public Relations Sub Committee* composed of Mr. Robert Farrugia, Perit Anthony Fenech Vella and Mr. Laurence Farrugia and the *Platform / Networking Sub Committee* composed of Mr. Frank Mifsud, Ms Doris Bingley and Mr. Lawrence Farrugia. There was also the *Advisory Committee to the Commissioner* composed of Mr. Frank Mifsud, Ms Louise

Gusman and Mr Reuben Buttigieg; and the VO Fund Board of Administration composed of composed of Mr. Robert Farrugia, Mr Ian Azzopardi and Ms Louise Gusman.

During the course of the year there were various meetings held with official entities and officials. There were also a series of meetings between a delegation from the Council and specific Ministers to discuss issues relevant to the voluntary sector and how these could be addressed by the relative Ministry. These meetings were held mainly with the Minister Social Affairs, Employment and the Family, the Hon. Chris Said, under whose remit the Council falls, and the Minister for Finance, the Economy and Investment, the Hon. Mr. Tonio Fenech, mainly on issues related to the Council's Budget 2013 proposals.

MCVS Services

During 2012 MCVS established the two web sites www.maltacvs.org and www.volontarjat.org. These two website have a complimentary function. The MCVS web site www.maltacvs.org is there to keep Voluntary Organisations and the general public informed of what is happening in the VO sector. This tool also supports Voluntary Organisations in promoting their events, activities and training through the web page's Latest Posts, Web Calendar and the Advert Banner. Information may also be circulated through a Mass Mailing System. The second web site is a VO Matching and Search Engine on line intended to support Volunteer Organisation and need volunteers or individuals or groups of friends looking to give a volunteer service. It also links corporate entities with Volunteer Organisations.

Another service established was the Volunteer Organisations Directory. The VO Directory is there to support in the promotion of Voluntary Organisations. This tool can be accessed on the MCVS web site and all Volunteer Organisations may register their organisation on line. In the directory both enrolled and non-enrolled VO's with the Commissioner for VO's are listed.

As part of the services given by MCVS, an exercise was initiated where the Council is looking into services required by VOs and requesting service providers to support

VOs as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility to offer such services at a free or discounted price. The first area addressed is that for web design companies to offer their services with a discounted rate to Voluntary Organisations enrolled with the Commissioner for VO's. A number of companies joined in this initiative.

Training

For the first time MCVS started addressing the issue of training. MCVs, in collaboration with the EIE Institute of Education, organised a 'Volunteer Organisations Coordinators' Training' which was open to participants coming from Voluntary Organisations. The training sessions were held once a month with the first session starting on the 23rd June 2012. This Training was open to those involved in the running and management of a voluntary organisation, committee members, team leaders etc. An average of 40 participants attended each session. These training sessions addressed the following areas:

- Public Speaking, Communications and Campaigning
- Networking, sharing best practice and
- Values, ethics and principles of operating a 'service'
- Sustainability & Fundraising techniques
- Managing Volunteers and staff (including recruitment, training etc.)
- Governance - Finance and Legal

Small Initiatives Support Scheme (SIS) 2012

The Voluntary Organisations Fund (VOF) within the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS) launched the 'Small Initiatives Support Scheme' or 'SIS' in October. This Scheme was launched for the second consecutive year to support small initiatives by Voluntary Organisations. By the closing deadline of the Scheme 104 project applications by Voluntary Organisations enrolled with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations were submitted, marking a 22% increase on the 2011

deadline. The Final Results for SIS 2012 Deadline were published in the MCVS web site.

National Volunteer Award

The 2012 National Volunteer Award was organised by the Council for the second consecutive year and for this year twelve nominations were submitted. The presentation of the Award was held on the 19th of December 2012 at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta.

The board of adjudication was composed of Ms. Miriam Teuma, Mr. Joe Dimech and Mr. Glenn Bugeja. The National Volunteer Award was given as follows:

1st Place: Mr Christopher Borg Cardona (St. John Rescue Corps – Malta

2nd Place: Mr Philip Chircop (Central Bank Pensioners Association)

3rd Place: Ms Rosalind Agius (Abandoned Animals Association)

The Awards were presented by Mr. Robert Farrugia, Chairperson MCVS, Ms. Miriam Teuma, Chairperson of the Evaluation Committee, and Mr. Joe Dimech, Member of the Evaluation Committee.

Volunteer Centre

During 2012 preparation work started on the Volunteer Centre project which should see the 17th century slaughter house building, situated right next to the Auberge de Baviere in Valletta, turned into a centre for and used by volunteer organisations. The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector has discussed its proposals to the Architects of the Valletta Rehabilitation Project responsible for the development of the project, which plans have been submitted to MEPA. The Volunteer Centre will be providing various facilities such 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