



MCVS

REPORT

20 21

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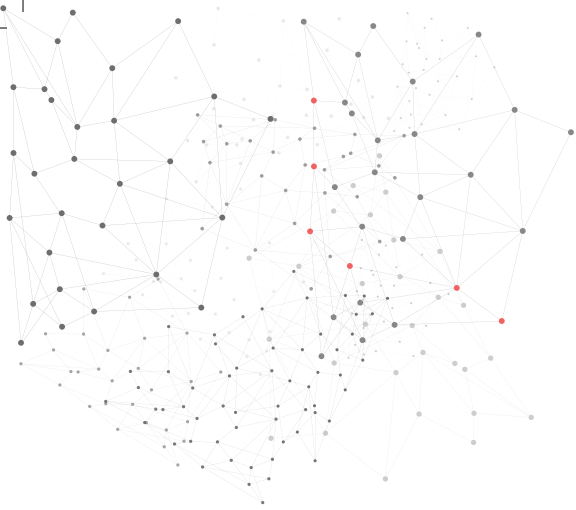


Composition of the Council

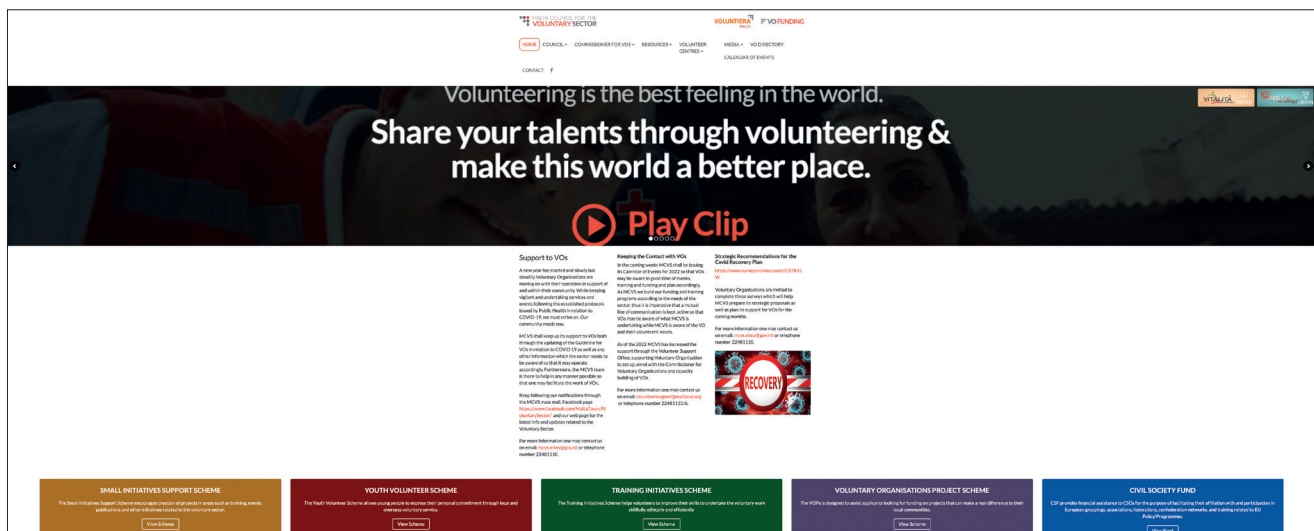
Following the amendments of the VO Act in 2018 the 5th Council was to be composed of a Chairperson and another ten members. Out of these eleven members one (1) member shall be appointed by the Minister to represent the Government; four (4) members shall be appointed by the Minister from among the voluntary sector 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. Robert Farrugia	Member
Mr. Saviour Grech	Member
Mr. Edward Gruppetta	Member
Mr. Mariah Meli	Member (Government rep. from April 2021)
Mr. Jorge Spiteri	Member
Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandalo	Chief Executive Officer



From left to right: Ms Doris Bingley, Mr Robert Farrugia, Dr Noel Camilleri (Chairperson, MSCV), Mr Jesmond Saliba (Commissioner for VOs), Mr Mauro Pace Parascandalo (CEO, MCVS), Mr Edward Gruppettea and Mr Jorge Spiteri.



The main portal for the Malta Council for the Voluntray Sector, www.maltacvs.org

The Work of the Council

The fifth MCVS Council met twelve times during 2021. 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.

