



STAY CONNECTED

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MCVS signs **Memorandum of Understanding** with the **Commonwealth Secretariat**

The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Commonwealth Secretariat establishing an Information and Networking Desk managed by MCVS. The signing was carried out in the Commonwealth Headquarters in London on the 2nd May 2019. The MoU was signed by Dr. Noel Camilleri, Chairman MCVS and Dr Arjoon Suddhoo, Deputy General Secretary of the Commonwealth under the patronage of the Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations the Hon. Dr. Clifton Grima.

The MoU, which outlines the principles of cooperation between the two parties, will promote the sharing of knowledge and solutions to strengthen the voluntary sector in member countries.

Under this agreement, MCVS will establish an international desk which will start operations on 2 July 2019. The desk will serve as a contact point between European and Commonwealth countries on sharing best practices, creating partnerships and promoting networking opportunities.

Dr. Noel Camilleri said that "Malta is eager to give its contribution at an international level in the area of the Voluntary Sector, an area which is engrained in Malta's culture, while serving as a hub to facilitate the sharing of good practices and the networking for projects in partnership amongst various countries".

The Deputy Secretary-General said: "The international voluntary desk is an important initiative to exchange useful information among the diverse family of nations. It will

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Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Dr Arjoon Suddhoo, Dr Noel Camilleri, Chairman MCVS and Dr Clifton Grima, Parliament Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations.



Layne Robinson, Head of Social Policy Development at the Commonwealth Secretariat, Dr Clifton Grima, Parliament Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations and Dr Noel Camilleri, Chairman MCVS.



Mr Mauro Pace Parascandalo, Chief Executive Officer MCVS and Dr Noel Camilleri Chairman MCVS with Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Her Excellency Patricia Scotland.

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provide new streams of information which we can analyse and share to strengthen the voluntary sector and voluntary work."

Other areas of cooperation include:

- building capacity through training programmes;
- exchanging cutting-edge research on the volunteer sector;
- facilitating access to funds, grants and partnerships; and
- helping national voluntary bodies design strategies and reforms.

Following the meeting, Dr Clifton Grima, Malta's Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations, said: "Malta is very happy that it has developed necessary experience in the voluntary sector which enables us to help other countries achieve the highest standard of excellence.

The signing of this agreement promotes a closer collaboration through which we can ensure our people are informed about the opportunities and possibilities that arise from the strengthening of our voluntary sector.

Both parties are committed that this MoU will be actively implemented. I look forward to meeting with our Commonwealth colleagues soon to witness the progress which will be achieved by virtue of this important collaboration.

The delegation, which also included Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandalo, CEO of MCVS and Mr. Ryan Borg, Head of Secretariat, Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations, had the pleasure to have a meeting with the Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Her Excellency Baroness Patricia Scotland.

Visit by MCVS to HE President Dr George Vella

On 20th May 2019, the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector had the honour, as the National representative of the Voluntary Sector, to be received by H.E. the President of the Republic of Malta, Dr. George Vella.

During the meeting Dr. Noel Camilleri, Chairperson MCVS, informed H.E. the President of the role of the Council and the realities of the Voluntary Sector.

H.E. Dr. Vella shared with the Council his ideas as well as concerns related to the Sector, promising his support for both the Council as well as the Sector in general during his Presidency so that together both parties may see to the growth of the Sector with better collaboration from all stakeholders. H.E. the President, to the pleasure of the Council, also confirmed his patronage for the National Volunteer Award which is organised by MCVS.



The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector board members with H.E. the President of Malta, Dr George Vella. From left to right: Mr Damian Attard, Mr Edward Grupetta, Mr Robert Farrugia, Ms Gertrude Buttigieg, Fr Antoine Farrugia SDB, H.E. the President of Malta, Dr George Vella, Dr Noel Camilleri (Chairman MCVS), Mr Trevor Fenech, Ms Doris Bingley, Mr Mauro Pace Parascandalo (Chief Executive Officer MCVS) and Ms Christine Camilleri (Secretary MCVS).



Dr Noel Camilleri (Chairman MCVS) and H.E. the President of Malta, Dr George Vella.



The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector board members with H.E. the President of Malta, Dr George Vella.



Launch of the **National Volunteer Strategy** and **Youth Volunteers Campaign**

The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector together with the Parliamentary Sector for Youths, Sports and Voluntary Organisation has launched a National Strategy valid for the next five years with the aim of strengthening the Voluntary Sector and making it more effective.

The strategy is based on three pillars: the current situation of our community in Malta and Gozo, the development of the first strategy and Government policy for improving democratic participation.

According to Parliamentary Secretary Dr Clifton Grima, the strategy has drawn up a definite plan for the sector. "A clear plan is to have stability which will help the organisations. Even though the volunteers are not expecting anything in return, they will be given the appreciation and recognition they deserve. Last but not least, voluntary organisations will have more transparency in the way they operate in our country".

Dr Grima added that the strategy complements the new law on Voluntary Organisations, through which the Commissioner is given more tools to be able to verify the operations of these bodies.

The chairperson of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector, Dr Noel Camilleri, said that the strategy will strengthen the voluntary sector, both from the aspect of governance, as well as transparency of operation. "The voluntary sector is based on donations from the general public and national funds. In view of this, there is always a need for an increase in transparency, to eliminate any doubts about the running of this sector and the utilisation of public funds. We also aim to involve youths and school children, in order to highlight the importance of their involvement in the sector."



