


EXECUTIVE REPORT

2018



Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector **Executive Report 2018**

The Composition of the Council

The fourth Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector started its new term of office on the 1st March 2018 (term ending 31st March 2019 and was extended to November 2019). The Council for 2019 was composed of the following members:

Dr. Noel Camilleri	-	Chairperson
Mr. Damian Attard	-	Member
Ms. Doris Bingley	-	Member
Ms. Gertrude Buttigieg	-	Member
Fr. Antoine Farrugia	-	Member
Mr. Robert Farrugia	-	Member
Mr. Trevor Fenech	-	Member (Government rep. from August 2107)
Mr. Edward Gruppetta	-	Member
Mr. Michael Piccinino	-	Member
Mr. Oliver Scicluna	-	Member
Dr. Corinne Wood	-	Member
Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandalo	-	Chief Executive Officer





The Council Sub-Committees and Boards

During this calendar year the Council had the following sub-committees and boards with the respective terms of reference:

VO Fund Board of Administrators

Members:

Dr. Noel Camilleri

Mr. Robert Farrugia

Mr. Michael Piccinino

Terms of reference:

The purposes of the Foundation have been established by law to assist and support enrolled voluntary organisations through education, management support and financial grants in terms of Article 37(3) of the VOA. (refer to VO Fund Statute)

Training and Activities Sub-Committee

Members:

Mr. Edward Gruppetta (Chair)

Mr. Damian Attard

Ms. Gertrude Buttigieg

Mr. Robert Farrugia

Dr. Corinne Wood

Terms of reference:

As part of the MCVS objectives, the Training Sub-Committee shall support and help in the development of and voluntary organisations in Malta & Gozo through the provision of training and mentoring programmes. These programmes shall address issues, but not only, related to capacity building and good governance.



Networking, PR and EU Relations

Members:

Dr. Noel Camilleri (Chair)

Mr. Robert Farrugia

Ms. Gertrude Buttigieg

Terms of reference:

The Sub-Committee shall be responsible on behalf of the Council to stimulate co-operation and networking between voluntary organisations and to provide a platform from which to develop co-operation between voluntary organisations and the Government, work towards strengthening and, in some areas, establishing networking amongst Voluntary Organisations, supporting the setting up of platforms, and providing support and coordination in such cases.

The Sub Committee shall also be responsible to promote and inform the public on issues related to the Council and the voluntary sector in general. It shall also facilitate the participation of the Council in European fora as well as in becoming a member of such European bodies working in the field of NGOs.

Consulting Sub-Committee to the Commissioner

Members:

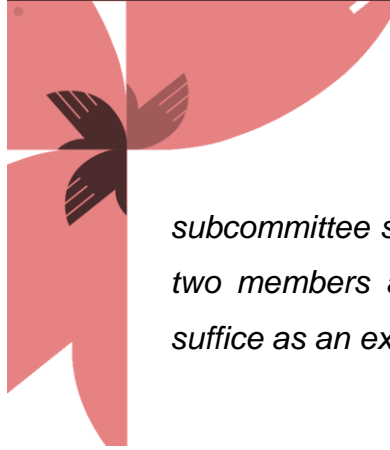
Dr. Noel Camilleri (Chair)

Ms. Doris Bingley

Mr. Michael Piccinino

Terms of reference:

According to Article 35(12) of the Voluntary Organisations Act, *“the Council shall appoint a sub-committee composed of three members of the Council and which shall be consulted by the Commissioner in the cases referred to in article 7(3). The*



subcommittee shall have a quorum of two members and the written response of the two members agreeing or disagreeing to a recommended course of action shall suffice as an expression of the views of the committee.”

Committee responsible for the National Volunteer Award

Members:

Fr. Antoine Attard (Chair)

Ms. Doris Bingley

Dr. Corinne Wood

Terms of Reference:

Work towards the set up and preparation of the National Volunteer Award in conjunction with the Office of the President, preparing the general aims and procedures and setting the selection criteria. Once the procedures are in place, prepare for official launch.



The Work of the Council

The fourth MCVS Council met eleven times during 2018.

