

# MCVS news



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**MCVS AIMS:**

*To support the development of a more effective and efficient voluntary and community sector in Malta and Gozo through the delivery of a range of support and capacity building services including information, advice and training.*

*To support the development of a more influential and cohesive voluntary and community sector in Malta and Gozo by facilitating networking and partnership within the sector, and between the same sector and the private and public sectors.*

## Supporting volunteers and volunteering

Contemporary volunteering trends – including an ageing population, changing generational preferences and the increasing professionalization of volunteering – have created a need for more flexible volunteering practices. Contemporary volunteers tend to prefer short-term or specific projects (episodic volunteering) and have increased expectations in terms of achievement, opportunities to do purposeful work and acquisition or utilisation of their skills.

The increasing preference for episodic volunteering may create difficulty for organisations with systems designed for traditional patterns of volunteering. It may also prove challenging if an organisation is required to invest in significant training before an individual can commence volunteering – for example, in hospitals and emergency services. Research has also highlighted out-of-pocket expenses as an

issue for volunteers and one which potentially forms a significant barrier to people becoming involved or continuing their involvement as a volunteer. Our goal is to improve the ability of Government and non-government organisations to understand and tap into contemporary volunteering patterns and explore new partnerships to strengthen volunteering, philanthropy and social enterprise. We shall work with the Government, Local Councils and Voluntary Organisations to support leadership and innovation on volunteering activities.

The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector was established as a central point which shall serve to provide leadership on identified volunteering issues and coordinate research on future volunteering patterns and developing flexible volunteering models to assist organisations to adapt to emerging trends. MCVS is currently

advising Government on issues related to the development of action plans to ensure a coordinated response to the policy by Government agencies, addressing issues such as tax incentives to meet the costs associated with volunteering. This should contribute to improved responsiveness to changing volunteer patterns, effective partnerships to support volunteering and alignment of volunteering policy at a national level, address barriers to volunteering from out-of-pocket expenses, access to good practice information, tools and resources to support volunteering and improved coordination of the government's departments and agencies.



## MCVS participating in the Learning Expo 2011

The MCVS participated as the National Coordinating Body of the EYV 2011 in the Learning Expo 2011 organised by the Ministry of Education, Employment and the Family. The Expo provides all those wishing to pursue their education - from Fifth Form students to graduates to those

considering a return to studying - with a lot of information on learning opportunities in Malta.

The Learning Expo 2011 was held at the Malta Fairs and Convention Centre (MFCC) between the 1st and the 5th March 2011.



## Invest in Volunteers

**Volunteers are fundamental resources for the nonprofit sector.** The investment of human capital fuels much of the infrastructure that keeps non-profit doors open and ready for business. Volunteering also is one of our nation's most accessible and effective ways of contributing to a civil society. Yet, finding support for the adequate management of volunteer resources is challenging for the sector.

Consider the resources a

nonprofit/voluntary organisation usually has to support its mission: money, physical plant/buildings, employees, in-kind donations, gifts, equipment, and technology. Someone with specialised skills generally manages each of these resources, and all are considered during strategic planning.

The same should be true of the organisation's volunteer resources. Unfortunately, the opposite is too often true.

Volunteers are a necessary and critical resource for healthy communities. Volunteerism accomplishes real work, strengthens democratic and civic values, connects people, sparks creative problem solving, and supplements existing services. And to do this VO's need help meeting this challenge. They must develop or enhance their capacity skills, knowledge, abilities) to effectively recruit, focus, and support volunteer resources.

**Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.**

**Sherry Anderson**



## Aġenzija Żgħażaġh



Aġenzija Żgħażaġh was officially presented to young people, representatives of youth organisations and youth workers on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2011. The setting up of this agency has been envisaged in the National Youth Policy that was revised last year. The newly established agency consists of two units: Policy, Mainstreaming and Research Unit and the Youth Empowerment Unit. The Policy, Mainstreaming and Research Unit will strive to ensure that young people and their aspirations are reflected in policy and projects within the various sectors pertaining to youth. The Youth Empowerment Unit shall work with other key stakeholders to develop, strengthen and facilitate empowerment programmes. Since its official launch, Aġenzija Żgħażaġh has already organized a number of activities which included training seminars for young people who are currently

participating in the Youth Local Councils empowerment programme. Another activity which forms part of a series of initiatives to mark the European Year of Volunteering was a tour for young people to experience the services of a number of voluntary organizations.

