

**PRESS RELEASE**

Date 25th May 2020

From Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector

To Times of Malta

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The Malta Council for Voluntary Sector (MCVS) would like to reply and clarify certain facts highlighted in the Times of Malta article written by Mr Jacob Borg entitled: “Construction lobby hoovers up €240,000 in government funds”.

The Council would like to clarify that most funds obtained by Malta Development Association (MDA) were derived through a specific agreement under the Civil Society Fund, which agreement is also signed with five other civil society organizations, namely the General Workers Union (GWU), UHM Voice of the Workers, Forum Unions Maltin, Malta Chamber of SMEs (Former GRTU), and the Malta Employers Association (MEA) who also benefit from such funding.

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.

It must be stressed that all Voluntary Organisations which are enrolled and compliant with the Office of Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations may apply for specific funds which are exclusively dedicated for this Sector. The funding system is transparent as all calls are published on and may be downloaded from the MCVS VO Funding Portal. (<https://vofunding.org.mt>).