Dr Camilleri stated that funds given by the government to voluntary organisations are centralised under the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector, to ensure that they are granted equal opportunities. This will be ensured through the National Strategy.



During this event, a series of 10 video clips were launched under the Youth Volunteers Campaign with the aim to promote youth volunteering through different sectors. Videos were done in collaboration with the following: Home Away from Home, Right to Smile, Emergency Fire & Rescue Unit, Inspire, Don Bosco Oratory, Malta Judo Federation, Kunsill Nazzjonali taż-Żgħażaġħ, Friends of the Earth, Nature trust and Soċjetà Filarmonika Santa Marija, Żebbuġ Għawdex. These videos shall be made available on MCVS website shortly.

“A clear plan is to have stability which will help the organisations. Even though the volunteers are not expecting anything in return, they will be given the appreciation and recognition they deserve. Last but not least, voluntary organisations will have more transparency in the way they operate in our country”.

National Strategy on Volunteering 2019 - 2024



Malta Council for the
VOLUNTARY SECTOR

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR YOUTH,
SPORT AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

To view the video clips please visit the MCVS Facebook page regularly as the clips are uploaded periodically.



MCVS attends the **Catania Urban Thinkers Campus**

In July, MCVS through the participation of Mr Mauro Pace Parascandalo (Chief Executive Officer) and Ms Sarah Stafrace (Project Manager – Interreg Project Malta-Italia) attended the Catania Urban Thinkers Campus in Catania, an event organized by our Project Partner, Tree. The three day event focused on talent, innovation and social impact at the service of the tourism sector with the aim of supporting the growth of the territory by promoting digital development and new solutions for Smart Cities.

The first day, 6th July, included a plenary session, “The City of the Future”, where international guests, associations and startups participated. Topics discussed included sustainable and intelligent cities, regulatory innovations in the field of social enterprise and the financing measures for southern companies.

A TourismHack was organized for the last two days in the form of an innovation marathon. More than 50 participants took part, some of whom were developers, designers, experts and business and marketing enthusiasts. Each group had to share their innovative idea to provide solutions to two challenges;

- 1) Tourism Mobility – improving accessibility to places of interest for tourists and
- 2) Retail and Customer Journey – improving the touristic experience during shopping.

The winners of the TourismHack were:

- 1) Unni Emu: a digital solution that enables the meeting between travelers and locals based on a gamification mechanism. A tourist gains points with



every place visited, which can be accumulated and spent in participating stores.

- 2) Nico: An app designed to offer the blind and visually impaired an interactive guide that communicates using specific voice commands.
- 3) Snapack: An online platform used to send souvenirs and purchased products directly home by booking shipping directly from the store.

The prize for such a competition was 10 thousand Euro in Amazon vouchers.

In addition, two other groups, called HoraVision and Site, also won an invitation of participation for in the Malta Innovation Summit whereby they can take advantage of the support services for the internationalization of the ENISIE project.



"It is important to find the middle way, through the social and commercial component, to reach a sustainable goal where each party makes its own experience and specialization available for the common good".

— Mauro Pace Parascandalo



SHARING YOUR TALENT THROUGH VOLUNTEERING



Join Voluntiera Malta and volunteer in different events in the areas of culture, environment and social issues.
Apply now and join the team

Become a volunteer with Voluntiera Malta

Voluntiera Malta is the volunteer programme founded in February 2019, as part of the legacy of Valletta 2018 – European Capital of Culture run by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS). Voluntiera Malta started its work developing from Tal-Kultura, expanding to the areas of environment, social issues and more.

The vision was to become a leading national volunteering platform for civic engagement in the arts and culture sector. The mission was to mobilise active citizens to volunteer within the Voluntary Sector, to build a large network of volunteers and to create a legacy of volunteerism within the local arts and culture sector.

Why Become a Volunteer

- Grow** – Discover new skills and talents, through your volunteer experience.
- Meet** – Build new friendships and networks as you form part of a large and diverse team of enthusiastic and driven individuals.
- Experience** – Be a part of and experience first-hand success of different activities and events, gain experience that can be helpful at their professional development.

TAL-AMBIJENT VOLUNTEERS **TAL-KULTURA VOLUNTEERS** **TAS-SOĊJALI VOLUNTEERS**



VOLUNTIERA MALTA

Voluntiera Malta is the volunteer programme founded in February 2019, as part of the legacy of Valletta 2018 – European Capital of Culture run by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS). Voluntiera Malta started its work developing from Tal-Kultura, expanding to the areas of environment, social issues and more.

The aim of the programme was to mobilise active citizens and build a large network of people from all sectors of society who were interested in volunteering. The vision is to become a leading national volunteering platform for civic engagement in the arts and culture sector. One of the goals is to also contribute towards the creation of a legacy of volunteerism within the local arts and culture sector.

Voluntiera Malta is still recruiting volunteers and developing collaboration with Voluntary Organisations in order to create volunteering opportunities as well as to help events across Malta and Gozo happening.

Voluntiera Malta is a great opportunity for those who wish to discover new skills and talents through varied experiences as a volunteer, meet and build new friendships and networks as part of a large and diverse team of enthusiastic and driven individuals, to be a part of and experience first-hand success of different activities and events as well as to gain experience that can be helpful at their professional development.

TAL-AMBIJENT
VOLUNTEERS

TAL-KULTURA
VOLUNTEERS

TAS-SOĊJALI
VOLUNTEERS