




Malta Council for the
VOLUNTARY SECTOR

ANNUAL REPORT

2014



Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector Annual Report 2014

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The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector

The 2nd Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector ended its term on the 30th June 2014. Up till this date the Council was composed of the following members:

Mr. Robert Farrugia	-	Chairperson
Prof. Kenneth Wain	-	Vice Chairperson (ex-ufficio)
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 3rd Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector started its new term of office on the 1st July 2014. The new Council was composed of the following members:

Mr. Nathan Farrugia	-	Chairperson
Prof. Kenneth Wain	-	Vice Chairperson (ex-ufficio)
Mr. Ian Azzopardi	-	Member
Ms. Romina Baldwin	-	Member (Gov. rep.)
Ms. Doris Bingley	-	Member
Ms. Gertrude Buttigieg	-	Member
Dr. Noel Camilleri	-	Member
Mr. Edward Gruppeta	-	Member
Mr. Ryan Mercieca	-	Member (resigned on the 1 st of December 2014)
Ms. Gemma Sirol	-	Member
Ms. Claudia Taylor-East	-	Member
Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandalo	-	Executive Secretary and Secretary to the Council



The Council Sub-Committees and Boards


In the first half of the year the Council had four 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 Administrators composed of Mr. Robert Farrugia, Mr Ian Azzopardi and Ms Louise Gusman.

Following the appointment of the 3rd Council, there was a change not only in the members nominated in the various Sub-Committees but also in the composition and the terms of reference of the newly composed Sub-Committees.

The VO Fund Board of Administrators is now composed of four members namely Mr. Nathan Farrugia (Chairperson), Ms. Claudia Taylor-East, Mr. Ian Azzopardi and Dr. Noel Camilleri. The Purposes of the VO Fund as a Foundation has been established by law to assist and support enrolled voluntary organisations through education, management support and financial grants in terms of Article 37(3) of the VO Act.

The Training and Mentoring Sub-Committee is composed of Mr. Edward Gruppetta (Chairperson), Ms. Gertrude Buttigieg and Ms. Gemma Sirol. The terms of reference of the Training Sub-Committee are to support and help in the development of and voluntary organisations in Malta & Gozo through the provision of training and mentoring programmes. These programmes shall address amongst other issues, but not only, that of capacity building and good governance.



Another Sub-Committee is that working on Networking, PR and EU Relations, an area which the Council felt should be given more focus. The members of this Sub-Committee are Ms. Claudia Taylor-East (Chairperson), Dr. Noel Camilleri, Mr. Edward Gruppetta and Ms. Gertrude Buttigieg. Its terms of reference are to The Sub-Committee shall be responsible on behalf of the Council to stimulate co-operation and networking between voluntary organisations and to provide a platform from which to develop co-operation between voluntary organisations and the Government, work towards strengthening and, in some areas, establishing networking amongst Voluntary Organisations, supporting the setting up of platforms, and providing support and coordination in such cases.

The Sub Committee shall also be responsible to promote and inform the public on issues related to the Council and the voluntary sector in general. It shall also facilitate the participation of the Council in European for as well as in becoming a member of such European bodies working in the field of NGOs.

The Consulting Sub-Committee to the Commissioner is composed of Dr. Noel Camilleri (Chairperson), Ms. Doris Bingley and Mr. Ian Azzopardi. The terms of reference of this Committee arises from Article 35(12) of the Voluntary Organisations Act, “the Council shall appoint a sub-committee composed of three members of the Council and which shall be consulted by the Commissioner in the cases referred to in article 7(3). The sub-committee shall have a quorum of two members and the written response of the two members agreeing or disagreeing to a recommended course of action shall suffice as an expression of the views of the committee.

The Council also appointed two ‘*Ad Hoc*’ Committees for a limited term and specific objectives. The first ‘*Ad Hoc*’ Committee was responsible to plan and launch the VO Centre in Valletta and was composed of Mr. Nathan Farrugia (Chairperson), Ms. Doris Bingley, Ms. Romina Baldwin and Dr. Noel Camilleri. The second ‘*Ad Hoc*’ Committee was responsible to plan and launch the National Volunteer Award 2014. This Committee was composed of Ms. Gertrude Buttigieg (Chairperson), Ms. Doris Bingley and Ms. Claudia Taylor East.



