

ANNUAL REPORT

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Office of the Commissioner
for Voluntary Organisations

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INTRODUCTION

This Annual Report highlights the activities of the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations (henceforth CVO Office) over the year 2011. It underlines the outcome of the work done that will reflect in the plans for the future. During this year, the CVO Office worked to promote compliance by voluntary organisations (henceforth 'VOs') with their legal obligations in exercising control and management of their administration and the effective use of their resources. Moreover, it worked also to enhance the accountability of VOs to donors, beneficiaries and the general public.

Despite the lack of resources, both human and financial, the CVO Office succeeded in completing most of its planned projects. With more resources, the outcome would have been significantly better. However, even with its limited resources, the CVO Office supported the voluntary sector in the various challenges facing this sector.

During this year dedicated by the European Union (henceforth 'EU') to volunteering, this Office worked closely with the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (henceforth the 'Council'), which was nominated as the National Coordinator for the EU Year of Volunteering 2011, in its efforts to give a strong voice to the sector and to increase public awareness on a number of important issues related with volunteering.

This Office continued to focus on its main role as the regulatory authority responsible for this sector with the aim of monitoring and supervising the activities of these organisations as well as supporting them. This Office also worked with the sector, through the various meetings held, conferences and workshops attended, to develop a more proactive approach to identify and wherever possible alleviate the key risks facing VOs.

This year saw a rise in registration of VOs from 488 to 600. This entailed work related to enrolment, maintaining the enrolment register and renewals of the Annual Accounts and Annual Returns. Other work included that of monitoring the sector through the media, promoting compliance with the Voluntary Organisations Act 2007 (henceforth 'the VOA') and developing and updating online information through our website and facebook.

The Commissioner also acted as a mediator to resolve a number of internal issues within VOs. Although it is not the Commissioner's role to solve problems on the VOs' behalf, however, as a regulator, it is the aim of the CVO Office to provide a framework to assist VOs to regularise themselves with the law and with good practice. As an example, the Commissioner published the Code of Governance, Practice and Ethics for Administrators of Voluntary Organisations. This Code will assist in maintaining higher levels of transparency, accountability, public trust and confidence in VOs, which will facilitate the support for the third sector that plays an important role in our society.

The research entitled "The Participation of Young Maltese People in the Voluntary Sector", which was carried out in collaboration with the Parliamentary Secretariat For Youth and Sport, was completed and launched during the European Bus Tour activity, as part of the of the EU year dedicated to volunteering. During this activity a discussion was held on the subject of youth volunteering and on the outcome of the research study. Another research was commissioned on volunteering among older people in Malta, in collaboration with the Parliamentary Secretariat for the Elderly and Community Care and in preparation for the year 2012 - the European year dedicated to active aging and solidarity between generations.

This Office continued to seek collaboration with various stakeholders where possible, remembering that this Office needs to continuously support not only the enrolled VOs but the voluntary sector as a whole. The CVO Office is determined to be a strong voice for civil society and will seek to strengthen the support and advice already provided.

The CVO Office was set up by the VOA with the task to strengthen the voluntary sector through various initiatives, with the specific aim of promoting the work of VOs as well as encouraging their role as partners with the government in various initiatives. During this year the CVO Office worked to its full capacity to reach this aim and mission, so as to give more visibility to the voluntary sector as well as to guarantee transparency and accountability of the organisations that compose it, in the carrying out of their important work.



Photo by Chris Sant-Fournier (The Times)

PROF KENNETH WAIN
Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations

2 OVERVIEW BY THE COMMISSIONER

This year has been an important one for volunteering in Malta and Gozo, and in the rest of Europe since it was declared by the EU Commission as the European Year of Volunteering. The year-long series of events connected with it provided the ideal opportunity to showcase volunteering in Malta and to advertise the social, personal, and economic value of volunteering, with the object to increase its popularity among different sectors and ages of the population. The report on “*The Participation of Young Maltese People in the Voluntary Sector*”, commissioned by my office in partnership with the Parliamentary Secretariat for Youth and Sport was completed early in the year and launched to coincide with the closing activities of the Year for Volunteering held in Valletta in early December.

This year my office entered into a second, similar, collaborative venture, this time with the Parliamentary Secretariat for the Elderly and Community Care, to launch another research study at the end of the age scale, relating to the participation of the elderly in volunteering work and in voluntary organisations in the two Islands. The draft of that report was finished in the latter half of 2011 and will be launched in 2012 to coincide with the European Year of Active Aging. This kind of research is an important aspect of the responsibility laid upon the Commissioner (henceforth referring to the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations) by the VOA to create a database of information about the sector, including both enrolled and non-enrolled organisations, which is still far from up-to-date or sufficient. For this purpose of data collecting, I held a meeting towards the end of the year with officials from

the National Statistics Office to discuss how we could collaborate in trying to produce as detailed a picture as possible of volunteering activities in Malta and Gozo.

An important factor in the Year for Volunteering was the lead given to the Council in the planning, organisation and co-ordination of the Year’s events as national coordinator. This role of coordinator, which I initially solicited for it from the government in 2010, enabled the Council to enhance its national profile and public image and to establish its presence in the sector, and it gave it a project that could serve as a plank for future initiatives in the sector in terms of its mandate.

I am pleased to report that this new Council, which came into being in December 2010, after the first Council had terminated its term of office, now has the instruments to work with (as was unfortunately not the case with the previous Council), namely the human and financial resources not just to plan, coordinate, and manage the activities related to the European Year for Volunteering successfully but, more generally, to plan and prepare future programmes for the sector in the areas that fall under its main remit; empowering the sector through the support it provides to voluntary organisations via new training programmes in various aspects of their work, aid and advice on capacity-building, in networking, and so on. The ability to now take these initiatives has been made possible by the financial activation of the Voluntary Organisations Fund which should finally enable it to start implementing its ambitious plans for the sector.

In this respect it has also, late in this year, succeeded in securing the government's assistance to create an independent Centre for Voluntary Organisations in the not remote future.

Time and experience have indicated a natural division in the work of the Commissioner and the Council. It is now my view, based on experience, that the Commissioner's role should be mainly that of a regulator. The Council should, on the other hand, take on the role of sustaining the sector described above, in the previous paragraph, namely that of improving the sector's general capacity and performance, coordinating projects, promoting and publicising good practices, encouraging networking and the creation of common platforms of VO cooperation and so on. This notwithstanding, it is, I think, still essential for the Council and Commissioner to work together in mutual collaboration, support, and consultation. In the second half of this year, however, responding to the Ministry's invitation to propose amendments to the law, I took the initiative to propose a clear separation of roles in the law. My recommendation to the Minister has been to amend the Act so that the Commissioner is no longer an *ex officio* member and Vice-Chairperson of the Council as he is at present. The absence of the Commissioner will, in my view, make the Council more independent from the Commissioner and will enable it to consider its business and to discuss the policies the Commissioner presents it with in consultation or for approval, and the actions of the Commissioner himself, where required, more freely and without inhibition.

This is one of the more radical amendments to the VOA proposed by my office. The first reading for the amendments to the law was presented in parliament by the Hon. Minister for Education, Employment and the Family towards the end of 2011. Another important amendment, following from the lengthy negotiations of the Government with the Ecclesiastical Authorities, regards the enrolment of Church organisations with the Commissioner in accordance with the VOA. As far as my office is concerned, these negotiations have been a sore point with the Government since the very beginning, i.e. since we opened the register for the enrolment of voluntary organisations in 2008. From the beginning the Church Authorities instructed their voluntary organisations not to enrol until negotiations with the Government on the conditions of their enrolment were concluded. Previous annual reports contain clear statements of my disagreement with the Government's continuing extension to non-

enrolled Church organisations (including in 2011), of benefits intended by Article 4 of the VOA for enrolled voluntary organisations. This extension was in some cases, covered legally by blanket exemptions which did not specify the reason, in each case, for such an exemption.

On my part I have consistently registered my written protest with Government ministries and entities with this policy as is my duty under Articles 7 (b) and 7 (h) of the VOA, and will continue to do so, equally consistently, while the VOA remains unchanged. My protests have usually been met with silence or with a bare note of acknowledgment. With the Church-State negotiations now terminated (at least this is my understanding) and with the amendments to the VOA referred to above coming into force, one hopes that this saga will come to a quick close, and that the outcome of the negotiations (the amendments passed) will be clear and just to the sector as a whole opening the way for Church organisations that clearly function as VOs to take the required steps to commence enrolment procedures and that the Ecclesiastical Authorities issue them with a directive to this effect. On the Government side one hopes that it will then begin to apply the amended VOA strictly and consistently over the whole voluntary sector, finally bringing this unhappy state of affairs to a close and opening a new era for the VOA which will see it respected in all its facets and, finally, achieving the respectability it badly lacks with the sector.

One hopes that with this new era the Government will also finally seriously recognise its part in the commitment Article 7 (h) of the VOA defining the 'functions imposed and conferred' lays upon me in 'assisting Government, government departments, public agencies and entities controlled by the Government in preparing and reviewing policies in support of voluntary organisations and the voluntary sector in general'. The sum total of my assistance so far (apart from my part in the formulation of the amendments to the VOA just referred to) was early on, in September 2008, when it was requested by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), with respect to its scheme to second public officers to voluntary organisations in 26th September 2008 to the extent that I was even asked to administer the scheme. This collaboration was withdrawn, however, when I insisted that the scheme must conform *fully* and transparently with the VOA. Since then the OPM has withdrawn from its call for applications the original requirement in its

circular dated 26th September 2008, that applicants must be in possession of a certificate of enrolment and has retaken the administration into its hands.

Early meetings I had with the Ministry of Finance, Economy and Investment on the Good Causes Fund, and with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs on the Overseas Development Aid fund, though cordial, came to nothing despite verbal agreement on 'cooperation'. With the result that neither fund is being administered within the parameters of the Article 4 of the VOA, referred to above, or within acceptable parameters of transparency and accountability; i.e. those demanded of enrolled voluntary organisations that the full statement of accounts of the recipients and an administrative report is publicly available.

The enrolment process as such continued in 2010 on virtually the same levels of the previous years, which is a cause of some satisfaction (a full report is included in the section on Enrolment of Voluntary Organisations in this report). On the other hand it is clear from the evidence we have that this is still a very small fraction of the total number of voluntary organisations (in terms of the VOA's definition of the term) large and small that are currently operating in Malta and Gozo (of which we have nothing near a complete list). In the context in which, apart from other national considerations, Malta has obligations towards the European and International community to safeguard against voluntary and non-governmental organisations being used as fronts for money laundering and the financing of terrorism, this general lack of accountability in a huge part of the sector is truly worrying.

In the absence of compulsory enrolment, which I now believe very strongly, should be introduced into the VOA in the near future as it is in the United Kingdom for instance, many organisations (even leaving aside those of the Church) are opting not to enrol and the reason why is not hard to guess.

Ignorance of the VOA cannot be mooted as a reason for this state of affairs any more, since the VOA has now been in operation since 2008 and has been amply publicised through my personal efforts, through the efforts of my office, through those of the Council, and through normal media reporting. Certainly, with many, enrolment will not be attractive because they will be unwilling, for reasons of their own which will always be suspicious, to comply with the European

standards of accountability and transparency that enrolment requires. On the other hand the theory that organisations will enrol because of the 'benefits' enrolment offer them is clearly fraught in practice. The theory relies on the assumption that Government will do its part in applying the conditions of Article 4 restricting beneficiaries of its grants, sponsorships, and other financial aids to enrolled voluntary organisations fairly and consistently; and that it will work with the Council and with the Commissioner to extend the current exemptions, privileges, and other entitlements of enrolled VOs such as they are in terms of the different laws and schemes that affect them; tax, commercial, property, utility bills, and so on.

Neither of these levels of Government cooperation, were anywhere near satisfactory in 2011. Indeed, no improvement was registered in either over previous years. I have commented amply on the situation regarding the Church organisations in previous annual reports. Where working with the Commissioner and with the Council to improve benefits for enrolled voluntary organisations is concerned, long discussions between the Council and the Ministry of Finance, Investment and Economy, virtually drew a blank, despite a meeting with the Hon. Minister and much initial promise. The Ministry did not implement any of the measures of relief from taxation and billing that were the subject of these discussions and of a comprehensive memorandum presented to it by the Council. The Council was not involved by the Ministry, either, in its pre-Budget consultations with interested parties on the Budget, nor were any of the tax reliefs or other benefits proposed in the memorandum included in the Budget.

This being the case, VOs may very well be excused in asking what benefit enrolment holds for them, particularly since enrolment requires them to expose their financial and other operations to public scrutiny: (a) when they are able to get by, to fund-raise without enrolment, and (b) when, anyway, a *large* number of organisations in Malta and Gozo receive the benefits anyhow, without having to enrol *and* with Government complicity. In short, the 'benefits' arguments doesn't work. The only incentive organisations can have to enrol, if it does not come from a rare sentiment of moral obligation owed to those who are providing them with fund, is EU funding, and there are ways of getting around that also – if Government entities or local councils, for instance, act as a conduit.

VOs would have an added and powerful incentive to enrol if a public culture existed such that people are unwilling to fund organisations that do not submit themselves to measures of accountability and transparency. Unfortunately, however, such a culture does not exist in Malta even though, in its absence and with the state of affairs described in the previous paragraph, the possibility of misappropriation and misuse of public funding is very high. While being justly proud of a celebrated long history of voluntary service, that history has its disadvantages. It consolidates a long practice of anarchy whereby fund-raising has been carried out extensively over these years and with impunity by all sorts of voluntary groups who regard themselves as not being accountable to anybody, including the people who give them the money.