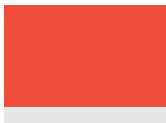
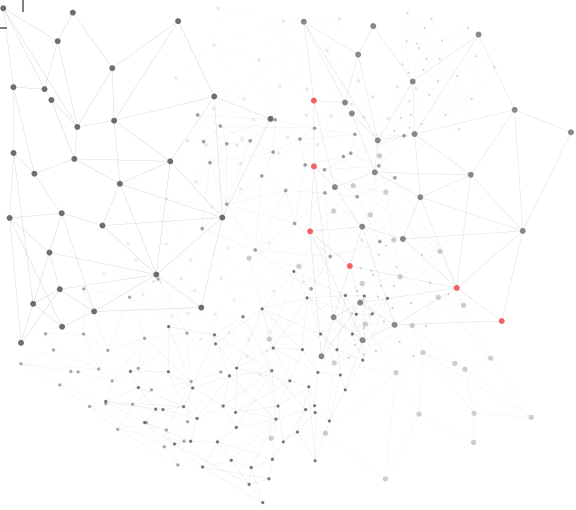
For the Council meeting held on the 5th of October 2021 led by the Chairperson Dr Noel Camilleri, the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector invited the newly appointed Commissioner for VOs, Mr Jesmond Saliba. The meeting was cordial setting the milestones for an ongoing collaboration between both entities in favour of the Voluntary Sector.

Services given by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector

The Council continued to work on the services offered to the sector, building upon, and consolidating those given in the previous two years. The Council gave a continued to keep up to date the three main websites it manages which are the www.maltacvs.org and www.vofunding.org.mt.

The www.maltacvs.org 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 and the online booking of the Voluntary Centres. The second web portal is the www.volunteers.mt which supports 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.

The third 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 different Ministries/Entities and twenty various funding lines.



The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in October 2020 with Malta Enterprise to use an office at the Ta' Dbiegi Crafts Village in San Lawrenz, Gozo.



In September 2021 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry for Gozo (MGOZ) and the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS) for the management of the Gozo NGO Centre in Xewkija, Gozo



The Gozo Volunteer Centre in Xewkija, Gozo.

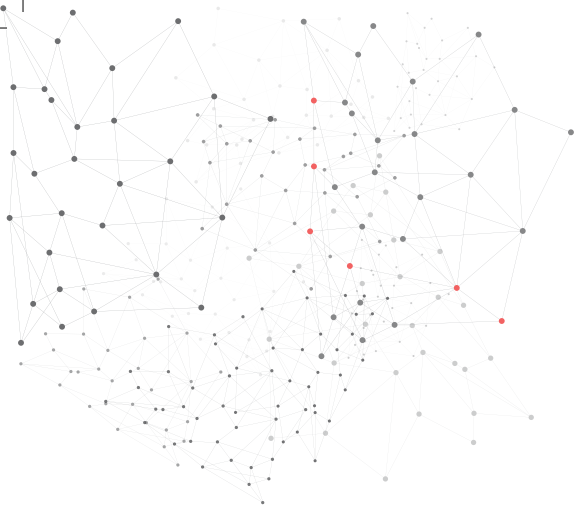
Volunteer Centre in Gozo

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 the signing of 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 MCVS took another important step in extending the services rendered to the island of Gozo. On the 1st of September 2021 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry for Gozo (MGOZ) and the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS) for the management of the Gozo NGO Centre in Xewkija, Gozo. The MoU was signed by Mr. John Borg, Permanent Secretary MGOZ and Dr. Noel Camilleri, Chairperson MCVS in the presence of the Hon. Clint Camilleri, Minister for Gozo and the Hon. Clifton Grima, Parliamentary Secretary for Sports, Recreation and Voluntary Organisations.

This MoU was signed in the spirit that on one hand the Ministry for Gozo is committed to provide support and incentives to Gozo Voluntary Organisations, demonstrating commitment towards their growth, an increase in value added and services within the community; while on the other hand the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector, as representative of Voluntary Organisations in Malta and Gozo, is committed to support the development of a more effective and efficient voluntary and community sector in Malta and Gozo through the delivery of a range of support and capacity building services including information, advice and training.

