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NEWS ALERT

News and information issued weekly on events, training and funding managed directly by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector for Voluntary Organizations and Volunteers.



Small Initiatives
Support Scheme **2023**

Information Meetings

@ the
Valletta Volunteer Centre



For more information contact SIS Fund Officer on 22481118 or email: martina.livori@gov.mt

Upcoming Events

Small Initiatives Support Scheme (SIS) 2023

In view of the launch of the funding applications for SIS on the 27th May 2022 and as part of our support in relation to Funding managed by MCVS, we shall be holding two information meetings.

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The meetings shall be as follows: Meeting 1 (Language - English) on Saturday 11th June at 10am, and Meeting 2

(Language - Maltese): on Tuesday 14th June at 6pm. Both meeting shall be held at the Valletta Volunteer Centre.

Interested participants are to fill in the below forms:

- Saturday 11th June at 10am -
<https://forms.gle/ESks8qpQDppG8D1E6>
- Tuesday 14th June at 6pm -
<https://forms.gle/bjGBp6oxQRLSh9Rb8>

Bank Charges on VO Accounts

For the past two years the Voluntary Sector has been experiencing difficulties and opening and managing bank accounts which are vital for their ongoing operation. For Voluntary Organisations bank accounts are vital in many ways since for transparency's sake the organisations should not operate on cash basis but through the banking system so that there is an audit rail and accountability of funds received and they way they are spent. Without such accounts Voluntary Organisations may not receive funding both from local entities as well as EU institutions, thus putting them in a position of potentially losing out on much needed funding.

The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS) has been for months communicating with local banks to insist that they address this situation. In two particular instances a monthly administration fee of €10 is being debited to accounts held by Voluntary Organisations. On the 12th May 2022 MCVS officially wrote to the Bank of Valletta p.l.c. Management complaining on behalf of the Voluntary Sector that although in the bank's 'Tariff of Charges' document it is stated that for "Non-Personal Account Maintenance Fee applies for Non Personal customers who have a Current, Call or Savings accounts. (but) Does not apply to Voluntary Organisations" this fee is still being deducted monthly from the VOs' bank accounts.

Bank of Valletta replied on the 27th May 2022 stating that they "confirm the stance to waive the fees to VOs". The Bank stated

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records, which is somehow ironic when VOs are required to proof that they are an enrolled VO with the Commissioner for VOs for such Bank to open a bank account. Still we believe that this is a move in the right direction and we are pleased that the Bank shall act on this.

For this reason, we are urging Voluntary Organisations who have accounts open with the Bank of Valletta and are being debited the monthly administration fee to present a copy of the Certificate of Enrolment with the Commissioner for VOs to the BoV Branch so that such fee is waived.

MCVS, together with the Commissioner for VOs shall keep monitoring the issue closely and ask VOs to keep MCVS informed on the matter so we may continue to be of assistance to the Sector.

MCVS Supporting VOs in Gozo

For the past years the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector has been supporting VOs based in Gozo in the best possible way, from organising information meetings, training and open days in Gozo to making both applications and meetings one-to-one possible online.

In the past year MCVS has signed the first Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry for Gozo for the management of the Xewkija Volunteer Centre. The scope of this MoU is to see an improvement in the facilities offered, accessibility and booking and other services.

At present the Volunteer Centre has one Board Room, taking up to six/eight persons and one meeting/training Hall taking approximately thirty persons. Both these rooms are provided with appropriate monitors with HDMI connection. Just like the other Volunteer Centres in operation in Malta we have set up an online booking system where either the board room or the hall are to be pre-booked so that there is not clash in use. The

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booking of the meeting/training rooms can be carried out online via the following booking calendar:

<https://maltacvs.org/resources/volunteer-centres/xewkija-gozo/> MCVS administration shall confirm the booking via email. Bookings are to be undertaken at least 24 hours prior to requested slot. The Centre is available for meetings between Monday to Friday from 08.00 to 20.00 (last booking 18.30); and on Saturdays from 08.00 to 12.00 (last booking 11.00). Sundays are not available for booking.

Another service which has started as from June 2022 is the delivery of documentation from VOs based in Gozo to both the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector and the Commissioner for VOs where these need not be presented by hand. With immediate effect MCVS is organising a 'courier' service from the Xewkija Volunteer Centre to MCVS every second and fourth Friday of the month. Voluntary Organisation who need to have documents delivered shall take the documents to the Centre by Thursday the day before and leave them with one of the three officials working at the Centre.

We look forward to increasing our services in support of the VOs in Gozo and would welcome suggestions on how to service you better.



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