



# STAY CONNECTED

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## A Message from the Chairman of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector

It is my pleasure and privilege to write these few words following a unanimous vote by those present for the first Council meeting to be re-appointed as the Chairman of the same Council for the next term of the Maltese Council for Voluntary Sector.



This Council was appointed following the extensive amendments entered into effect in November 2018 by which among other things gave the sector the right to choose the majority of the council members through a democratic vote. Following the amendments enacted the Council has become more autonomous in its work in favour of the sector translating into more recognition at local fora as well as European and International for a, to be the voice of all the Voluntary

*"This Council was appointed following the extensive amendments entered into effect in November 2018 by which among other things gave the sector the right to choose the majority of the council members through a democratic vote".*

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National Strategy  
on Volunteering  
2019 - 2024



Malta Council for the  
VOLUNTARY SECTOR

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR YOUTH,  
SPORT AND VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS

***“The new Council has much work in front of it to be undertaken in the coming months to achieve the goals of the National Strategy so that the sector is strengthened and given the recognition it deserves”.***

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Sector. For this to function certain local legislation needs to be amended to reflect the development of the Voluntary Organizations Act. If this does not happen then the Council shall not have the recognition that it is appropriate and to give to it by the Law itself.

The new Council has much work in front of it to be undertaken in the coming months to achieve the goals of the National Strategy so that the sector is strengthened and given the recognition it deserves. But more than this we feel the need that sense of volunteering is inserted even in our children and youth because to do some volunteering is not only a personal satisfaction but assists in the character development of the individual and strengthens the social fibre of our communities. The time has also come for the Council to undertake a review of the funds it administers so that these may better serve to continue to strengthen and disseminate the work of volunteering.

This Council is determined to be closer to the sector and this may only be done by being more present in the work of the sector where together we see that this work is more efficient and useful without the duplication of funds and resources.

**Dr. Noel Camilleri LL.D., LL.M.**  
*Chairman - MCVS*



Malta Council for the  
**VOLUNTARY** SECTOR

## The New Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector 2020 - 2023

Following the amendments of the Voluntary Organisations Act in 2018 a process was initiated to set up the new Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector reflecting the provisions of the same Act. According to these amendments the Council is now to be set up of eleven member with four being nominated and elected by the Voluntary Sector, four to be nominated by the sector and appointed by the Minister, and one to be directly appointed by the Minister as the Minister's representative on the Council.

Following a period of informing the sector on the change of the law and the new procedure nominations were opened in October 2019 with the first online election taking place on the 16th November 2019, which election saw the first six Council members elected by and to represent six sectoral groups. The Council members elected in this phase were Mr. Robert Farrugia from Missio who was elected to represent the Social and Humanitarian Sector; Ms. Gertrude A. Buttigieg from the Malta Health Network who was elected to represent the

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### The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector's Aim

The aim of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS) 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.

**The Malta Council  
for the Voluntary Sector**  
Mission Statement

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For more information about the  
**Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector**  
please visit the MCVS website:  
<https://maltacvs.org/>

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Health and Disability Sector; Mr. Leslie Bonnici from the Scout Association of Malta who was elected to represent Education, Youth and Sport; Mr. Felix Farrugia from the Malta Rabbit Club who was elected to represent Environment and Animal Welfare Sector; Dr. Noel Camilleri from Għaqda Każini tal-Banda who was elected to represent the Arts and Culture Sector; and Mr. Saviour Grech from the Gozo NGO Association who was elected to represent Gozo.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, namely the closure of Parliament, the other Council members to be confirmed by the Minister had to wait until the re-opening of Parliament. Subsequently the following Council members were appointed: Ms. Doris Bingley from the National Council of Women representing Members of Volunteer Organisations and Volunteers; Mr. Damien Attard from Right 2 Smile representing Founders and Donors; Ms. Laura Cunningham from Sports Journalists Association representing Administrators of Volunteer Organisations; and Mr. Edward Grupetta from the Malta Red Cross Society representing Foreign and International Organisations.

