



# STAY CONNECTED

MCVS Newsletter • VOL. II No. 3

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## A Promising and Busy Year Ahead

The year 2019, that has just started, will be important for our sector because during this year the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector will see the implementation of the fundamental changes in law; mainly that the Council shall be elected by a democratic electoral process. This can occur because of the amendments to the Law governing the sector which entered into force in the final weeks of last year, where it is stated that part of the Council shall be elected directly from the sector. These amendments gave the Council the official recognition and now the Council is legally the voice of the Sector both locally and on the international forum. With this change it means that the Council will work to be given the recognition in practice for the interest of the thousands of volunteers that work in the sector.



In the coming months, the Council wishes, and will be meeting with you, not simply to work closer together, but also to prepare ourselves for this important appointment of the Council election. Together, we will also work to shape a document to serve as the basis of the strategy for the sector for the coming years.

In order for the Council's work to be effective, the Council has to be in effect closer to you and this may be achieved by the Council's presence in the activities and initiatives held by you; as well as with your participation in the activities organized by the Council where we can mutually share our experiences. Only then can we work together in the interest of the sector. This can be done by being able to unite more in the particular Sectors that you operate in so that your operation is more effective with the support of the funds administered by the Council for support and the best interest of the sector. The Council shall continue to ensure that the funds that it administers will keep

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## **A Promising and Busy Year Ahead**

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addressing the aims for which they were established. We hope that during this year the work for the new Marsaxlokk Volunteer Centre is commenced so that like the two other centers, it shall serve as an important place where you can organize your activities whilst collaborating with other organisations.

This can be an interesting period for the Sector if we collaborate together in the interest of the Maltese Society.

**Dr. Noel Camilleri LL.D., LL.M.,**  
*Chairman – MCVS*

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## **Amendments to the Voluntary Organisations Act 2018**

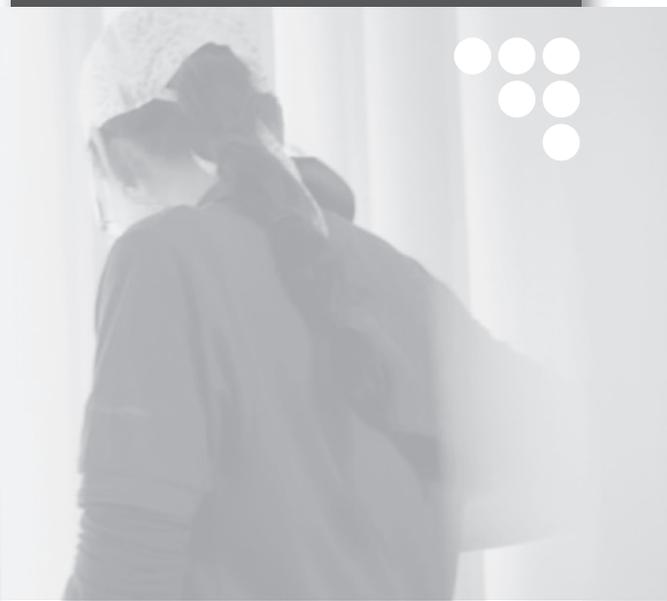
**(Cap. 429 of the Laws of Malta)**

**O**n the 8th of November 2018, the VO Act Amendments were passed through Parliament following a lengthy process of discussion over the past years as well as consultation with the voluntary sector and other stakeholders. These amendments addressed various issues in the VO Act which was first enacted in 2007, which issues arose over they years following the putting into practice the initial Act. While not going into all the two hundred and twenty amendments which were undertaken, this article will highlight the most important amendments which, while safeguarding the spirit of transparency and accountability, supports the operation of the voluntary sector through a more practical procedure as well as a democratic process of its structures.

These amendments gave more powers to the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations as the regulator of the sector, the powers to cancel the enrolment of, or disenrol a Voluntary Organisation as well as investigate vis-à-vis the Data Protection Act in collaboration with other authorities such as the Commisioner of Inland Revenue, the Malta Financial Authority, the Police and the Law Courts.

One also finds a more clarified issue of the enrolment for various organisations, mainly those falling under Religious and Political Organisations, setting a clear procedure of how and which Religious Organisation can enrol with the Commissioner for VOs while defining clearly Political Organisations which on the otherhand are clearly excluded from enrolling as VOs.