The Work of the Council

The 2nd MCVS Council met four times till the expiry of its term of office on the 30th June 2014 while the 3rd MCVS Council met six times following its appointment as of the 1st July 2014.

During this year there was a continuation of the work carried out by the Council in 2013, consolidating the initiated projects and initiates such as the Training and Capacity Building Program for Voluntary Organisations Administrators, the Small Initiatives Supports Scheme and the National Volunteer Award. During this year the 2nd Council launched the Mentoring Scheme for VOs as well as finalised the discussions on the Amendments to the Voluntary Organisations (VO) Act and presented them to the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations. Funding and Budget Proposals were also presented to the Government to be implemented in the Budget for 2015. When the 3rd Council started its work in the latter half of the year, there was a smooth transition in the work of the Council with the continuation of the Training and Mentoring Programs as well as the launch of the Small Initiatives Supports Scheme for projects to be undertaken in 2015. During the second half of the year the Council made an extra effort to find premises for the long awaited Volunteer Centre, which initiated was officially inaugurated by the end of the year.

Various meetings were between the Council and Ministries and official entities. There were also a series of meetings between delegations including two meetings with the Minister for Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties, the Hon. Helena Dalli, under whose remit the Council falls, were various items were discussed and were the Minister demonstrated her full commitment in support of the Council and the voluntary sector at large. The Council also had a courtesy visit as well as a formal meeting with Her Excellency the President of the Republic Marie Louise Coleiro Preca. These meeting were very productive and paved the way for further cooperation between the two entities.

Services Provided by the Council

The Council continued to work on the services offered to the sector, building upon and consolidating those given in the previous two years. The Council kept updating the two websites managed which are the 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 are now being used to provide applications online for the services provided. 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 was also be circulated through a Mass Mailing System, which system was found to be extremely useful both in the dissemination of information by MCVS to the voluntary organisations, as well as circulated on a national level events and activities organised voluntary organisations and which were of general interest. The second web site, the www.volontarjat.org which supports the matching of Volunteer Organisations and volunteers or individuals or groups of friends looking to give a volunteer service, is still underutilized.

The online Volunteer Organisations Directory is another tool which is active and is used as a reference point for various entities and individuals, with more than 1,400 voluntary organisations listed.



Small Initiatives Support Scheme (SIS) 2013 Awards

The Voluntary Organisations Fund within the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS) in the first quarter of the year awarded for the third year a number of initiatives under the 'Small Initiatives Support Scheme' or 'SIS' which were adjudicated under the 2013 deadline.



This initiative, which is supported by the Ministry of Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties, this year supported twenty voluntary with a grant of €3,000 each to undertake their project.

In a Grant Award Ceremony held on Thursday the 13th March 2014 at

Dar L-Ewropa, Valletta, the Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties, the Honourable Helena Dalli, together with Mr. Robert Farrugia, Chairperson of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector, presented the contract for the projects to the following voluntary organisations:

1. Troupe 18.45 (VO/0371)
2. Inizjamed (VO/0355)
3. The President's Award Scheme (VO/0831)
4. The Helping Hands Group (VO/0286)
5. ADHD Family Support Group Malta (VO/0041)
6. RISE Malta (VO/0834)
7. Salesians Oratory (VO/0079)
8. Special Olympics Malta (VO/0165)
9. The New Choral Singers (VO/0343)
10. The Spiro Mizzi Foundation (VO/0721)

11. Victim Support Malta (VO/0141)
12. Women's Rights Foundation (VO/0880)
13. Centru Tbexbix (VO/011)
14. Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS) Malta (VO/064)
15. Ghaqda Banda Zejtun (VO/362)
16. St Jeanne Antide Foundation (VO/005)
17. The President's Award Scheme Malta (VO/831)
18. Birzebbugia Sailing Club (VO/654)
19. Organisation for Friendship in Diversity (VO/279)
20. Medical Students' Association (VO/417)

In his speech Mr Farrugia said that the SIS Scheme has in the last three years supported sixty projects with a budget of €180,000, projects which enabled voluntary organisations working in the various sector to undergo small initiatives which may otherwise not have taken place.



He said that this scheme is one of the initiatives taken by the Council to support the voluntary sector, which is possible thanks to the financial supported granted by the Government, which support has this year increased considerably.

