



STAY CONNECTED

MCVS Newsletter • VOL. II No. 5

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The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector

A Term of Office full of Achievements

The fourth term of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector has come to a close after it was appointed on the 1st March 2018. This Council was chaired by Dr. Noel Camilleri and composed of Mr. Damian Attard, Ms. Doris Bingley, Ms. Gertrude Buttigieg, Fr. Antoine Farrugia, Mr. Robert Farrugia, Mr. Edward Gruppette, Mr. Michael Piccinino, Mr. Oliver Scicluna, Dr. Corinne Wood and Mr. Trevor Fenech (Government rep.) as members.

During this term of office the Council also had three internal sub-committees which were very active, namely the Training and Activities Sub-Committee, Committee responsible for the National Volunteer Award, and the VO Fund Board of Administrators.

Work towards the set up and preparation of the National Volunteer Award in conjunction with the Office of the President, preparing the



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general aims and procedures and setting the selection criteria. Once the procedures are in place, prepare for official launch.

The Work of the Council

As from the start the Council aimed to continue on work carried out by the Council in the previous years, 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 continued to manage various funding lines and initiatives in favour of the Voluntary Sector put under its responsibility, including the initiative to support young volunteers through the Youth Voluntary Work Scheme both at local and overseas level, the Civil Society Fund 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, and three specific funding lines to support project and training initiatives by the Sector, namely the Voluntary Organisations Projects Scheme, the Small Initiatives Support Scheme and the Training Initiatives Scheme.

This was all done with regular communication with the Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sports and Voluntary Organisations, under whose remit the Council falls, where various items were discussed and where the Hon. Dr. Clifton Grima demonstrated his full commitment in support of the Council and the voluntary sector at large.

Services given by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector

In 2018 MCVS increased in staff compliment thus was in a better position to support the operation which continued to grow. This

made it possible to offer a better service to the Voluntary Sector, resulting in better collaboration and uptake of funds available.

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.

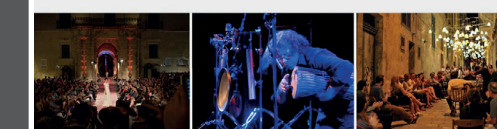
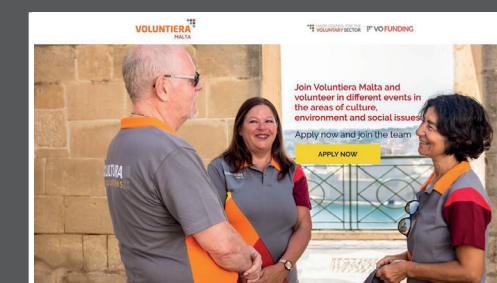
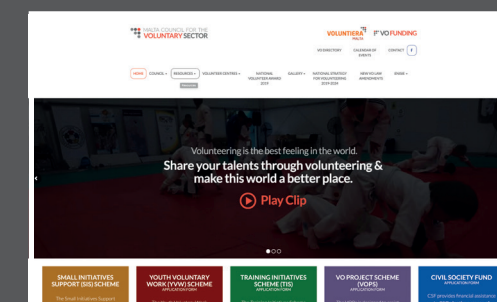
In addition to these two web sites, MCVS had at the end of 2017 launched a new web site focusing on funding for VOs. This new portal www.vofunding.org.mt is intended to bring together all public fund operators in a one-stop-shop portal.

In fact this portal is at present supporting twelve different Ministries/Entities and twenty six various funding lines. In 2018 this funding portal was linked to a mobile application, 'VO Funding Malta', to facilitate information to all VOs and their members on funding opportunities.

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 and content.

Training Support for Voluntary Organisations' Administrators

The Training Program has this year continued on the steps of previous years, supporting capacity building through the same VOs. The Training Initiative Support Scheme (TIS) was again launched in 2018 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.

In addition to this MCVS organised two main training seminars with one focusing on the GDPR in collaboration with the Data Protection Commissioner's Office and one on Financial Management for VOs – Good Practices & Risk Mitigation in collaboration with the Ministry for Finance and the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations.

Funding Support Schemes

The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector continued to directly support the sector with its own funding schemes. The 'Small Initiative Support Scheme (SIS)', now in its sixth year, continued to support and average of thirty four projects a year. The same may be said for the larger 'Voluntary Organisations Projects Scheme' (VOPS), also in its third year, having now been well established with the sector for its support of an average of another thirty five projects a year. Both funding schemes are designed to assist applicants looking for funding on projects that can make a real difference to their local communities.

The Civil Society Fund, now managed directly by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector, supports Civil Society Organisations (CSO's) to adopt an active role at European Union (EU). This is done by providing 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.

