

A Message from the MCVS Chairman

Dr. Noel Camilleri LL.D., LL.M.

STAY CONNECTED

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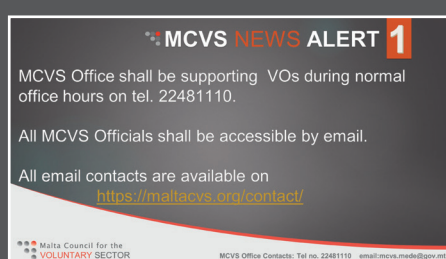
The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector during
the Corona Virus Pandemic:

- Stay Connected Special Edition;
- MCVS launches 24/7 Helpline;
- MCVS on TVM's 'Ras imb Ras';
- International Volunteers Day: Dr Clifton Grima and MCVS representatives visit the Malta Red Cross Society;
- The Emergency Fund in support for the Voluntary Sector is launched;
- MCVS holds a series of online sectoral meetings;
- Prime Minister Dr Robert Abela, Dr Clifton Grima and MCVS representatives visit St John's Ambulance;
- Dr Edward Scicluna announces the €3,000,000 Operational Assistance Scheme;
- MCVS publishes Guidelines for Voluntary Organisations re-COVID-19;
- MCVS holds Information Meetings on Operational Assistance Scheme;
- Vitalità mal-Volontarjat: An MCVS TV production

In a previous edition of 'Stay Connected', I wrote that the Council is determined to be closer to the Sector by being more present in your work so that together we will make this work more efficiently and useful without duplicating resources and funds.

In these exceptional times facing our country, but also the world, some of you are giving great support to the Health authorities such as the Malta Health Network and others by committing themselves with a large number of volunteers. Others, who due to the regulations issued by the Health Authorities, had to give up their work completely. This meant a financial loss but more importantly a cessation of voluntary work in support of the communities in which they operate. This is a big blow to the Sector but it should not discourage us because we know that this difficult period will be overcome and the Sector will continue where it left off. However, there is a need for support from the Government and in fact the Council has already made its representations to the Prime Minister in order to provide appropriate support to the sector, which support has in fact been provided through two unprecedented emergency funds. Without the Voluntary Sector, which is the third pillar in our Society, our country would have lost an important framework in its social fabric.

But as a Council we want to stay close and for this purpose it has set up a hotline with the number 79481120 and an online help desk <http://support.maltacvs.org/support/login> so that you can talk to us and tell us what your real situation is. In addition the Council together with the CEO and his staff will continue to communicate with you so that more than ever and especially in these difficult times where many of you are more relentlessly engaged, while others almost standing in all things, we hear from you and see how we can support you as we always were and will remain as the only organ that represents you.



The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector continued to provide support, assistance and services to the various Voluntary Organisations in Malta and Gozo.

Malta Council for the VOLUNTARY SECTOR

The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector ... proving its purpose, aim and mission statement by continuing to provide support, assistance and services during the COVID-19 Pandemic

In view of the National Situation of the Corona Virus Pandemic, that hit Malta in the early days of March, the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector was prompt to come to the aid of the various Voluntary Organisations in Malta and Gozo.

26th March

Days within the issuing of the legal notices by the Government, MCVS published a special edition of its newsletter 'Stay Connected' whereupon it gave the latest information relevant to the Voluntary Organisation Sector as well as other general information. Concurrently, MCVS began publishing on its Facebook page several news alerts aimed at assisting, informing and guiding VOs through these extraordinary and difficult times.

MCVS also took the initiative to publish on Facebook notices issued by various Government entities as well as other voluntary organisations providing information, seeking assistance or promoting online events.

Another initiative by MCVS was the launch of a 24/7 Helpline in order to further assist the voluntary organisations and the general public.

2nd - 3rd April

MCVS called on the authorities to provide an emergency fund for voluntary organisations as the demand for their services increased and funding lines began to dry up. To further clarify this situation MCVS organised a survey with the intention to collect essential data in relation to the Voluntary Sector in Malta and Gozo and thus giving MCVS a clearer picture of the situation with the aim to come up with solutions in support of the same sector. MCVS then addressed these issues with the Government on behalf of the sector as stated by the National Strategy for Volunteering 2020 – 2025.