On the 17th February 2020 the Council met for the first time of this new term of office and Dr. Noel Camilleri was unanimously voted by the Council members, and thus re-confirmed, as Chairperson of the same Council.





## VOPS & SIS Funds

### Grant Award Ceremony 2020

On Monday 17th February 2020, the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector organised a Grant Award Ceremony for the two main funding schemes; the Voluntary Organisations Project Scheme (VOPS) and the Small Initiatives Support (SIS) Scheme. This ceremony was honoured by the presence of the Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations, Hon. Dr Clifton Grima.

During this ceremony 61 voluntary organisations were awarded a total of €800,000 to carry out different projects in the community. From the awardees, there were number of musical societies, sports clubs, associations working in the field of human rights and persons with disability, cultural associations, and organisations working in the field of first aid and in the wellbeing of society.

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Dr Clifton Grima, Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations (left) and Mr Mauro Pace Parascandolo, Chief Executive Officer, MCVS (right) during the Grant Ceremony.



Voluntary Organisations Project Scheme

The **Voluntary Organisations Project Scheme** is designed to assist applicants looking for funding on projects that can make a real difference to their local communities.



### Small Initiatives Support Scheme

The **Small Initiatives Support Scheme** encourages the creation of projects in areas such as training, events, publications and other initiatives related to the voluntary sector.

*“These schemes, which have become part of a number of initiatives that the sector is expecting each year, help in the execution of projects that organisations would like to implement but without which cannot be fulfilled”*



[www.instagram.com/  
mcvs\\_malta/](https://www.instagram.com/mcvs_malta/)

## SHARING YOUR TALENT THROUGH VOLUNTEERING



The list of Voluntary Organisations which were awarded these grants can be accessed from the MCVS website:  
<https://maltacvs.org/>

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The Parliamentary Secretary Hon. Dr Clifton Grima stated that “For the last number of years these initiatives have been supporting community projects carried out by voluntary organisations working in various fields of the sector. These schemes, which have become part of a number of initiatives that the sector is expecting each year, help in the execution of projects that organisations would like to implement but without which cannot be fulfilled”.

Both Dr. Grima and the CEO of MCVS Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandolo praised voluntary organisations for the important work that are doing to improve the lives of people.

The ceremony was organised at the Grant Hotel Excelsior, Floriana, and was followed by a small gathering, where organisations had the opportunity to meet together and share their projects.

This year both funding lines had a record number of applicants and each year the projects are increasing in its capacity building.





**T**he Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) Meeting will be held in Rwanda, at the Kigali Convention Centre, during the week starting 22 June. Leaders from all 53 Commonwealth countries are expected to attend.

The overarching theme for this year's meeting is Delivering A Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming. Five sub-themes have been identified for discussion: Governance and Rule of Law, ICT and Innovation, Youth, Environment, and Trade.

Leaders will continue to build on CHOGM 2018 outcomes - which resulted from a reflection on the theme Towards a Common Future - and will be focusing on the transformation of societies while keeping the Commonwealth Charter values of democracy, multilateralism, sustainable development, and empowerment of women and youth at the heart of all discussions.

President Kagame stated: "The distinctive aspect of CHOGM 2020 will be connectivity including what young people can do with technology to create vibrant societies and develop our economies."

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*(President Kagame)*

Visit Rwanda's CHOGM website:  
**<http://chogm2020.rw/>**



## SHARING YOUR TALENT THROUGH VOLUNTEERING

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Secretary-General Scotland said:  
"By connecting, innovating and  
transforming, the Commonwealth  
opens up scope for mobilising the talent  
of people of all ages and backgrounds."

