

EXECUTIVE REPORT 2020



Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector

Executive Report 2020

The Composition of the Council

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 to be set up of eleven member with four 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 of informing the sector on the change 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 the first six Council members elected directly 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 Kazini tal-Banda who was elected to represent the Arts and Culture Sector; and Mr. Saviour Grech from the Gozo NGO Association who was elected to represent Gozo.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, namely the closure of Parliament, the other Council members to be confirmed by the Minister had to wait until the re-opening of Parliament. 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 Gruppetta from the Malta Red Cross Society representing Foreign and International Organisations.

Following the amendments of the VO Act in 2018 the 5th Council was to be composed of a Chairperson and another ten members. Out of these eleven members one (1) member shall 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 shall 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 Gruppetta	-	Member
Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandalo	-	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.

In the month of July Mr Felix Farrugia resigned from his position as Council members. Mr Jorge Spiteri from Malta Beekeepers' Association was elected as the new representative of the Environment and Animal Welfare Sector on the 24th of October 2020.

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

Members:

Dr. Noel Camilleri
Mr. Robert Farrugia
Mr. Leslie Bonnici

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)

Volunteer Capacity Building and Support Sub-Committee

Members:

Mr. Damian Attard (Chairperson)
Mr. Edward Gruppetta
Mr. Jorge Spiteri
MCVS Volunteer Support Official

Terms of reference:

As part of the MCVS objectives, this Sub-Committee shall support and help in the development of volunteers and voluntary organisations in Malta & Gozo. For this purpose, this shall be done by undertaking, but not only, the following:

- Training, mentoring and capacity building programs to support VO Administrators.
- Volunteer management programs.
- Volunteering and volunteer participation.
- Work to achieve relevant strategy points set in the National Strategy for Volunteering.

Events, Activities and Public Relations Sub-Committee

Members:

Mr. Robert Farrugia (Chairperson)

Ms. Laura Cunningham

Mr. Leslie Bonnici

MCVS Official

Terms of reference:

As part of the MCVS objectives, this Sub-Committee shall support and help in organisation and coordination of MCVS events and activities and the promotion of the same as well as the work undertaken by MCVS. For this purpose, this Sub-Committee shall be responsible for the following:

- Setting up the MCVS and Activities Calendar.
- The National Conference.
- The National Volunteer Award.
- In house TV and Radio Programs.
- Participation of MCVS in TV and Radio programs.
- MCVS Publications.
- Public Relations
- Work to achieve relevant strategy points set in the National Strategy for Volunteering.

Funding Support Sub-Committee

Members:

Dr. Noel Camilleri (Chairperson)

Ms. Gertrude Buttigieg

Ms. Doris Bingley

Mr. Saviour Grech

MCVS Fund Official

Terms of Reference:

As part of the MCVS objectives, this Sub-Committee shall be responsible to oversee the funding provided both by MCVS and other public entities to the voluntary sector. For this purpose, this Sub-Committee shall be responsible for the following:

- Setting up the MCVS Funding Calendar.
- Monitor and evaluate MCVS funding lines.
- Monitor and evaluate funding for VOs by other entities.
- Act as Evaluation Committee where required in internal funding lines.
- Work to achieve relevant strategy points set in the National Strategy for Volunteering.

Consulting Sub-Committee to the Commissioner

Members:

Dr. Noel Camilleri (Chair)

Ms. Doris Bingley

Mr. Leslie Bonnici

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.”*

Administrative Sub-Committee

Members:

Dr. Noel Camilleri (Chairperson MCVS)

Mr. Robert Farrugia (Deputy Chairperson MCVS)

Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandalo (CEO)

Terms of Reference:

This Sub-Committee shall be responsible to oversee and coordinate the work and operation of the MCVS Office. and other public entities to the voluntary sector. For this purpose, this Sub-Committee shall be responsible for the following:

- Monitor and advise on the Financial aspects of MCVS.
- Monitor and advise on the physical properties of MCVS.
- Monitor and advise on the progress of the National Council in relation to the annual work plan.