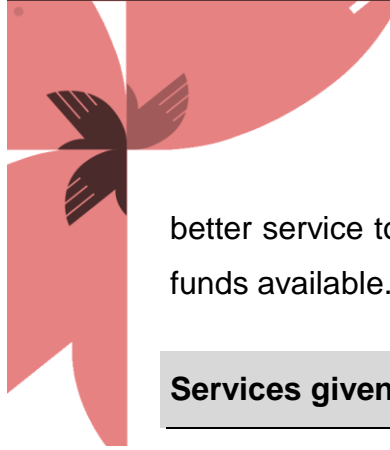
During this year, there was a continuation of the work carried out by the Council in the previous years, consolidating the initiated projects and initiatives such as the Training and Capacity Building Program for Voluntary Organisations Administrators, the Small Initiatives Supports Scheme, the Mentoring Scheme for VOs and the National Volunteer Award.

MCVS during 2018 continued to manage various funding lines and initiatives in favour of the Voluntary Sector, 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.

There was regular communication between the Council and 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.

Additional Staff at MCVS

During 2018 MCVS increased in staff complement 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.

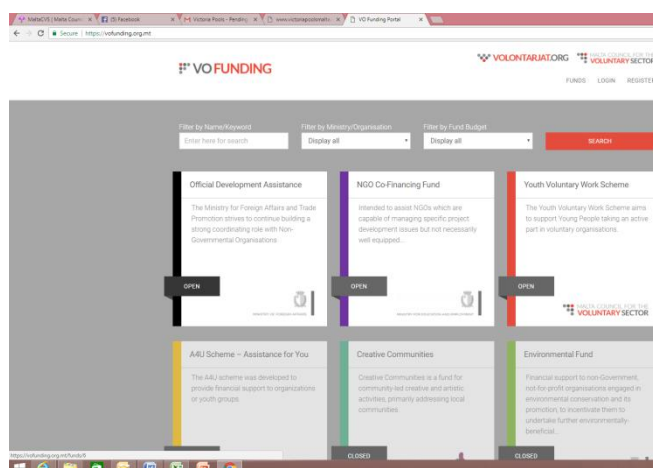
Services given by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector

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.

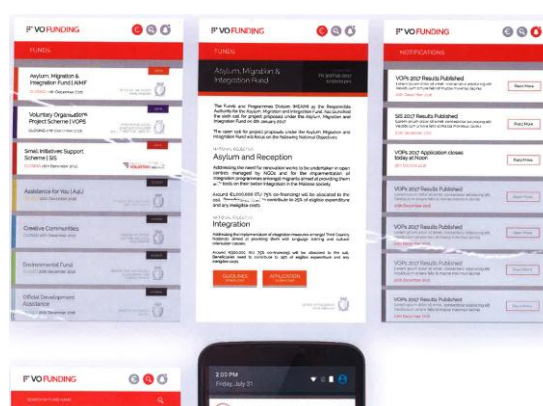
In addition to these two web sites, MCVS had at the end of 2017 launched a new web site focusing on funding for VOs. This new portal www.vofunding.org.mt is intended to bring together all public fund operators in a one-stop-shop portal. The portal is intended to:

1. Establish a one-stop-shop for both the issue of information as well as the management of data regarding funding projects and their beneficiaries. Through this platform VOs will be informed of any calls for applications coming out in which they may be interested both by accessing the common funding platform as well as by a mobile app linked to the same web portal.
2. Promote more transparency and accountability of the distribution of public funds. This will be done since all the results of all call for applications will be published both the common funding platform as well as through a notification a mobile app linked to the same web portal.
3. Provide a common database of all distributed funding. In the future this will also be extended to collaborate with other funds such as EU Funds and EAA Grants.

In fact this portal is at present supporting six different Ministeries/Entities and twenty various funding lines.



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. In 2018 this portal was attached to a mobile app 'VO Funding Malta' to facilitate information to all VOs and their members on funding opportunities.



Training Program 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.

Small Initiatives Support Scheme (SIS) 2018

In the February 2018 the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector held the sixth Small Initiative Support Scheme Grant Award Ceremony at the Valletta Volunteer Centre. During this event 34 Voluntary Organisations coming from the various areas of the sector were presented with a maximum sum of 3,000 euros each organisation to undertake their project.

The general objectives of the Small Initiatives Support (SIS) Scheme are to stimulate co-operation and networking between voluntary organisations; to provide a consultative forum that can effectively address issues related to the Voluntary Sector; to provide a platform from which to develop co-operation between voluntary organisations and the Government; to promote and encourage a culture of volunteering and the participation in volunteer activities among people, especially children and youths, as an aspect of personal and social development; to foster co-operation in the volunteer sector with local and international bodies, entities or other persons for the encouragement and promotion of the development of volunteering programmes, initiatives and activities; and to encourage, in furtherance of the principle of subsidiarity, non-governmental bodies and private entities or persons and local councils to contribute to the promotion of volunteering in Malta.



Information meetings were held for Voluntary Organisations interested to submit applications were held in October 2017 which resulted in 66 project applications by the closing deadline of the Scheme.

Voluntary Organisations Projects Scheme (VOPS) 2017

During 2018 MCVS continued to manage the 'Voluntary Organisations Projects Scheme' (VOPS) which guidelines for the VOPS were published on the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector website www.maltacvs.org and the New Funding Portal www.vofunding.org.mt.

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

In the February 2018 the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector held the second Voluntary Organisations Projects Scheme (VOPS) Grant Award Ceremony at the Valletta Volunteer Centre. During this event 33 Voluntary Organisations coming from the various areas of the sector. The VOPS was opened in October 2017 for projects to be undertaken in 2018. Two information meetings were held in Malta for Voluntary Organisations interested to and one in Gozo. By the closing deadline of the Scheme, 60 project applications by voluntary organisations enrolled with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations were submitted.



Civil Society Fund

For the second consecutive year the Civil Society Fund was managed by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector on behalf of the Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties.

The Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are considered to be the backbone of any democratic society. According to the European Commission, Civil Society Organisations (CSO's) encompasses non-governmental organisations (voluntary organisations), grassroots organisations, cooperatives, trade unions, professional associations, universities, media and independent foundations.

CSOs often fail to adopt an active role at European Union (EU) level primarily because of financial restraints. As a result, the government is committed to provide 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.

Potential applicants are encouraged to read the following Guidelines thoroughly in order to avoid submitting ineligible applications.

This Fund is intended to provide successful applicants with financial assistance for the purpose of facilitating their affiliation with and participation in European groupings, associations, federations, confederation networks, and training related to EU Policy/Programmes.



Youth Voluntary Work Scheme

The Youth Voluntary Work Scheme was now in its fourth year supporting young people through its two main goals. The first goal is to help young people improve their skills and employment prospects by giving them an opportunity to take up volunteering as part of their non-formal and informal learning process. It will also enable them to discover the value of voluntary service and helps to foster a sense of community and active citizenship. The second goal of the scheme is to support Voluntary Organisations in attracting young people to volunteering, enabling them to enhance their capacity with new volunteers and fresh ideas.



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 Overseas Specific Priorities are to increase the skills of young people through the practical experience of volunteering abroad; encourage the learning of another language; develop the ability to interact with persons of different language and culture; and spread tolerance among young people.

National Volunteer Award 2017

The **National Volunteer Award** was organised for the seventh consecutive time by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector. This year the Award was held under the patronage of H.E. the President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca and in the presence of the Hon. Dr. Clifton Grima, Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations. This year the National Volunteer was complimented by three other

awards which were the **Youth Volunteer Award**, the **Volunteer Organisation Award** and the **Special Award for Voluntary Work in the Community**.


The aim of the National Awards is to give broad recognition to the service done by the volunteers and Voluntary Organisations within the community, create awareness of the exemplary values displayed by the volunteers and organisations with the goal of locating role models for youth and wider society; and to recognise the important contributions made in various fields.

The Award Ceremony was held on the 5th of December 2018 at the Presidential Palace where the Awards were presented by H.E. the President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, Hon. Dr. Clifton Grima, Parliamentary Secretary of the Youth, Sports and Voluntary Organisations accompanied by Dr. Noel Camilleri, Chairperson of the Malta Council of the Voluntary Sector.



The **National Volunteer Award** is aimed to award individual volunteer who has contributed in any field, such as social, humanitarian, health, ecological, cultural, education, sports, etc. The voluntary work must have had a positive contribution towards a particular field

and should ideally have served as an inspiration to others. This year's National Volunteer Award went to **Ms. Marjoe Abela from the Malta Girl Guides**.



The **Volunteer Organisation Award** which is awarded to a Voluntary Organisation who has been outstanding in the sector in which it operates, being both innovative in its approach and services within the community as well as in its way of recruiting and supporting volunteers, was awarded to **Dr. Klown**.