8th April

MCVS sets up a web-based help desk system in order to be able to reach and help voluntary organisations during these challenging times. This was an effective digital tool used by the MCVS staff to offer excellent customer service to their clients even whilst working remotely during these testing times.

13th April

MCVS represented by Mr Robert Farrugia, Council Member, was interviewed on TVM's 'Ras imb Ras' on the reality of the Voluntary Sector during the Corona Virus Pandemic.

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The unselfish effort to bring cheer to others will be the beginning of a happier life for ourselves. (Helen Keller)

L-isforz bla interess biex inwasslu l-ferh lil haddiehor se jkun il-bidu ta' hajja ferhana ghalina nfusna. (Helen Keller)

The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector would like to sincerely THANK all the Voluntary Organisations and Volunteers for their continuous contribution and dedication during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Il-Kunsill Malta għas-Settur Volontarju jwieset sinċerament JIRRINGRAZZJA li Għaspett Volontarju u li Volontarju kollha għal kontribuzzjoni u d-dedikazzjoni kontinwa matul il-pandemja tal-COVID-19.

Malta Council for the
VOLUNTARY SECTOR



Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless (Sherry Anderson)

Il-voluntiera ma jithallsux, mhux għax ma jgħewwex, imma għax huma imprezzabbli (Sherry Anderson)

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20th April, Volunteer Recognition Day

To celebrate 'Volunteer Recognition Day' Dr Clifton Grima, Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations and MCVS representatives visited the Malta Red Cross Society. During this visit, Dr Grima said that we should be courageous, take heed to the advice and recommendations of the health authorities and utilise the useful services that are being offered. He added that these voluntary organisations are setting a clear example on how the whole country should be united in this challenging moment.

"From the bottom of my heart, and on behalf of the Maltese and Gozitan people, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the voluntary organisations as well as individual volunteers for their contribution in these difficult and testing circumstances.



It is in these times that the national unity and generosity of the Maltese people stand out" added Dr Grima.

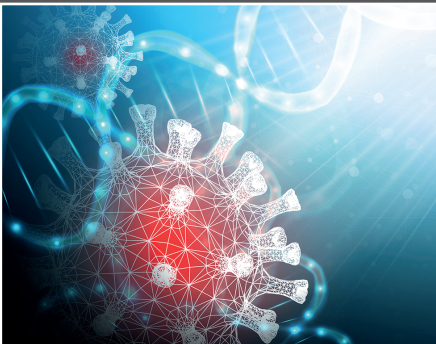
To further commemorate 'International Volunteers Day', and to show its support and appreciation towards the Voluntary Organisations in Malta and Gozo, MCVS began publishing on its Facebook and Instagram pages a series of posters depicting quotes by renowned personalities in relation to the volunteer and volunteering in general. Add to this MCVS promoted the Small Initiatives Scheme (SIS), the Voluntary Organisations Project Scheme (VOPS), the Youth Voluntary Worker (YVW) initiative as well as promoting and launching the Civil Society Fund (CSF) and Operational Assistance Scheme (OAS).

8th May

The Emergency Fund in Support of the Voluntary Sector was launched. The main purpose of this fund was to assist Voluntary Organisations in emergency situations arising locally as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The budget started with the allocation of €125,000.00 but could increase depending on



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COVID-19
Voluntary Organisations Emergency Fund

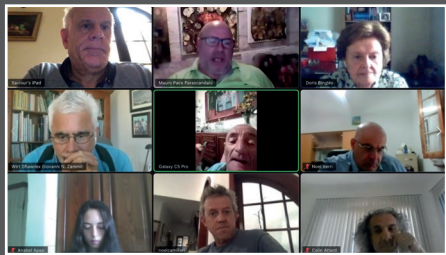
BRIEF

Malta Council for the
VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Parliamentary Secretary for Youth,
Sport and Voluntary Organisations



"It is in these times that the national unity and generosity of the Maltese people stand out."



(continues from page 5)

support from third parties. Requests under this Fund shall not exceed the amount of €5,000.

This fund was managed by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS) and with the support of the Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations.

Complimenting this event, MCVS issued the 'COVID-19 Voluntary Organisations Emergency Fund BRIEF' which highlighted the purpose and main objectives related to this fund. This brief, as well as an animation of its publication, were then published on the MCVS's social network pages.

