



Malta Council for the
VOLUNTARY SECTOR

ANNUAL REPORT

2016



Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector **Annual Report 2016**

The Composition of the Council

The third Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector started its new term of office on the 1st July 2014 (term ending June 2016). The Council for 2016 was composed of the following members:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Mr. Nathan Farrugia | - | Chairperson |
| Prof. Kenneth Wain | - | Vice Chairperson (ex-ufficio) |
| Mr. Ian Azzopardi | - | Member |
| Ms. Myrna Azzopardi | - | Member (Government representative) |
| Ms. Doris Bingley | - | Member |
| Ms. Gertrude Buttigieg | - | Member |
| Dr. Noel Camilleri | - | Member |
| Mr. Robert Farrugia | - | Member |
| Mr. Edward Gruppetta | - | Member |
| Ms. Gemma Siroi | - | Member |
| Ms. Claudia Taylor-East | - | Member |
| Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandalo | - | Executive Secretary and Secretary to the Council |



The Council Sub-Committees and Boards

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

VO Fund Board of Administrators

Members:

Mr. Nathan Farrugia (Chair)

Mr. Ian Azzopardi

Dr. Noel Camilleri

Ms. Claudia Taylor-East

Terms of reference:

The Purposes of the Foundation has been established by law to assist and support enrolled voluntary organisations through education, management support and financial grants in terms of Article 37(3) of the VOA. (refer to VO Fund Statute)

Training and Mentoring Sub-Committee

Members:

Mr. Edward Gruppetta (Chair)

Ms. Gertrude Buttigieg

Mr. Robert Farrugia

Ms. Gemma Siroi

Terms of reference:

As part of the MCVS objectives, the Training Sub-Committee shall support and help in the development of and voluntary organisations in Malta & Gozo through the provision of training and mentoring programmes. These programmes shall address issues, but not only, related to capacity building and good governance.





Networking, PR and EU Relations

Members:

Ms. Claudia Taylor-East (Chair)

Dr. Noel Camilleri

Mr. Robert Farrugia

Ms. Gertrude Buttigieg

Terms of reference:

The Sub-Committee shall be responsible on behalf of the Council to stimulate co-operation and networking between voluntary organisations and to provide a platform from which to develop co-operation between voluntary organisations and the Government, work towards strengthening and, in some areas, establishing networking amongst Voluntary Organisations, supporting the setting up of platforms, and providing support and coordination in such cases.

The Sub Committee shall also be responsible to promote and inform the public on issues related to the Council and the voluntary sector in general. It shall also facilitate the participation of the Council in European for as well as in becoming a member of such European bodies working in the field of NGOs.

Consulting Sub-Committee to the Commissioner

Members:

Dr. Noel Camilleri (Chair)


Ms. Doris Bingley

Mr. Ian Azzopardi

Terms of reference:

According to Article 35(12) of the Voluntary Organisations Act, “the Council shall appoint a sub-committee composed of three members of the Council and which shall be consulted by the Commissioner in the cases referred to in article 7(3). The





subcommittee shall have a quorum of two members and the written response of the two members agreeing or disagreeing to a recommended course of action shall suffice as an expression of the views of the committee.

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

Members:

Ms. Doris Bingley (Chair)

Ms. Gertrude Buttigieg

Ms. Claudia Taylor East

Terms of Reference:

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


The Work of the Council

The third MCVS Council met eleven times during 2016.

During this year there was a continuation of the work carried out by the Council in 2014 and 2015, consolidating the initiated projects and initiatives such as the Training and Capacity Building Program for Voluntary Organisations Administrators, the Small Initiatives Supports Scheme, the Mentoring Scheme for VOs and the National Volunteer Award.

During this year the Council continued the initiative to support young volunteers through the Youth Voluntary Work Scheme. This scheme was extended to support volunteer experience overseas.





The Voluntary Organisations Project Scheme, an initiative which falls under and is managed the Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties (MSDC), is as from 2016 being administered on the Ministry's behalf by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector. The Voluntary Organisations Project Scheme is an allocated fund of €700,000.00. The Voluntary Organisations Project Scheme (VOPS) is designed to assist applicants looking for funding on projects that can make a real difference to their local communities.

MCVS has also been given the responsibility to manage the Civil Society Fund on behalf of the Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties. This fund supports financial assistance for the purpose of facilitating VO's affiliation with and participation in European groupings, associations, federations, confederation networks, and training related to EU Policy/Programmes.

The Council started work on the third Volunteer Centre in Rabat, to compliment the Valletta and Qawra centres in support of VOs operating in the north.

There was regular communication between the Council and the Minister for Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties, the Hon. Helena Dalli, under whose remit the Council falls, were various items were discussed and were the Minister demonstrated her full commitment in support of the Council and the voluntary sector at large.

Additional Staff at MCVS

During 2016 MCVS continued to grow in its operation and for this reason its human capacity was incremented to support all the initiatives being undertaken. MCVS Office has now been increased by two new officials to support in the administrative work which is ever growing. Ms Christel Hili joined as Secretary responsible for





Finance and Logistics while Ms Marianne Desira joined as clerical staff in support to the funding officers.