The law should have been introduced to bring the country in line with European standards and to change this state of affairs, to protect the donors' trust by introducing a system that will make these groups accountable, and that will ensure that the money collected goes to the respectable and worthy causes for which they were donated – at least this was my understanding when I became Commissioner. For the reasons outlined above, the present VOA is achieving none of these purposes and has become an embarrassment in this respect.

Article 4 (2) of the VOA, permits enrolled organisations to fund-raise publicly without the need for police authorisation as is demanded by the Public Collections Act (Chapter 279). But this is hardly an incentive to enrol with the Commissioner when it is easy and cheap to acquire a police licence in terms of the Public Collections Act, as it presently stands. Licences can cover up to a year's activities and are renewable.

Even in an optimal situation where the police have the necessary resources for the purpose, which is far from the case, monitoring the conditions for a licence of this kind is impossible. Put bluntly, VOs have no incentive to submit their fund-raising, which is their lifeblood, to the scrutiny of the Commissioner when a two Euro thirty three cents licence (annually renewable if necessary), will do it, and where the monitoring is nowhere near rigorous. The possibility that has been suggested to me that my office would take over the administration of the licence from the police is not feasible with my present staff complement. Nor would it be the best solution. This would be the obligatory

enrolment of all VOs whose fund-raising would thus fall under the VOA, also removing a burden from the police.

My intention for 2012 is to publish, in accordance with the power given to me by the VOA, Article 4 (3), a set of guidelines for enrolled voluntary organisations on fund-raising and on the conduct of public collections. This will follow on the guidelines for administrators *Code of Good Governance, Practice and Ethics for Administrators of Voluntary Organisations* published this year in November, as one of the four 'pillars' of the administrative structure I am setting up to sustain a frame-work for the sector in accordance with Article 7 (1(d) and (h)) of the VOA which charges me with providing organisations with guidelines for their better performance and the achievement of their goals and with monitoring the behaviour of their administrators 'to ensure the observance of high standards of accountability and transparency and compliance with law'. The first of these pillars was the creation of the enrolment register (which has been in operation since 2008), the second will be the regulations for annual returns without which the register cannot be kept continuously up-to-date as required (which is in the final stages of preparation as a legal notice and will be published early in 2012), the third was the guidelines for administrators published this year, already mentioned, and the fourth will be the guidelines for fund-raising and public collection which will follow later in 2012.

The four together will create the regulatory framework I have in mind for the sector. All are being made with the advice and collaboration of the Council. The fact remains, however, that this will *not* be a national framework; that it will apply only for those organisations that choose to enrol with my office, and will exclude that huge number that choose (for whatever reason) to stay outside.

This being the case there is no reassurance that the purposes of accountability and transparency in an area of economic activity in the country which is not insignificant (generating roughly 68 million Euros per year and employing more than 4,000 people), are being respected. This returns me to the point to which I have dedicated a large part of this report, i.e., the need for a change to the VOA which would make enrolment mandatory and which would be applicable to *all* non-profit organisations in receipt of public funding wherever they come from and

whatever their declared cause. To repeat, only a law of mandatory enrolment can insure the country and our European and international partners against the possibility of misuse of funding in the sector.

The regulatory framework outlined in the previous paragraph relies on the provision of sufficient staff for my office without which it cannot be run efficiently. The situation with staff has not improved, however, over the past two years notwithstanding that the enrolment figure has grown exponentially which means an equivalent number of annual returns that need to be processed. I have already started asking enrolled organisations to submit their returns within the powers granted to me by the VOA Article 12 (h) (i). This will be mandatory for them once the legal notice referred to earlier is published. The annual returns which include annual accounts and administrative reports require staff for their proper vetting and processing. This will be impossible without the additional staff that the vetting and processing of the returns requires. Without such staff the annual returns will merely be filed and their purpose, which is to ensure ongoing accountability and the possession of up-to-date records of the organisations which is required by the VOA (without which the original registration is itself a waste of time), will be lost.

The VOA requires all the information regarding enrolled voluntary organisations that is not protected by the Data Protection Act (Chapter 440), to be open to public scrutiny. For this purpose it evidently requires up-to-date information to be publicly available, not the dated information that was originally supplied with the application for enrolment years ago. It is also desirable, to bring the country to European standards and in the interest of maximising the transparency on a European level, that this up-to-date information should be available on-line and accessible to all free of any charge.

The possibility of a project of this kind will be explored by my office in 2012 when the legal notice requiring the submission of annual returns comes into effect. Many organisations need to be educated and guided into presenting proper accounts and annual reports, and this will mean more work of customer care for the Office. One member of staff presently processes a continuous flow of applications for enrolment, provides applicants with the considerable requirements of customer care on their applications, besides receiving and filing the annual accounts that come in. This obviously cannot continue once the annual returns become legally binding and as the number of enrolled organisations enters into the six hundreds.

Nor is the enrolment and monitoring of enrolled organisations the only work of my office, which must continuously update itself with information and data relating to the sector and its activities, first to ensure that the Commissioner's monitoring obligations are carried out properly, and second to respond to demands that come in regularly from different agencies and other sources for up-to-date information on particular organisations and for different purposes. A second staff member does this work; takes care of public relations, translation, and the web-page, besides creating dossiers for different purposes, and so on. The general administration of the office, the executive secretarial work of the Commissioner, the work related to the Commissioner's investigations, etc. is carried out by a third member of staff. The fourth is assigned full-time to the work of the Council which is housed within my office and which includes the administration of the Voluntary Organisations Fund. With the growing work-load, we need two more persons for the office to function with the desired efficiency; one to share the work connected with the enrolment process and with the monitoring of the annual returns once the legal notice comes into force, another, a junior clerk for general office purposes which I have been requesting repeatedly since 2009 without any success.

3 RESEARCHING THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

The voluntary sector is rightly celebrated for the immense contribution it makes to our society. Many people know at first hand the impact it can have, either through working for it, or volunteering, or by experiencing its support. However, not much is statistically known locally on this important sector.

Research has a role to play in evidencing various trends taking place in this important sector in civil society and developing a stronger and broader body of evidence on the work of the sector and its impact. To this effect, the CVO Office strongly believes in the importance of research and has embarked on a programme of commissioning a research project related to the third sector study every year.

The research results provide an enhanced evidence base that is essential not only to support policy, but also to enable third sector organisations to continuously adapt and improve their work, to ensure that the sector has the greatest possible impact in people's lives.

Since the year 2011 was the European year dedicated to volunteering, the research study on "The Participation of Maltese Young People in the Voluntary Sector" was concluded and launched during the European Bus Tour activity. Another research study, this time at the other end of the age cycle, that is, volunteering among older people and how age can be turned into a social resource, was also completed. Discussions were also held with the National Statistics Office to conduct a research study during 2012, covering a wide spectrum of variables and attributes in volunteering in Malta.

The Participation of Maltese Young People in the Voluntary Sector

The captioned research study was commissioned by Commissioner, Professor Kenneth Wain and the Hon. Clyde Puli MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Youth and Sports. The objects and targets of this research were to:

1. To define voluntary work, motives and motivation
2. To investigate and list the reasons why young people find it difficult to engage in voluntary work and with voluntary organisations
3. To identify and document the number of young people participating in voluntary organisations
4. To quantify the number of young people attending European youth programmes; their motives, inspiration and motivation
5. To recognise and catalogue the varied sectors where young people are involved
6. To record the varied mechanisms of encouragement for participation in volunteering for young people.

Objective

The overall objective of this study was to research the participation and contribution of Maltese youth in voluntary work both locally and abroad. This research is in line with the EU Youth Strategy that encourages the engagement of youth in all European structures and their active participation within the same political and volunteering areas.

The research involved collating data on the participation of Maltese youth in the voluntary sector in Malta and abroad and on their participation in EU programmes. The report



attempts to give a first indication of and also to itemise the different sectors of voluntary work where youths are active; namely, sports, culture, charity, politics (and political parties), pressure groups and environmental groups.

It also investigates the types of resources that are made available to encourage participation, namely grants, learning credits and other systems of inducement, reward, and encouragement offered in the other European countries and available through the EU. The report seeks to collect data on what young Maltese people regard as the obstacles for doing voluntary work in Malta and abroad, and finally produces a number of recommendations with the aim of ensuring that there is a strong youth involvement in civil society.

Strategic Recommendations

The research study highlights various strategic recommendations that are divided into four areas. These are:

1. Early socialisation of young people into the value of voluntary work
2. Ongoing educational campaigns about the voluntary sector and volunteering

3. Facilitation of youth involvement as volunteers in the political and other spheres of volunteering
4. Regularly monitoring/tracking the level of involvement of young people in the voluntary sector

Extract from the Conclusions

It is clear from the responses that young people are willing to be involved and to engage with the agenda of the organisations they belong to. It is also clear from the focus group responses, that young people are interested in engaging with society, are passionate about their involvement with their organisations and that with more time at their disposal, their interest would go beyond mere participation towards actively engaging in initiating different volunteering initiatives.

The prevalent view among the interviewees was that the obstacles that young people faced in participating in the voluntary sector were mainly related to finding time to participate in activities which are not tied to their education or money-earning, which took up a substantial portion of their time. Many young people, they observed, are taken up with their relationships, their studies, and with part-time jobs. However,

those of them who were involved in voluntary work testified that they have benefited greatly from it. Secondly, and equally important, was the fact that young people today have been poorly socialised into giving time which does not give them an economic return. People with an overwhelmingly protestant work ethic, usually prioritise economically rewarding activities over voluntary work. Against this trend, one interviewee indicated that an anticipatory socialisation exposing children to community values and the benefits of voluntary work was required. Otherwise they would necessarily be alienated from these values would fail to consider, or even see, the value of participation in such activities. Others remarked that professional youth workers were very important to educate and inspire young people and ensure they are engaged in civil society.

This research reflects the fact that too often youths are left out of the processes that shape their present and futures. Participation is an essential component in the process of empowerment. However, it is not always fully appreciated that young people are valuable contributors to policy formulation, appraisal and execution. Promoting youth in decision-making positions, improved participation in the home, school and the community benefits their socioeconomic milieu and also their own capacity and personal development. Locally there are some moves in the right direction towards recognising these facts, and this research report will hopefully provide some guidance on how these can be continued and improved.

Turning Age into a Resource: Older Volunteers in Malta

The year 2012 is the year dedicated to Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations. Active Ageing is defined by the World Health Organisation, as the process of optimising opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age. It allows people to realise their potential for wellbeing throughout their lives and to participate in society according to their

needs, desires and capabilities, while providing them with adequate protection, security and care when they need assistance.

The European year seeks to raise awareness on the issues regarding socially relevant active ageing and the best ways of dealing with them. But most of all it seeks to encourage all policymakers and stakeholders to set themselves goals and take action to meet them. The year 2012 should go beyond debating; it should start bringing tangible results.

These considerations inspired the Commissioner to embark on a research study on Volunteering among older people in Malta, with the collaboration of the Parliamentary Secretariat for the Elderly and Community Care. This research study titled: Turning Age into a Resource: Older Volunteers in Malta, was carried out by Dr. Marvin Formosa, and concluded during this year. In fact the goal of this research study reflects three diverse aspects. First, the initiative of the EU to promote greater participation in voluntary work by declaring the year 2011 as the European year for volunteering, second, the lack of research data available on older volunteers in Malta and, finally, the fact that the year 2012 is designated the European year dedicated for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations.



The research aimed to explore and analyse the state of older volunteerism in Malta, leading to the drawing of social policy measures that activate and sustain the volunteering potential of the local older population. In a direct attempt to meet the strategic goals of the study, the research was directed by six key objectives:

1. Key demographics and determinants of older volunteering.
2. Volume and nature of volunteer work in later life
3. Motivations; to discern the motivations that inspire and encourage older volunteerism
4. Barriers faced by older adults in their pursuit of taking part in volunteer activities
5. Institutional capacity; the extent to which organisations attract older volunteers.
6. Social policy strategies to recruit and support older persons as volunteers, in urban and rural/remote areas, both now and in later years when they retire or change their work practices.

The challenge for policy makers and stakeholders will be to improve opportunities for active ageing in general and for living independently, acting in areas as diverse as employment, health care, social services, adult learning, volunteering, housing, IT services or transport.

This research study will be published during 2012 as part of the activities of the EU year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations 2012.

Collaboration with the National Statistics Office

The CVO Office has a role to play in evidencing the changes that are continuously taking place in volunteering and its contribution to civil society. In this regard, this Office will next year continue to play a role in the research community. In fact discussions were held with the National Statistics Office on the possibility of conducting a broad research study during 2012, on volunteering that will cover the full spectrum of volunteering. The purpose of this study will be to serve as an information source to help the Commissioner, policy makers and other stakeholders to reach a better understanding of the volunteering sector, identify trends, raise awareness of the possible benefits of supporting volunteering that will assist in reaching strategic objectives.



4

ENROLMENT OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Enrolment is an important step for those organisations who decide to regularise themselves with the VOA, since they need to abide by regulations set out in this law and thus conform with its regulations which will make their activities more transparent and accountable. Moreover, VOs are continually seeking funds to sustain their existence. There are various sources from where benefits can be obtained. These include, taking part in EU projects and funds awarded by the Government under different schemes. To benefit from such funds, according to the VOA, VOs have to enrol with the CVO Office. A number of VOs enrol because of this obligation.

Enrolment contributes to people's trust in voluntary organisations, where they are assured that beneficiaries take their fair share. The time it takes to enrol depends on how complex the application is and on the collaboration of the applicant. The VOA gives the Commissioner's office a maximum of three months to enrol an applicant; however, normally it takes less, unless the case is referred to the Commissioner's legal advisers in complex cases.