The VO Act now gives a Legal Personality to the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector to act on behalf of the sector and promote the same voluntary sector, provide a forum for the voluntary sector and a platform from which to develop co-operation



between voluntary organisations and the Government and co-operation between voluntary organisations amongst themselves. The Council shall be composed of eleven members, five of which shall be nominated by the sector and appointed by the responsible Minister, while for the first time the sector shall nominate and vote for six other Council members. These six members shall be elected directly by the voluntary organisations and shall be representatives of the following sectoral groups:

- Social and Humanitarian Sector;
- Health and Disability;
- Education, Youth and Sports;
- Environmental and the Animal Welfare;
- Arts and Culture;
- Gozo

These Amendments have now also established the concept of Mandatory Enrolment establishing that any voluntary organisation shall be required to enrol under this Act in the following cases: make public collections; receive grants, property, sponsorships or other financial aid from the Government and/or has an annual income of more than €5,000.

These Amendments have also acknowledged the participation of young people in the sector allowing the participation from the age of 16+ stating that minors who have attained the age of sixteen (16) years shall be eligible to administer and vote in an organisation.

These are some of the main issues arising from the amendments. For more detailed information one may visit <http://maltacvs.org/vo-law/>

*The most important amendments which, while safeguarding the spirit of transparency and accountability, supports the operation of the voluntary sector through more practical procedures as well as a democratic process of its structures.*

**Voluntary Organisations Amendments Act 2018**

**VOLUNTEERS**

Strengthening Volunteering

- Participation of Young People 16+
- Direct Representation of the VO Sector
- Strengthen the Role of the Council
- Mandatory Enrolment of VOs
- New Powers to the Commissioner for VOs

For more information please contact MCVS on  
Tel: 2248 1110 • Email: [mcvs.mede@gov.mt](mailto:mcvs.mede@gov.mt)

Malta Council for the VOLUNTARY SECTOR

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR YOUTH, SPORT AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

One may find the full Act at:  
<http://justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lp&itemid=29338&l=1>