Aġenzija Żgħażaġh launched its web portal called Youth Information Malta on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2011. The web portal includes general information about: Culture and Leisure; Education; Environment; Employment; Europe; Family and Relationships; Health; Housing; Law, Rights and Responsibilities; Money; Participation and Volunteering; Sport; Transport and Travel. The information provided is continually updated and includes detailed contact information of various institutions, agencies and organisations together with embedded hyperlinks to access further details directly from

the sources. Youth Information Malta provides also a showcase of news, events and activities pertaining to the youth field and aims to be a common meeting place for young people, institutions, organisations, youth workers and Aġenzija Żgħażaġh.

Youth Information Malta can be accessed by visiting [www.agenziazghazagh.gov.mt](http://www.agenziazghazagh.gov.mt)

For further information kindly contact Aġenzija Żgħażaġh by calling 23886139 or email [agenzija.zghazagh@gov.mt](mailto:agenzija.zghazagh@gov.mt)



## AEGEE-Valletta and CommA's upcoming SHORT FILM FESTIVAL!



Interweaving culture with entertainment, while merging them with talent, and circling it all in both an educational and fun-loving sphere, AEGEE-Valletta and CommA have been implementing their youthful efforts to their upcoming event, it being a short film festival. This festival is going to unfold itself into two primary events, starting off with an introductory course to film making, which will then actuate itself into the showcasing of all the films submitted by the participants, eventually leading to a winner being announced.

The introductory course to film making was held between the 1st and the 18th

of March, 2011.

Youths between 16-30 are encouraged to create their own short film. The participation in the Short Film Festival **is not** subject to their having attended the sessions. With regard to the product, the film has to be from 2 to 10 minutes long, and participants can work in groups of up to 5 people. All films are required to be submitted between the 18th to the 22nd of April.

This will then lead to the short film festival itself, in which screening of the films will take place before the general public as well as a panel of judges. This will be followed by a reception where the winner will be announced and



awarded the  price of 200euro. A small entrance fee will be charged, which will include the screening, free flowing wine, and finger food on the night. The venue where all this is going to be held will be announced shortly.

So let's see you all where we would enhance not simply our knowledge of, but also have our mini masterpieces in an industry that engages the interest of many - film-making!

Showing your interest in it, or having your queries clarified is just an email away: [hr@aegee-valletta.org](mailto:hr@aegee-valletta.org)

## Tghanniq—a place where children and youths meet to help better their education... and more

Tghanniq is an official NGO where we provide educational sessions both for children and youths as we felt the need to offer our time and services to improve other individuals' quality of life and who lack opportunities. We meet twice a week where lots of activities take place. During winter, we give children private lessons free of charge and help them with their homework both at primary and secondary level. There are also crafts and drama sessions where children have the opportunity to learn how to do pottery, cards and acting. We also provide life skills sessions to the youths in which they could learn and practice various skills like

time management, communication and teamwork. We also organize live-ins where we have the chance to live together for three days where we all could learn from each other whilst having fun. During summer we also organize an afternoon summer school twice a week where sessions focus mainly on drama sessions, dancing, singing and crafts where everything is wrapped up in a talent show where these children and youth can perform in front of their parents and friends. Tghanniq also strives to organize different outings such as picnics, competitions, fund raising activities, car-boot sales and other parties such as the Christmas and

carnival party where there are competitions and raffles. The money collected all goes to the families in need together with clothes, shoes, books, toys, food, furniture and other appliances which people and volunteers donate. We would like to thank all the people who had helped in any way and would like to encourage others to do the same. For more information please visit our website <http://tghanniqabormla.webs.com> or send an email to [tghanniq@gmail.com](mailto:tghanniq@gmail.com)



**We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give.**

*Winston Churchill*

## Empowering Private Sector Employees through Volunteering (EPSEV) Research Summary Report \*

The aim was to obtain information about the current situation regarding Corporate Volunteering in Malta. The research also sought to provide an understanding of the current needs of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the business sector in Malta when it comes to Corporate Volunteering.

### Main Findings:

#### Business

§ 61% of the companies interviewed are familiar with the concept of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of which 67% (41 companies) have been involved in CSR initiatives and 21% (13 companies) have a CSR policy. The research revealed that the types of CSR initiatives that the 67% are engaged in relate mainly to donations (85%), financial sponsorships (78%) and grants in kind (54%).