Figures for the year 2011

There was a constant rise in the number of applications to enrol with the Commissioner during 2011.

In fact there were 112 new applications from voluntary organisations wishing to apply for enrolment with the CVO Office. This brings the total number of organisations that have applied for enrolment with the Commissioner since the CVO Office opened its register early in 2008 to 600. The following is a breakdown on the status of applications:

A total of 130 applications were submitted for processing during 2011 as follows:

- 18 applications carried forward from year 2010
- 112 applications received during 2011

A breakdown of these applications is as follows:

- 97 organisations were fully enrolled
- 16 were requested to present further documentation
- 1 application was refused
- 16 applications are still being processed (transferred to 2012)

This shows that the CVO Office had another busy year in 2011, during which 113 applications, that is, 88% of the total applications submitted were processed.

It is also to be noted that two VOs closed down during 2011, while one terminated its enrolment with the CVO during the same year.

Figures since year 2008

Total movements of VOs since 2008 are as follows:

- 2 refused enrolment
- 2 temporarily suspended their application
- 5 closed down in 2009
- 4 closed down in 2010
- 2 closed down in 2011
- 2 terminated their enrolment with the CVO
- 6 applications were shelved after the VOs failed to submit further documents as requested.

Categories of enrolled Voluntary Organisations

All VOs were classified on registration according to their social purpose with some organisations falling under more than one classification.

A breakdown of enrolled VOs by classification as required by the VOA is as follows in the table below:

Classification	No. of VOs	Percentage of total VOs
Philanthropy	163	27.16%
Education and Sports	259 (Sport 46)	43.16%
Health	124	20.66%
Social and Community	299	49.83%
Culture, Arts & National Heritage	249 (Band Clubs 65)	41.50%
Environment & Animal Welfare	103 (Animal Welfare 29)	17.16%
Promotion of Human Rights	109	18.16%

Other classifications

Classification	No. of VOs	Percentage of total VOs
VOs from Gozo	50	6.66 %
Youths	15	2.50 %
Children	47	7.83 %

Renewals

Submitting the necessary annual documents on time is an important factor in maintaining trust in VOs and the sector as a whole. By submitting their annual returns and accounts VOs are giving an account of their activities and financial management which is open to the scrutiny of the public.

During 2011, 488 organisations enrolled with the CVO, were requested to submit their Annual Returns and Accounts for the previous year to the CVO. According to the VOA as it now stands, enrolled VOs are not required to submit all the documents as is being proposed in a Legal Notice on annual returns for VOs awaiting publication. Currently all enrolled VOs are required to submit their annual financial reports and the current list of the administrators.

All renewal documents submitted are vetted by the CVO Office, which is time consuming since all documents have to be compared against documents received in the previous year for any changes in their financial reports and administrators.

A breakdown on the situation of renewals for the year is as follows:

- 293 submitted their financial reports for year 2010 (60%)
- 30 had documents missing (financial report / list of the administrators) (6%)
- 165 did not submit any document (34%)

It is worrying for the CVO Office that 165 organisations (34%) did not submit any documentation as they were required to do. It is the intention of the Commissioner to take action against defaulting organisations. Administrators are being informed by means of a written notice to submit their returns pending further actions against them if they do not comply with the requirements. Also the introduction of the long awaited Legal Notice on Annual Accounts and Annual Returns Regulations, which gives the Commissioner more power to take action towards defaulting organisations, is highly anticipated.

VOs should be made aware that failing to submit their financial returns will give the Commissioner the right to inform the relative departments including the media that those VOs are not in conformity with the law.

5 MONITORING THE SECTOR

An important part of the work performed by the CVO Office is the daily scrutiny of most media which includes checking of newspapers, Government websites (Department of Information), online media, Government Gazette, news' websites and newspaper magazines mainly for:

- Activities of VOs (both enrolled and non-enrolled)
- Information about specific voluntary organisations
- Setting-up of new VOs
- Fundraising
- Financial statements published in newspapers
- Changes in committees or other important news regarding VOs
- Funding opportunities open for VOs both from Government as well as other entities
- Government funding and other ways of help given by Government to VOs through EU projects or other means
- Reports of annual general meetings

Research is often undertaken to gain further insight into the activities and information emanating out of the monitoring process mostly in order to ascertain that every initiative taken in the voluntary sector is indeed in conformity with the provisions found within the VOA (Cap. 492 of the Laws of Malta). Most of the initiatives and action taken by the Commissioner regarding VOs is in fact a result of the monitoring process. This aspect of its activity, is in fact of utmost importance since it gives this office a wide picture of what is occurring in the sector, both in the case of enrolled and non-enrolled VOs. This exercise also helps the office to keep up-to-date information on enrolled VOs and is also significant to ensure that the annual returns of the VOs are in fact correct, which in turn makes the organisation accountable and deserving of the VO certificate.

An aspect of the monitoring process includes fund-raising events, which are continuously being organised by VOs. An enrolled organisation has the privilege to organise fund-raising events



without the need for a police permit, as provided in the Voluntary Organisations Act (Cap. 492 of the Laws of Malta), since the possession of a valid certificate issued by this Office guarantees that the organisation is accountable and transparent in its transactions.

In the case of organisations which are not enrolled with this office, they have to obtain the necessary permits as outlined in the Public Collections Act (Cap 279 of the Laws of Malta). In relation to this, the CVO Office collaborates closely with the Malta Police Force to compare notes and ascertain that both the VOA and the Public Collections Act are adhered to by any entity organising fund-raising events which falls within the VOA.

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Another aspect which is being constantly monitored by the CVO Office, deals with the funds given by Government to VOs. The CVO Office strives to keep abreast with the calls for interest in such funds issued by various Government ministries as well as the beneficiaries of these grants. This is done in order to ensure that Article 4 of the VOA (Cap. 492 of the Laws of Malta), is adhered to. This Article states that:

(4) An enrolled organisation may:

- (a) *receive or be the beneficiary of grants, sponsorships or other financial aid from the Government, any entity controlled by the Government or the Voluntary Organisations Fund;*
- (b) *be the beneficiary of any policies supporting voluntary action as these may be developed by the Government;*
- (c) *receive or be the beneficiary of exemptions, privileges or other entitlements in terms of any law;*

- (d) *be a party to contracts and other engagements, whether against remuneration or not, for the carrying out of services for the achievement of its social purpose at the request of the Government or any entity controlled by the Government:*

Provided that the prior written consent of the Minister is required if the Government, or any entity controlled by the Government, intends to carry out any act involving actions in paragraphs (a), (b) and (d) in relation to any voluntary organisation which is not enrolled in terms of this Act, failing which the actions shall be subject to revocation notwithstanding their terms:

Provided further that where a law or regulations, or a Ministerial exemption or notice pursuant thereto, in force on the date of the coming into force of this Act grants a benefit, exemption or privilege, it shall continue to be enjoyed until it is repealed and where a contract or engagement is already in force on such date it shall not be affected until it is performed or terminated.

In terms of the above article in the VOA, the Commissioner has an obligation to ensure that the process by which organisations obtain Government funding or receive any benefits (direct or indirect) out of Government funds has to be transparent in the spirit of the Act.

Database of Articles

Throughout 2011 a decision was taken whereby most of the articles which are relevant to the activities of VOs would be scanned in order to build an electronic library. The documents are filed according to VO. In fact there is currently an ongoing exercise whereby all cuttings which previously had been filed the traditional way are now being scanned and saved electronically, also to be more environment-friendly. Currently this database hosts over 350 electronic files.

6 INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

The CVO Office is constantly looking into innovative and updated ways to facilitate communication with the enrolled VOs. The internet is one of the most efficient ways to promote activities, keep in touch with VOs in a fast manner and to assess feedback as well as to raise awareness about the work carried out by this office.

Website



Throughout 2011, the CVO Office continued to update and develop its website – www.voluntaryorganisations.gov.mt, which now contains various sections including, amongst others:

1. List of Voluntary Organisations

This is one of the main features of our website. In fact, the CVO Office is constantly being asked for information regarding VOs, mainly whether an organisation is enrolled or otherwise, as well as further information regarding the work performed by individual organisations. In view of this, the list of VOs contains a comprehensive list which is constantly updated, according to the updates as received by our Office from the

organisations themselves. Apart from the name of the organisation, there is also the VO number and when supplied by the VOs, a direct link to their websites, for anyone who wishes to find further information about the individual organisation. This list is in alphabetical order and is constantly updated by the CVO Office.

2. VOs information

This section contains very important information about the work of the CVO Office as well as the enrolment process. In fact, this part of the site is divided in four, namely:

a) Mission and Purpose

This consists of a summary stating the aims and scope of the work of the CVO Office as outlined in VOA (Cap. 492 of the Laws of Malta).

b) Service Information

In this section there is a brief explanation of the importance of enrolment and also a definition of 'voluntary organisation' for the purpose of registering with the Commissioner.

c) Procedure for Enrolment with the Commissioner

This is another vital part of the website. In fact, organisations can find a direct link to the application form and notes emanating from the VOA. However, most importantly, in this section the enrolment procedure is explained in layman's language so as to facilitate the process for those who wish to enrol, listing all documentation, declarations, reports, fees, contracts etc. which are needed in order to start the application process,

whereby an organisation is then awarded the VO certificate. The details of the procedure for enrolment with the Commissioner can be found in Appendix B of this report.

d) Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations

This section includes the role, duties and responsibilities of the Commissioner as provided in the VOA Part III, (Cap. 492 of the Laws of Malta).

e) Publications

This section of the website contains the documents published by the CVO Office. Currently the document available free for download, both in Maltese and in English, is the *Code of Good Governance, Practice and Ethics for Administrators of Voluntary Organisations*. Further details about this Code can be found in another chapter dedicated to this publication on promoting good practice. It is envisaged that this part of the site will grow considerably as more documents are going to be being published by the CVO Office.

f) Annual Reports

All annual reports, including those published in the past years since the setting up of the CVO Office, can be downloaded from this section. The reports are available in both Maltese and English.

g) VOs Application Form

The application for enrolment with the CVO Office, both in Maltese and in English is available for download in this section, together with notes to help with the compilation of the same application.

h) Legislation

The relevant legislation including the VOA (Cap. 492 of the Laws of Malta), as well as the Second Schedule to the Civil Code, which is also relevant for VOs, can be downloaded from this section.

It is envisaged that more information will be included in the different sections of the website in the future and as more initiatives are taken by the CVO Office. In fact staff of this Office will be trained in order to facilitate the uploading of the necessary information.

Facebook

During 2011, the CVO Office, set up its own facebook account (<http://www.facebook.com/#!/profile.php?id=1224265157>) in order to facilitate even further communication with registered VOs, who, in the large majority of cases, have their own facebook account. Since our facebook account is still in the early stages, we are in the process of informing all VOs as well as new organisations who are in the process of applying about our new facebook page.



In fact the CVO Office also take this opportunity to encourage anyone who is interested in the subject to send a friend request to its facebook page to keep abreast with all the initiatives taken by the CVO Office, as well as other interesting information which could be of benefit to VOs. It is envisaged that this account will also be a platform to raise awareness about the voluntary sector in the Maltese Islands. Our facebook page has a direct link from our website or a search can be performed on Facebook's searchbox for *Voluntary Organisations Commissioner*.

Public Appearances and Meetings

The Commissioner and staff were invited to attend and also participated and organised a number of meetings, interviews, workshops and other activities. A selection is listed herunder:



Interview with Prof. Kenneth Wain and Mr. Ian Azzopardi (Council member) on VOs programme on One Radio

Date	Description of Event
18 th January 2011	A meeting was held on the Social Enterprise Sector, between the Commissioner and officials from APS Consult Ltd, who were commissioned by the Ministry of Finance, the Economy and Investment to make a study on this sector.
18 th January 2011	The Commissioner was invited by the Parliamentary Social Affairs Committee to present a SWOT Analysis on the CVO Office.
19 th January 2011	The Commissioner was interviewed on Educational Channel 22 during the programme 'Perspettiva'. The voluntary sector in Malta, its magnitude, the variety of organisations, the role of the Commissioner and the European Year dedicated to Volunteering were discussed.
25 th January 2011	The Commissioner addressed delegates during a breakfast meeting held at the European Parliament Information Office in Malta, on the occasion of the official visit of Mr. Jerzy Buzek, President of the European Parliament.
28 th January 2011	A follow-up meeting was held with the Commissioner on the seminar on volunteering amongst youth organisations, Kunsill Studenti Universitarji (KSU) and YEL (Young Enterprise Leaders) held on the 7 th of December 2010.
28 th January 2011	The Council, as the National Coordination Body, in collaboration with the Ministry for Education, Employment and the Family officially launched the "European Year of Volunteering 2011". The Commissioner was one of the speakers during this launch, together with Hon. Minister of Education, Employment and the Family and the Chairperson of the Council.
8 th February 2011	The Commissioner was interviewed on Educational Channel 22. The subject of Employment and its relation to voluntary work was discussed.
22 nd February 2011	Officials from Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee (MEUSAC) met with the Commissioner to collaborate on seminars targeted towards NGOs and EU funding.
23 rd February 2011	The University of Malta students' organisation, Insite, organised "The Big Volunteering Debate" in line with the EU Year of Volunteering 2011. The Commissioner was one of the speakers during this debate.