Through this MoU MGOZ has agreed to allocate to MCVS the management of the premises which shall now form part of the Volunteer Centres branding managed by MCVS. To this effect MCVS shall be giving its services daily to the Volunteers and Voluntary Organisations in Gozo including information and support to enroll with the Commissioner for VOs, information on public funding to VOs and other support as may be required. The Gozo Volunteer Centre shall also offer space to VOs enrolled with the Commissioner for VOs, which space will eventually be extended to availability of use on 24/7 basis.



The office at the Ta' Dbiegi Crafts Village in San Lawrenz, Gozo.



The Volunteer Centre will serve primarily to foster and develop volunteering in the community as well as support small and medium sized voluntary organisation in their operation. In general, it will support four main areas: The promotion of volunteering, capacity building for effective local volunteering, provide leadership on issues relating to volunteerism, support networking between VOs and connect people, and serve as a base from which small and medium voluntary organisations can operate.

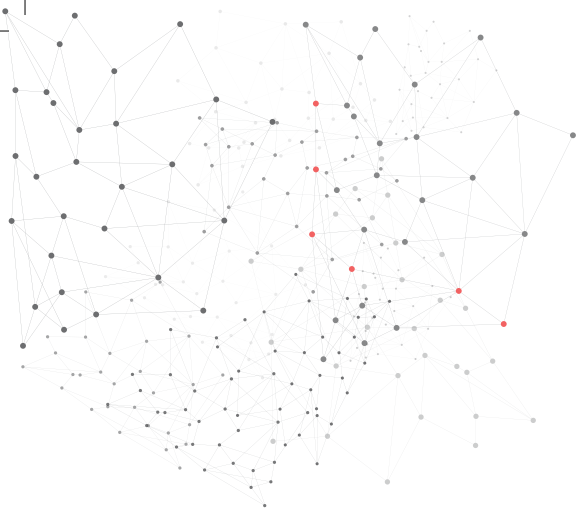
MCVS is confident that, through the collaboration with the Ministry for Gozo, the Voluntary Organisations in Gozo and other stake holders, this Centre may serve to enhance and support the Voluntary Sector in its work within the Community in Gozo and beyond. by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with 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.

Funding Schemes

During 2021 the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector supported over 75 Voluntary Organisations through the Small Initiatives Support Scheme (SIS) and Voluntary Organisations Projects Scheme (VOPS) with a total amount of €800,000. These schemes have in recent years supported community projects carried out by voluntary organisations working in the various fields of the sector.

The Civil Society Fund (CSF) was another fund managed by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector which 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 CSF supports VOs with the total budget of €125,000 annually.

The Youth Volunteer Scheme (YVS) is another initiative intended 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



Launch of the Operational Assistance Scheme extension amounting to €1.1 million at St Jeanne Antide Foundation by Minister for Finance and Employment Mr Clyde Caruana, Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations, Dr Clifton Grima, CEO St Jeanne Antide Foundation, Ms Nora Macelli and Mr Mauro Pace Parascandalo, CEO MCVS.



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



The launching of the Operational Assistance Scheme (OAS) amounting to 3 million euros by the Minister for Finance Hon. Prof. Edward Scicluna, Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations, Hon. Dr Clifton Grima and Dr Noel Camilleri, Chairperson MCVS.

and informal learning process while supporting Voluntary Organisations to attract young people to volunteering. This scheme also supports young people to experience overseas volunteering, increasing the skills of young people through the practical experience of volunteering abroad, learning of another languages, developing the ability to interact with persons of different language and culture and spreading tolerance among young people.

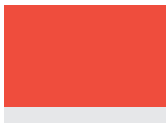
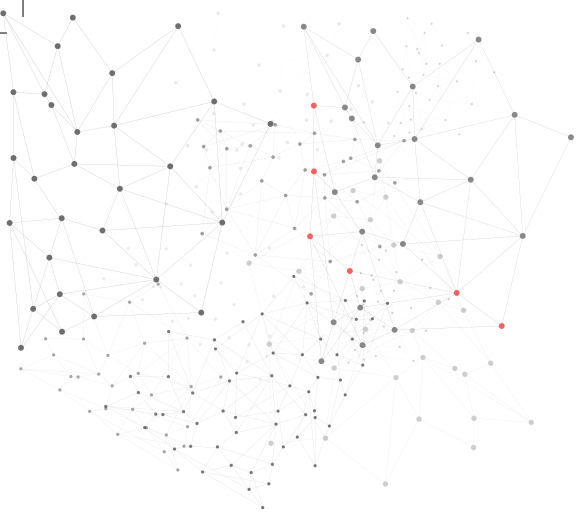
Unfortunately, the mobility of young people, due to the pandemic situation, was negatively impacted.