The **Youth Volunteer Award** which is awarded to a Volunteer between the age of 16 and 30 years and is aimed to promote volunteering amongst young people 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 *Gorg tal-Muzew* or *Gorg l-Għannej tal-Mulej*, who has dedicated his life to care for the less fortunate in less fortunate circumstances by visiting and supporting individuals both in hospitals and in prison.

Towards the end of the event H.E. the President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca was presented with a commemorative stamp that was issued to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector.

During this event, which was presented by Mr. Glen Chircop, singer Mr. Ozzy Lino together with the Police Brass Band interpreted various songs.

National Conference on Volunteering “10 Years Supporting VOs”

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. The theme of this year's conference was “10 Years Supporting VOs”.

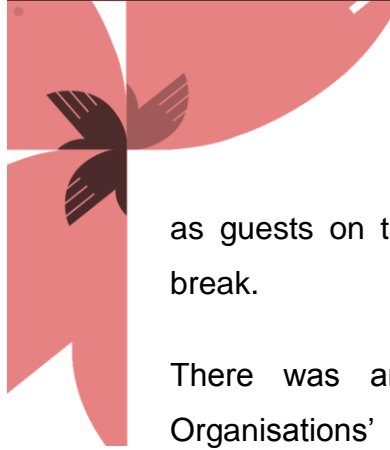


The first day took off with a welcome address by Dr. Noel Camilleri Chairperson of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector .This was followed by an introduction by Mr. Ryan Borg, Head of Secretariat within the Ministry for Education & Employment and Mr. Robert Farrugia, Council Member of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector and also Chair of the Events and Activities Sub-Committee. To open the plenary session titled, “The new VO Law” a short video was shown on the VO Act Amendments. Dr. Noel Camilleri, Chairperson of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector delivered the plenary session followed by a panel discussion moderated by Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandolo. The guests on the panel were Dr. Noel Camilleri, Dr.



Anthony Abela Medici (Commissioner for VOs), Dr. Maria Criminale (Senior Legal Officer in the Ministry for Education & Employment) and Mr. Ryan Borg (Head of Secretariat in the Ministry for Education & Employment).

On the second and final day, the Conference started with a set of workshops in the form of panel discussions: “**National Strategy on Volunteering**” with Mr. Nathan Farrugia (President, INSPIRE), Dr. Sue Vella (Lecture, UoM), Mr. Robert Farrugia (MCVS Council Member) and Prof. Carmel Borg (Lecture, UOM) as guests on the panel, “**Good Practices by NGOs**” with Ms. Claudia Taylor-East (CEO, SOS Malta), Mr. Maurice Sleyden (President, Dr. Clown), Ms. Katherine Azzopardi (Director, Ċentru Tbexbix) and Mr. Saviour Grima as guests on the panel and “**The Voluntary Sector – Moving forward through young volunteers**” with Ms. Miriam Teuma (CEO, Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ), Mr. Gilmour Borg (SIGA Ambassador for Special Olympics Athletes) and Mr. Jorge Grech (Active Member, Banda San Mikiel Zabbar)



as guests on the panel. These 3 workshops were delivered again after a coffee break.

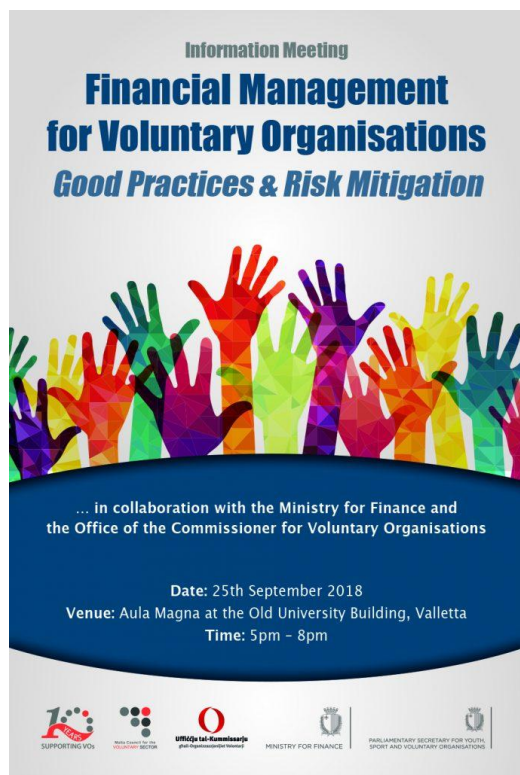
There was another panel discussion: “Celebrating 10 years of Voluntary Organisations’ with guests on the panel: Dr. Ugo Mifsud Bonnici (H.E President Emeritus), Fr. Alexander Cauchi (Ġesù fil-Proxxmu) and Mr. Robert Farrugia (MCVS Council Member and Chair of the Events and Activities Sub-Committee) and moderated by Mr. Damian Attard (MCVS Council Member).