Committee responsible for the National Volunteer Award

Members:

Fr. Antoine Attard (Chair)

Ms. Doris Bingley

Mr. Leslie Bonnici

Terms of Reference:

Work towards the set 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.

The Work of the Council

The fifth MCVS Council met thirteen times during 2020.

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 Inclusion, Sports and Voluntary Organisations, under whose remit the Council falls, where various items were discussed and where 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

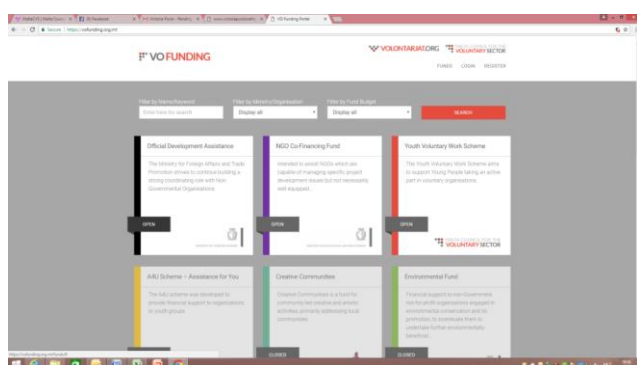
MCVS continued to upgrade its web portals which are the first of which is the www.maltacvs.org which is the main portal of the Council providing the latest information as well as other services in relation to the Voluntary Sector such as the online VO Directory (<https://maltacvs.org/vo-directory/>) and the online booking of the Voluntary Centres (<https://maltacvs.org/resources/volunteer-centres/valletta/>).

The second web portal is the www.vofunding.org.mt which is a one-stop-shop funding portal for VOs bringing together all national funds targeted for VOs as well as other funds managed by local fund operators, providing information, online applications as well as the management

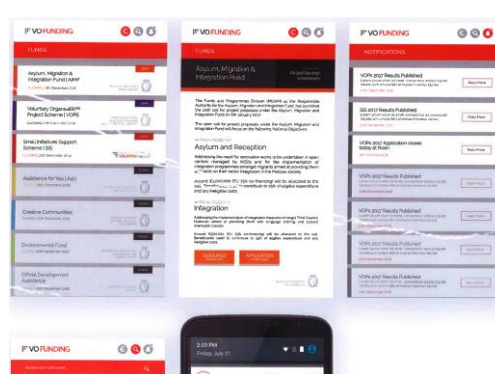
of data regarding funding projects and their beneficiaries. This platform is linked to a Mobile App VO Funding Malta. In fact this portal is at present supporting six other different Ministries/Entities and twenty various funding lines.

In 2020 MCVS launched a third web portal which is the www.volunteers.mt supporting 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, through which volunteers are engaged to support in events and activities organised by voluntary organisations.

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

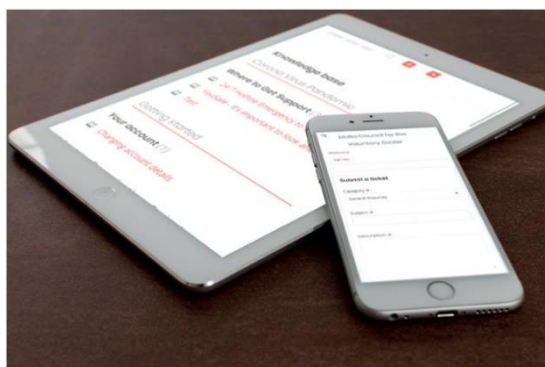


www.vofunding.org.mt



VO Funding Malta – Mobile App

In April MCVS sets up a web-based help desk system (support.maltacvs.org) 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 seven whilst working remotely during these teasing times.



MCVS Help Desk – Mobile App

Voluntary Organisations Emergency Fund

In view of the critical situation arising from COVID-19 and affecting directly the VOs and the services they were providing, in May 2020 MCVS requested financial support to set up two funding support schemes for VOs. The COVID-19 **Voluntary Organisations Emergency Fund (COVID-VOEF)** was launched in May 2020 to assist Voluntary Organisations in emergency situations arising locally as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This fund, amounting to half start with the allocation of €300,000 assisted registered Voluntary Organisations by providing financial aid mainly supporting rent on premises; and supplies related directly to COVID-19 such as, but not only, sanitisation materials and supplies, personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks, visors and disposable gloves, etc. This fund lasted until July 2021.