The Honourable Minister Helena Dalli in her address thanked the voluntary organisations for their commitment and service within the community. She said that she has only words of praise for the selflessness by which individuals working in the sector give their contribution. The Minister said that for these reasons the Government was committed to support the sector not only financially, where this year the NGO Fund was increased to €3,600,000 and the allocation to the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector was increased to a total allocation of €260,000, but also through the involvement of the sector in aspects which are of common concern.

Photo Gallery – SIS 2013 Awards



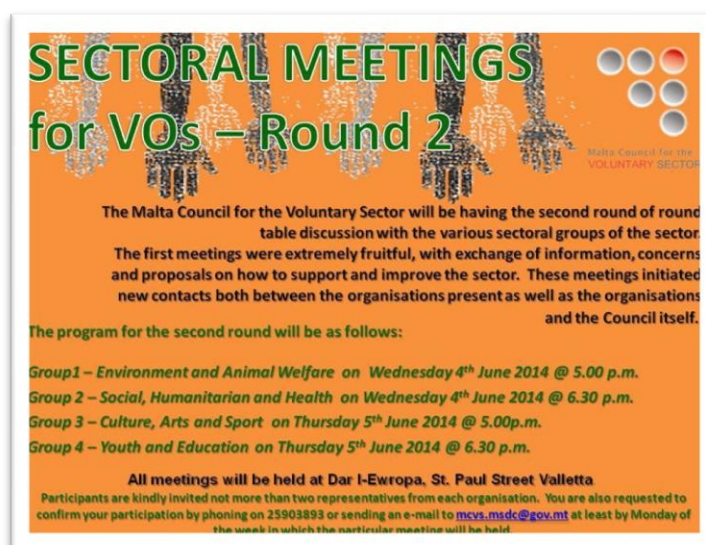
Small Initiatives Support Scheme (SIS) 2014 Deadline

The 'Small Initiatives Support Scheme' ('SIS') for projects to be undertaken in 2015 was opened on the 15th October 2014. An information meeting was held for Voluntary Organisations interested to submit applications was held on the 14th November 2014. By the closing deadline of the Scheme, 84 project applications by voluntary organisations enrolled with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations were submitted.



Sectoral Meetings

The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector started to organise Sectoral Meetings on a quarterly basis with Voluntary Organisations. These meetings are intended to be organized on a regular basis so that the Council may establish a direct line of communication with the Organisations, where the latter may bring up their concerns and recommendations concerning the Sector in which



they operate. Through these meetings the Council will also be in a position to inform the Organisations of its plans for the future as well to bring on board the same Organisations in upcoming projects and initiatives. The Voluntary Organisations were divided in four sectoral groups namely ***Environment and Animal Welfare, Social, Humanitarian and Health, Culture, Arts and Sport*** and ***Education and Youth***. The first set of meetings was held in February/March, the second set in May/June and the third set were held in September.

Training Program for Voluntary Organisations' Administrators

For the third year running the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector organised a its Training Program addressed to administrators working within Voluntary Organisation. This year's training was carried out by Allied Consultants on behalf of the Council, which training was offered both to administrators from both



**Training Programme 2014
for Administrators
of Voluntary Organisations**

The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS) is once more launching its Training Programme for VO Administrators. The dates of the sessions are as follows:

1. Governance - Administrative and Legal – 3rd May 2014
2. Communications, Fundraising and Campaigning – 17th May 2014
3. Accessing EU and Local Funding (part 1) – 31st May 2014
4. Accessing EU and Local Funding (part 2) – 14th June 2014
5. Finance – 28th June 2014
6. Sustainability & Fundraising techniques – 20th September 2014
7. Managing Volunteers and Staff – 27th September 2014
8. Networking, Sharing of Practices and Ideas – 11th October 2014
9. Values, Ethics and Principles – 25th October 2014

All sessions will be delivered between 9am – noon
at Allied Consultants, The Penthouse, Sean Building, Psaila Street, B'Kara BKR 9078.
For more information contact MCVS on 25903893 or email mcvs.msdc@gov.mt

enrolled and non-enrolled Voluntary Organisations. This Training was open to those involved in the running and management of a voluntary organisation, committee members, team leaders etc. On average there was a good participation for the first five sessions, averaging an attendance of forty participants per session. Unfortunately the participation dwindled down in the last four sessions.