Date	Description of Event
24 th February 2011	The Institute of Legal Studies invited the Commissioner to give a lecture in one its courses. The lecture was on the criteria which must be satisfied for an organisation to qualify as a voluntary organisation, the role of the Commissioner, consequences of non-enrolment and the role of the Council.
18 th March 2011	The Commissioner and Chairperson of the Council were invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Gozo NGOs Association, which was held at the Gozo NGO Centre, to explain enrolment incentives and the EU Year of Volunteering 2011 activities.
29 th March 2011	Mr. Sebastian Micallef, Enrolment Officer, attended a workshop on the Social Enterprise Sector in Malta, held for all regulators who support the sector. During the workshop, a presentation on the social enterprise framework and European scenario was held together with the presentation of the preliminary results of the survey conducted. This event was organised by APS Consult Ltd who are commissioned by the Ministry of Finance, the Economy and Investment to conduct a research study in this field.
14 th April 2011	The Commissioner together with the Council had a familiarisation meeting with the Leader of the Opposition and leader of the Labour Party, Hon. Joseph Muscat MP, at his Office.
17 th May 2011	The Commissioner together with the Council had a meeting with His Excellency Dr. George Abela, President of Malta.
31 st May 2011	Police Officials met with the Commissioner to discuss Public Collections.
10 th June 2011	The National Volunteer Award was launched during a press Conference. The Chairperson of the Council made a key address. The Commissioner was present for this launch.
15 th June 2011	The Commissioner was interviewed on the programme TX on One Television.
26 th July 2011	The Commissioner attended a consultation meeting on the National Curriculum, chaired by Director General, Education. The Commissioner gave his feedback on volunteering at a younger age.
8 th August 2011	The Council, together with the Commissioner, made a courtesy visit to the Prime Minister, Hon. Lawrence Gonzi, at his Office. Hon. Dolores Cristina, Minister of Education, Employment and the Family also attended the meeting.
28 th September 2011	The Council organised a breakfast meeting to launch the conference "Employee Supported Volunteering". This was attended by the Commissioner.
7 th October 2011	The Commissioner and Mr. Ian Azzopardi, Council Member, were interviewed in the programme VOs on One Radio.
13 th October 2011	Mr. Saviour Balzan, interviewed the Commissioner on the programme 'Reporter' on Favourite Channel.
25 th October 2011	Mr. Aleander Balzan, journalist of the 'Torça' newspaper, interviewed the Commissioner on his write-up in the Annual Report 2010.
28 th October 2011	The Commissioner, Mr. Sebastian Micallef, Enrolment Officer, and Ms. Marika Farrugia, Executive Secretary, from the CVO Office attended a Conference, entitled, 'Employee Supported Volunteering', organised by the Council.

Date	Description of Event
8 th November 2011	The Commissioner had a meeting with Hon. Carmelo Abela, Labour Party MP on the role of the CVO Office, the work done by this office, the situation with enrolment and other aspects within the voluntary sector.
10 th November 2011	The Commissioner had an interview as part of a project under the auspices of the lead partner National Council of Women in connection with the EU Year for Volunteering 2011, Project.
16 th November 2011	The Commissioner was invited for a breakfast meeting on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the President's Award. Prince Edward was present for the occasion.
29 th November 2011	Deloitte Consulting, Belgium, interviewed the Commissioner to evaluate the EU Year of Volunteering on behalf of the EU Commission, DG Communication, in order to gather information and opinions on the organisation of the EU Year of Volunteering 2011, and to identify how the EU can best support the activities of the Voluntary Sector in each Member State.
2 nd December 2011	The Commissioner took part in a policy discussion on volunteering during the European Bus Tour as part of the activities on the EU Year of Volunteering 2011. This discussion was televised on Educational Channel 22.
3 rd December 2011	The Commissioner was invited to participate in a discussion as part of the activities during the European Bus Tour. The research on the Participation of Young Maltese People in the Voluntary Sector was discussed together with the VO legislation.
5 th December 2011	The Commissioner and staff at the CVO office were invited to the National Volunteer Award ceremony, held in order to recognise the important work carried out by those who volunteer with voluntary organisations.
6 th December 2011	Mr. Sebastian Micallef, Enrolment Officer, gave a presentation during the Gozo Regional Conference & Exhibit - Let's Volunteer. Mr. Micallef explained the advantages of enrolling, the situation with Gozo NGOs and the role of the CVO Office.
14 th December 2011	NSO Officials met with the Commissioner and Ms. Marika Farrugia, Executive Secretary, to discuss a national survey on volunteering in Malta.
21 st December 2011	The Commissioner was interviewed on the programme TVAM on TVM

7 PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE

The Code of Good Governance, Practice and Ethics for Administrators of Voluntary Organisations

A very important milestone has been reached by the CVO Office with the publication of the Code of Good Governance, Practice and Ethics for Administrators of Voluntary Organisations (henceforth 'the Code'). The publication of this document is an initiative taken by the Commissioner in accordance with the provisions found in VOA (Cap. 492 of the Laws of Malta), more specifically Article 7 (1) (h) and Article 8 (2).

In fact, Article 7 1 (h) stipulates the Commissioner's duty in *"monitoring the promotion of voluntary organisations and the behaviour of administrators of such organisations to ensure the observance of high standards of accountability and transparency and compliance with law;"* whilst Article 8 (2) states that *"The Commissioner shall seek to encourage an environment where the credibility and good reputation of the voluntary sector is continually enhanced through high standards of operation of voluntary organisations and their administrators, of transparency and public awareness and of proper accountability."*

In conformity with the above, the Commissioner has provided an invaluable tool for administrators of VOs through the publication of this Code of Good Governance. The main aim of this Code, which is the first of its kind for the voluntary sector in Malta, is to establish standards, rules of good practices, and a code of ethics that administrators should follow in the execution of their duties. It is expected that when using this Code as guidance, the VOs will improve and also raise their standards of governance, good

practice and in turn will be more accountable and efficient in their overall performance.

For ease of reference, the Code is divided into three parts, as explained hereunder, and also contains a summary of the main principles, which can be viewed in Appendix C.

The Code is composed of:

Part 1 - Definitions and Generalities

In this initial part of the document the Commissioner gives reasons for the need to publish this document in order to improve the aspect of good governance within the voluntary sector. Moreover there is a detailed definition of what constitutes a 'voluntary organisation' and also a definition of 'administrators'.

Part 2 – Duties and code of Ethics

This section of the Code discusses the duties of administrators including ensuring accountability and transparency amongst others, as well as a Code of Ethics outlining behaviour and action of the same administrators.

Part 3 - The Board of Administrators

Part 3 starts with an overview of the General Conduct expected from boards of administrators and moves on to standards which should be followed vis-à-vis meetings held. Finally, there is also a section which sets down the responsibilities of the Board of Administrators

This Code, available both in English and in Maltese, can be downloaded from the website of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations: www.voluntaryorganisations.gov.mt

8 STAFF DEVELOPMENT



Staff Development is essential to provide employees with the key knowledge and skills that they need on the job. The CVO Office continued to invest in staff development, to further equip staff with additional skills and competences, which are valuable to manage their day to day work.

Staff at the CVO Office attended a number of courses, seminars, conferences and workshops to enhance and strengthen their knowledge base that positively affected their performance. Being a small unit, this is important, in order to build a more flexible and versatile workforce. Staff participated in the following courses, seminars and conferences:

Public Procurement

Ms. Marika Farrugia, Executive Secretary, attended a training course on Public Procurement at the Centre for Development, Research and Training (CDRT) centre. The course focused on the regulations and procedures on Public Procurement, how to prepare tenders using updated templates as well as the evaluation and appeals process.

Taħriġ fil-lingwa Maltija – Reqqa fil-Kitba

Ms. Marika Farrugia and Ms. Sylvana Galea attended a three day training course in the correct use of the Maltese language. This course provided a good knowledge of the latest language rules so that official correspondence and government documents are written correctly.

The Social Enterprise Sector in Malta

Mr. Sebastian Micallef, Enrolment Officer, attended a workshop on the Social Enterprise Sector in Malta, held for all regulators who support the sector. During the workshop, a presentation on the social enterprise framework and European scenario was given together with a presentation of the preliminary results of the survey conducted in this area. This event was organised by APS Consult Ltd who are commissioned by the Ministry of Finance, the Economy and Investment to carry on its behalf, a study into the existing legal and operational scenario in this sector .

Better Regulation and the Standard Cost Model

Ms. Marika Farrugia, Executive Secretary, attended an intensive eight day course on the Better Regulation and the Standard Cost Model. This was organised by the Management Efficiency Unit in collaboration with Pricewaterhouse Coopers and Allied Consultants Ltd, and organised as part of European Social Fund 4.87 Project “Developing the Public Sector’s Capacity to Implement Better Regulation”.

The main aim of the course was to provide an overview of Better Regulation in Malta as well as the use of Better Regulation tools such as

the Legal Notice Checklist and Consultation. Moreover an in-depth understanding of how to apply the Standard Cost Model was given, with a special focus on how to address potential practical difficulties. The course included a number of case studies, intended to generate discussion on key concepts relating to better regulation as well as to improve networking.

Freedom of Information Act

Ms. Marika Farrugia, Executive Secretary, and Mr. Sebastian Micallef, Enrolment Officer, attended a training workshop on the use of the online Freedom of Information Act system to handle requests generated through this system.

Data Protection Act

Mr. Sebastian Micallef, Enrolment Officer, and Ms. Marika Farrugia, Executive Secretary, attended a training session on Data Protection. This training programme focused on the creation of awareness on the Data Protection Act, confidentiality and related issues. The course enabled participants to become more aware of the implementation of Data Protection requirements in the Public Service and to discuss related issues.

Let's Volunteer Conference

Mr. Sebastian Micallef, Enrolment Officer, gave a presentation during the Gozo Regional Conference & Exhibit - Let's Volunteer. Mr. Micallef explained the advantages of enrolling, the situation with Gozo NGOs and the role of the CVO Office. This conference was organised by the Gozo NGOs Association, bringing to an end the European Year of Volunteering 2011.



Gozo Regional Conference & Exhibit - Let's Volunteer

The conference, attended by fourteen Gozitan NGOs, was addressed by Gozo Minister, Hon. Giovanna Debono who expressed her satisfaction that the voluntary sector was gaining power and becoming more widespread. The President of the Gozo NGOs Association, Dr. Raymond Xerri, also addressed the delegates. An exhibition on the work of Gozitan NGOs was also held at the Exhibition Hall, the Citadel, Victoria, Gozo.

Closer to Europe – a Social and Civil Dialogue



Closer to Europe Social and Civil Dialogue

Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandalo, Council's Executive Secretary, attended a focus group entitled 'Closer to Europe' a Social and Civil Dialogue. The Malta Council for Economic and Social Development (MCESD) in partnership with MEUSAC, conducting this European Social Fund, which focused on the participation of society in decision-making through cooperation with a wider range of partners. This focus group was of interest to the voluntary sector, since it involved partners in decisions relating to employment, social affairs and equal opportunities at the National and European level. 'Closer to Europe' is partly financed by the European Social Fund and aims to promote a more effective social and civil dialogue and wider participation in the decision-making and policy development. These objectives are being achieved through a Research Study, Training Sessions and a Communication and Awareness Campaign. The project also aims to increase knowledge on local and EU affairs.

Volunteer! You make a difference



Conference: Volunteer! You make a difference

The Council, as the National Coordinating Body during the EU Year of Volunteering 2011, organised a national conference entitled “**Volunteer! You make a difference!**”, that was attended by staff at the CVO Office. The aim of the conference was to share experiences and get to know more on how to support volunteers. The conference discussed the participation, contribution, management and support of volunteers with a particular focus on youth, retired persons and entrepreneurs.

The conference contributed towards the beginning of a discussion on the following issues:

- Working towards an enabling and facilitating environment for volunteering locally
- Empowering volunteer organisations and improve the quality of volunteering
- Reward and recognise achievements gained in volunteering activities
- Raise awareness of the value and importance of volunteering

During this event the Council, as the national coordinating body for this year, informed delegates on the calendar of events during the European Year of Volunteering 2011. The Council's new website, www.maltacvs.com, was also launched.

Employee Supported Volunteering Conference

The Commissioner, Mr. Sebastian Micallef and Ms. Marika Farrugia from the CVO Office attended a Conference, entitled, ‘Employee Supported Volunteering’. This conference was organised by the Council in its capacity as the national coordinator of the European year of volunteering 2011 and the Malta Chamber of Commerce, to better understand Corporate Volunteering.



Conference: Employee Supported Volunteering

The conference brought together the business community and the voluntary sector to discuss ways of cooperation between the two players as part of the private sector's Corporate Social Responsibility. The following themes were covered:

- The benefits of Corporate Volunteering – private sector / private sector employees
- Main approaches and models of corporate volunteering
- How to set up corporate volunteering schemes
- Success stories and case studies

9 ACTIVITIES AND OTHER GENERAL INFORMATION

Library

In the absence of a local specialised library on the voluntary sector, as reported in last year's annual report, the CVO Office has embarked on a project to build up a reference library on this sector. This year a sum of money was allocated from this Office's budget to purchase a number of books to enrich this library. Titles of books cover various subjects and include those on Philanthropy, Charity shops, Fundraising, Strategic Management for NGOs, Civil Society, Regulation, Social Enterprising and others.

Moreover, money is also being invested in the subscription of high level magazines related to this sector, that cover areas, like Fundraising, Good Governance, Charity Finance and Civil Society.

Moreover, to supplement what is mentioned above, the media is researched daily for all activities and reports on the voluntary sector. Press cuttings and other publications are stored online for research purposes.

There are a number of voluntary organisations who send to the CVO Office magazines and reports they publish on their activities. These are included in the library to complement the other publications.

