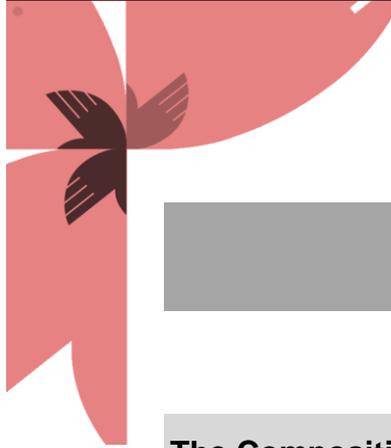


# EXECUTIVE REPORT

# 2017



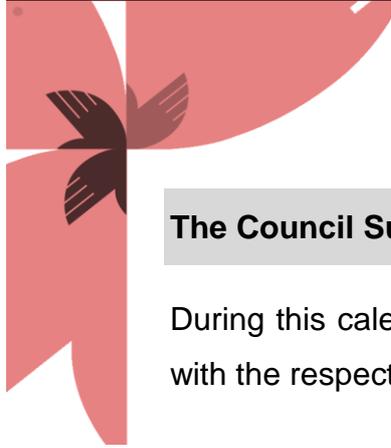
## Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector Executive Report 2017

### **The Composition of the Council**

The third Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector started its new term of office on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 (term ending June 2016). The Council was extended three times with the term to end on the 31st December 2017. The Council for 2017 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 rep. till June 2107)
Ms. Doris Bingley	-	Member
Ms. Gertrude Buttigieg	-	Member
Dr. Noel Camilleri	-	Member
Mr. Robert Farrugia	-	Member
Mr. Trevor Fenech	-	Member (Government rep. from August 2107)
Mr. Edward Gruppetta	-	Member
Ms. Gemma Sirol	-	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 have 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)

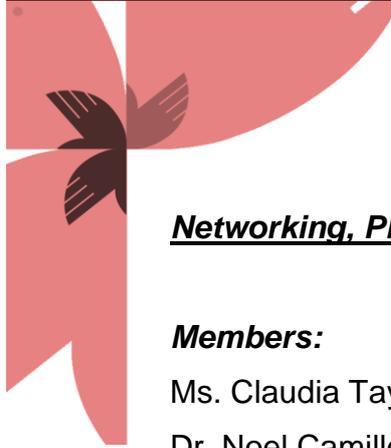
### **Training and Mentoring Sub-Committee**

#### ***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 fora as well as in becoming a member of such European bodies working in the field of NGOs.

## **Consulting Sub-Committee to the Commissioner**

### **Members:**

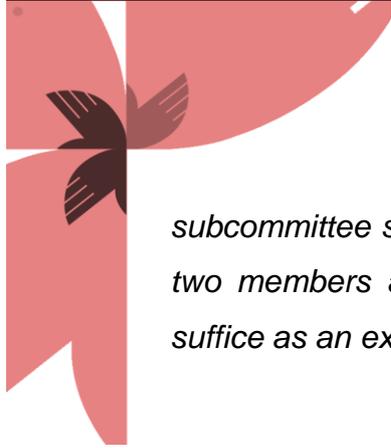
Dr. Noel Camilleri (Chair)

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:***

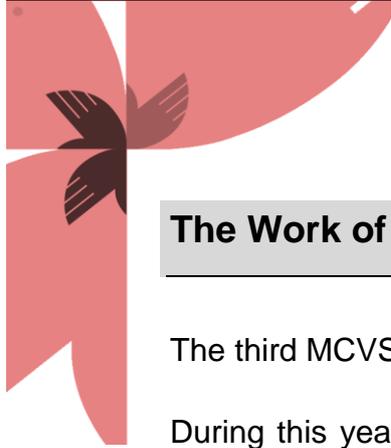
Ms. Doris Bingley (Chair)

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 seven times during 2017.

During this year, there was a continuation of the work carried out by the Council in 2014 till 2016, 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.

MCVS during 2017 continued to administer the Voluntary Organisations Project Scheme (VOPS) on behalf of Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties (MSDC), which Ministry changed in June 2017 to the Ministry for Education and Employment. During this year the Council continued the initiative to support young volunteers through the Youth Voluntary Work Scheme both at local and overseas level. MCVS also continued to manage the Civil Society Fund on behalf of the Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties supporting 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.