Below are the training sessions held:

Title	Date
1.Governance – Administrative & Legal	3 rd May 2014
2.Communications, Fundraising & Campaigning	17 th May 2014
3.Accessing EU & Local Funding (Part1)	31 st May 2014
4.Accessing EU & Local Funding (Part2)	14 th June 2014
5.Finance	28 th June 2014
6. Networking, Sharing of Practices & Ideas	20 th September 2014
7.Sustainability & Fundraising Techniques	27 th September 2014
8.Managing Volunteers & Staff	11 th October 2014
9.Values, Ethics & Principles	25 th October 2014

First Aid Training

Following the success of the MCVS Training Program which has been running since 2012 this year the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector decided to add additional topics. One of these new topics included First Aid Training.

For the first time the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector organised two First Aid Courses in collaboration with the Malta Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade, Malta. The first course carried out by the Malta Red Cross Society was carried out in March 2014 and the second course was




Malta Council for the VOLUNTARY SECTOR

The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector is organising two First Aid Courses in collaboration with the Malta Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade, Malta.

First Aid Course 1
 4 Sessions on Wednesday Time: 6.00p.m. To 9.30p.m.
 Dates: 19, 26 February and 5, 12 March 2014
 Place: Malta Red Cross Society, 104, St. Ursula Street, Valletta

First Aid Course 2
 5 Sessions on Saturday Time: 9am to 1.30pm with half an hour break
 Dates: 5, 12, 26 April, and 3, 10 May 2014. 10th May from 11am to 1.30pm.
 Place: St. John Ambulance Brigade HQ, Independence Square, Valletta

For bookings contact MCVS on 25903891 or mcvs@mcvs.org.mt
Only 15 places each Course. Bookings on first come first served basis.

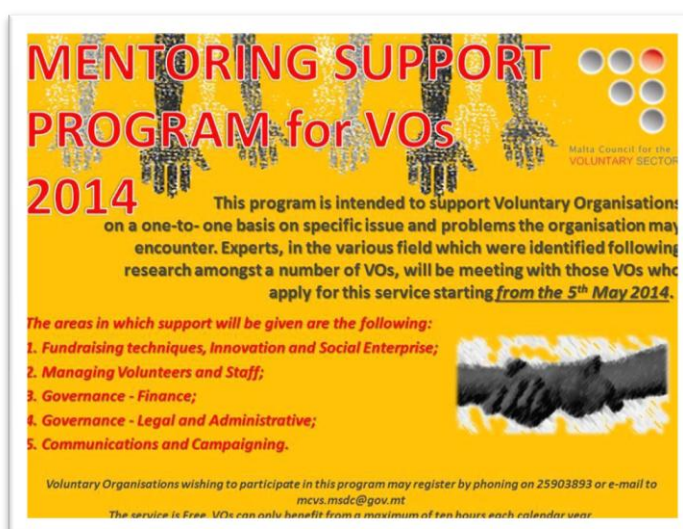


carried out in May 2014 by the St. John Ambulance Brigade. To compliment this initiative, the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector organised another First Aid Course in Gozo which was organised also in May by the Emergency Response and Rescue Corps.

Apart from these three First Aid Courses the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector supported five other courses organised by Voluntary Organisations within their own community. These courses were intended to address particular groups of persons within the community and attendance for these courses was free of charge. The Voluntary Organisations which were awarded the organisation of these First Aid Courses were Arka Foundation, Home Away from Home, Zejtun Corinthians Youth Nursery, Special Olympics Malta and Little Sisters of the Poor.

Mentoring Scheme

The Council launched for the first time the Mentoring Scheme initiative intended to give one-to-one advice and support to Voluntary Organisations in specific areas according to their needs. The areas in which support was provided were Fundraising Techniques, Innovation and Social Enterprise; Managing Volunteers and Staff; Governance – Finance; Governance – Legal and Administrative; and Communications and Campaigning. Every Organisation could apply for a maximum of 10 hours in one calendar year. Each session was of not more than two hours in one visit, but more than one visit in a particular area could be requested. Twenty six Voluntary Organisations benefited from this initiative.



Participation in the National Trade Fairs

The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector was pleased to repeat the 2011 initiative to give space to the Voluntary Organisations to promote their organisations during the two major commercial fairs of the year which are the Malta Trade Fair at MCF, Ta' Qali and 'Il-Fiera I-Kbira' at Montekristo Estate, Luqa.