## SHARING YOUR TALENT THROUGH VOLUNTEERING



## National Conference on Volunteering 2018

### 10 Years Supporting VOs

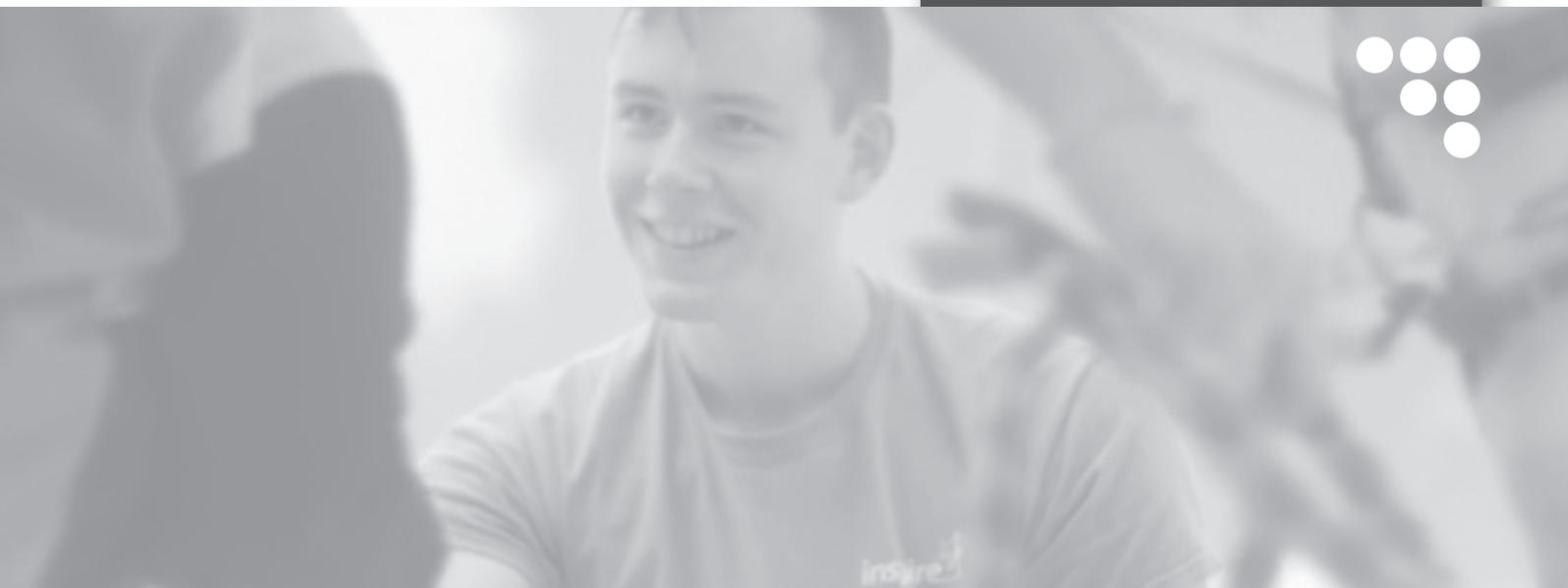


The annual National Conference on Volunteering was organised by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector between the 30th November and the 1st December 2018 at the Corinthia Hotel St George's Bay. The theme of this year's conference was "10 Years Supporting VOs".

The first day took off with a welcome address by Dr. Noel Camilleri Chairperson of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector. This was followed by an introduction by Mr. Ryan Borg, Head of Secretariat within the Ministry for Education & Employment and Mr. Robert Farrugia, Council Member of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector and also Chair of the Events and Activities Sub-Committee. To open the plenary session titled "The new VO Law" a short video was shown on the VO Act Amendments. Dr. Noel Camilleri, Chairperson of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector delivered the plenary session followed by a panel discussion moderated by Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandolo. The guests on the panel were Dr. Noel Camilleri, Dr. Anthony Abela Medici (Commissioner for VOs), Dr. Maria Criminale (Senior Legal Officer in the Ministry for Education and Employment) and Mr. Ryan Borg (Head of Secretariat in the Ministry for Education and Employment).

On the second and final day, the Conference started with a set of workshops in the form of panel discussions: "National Strategy on Volunteering" with Mr. Nathan Farrugia (President, INSPIRE), Dr. Sue Vella (Lecture,





UoM), Mr. Robert Farrugia (MCVS Council Member) and Prof. Carmel Borg (Lecture, UOM) as guests on the panel, “Good Practices by NGOs” with Ms. Claudia Taylor-East (CEO, SOS Malta), Mr. Maurice Sleyden (President, Dr. Klown), Ms. Katherine Azzopardi (Director, Ċentru Tbexbix) and Mr. Saviour Grima as guests on the panel and “The Voluntary Sector – Moving forward through young volunteers” with Ms. Miriam Teuma (CEO, Aġenzija Żgħażaġh), Mr. Gilmour Borg (SIGA Ambassador for Special Olympics Athletes) and Mr. Jorge Grech (Active Member, Banda San Mikiel Żabbar) as guests on the panel.

Following the two sessions of workshops there was another panel discussion: “Celebrating 10 years of Voluntary Organisations” with guests on the panel: Dr. Ugo Mifsud Bonnici (H.E President Emeritus), Fr. Alexander Cauchi (Ġesù fil-Proxxmu) and Mr. Robert Farrugia (MCVS Council Member and Chair of the Events and Activities Sub-Committee) and moderated by Mr. Damian Attard (MCVS Council Member).

The conference was officially closed off by the address of Mr. Robert Farrugia as Chair of the Events and Activities Sub-Committee within the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector.





*The Youth Volunteer Award was awarded to Mr. Kyle Mifsud by the Hon. Dr. Clifton Grima, Parliamentary Secretary for the Youth, Sports and Voluntary Organisations.*



*The National Volunteer Award went to Ms. Marjoe Abela and presented by H.E. the President of Malta, Marie Louise Coleiro Preca.*



*The Volunteer Organisation Award was awarded to Dr. Klown by Dr Noel Camilleri, Chairperson for the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector.*

## **National Volunteer Award 2018**

The National Volunteer Award was organised for the seventh consecutive time by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector. This year the Award was held under the patronage of H.E. the President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca and in the presence of the Hon. Dr. Clifton Grima, Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations.

The Award Ceremony was held on the 5th of December 2018 at the Presidential Palace where the Awards were presented by H.E. the President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, Hon. Dr. Clifton Grima, Parliamentary Secretary of the Youth, Sports and Voluntary Organisations accompanied by Dr. Noel Camilleri, Chairperson of the Malta Council of the Voluntary Sector.

The National Volunteer Award 2018, which aims to award an individual volunteer who has contributed in any sector and has a positive contribution towards a particular field and should served as an inspiration to others, went to Ms. Marjoe Abela from the Malta Girl Guides.