One of the main key notes for 2017 was the opening of 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, where various items were discussed and where the Minister demonstrated her full commitment in support of the Council and the voluntary sector at large.



## Additional Staff at MCVS

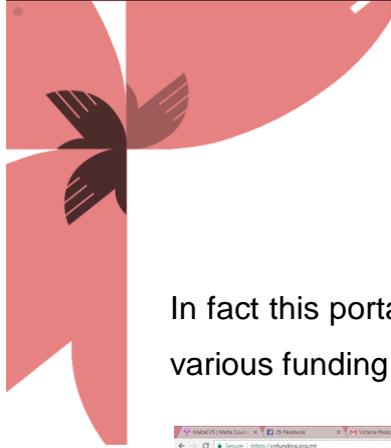
During 2017 MCVS did not grow in its staff compliment even though the operation continued to grow. This issue brought about a lot of pressure on all members of the staff in order to support the ever growing services provided.

## Services given by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector

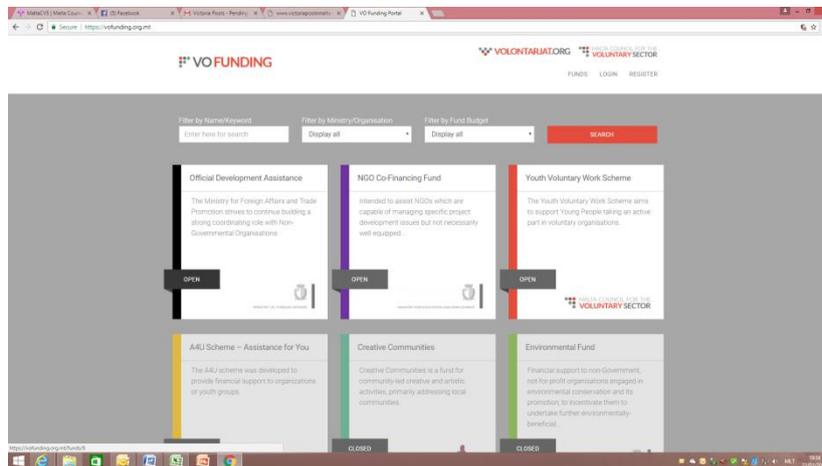
The Council continued to work on the services offered to the sector, building upon and consolidating those given in the previous two years. The Council gave a new fresh look to the two websites managed which are the [www.maltacvs.org](http://www.maltacvs.org) and [www.volontarjat.org](http://www.volontarjat.org). 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 had at the end of 2017 launched a new web site focusing on funding for VOs. This new portal [www.vofunding.org.mt](http://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 a common database of all distributed funding. In the future this will also be extended to collaborate with other funds such as EU Funds and EAA Grants.



In fact this portal is at present supporting six different Ministeries/Entities and twenty various funding lines.



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 continued on the steps of 2016, supporting capacity building through the same VOs. The Training Initiative Support Scheme (TIS) was again launched in 2017 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; and 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



In the January 2017 the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector held the fifth Small Initiative Support Scheme Grant Award Ceremony at the Valletta Volunteer Centre. During this event 34 Voluntary Organisations coming from the various areas of the sector were presented with a

maximum sum of 3,000 euros each organisation to undertake their project.

The general objectives of the Small Initiatives Support (SIS) Scheme are to stimulate co-operation and networking between voluntary organisations; to provide a consultative forum that can effectively address issues related to the Voluntary Sector; to provide a platform from which to develop co-operation between voluntary organisations and the Government; to promote and encourage a culture of volunteering and the participation in volunteer activities among people, especially children and youths, as an aspect of personal and social development; to foster co-operation in the volunteer sector with local and international bodies, entities or other persons for the encouragement and promotion of the development of volunteering programmes, initiatives and activities; and to encourage, in furtherance of the principle of subsidiarity, non-governmental bodies and private entities or persons and local councils to contribute to the promotion of volunteering in Malta.

