

PRESS RELEASE

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EN**TITLE****National Volunteer Award 2021**

The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector held its annual event The **National Volunteer Award 2021**. This year the Award was held under the patronage of H.E. President George Vella, in the presence of the Hon. Dr Clifton Grima, Parliamentary Secretary for Sport, Recreation and Voluntary Organisations, Mr. Robert Farrugia, Deputy Chairperson at MCVS, as well as Mr. Jesmond Saliba, Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations. The National Volunteer Awards were categorized into four awards, the **Youth Volunteer Award**, the **Corporate Volunteer Award**, the **Volunteer Organisation Award** and the **National Volunteer Award**.

The **National Volunteer Awards** serves as acknowledging the service done by the volunteers and Voluntary Organisations. Such acts within the community should be recognised, as well as inspire others to participate in a noble cause. Role models are crucial for our youth and society, therefore by recognizing their contributions we can portray how exemplary values towards a common goal reaps benefits for society as a whole.

The **National Volunteer Award's** aim is to reward individual volunteers who have contributed in any field, such as social, humanitarian, health, ecological, cultural, education, sports, etc. In order to achieve such a reward, the voluntary work must have had a positive contribution towards an institution as well as an inspiration to others. This year's National Volunteer Award went to **Ms Angelique Lofaro from Nature Trust Malta**.

The **Volunteer Organisation Award** is a reward to a Voluntary Organisation that has been distinguished in its sector, while also being both inventive in its approach and services within the community, was awarded to **Mosta Cycling Club**.

The **Corporate Volunteer Award** is awarded to a Company or Organisation coming from the Private Sector which has given tangible support, as well as facilitating its employees to volunteer. This year it was awarded to **EYETECH LTD**.

The **Youth Volunteer Award** which is awarded to a Volunteer between the age of 16 and 30 years that made a remarkable impact in the youth community was awarded to **Ms Ylenia Zammit**, a volunteer with **The Malta Rabbit Club**.

Parliament Secretary, the Hon. Clifton Grima, while thanking those who contribute towards society, explained that events and days like today are proof of how the voluntary in our society has increased throughout the years, and it has become such a dynamic and alive sector. Dr Grima claimed how the reform VO Plus will be building upon the national strategy for voluntary and will be preparing the sector not only for present challenges but also for the future. He proclaimed that it is his personal mission as well as the government's to collaborate with the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector to continue sustaining the voluntary sector in its services, which is considered an essential element in our society.

In his speech Mr Robert Farrugia, Deputy Chairperson of the Malta Council of the Voluntary Sector, acknowledged how despite we are celebrating the voluntary, a volunteer does not work for payment, not even praise. Sometimes they are not even expecting merit. However Mr Farrugia truly believes that society should be grateful for this contribution, and also treasure their services because otherwise without voluntary work in our society we wouldn't be where we are today.

The President, H.E. Dr. George Vella thanked all voluntary organisations on behalf of the nation for their continuous work during these difficult times since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, continuing to offer their services as they did before or in different ways, and doing their utmost to continue to achieve their goals. President Vella noted that the voluntary sector covers every field, thus helping from both the socio-economic aspect and in terms of the innovative and inclusive development of the country. This is also recognised by the United Nations, which insists that when people are encouraged to offer ideas on how to solve specific issues, the solutions usually offered by the voluntary sector are more feasible and sustainable. For his last remark, the President thanked the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector for once again recognising the efforts made by this sector, as well as all those who have been rewarded for their beneficial work in society.

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TITLU

Premju Nazzjonali Voluntier tas-Sena 2021

Il-Kunsill Malti għas-Settur tal-Volontarjat organizza l-avveniment annwali tiegħu **Il-Premju Nazzjonali tas-Sena 2021**. Din is-sena l- Premju sar taħt il-patroncinju tal -ET il-President George Vella fil preżenza tal- l-Onor. Dr. Clifton Grima, Segretarju Parlamentari għal-Sports, Rikreazzjoni u Għaqdiet Volontarji, Mr. Robert Farrugia, Deputat Chairperson tal -Kunsill Malti għas-Settur tal-Volontarjat, kif ukoll Mr. Jesmond Saliba, Kumissarju għal tal-Organizzazzjonijiet Volontarji. Il-Premju Nazzjonali għal Voluntier kien f' erbgħa kategoriji ta' premijiet li kienu l- Premju Voluntier Żgħażuġ/a, il-Premju Nazzjonali għall-Kumpaniji li jghinu lis-Settur tal-Volontarjat, il-Premju Organizzazzjoni Volontarja u l-Premju Nazzjonali tal-Volontarjat.

L-għan tal -Premjijiet Nazzjonali huwa li jagħtu rikonoxximent għas-servizzi li isiru mill-voluntiera u l-Organizzazzjonijiet Volontarji. Dawn l-atti għandhom jigu rikonoxxuti fi ħdan il-komunità, u jistgħu jinspiraw lill-oħrajn biex jippartecipaw f' kawza nobbli. Mudelli huma cruciali għaż-żgħażuġ u s-soċjetà, għalhekk billi nġarrfu il-kontribuzzjonijiet tagħhom nistaw nuru kemm il-valuri eżemplari lejn għan jgib benefiċji għas-soċjeta' kollha.

