

PRESS RELEASE

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EN**TITLE****Budgetary Measures 2016**

In an ever-increasing need to strengthen civil society and the organisations that support the different aspects of humanitarian, social, cultural, educational and environmental issues, volunteering is a critical pin in this process. Volunteering is the glue that holds society in balance, between the commercial enterprise that support the economy, and the active citizenship that sustains our democratic processes. We are therefore questioning why a great opportunity to empower the sector has been missed by a key aspect of the budget; making donations to charities and VOs tax deductible. The council further emphasises the need to empower local NGOs in their work, including through fiscal measures including VAT benefits, greater access to grants and EU funding, and the tax deductible donations; the latter also endorsed by the statement from Her Excellency President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca. Hence the Council asks for the initiative to make donations to the MCCF tax deductible to be accessible to all Voluntary Organisations enrolled with the Commissioner for the Voluntary Sector.

One must positively note the continued investment voted in next year's budget in the work of the Malta Council for the Voluntary sector enables the council to provide training, mentoring, networking and research opportunities to voluntary organisations. This funding encourages the improvement in administration and management of the organisations to help improve efficiency and effectiveness at grassroots operations. We will be embarking on research projects to better understand the impact of volunteering on our social economy, and to see how funds raised are being used across our nation. Further training in finance, human resources management, first aid and fundraising are enabled through this funding,

as well as new initiatives to encourage youth to volunteer their time, against a small stipend.

The result of this budget will mean that Voluntary Organisations can continue to develop themselves, as empowered and independent voices. Unfortunately however, many smaller NGOs are struggling with raising funds in a very competitive environment, where they act locally to make a difference at a micro level. It is nigh impossible for some to find a voice with potential donors that are being called to support other bigger causes, so we must do all we can to support them.

Voluntary organisations continue to play a critical role in social, cultural, educational, environmental and citizenship activities that keep Malta at the forefront of democracy and active citizenship. It is therefore important that we continue to create policies that empower voluntary organisations to be independent of state aid that enable them to grow professionally as well as effectively. That we support their bids for grants and EU funding, and that we encourage the corporate sector to invest in and partner with non-profit and voluntary organisations, beyond simply donating at fundraising opportunities. Our society will be better for it.

Nathan Farrugia
Chairperson
MCVS

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TITLU

Il-Miżuri tal-Baġit 2016

Fil-bżonn li qiegħed dejjem jikber sabiex tissaħħaħ is-soċjetà ċivili u l-organizzazzjonijiet li jgħinu fl-oqsma differenti ta' għajnuna umanitarji, soċjali, kulturali, edukattivi u ambjentali, il-volontarjat huwa meqjus bħala fus kritiku f'dan il-proċess. Il-volontarjat huwa l-kolla li żżomm lis-soċjetà fil-bilanċ, bejn l-intrapriża kummerċjali li jappoġġjaw l-ekonomija, u ċ-ċittadinanza attiva li ssostni l-proċessi demokratiċi tagħna. Aħna għalhekk qegħdin nistaqsu għaliex opportunità kbira li tinvolvi s-settur ma ntlafqitx f'dan il-baġit; fejn donazzjonijiet lill-karità u lill-organizzazzjonijiet volontarji tissarraf fi tnaqqis ta' taxxa. Il-Kunsill jkompli sostni illi l-Organizzazzjonijiet Volontarji għandhom ikunu sostnuti fl-operat tagħhom permezz ta' misuri fiskali favorevoli li jgħinuhom fil-ħidma tagħhom, aċċess akbar għall-għotjiet u finanzjament tal-UE, u donazzjonijiet bit-taxxa mnaqqsa; fejn dan ta' l-aħħar gie approvat ukoll permezz ta' dikjarazzjoni li saret mill-Eċċellenza Tagħha il-President

Marie Louise Coleiro Preca. Għal daqstant il-Kunsill jitlob illi l-istess inċentiv ta' diduzzjoni mit-taxxa fuq donazzjonijiet mgħotija lill- MCCF tkun estiza lill-Organizzazzjonijiet Volontarji kollha li huma reġistrati mal-Kummissarju ta' l-Għaqdiet Volontarji.

B'mod pożittiv il-Kunsill jinnota l-investiment kontinwu ivvotat fil-baġit tas-sena d-dieħla għall-ħidma tal-Kunsill Malti għas-settur volontarju jippermetti lill-Kunsill sabiex jipprovdi taħriġ, *mentoring*, *networking* u opportunitajiet ta' riċerka għall-organizzazzjonijiet volontarji. Dan il-finanzjament jinkoraġġixxi t-titjib fl-amministrazzjoni u l-immaniġġjar tal-organizzazzjonijiet li jgħin sabiex titjeb l-effiċjenza u l-effettività fl-operat tagħhom. Aħna se nkunu qegħdin naħdmu fuq proġetti ta' riċerka biex jinftiehem aħjar l-impatt tal-volontarjat fuq l-ekonomija soċjali tagħna, u sabiex naraw kif il-fondi qegħdin jintużaw fil-komunita. Jitkattar it-taħriġ fl-oqsma ta' finanzi, riżorsi umani, *first aid* u ġbir ta' fondi jistgħu jtkomplew permezz ta' dan il-finanzjament, kif ukoll inizjattivi ġodda sabiex ninkoraġġixxu liż-żgħażaġħ jinvolve ruħhom fil-ħin liberu tagħhom fil-volontarjat fejn jirċievu stipendju.

Ir-riżultat ta' dan il-baġit se jfisser li l-Organizzazzjonijiet Volontarji jistgħu jkomplu jiżviluppaw lilhom infushom, bħala vuċijiet imsaħħa u indipendenti. Sfortunatament madankollu, ħafna Organizzazzjonijiet Volontarji żgħar qed jifhabet sabiex jiġbru fondi f'ambjent kompetittiv ħafna, fejn dawn joperaw lokalment sabiex jagħmlu d-differenza fl-għeruf tas soċjeta. Huwa kultant impossibbli għal xi wħud sabiex isemmgħu il-vuċi tagħhom ma' donaturi prospettivi, li qed jiġu msejħa biex jappoġġjaw kawzi oħra akbar, u għalhekk irridu nagħmlu dak kollu li nistgħu biex isostnuhom.

Organizzazzjonijiet volontarji jibqa' jkollhom rwol kritiku fl-attivitajiet soċjali, kulturali, edukattivi, ambjentali u ċittadinanza attiva li żżomm lill-Malta fuq quddiem nett fid-demokrazija u fiċ-ċittadinanza attiva. Huwa għalhekk importanti li nkomplu noħolqu politika li tagħti s-saħħa lill-organizzazzjonijiet volontarji sabiex ikunu indipendenti mill-għajnuna statali, li tippermettilhom li jikbru professjonalment kif ukoll effettivament. Importanti li nappoġġjaw l-isfida tagħhom għal għotjiet u finanzjament tal-UE, u li ninkoraġġixxu lis-settur privat sabiex jinvesti bħalha msieħeb ma' Organizzazzjonijiet Volontarji, mhux semplicement billi joffri donazzjoni f'attivitajiet ta' ġbir ta' fondi. Għalhekk aħna nitolbu għal l-istess inizjattiva tad-donazzjonijiet ta' l-MCCF mnaqssa mit-taxxa, li tkun aċċessibbli għall -organizzazzjonijiet volontarji kollha li huma reġġistrati mal- Kummissarju ta' l-Għaqdiet Volontarji. Nemmu li b'hekk is-soċjeta tagħna tkun aħjar.

Nathan Farrugia
Chairperson
MCVS