The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector is this year celebrating a decade from it being constituted with its main purpose being to serve as the voice of the thousands of volunteers and their associations. The Council is there to see that there is an efficient and effective yet transparent voluntary sector and serves to sustain the sector’s activities not only through funding but also through capacity building services which is essential for the development of a more influential sector which is recognised as one of the four pillars of society.

The Council wants to be closer to the sector and this is why the Council felt that through the launching of this newsletter and a new email council@maltaovs.org it can strengthen the communication channels to allow both the Council and the sector to remain closer to each other.

It is an established fact that in the last few years the sector has seen a decline in the number of volunteers and it is imperative that we work together to reverse this trend and put volunteering back on the level it deserves. It is the intention of the present Council that a National Strategy is launched towards the end of the current year which will have as its main objective the strengthening of the sector.

In the coming days the sector will be informed of the dates and I would kindly ask you to block them on your diaries as your presence and involvement is imperative if we want our sector to continue to grow correctly.

I would like to end this short message to express my sincere thanks to my predecessors who, together with past Council members have done sterling work during their term and to the present Council who in full sync with the Executive Secretary and his staff are striving to continue to build on the work done in the past.

Dr. Noel Camilleri LL.D., LL.M.  
Chairman
The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS) is this year celebrating the 10th Anniversary of its foundation. As any other organisation MCVS is not simply celebrating the time passed but the goals achieved, goals which are not simply targets of a group of individuals but needs arising from the sector and for the sector.

Through these years, starting from nothing but the desire to work in favour of the evergrowing sector, MCVS set its goals and objectives which in such a short time were converted in some remarkable achievements. Some of the landmark achievements which must be mentioned are the organisation of the European Year for Volunteering 2011; its first funding line – the Small Initiatives Support Scheme (SIS) followed by the managing of various other schemes namely the Training Initiatives Scheme (TIS), the Civil Society Funf (CSF), the Voluntary Organisations Projects Scheme (VVP) and the Voluntary Organisations Projects Scheme (VOPS); the National Volunteer Award; the setting up of an online VO Directory; the setting up of its web portals; the annual training conferences; the opening of three Volunteer Centres; the setting up of the first one stop shop for VO funding online portal – the vofunding.org.mt and regular contact and information meetings with VOs.

Is the work done, of course not! MCVS looks forward to more work in favour of the sector with your participation and contribution.

Want to become a volunteer? Show your interest by registering yourself in the volunteering matching portal:

http://volontarjat.org/
Successful Project closure by VOs funded under the Voluntary Organisations Project Scheme (VOPS)

On Friday the 22nd June 2018 the Hon. Dr. Clifton Grima, Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sports and Voluntary Organisation in a ceremony at the Voluntary Centre in Valletta, in the presence of Mr Mauro Pace Parascandalo, Executive Director, MCVS, brought to a close three projects funded by the Voluntary Organisations Projects Scheme (VOPS).

These projects were successfully implemented by SOS Malta, Malta Judo Foundation and Gozo Tourism Association. Amongst them these voluntary organisations received the amount of €83,000.00. The project managed by the MJF had the aim of inclusion of several types of special needs children and youths in the participation of Judo training sessions with other athletes. The target groups were youths and children with Social and Intellectual disorders, the visually impaired, and the disadvantaged.

The Gozo Tourism Association undertook a research focusing mainly on the owners of the tourist establishments, employees, students and other stakeholders that have a direct interest in the tourist industry on Gozo.

The third project undertaken by Solidarity Overseas Service Malta (SOS Malta) has developed an innovative community based response to the needs of vulnerable elderly people to ensure a reduction of their social exclusion, whilst contributing to a reawakening of the spirit of self-giving and active citizenship within the community through the development of a local volunteer scheme.

For a more detailed summary of these projects and other VOPS projects of the same dead line visit:

Civil Society Fund (CSF) 2018 - Call Open

The Civil Society Fund 2018 OPENED on Monday 23rd July 2018 and the deadline to submit applications is the 20th September 2018 till noon.

Interested applicants may submit a proposal that corresponds to the following eligible actions:

**Action 1:** The affiliation of CSOs to European umbrella organisations, groupings, federations, confederations or networks. and/or

**Action 2:** Attendance at conferences, seminars and meetings abroad in relation to affiliations in European umbrella organisations, groupings, federations, confederations or networks and participation in Training Abroad related to EU Policy or Programmes.

The application may be submitted through the VO Funding Portal following by accessing the following link: https://vofunding.org.mt/funds/16

How It Works

An Online Guide how to use the VO Funding Portal

The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector has added a new tool to the VO Funding Portal, which tool is intended to support the beneficiaries when applying for funding presented in this same portal.

The How It Works provides users with a step-by-step visual and audio guide from the initial registering of the VO to start using this portal to the various parts of the applications forms. The video clips are provided both in English and Maltese.

To view the How It Works go to the following link: https://vofunding.org.mt/how-it-works

Want to contact directly the Council Members?

Send us an email on council@maltacvs.org and one of the Council Members shall get back to you on behalf of the Council.