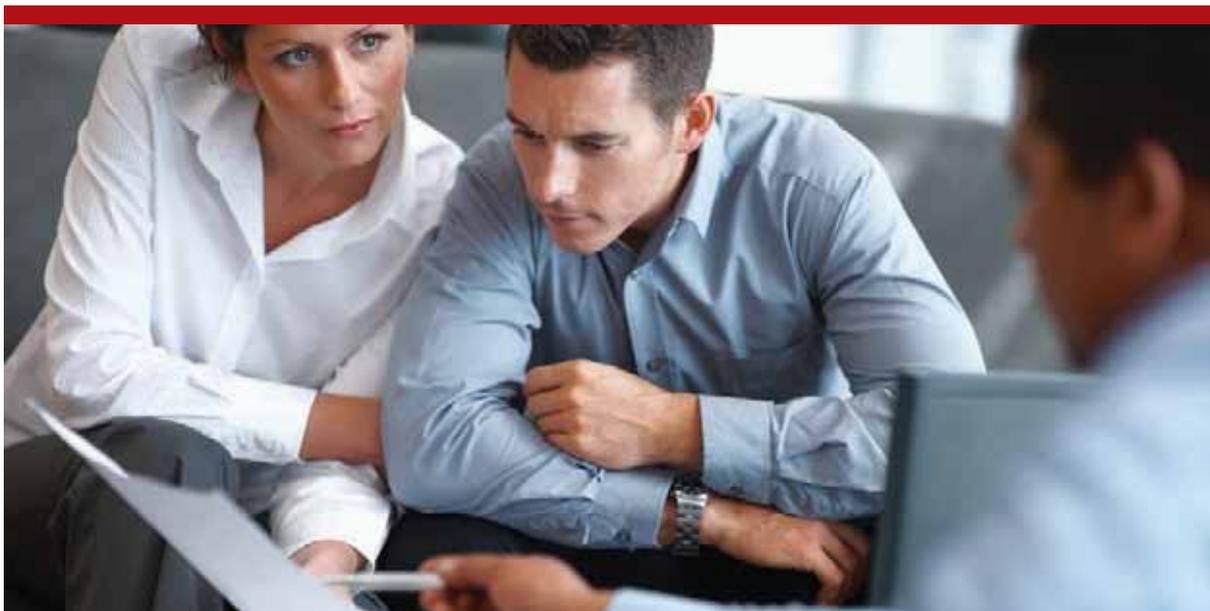
The benefit of this specialised library is reaped mostly by students who are researching this area for assignments and dissertations related to their studies.

Assistance to Students

With a growing number of VOs focused on various areas, the non-profit sector is increasingly central to the health and well-being of society. Therefore, it is encouraging to see an increasingly number of students, both at post secondary and tertiary level, researching the voluntary sector. During the year, the Commissioner and staff at the CVO Office, had a number of interviews with students that chose to undertake their studies in this area. Subject areas ranged, from managing budgets in VOs, financing, funding to marketing, management and legal issues related to the regulatory framework.

This is of high satisfaction to this Office to see a growth in the interest of students researching the third sector, which has an important role in the social activities of our society. Seeing this interest and with the number of VOs growing at a steady rate, this Office also made an attempt to collaborate with the University of Malta to run a Diploma course to equip administrators and leaders of VOs with a number of skills to manage their respective organisations in a more professional way.

10 TACKLING DISPUTES IN VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS



One of the aims of the CVO Office is to regulate the voluntary sector to make it vibrant, strong, sustainable and strengthen its position in civil society. VOs play an important role in almost every field of social activity. They contribute to employment creation, active citizenship, social work, provide a wide range of services, play a major role in sport activities, represent citizens' interests to various public authorities and play a major part in promoting and safeguarding human rights as well as having a crucial role in development policies. The CVO Office is committed to work and regulate the sector to enable it to do more, what it already does so well.

Most VOs do a sterling job to ensure that they are managed well. It is comparatively not so common for VOs to experience serious problems that incur an investigation. However, like other organisations, they also at times face

problems that are difficult to solve internally without the assistance or advice of a third party. Most often such cases arise from the lack of good governance and inappropriate internal management systems. In such cases they may seek the help of the Commissioner to assist in resolving their problems.

This is in line with the VOA, Article 7 (1) which describes the duties of the Commissioner, as outlined hereunder:

7. (1) *The Commissioner shall perform the duties and exercise the functions imposed and conferred on him by this Act and by any regulations made thereunder including :*
 - (b) *monitoring the activities of voluntary organisations in order to ensure observance of the provisions of this Act and any regulations made thereunder;*

(d) *providing information and guidelines to persons performing voluntary work and to members of voluntary organisations, for the better performance of their role and for the better achievement of the objectives of the voluntary organisations in which they serve;*

g) *investigating any complaints relating to voluntary organisations or persons or organisations purporting to be voluntary organisations and their activities, and to take such action as is in his power to redress any justified grievance that may come to his notice;*

(h) *monitoring the promotion of voluntary organisations and the behaviour of administrators of such organisations to ensure the observance of high standards of accountability and transparency and compliance with law;*

The approach of the Commissioner is to request the complaint in writing, meet parties involved and gives advice on how issues can be resolved. He also gives direction to VOs to take specific action and also directs them to undertake a governance review aimed at improving the effective and efficient management of the VO. Serious cases are closely followed, and made sure that actions are being taken. Most cases are dealt by the Commissioner. However in more serious cases, an investigation is opened and the assistance of the Commissioner's legal advisers is sought. Some cases are also handed over to the Police for further investigation.

The aim of this approach is to assist VOs get back on a legal footing and put their VO in order. The cases lodged with the Commissioner, during this year, included situations of:

- Irregularities in the administration of VOs
- Infringement of Statute
- Management of Funds
- Unethical practices during Committee meetings
- Lack of good governance
- Internal conflicts between committee members and members
- Problems between splinter organisations

The CVO Office continuously monitors VOs, through various sources, that include, monitoring of the media and the annual returns and accounts submitted by VOs. Ensuring compliance with legal obligations is seen as absolutely key to the CVO Office. In compliance with this, the Commissioner has issued the Code of Governance, Practice and Ethics for Administrators of Voluntary Organisations (refer to chapter 7), that aims to provide standard principles and rules regarding good governance and good practice which administrators of VOs should follow when performing their work.

VOs work at the heart of society and rely on the support of various sources, like government, the public etc to achieve their objectives. Through regulation and good governance, the CVO Office aims to increase public trust and confidence in VOs, by means of which they can continue doing their valuable work. VOs should be made aware that failing to submit their financial returns will give the Commissioner the right to inform the relative departments including the media, that those VOs are not in conformity with the law.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The CVO Office is funded by the Government with an annual budget of €65,000. The budget covers all the CVO Office's operating and administration expenses, together with

the Commissioner's Honoraria and Legal Consultancy Fees. The budget remained the same for 2011 and it very much limits the running of projects that the Commissioner's Office aim to run.

Budget 2011	Vote 22 – Item 6788
Office needs	€20,782

Personal Emoluments of Vote 22 – Item 6788	
Staff Salaries	€74,982
Honoraria	€25,183

Professional Fees	
Legal Advisers fees	€4,124

Income	
Enrolment Fees	€3,800

APPENDIX A

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

During 2011, the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations received and replied to the following Parliamentary Questions:

PQ No.	Question asked by:	Subject
W504	Hon. Joe Mizzi	Information about travelling abroad
W526/ W513	Hon. Joe Mizzi	Purchased vehicles
31105	Hon. Silvio Parnis	Non-governmental organisations in Malta and Gozo
31047/30641	Hon. Noel Farrugia	Global expense on mobile phones
31073	Hon. Justyne Caruana	Back office work
30892	Hon. Joe Mizzi	List of tenders
30623	Hon. Noel Farrugia	Global expense on Hospitality
30632	Hon. Noel Farrugia	Global expense on stationeries
30365	Hon. An ^o lu Farrugia	Hiring of vehicles
30123	Hon. Noel Farrugia	Direct Orders
30065	Hon. Noel Farrugia	Hiring of vehicles
29825/29834	Hon. Chris Agius	Number of employees in the Ministry
29816	Hon. Chris Agius	Works with companies
29707	Hon. Carmelo Abela	Organisations registered with the Commissioner for VOs
29666	Hon. An ^o lu Farrugia	Employees using personal mobile phones and vehicles on official duty.
29547	Hon. Jean Pierre Farrugia	Higher rates on Sundays, public holidays and overtime hours
29233	Hon. Chris Agius	Vehicles in the Ministry of Education, Employment and the Family
29454	Hon. Justyne Caruana	Facilities for visually impaired and deaf
29374	Hon. Joe Mizzi	Contracts assigned to companies
29431	Hon. Leo Brincat	Individuals with special needs who found employment
29318	Hon. Silvio Parnis	Obligation of voluntary organisations to publish audited accounts
29205/28418	Hon. Justyne Caruana	Persons with disabilities employed within the public service and public sector
29919	Hon. Joe Mizzi	Information about employees
28832	Hon. Justyne Caruana	Workplaces for people with disabilities
28508	Hon. Anton Refalo	Gozitan employees working in the Malta Public Service
28572	Hon. Noel Farrugia	Expense on travel
28634	Hon. Noel Farrugia	Information about recruitment of employees with the Ministry
28618	Hon. Edwin Vassallo	Work projects by the Ministry in Vittoriosa, Senglea and Cospicua
28599	Hon. Edwin Vassallo	Projects in St. Paul's Bay area
28403	Hon. Justyne Caruana	Conference about the family, children and disability
W430	Hon. Joe Mizzi	Work assigned to companies
28202	Hon. Jean Pierre Farrugia	Area of roofs in the Ministry's buildings

PQ No.	Question asked by:	Subject
27848	Hon. An ^o lu Farrugia	Expense on fuel
28174	Hon. Justyne Caruana	Requests for reduced hours, telework and career breaks
27952	Hon. Anthony Agius Decelis	Expenses on celebrations
W337	Hon. Joe Mizzi	List of Consultants
W279	Hon. Joe Mizzi	Purchase of local contemporary artists' works
27723	Hon. Anthony Agius Decelis	Part-time clerks for Summer work
27364	Hon. Justyne Caruana	Service contract agreements
27162	Hon. Justyne Caruana	Agreement with organisations involved in the voluntary sector
26606	Hon. Silvio Parnis	Lawyers employed with Ministry
26258	Hon. Owen Bonnici	Seminars and conferences
26216	Hon. Chris Agius	Value of tenders
25718	Hon. Jesmond Mugliett	Policies and development programmes
25678	Hon. Leo Brincat	Family-friendly measures
25608	Hon. Justyne Caruana	Vacancies within the Ministry
25440	Hon. Chris Agius	Recruitment of foreign employees with the Ministry
25236	Hon. An ^o lu Farrugia	Expenses on travel
24970	Hon. Carmelo Abela	New initiatives on family affairs
24852	Hon. Çensu Galea	Specific schemes for organisations
24684	Hon. Justyne Caruana	Call for applications during the last year
24637	Hon. Justyne Caruana	Retired persons who are still employed
24585	Hon. Noel Farrugia	Car services
24594	Hon. Noel Farrugia	Fuel consumption
24576	Hon. Noel Farrugia	Expense on mobile phone service
24352	Hon. Carmelo Abela	Services provided by voluntary organisations to government
24278	Hon. Stefan Buontempo	Information about NGOs
24096	Hon. Anthony Agius Decelis	Educational Impact Assessment
24093	Hon. Anthony Agius Decelis	Social Impact Assessment
23977	Hon. Noel Farrugia	Consultancies
23822	Hon. Noel Farrugia	Hire of furniture, paintings and trees
23832	Hon. Noel Farrugia	Travel expenses
23746	Hon. Noel Farrugia	Payment for tenders
23490	Hon. Chris Agius	Fuel expenses during 2010
23499	Hon. Chris Agius	Laptops purchased during 2010
23508	Hon. Chris Agius	Printers purchased during 2010
23519	Hon. Chris Agius	Overtime done during 2010
23528	Hon. Chris Agius	New employees during 2010
23481	Hon. Chris Agius	Number of Ministerial cars
23472	Hon. Chris Agius	Direct orders
23365	Hon. Owen Bonnici	Beneficiaries to the National Research and Innovation Programmes
23312	Hon. Justyne Caruana	Persons with Disability working with the Ministry
23303	Hon. Justyne Caruana	Food Entitlement to employees within the Ministry
23119	Hon. Leo Brincat	Employees who reached retirement age
22914	Hon. Charles Mangion	Immovable property
22923	Hon. Charles Mangion	Loans of entities falling under the Ministry
22806	Hon. Justyne Caruana	Number of requests for transfers
22790	Hon. Justyne Caruana	Number of internal inquiries and investigations during the last two years

APPENDIX B

PROCEDURE FOR ENROLMENT WITH THE COMMISSIONER FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

In order to apply for enrolment with the Commissioner, an organisation has to supply the below information/documentation:

1. Application Form

This can be downloaded from our website www.voluntaryorganisations.gov.mt. It is recommended that the "Notes to assist VOs in filling up the form" are downloaded as well. (These are also found on the website in the same section as the application form).

2. Statute/Deed

The authenticated statute/deed of the organisation must be in line with the Voluntary Organisations Act (Act XXII of 2007 and The Second Schedule of the Civil Code (Act XIII of 2007)). Thus, it is important to include the following criteria in the statute/deed. To qualify for enrolment, the organisation must have a lawful purpose which may even be a social purpose:

- Non-profit organisation
- Autonomous (independent of the State)
- Voluntary
- That no part of the income, capital or property of the organisation shall be available directly or in directly to any promoter, member, administrator, donor or other private interest.
- Dissolution clause: *(That upon winding up the organisation, any remaining assets shall be applied in favour of another organisation/s with similar aims).*

3. Resolution letter

A Resolution letter to enrol the organisation with the Commissioner. An example can be found hereunder:

"During the committee meeting (insert date), it was resolved to enrol the organisation (Name of the Organisation) with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations". (This has to be signed by all committee/board members and should include their name, surname, ID card number and their designation.)

