



Malta Council for the
VOLUNTARY SECTOR

ANNUAL REPORT

2015



Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector **Annual Report 2015**

The Composition of the Council

The 3rd Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector started its new term of office on the 1st July 2014. The Council for 2015 was composed of the following members:

Mr. Nathan Farrugia	-	Chairperson
Prof. Kenneth Wain	-	Vice Chairperson (ex-ufficio)
Mr. Ian Azzopardi	-	Member
Ms. Myrna Azzopardi	-	Member (Gov. rep. As from October 2015)
Ms. Romina Baldwin	-	Member (Gov. rep. Up to September 2015)
Ms. Doris Bingley	-	Member
Ms. Gertrude Buttigieg	-	Member
Dr. Noel Camilleri	-	Member
Mr. Robert Farrugia	-	Member
Mr. Edward Gruppetta	-	Member
Ms. Gemma Siroi	-	Member
Ms. Claudia Taylor-East	-	Member
Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandalo	-	Executive Secretary and Secretary to the Council



The Council Sub-Committees and Boards

During this calendar year the Council had the following sub-committees and boards with the respective terms of reference:

VO Fund Board of Administrators

Members:

Mr. Nathan Farrugia (Chair)

Mr. Ian Azzopardi

Dr. Noel Camilleri

Ms. Claudia Taylor-East

Terms of reference:

The Purposes of the 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 VOA. (refer to VO Fund Statute)

Training and Mentoring Sub-Committee

Members:

Mr. Edward Gruppetta (Chair)

Ms. Gertrude Buttigieg

Mr. Robert Farrugia

Ms. Gemma Siroi

Terms of reference:

As part of the MCVS objectives, the Training Sub-Committee shall 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 issues, but not only, related to capacity building and good governance.





Networking, PR and EU Relations

Members:

Ms. Claudia Taylor-East (Chair)

Dr. Noel Camilleri

Mr. Robert Farrugia

Ms. Gertrude Buttigieg

Terms of reference:

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.

Consulting Sub-Committee to the Commissioner

Members:

Dr. Noel Camilleri (Chair)


Ms. Doris Bingley

Mr. Ian Azzopardi

Terms of reference:

According to 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





subcommittee 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.

'Ad Hoc' Committee to plan and launch the National Volunteer Award

Members:

Ms. Doris Bingley (Chair)

Ms. Gertrude Buttigieg

Ms. Claudia Taylor East

Terms of Reference:

Work towards the set up and preparation of the National Volunteer Award in conjunction with the Office of the President, preparing the general aims and procedures and setting the selection criteria. Once the procedures are in place, prepare for official launch.

The Work of the Council


The 3rd MCVS Council met eight times during 2015.

During this year there was a continuation of the work carried out by the Council in 2014, consolidating the initiated projects and initiatives such as the Training and Capacity Building Program for Voluntary Organisations Administrators, the Small Initiatives Supports Scheme, the Mentoring Scheme for VOs and the National Volunteer Award.

During this year the Council launched a new initiative, the Youth Voluntary Work Scheme.

The Council also opened the second Volunteer Centre in Qawra, complimenting the Valletta centre in support of VOs operating in the north.





There were regular meetings between representatives of the Council and the Minister for Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties, the Hon. Helena Dalli, under whose remit the Council falls, where various items were discussed and where the Minister demonstrated her full commitment in support of the Council and the voluntary sector at large. The Council also had two meetings with Her Excellency the President of the Republic Marie Louise Coleiro Preca. These meetings were very productive and paved the way for further cooperation between the two entities.


Additional Staff at MCVS

During 2015 MCVS continued to grow in its operation and for this reason its human capacity was incremented to support all the initiatives being undertaken. Apart from Ms. Christine Camilleri, who has been working as Secretary with the Council since 2012, the MCVS Office has now been joined by three new officials. They are Mr. Kevin Cassar is the Training Support Officer, responsible for Training, Mentoring and the Youth Voluntary Work Scheme; Mr. Jonathan Balzan is the Funding Support Officer, responsible for the Small Initiatives Support Scheme and Funding Guidance to VOs; and Ms. Maria Louisa Busuttil is the Fund Manager for the Voluntary Organisations Projects Scheme (managed by MCVS on behalf of the Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties) and also Funding Guidance to VOs.

Services given by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector

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 may 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 to circulate on a national level events and activities organised voluntary organisations and which are 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.

Training Program for Voluntary Organisations' Administrators

For the fourth year running the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector organised its Training Program addressed to administrators working within Voluntary Organisation. For this year's training the Council decided to allocate the sessions to various entities instead of one training coordinator. The idea was to have a better spread of expertise depending on the specific area. The training was offered to administrators from both enrolled and non-enrolled Voluntary Organisations, targeting those involved in the running and management of a voluntary organisation, committee members, team leaders etc. The program was initiated in September 2015 and intends to finish its cycle in June 2016. At that stage the Council will evaluate the program prior to initiating another cycle.

