



STAY CONNECTED

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Discussion Paper on the **National Strategy on Volunteering**

For decades the strong and energetic volunteer sector was one of the most effective mechanisms that the Maltese community counted on, a sector that was recognised by an Act of Parliament in 2007. Now, eleven years down the line, the same Act is being amended to reflect the needs of today and the coming future. In parallel with these Amendments the Council is undertaking a consultation process to have a National Strategy on Volunteering; which strategy shall be endorsed by Government, thus engaging to further a Social Inclusion agenda in Maltese society for the benefit of individuals, communities and government alike. While the work of the volunteer sector is acknowledged and over the years has left its mark within our community, there is the risk that due to the constraints under which the sector currently operates and the future challenges that it will encounter, its sustainability may be undermined.

In the past decade the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector was established as the body advocating on behalf of the voluntary sector with Government, while engaging with the same sector in its development and growth. The Council started to push further volunteering on the National Agenda which would eventually lead to the establishing of a National Volunteer Strategy securing a long term vision for the sector.

A National Volunteer Strategy would provide connection and co-ordination across both National and Local Government to provide better support to the volunteer sector through all dimensions and make better use of all available resources. A National Volunteer Strategy would focus on co-ordinating research, consultation with the sector and implementation of reforms to support the sector at an organisational and individual level. A truly national strategy must provide an opportunity for coordinated policy development and decision-making at the national and local levels which will be reflected in specific national and local actions.

To view the Discussion Paper on National Strategy on Volunteering 2018 you may go to:
<http://maltacvs.org/latest-posts/national-strategy-on-volunteering/>



Hon. Prof. Edward Scicluna, Minister of Finance during his opening address.



The seminar was moderated by Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandolo, Executive Director of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector.



This seminar was attended by various voluntary organisations.

Financial Management for VO's

– Good Practices & Risk Mitigation

One of the main pillars for good practice in voluntary organisations is the issue of good financial management, with a focus on transparency and accountability. To sustain the importance of this issue the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector in Collaboration with the Commissioner for VO's, the Ministry for Education and Employment and the Ministry for Finance organised a seminar at the Old University in Valletta on the 25th September 2018 entitled 'Good Practices and Risk Mitigation'.

In his opening address Hon. Prof. Edward Scicluna, Minister of Finance, stressed on the importance that all institutions must operate within the protocols of good financial practices. Their operation does not only reflect on the same voluntary sector but also on the credibility of Malta at large, where all financial operators are continuously under scrutiny by European and International bodies. Mr. Alfred Camilleri, Chairperson, National Coordination Committee on Combating Money Laundering and Funding Terrorism and Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry for Finance focused on the three pillars of good financial practice, namely clarity, transparency and accountability. In his address he said that only with these in mind can the voluntary sector keep operating and guaranteeing the financial commitment of both the authorities as well as the general public.

Following these two addresses there were three technical presentations by Ms Ruth Aisthorpe Gauci, Financial Analysis Manager, on 'Risks faced by Voluntary Organisations', by Dr. Maria Criminale, Senior Legal Officer, Ministry for Education and Employment, on the 'Amendments in the Voluntary Organisations Act'; and by Mr. Roderick Aguis, Agius, Investigation and Monitoring Officer, Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations, on 'How Voluntary Organisations should protect themselves against abuse'.

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

<http://volontarjat.org/>

SHARING YOUR TALENT THROUGH VOLUNTEERING



National Volunteer Award 2018

The Selection Board of the National Volunteer Award, appointed by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector will receive the nominations for this award, in line with the regulations found on our website.

Forms may also be downloaded from the website.

Deadline: 19th October, 2018 at noon

Date: 5th December 2018
Time: 6.30pm – 9.30pm

Organized by
Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector
10th Anniversary

Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector
10th Anniversary

Tel: 2248 1110 • Email: mcvs.mede@gov.mt • www.maltacvs.org

“VOLUNTEERING! You make the difference” – Launch of the eighth edition of the yearly National Volunteer Award

In this year in which the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector is commemorating the tenth anniversary of its establishment, various activities and launch initiatives, which boosts awareness on volunteering and its value will be organised.

The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector, must be the main driver to emphasize voluntary work, so we urge others to participate in this area and together address the challenges facing the same organizations working in this sector. The Council believes that through volunteering, people gain knowledge and gain skills which include leadership, management, organization, creativity and entrepreneurship. Volunteering is also a valuable way to develop personally, interpersonally and socially.

To this end the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector is for the eighth year in a row launching the National Volunteer Award, an initiative aimed to celebrate volunteering. The purpose of this award is to acknowledge the service given by that designated volunteer; to show appreciation and recognition for the exemplary values shown by the volunteers, to serve as a model for the young as well as for society as a whole; and to recognize the contribution given by the volunteer in a particular area.

This award is given annually by the Council to that volunteer who through their volunteer work, had a positive contribution in a particular sector and served as inspiration for others. Nominees may be from any field of volunteering, both socially, sporting, cultural, environmental, educational and others. Three awards linked to the same Award will be given to that young man or young woman who gives voluntary service, as well as to a Voluntary Association and Company that supports the voluntary sector.

This year the prize will be organized together with the Parliamentary Secretariat for Youth, Sports and Voluntary Organizations under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Malta.

Applications are open and received until the 19th of October 2018. For more information and applications please visit this MCVS link: <http://maltacvs.org/national-volunteer-award/> or contact the MCVS on 22481110 or mcvs.mede@gov.mt



NEWS CONNECT

Financial Management for VO's – Good Practices & Risk Mitigation

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Dr. Anthony Abela Medici, Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations, addressed the seminar with a focus on Compliance of Voluntary Organisations with his office, emphasising on the fact that with the new amendments to the VO Act which will come into force in the coming weeks he will be better placed to investigate and take the necessary steps against defaulting VO's thus guaranteeing better the issue of accountability and transparency in the best interest of the same sector. He stressed the fact that VO's need to see to it that their position with his office is regularised so that they may keep their enrolment.

The seminar was brought to a close by the address of the Hon. Evarist Bartolo, Minister for Education and Employment, who thanked the voluntary organisations for their sterling work in the community and stressed on the fact that he appreciates the work being done and understands that the issues of financial management puts an extra burden on the same organisations yet he said that this is a necessity in today's reality.

The seminar was moderated by Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandolo, Executive Director of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2018

Date	Time	Venue	Name of Event
October 2018			
24th	5:00pm - 8:00pm	St James Cavalier, Valletta	Information Meeting in collaboration with the Commissioner for VO's and Legal Persons Office - Register of Beneficial Owners (RBO)
November 2018			
12th	5:00pm - 8:00pm		Information Meeting in collaboration with Commissioner for VO's - New VO Act Amendments
26th - 29th			Photographic Exhibition
30th	6:30pm - 9:30pm	Corinthia Hotel St George's Bay	1st Day - National Training Conference "10 Years Supporting VO's"
30th			Photographic Exhibition
December 2018			
1st	8:30am - 2:30pm	Corinthia Hotel St George's Bay	2nd Day - National Training Conference "10 Years Supporting VO's"
1st - 8th			Photographic Exhibition
2nd - 6th	9:00am - 9:00pm		VO Fair and Parade in Valletta