§ 45% of the companies interviewed have heard of Corporate Volunteering Programmes of which 11% (5 companies) have a Corporate Volunteering Programme in place. The Programmes undertaken by the 5 companies target a range of groups such as children, persons with physical and intellectual disabilities, youth, persons with mental health issues, the community at large, the homeless, the environment and heritage. The types of services provided by these 5 companies range from active participation in fundraising activities, manual work, financial services, administration and office work, PR, media and communication services, and project proposal writing. 4 out of the 5 companies reported that employees are able to choose whether to

volunteer individually or in teams. 4 of the companies provide their staff with a list of NGOs which they can then choose from. The companies that do not have a Corporate Volunteering Programme in place (95%) were asked what benefits would make their company consider Corporate Volunteering. 84% of these companies claimed that the benefit that would make their company consider Corporate Volunteering would be the knowledge that the company is contributing positively towards the community, 72% said that the benefit would be increased staff satisfaction and 59% said a positive company reputation.

§ 61% (58 companies) of the 95 companies that do not have a Corporate Volunteering Programme in place are interested in introducing such a Programme. From the 61% of companies interviewed, most are interested in targeting the community at large (71%), children (55%), youth (31%), the elderly (29%) and persons with physical or intellectual disabilities (29%). The services these companies are mostly interested in providing are manual work (67%), active participation in fundraising activities (67%) and administration and office work (36%). 75% of the companies interviewed are mostly interested in team-based volunteering activities.

§ The companies that are not interested in introducing a Corporate Volunteering Programme (39% - 37 companies) were asked why they would not consider participating in Corporate Volunteering. 38% of these companies claimed that it is due to not being able to lose employee

working hours and 30% said the issue had not yet been discussed.

§ 81% of the 100 companies interviewed would be interested in taking part in a free training programme on how to set up Corporate Volunteering Programmes if the opportunity were to arise.

§ 58% of the 100 companies interviewed are interested in their company being listed in a database aimed at facilitating the matching of businesses with NGOs for the creation of Corporate Volunteering Programmes.

#### NGOs

§ 64% of the NGOs contacted reported that they have sought resources from the business sector. This assistance was mainly in the form of financial sponsorships, donations and grants in kind.

§ 56% of the NGOs interviewed believe that the leaders and committee members of their organisations are aware of the concept of CSR as applied in the business sector.

§ 37% of the NGOs interviewed had previously heard of Corporate Volunteering Programmes, however, only 9 of these have participated in such Programmes. From these 9 NGOs, nearly all recognise the importance of having intermediary organisations networking between the business sector and NGOs. § Out of the 37% NGOs that are aware of Corporate Volunteering Programmes, 92% said they go about (or would go about) forming

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Savanorių centras



## ...cont. (EPSEV) Research Summary Report \*

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partnerships with the business sector through word of mouth whilst 46% mentioned intermediary organisations as useful in this regard. The types of services most required by these NGOs range from PR, media and communication services (68%), active participation in fundraising activities (68%), IT services (62%), administration and office work (59%), manual work (57%), and project proposal design and writing (54%). From the 37%, 76% (28 NGOs) reported that their organisation has the capacity to handle 1 to 5 employee volunteers per week whilst 14% (5 NGOs) said they can handle more than 10 employee volunteers per week. 57% (21 NGOs) answered that each of the employee volunteers could contribute up to 5 hours per week whilst 14% (5 NGOs) said each employee volunteer could dedicate more than 20 hours per week.

§ 76% of all the NGOs interviewed are interested in their organisation being listed in a database aimed at facilitating the matching of businesses

with NGOs for the creation of Corporate Volunteering Programmes.

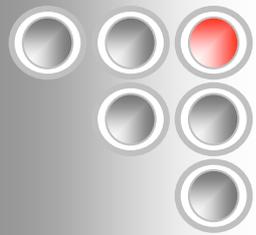
§ 88% of the 100 NGOs interviewed agreed to being contacted by SOS Malta for further information.

### Summary:

The results of the research activity show that almost one out of the two companies interviewed and approximately one out of three NGOs interviewed are aware of Corporate Volunteering Programmes. Furthermore, from the research it emerged that only 5% of the companies interviewed and 9% of the NGOs interviewed have a Corporate Volunteering Programme in place. Although this is low, the results show that interest from both the private and third sectors is relatively positive. In fact, 61% of the 95 companies that do not have a Corporate Volunteering Programme in place are interested in setting up a Programme and 58% of all the companies interviewed would like to have their company listed in a data-

base responsible for linking companies with NGOs. Moreover, 81% of companies would be interested in participating in a free training programme related to Corporate Volunteering should the opportunity arise and 84% wish to be contacted by SOS Malta for more information. With regards to the NGOs, 76% of the NGOs interviewed would like their organisation to be listed in a database responsible for linking companies with NGOs and 88% agreed to be contacted by SOS Malta for more information. This is very positive both in relation to the EPSEV project and the for the potential of encouraging and facilitating the setting up of Corporate Volunteering Schemes more widely in Malta.