Below is the training program indicating the sessions held as well as the extended program for 2016:





Date	Training	Trainer
26/09/2015	Legal Obligations & Implications of a VO	Equinox
21/10/2015	Fundraising Practice, Fundraising Strategy & Event Management	Kopin
31/10/2015	Accessing EU & Local Funding	Funding Support
10/11/2015	Finance	Funding Support
28/11/2015	Finance	Funding Support
14/01/2016	Proposal Writing & Budgeting: Developing Skills	Funding Support
30/01/2016	Fundraising Practice, Fundraising Strategy & Event Management	Kopin
11/02/2016	Designing and Managing Fixed Term Projects in VO's	Funding Support
17/02/2016	Strategic Volunteer Management	Funding Support
27/02/2016	Strategic Volunteer Management	Funding Support
10/03/2016	Personal Power in Leadership: Creating the Climate for Success	Funding Support
26/03/2016	Proposal Writing & Budgeting: Developing Skills	Funding Support
14/04/2016	Communication & Campaigning	Misco
30/04/2016	Designing and Managing Fixed Term Projects in VO's	Funding Support
12/05/2016	Legal Obligations & Implications of a VO	Equinox
28/05/2016	Personal Power in Leadership: Creating the Climate for Success	Funding Support
09/06/2016	Accessing EU & Local Funding	Funding Support
25/06/2016	Communication & Campaigning	Misco

Small Initiatives Support Scheme (SIS) 2014

The 'Small Initiatives Support Scheme' ('SIS') for projects to be undertaken in 2016 was opened on the 16th October 2015 and closed on the 13th November 2015 at noon. An information meeting was held for Voluntary Organisations interested to submit applications was held on the 19th October 2015. By the closing deadline of the Scheme, 56 project applications by voluntary organisations enrolled with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations were submitted.





National Volunteer Award

The 2015 National Volunteer Award was organised by the Council for the fifth consecutive year. This year the The National Volunteer Award was again organised under the patronage of H.E. the President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca accompanied by the Hon. Minister Helena Dalli, Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties. The National Volunteer Award was complimented by another three awards which were the Youth Volunteer Award, the Volunteer Organisation Award and the Corporate Volunteering Award.

The National Volunteer Award went to Mr. Alfred Debattista, Transplant Support Group Malta; the Volunteer Organisation Award which was awarded to the Malta Red Cross Society; and the Youth Volunteer Award which was awarded to Mr. Roderick Theuma, who is a volunteer with the St John Rescue Corps. The Corporate Volunteering Award was not award. A commendation was also presented to Reaching Cambodia.

Volunteer Centre

The second Volunteer Centre was opened in Qawra as part of the Qawra Leap Centre Complex on the 24th January 2015 by the Hon. Minister Helena Dalli, Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties in the presence of the Hon. Minister Michael Farrugia, Minister for Social Solidarity and the Family. This Volunteer Centre will be providing facilities to Voluntray Organisations namely office space and common facilities, equipped with one meeting room and a training hall which will be used on a time sharing basis by those voluntray organisations needing a base for their operations.





Youth Voluntary Work Scheme

In May 2015 the Council launched the Youth Voluntary Work Scheme, a new opportunity for young people and Voluntary Organisations.


The Youth Voluntary Work Scheme is intended to achieve two main goals. The first goal is to help young people improve their skills and employment prospects by giving them an opportunity to take up volunteering as part of their non-formal and informal learning process. It will also enable them to discover the value of voluntary service and helps to foster a sense of community and active citizenship. The second goal of the scheme is to support Voluntary Organisations in attracting young people to volunteering, enabling them to enhance their capacity with new volunteers and fresh ideas.

National Training Conference 2015 – Leadership in the Voluntary Sector

The annual National Training Conference was organised by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector between the 3rd and the 5th December 2015 at the Marina Hotel Corinthia Beach Resort, St George’s Bay. The theme of this year’s conference was “Leadership in the Voluntary Sector”.

The first day took off with a welcome address by Mr Nathan Farrugia, Chairperson Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector followed by a plenary session: “Professional Volunteering, How to find and keep volunteers” delivered by Ms Perdita Wingerter, CEO and founder of the NGO “Gemeinsam leben & lernen in Europa” (Living and learning together within Europe). This was followed by a panel discussion. On the second day there was another plenary session: “Challenges in Leading a Voluntary Organisation in today’s world” delivered by the other foreign guest, Mr Mariano Votta, Director of Active Citizenship Network, Italy. This was followed by two sets of workshops.





The third and final day of the conference started off with a plenary session on Corporate Citizenship for Responsible Enterprises (CORE) delivered by Ms Maria Rauch (CEO, CORE). This was again followed by another two sets of workshops.

The conference was officially closed off by the address of the Hon. Minister Helena Dalli, Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties.

Mauro Pace Parascandalo

Executive Secretary

MCVS