The grants were presented by the Hon. Helena Dalli, Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties together with Mr Nathan Farrugia, Chairperson MCVS. The 'Small Initiatives Support Scheme' ('SIS') for projects to be undertaken in 2016 was opened on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015 and closed on the





13<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at noon. An information meeting was held for Voluntary Organisations interested to submit applications was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015. By the closing deadline of the Scheme, 56 project applications by voluntary organisations enrolled with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations were submitted.

### **Small Initiatives Support Scheme (SIS) 2018**

The ‘Small Initiatives Support Scheme’ (‘SIS’) for projects to be undertaken in 2018 was opened on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2016 and closed on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at noon. Three information meetings were held, two in Malta and one in Gozo. By the closing deadline of the Scheme, 64 project applications by voluntary organisations enrolled with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations were submitted.

### **Voluntary Organisations Projects Scheme (VOPS) 2017**

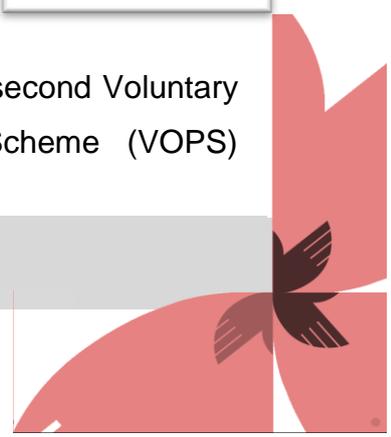
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During 2017 MCVS continued to manage on behalf of the Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties the ‘Voluntary Organisations Projects Scheme’ (VOPS). The guidelines for the VOPS were published on the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector website [www.maltacvs.org](http://www.maltacvs.org) and the New Funding Portal [www.vofunding.org.mt](http://www.vofunding.org.mt) .

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.



In the January 2017 the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector held the second Voluntary Organisations Projects Scheme (VOPS)





Grant Award Ceremony at the Valletta Volunteer Centre. During this event 32 Voluntary Organisations coming from the various areas of the sector.

The VOPS was opened on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016 and closed on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016 for projects to be undertaken in 2017. Two information meetings were held in Malta for Voluntary Organisations interested to submit applications on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> October 2016 and one in Gozo on the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2016. By the closing deadline of the Scheme, 59 project applications by voluntary organisations enrolled with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations were submitted.

## Civil Society Fund

For the second consecutive year the Civil Society Fund was managed by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector on behalf of the Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties.

The Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are considered to be the backbone of any democratic society. According to the European Commission, Civil Society Organisations (CSO's) encompasses non-governmental organisations (voluntary organisations), grassroots organisations, cooperatives, trade unions, professional associations, universities, media and independent foundations.

CSOs often fail to adopt an active role at European Union (EU) level role primarily because of financial restraints. As a result, the government is committed to provide financial incentives to support CSOs engagement in activities with other organisations not only at a local level but also at a European level with the aim to encourage the exchange of best practices, knowledge and information amongst organisations at a local and at an international level.

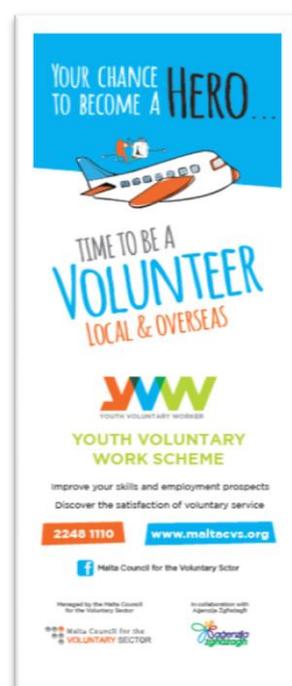


Potential applicants are encouraged to read the following Guidelines thoroughly in order to avoid submitting ineligible applications.

This Fund is intended 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 Policy/Programmes.

### Youth Voluntary Work Scheme

The Youth Voluntary Work Scheme was now in its third year supporting young people through its two main goals. The first goal is to help young people improve their skills and employment prospects by giving them an opportunity to take up volunteering as part of their non-formal and informal learning process. It will also enable them to discover the value of voluntary service and helps to foster a sense of community and active citizenship. The second goal of the scheme is to support Voluntary Organisations in attracting young people to volunteering, enabling them to enhance their capacity with new volunteers and fresh ideas.