The Purpose of COVID-19 Voluntary Organisations Emergency Fund (COVID-VOEF):

1. The main purpose of this fund is to assist Voluntary Organisations in emergency situations arising locally as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. This fund is to assist registered and compliant Voluntary Organisations (VO) working in the voluntary sector by providing financial support in case of predicament or exceptional situations.
3. Any other requests which are not considered as arising from emergencies related to the COVID-19 pandemic shall be deemed not eligible for funding support under this Fund.
4. The main objectives of this Fund shall be to:
 1. Support VOs whose operation is related and essential for the the COVID-19 pandemic.
 2. Support VOs which, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, may suffer irreparable damage to their organisation which may result in the closure of the same organisation.
 3. Support VOs which, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, may face difficulties to retain and restart the operation at post pandemic stage.
5. This Fund shall be allocated on a first-come-first-serves basis depending on the availability of funds.
6. The Fund may be incremented should additional funds from other sources be made available.
7. In any case the budget allocations cannot exceed the budget in hand at any point in time.

Guidelines

Guidelines can be accessed through the following link:

<https://maltacvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/COVID-19-Voluntary-Organisations-Emergency-Fund-GUIDELINES-2020-1.pdf>

Application

Application can be accessed on the VO Funding Portal through the following link:

<https://vofunding.org.mt/funds/59>



Press Conference Launch of the Voluntary Organisations Emergency Fund by Dr. Noel Camilleri, Chairperson MCVS; Hon. Clifton Grima, Parliament Secretary Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations; Hon. Edward Scicluna, Minister for Finance and Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandalo, CEO MCVS.

Operational Assistance Scheme for VOs

The second scheme was the Operational Assistance Scheme for VOs utilising a budget of €6,000,000 and was launched in June 2020 operating till September 2021. The purpose of this Scheme was to support VOs in relation to staff costs to a sector that engages over 5,500 of full-time and part-time employees; utility bills; and costs related to services rendered during COVID-19.

Two well attended Information Meetings for the Voluntary Sector in relation to the Operational Assistance Scheme for VOs held at the Excelsior Hotel Floriana and the Corinthia Hotel Attard. Organised by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector 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 Secretariate PSYSVO and Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandalo, CEO MCVS.

Guidelines

Guidelines can be accessed through the following link:

https://maltacvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Operational-Assistance-Scheme-for-VOs-FINAL.MFIN_.pdf

Application

Application can be accessed on the VO Funding Portal through the following link:

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



OAS Information Meeting by Hon. Clifton Grima, Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sports and Voluntary Organisations, Dr. Noel Camilleri, Chairperson MCVS, Mr. Ryan Borg, Head of Secretariate PSYSVO and Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandalo, CEO MCVS.

Small Initiatives Support Scheme (SIS) and Voluntary Organisations Projects Scheme (VOPS) 2020

On Monday 17th February 2020, the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector organised a Grant Award Ceremony for the two main funding schemes; the Voluntary Organisations Project Scheme (VOPs) and the Small Initiatives Support (SIS) Scheme. This ceremony was honoured by the presence of the Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sports, and Volunteering, Hon. Clifton Grima.

During this ceremony 61 voluntary organisations were awarded a total of €800,000 to carry out different projects in the community. From the awardees, there were number of musical societies, sports clubs, associations working in the field of human rights and persons with disability, cultural associations, and organisations working in the field of first aid and in the well-being of society.

The Parliamentary Secretary Hon. Clifton Grima stated that “For the last number of years these initiatives have been supporting community projects carried out by voluntary organisations working in various fields of the sector. These schemes have become part of a number of initiatives that the sector is expecting each year which these schemes help in the execution of projects that organisations would like to implement but without these funds it cannot be fulfilled”.

Both Dr. Grima and the CEO of MCVS Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandolo praised voluntary organisations for the important work that are doing to improve the lives of people.