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.

In view of the critical situation arising from COVID-19 and effecting 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 second scheme was the Operational Assistance Scheme for VOs utilizing 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.



Media and Communication

During 2021 MCVS put online the productions for TV and Radio which were produced during 2020. The 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 under the direction of Robert Farrugia assisted by Glen Chircop and hosted by Lorraine Cunningham. 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 ever day life of viewers.

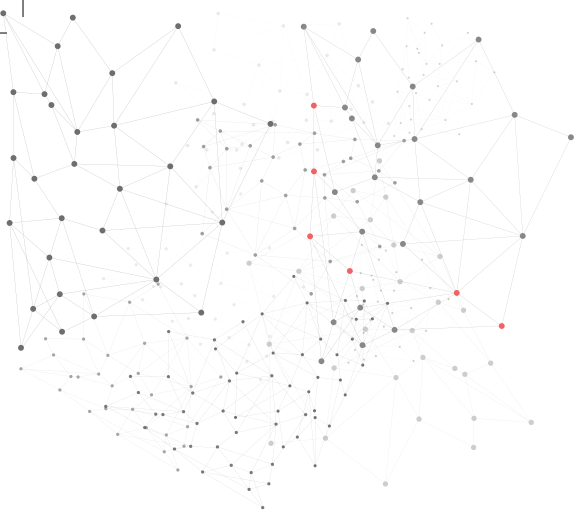
TV Programs: <https://maltacvs.org/vitalita-mal-volontarjat/>

The Radio Program - *Daqqa t'id... mal-Volontarjat* was a new radio program, 43 programs in all, also an MCVS production, was produced and directed by Mauro Pace Parascandalo aired between the 1st of October 2020 every Thursday at 9.15 p.m. on Radju Malta 1 till September 2021. 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/>

A short feature, aired on Monday, 22nd February 2021 during the daily program TVAM hosted by Mario Xuereb discussed the impact of the pandemic on volunteering with the participation of Dr Noel Camilleri (Chairperson) and Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandalo (CEO) on behalf of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector.

From January through March MCVS held 6 sectoral meetings with VOs to discuss ongoing support being provided to VOs during COVID-19, operation of VOs post COVID-19 and Training and capacity support to VOs. In June MCVS held again a series of online meetings to discuss and understand recovery and resilience. The voluntary organisations participating in these meetings came from the following sectors: Social and Humanitarian, Health and



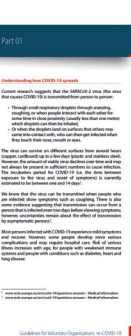
Dr Noel Camilleri (Chairperson) and Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandalo (CEO) on behalf of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector on the programme TVAM.



MCVS supported the Malta Federation of Organisations Persons with Disability (MFOPD) in its round table discussion 'The Voice of Persons with Disability'.



The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector participating in the TVM Programm 'L-Erbgha Fost il-Gimgha', represented by Mr. Robert Farrugia, Deputy Chairperson.



Disability, Arts and Culture, Education, Youth and Sports, Environment and Animal Welfare, and Gozo VOs.

On the 16th of March MCVS supported the Malta Federation of Organisations Persons with Disability (MFOPD) in its round table discussion 'The Voice of Persons with Disability' under the patronage of HE the President of the Republic of Malta, Dr. George Vella.

On the 28th of April the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector participating in the TVM Programm 'L-Erbgħa Fost il-Ġimgħa', represented by Mr. Robert Farrugia, Deputy Chairperson, to discuss the new regulations on Public Collections and Charity Shops. MCVS continued to advocate on behalf of the Voluntary Sector for these regulations to be reviewed to address the needs of the Voluntary Sector and remove the extra administrative burdens while keeping to the principles of transparency and accountability.