The Youth Voluntary Work Scheme was now in its fourth year supporting young people through its two main goals, of helping young people improve their skills and employment prospects and that of attracting young people to volunteering. The Overseas Scheme through the voluntary experience abroad in 2018 supported 28 young people in carrying out international volunteer service in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia and South America.

The National Volunteer Award

The National Volunteer Award, organised by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Malta, has now been established as the national event for the voluntary sector. In 2018 the National Volunteer Award went to Ms. Marjoe Abela from the Malta Girl Guides, while the Volunteer Organisation Award was awarded to Dr. Klown. The Youth Volunteer Award was awarded to Mr. Kyle Mifsud, a volunteer with the Malta Red Cross.

For the first time the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector decided to present a Special Award for voluntary work undertaken by an individual within the community. This award was given to Mr. George Agius, also known to many as Ġorġ tal-Mużew or Ġorġ I-Għannej tal-Mulej, who has dedicated his life to care for the less fortunate in less fortunate circumstance by visiting and supporting individuals both in hospitals and in prison.

The Annual National Conference on Volunteering

In 2018 the annual National Conference on Volunteering was organised by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector between





the 30th November and the 1st December 2018 at the Corinthia Hotel St George's Bay with the theme of the conference being "10 Years Supporting VOs". This conference also marked the 10th Anniversary of the setting up of the same Council thus the focus of the conference was on the achievements of MCVS in the past ten years while discussing the steps for the future. During the conference the main discussions focused on the 'National Strategy on Volunteering', 'Good Practices by NGOs' and 'The Voluntary Sector – Moving forward through young volunteers.'

better the issue of accountability and transparency in the best interest of the same sector. He stressed the fact that VOs 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 Parascandalo, Executive Director of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector.

MCVS Newsletter – Stay Connected

As from August 2018 the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector started issuing on a quarterly basis an e-newsletter to supplement information going out to the Voluntary Sector and about the Voluntary Sector. The newsletter 'Stay Connected' is also published in Maltese entitled 'Żomm Kuntatt'.

Amendments to the Voluntary Organisations Act

Following years of discussion and consultation, with the full participation and intervention of MCVS, the Amendments to the VO Act have now come into forces as a Tuesday, the 6th of November 2018. These Amendments came into force to amend the Voluntary Organisations Act 2007 and amongst other things introduced the concept of mandatory enrolment and that minors who attain the age of 16 years may now establish VOs and have full voting rights.

The Act established MCVS as a legal entity and introduced a more democratic system of the formation of the same Council where six sectoral categories were established, namely the Social and Humanitarian; Health and Disability; Education, Youth and Sport; Environment and Animal Welfare; Arts and Culture and Gozo. These sectors shall now directly elect their representatives on the Council.

National Strategy for Volunteering 2019-2024

Another landmark event during this term was the launch of the first National Volunteer Strategy. The strategy was launched by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector together with the Parliamentary Sector for Youths, Sports and Voluntary Organisation 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.

Youth Volunteers Campaign

During this year MCVS initiated a campaign to promote volunteering with special focus on the young generation. For

Voluntary Organisations Amendments Act 2018



Participation of Young People 16+

Direct Representation of the VO Sector

Strengthen the Role of the Council

Mandatory Enrolment of VOs

New Powers to the Commissioner for VOs



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Malta Council for the
VOLUNTARY SECTOR

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR YOUTH,
SPORT AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

National Strategy
on Volunteering
2019 - 2024



Malta Council for the
VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Parliamentary Secretary for Youth,
Sport and Voluntary Organisations



this purpose a series of ten video clips were launched with the aim to promote youth volunteering through different sectors. Videos were done in collaboration with voluntary organisations namely Home Away from Home, Right to Smile, Emergency Fire & Rescue Unit, Inspire, Don Bosco Oratory, Malta Judo Federation, Kunsill Nazzjonali taż-Żgħażaġh, Friends of the Earth, Nature trust and Soċjetà Filarmonika Santa Marija, Żebbuġ Ghawdex, which videos are available to watch on the MCVS website, Facebook page and Youtube channel.

MCVS signs Memorandum of Understanding with the Commonwealth Secretariat

The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector made another important step in its international standing by signing a Memorandum of Understanding 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 desk will serve as a contact point between European and Commonwealth countries on sharing best practices, creating partnerships and promoting networking opportunities. This agreement promotes a closer collaboration through which we can ensure our organisations are informed about the opportunities and possibilities that arise from the strengthening of our voluntary sector.