The ceremony was organised at the Grant Hotel Excelsior, Floriana, 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):

Action 1: <https://maltacvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/VOPS-2020-Action-1-Project-Based-Initiatives-Results.pdf>

Action 2: <https://maltacvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/VOPS-2020-Action-2-Supports-Infrastructural-Projects.pdf>

Action 3: <https://maltacvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/VOPS-2020-Action-3-Support-Research-Projects.pdf>

The Small Initiatives Support (SIS) Scheme:

<https://maltacvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/SIS-2020-Final-Ranking-List.pdf>



The Hon. Dr. Clifton Grima and Mr. Mauro Pace Parasandalo during the Grant Award Ceremony 2020

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 seventy (70) VOs applied and benefited from this fund.

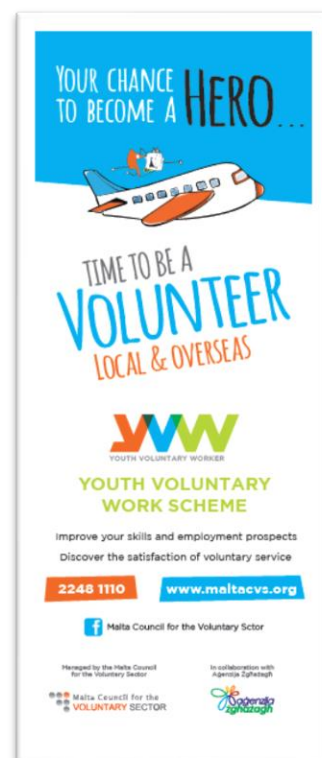
NGO Co-Financing Fund (NCF)

In 2020 MCVS was given the responsibility to manage the **NGO Co-Financing Fund (NCF)** aimed to support the co-financing obligations of Voluntary Organisations (VOs) benefitting from funding from EU institutions, EEA Grants, Norway Grants, Bilateral Agreements (including the Swiss Maltese Cooperation Programme), and the Council of Europe. The purpose of this fund is to ensure that VOs successful in the attainment of funding and are not burdened with the excessive financial implications brought about throughout the awarded project.

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.

Volunteer Centre in Gozo

As part of the commitment to give support and space to voluntary organisations in Malta and Gozo, the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector extended its services to Gozo. The first step was to sign a Memorandum of Understanding in October 2020 with Malta Enterprise to use an office at the Ta' Dbiegi Crafts Village in San Lawrenz Gozo. This office, which was opened twice a week by an MCVS Official, was providing information and support to Gozitan Vos, mainly in relation to funding and VO enrolment. In September made another important step in its our service provision in Gozo by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry for Gozo to take over the management and staff of the Gozo NGO Centre. As a result of this agreement MCVS is now providing information and support five days a week as well as improving the space for VOs to meet and train.



Signing of the MoU by Mr. Pace Parascandalo, CEO MCVS and Mr. Kurt Camilleri, CEO Malta Enterprise in the presence of Minister for Gozo, Hon. Clint Camilleri; Minister for the Economy and Small Enterprise, Hon. Silvio Schembri and Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations, Hon. Clifton Grima.

National Volunteer Award 2020

The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector, led by Chairperson Dr. Noel Camilleri organised the 10th Edition of the National Volunteer Award 2020. This event is organised under the patronage of H.E. the President of the Republic Dr. George Vella and in collaboration with the Parliamentary Secretary for Sports, Recreation and Voluntary Organisations Dr. Clifton Grima. The aim of the National Award is to give wide recognition to services by volunteers and voluntary organizations within the community, to raise awareness of the exemplary values displayed and to find role models for young people and society with more widely, as well as to acknowledge the important contributions made in various fields.

The award ceremony took place on the 5th December 2020 in occasion of the International Volunteers Day at the Chamber of Commerce, Valletta and was presented by Ms Dorianne Mamo with the participation of the Cospicua Scouts Group Pipe Band.

During the award ceremony Dr George Grech, from Dar tal-Providenza, was awarded the National Volunteer Award 2020 for his involvement with the House of Providence for the past 15 years. Dr. Grech provides a free medical service to residents of the Providence Home, and was the mastermind behind the therapeutic pool project at the same Home.