The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector is invited Voluntary Organisations to be part of the MCVS stand and promote their Organisation. More than thirty Voluntary Organisations participated in this initiative which was once more considered as a great success by the same organisations.



The Malta Trade Fair was held between the 26th of June 2014 and the 6th of July 2014 at MFCC and 'Il-Fiera I –Kbira was held at Montekristo Estate from 11th till the 20 of July 2014.

Photo Gallery – Participation in National Commercial Fairs



Volunteer Centre - Valletta

The Volunteer Centre will serve primarily to foster and develop volunteerism in the community as a whole as well as support small and medium sized voluntary organisation in their operation. In general it will support four main areas: The Promotion of volunteerism, Capacity building for effective local volunteering, Provide leadership on issues relating to volunteerism and provide leadership on issues relating to volunteerism and connect people with opportunities to serve and a base from which small and medium voluntary organisations can operate. It may also undergo research and situation analysis, both on a local as well as regional level.



The Centre, which has been in the pipeline for the past four years, has received the much needed push forward by the direct intervention of the Ministry for Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties through which the

premises were provided through the Lands Department. The building, which is located at 181, Melita Street, corner with St. Paul Street in Valletta in a very central and accessible area, provides the necessary space for the projected scope.

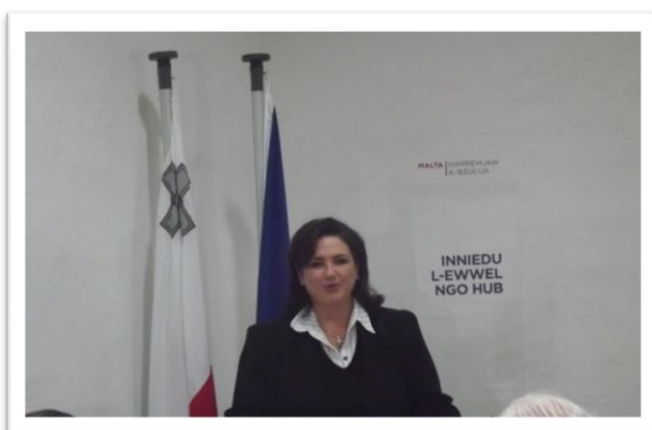


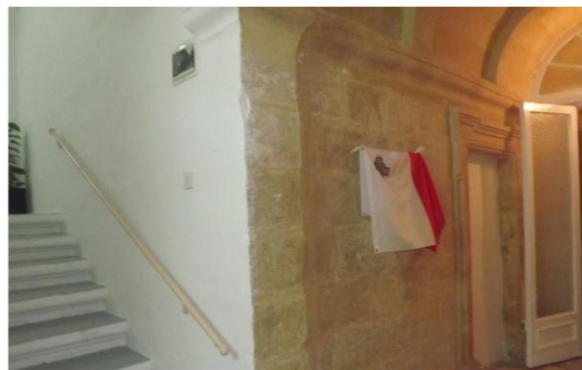
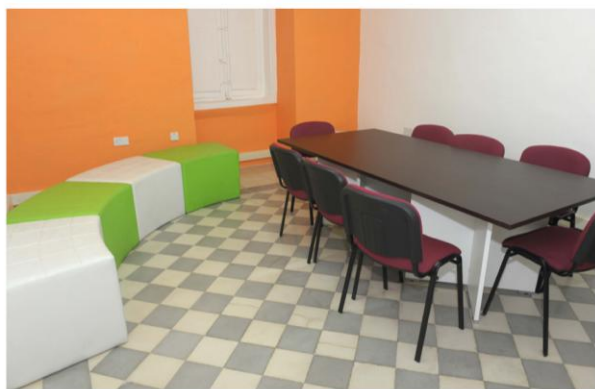
The first Volunteer Centre was officially inaugurated on the 5th of December by the Hon. Minister Helena Dalli in the presence of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector, led by Chairperson Mr. Nathan Farrugia, and various guests. The Volunteer Centre is the administrative offices of the



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. It will be providing various facilities to the Voluntray Organisations themselves such as office space and common facilities, equipped with four meeting rooms and a training hall which will be used on a time sharing basis by those voluntray organisations needing a base for their operations.