Orientation Programme for Maltese Delegation in relation to MoU between the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Maltese Government

On Tuesday 24th September 2019, the Maltese delegates attended a meeting at the High Commission of Malta where they informed the High Commissioner of the Desk and its objectives. The next appointment for the Maltese delegates took place at the Commonwealth Secretariat with Mr Layne Robinson, Head of Social Policy within the Economic Youth & Sustainable Development Directorate. The Maltese delegates then had a courtesy call on Dr Arjoon Suddhoo, the Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General. The next sessions focused on the challenges that small states experience and the contributions that sport could make to peace, intercultural dialogue and social cooperation.

These sessions were led by Mr Travis Mitchell, Advisor and Head of the Economic Policy and Small States section, and by Mr Oliver Dudfield, Head of Sport for Development and Peace.

The second day of the orientation programme commenced with an overview of the Commonwealth Foundation given by the Director-General, Ms Anne Therese Gallagher AO. The other sessions held that day focused on the importance of professionalising the youth work sector, the promotion of quality learning and the development of policies which would create an enabling environment for young people.

Dr Amina Osman, Education Advisor, highlighted the Learning ➤



➤ for Life project, while Mr Sushil Ram, Programme Manager within the Social Policy Development Section, expounded on entrepreneurship and the issue of unemployment, which is an overarching concern among the member countries.

The Maltese delegation also met with Ms Amelia Kinahoi Siamomua, Head of Gender Section, and Mr Simon Bull, Internal Communications Officer, who would be in charge of informing the Commonwealth Secretariat staff about the International Voluntary Desk.





National Conference on Volunteering 2019

Volunteering: Taking the Next Step

The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector organized its Annual National Conference on Volunteering entitled 'Volunteering: Taking the Next Step' on Saturday the 12th October 2019. The Conference, which was held at the Excelsior Hotel in Floriana was well attended. The Conference participants were addressed by Dr. Noel Camilleri, Chairperson MCVS in a welcome speech which set the tone for the conference, focusing on the issues of transparency, accountability and sustainability of the sector.

During the conference there were three plenary sessions were delivered by Mr. Roderick Agius – Governance in Voluntary Organisations, Mr. John Mallia – Making the Wheel Turn, and Fr. Antoine Farrugia sdb- Volunteering, Working with Minors... Integrational Approach.

Mr. Agius, during his session, focused on the issue of accountability and transparency of the voluntary organisations in the spirit of good management of the same organisations. He also addressed the issue of good governance and cooperation between the

same VOs. In the second session Mr. Mallia, with his expertise in Social Cooperatives, addressed the issue of sustainability both with regards to human as well as financial resources. He gave practical examples of how VOs could be agents of social enterprise which would benefit in their long term sustainability. Fr. Antoine addressed the issue of managing volunteers with a more specific focus on bridging the gap between minors and elder volunteers. He also highlighted the issued to be addressed when managing an age diverse group.

Following each plenary session working groups, made up of the various sectoral groups, discussed further these issues and how they applied to their particular sectoral reality. These workshops were moderated by various moderators namely Mr. Andrew Azzopardi, Mr. Jes Saliba, Ms Celine Talbot, Mr. Robert Farrugia, Mr. Edward Gruppette and Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandalo.

Towards the end of the Conference Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandalo, CEO MCVS, introduced the participants to the new online booking system for the use of the Volunteer Centres.

Participants were then invited for lunch which is always an excellent opportunity for those present to network together.



Council Members Election

Voting day – 16th November 2019
Time - between 8.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m.

How to vote...

Enrolled Voluntary Organisations (VO) shall vote online through the VO Funding Portal.

To submit a vote a VO must...

1. Login to the VO Funding portal at vofunding.org.mt/login;
2. Access the Council Election screen through the main menu;
3. Select a candidate from the list;
4. Accept and fill the declaration section;
5. Submit the vote.

VOs which are not yet registered with the VO Funding Portal need to first register with the portal at vofunding.org.mt/register to be able to vote. On registering with the portal the VO must choose one the category under which the VO falls. VOs are advised to register with the VO Funding portal at least a day before the election day.






The list of categories will consist of the following options:

- Social and Humanitarian;
- Education, Youth and Sport;
- Health and Disability;
- Arts and Culture;
- Environment and Animal Welfare;
- Gozo

The voting screen will display the list of candidates nominated in the particular category chosen by the VO.

Once a vote is submitted, the system will generate a timestamp and send a notification email to the Voluntary Organisation.

Our aim is to support the development of a more effective and efficient voluntary and community sector in Malta and Gozo through the delivery of a range of support and capacity building services including information, advice and training. We also aim to support the development of a more influential and cohesive voluntary and community sector in Malta and Gozo by facilitating networking and partnership within the sector, and between the same sector and the private and public sectors.

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