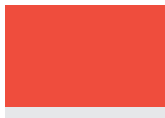
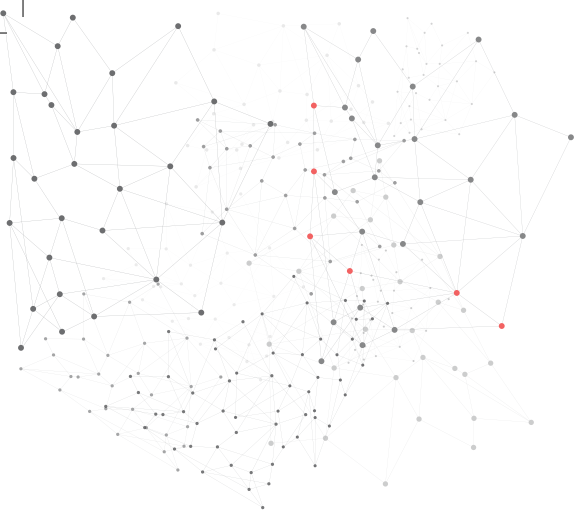
Publications

In view of the reality Voluntary Organisations were facing in relation to the COVID-19 and the ongoing situation, which was affecting the operation, and in some cases, their existence, MCVS published the **Guidelines** for Voluntary Organisations which were endorsed by the Public Health Authority, intended to guide VOs during the various phases of the pandemic and in the return of the sector's operation in a safe manner. This online e-publication was updated regularly to reflect the changing situation and protocols to be adhered to.

Online publication: <https://maltacvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Guidelines-for-VOs-re-COVID-19-Settembru-2021.pdf>

MCVS also continued the publication in 2021 of its e-newsletter '**Stay Connected**' in both Maltese and English. The newsletter was circulated with all VOs through the MCVS mass mail system, reaching all 1,800 enrolled VOs, as well as through the MCVS social media platforms.

All publications may be found on the MCVS website via the following link:
<https://maltacvs.org/mcvs-newsletter/>



National Volunteer Awards 2021

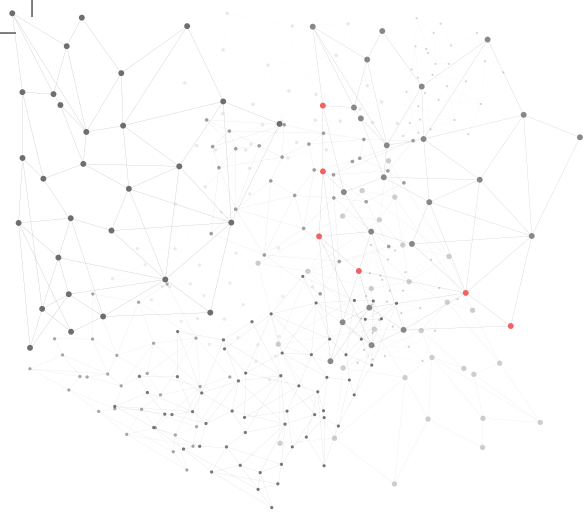
In spite of the pandemic situation The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector held its annual event The **National Volunteer Award 2021**. This year the Award was held under the patronage of H.E. President George Vella, in the presence of the Hon. Dr Clifton Grima, Parliamentary Secretary for Sport, 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**.



The Hon. Dr Clifton Grima, Parliamentary Secretary for Sports, Recreation and Voluntary Organisations receiving the report which was presented by Dr Noel Camilleri, Chairperson and Mr Robert Farrugia, Deputy Chairperson MCVS.

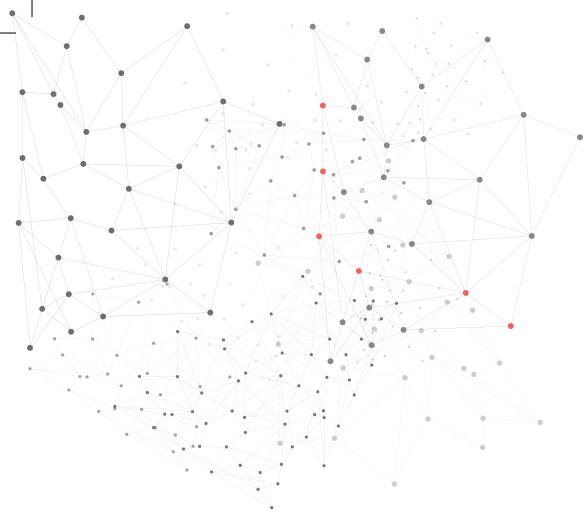
Public Collections and Charity Shops Regulations