Photo Gallery – Valletta Volunteer Centre Official Opening





National Volunteer Award 2014

The **National Volunteer Award** was organised for the fourth consecutive time by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector and for the first time was held under the patronage of H.E. the President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca. This year the National Volunteer was complimented by another three new awards which were the **Youth Volunteer Award**, the **Volunteer Organisation Award** and the **Corporate Volunteering Award**.



The aim of the National Awards is to give broad recognition to the service done by the volunteers and Voluntary Organisations within the community, create awareness of the exemplary values displayed by the volunteers and organisations with the goal of locating role models for youth and wider society; and to recognise the important contributions made in various fields.



The Award Ceremony was held on the 9th of December 2014 at the Presidential Palace where the Awards were presented by H.E. the President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca accompanied by Mr. Nathan Farrugia, Chairperson of the Malta Council of the Voluntary Sector.



The **National Volunteer Award** is aimed to award individual volunteer who has contributed in any field, such as social, humanitarian, health, ecological, cultural, education, sports, etc. The voluntary work must have had a positive contribution towards a particular field and should ideally

have served as an inspiration to others. This year's National Volunteer Award went to Ms. Gemma Sirol who has been a volunteer since the age of 11 years. She has been an active member since 1967 and currently she is the Commissioner of St. John Ambulance, serving also as a volunteer in various committees both in her local community and also on Government Boards.

The **Volunteer Organisation Award** which is awarded to a Voluntary Organisation who has been outstanding in the sector in which it operates, being both innovative in its approach and services within the community as well as in its way of recruiting and supporting volunteers, was awarded to Hospice Malta. Hospice Malta provides palliative care services to patients suffering from cancer, Motor Neuron Disease, end of life respiratory, cardiac and renal disease. Through continual improvement and investment in its resources, Hospice Malta aspires to continue providing high quality end of life care and Bereavement support. Volunteers at Hospice Malta are an integral part of the Organization as it cannot function without the input of the over 200 volunteers who are involved in all sectors of the Organization.





The **Youth Volunteer Award** which is awarded to a Volunteer between the age of 16 and 30 years and is aimed to promote volunteering amongst young people was awarded to Mr. Gabriel Hammet who is a volunteer with the St John Ambulance and who dedicates

most of his free time to cover as many duties as possible sometimes attending to more than one duty on the same day even when called on short notice.

The last award was the **Corporate Volunteering Award** which is intended to award that Company or Organisation coming from the Private Sector which has given tangible support to the Voluntary Sector, both by direct support as well as by supporting and facilitating its employees to volunteer. This Award went to HSBC Malta Bank p.l.c who as an employer encourages employees to

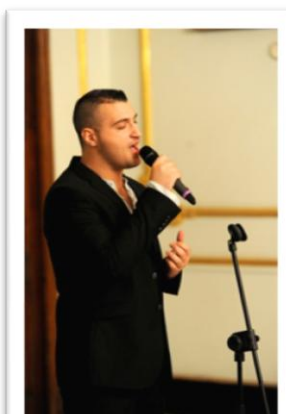
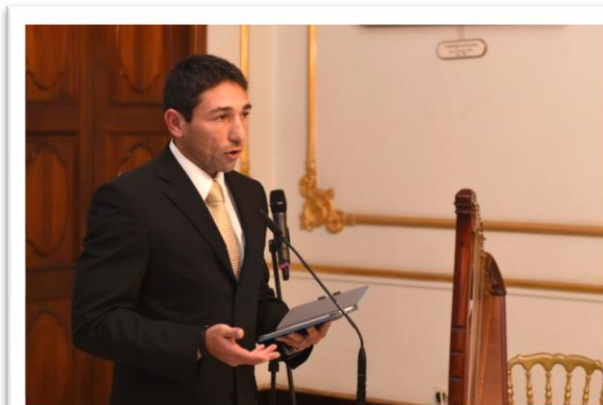


become more involved in the community as volunteers and supports them in these efforts. It involves creating a work environment where volunteer activity is valued and encouraged, with a belief in community relations, aiming to have a good understanding of community issues and is sensitive to community needs.

During this event, which was presented by Ms. Fiorella Pace, singer Kurt Cassar interpreted three songs, one of which was the song 'Inservi', dedicated to volunteering. Musician Michelle Paris also gave a beautiful display on the Celtic Harp, with a repertoire of music varying from local traditional songs to Christmas carols.



Photo Gallery – National Volunteer Award 2014



Mauro Pace Parascandalo
Executive Secretary
MCVS