4. Written consent

The written consent has to be signed by all committee/board members. *(Letter needs to be dated). An example can be found hereunder:*

"We the undersigned committee members of (name of the organisation) consent to hold office after enrolment with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations". (The written consent has to be signed by all committee members and should include their name, surname, ID card number, their address and their designation.)

The Resolution Letter and Written Consent (can be combined in one document and signed by all committee/board members and include their respective, name, surname, ID card number, address and designation (President, Secretary etc))

5. Annual Accounts

The Annual Accounts have to be authenticated by at least two authorised persons.

6. Annual Report

The Annual Report (administration report) has to be authenticated by at least one authorised person. If the organisation is new (established during the current year) and no annual accounts and annual reports are available, then a statement to this effect, signed by the President or any authorised person has to be provided.

7. Registration Fee

A one time charge of 40 Euro, is levied and can be paid by cash or cheque payable to the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations. An enrolled organisation will then have to submit its annual accounts and annual returns in order to retain its enrolment with the Commissioner for voluntary organisations.

8. Foreign Organisation

In the case of a foreign organisation the following documents have to be supplied:

- The appointment of a person resident in Malta to act as a local representative
- The acceptance by the appointed person to act as local representative
- A photocopy of the passports of the administrators, endorsed by a local lawyer

9. Commercial Activity

If the organisation runs a commercial outlet (for example a bar or shop etc) then:

- A signed statement stating that the commercial outlet is used solely by its members must be submitted; *OR*
- The latest contract for the leasing of the commercial outlet, to third parties, must be provided if it is open to the general public; *OR*
- Document showing that the organisation has established a legal entity to run the outlet.

APPENDIX C

CODE OF GOOD GOVERNANCE, PRACTICE AND ETHICS FOR ADMINISTRATORS OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN PRINCIPLES AND CONTENT

PART 1

1. Definitions and Generalities

- 1.1 This is the first Code of its kind for the voluntary sector in Malta. It aims to establish standards, principles and rules regarding good governance and good practice which administrators of VOs should follow when performing their work and providing their services.
- 1.2 Good governance shall be understood not simply as effective and efficient management but also as management that is democratic and ethically correct.
- 1.3 Although compliance with this Code is not mandatory, VOs should revise their governing documents, their statutes, codes of conduct, and any other similar documents using this Code as guidance. VOs that subscribe to the Code's principles should make a statement to this effect in their annual report and other relevant published material.
- 1.4 VOs differ widely in size, revenue, and complexity, and the style and the demands of good governance will vary accordingly. Hence, there are certain clauses in this Code of Practice which will not necessarily be applicable to certain VOs, and the Code should be interpreted accordingly.

- 1.5 The fact that administrators cannot receive remuneration (except in circumstances and under conditions laid down in the VOA) should not detract in any way from the professional attitude and the high professional quality they bring to their administration of the VO. In this sense, it is desirable that ethical correctness is combined with professional commitment to further the scope and purposes of the VO.
- 1.6 Where a person is both an administrator and an employee of the same VO, he or she may be remunerated for the services rendered in his/her capacity as employee. A clear distinction must be drawn, however, between the services a person provides as an administrator and the services the same person provides as an employee of the VO.

PART 2

2. Duties and Code of Ethics

- 2.1 Administrators of a VO shall do all that is necessary to ensure the credibility, accountability, transparency and good reputation of the VO and to generate public awareness regarding its work and mission. They shall be accountable for their personal actions and required to be transparent in their dealings.
- 2.2 Administrators shall prepare the annual accounts of the VO in accordance with any relevant laws and/or regulations. The administrators shall also prepare the annual

reports of the VO, which should include a detailed account of the activities organised by the VO in the preceding year and any other relevant details that may be laid down in any relevant laws and/or regulations.

- 2.3 Every administrator of a VO shall comply with any applicable laws and/or regulations relevant to the administration of the VO and shall ensure that the VO and all persons connected with or making some contribution to it shall do likewise.
- 2.4 Administrators shall cooperate, coordinate and collaborate with one another at all times as a team, and they shall act prudently to protect the VO's assets and property and ensure they are used to carry out the VO's mission.

3.2 Where a VO employs a chief executive officer, the distinction of his/her functions and responsibilities from those of the Board of Administrators shall be clear and written. The Board of Administrators shall focus on the overall strategic mission and direction of the VO and avoid becoming involved in its day-to-day operational matters. The Board of Administrators shall hold the staff accountable through the chief executive officer.

3.3 The Board of Administrators shall keep sufficiently detailed and accurate records of its meetings, including the agenda, minutes recording matters raised and discussed and decisions taken, correspondence, and any other relevant documents related to the minutes.

PART 3

The Board of Administrators

3.1 A Board of Administrators shall have clear functions and responsibilities and shall organise itself in a manner which would enable it to discharge such functions and responsibilities effectively.

3.4 The Board of Administrators is collectively responsible for applying high standards of governance and good practice in the management and administration of the VO. For this purpose, it shall ensure that the administrators have clear functions and responsibilities which reflect the different offices they may hold, and that the functions and responsibilities are carried out effectively with team spirit and in accordance with best practice.

APPENDIX D

LIST OF ENROLLED VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS – TILL END OF DECEMBER 2011

VO/0001	The Voluntary Organisations Fund	VO/0047	National Cat Society (Thomasina Cat Sanctuary)	VO/0093	International Tree Foundation
VO/0002	Maltese Mentoring Society	VO/0048	Nature Trust (Malta)	VO/0094	Malta Horticulture Society (The)
VO/0003	Assocjazzjoni Kunsilli tal-Iskejjel (AKS)	VO/0049	Ignatian Youth Network - Malta Foundation	VO/0095	Civil Service Sports Club
VO/0004	Marana Tha' Catholic Charismatic Community	VO/0050	VersAghtini il-Kelma Maltija	VO/0097	Assocjazzjoni tal-Ówienet ta' Wied il-Għajn
VO/0005	St. Jeanne Antide Foundation	VO/0051	Assocjazzjoni Voluntarji Lourdes	VO/0098	Oikonomos Foundation
VO/0006	St. Edward College (Lady Strickland Charitable Trust)	VO/0052	BirdLife Malta	VO/0099	Malta Dental Technologist Association
VO/0007	Good Shepherd Sisters (Dar Merhba Bik)	VO/0053	Malta Cancer Foundation	VO/0100	Malta Confederation of Women's Organisations
VO/0008	Din L-Art Óelwa	VO/0054	Street Cat Rescue Malta Organisation	VO/0101	Flimkien Għal Ambjent Ahjar
VO/0009	Paulo Freire Institute	VO/0055	Għaqda Kazini tal-Banda	VO/0102	Dolphin Foundation for Science Culture
VO/0010	Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice	VO/0056	Malta Organic Agricultural Movement	VO/0103	Migrant's Solidarity Movement
VO/0011	Çentru Tbxexx	VO/0057	Animal Rights Group	VO/0104	Malta Amateur Athletic Association
VO/0012	Malta Institute of Management	VO/0058	Action for Breast Cancer Foundation	VO/0105	Pembroke Athleta Sports Club
VO/0013	YWCA (MALTA) - Young Women's Christian Association	VO/0059	Għaqda Hbieb Sptar Monte Carmeli	VO/0106	Forum For Justice and Cooperation
VO/0014	Grupp Missjunarju Kull Bniedem Óija	VO/0060	The Biological Conservation Research Foundation	VO/0107	Għaqda Żgħażaġh b'Diżabilita'
VO/0015	Mission Fund	VO/0061	Malta Parkinsons Disease Association	VO/0108	Socjetà Agrarja
VO/0016	Socjetà Filarmonika Lourdes AD 1977	VO/0062	Hospice Malta	VO/0109	Telefono Arcobaleno Malta
VO/0017	Richmond Foundation	VO/0063	Share Malta Association	VO/0110	Telefono Arcobaleno
VO/0018	Emergency Fire & Rescue Unit (The)	VO/0064	JRS Malta Foundation (Jesuit Refuge Service Malta Foundation)	VO/0111	Malta Historical Vehicles Trust
VO/0020	National Council of Women Malta	VO/0065	Malta Basketball Association	VO/0112	Gozo Tourism Association
VO/0021	Għaqda Persuni Neqsin Mis-Smieġh - Malta	VO/0066	Friends of the Sick and the Elderly in Gozo	VO/0113	Malta Islamic Welfare Fund (The)
VO/0022	Millennium Chapel Foundation	VO/0067	Óbieb ta' L-A [®] enzija Support	VO/0114	'Living with Dignity' Group
VO/0023	Il-Maħzen	VO/0068	Fondazzjoni Wens	VO/0115	Malta Canine Society (The)
VO/0024	Ramblers Association of Malta	VO/0069	Gozo SPCA	VO/0116	Fiods Solidarity Foundation
VO/0025	Transplant Support Group	VO/0070	Fondazzjoni Óajja Indipendenti	VO/0117	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna
VO/0026	Fondazzjoni Suret il-Bniedem	VO/0071	The Malta Society of Model Makers	VO/0118	The Breast Care Support Group Europa Donna
VO/0027	Għaqda Muzikali Santu Wistin AD 2007	VO/0072	Oasi Foundation	VO/0119	Happy Paws Charity Organisations
VO/0028	YMCA Valletta	VO/0074	Għaqda Malta-Kuba	VO/0120	Saint Peter Foundation
VO/0030	Celiac Association Malta	VO/0075	Malta Exercise Health & Fitness Association	VO/0121	Soroptimist International Malta Club
VO/0031	European Mentoring & Coaching Council (EMCC MALTA)	VO/0076	The Malta Health Network	VO/0122	Żgħażaġh Haddiema Nsara
VO/0032	Fondazzjoni Arka (Respite Centre)	VO/0078	Salesian Pastoral Youth Service	VO/0123	Mid-Dlam Għad-Dawl
VO/0033	Solidarity and Overseas Service Malta (SOS Malta)	VO/0079	Salesian Oratory	VO/0124	Lions Club St. Paul's Bay
VO/0034	The Physically Handicapped Rehabilitation Fund	VO/0080	Osanna Pia Home – Salesians	VO/0125	Voices Foundation
VO/0035	SPCA	VO/0081	Association of Carers for Stray and Abandoned Felines	VO/0126	Moviment Graffiti
VO/0037	Għaqda Banda San Filep AD 1851	VO/0083	Malta Blood Donors Association	VO/0127	St. Gabriel Band Club
VO/0038	The Island Sanctuary	VO/0084	The Today Public Policy Charitable Trust	VO/0128	Għaqda Muzikali Sant' Elena
VO/0039	Malta Gay Right Movement	VO/0086	Malta Red Cross Society	VO/0130	Għaqda Socjo-Muzikali Anici
VO/0040	Noah's Ark Animal Sanctuary	VO/0087	Puttinu Cares - Children Cancer Support Group Foundation	VO/0131	Foundation Melitensis
VO/0041	ADHD Family Support Group	VO/0088	Arabic Culture Information Society	VO/0132	Outdoor Sports Association (Marsascula)
VO/0042	Malta Federation of Organisations of Persons with Disability	VO/0089	Hair and Beauty Federation (Malta)	VO/0134	Stray Animals Support Group
VO/0043	The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Malta	VO/0090	Adult Cancer Support Group (Known as plus 15)	VO/0135	Moviment Kerygma
VO/0044	Equal Partners Foundation	VO/0091	Friends of the Earth Malta	VO/0137	St. Paul Choral Society
VO/0045	Malta Regional Development and Dialogue Foundation	VO/0092	Association for Abandoned Animals	VO/0138	Universal Peace Federation - Malta
				VO/0139	Foundation for Respite Care Services