The Youth Volunteer Award went to Martina Livori from Home Away from Home for her involvement in this organisation in support to youth and children. The Volunteer Organisation Award went to Hal Far Outreach Centre for their continuous work in support of migrants. WE Media were awarded recognition as Corporate Company that Supports Voluntary Organisations for their support in the organisation of fund raising events and other initiatives on behalf of the Voluntary Sector.

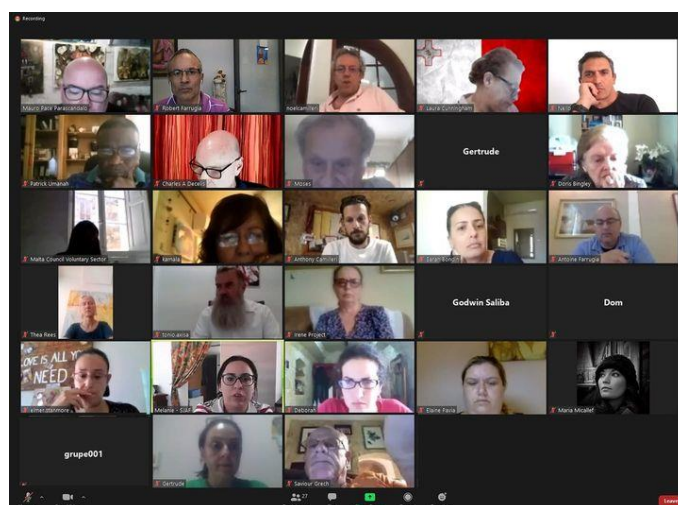
The event, production of MCVS led by Mr Robert Farrugia was aired on TVM 2.



H.E. the President Dr. George Vella presenting Mr Jessmond Saliba obo Dr George Grech the award in the presence of the Hon. Dr. Clifton Grima and Dr. Noel Camilleri.

Media and Communication

In 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 are from the following sectors: Social and Humanitarian, Environmental, Health, Gozitan VO's, Animal Welfare, Education and Youth, Arts and Culture, Disability and Sports. Following the success of these meetings another set of sectoral meetings was held in the month of June.



Social and Humanitarian Sectoral meeting

TV Program – ***'Vitalita'... mal-Volontarjat*** was a series of 26 TV programs produced by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector between July and September 2020. These programs were aired every Monday and Friday at 6.10 p.m. on TVM. The program was produced inhouse by MCVS. In each program two Voluntary Organisations shared with the viewers information and skills which, apart from demonstrating the work of the same VO, were also useful for every day life of viewers.

TV Programs: <https://maltacvs.org/vitalita-mal-volontarjat/>



Filming of the TV program
'Vitalita' ... mal-Volontarjat.

Radio Program - ***Daqqa t'Id... mal-Volontarjat*** was a new radio program, 43 programs in all, produced by MCVS which started on the 1st of October 2020 aired every Thursday at 9.15 p.m. on Radju Malta 1. In every program individuals coming from the voluntary sector were invited to share their personal experience in the voluntary sector and the work undertaken by the voluntary organisation in which they are involved.

Radio Programs: <https://maltacvs.org/daqqa-t-id-mal-volontarjat/>

MCVS has published in 2020 its e-newsletter '**Stay Connected**' in both Maltese and English. The newsletter is circulated with all VO's through the MCVS mass mail system, reaching all 1,800 enrolled VO's, as well as through its social media platforms. All publications may be found on the MCVS website via the following link: <https://maltacvs.org/mcvs-newsletter/>



E-Newsletter – *Stay Connected*

Guidelines for Voluntary Organisations in relation to the COVID-19

Published the Guidelines for Voluntary Organisations in relation to the COVID-19 and the ongoing situation. These guidelines, which were endorsed by the Public Health Authority, were intended to guide VOs during the various phases of the pandemic and in the return of the sector's operation in a safe manner. Online publication: <https://maltacvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Guidelines-for-VOs-re-COVID-19-Settembru-2021.pdf>

Mauro Pace Parascandalo
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
MCVS