Following issues arising from lack of consultation with the Voluntary Sector and a negative reaction from the same Sector Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector took the initiative to undertake such consultation with VOs. This consultation process was well appreciated by the sector which actively participated and gave its feedback which was compiled into a comprehensive report later presented by MCVS to the Hon. Clifton Grima, Parliamentary Secretary for Sports, Recreation and Voluntary Organisations the Report with recommendations related to the Public Collections Act and the Charity Shops Regulations. This report, which was presented by Dr Noel Camilleri, Chairperson MCVS, Mr. Robert Farrugia, Deputy Chairperson MCVS and Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandalo, CEO MCVS, brought together the positions collated from the feedback given to MCVS by the Sector itself as well as its own detailed analysis. During the meeting Dr Noel Camilleri stated that while the Council emphasizes transparency, good governance, and accountability amongst the Sector, one should not put on the Sector burdens which may hinder its voluntary operation. On receiving this document, the Hon. Grima declared his commitment as always towards supporting the Sector and declared that he shall be reviewing the Sector's recommendations and meeting again with the Council to discuss the way forward for the benefit of the same Sector. The report may be viewed in the following link: <https://maltacvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/MCVS-Report-on-Public-Collections-and-Charity-Shops-Regulations-Final-Draft-with-recommendations-4.pdf>

These recommendations were well received and eventually approved by Government and adopted, with both regulations being amended accordingly. This was also possible with the support of the newly appointed Commissioner for VOs Mr Jesmond Saliba, where the previous Legal Notices had been repealed and the newly amended Legal Notices will come into force on Friday 7th January 2022.

Centre for European Volunteering (CEV) Congress – Berlin

A delegation from the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector led by Dr Noel Camilleri, Chairperson, Mr Robert Farrugia, Deputy Chairperson and Mr



Mauro Pace Parascandolo, CEO accompanied by the Executive Secretary of the Birgu Local Council, participated in the Centre for European Volunteering (CEV) Congress, held in Berlin, Germany between the 13th and 14th of September 2021. On the agenda of this meeting was the closing of the EV Capital study visits, reflect, discuss and exchange what the different municipalities do in relation to volunteering.

An integral part of this congress was the election of six new members on the CEV Board and it is with pleasure that the Maltese nominee, Mr. Robert Farrugia, was elected to serve on the board for the next four years. Mr Farrugia has been serving on MCVS since 2008 and has been involved in CEV in an observer status on CEV since 2010 and as full member status since 2019.

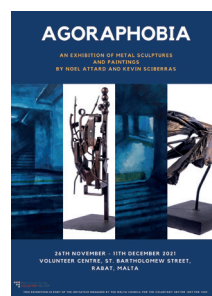
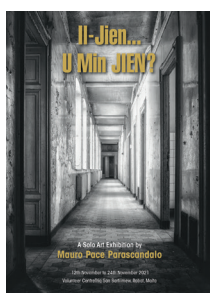
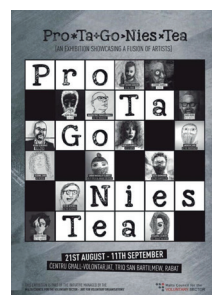
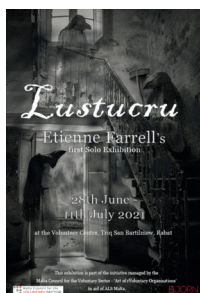
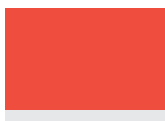
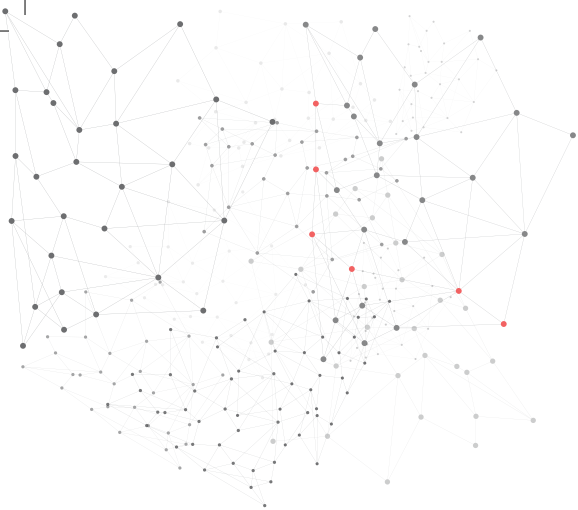
During the same congress there were also the presentations of the four applicants to host the European Capital for Volunteering 2023 namely Asti – Italy, Trondheim – Norway, Oeiras – Portugal and Birgu – Malta, with Norway ending up as the successful bid.