### Commonwealth People's Forum

For an updated programme and  
list of speakers and performers,  
join the conversation on Twitter  
and Facebook using #CWpeople

Register to participate  
via the Commonwealth  
Foundation's website: [https://  
commonwealthfoundation.  
com/peoples-forum/](https://commonwealthfoundation.com/peoples-forum/)



**COMMONWEALTH  
PEOPLE'S FORUM**

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting marks the convocation of the Commonwealth People's Forum, a unique gathering of civil society actors which gives the people of the Commonwealth the chance to have a say in issues and decisions that directly affect their lives. By bringing important-often unheard-voices into CHOGM, the People's Forum affirms the Commonwealth's values of democracy, justice, and people-centred governance.

From 22-24 June 2020, in Kigali, delegates, speakers, and performers will be promoting a new way of thinking to address the important questions of the contemporary world. How can we forge a more inclusive world through collaboration and a reimagining of our institutions so that no one is excluded? The values of love, compassion, equality and justice are some of the most beneficial and constructive forces that humanity has to offer. How can we channel these strengths to improve our common future as well as to safeguard and preserve our planet?

The diversity of the participants, hailing from all regions, is a reflection of the richness and heterogeneity of the Commonwealth itself. The aim of transforming structures and systems, approaches and perceptions that are hindering the advancement of societies necessitates energy and innovative ideas. For this reason, the participants will need to challenge themselves and each other and to engage with dynamism and boldness.





## Projects in the Community

**Organisation:** Għaqda Mużikali Sant' Elena  
**Project:** Upgrading of premises: providing better space for volunteers and activities  
**Grant Awarded:** €15,504

St. Helen's Band Club is very active within the community of Birkirkara and contributes to the development and promulgation of arts and the Maltese cultural heritage. It is completely run by volunteers especially young people. 'Upgrading our premises: providing better spaces for our volunteers and activities' emerged from the need to upgrade the facade not just for aesthetic purposes but because it could be a safety hazard as it was in dire need of repairs and restoration which was also certified by an architect. An upgrade to the main meeting hall, the breeding space of creativity, hard work and one of the places where instrument lessons and planning of activities take place, was also necessary. Thus, this project addressed elements of environmental, economic and social sustainability.

This project enhanced the capacity building, strengthened its position as an integral part of civil society and further promoted the culture of volunteering. Through marketing activities and involvement of different volunteers, local organisations and the inauguration itself awareness was raised on the value and importance of volunteering within the community. Through this upgrade, Għaqda Mużikali Sant' Elena is now

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able to welcome new volunteers to be actively engaged in the activities it carries out throughout the year. The activities include the teaching of new soft and hard skills which will contribute towards the improvement of the social and personal competencies of volunteers.

This 5 month project ran between January and May 2019 and was divided into 3 main phases; preparatory, works and inauguration. All the project activities took place in the band club premises.



*The facade of St Helen's Band Club in Birkirkara after its restoration.*



[www.instagram.com/  
voluntieramalta/](https://www.instagram.com/voluntieramalta/)

## SHARING YOUR TALENT THROUGH VOLUNTEERING



The ENISIE project is part of the Interreg VA Italy-Malta cooperation program that connects Sicily and Malta. This project was designed to encourage collaboration and the development of innovative realities of the two islands. Partners in the project include two from Malta; The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector and Malta Enterprise and two entities from Sicily; Tree s.r.l and Impact Hub.

During the closing event held on the 6th March 2020, stakeholders had the opportunity to participate in the “Unleashing Social Innovation through a Favourable Ecosystem” - An Animation Session held at the Malta Innovation Hub at the Malta Life Sciences Park.

Hon. Alex Agius Saliba Member of the European Parliament together with Hon. Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi the Parliamentary Secretary for European Funds and Hon. Clifton Grima the Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and the Voluntary Sector were present.

During the event, policymakers, private sector representatives and European decision-makers were able to discuss financing policies and instruments, internationalisation opportunities and other concrete initiatives to support individuals and organisations wishing to implement social innovation projects.

