

PRESS RELEASE

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Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector

All Media

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MCVS reaction to the Budget 2013

The Malta Council for the Volunteer Sector (MCVS) has presented for the second consecutive year a set of proposals to the Ministry of Finance, Economy and Finance.

The Council notes with satisfaction that in Budget Speech 2013, the Hon. Minister Tonio Fenech has concretely shown recognition to the Voluntary Sector and the contribution that this sector gives both at community and social level as well as in real economical terms.

In its analysis of the Budget 2013 the Council appreciates that the first step was taken to start addressing issues related to Taxation by “Exempting from Tax Voluntary Organisations which are in conformity with the Voluntary Organisation’s Act 2007”, a step which is the result of several meetings with the Ministry of Finance addressing taxation issue. The Council will keep advocating with the Government on the issues related to tax exemptions and VAT which were not addressed in this Budget.

Two other Budget measures of the “Introduction of stipend for young people aged up to 25 or for those who up to three years after graduating from tertiary education spend a year performing voluntary work with a €600,000 vote” as well as the introduction of “Social Security Contribution credits for young people performing voluntary work in Malta or abroad” address directly Youth and Volunteering will inevitably serve to encourage even more young people to participate in volunteering.

The Council always believed that the work of the Voluntary Sector has in the recent years become more challenging and it was for this reason that the same Council has consistently addressed the issue of training and capacity building. For this reason the Council welcomes the additional “Vote of €70,000 to the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector to support NGOs in performing a number of projects in their area and scope of action” which is a welcome recognition by the Government addressing this fact.

The measure to give Voluntary Organisations “25% rebates up to €2,500 for the restoration of buildings owned by them or transferred to them from Government classified Grade 1 and 2 in UCAs” is another measure which the Council believes will support mainly small and medium sized Voluntary Organisations in their operation.

The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector notes that, while there are other crucial measures which need to be addressed in the coming years in support of the Voluntary Sector, it must note with satisfaction that the Budget 2013 starts addressing a number of issues which the sector has at heart. These measures affirm the recognition of the Voluntary Sector’s contribution towards the Maltese Community and its economy.

Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector