

EXECUTIVE REPORT 2019



Malta Council for the
VOLUNTARY SECTOR

MCVS Executive Report 2019

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 2017)
Mr. Edward Gruppetta	-	Member
Mr. Michael Piccinino	-	Member
Mr. Oliver Scicluna	-	Member
Dr. Corinne Wood	-	Member
Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandalo	-	Acting Chief Executive Officer

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 composed of eleven members with six 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 during which the sector was informed on the changes of the law and the new procedure nominations were opened in October 2019 with the first full online secure system, monitored by the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisation's Office, taking place on the 16th November 2019 electing directly the first six Council members 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 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 NGOs Association who was elected to represent Gozo.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the other Council members could not be confirmed until the re-opening of Parliament in January 2020. 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.

In the light of the amendments of the VO Act in 2018 the 5th Council is to be composed of a Chairperson and another ten members. Out of these eleven members one (1) member had to be appointed by the Minister to represent the Government; four (4) members shall be appointed by the Minister from among the voluntary sector in order to represent voluntary organisations (A); and six (6) members be elected directly by the voluntary sector (B).

The fifth Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector was composed of the following members:

Dr. Noel Camilleri	-	Chairperson
Mr. Damian Attard	-	Member
Ms. Doris Bingley	-	Member
Mr. Leslie Bonnici	-	Member
Ms. Gertrude Buttigieg	-	Member
Ms. Laura Cunningham	-	Member
Mr. Felix Farrugia	-	Member
Mr. Robert Farrugia	-	Member
Mr. Anthony Giordani Mifsud Bonnici - Member (Government rep.)		
Mr. Saviour Grech	-	Member
Mr. Edward Grupetta	-	Member
Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandalo	-	Acting Chief Executive Officer

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.

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 (until November 2019)

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 (until November 2019)

Members:

Mr. Edward Gruppette (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 (until November 2019)

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 (until November 2019)

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 (until November 2019)

Members:

Fr. Antoine Attard (Chair)

Ms. Doris Bingley

Dr. Corinne Wood

Terms of Reference:

Work towards the setting 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.



Visit to the President of the Republic of Malta, H.E. Dr. George Vella by the Fourth Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector.

The Work of the Council

The fourth MCVS Council met seven times during 2019.

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 funding support schemes, and the National Volunteer Award.

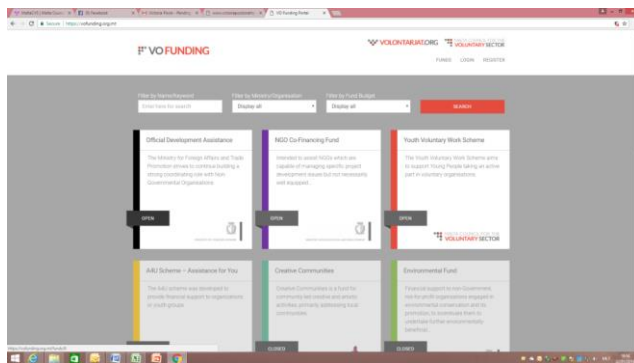
There was regular communication between the Council and the Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sports and Voluntary Organisations, under whose remit the Council falls, were various items were discussed and were the Hon. Dr. Clifton Grima demonstrated his full commitment in support of the Council and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

Services given by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector

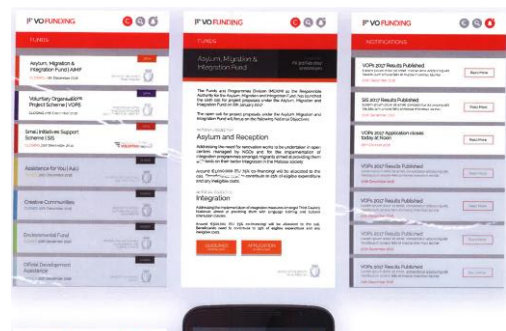
The Council continued to work on the services offered to the sector, building upon and consolidating those given in the previous two years. The Council gave a continued to keep up to date the three main websites it manages which are the www.maltacvs.org and www.vofunding.org.mt. The www.maltacvs.org is the main portal of the Council providing the latest information as well as other services in relation to the Voluntary Sector such as the online VO Directory and the online booking of the Voluntary Centres. The second web portal is the www.volunteers.mt which supports individuals to register as volunteers under the “Voluntiera Malta” which is the leading national volunteering platform for civic engagement to contribute towards the promotion and support of volunteering in Malta.

The third web portal is the www.vofunding.org.mt which is a one-stop-shop funding portal for Vos bringing together all national funds targetted for Vos as well as other funds managed by local fund operators, providing information, online applications as well as the management of data regarding funding projects and their beneficiaries. This platform is linked to a Mobile App VO Funding Malta.

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



www.vofunding.org.mt



VO Funding Malta – Mobile App

MCVS E-Newsletter – Stay Connected

For the second consecutive year MCVS has published its **quarterly e-newsletter ‘Stay Connected’** in both Maltese and English. The newsletter is circulated with all VOs through the MCVS mass mail system as well as through social media. All publications may be found on the MCVS website via the following link: <https://maltacvs.org/mcvs-newsletter/>



E-Newsletter – Stay Connected

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 on the 16th July 2019 by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector in conjunction 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.

The strategy was signed by the Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations the Hon. Dr Clifton Grima on behalf of Government and Dr. Noel Camilleri, Chairperson of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector, on behalf of and in representation of the Voluntary Sector.

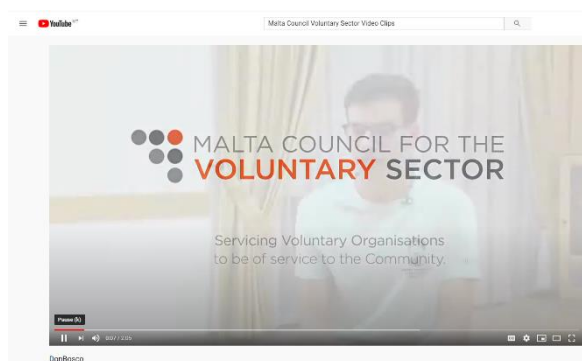
The National Strategy can be found in the following link: <https://maltacvs.org/national-strategy-for-volunteering-2019-2024/>



Signing of the Strategy by the Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations the Hon. Dr Clifton Grima and Dr. Noel Camilleri, Chairperson MCVS in the presence of Mr. Pace Parascandalo, CEO MCVS. on behalf of and in representation of the Voluntary Sector.

Youth Volunteers Campaign – Video Clips

In July MCVS initiated a campaign to promote volunteering with special focus on the young generation. For this purpose a series of ten **video clips** were launched with the aim to promote youth volunteering through different sectors. The video clips 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-Żgħażaġħ, Friends of the Earth, Nature trust and Soċjetà Filarmonika Santa Marija, Żebbuġ Għawdex, which videos are available on the MCVS website.



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 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.

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.

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.



Signing of the MoU by Dr. Noel Camilleri, and Dr Arjoon Suddhoo under the patronage of the the Hon. Dr. Clifton Grima.



Dr. Noel Camilleri and Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandalo meeting Her Excellency Baroness Patricia Scotland.

Small Initiatives Support Scheme (SIS) and Voluntary Organisations Projects Scheme (VOPS) 2019

On the 28th February, the Hon. Dr Clifton Grima, Secretary for Youths, Sports and Voluntary Organisations, Dr Noel Grima, Chairperson of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector and Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandalo, Chief Executive Officer of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector presented €750,000 between 74 voluntary organisations for projects in the community.

These initiatives have in recent years supported community projects carried out by voluntary organisations working in the various fields of the sector. These schemes have become part of a series of initiatives that the sector has come to expect each year in order to assist them in carrying out their projects and without which these projects cannot be implemented. The ceremony was organised at the Old University in Valletta, 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. The list of voluntary organisations that were awarded the grants can be accessed from these links:

The Voluntary Organisations Project Scheme (VOPs):

<http://maltacvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/VO-FINAL-AMENDED-2019.pdf>

The Small Initiatives Support (SIS) Scheme:

<http://maltacvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Ranking-List-of-SIS-2019-Projects-Final.pdf>



The Hon. Dr. Clifton Grima, Dr. Noel Camilleri and Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandalo during the Grant Award Ceremony 2019

Civil Society Fund

The Civil Society Fund is managed by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector on behalf of the Ministry for Education and Employment.

The Civil Society Fund has a specific Budget Line Item 5089 (Assistance to Non-Governmental Organisations) dedicated specifically for these agreements and is distinct from funds allocated for the Voluntary Sector, which fund has been operative for over fifteen years. It must be clarified that Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Voluntary Organisations (VOs) do not compete for the same funds as it was intended in the article. The Civil Society Fund allocated for the Voluntary Sector has a distinct Budget Line Item 5726 - Civil Society Fund. The Council was given the remit to manage the fund for CSOs due to its experience, expertise and transparent systems to manage such funding.



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 role 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.

The fund has two separate budget lines for this item, one for the exclusive uptake by Voluntary Organisations and one for Civil Society Organisations which have a Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Ministry of Education and Employment, which MoU is signed with the General Workers Union (GWU), UHM Voice of the Workers, Forum Unions Maltin,

Malta Chamber of SMEs (Former GRTU), Malta Development Association (MDA) and the Malta Employers Association (MEA).

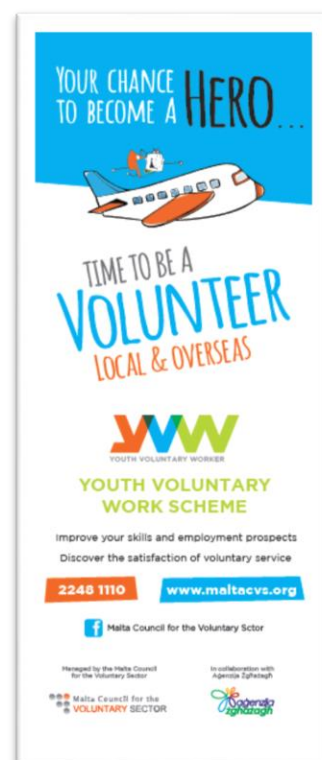
In the CSF call dedicated to VOs a record number of fifty one (51) VOs applied and benefited from this fund.

Youth Voluntary Work Scheme

The Youth Voluntary Work Scheme was now in its fifth 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.

During 2019 the Youth Voluntary Work Scheme had the participation of forty six (46) young people in the Local Scheme and thirty eight (38) young people in the Overseas Scheme.



Training Program for Voluntary Organisations

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.

National Volunteer Award 2019

The National Volunteer Award was organised for the eight consecutive time by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector. The Award was held under the patronage of H.E. the President Dr. George Vella and in the presence of the Hon. Dr. Clifton Grima, Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations. The purpose of the Award is to give wider recognition to the services of volunteers and voluntary organisations within the community, to raise awareness shown exemplary values and find models for young people and society by broader way, and to recognise the important contributions made in several areas. As in previous years 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 6th of January 2020 at the Presidential Palace at San Anton where the Awards were presented by H.E. the President Dr. George Vella, Hon. Dr. Clifton Grima, the Parliamentary Secretary of the Youth, Sports and Voluntary Organisations

accompanied by Dr. Noel Camilleri, Chairperson of the Malta Council of the Voluntary Sector. In attendance was also the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations Dr. Anthony Abela Medici.

Ms. Maria Louisa Scicluna was awarded the National Volunteer Award 2019 during the National Volunteer Ceremony held on the 6th January 2020 at the Presidential Palace in San Anton. Maria Louisa Scicluna, also known as Marisa, began its involvement with the OASI Foundation in 1997. During these years she volunteered in the administration and provided consolation to several families. She never looked back, and thus stopped a group of about 60 volunteers to give support to the Foundation. She organises and manages several meetings with members, and ensures that they meet on a regular basis.

Among the activities organised with volunteers, is the annual bazaar, selling traditional sweets including 'figolli', sports activities such as Zumba, and gives her contribution to the OASI Cup Run and Walk and in the National conference of the Foundation. She has always shown her dedication and any initiative that issued was successful. Always ready to; listen to the opinions of others, work in a team, and to be a role model.



H.E. the President Dr. George Vella presenting Ms Maria Louisa Scicluna the award in the presence of the Hon. Dr. Clifton Grima and Dr. Noel Camilleri.

This award is complemented by three other awards; Youth Volunteer Award won by Gabriella Meli, Voluntary Organisation Award won by the Migrant Offshore Aid Station, and the Corporate Volunteer Award won by Tangiers International Company Limited.

During the ceremony the Four Winds Clarinet Quartet delivered a selection of musical pieces. 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.

National Conference on Volunteering - '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 well attended, commenced by a welcome speech from Dr. Noel Camilleri, Chairperson MCVS. The 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. The presentations of these three plenary sessions can be found below.

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 Gruppeta and Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandalo.

The three main speakers in the plenary sessions were Mr Roderick Agius addressing the issue of Governance in Voluntary Organisations; Mr John Mallia addressing the topic 'Making the wheel turn'; and Fr. Antoine Farrugia sdb speaking on 'Volunteering – Working with Minors – Intergenerational Approach'.



Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandalo, Dr. Noel Camilleri, Mr. John Mallia and Mr. Roderick Agius during the opening session of the conference.

Participation in Freshers' Weeks

Once again MCVS has participated in the Freshers' Weeks organised by the various tertiary education institutions, a participation that was very successful with a record number of visitors on the MCVS stands. Not only did students and lecturers visit the stand to learn more of the work, programmes and funding support available but also encouraged over two hundred to join in the Voluntiera Malta scheme. This year MCVS participate in the Freshers' Week at the University of Malta, MCAST, Junior College and Higher Secondary.



Students visiting the MCVS stand at UoM.

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