*\*This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This communication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.*



**Service to others is the payment you make for your space here on earth.**

*Mohammed Ali*

## Volunteer assistance—The Libya Crisis

It is in moments like these (extraordinary) that the preparedness of our voluntary organizations can be gauged. There are already a number of voluntary organizations who are working alongside local authorities. On behalf of the Maltese and Gozitan voluntary organizations I wrote to the Prime Minister's offering the Sector's full support for his call for help in such demanding and extraordinary times. Local voluntary organizations may support and be compli-

mentary to Civil Protection, Armed Forces, Police Forces and Health Division as in such circumstances the latter's resources will be stretched to their limit.

Malta has been know since St Paul for its hospitality...and will show its true mettle in such times of trial. Humanitarian aid is at the crux of Maltese volunteers heart...be it the Libyan, Egyptian and Tunisian people or any other people re-

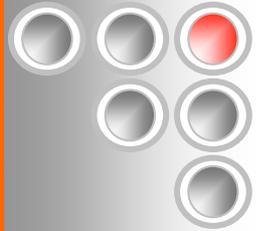
quiring our assistance. In this year dedicated to volunteers we encourage all those who never experienced volunteering to take on the challenge and stand to be counted when the need arises.



**Robert Farrugia  
Chairperson MCVS**

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**MCVS WEB under construction**



The latest European information on education and culture

Want to keep up-to-date with the latest European information in the fields of education, culture, youth, sport, multilingualism and media? The monthly EAC e-newsletter gives you the latest news on developments, events, publications, calls for proposals and more!

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education\\_culture/enews/subscribe\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/enews/subscribe_en.htm)



## info

### MEUSAC launches Funding 360° eNewsletter

In its commitment to assist Local Councils and NGOs in securing EU funding, MEUSAC has launched a monthly online newsletter as an access point to information on EU funds. The interactive online publication features the various funding calls whilst also providing background information on different aspects related to the process of project proposal submission. This month's issue is online on [www.funding360.eu](http://www.funding360.eu). Should you require any further information on Funding 360° or other services offered by MEUSAC, please contact them on 2200 3300 or [funding.meusac@gov.mt](mailto:funding.meusac@gov.mt)



The **Our Lady of Lilies Musical Society of Mqabba** is organising a **National Seminar** entitled **"Il-Festi: Kultura u Identita'"**, held on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 at the MonteKristo Estates in Hal Farrug. The aim after this Seminar is to bring together academic speakers who have previously worked on the subject treating Maltese Festas. Of special mention are: Dr Mark Anthony Falzon, Director of the Department of Sociology at the University of Malta and Christine Cassar, Anthropology student at the Cambridge University, Her Excellency Dr Vicki Ann Cremona, Maltese Ambassador for Tunisia, expert in Theatrical Studies, and Professor Jeremy Boissevain, Professor Emeritus in Social Anthropology in the University of Amsterdam. Mr Charles J. Farrugia, National Archivist and Graduate in History with specialisation in the subject, will chair the discussion. Pre-booking for this Seminar is recommended on 21 640041 or 79853044. Further information is obtainable on [www.talgilju.com](http://www.talgilju.com).



## training

Do you want to go to Turkey for a training course about EVS mentorship? There is an opportunity for Maltese Youth workers, EVS mentors (or soon to become mentors), EVS project managers responsible for training and recruiting. For more information visit our website: [www.eurodesk.org.mt](http://www.eurodesk.org.mt) 'News section'.

**europdesk**

Malta Council for the **VOLUNTARY SECTOR**

**Volunteer! You make a difference!**



**National Conference organised by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector**

*Share your experience and get to know more on how to support volunteers. The conference will be discussing the participation, contribution and support of youth, retired persons and entrepreneurs in volunteering.*



**Date: 26th March 2011**  
**Time: 09.00am — 12.30pm**  
**Venue: Corinthia Palace Hotel & Spa, Balzan**

Book your attendance on e-mail: [mcvs.meef@gov.mt](mailto:mcvs.meef@gov.mt) or tel: 25687264