20th May

MCVS began holding a series of online meetings with Voluntary Organisations from various sectors to discuss and understand the situation of VOs during the COVID-19 pandemic. The voluntary organisations participating in these meetings were from the following sectors: Social and Humanitarian, Environmental, Health, Gozitan VO's, Animal Welfare, Education and Youth, Arts and Culture, Disability, and Sports.

2nd June

Prime Minister Dr Robert Abela, Dr Clifton Grima, Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sports and Voluntary Organisations, Dr. Noel Camilleri, Chairperson MCVS, and Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandolo, CEO MCVS visited and spoke with members of the St. John Rescue Corps at the union headquarters located at Fort Madliena.



All members and the leadership of this organisation are volunteers who are often asked to assist in various operations in our country and are occasionally required to assist the authorities in events of mass gatherings.

Dr Clifton Grima thanked the St. John Rescue Corps volunteers for the indispensable work they carry out. He reiterated his personal commitment as well as that of the Government to fully collaborate with the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector, a sector which he stressed is highly considered to be an essential part of our society.

8th June

Prior to the re-opening of its offices, MCVS issued a notice for the Voluntary Organisations and the general public regarding the steps one has to follow in order to visit its premises. Anyone failing to do so will be denied entrance.

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1. New fund for the Voluntary Sector - Operational Assistance Scheme for Voluntary Organisations

Funds allocated:
€3,000,000.00

Budget under this Scheme shall be eligible for the period 16th March 2020 till the 30th September 2020.

Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector

OAS
OPERATIONAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME

The Operational Assistance Scheme for Voluntary Organisations is
NOW OPEN!

You can apply from:

<https://vofunding.org.mt/funds/60>

The Guidelines and FAQs can be accessed from our HelpDesk support.maltacvs.org

For more information please contact:
Ms Rachella Muscat on Tel: 2248 1114 / Email: rachella.muscat@gov.mt or
Mr Glen Chircop on Tel: 2248 1118 / Email: glen.chircop@gov.mt

Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector



11th June

Dr Edward Scicluna Minister of Finance, announced that a fund of €3,000,000 was being allocated to assist Voluntary Organisations to compensate for losses sustained during the COVID-19 pandemic and which funds will be administered by the Council for the Voluntary Sector. Also present for this event were Dr Clifton Grima, Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations and Dr Noel Camilleri, Chairperson MCVS.

Dr Clifton Grima said this was the largest investment ever made in the field of volunteering. Dr Grima pointed out that this money will help prevent the workers being laid off.



15th June

The Guidelines for Voluntary Organisations in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and the present situation were published online on the MCVS website and Facebook page respectively.



These guidelines, which were endorsed by the Public Health Authority, were intended to guide Voluntary Organisations in the return of their operation in a safe manner.

24th June

A series of information meetings about the Operational Assistance Scheme for Voluntary Organisations commenced. These well attended meetings were held in collaboration with the Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sports and Voluntary Organisations. The audience was addressed by the Hon. Clifton Grima, Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sports and Voluntary Organisations, Dr. Noel Camilleri, Chairperson MCVS, Mr. Ryan Borg, Head of Secretariat PSYSVO and Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandalo, CEO MCVS.



SHARING YOUR TALENT THROUGH VOLUNTEERING



27th June

The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector started the 'Vitalità mal-Volontarjat' programme on the national station TVM. This series of informative programmes will be aired every Monday and Friday after the 18:00 news. During a total of 26 programmes, MCVS will be visiting some of the voluntary organisations around Malta and Gozo in order to provide you with informative and educational information that the viewer will surely find useful and beneficial. In addition to looking at the voluntary work that these organisations are doing for the good of the community, they will be demonstrating simple methods on what we can do should we find ourselves in particular situations.



Through these programmes we will witness how these voluntary organisations are implementing effective and efficient work in the Maltese society in the various areas of life such as Social and Humanitarian, Environmental, Health, Gozitan VO's, Animal Welfare, Education and Youth, Arts and Culture, Disability, and Sports. We are therefore dwelling on these various areas of life that are useful to our vitality.

The programme is being presented by Ms Laura Cunningham, produced by Mr Robert Farrugia, and written and assisted by Mr Glen Chircop.