The Volunteer Organisation Award which is awarded to a Voluntary Organisation who has been outstanding in the sector in which it operates, being both innovative in its approach and services within the community as well as in its way of recruiting and supporting volunteers, was awarded to Dr. Klown.

The Youth Volunteer Award 2018, which is awarded to a Volunteer between the age of 16 and 30 years and is aimed to promote volunteering amongst young people was, awarded to Mr. Kyle Mifsud, a volunteer with the Malta Red Cross.

For the first time the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector decided to present a Special Award for voluntary work undertaken by an individual within the community who has contributed to the spirit of volunteering. This award was given to Mr. George



Agius, also known to many as Ġorġ tal-Mużew or Ġorġ l-Għannej tal-Mulej, who has dedicated his life to care for those in less fortunate circumstances by visiting and supporting individuals both in hospitals and in prison.

Towards the end of the event H.E. the President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca was presented with a commemorative stamp that was issued to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector.

The event was presented by Mr. Glen Chircop with the participation of singer Mr. Ozzy Lino accompanied by the Police Brass Band.



*The Special Award for voluntary work was awarded to Mr Ġorġ Agius and presented by Dr Noel Camilleri, Chairperson for the Malta Council of the Voluntary Sector.*

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



*The H.E. the President of Malta, Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, Dr Noel Camilleri, Chairperson of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector and all the nominated members.*

## SHARING YOUR TALENT THROUGH VOLUNTEERING



## ENISIE

### – Enabling Network-based Innovation Services through Services and Institutional Engagement

**M**CVS is undertaking a new project called “ENISIE – Enabling Network-based Innovation Services through Services and Institutional Engagement” which encourages the creation and development of enterprises (micro, small and medium) operating in the cross-border area in the domain of social business and corporate social responsibility.

The project’s main aims are in the provision of new services to social business, the empowerment of context and practices for social innovation, the set up and consolidation of a trans-border platform dedicated to social innovation, and lastly, the promotion of targeted actions of public and institutional awareness on the subject.

ENISIE expresses innovativeness not only in its prevailing field of operation and social innovation, but also in the novelty of its approach. It has adopted a bottom-up, targeted and holistic approach, by obtaining direct experiences from practitioners, focusing on incubators of social innovation and maintain a constructive balanced overview between “enterprise” and “social”.

*The project’s main aims are in the provision of new services to social business, the empowerment of context and practices for social innovation, the set up and consolidation of a trans-border platform dedicated to social innovation, and lastly, the promotion of targeted actions of public and institutional awareness on the subject.*

Want to contact directly the Council Members?

Send us an email on [council@maltacvs.org](mailto:council@maltacvs.org) and one of the Council Members shall get back to you on behalf of the Council.

## Presentation of Grants under the **Civil Society Fund (CSF) 2018**

The Civil Society Fund (CSF), administered by the Malta Council for the Voluntary sector on behalf of the Parliamentary Secretariat for Youth, Sports and Voluntary organisations, has awarded 43 civil society organisations a total of €147,000 in assistance to remain active at European level.

The Civil Society Fund is aimed to provide successful applicants with financial assistance for the purpose of facilitating their affiliation with and participation in European groupings, associations, federations, confederation networks, and training related to EU Policies/Programmes. It also aims to assist constituted bodies and representative organisations to keep abreast with the developments occurring at European level, enable them to better educate their members about EU matters related to their respective fields of competence and to empower their effective participation in the decision-making process at a European level.

On the 18th of January 2019, The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector, organised a ceremony to award this grant to the representatives of each Civil Society Organisation. The grants were presented by Mr Ryan Borg the Head of Secretariat in the Parliamentary Secretariat for Youths, Sport and Voluntary Organisations, on behalf of the Hon. Dr. Clifton Grima, Dr Noel Camilleri, Chairperson of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector and Mr Mauro Pace Parascandalo, Executive Director of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector.

Each organisation is entitled to receive 80 percent of the expenses incurred during the stipulated calendar which the amount shall not exceed the sum of €6,000.

Civil Society Organisations are considered the backbone of any democratic society. According to the European Commission, these include: Non-Government Voluntary Organisations, Local Organisations, Cooperatives, Trade Unions, Professional Associations, Universities, Media and Independent Foundations.