VO/0140	Moviment Missjunarju 'I esu Fil-Proxmu'	VO/0193	Każin tal-Banda San Gorg Bormla	VO/0243	Families for Life Long Learning
VO/0141	Victim Support Malta	VO/0194	Għaqda Mużikali Immakulata Kunċizzjoni	VO/0244	Life Resources Foundation
VO/0142	Oratorju Don Bosco, Ghawdex	VO/0195	The Archaeological Society Malta	VO/0246	Gift of Life Foundation
VO/0143	50 Hour Bicycle Marathon	VO/0196	Sj@iewi Brass Band and Social Club (Festival)	VO/0247	Foundation for Women Entrepreneurs (Malta)
VO/0144	Għaqda Korali u Orkestrali 'Marija Bambina'	VO/0198	Malta Osteoporosis Society	VO/0248	Genista Research Foundation (Malta)
VO/0145	Gozo NGOs Association	VO/0199	The Eden and Razzett Foundation	VO/0249	Bonsai Culture Group
VO/0146	Lions Club Sliema	VO/0200	Koperazzjoni Internazzjonali - Malta (Kopin)	VO/0250	Telecel Globe Foundation
VO/0147	Malta Association of Physiotherapists	VO/0201	Malta Judo Federation	VO/0251	Assocjazzjoni Sport Muturi
VO/0148	Malta Aviation Museum Foundation	VO/0202	Malta Judo Foundation	VO/0252	Malta Guide Dogs Foundation
VO/0149	Malta Library and Information Association	VO/0203	Socjeta Mużikali La Stella Levantina AD 1894 (Santa Marija)	VO/0253	Malta Tenpin Bowling Association
VO/0150	Inħobbu l-Munxar u x-Xlendi	VO/0204	Socjeta Mużikali Madonna tal-Gilju	VO/0254	European African Human Rights
VO/0151	Faces	VO/0205	Malta Tama Tnabar Association	VO/0255	National Association of Pensioners
VO/0152	Malta Tourism Society	VO/0206	Għaqda Mużikali Sant' Anna - Wied il-Għajn AD. 1994	VO/0256	Malta Association of Women in Business
VO/0153	Rotary Club Malta	VO/0207	Association of Parents of Children in Church School (Malta) - APCCS	VO/0257	Rotary Club Gozo
VO/0154	Maltese Cross Corps	VO/0208	Junior Chamber International Malta	VO/0258	Għaqda Soċjali 8 ta' Settembru
VO/0156	National Parents Society of Persons with Disability	VO/0209	M'Intix Waħdek	VO/0259	M - XXI Foundation
VO/0157	Claris Foundation	VO/0210	Malta Cat Club	VO/0260	Socjeta Santa Marija Banda Re ħ org V - Mqabba
VO/0158	Hibernians Budokwai Judo Club	VO/0211	Istitut tal-Ĵ urnalisti Maltin	VO/0261	AEGEE - Valletta
VO/0159	Down Syndrome Association - Malta	VO/0212	Women's Federation for World Peace	VO/0262	Council of Islamic Community of Malta
VO/0160	Għaqda Dilettanti tan-Nar Maria Bambina Mellieħa	VO/0213	Qormi Clay Shooting Club	VO/0263	Malta Contemporary Art Foundation
VO/0161	Malta Fitness Industry Association	VO/0214	Socjeta Mużikali Santa Marija - Qrendi	VO/0264	Peace Band Club
VO/0162	The Funny Farm Horse Rescue Association	VO/0215	The Gozo CCU Monitors Foundation	VO/0265	Terra Di Mezzo (TDM) 2000 Malta
VO/0163	Kare4Kenya	VO/0216	Dogs Trust (Malta)	VO/0266	Għaqda Mużikali San Leonardu AD 1858
VO/0164	Living Ability Not Disability (LAND) Group	VO/0217	Royal Life Saving Society - Malta Branch	VO/0267	Fondazzjoni Uljed Ōal-Qormi
VO/0165	Special Olympics Malta	VO/0218	Għaqda Produtturi tal-Fniek	VO/0268	Giovani per L'Europa
VO/0167	Chambers of Engineers	VO/0219	Centro Cultural Hispano - Malte's	VO/0269	Nations of Christ
VO/0168	Malta Federation of Professional Association	VO/0220	Mission of Mercy	VO/0270	Lions Club Mdina
VO/0169	Don Bosco House	VO/0221	Birżebbugia Sports Complex Foundation	VO/0271	Anti Poverty Forum Malta (APF Malta)
VO/0170	Don Bosco Voluntary Service	VO/0222	Malta Girl Guides	VO/0272	Socjeta Storiko-Kulturali, Vittoriosa
VO/0171	Ladies Craft Circle	VO/0223	St. John Rescue Corps	VO/0273	Malta Maritime Law Association
VO/0172	Ability for Disability Association (k/a 'The Friends' of the A.T.C)	VO/0224	Każin Banda San Pawl - Safi	VO/0274	Għaqda Dilettanti Sajjieda Barklori ISLA
VO/0173	Cats and Dogs Shelter	VO/0226	Għaqda Filantropika Talent Mosti	VO/0275	Happy Moments Kenya
VO/0174	Għaqda Mużikali Santa Marija	VO/0227	Wirt Ghawdex	VO/0276	Fondazzjoni U (Xandir Soċjo Religjuż)
VO/0175	National Federation of NGOs of Malta	VO/0228	Circolo San Giuseppe Filarmonika Sagra Familja	VO/0277	Socjeta Mużikali San Girgor Sliema
VO/0177	European Movement (Malta)	VO/0229	Għaqda Mużikali Mount Carmel - Gżira	VO/0278	Għaqda Mużikali San Pietru Fil-Ktajjen
VO/0178	Żminijietna - Leħen ix-Xellug	VO/0230	Socjeta Mużikali San Lawrenz - Birgu	VO/0279	Organisation for Friendship in Diversity
VO/0179	Geriatric Medicine Society of Malta	VO/0231	Touring Club Malta	VO/0280	Tigne Judo Club
VO/0180	Għaxaq folk Group (k/a Ghaxaq Folk Ensemble)	VO/0232	Food First Malta (FFM)	VO/0281	CFC Ancop Malta Foundation
VO/0181	Għaqda Mużikali u Soċjali 'Madonna tal-Karmnu'	VO/0233	The Malta Heart Foundation	VO/0282	Islamic Community Malta
VO/0182	Assocjazzjoni Segretarji Kunsilli Lokali Malta	VO/0234	Malta Professional Motoring Schools Association	VO/0283	Każin San Guzepp u Banda De Rohan
VO/0184	Maltese Olympic Committee	VO/0235	Malta Continenace Care Association	VO/0284	GS1 MALTA
VO/0185	Moving Theatre	VO/0236	Moviment Madonna tal-Konsagrazzjoni	VO/0285	Civic Club
VO/0186	Għaqda tal-Mużika San Gejtanu	VO/0237	Socjeta Mużikali San Guzepp	VO/0286	Helping Hands Group (The)
VO/0187	Socjeta Dun Filippu Borgia	VO/0238	Socjeta Filarmonika Santa Marija	VO/0287	Armenian Community of Malta
VO/0188	FTZ-Community Foundation	VO/0239	Astronomical Society of Malta (The)	VO/0288	No. 68 Foundation
VO/0189	Maltese Association of Social Workers	VO/0240	Melita Football Club	VO/0289	Amputees 4 Amputees (A4A)
VO/0190	Education Aid	VO/0241	Socjeta Filarmonika Nicolo' Isouard	VO/0290	Għaqda Filantropika Ghaxaq
VO/0191	Malta Society of the Blind	VO/0242	12th May Band and Social Club	VO/0291	Help Vlada Campaign
VO/0192	Education Agency (Educ A)			VO/0293	Pope John XX111 Peace Laboratory

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VO/0294	Foundation For Human Resources Development	VO/0346	International Organisation for Diplomatic Relations	VO/0394	Ghaqda Muzikali Sant' Andrija
VO/0295	Royal Fleet Auxiliary Association Malta	VO/0347	Media International Foundation	VO/0396	CAMYouths
VO/0296	Greenhouse – Malta	VO/0348	Soċjetà Filarmonika La Stella A.D. 1863	VO/0397	Ghaqda tan-Nar 26 ta' Lulju Santa Venera AD 2009
VO/0297	Malta Motorsport Federation	VO/0349	Association of Anaesthesiologists of Malta	VO/0398	Ghaqda Muzikali Banda Marija Reġina
VO/0298	Sharklab	VO/0350	Senglea Historical Society	VO/0399	International Police Association (Malta Section)
VO/0299	Dental Association of Malta	VO/0351	Ghaqda Muzikali Santa Marija	VO/0400	Association for the Advancement of Meridian Energy Techniques (AAMET)
VO/0300	Mediterranean Institute of Primary Care	VO/0352	Ghaqda Karmelitana Banda Queen Victoria Żurrieq	VO/0401	Dhammakaya Malta International Foundation
VO/0301	Association of Speech-Language Pathologists	VO/0353	Gozo Jesus Center	VO/0402	Ghaqda Muzikali San Girgor - Kerċem
VO/0302	Fil-Com Malta	VO/0354	National Foster Care Association Malta	VO/0403	Malta Association of Occupational Therapists
VO/0303	Sliema Residents Association (Ghaqda Residenti - Sliema)	VO/0355	Inizjamed	VO/0404	Soċjetà Filarmonika La Stella, Gudja
VO/0304	Malta Midwives Association (MMA)	VO/0356	Mothers' Union	VO/0405	Mellieħa Tritones Club
VO/0305	Mobile Monday Malta	VO/0357	Prisms	VO/0406	Shift Association
VO/0306	Federation for Hunting & Conservation Malta (FKNK)	VO/0358	The English-Speaking Union of Malta	VO/0407	MADC - Malta Amateur Dramatic Club
VO/0308	Soċjeta Filarmonika il-Prekursur	VO/0359	Soċjeta Filarmonika "La Vincitrice AD 1871"	VO/0408	Anglican Church in Malta and Gozo (The)
VO/0309	Union of Mediterranean Architects – UMAF	VO/0360	Austrian-Maltese Association	VO/0409	Signum Fidei Malta
VO/0310	Help Marilyn Debono Campaign	VO/0361	The Entomological Society of Malta	VO/0411	Malta Aviation Society
VO/0311	The Scout Association of Malta	VO/0362	Ghaqda Banda Zejtun AD. 1933	VO/0412	Ghaqda Muzikali San Ġorg Martri AD 1893
VO/0313	Ghaqda tar-Residenti ta' Santa Marija Estate, Mellieħa	VO/0363	Grupp Flimkien Naslu	VO/0414	Association of Arms Collectors and Target Shooters
VO/0314	Tabgha Foundation	VO/0364	Young Entrepreneurs and Leaders (YEL)	VO/0415	Ghaqda Madonna tal-Grazzja Banda San Mikiel A.D. 1883
VO/0315	PAWS Malta (People for Animal Welfare Support)	VO/0365	S.T.A.N.D (Striving Towards Ability Not Disability)	VO/0416	World Foundation of Urology (MALTA)
VO/0316	CycleSafeMalta	VO/0366	SKOP (Solidarjetà u Koperazzjoni)	VO/0417	Malta Medical Students' Association (MMSA)
VO/0317	Mental Health Association Malta	VO/0367	Third World Group	VO/0418	Heritage Parks Federation (The)
VO/0318	Banda San Ġ iljan AD 1927	VO/0368	Kerċem Ajax Football Club	VO/0419	Amadeus Chamber Choir
VO/0319	Ghaqda Muzikali 'ITE AD JOSEPH'	VO/0369	Ghaqda Muzikali Marija Assunta	VO/0420	Ta' Klula Foundation
VO/0320	Parents Foundation for Education	VO/0370	Malta Cine Circle	VO/0421	Friends of Australia Association - Gozo Branch
VO/0321	Matters Human	VO/0371	TROUPE 18:45	VO/0422	Tghanniqa
VO/0322	Muscular Dystrophy Group	VO/0372	Art of Living Malta	VO/0424	St. Francis Foundation for Animals
VO/0323	Ghaqda Muzikali San Ġużepp (A.D. 1874)	VO/0373	Soċjeta Filarmonika Stella Maris	VO/0425	Arthritis and Rheumatism Association of Malta
VO/0324	Cottonera Cat Care Association	VO/0374	Soċjeta Filarmonica 'La Vittoria'	VO/0426	Balluta Residents Association
VO/0325	Association of International Women in Malta (AIWA)	VO/0375	Fondazzjoni Kulturali 'Il-Mellieħa'	VO/0427	Malta Vocational Centre Association (MVC)
VO/0326	Soċjetà Filarmonika Leone A.D. 1863	VO/0376	ICOM Malta	VO/0428	GetUpStandUp!
VO/0327	Aid to Autonomous (A2A) Foundation	VO/0377	Malta Association of Hospitality Executives	VO/0429	The Redeemed Christian Church of God, Malta
VO/0328	Manna Foundation	VO/0376	International Charity Society Foundation	VO/0430	Malta Human Rights Commission
VO/0329	Thai Association of Malta (TAM)	VO/0379	Malta Association of Crohn's & Colitis	VO/0431	Private Schools Association
VO/0330	Gozo Association for the Deaf	VO/0380	Malta Association For Contemporary Music	VO/0432	Ghaqda Produtturi tal-Għasel Malti
VO/0331	The Classique Foundation	VO/0381	Soċjeta Filarmonika San Pietru Banda Birzebbuga A.D. 1990	VO/0433	Malta Association for the Counselling Profession (MACP)
VO/0332	Soċjeta Filarmonika 'Sliema'	VO/0383	Il-Olugh	VO/0434	The Maltese Rottweiler Club
VO/0333	Decomomo Malta	VO/0384	Fondazzjoni Bethlehem F'Għajnsielem	VO/0435	Order of Saint Lazarus - Gozo Commandery
VO/0335	Medecins Sans Frontieres	VO/0376	Little Sisters of the Poor	VO/0436	Friends of the National Archives of Malta
VO/0336	Fondazzjoni Nazareth	VO/0386	Lumiere Support Group	VO/0437	Malta Career Guidance Association (MCGA)
VO/0337	Fgura Pageant Group	VO/0387	Mdina Knights Football Club	VO/0438	Malta Institute of Professional Photography
VO/0338	Soċjeta Filarmonika 'Victory'	VO/0388	Kinemastik	VO/0439	Home Economists in Action (HEiA)
VO/0339	Malta Business Aviation Association	VO/0389	Mediterranean Voices Association Malta (MVAM)	VO/0442	Foundation for Architecture and Art in Malta and the Mediterranean (FAAMM)
VO/0340	The AX Foundation	VO/0390	Xaghra Historical Re- Enactment Organisations	VO/0443	Ghaqda Muzikali Vizitazzjoni
VO/0341	Changing Lives	VO/0392	Malta Association of Psychiatric Trainees		
VO/0342	Noise Abatement Society of Malta	VO/0393	Malta Hotels & Restaurants Association (MHRA)		
VO/0343	The New Choral Singers	VO/0394	Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Siġewi		
VO/0345	Theatre Anon Arts Foundation				