Il-Premju Nazzjonali tal-Voluntier huwa mmirat li jagħti lill dak il-voluntier individwu li kkontribwixxa fi kwalunkwe qasam, bħal informazzjoni soċjali, umanitarji, is-saħħa, ekoloġika, kulturali, l-edukazzjoni, sports, eċċ. Il-ħidma volontarja għandu jkollu kontribut pożittiv lejn il-qasam partikolari u għandu idealment iservi bħala ispirazzjoni għal oħrajn. Il-Premju Nazzjonali Voluntier din is-sena mar għas-**Sinjura Angelique Lofaro mill-Nature Trust Malta**.

Il-Premju Organizzazzjoni Volontarja li huwa mogħti lil Organizzazzjoni Volontarja li ilha topera fis-settur li hija kemm innovattiva fis- servizzi tagħha fi ħdan il-komunità kif ukoll fil-mod tagħha ta ' reklutaġġ u ta' appoġġ lill voluntiera , ingħata lil **Mosta Cycling Club**.

Il-Premju Nazzjonali għall-Kumpaniji li jghinu lis-Settur tal-Volontarjat huwa għal kumpaniji jew organizzazzjonijiet li jigu mis-settur privat u taw support, kif ukoll jghinu lill-impjegati tagħhom biex jkunu mal-volontarjat. Il-Premju Nazzjonali għall-Kumpaniji li jghinu lis-Settur tal-Volontarjat huma **EYETECH LTD**.

Il-Premju Voluntier Żgħażuġ/a li huwa mogħti lil Voluntiera bejn l-età ta '16 u 30 sena li għamlu impatt fost iż-żgħażuġ, kien mogħti lis-**Sinjura Ylenia Zammit, voluntiera mas-Soċjeta Maltija tal-Fniek**.

Is-Segretarju Parlamentari Clifton Grima, filwaqt li rringrazzja lil dawk preżenti għall-ħidma tagħhom b'risq is-soċjetà, saħaq li jiem u avvenimenti bħal tal-lum huma xhieda kemm il-volontarjat f'pajjiżna kiber matul is-snin u huwa settur ħaj u dinamiku. Dr Grima fakkar kif ir-riforma VO Plus se tkun qed tibni fuq l-istrategija nazzjonali tal-volontarjat u se tara li tipprepara lis-settur mhux biss għall-isfidi tal-lum iżda għall-isfidi tal-futur. Huwa tenna l-impenn tiegħu personali kif ukoll tal-gvern illi f'kollaborazzjoni sħiħa mal-Kunsill Malti għas-Settur tal-Volontarjat ser inkunu qed ikompli jsostnu lis-settur tal-volontarjat fil-ħidma tiegħu, liema settur huwa meqjus bħala sieħeb essenzjali fis-soċjetà li ngħixu fiha.

Fid-diskors tiegħu Mr Robert Farrugia, Deputat Chairperson tal-MCVS, jistqarr illi filwaqt li illum niċċelebraw lill-voluntiera, ifakkar li l-voluntier ma jaħdimx għall-ħlas, lanqas għat-tiffhir u l-glorja. Kultant lanqas ma jistenna li jkunu jafuhulu. Madanakollhu, Mr Farrugia jemmen illi s- soċjeta għandha tkun grata għal dan il-kontribut, u ngħożżu it-teżor tal-volontarjat għax żgur li mingħajr il-volontarjat is-soċjeta tagħna ma kienetx tkun dak li hi illum.

F'isem il-poplu, il-President ta' Malta George Vella rringrazzja lill-għaqdiet volontarji kollha għall-ħidma kontinwa tagħhom f'dawn iż-żminijiet diffiċli minn kemm ilha li faqqgħet l-imxija tal-Covid-19, billi komplew joffru s-servizzi bħal qabel, jew b'mod differenti, u għamlu minn kollox biex jibqgħu jilħqu l-għanijiet tagħhom. Il-President Vella nnota li s-settur tal-volontarjat huwa mifrux f'kull qasam, u b'hekk ikun ta' għajjnuna kemm mill-aspett soċjoekonomiku kif ukoll fl-iżvilupp innovattiv u inkluziv tal-pajjiż. Dan il-fattur hu rikonoxxut anke min-Nazzjonijiet Uniti, li tinsisti li meta n-nies jiġu inkoraġġuti joffru ideat dwar kif jistgħu jiġu solvuti kwistjonijiet partikulari, is-soluzzjonijiet li ħafna drabi joffri s-settur tal-volontarjat ikunu iktar fattibbli u dejjiema. Fl-aħħar kumment tiegħu, il-President radd ħajr lill-Kunsill Malti għas-Settur tal-Volontarjat li, għal sena oħra, għaraf jagħti r-rikonoxximent tiegħu lil dan is-settur, kif ukoll lil dawk kollha li ġew ippremjati għall-ġid li ħolqu permezz ta' ħidmiethom.

6th December 2021
Daniela Marotta
Communications Officer