The Overseas Scheme through the voluntary experience abroad in 2017 supported 27 young people in carrying out international volunteer service in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia and South America. The Overseas Specific Priorities are to increase the skills of young people through the practical experience of volunteering abroad; encourage the learning of another language; develop the ability to interact with persons of different language and culture; and spread tolerance among young people.

## National Volunteer Award 2017

The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS), on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2017 presented the National Volunteer Award 2017 during an award giving ceremony at held at the Casino Maltese, Valletta under the patronage of the Hon. Dr. Clifton



Grima, Parliamentary Secretary for Sports, Youth and Voluntary Organisations.

The aim of the National Award 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 National Award is awarded to an individual volunteer who has contributed in any field, such as social, humanitarian, health, ecological, cultural, education, sports, etc. The voluntary work must have had a positive contribution towards a particular field and should ideally have served as an inspiration to others.

This awards is complimented by another three sub awards which are the Youth Volunteer Award, the Volunteer Organisation Award and the Corporate Volunteering Award. The Youth Volunteer Award is awarded to a Volunteer between the age of 16 and 30 years having the same aims as the National Volunteer Award and the main scope to promote volunteering amongst young people. The Volunteer Organisation Award 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. The last award, the Corporate Volunteering Award, is awarded to that Company or



Organisation coming from the Private Sector which has given tangible support to the Voluntary Sector, both by direct support as well as by supporting and facilitating its employees to volunteer.

The board of adjudication was composed of Dr. Noel Camilleri, Ms. Doris Bingley and Mr. Trevor Fenech. The National Volunteer Awards were given as follows:

National Volunteer Award – Ms. Michelle Muscat – The Marigold Foundation

Youth Volunteer Award – Ms. Hayley Buttigieg– Tghanniqa

Volunteer Organisation Award – Centru Tbebox

Corporate Volunteering Award – HSBC Bank plc

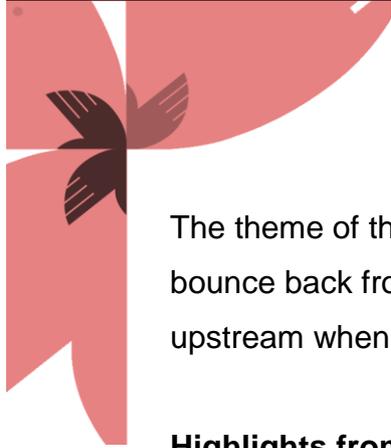
The Awards were presented by the Hon. Dr. Clifton Grima, Parliamentary Secretary for Sports, Youth and Voluntary Organisations accompanied by Mr. Nathan Farrugia, Chairperson MCVS.

### **National Training Conference 2016 – Strengthening Volunteer Work: The Local and European Dimension**

The annual National Training Conference was organised by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector between the 27<sup>th</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at the Dolmen Hotel, Qawra. The theme of this year's conference was "Building Resilience Within the Voluntary Sector".



The main scope of the Conference was to lead in encouraging respect and kindness across all of society, showing that voluntary organisations can be the apolitical voice that brings the country's focus back to what matters: our values and our beliefs of compassion and altruism.



The theme of this conference was extremely relevant. Resilience is the ability to bounce back from adversity, to refocus and drive change; to continue to swim upstream when the going gets tough.

### **Highlights from other speakers**

*Jonathon Kruger - WCPT, Antoinette Caruana - Farsons, Lawrence Zammit - MISCO, Steve Mercieca - Zanzi Homes, John Mallia - COOP, Professor Kenneth Wain - Commissioner, Nathan Farrugia - MCVS, Claudia Taylor East - SOS Malta, Ryan Borg - MEDE, Maria Louisa Busuttil -*



*MCVS, Jonathan Balzan - MCVS, JD Farrugia, C Catania, J Buvac - Tal Kultura,*

The excellent and diverse group of speakers and panellists brought to light a wide range of interesting topics that are relevant in future-proofing our organisations. We discussed HR practices, and the lack of human capital to run our activities. Synergies with businesses through corporate volunteering as well as opportunities to share training resources were welcome ideas. We talked about the importance of getting our message across through the cacophony of marketing and news noise. Advocating our purpose, why change matters and how to get our message across in a structured and strategic way is critical. We need to explore tools and mechanisms to boost our impact in being change leaders and champions.