On the 26th July the Birgu European #Volunteering Capital 2023 Candidate certificate was received on behalf of Kunsill Lokali Birgu by Ambassadors Marlene Bonnici and Kathiana Bonello Ghio at the Permanent Representation of Malta to the EU.

Art for VOs

The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS) in June 2021 launched an initiative to assist Voluntary Organizations in an awareness-raising initiative on the organization as well as fundraising. For this purpose, Voluntary Organizations invited artists and photographers to exhibit their works in one of the Volunteer Centers in Valletta or Rabat, Malta. The commission of the artist or photographer goes to the same Voluntary Organizations.

The first art exhibition in this series was that undertaken by Etienne Farrell entitles 'Lustucru', an exhibition of mixed media and photography which was open between the 28th June 2021 and the 11th July 2021 held at the Volunteer Center in Rabat with proceeds going to ALS Malta. The second art exhibition was 'ProTaGoNiesTea', an art collective which saw the participation of



fourteen artists, varying in style and media from sculptures and paintings, poetry and photography. “ProTaGoNiesTea” was held at the Volunteer Center in Rabat, Malta between the 21st August 2021 and the 11th September 2021 with the participation of the following artists, poets and photographers that participated with their work were Fabio Borg, Rosanna Ciliberti, Keith Darmanin, Kay Darmanin Farrell, Etienne Farrell, Mark Mallia, Mauro Pace Parascandalo, Rebecca Ranieri, Clint Scerri Harkins, Kevin Sciberras, Peter Seychell, Sarah Vassallo Ciliberti, Andrew Zarb and Salvina Zarb. As a result of this initiative, the sum of €850 was donated to the Richmond Foundation.

The third exhibition of this series held in Rabat was the solo exhibition by Mauro Pace Parascandalo ‘Il-Jien... u l-Min Jien?’, an exhibition comprising of paintings, sculptures and reliefs. The exhibition held between the 12th and 24th November 2021 was officially opened by the Hon. Minister for Wellbeing and Social Inclusion, Julia Farrugia Portelli and was in aid of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Malta.

The last exhibition for this year as part of this series was ‘Agoraphobia’ which was open between the 26th November 2021 and the 11th December 2021 with works by artists Noel Attard and Kevin Sciberras with proceeds going to Puttinu Cares Foundation.

Participation in Freshers’ Weeks

In 2021 MCVS participated in the Freshers’ Weeks organised by the various tertiary education institutions, a participation that was very successful with a record number of visitors on the MCVS stands. Not only did students and lecturers visit the stand to learn more about MCVS work, programmes, and funding support available but also encouraged hundreds to join in the Voluntiera Malta scheme.



Annex 1 - The Council Sub-Committees and Boards

VO Fund Board of Administrators

Members:

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

Volunteer Capacity Building and Support Sub-Committee

Members:

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

Events, Activities and Public Relations Sub-Committee

Members:

Mr. Robert Farrugia (Chairperson)
Ms. Laura Cunningham
Mr. Leslie Bonnici
MCVS Official

Funding Support Sub-Committee

Members:

Dr. Noel Camilleri (Chairperson)
Ms. Gertrude Buttigieg
Ms. Doris Bingley
Mr. Saviour Grech
MCVS Fund Official

Consulting Sub-Committee to the Commissioner

Members:

Dr. Noel Camilleri (Chairperson)
Ms. Doris Bingley
Mr. Leslie Bonnici

Administrative Sub-Committee

Members:

Dr. Noel Camilleri (Chairperson MCVS)
Mr. Robert Farrugia (Deputy Chairperson MCVS)
Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandalo (CEO)

Committee responsible for the National Volunteer Award

Members:

Fr. Antoine Farrugia (Chairperson)
Ms. Doris Bingley
Mr. Leslie Bonnici