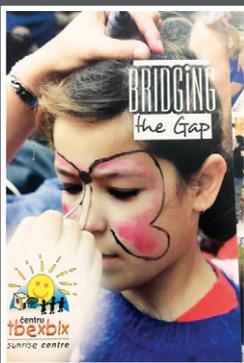
For more information on the Civil Society Fund please visit:  
<http://maltacvs.org/civil-society-fund/>



## SHARING YOUR TALENT THROUGH VOLUNTEERING

### VOP Scheme Successful Projects 2017

The education and social methods applied during the activities and outings were based upon the principles, concepts and philosophical frameworks of Neo-humanistic education principles and Transcultural Counselling. The implemented activities were the part-purchase of the next door and start of renovation works, collaboration with the Forum for the Cottonera Community, weekly sports and education activities of yoga, drama, singing, dance, arts and crafts; English course for elderly and weekly cultural and social outings held at different cultural and social sites in Malta and Gozo. The project's overall goal was to use the activities and tasks to create conditions of self-empowerment among children, adolescents and elderly to improve their quality of life.



### VOP Scheme Successful Projects 2017



**Year: 2017**

**Organisation: Ċentru Tbebbix**

**Project Name: Bridging the Gap:**

Linking Generations from and Empowered Community

**Fund Allocated: €20,000**

Ċentru Tbebbix is a foundation based upon providing elderly with training focused active ageing principles improving their personal, social, emotional and mental development; encouraging children and young people to volunteer through intergenerational interaction based activities; and strengthening the civic engagement and social capital of all participants in efforts to increase a sense of belonging towards each other and improving their community through intergenerational events based within their own community.

Bridging the Gap was a community project based at Ċentru Tbebbix an NGO in Cospicua which occurred over 12 months. 40 children and 50 elderly participated in the project, together with five local and ten European volunteers.

The aim of the project was to increase access for opportunities and awareness about active ageing, intergenerational interaction, volunteering and intercultural awareness and sensitivity locally with the Cottonera and nationally across communities in Malta. The project mainly consisted of intergenerational interaction during Sports, Education, Arts, Cultural and Social activities with and among children, adolescents and elderly to ameliorate emotional, social, mental, physical and spiritual wellbeing by promoting and fostering volunteering and social support.

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## SIS Scheme

### Successful Projects 2018



**Year: 2018**

**Organisation:** Don Bosco Oratory Gozo

**Project Name:** SMILE AGAIN! - A Children's Festival

**Fund Allocated:** €3,000

The Don Bosco Oratory is the main hub in Gozo for children and adolescents. Its aim is to give a holistic formation to the young generation especially those who pass through difficult moments due to illness, physical, and/or emotional difficulties.

SMILE AGAIN – A CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL followed the first SMILE FESTIVAL organised by the Oratory to celebrate childhood, focusing especially on children who actually need a smile on their faces. This festival aimed to create awareness to adults on the rights of children to be happy, independently of their physical, emotional or psychological condition. The programme of the festival was planned by youth volunteers of the same Oratory after an intensive training into the pedagogical and psychological aspects of childcare to ensure that meet the needs of project.

The programme consisted of recreational, sports, dancing, cultural and drama activities to help children to reach out from their comfort zone. This project included also the installation of a hearing loop system for story telling sessions in the same Oratory during the festival. Those attended the activities were given t-shirts that helped in the marketing of the programme. Guardians were positive about the achievements of this project as their children changed their attitude and improved the sense of responsibilities and commitment towards others. The Gozo community also had positive feedback on this project especially on the fact that they were fully informed what was going on which lead to their involvement in this festival.



For more information on the SIS Scheme please visit:  
<http://maltacvs.org/small-initiatives-support-scheme/>



# Block the Dates

## Sectoral Meetings with VOs 2019

| Date          | Time              | VO SECTOR                    |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 15th February | 5:00pm – 6:30pm   | Gozo VOs                     |
| 15th March    | 5:00pm – 6:30pm   | Environment & Animal Welfare |
| 5th April     | 5:00pm – 6:30pm   | Health                       |
| 27th April    | 10:00am – 11:30am | Education & Youth            |
| 17th May      | 5:00pm – 6:30pm   | Disability                   |
| 31st May      | 5:00pm – 6:30pm   | Sport                        |
| 14th June     | 5:00pm – 6:30pm   | Social & Humanitarian        |
| 19th July     | 5:00pm – 6:30pm   | Arts & Culture               |

Venues for each specific event will be confirmed at a later stage

For more information please contact MCVS on  
 Tel: 2248 1110 • Email: [m cvs.mede@gov.mt](mailto:m cvs.mede@gov.mt)