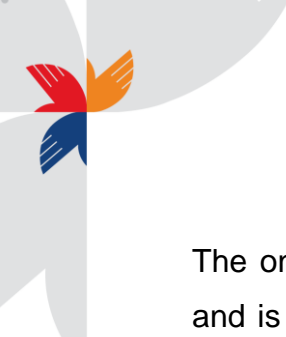
Services given by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector

The Council continued to work on the services offered to the sector, building upon and consolidating those given in the previous two years. The Council gave a new fresh look to the two websites managed which are the www.maltacvs.org and www.volontarjat.org. These two websites which have a complimentary function keep Voluntary Organisations and the general public informed of what is happening in the VO sector are now being used to provide applications online for the services provided.

In addition to these two web sites, MCVS has launched a new web site focusing on funding for VOs. This new portal www.vofunding.org.mt is intended to bring together all public fund operators in a one-stop-shop portal. The portal is intended to:

1. Establish a one-stop-shop for both the issue of information as well as the management of data regarding funding projects and their beneficiaries. Through this platform VOs will be informed of any calls for applications coming out in which they may be interested both by accessing the common funding platform as well as by a mobile app linked to the same web portal.
2. Promote more transparency and accountability of the distribution of public funds. This will be done since all the results of all call for applications will be published both the common funding platform as well as through a notification a mobile app linked to the same web portal.
3. Provide be a common database of all distributed funding. In the future this will also extended to collaborate with other funds such as EU Funds and EAA Grants.





The online Volunteer Organisations Directory, which is another tool which is active and is used as a reference point for various entities and individuals, has also been refreshed in style.

Training Program for Voluntary Organisations' Administrators

The Training Program has this year been given a new focus, supporting capacity building through the same VOs. For the first time the Training Initiative Support Scheme (TIS) was established and launched focusing on two main priorities. Priority 1 aims to support individual volunteers who form part of a Voluntary Organisation in one's training which will be beneficial both to oneself, one's Voluntary Organisation, to other Voluntary Organisations and to the community at large. Priority 2 supports Voluntary Organisations in the organisation of training initiatives which are beneficial both to the same organisation, to other Voluntary Organisations and to the community at large.

Small Initiatives Support Scheme (SIS) 2017

The 'Small Initiatives Support Scheme' ('SIS') for projects to be undertaken in 2017 was opened on the 14th October 2016 and closed on the 11th November 2016 at noon. Two information meetings were held in Malta for Voluntary Organisations interested to submit applications on the 19th and 29th October 2016 and one in Gozo on the 27th October 2016. By the closing deadline of the Scheme, 71 project applications by voluntary organisations enrolled with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations were submitted.

Voluntary Organisations Projects Scheme (VOPS) 2017

The 'Voluntary Organisations Projects Scheme (VOPS) for projects to be undertaken in 2017 was opened on the 21st October 2016 and closed on the 18th November 2016 at noon. Two information meetings were held in Malta for Voluntary





Organisations interested to submit applications on the 26th and 29th October 2016 and one in Gozo on the 27th October 2016. By the closing deadline of the Scheme, 59 project applications by voluntary organisations enrolled with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations were submitted.

National Volunteer Award

The 2016 National Volunteer Award was organised by the Council for the sixth consecutive year. This year the The National Volunteer Award was organised on the 2nd December 2016 under the patronage of the Hon. Minister Helena Dalli, Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties at the Casino Maltese. The National Volunteer Award was complimented by another three awards which were the Youth Volunteer Award, the Volunteer Organisation Award and the Corporate Volunteering Award.


The National Volunteer Award went to Ms Carmen Muscat – Multiple Sclerosis; the Volunteer Organisation Award which was awarded to Wirt Ghawdex; and the Youth Volunteer Award which was awarded to Mr Ramon Bonett Sladden – SOS Malta and the Corporate Award was awarded to Mario Cassar Inc Design.

Youth Voluntary Work Scheme - Overseas

In June 2016 the Council launched the Youth Voluntary Work Scheme for Overseas, an extended opportunity for young people and Voluntary Organisations.

Apart from the main goals of the YVWS, the Overseas will also support voluntary experience abroad for young people through locally registered voluntary organisations to carry out an international volunteer service in Europe, Africa, Asia or South America. This will promote an intercultural dimension with a non-formal approach to the scheme.





National Training Conference 2016 – Leadership in the Voluntary Sector

The annual National Training Conference was organised by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector between the 23rd and the 24th September 2016 at the Dolmen Hotel, Qawra. The theme of this year's conference was "Strengthening Volunteer Work - The Local and European Dimension". The first day took off with a welcome address by Mr Nathan Farrugia, Chairperson Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector and by the Hon. Minister Helena Dalli, Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties followed by a plenary sessions and workshops.

Mauro Pace Parascandalo

Executive Secretary

MCVS