The conference was officially closed off by the address of Mr. Robert Farrugia as Chair of the Events and Activities Sub-Committee within the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector.

The new fundraising portal SimplyGiving.org.mt was presented as a way for all registered VOs to raise funds through their members and volunteers, effectively scaling their fundraising team to a whole community. This will not only facilitate giving, but also increase transparency and confidence in giving to causes and projects across Malta and Gozo.

The future is bright, but unpredictable. Our economy is strong and this helps our fundraising efforts, but rapid change and innovation bring their own challenges. We need to become resilient and adapt to change quickly, or fall away and disappear. We need to stay relevant and focus on our purpose, celebrating our impact in order to validate our work and gain the deserved respect from our community as a leading sector in our national collective future.

Financial Management for VOs – Good Practices & Risk Mitigation

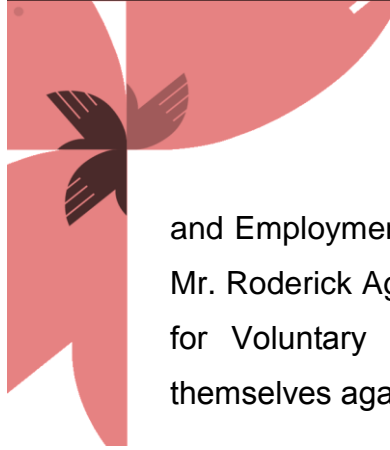


One of the main pillars for good practice in voluntary organisations is the issue of good financial management, with a focus on transparency and accountability. To sustain the importance of this issue the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector in Collaboration with the Commissioner for VOs, the Ministry 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 work 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 in his address focused on the three pillars of good financial practice, namely clarity, transparency and accountability. 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 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 Agius, Investigation and Monitoring Officer, Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations, on ‘How Voluntary Organisations should protect themselves against abuse’.

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 VOs thus guaranteeing 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 be published in Maltese –

‘Zomm Kuntatt’.

Stay Connected Newsletter 01 – English


Zomm Kuntatt Newsletter 01 – Malti

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 force as of Tuesday, the 6th of November 2018.

These Amendments came into force to amend the Voluntary Organisations Act 2007 and to make consequential and other amendments to the Civil Code and to the Second Schedule to the Civil Code, the Public Collections Act, the Notarial Profession and Notarial Archives Act, the Arbitration Act and the Companies Act.

The Act introduced categories of voluntary organisations ("VOs"), namely, government organisations, religious organisations and political organisations. It also incorporates new definitions for lawful purpose, market levels and market conditions and permissible private benefit.



New rules have been introduced vesting the Commissioner for VOs (the "Commissioner") and the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector with legal personality.

The concept of mandatory enrolment has been introduced. VOs may be obliged to enrol with the Office of the Commissioner whilst all other VOs are obliged to notify the Commissioner of their existence.

The Act incorporates the MONEYVAL Regulations, introducing provisions which combat money laundering and financing of terrorism and which give the Commissioner powers to investigate such matters.

Minors who attain the age of 16 years may now establish VOs and may vote in Annual General Meetings of such organisations.

The Act introduces new provisions to regulate VOs and foundations involved in crypto-currencies. These organisations may receive financial income from innovative technology and other commercial or trading activities. They are also exempted from the general prohibition of such organisations being established for trade. These amendments follow on recent amendments to the Civil Code and the Voluntary Organisations Act made with the introduction of the new crypto laws in Malta, which endowed foundations and VOs with the capacity to issue tokens and carry out trading activities resulting from such operations.

The Act eliminates the concept of private interest in VOs and regulates permissible private benefits, the principles of remuneration, the principles regarding shares and other interests and fiduciary obligations.

Amendments have also been made to the provisions regulating public benefits and private foundations.

Mauro Pace Parascandalo
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
MCVS