The need for ongoing learning, formal and informal, was discussed and explored at length. We need to attract people who see VOs as a place to further develop their skills, thus attracting new volunteers. We also know that an organisation that in itself is not learning, will be left behind by technology, AI and block chain disruptions. It was clear that funding remains a key concern for VOs, and the Council highlighted the wide range of funding streams available through our portal. The Ministry and



Secretariat supported initiatives and encouraged collaborations with MEUSAC, EUPA and other funding bodies. The SIS, VOPS and new European Solidarity Corps are all accessible to VOs via the MCVS.

The new fundraising portal [SimplyGiving.org.mt](http://SimplyGiving.org.mt) was presented as a way for all registered VOs to raise funds through their members and volunteers, effectively scaling their fundraising team to a whole community. This will not only facilitate giving, but also increase transparency and confidence in giving to causes and projects across Malta and Gozo.

The future is bright, but unpredictable. Our economy is strong and this helps our fundraising efforts, but rapid change and innovation bring their own challenges. We need to become resilient and adapt to change quickly, or fall away and disappear. We need to stay relevant and focus on our purpose, celebrating our impact in order to validate our work and gain the deserved respect from our community as a leading sector in our national collective future.

### **Volunteer Centre - Rabat**

The third Volunteer Centre was opened in Rabat (Malta) on the 19th May 2017 by the Hon. Minister Helena Dalli, Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties. This Volunteer Centre will be complimenting the other two centres, that in Valletta and in Qawra and will be providing facilities to support Voluntray Organisations. This centre consists of three committ/board rooms, a kitchen and a training hall which will be used on a time sharing basis by those voluntray organisations needing a base for their operations.



## FUNDING#One-Stop-Shop

The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector had organized a Funding #One Stop Shop event on Saturday, 20th May 2017.

The aim of this event was to have the various Fund Operators in one place to provide the necessary information and support on the particular funds available to all Voluntary Organisations. In total, there were 7 different Fund Operators that were part in this event. These were: MEUSAC, Agenzija

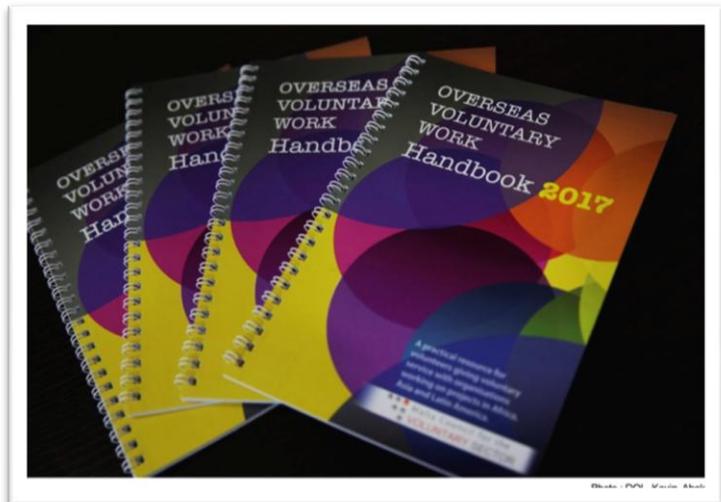


Zghazagh, EUPA, The Arts Council of Malta, Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change.

During the event, a set of presentations were delivered on each particular funding related to the Voluntary Sector. Apart from the funding opportunities, the event covered also the aspect of Report Writing. A presentation was delivered by Ms. Alison Camilleri, Funding Support.

## PUBLICATIONS

During 2017 MCVS published two publications. The first publication was a Handbook to support young people who undertake voluntary work overseas. The intention of this publication is to be a practical guide both in preparing for the voluntary experience as well as to provide relevant information when one is undertaking the placement. While this publication was undertaken as part of the Youth Voluntary Work Scheme, the Handbook is available free of charge to volunteers undertaking an overseas voluntary experience.



The second publication was a flyer which is intended to give information to Voluntary Organisations in relation to their obligations in relation to the Child Protection Act. This publication is mainly addressed to those VOs who manage and work with minors.

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*Mauro Pace Parascandalo*  
*Executive Secretary*  
MCVS