VO/0444	Foundation for Shelter and Support to Migrants (FSM)	VO/0500	Association of Lyceum Past Students (A.L.P.S.)	VO/0550	Assocjazzjoni Maltija tal-Apikultura (AMA)
VO/0445	Domus Pius IX	VO/0501	Ghaqda Mużikali Beland	VO/0551	Animal Care Malta
VO/0446	Ghaqda Mużikali San Guzepp - Ghajnsielem A.D 1928	VO/0502	Ghaqda Mużikali Marija Annunzjata	VO/0552	Malta Chamber Foundation
VO/0447	Gozo Football Association	VO/0503	Emergency Response and Rescue Corps	VO/0553	Why Not?
VO/0448	Permaculture Research Foundation Malta	VO/0504	Lions Club Malta (Host)	VO/0554	Mons Hilarijon Capucci Foundation
VO/0450	Kirkop Utd. Football Club	VO/0505	Amplify	VO/0555	Malta Interior Design Association
VO/0452	The Royal British Legion (Malta GC)	VO/0506	Hip Hop Malta	VO/0557	Malta Association of Family Enterprises
VO/0453	Assocjazzjoni tas-Sidien, Caravans u Bangalows Ghadira Site Mellieha	VO/0507	Socjeta Filarmonika Santa Venera A.D. 1964	VO/0558	Pembroke Athleta Athletics & Triathlon
VO/0454	Malta-Bulgarian Business Council Association	VO/0508	Fondazzjoni AZAD - Çentru ta' Studji Politici	VO/0559	Neptunes Waterpolo & Swimming Club (NWSPC)
VO/0455	Maltese-Serbian Community	VO/0509	Maltese Association of Psychiatric Nurses (MAPN)	VO/0560	Malta Fishing and Sports Association (The)
VO/0456	Mediterranean Solidarity Foundation (k/a MEDSOL Foundation)	VO/0510	Malta UNESCO Youth Association	VO/0562	General Workers Union Youths (GWU YOUTHS)
VO/0457	Malta Photographic Society	VO/0511	AIIESEC (MALTA)	VO/0563	Kazin Santa Liena - Banda Duke of Connaught's Own
VO/0458	Lejn Xefaq T did	VO/0512	Aditus Foundation	VO/0564	Theatrecore
VO/0460	Fostering Social Technological Economic Renewal Foundation (FOSTER)	VO/0513	The Military & Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem Grand Prior of the Maltese Islands	VO/0565	Creative Island
VO/0461	Deeper Christian Life Ministry	VO/0514	S.T.A.R.S. (Shock, Trauma, Acceptance, Reality, Situations)	VO/0566	Malta Classics Association
VO/0462	Malta Argentine Tango Association	VO/0515	Association of Performing Arts Practitioners (Malta)	VO/0567	The Malta Art Academy
VO/0464	Arab European Forum for Development and Dialogue	VO/0516	Torball Society of the Blind	VO/0569	Fratellanza San Mikiel - San Gorg Qormi
VO/0465	Big Friends Guggen Musik A.D. 2008	VO/0517	Wirt iz-Zejtun	VO/0570	Integra Foundation
VO/0466	European Alliance for Freedom	VO/0518	Ghaqda Kulturali Kirkop	VO/0572	Principality of West Antarctic Fund
VO/0468	ORDO EQUITUM SANCTISSIMI SALVATORE ET SANCTORUM Sub Titoli Apostolorum Petri et Pauli	VO/0519	Malta Youth Ballet Foundation	VO/0573	Science is Culture
VO/0469	European Foundation for Freedom	VO/0520	Malta Autism Centre - Foundation for Education and Research	VO/0574	L-Ghanja Tal-Poplu
VO/0470	Talent Żebbuġi	VO/0521	I-GO AID Foundation	VO/0575	Dan Church Aid
VO/0471	Gozo Business Chamber	VO/0522	Entrepreneurial Forum	VO/0576	NPICU Family and Friends
VO/0472	Maghtab Residents' Association	VO/0523	Hilton Hearts Association	VO/0577	Socjeta Filarmonika Marija Mtellgha s-Sema M ^o arr A.D.2011
VO/0473	Exiles Sports Club	VO/0524	Keralaid Trust	VO/0578	Malta Film Foundation (The)
VO/0474	Filipino Overseas Contract Workers in Malta	VO/0525	Stars and Stripes Malta (SASM)	VO/0580	Art Discussion Group (ADG)
VO/0475	Arkati Foundation (The)	VO/0526	Malta International Crisis Centre (MICC)	VO/0581	Friends of Antarticland Association
VO/0476	Association of Insurance Brokers	VO/0527	O.J.K. "Order of the Joint Knights"	VO/0582	Dr. Klown
VO/0477	Malta Developers Association	VO/0528	Lupus Support Group Malta	VO/0583	Right to Smile Foundation
VO/0478	Alternattiva Demokratika Żgħażaġh - Green Youth (Malta)	VO/0530	Grupp Żgħażaġh Gudja	VO/0584	Ghanaian Community in Malta
VO/0481	Maltese Italian Chamber of Commerce	VO/0531	Kunsill Studenti Universitarji (KSU)	VO/0586	Xagħra United Football Club
VO/0482	Malta Association of Optometrists	VO/0532	Malta Humanist Association	VO/0587	Athleta Basketball Nursery
VO/0483	Fondazzjoni Ordni tal-Paċi	VO/0533	Ghaqda Filarmonika Mnarja - Nadur	VO/0588	The Association of Podiatrists of Malta (APM)
VO/0484	Association of Model Engineers	VO/0534	Cinema Heritage Group	VO/0589	Association Des Professeurs De Francais De Malte
VO/0485	The Abulafia Jewish Foundation of Malta (seals of secrecy)	VO/0536	Young European Federalists (JEF Malta)	VO/0590	Gozo Horse Racing Association
VO/0486	The Ghana Mission Foundation	VO/0537	Vodafone Malta Foundation	VO/0592	Hamrun Spartans Football Club
VO/0488	Fondazzjoni Kenn u Tama	VO/0538	Song Bird Association - Malta (S.B.A.M.)	VO/0594	LIGHT-Living In God's Hands Together
VO/0489	Active Youth	VO/0539	Malta Dementia Society	VO/0595	Missionary Knights - Malta
VO/0490	HRGM - (Historical Re-Enactment Group of Malta)	VO/0540	Gozo Football Club	VO/0596	Central Bank of Malta Pensioners Group (k/a CBM Pensioners Group)
VO/0491	M3P Foundation	VO/0542	Gozo Youth Football Association	VO/0598	Malta House of Prayer Foundation
VO/0492	Assocjazzjoni Sportiva Hibernians	VO/0543	Munxar Falcons F.C.	VO/0600	Art Club 2000 (Art & Craft Centre Mellieha)
VO/0495	Imperial Gozo Yacht Club	VO/0544	Euro-Mediterranean Aikido Federation (EMAF)		
VO/0496	Melita Music, Culture and Heritage Foundation	VO/0545	Malta Map Society		
VO/0497	Malta Association of Work & Organizational Psychology	VO/0546	Gozo Philatelic Society		
VO/0498	Ghaqda Folkloristika tal-Qiegha	VO/0547	Children Without Frontiers		
		VO/0548	Dance Council - Malta		
		VO/0549	Independent Schools Association (ISA)		

ACTIVITIES OF ENROLLED VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS



His Excellency The President of Malta whilst visiting the stand set up by Socio-Musical Association Aniçi during an exhibition on feasts



A Talent Show held by the Association of Parents of Children in Church Schools to celebrate the talents of children in these schools



Arthritis and Rheumatism Association Malta: A Pilates session during World Arthritis Day symposium with professionals and patients



The Pageant "Mingħand Pilatu sal-Kalvarju" organised by Banda San Ġorġ, Bormla



Every Summer ÇAMYouths organises an educational and recreational experience for children with social difficulties in Naples, Italy.



Cultural exchanges to Turkey and Hungary were given to students and teachers by the Dance Council Malta



Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna - A three-day military historical re-enactment festival at Fort Rinella, in October, 2011



Friends of the National Archives of Malta, during one of their activities



Migrant women residing at Ōal-Far and volunteers from KOPIN during an outing to Gozo



A walk organised by Gift of Life from City Gate Valletta to Bay Street, St. Julians



Young volunteers from Malta and Finland at Gozo SPCA participating in a Youth Exchange programme called 'Snapshots' financed by the Youth in Action programme



Islamic Community Malta during an event to show solidarity with people in Arab countries experiencing revolutions

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The Malta Association of Crohn's & Colities organised a seminar on related conditions of health, travel and sports



The Malta Association for Contemporary Music organised an event with the Sarsaza Percussion Ensemble in Valletta



Members of the Malta Girl Guides during one of their outdoor activities



Members of the Malta Map Society and the International Map Collectors Society (IMCoS) during the Malta Symposium held in September 2011



The Malta Organic and Agriculture Movement during a visit to GAIA organic nursery in Ghajn Tuffieħa, followed with olive oil tasting and an organic lunch



The Malta Parkinson's Association promoting the book "Life with Parkinson's"



The Missionary Movement Jesus in thy Neighbour opened and inaugurated Wayne's Clinic" in Karru, Ethiopia.



Maria Pellicano, a volunteer from S.T.A.N.D. (Striving Towards Ability Not Disability) wins first prize volunteer of the Year 2011, Oasi Foundation.



The Salesian Pastoral Youth Service, during "MEET-ME", a multilateral exchange, which brought together young participants from eight different European countries



"Il-Festi: Kultura u Identita'" national seminar organised by Soċjetà Mużikali Madonna tal-Ġilju, Mqabba, on the occasion of the centenary year



The New Choral Singers together with the choral group Kammerkoret Nesodden/Frogn from Norway, performing during a concert held at St. John's Co-Cathedral to mark World Hospice & Palliative Care Day 2011



Theatrecore presented 'Exit the King' written by the playwright and dramatist Ionesco, at St. James Cavalier



With an investment of €200,000 the Vodafone Malta Foundation held the Ħgantija Temples project which is offering an enhanced visitor experience



Archeological on-site lecture on Comino organised by Wirt Ghawdex



A mini basketball tournament organised by the Malta Basketball Association between the national team and foreigners



An exhibition of Senglea's maritime history organised by Senglea Historical Society which included items related to maritime activities



Fgura Pageant Group organised the pageant play around the life of Jesus and His apostles



Presentation of the Gold Award, to Mr. Michael Schiavone, winner of the Gold Award 2011 at the Malta Journalism Awards organised by Istitut tal-Ĵ urnalisti Maltin



Members of Tghanniqa with His Excellency, Dr. George Abela, President of Malta, after winning the third prize in the President's Award for Volunteering.



Families and pets of Island Sanctuary attending Mass during their Open Day



School students from all schools in Malta, during a prayer session in the Millenium Chapel, where educational programmes and talks are also held



One of the many volunteers participating in the Malta Marathon in aid of Inspire

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Staff, residents and volunteers of Dar Patri Leopoldu organised a Car Wash Day in aid of Fondazzjoni Suret il-Bniedem



Big Friends Guggen Musik A.D. 2008, during a Christmas activity. Band musicians, play, dance and sing during their shows



Launch of the book "Isle of Joy" (co-funded by Eco-Gozo NGO Scheme) during the opening of the annual Gozo Philatelic Society Exhibition



The Scout Association of Malta organised an irresistible fun challenge under the supervision of voluntary trained leaders



Wirt iż-Żejtun members visiting the Żejtun Roman Villa during archaeological excavations by the University of Malta



Għaqda Filantropika Talent Mosti organised "Nintelqu f'idejn il-Mulej", a musico-literary evening and an exhibition on the Holy Week



Dar il-Kaptan celebrated the 20th anniversary in 2011 from its opening and the Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Lawrence Gonzi invited their client members at his residence in Girgenti



Members of the International Tree Foundation and a German environmental NGO, harvesting olives they planted in 2006 at Minden Grove, Ta' Qali National Park



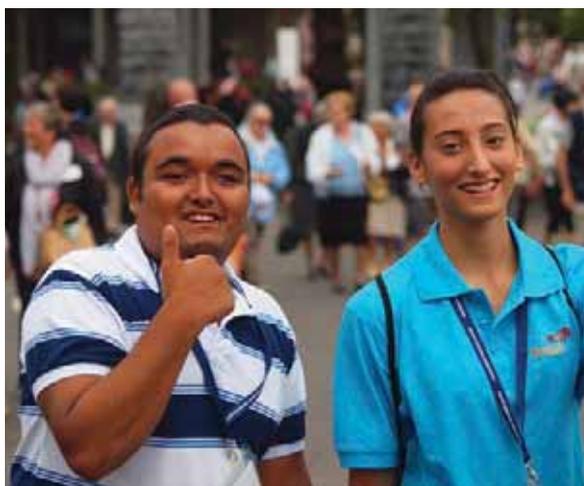
Members of Grupp Missjunarju Kull Bniedem Oġja, during missionary work to help disabled people, in a project they have set up in Kenya



BCSG Europa Donna Malta hosted the 10th Europa Donna Pan-European Conference entitled 'Challenges for the New Decade'



The voluntary organisation, Creative Island collaborated with Dazzle Troupe to present The Vaudeville Circus variety show



The Association Volontarji Lourdes organised its annual pilgrimage to Lourdes to celebrate its 10th anniversary



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Published by the office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations
Block C, Beltissebh, Floriana FRN 1700, Malta

Tel: + 356 2568 7261 Fax: + 356 2568 7265 Email: vo@gov.mt
www.voluntaryorganisations.gov.mt

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