

Annual Report 2013



Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector Draft Annual Report 2013

The Composition of the Council

The MCVS was composed of the following members during 2013:

Mr. Robert Farrugia	-	Chairperson
Prof. Kenneth Wain	-	Vice Chairperson (ex-ufficcio)
Mr. Ian Azzopardi	-	Member
Ms. Romina Baldwin	-	Member (Gov. rep. as of 1 st September 2013)
Ms. Doris Bingley	-	Member
Mr. Nathan Farrugia	-	Member
Perit Anthony Fenech Vella	-	Member
Ms. Louise Gusman	-	Member
Ms. Miriam Muscat	-	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. During the year various issues were addressed namely Training and Capacity Building of VOs, Mentoring of VOs, amendments to the Voluntary Organisations (VO) Act, Funding and 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. Robert Farrugia and Ms Miriam Muscat; 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. Miriam Muscat, Ms Doris Bingley and Mr. Lawrence Farrugia. There was also the Advisory Committee to the Commissioner composed of Ms Claudia Taylor East, Ms Louise

Gusman and Ms Miriam Muscat; 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 for Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties, the Hon. Helena Dalli, under whose remit the Council falls, and the Minister for Finance, the Hon. Edward Scicluna, mainly on issues related to the Council's Budget 2014 proposals.

MCVS Services

During 2013 MCVS continued to work on the services offered to the sector. One of these services was the support given through the two web sites www.maltacvs.org and www.volontarjat.org. These two websites which have a complimentary function 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 supports the matching of Volunteer Organisations and volunteers or individuals or groups of friends looking to give a volunteer service. It also links corporate entities with Volunteer Organisations.

The online Volunteer Organisations Directory, which is there to support the promotion of Voluntary Organisations, in 2013 totaled to more than 1,400 voluntary organisations listed, both enrolled and non-enrolled VO's with the Commissioner for VOs.

As part of the services given by MCVS, an exercise was initiated where the Council looked 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

specially discounted price. The first area addressed is that for web design companies to offer their services to Voluntary Organisations enrolled with the Commissioner for VO's at a discounted rate. A number of companies joined in this initiative.

Training

For the second year running MCVS 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 20th July 2013. This Training was open to those involved in the running and management of a voluntary organisation, committee members, team leaders etc. On average 50 participants attended each session. These training sessions addressed the following areas:

- ☛ 1. Sustainability & Fundraising techniques - 20th July 2013
- ☛ 2. Managing Volunteers and Staff - 27th July 2013
- ☛ 3. Networking, Sharing of Practices and Ideas - 7th September 2103
- ☛ 4. Governance - Finance and Legal - 28th September 2013
- ☛ 5. Values, Ethics and Principles - 12th October 2013
- ☛ 6. Communications, Fundraising and Campaigns - 26th October 2013

Small Initiatives Support Scheme (SIS) 2013

In October 2013 the Voluntary Organisations Fund (VOF) within the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS) launched the 'Small Initiatives Support Scheme' ('SIS') for the third consecutive year. By the closing deadline of the Scheme, 94 project applications by voluntary organisations enrolled with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations were submitted. The Final Results for SIS 2013 Deadline, which will be carried out through 2014 were published in the MCVS web site.

National Volunteer Award

The 2013 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 29th January 2014 at Dar I-Ewropa, Valletta.

The board of adjudication was composed of Dr. Sue Vella, Mr. Mario Xuereb and Mr. Lawrence Farrugia. The National Volunteer Award result was as follows:

1st Place: Ms Sylvia Ebejer – Mission Fund

2nd Place: Ms Jessie Ebejer – St. Jeanne Antide Foundation

3rd Place: Mr Joe Cilia – Hospice Malta

The Awards were presented by Mr. Joseph Camilleri, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry for Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties and Mr. Robert Farrugia, Chairperson MCVS.

Volunteer Centre

During 2013 the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector togetherwith the architects of the Valletta Rehabilitation Project responsible for the development of the project, have submitted the plans to MEPA, which plans recieved the preliminary approval. 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 aslo include two larger conference halls. 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.

Training Seminar

On the 30th November 2013 MCVS organised a Training Seminar for VO Administrators which was held at the Dolmen Resort Hotel, Qawra. The Seminar which was intended to disseminate information, share good practices and create a forum for discussion amongst VOs to address the training needs, was attended by 110 administrators from various VOs. Topics addressed during the seminar were Fundraising Techniques, Managing Volunteers and Staff, Legal and Governance, Strategy Planning and Mapping, Finance, Networking and Sharing Best Practices, Innovative Enterprise and Communications and Campaigning. The Seminar was addressed by the Hon. Minister Helena Dalli, who gave the concluding speech.

Meetings with Voluntary Organisation through Local Councils

During 2013 the Council took the initiative to start meeting with VO's with the cooperation of the Local Councils. The meetings were held in the various localities throughout the year, which meeting were carried out on Monday evening by Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandalo. The Local Councils visited were the following 20 localities: Balzan, Birgu, Birzebbugia, Fgura, Floriana, Għajnsielem – Gozo, Għargħur, Marsaskala, Marsaxlokk, Mellieħa, Mgarr, Paola, Pembroke, Santa Lucia, Santa Venera, Senglea, Swieqi, Ta' Xbiex, Żabbar, and Żebbuġ – Gozo.



Mauro Pace Parascandalo

Executive Secretary

MCVS