



**Final Report**  
**January 2007- December 2007**

MRC is an integral part of



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## INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

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Malta Resource Centre (MRC) [www.mrc.org.mt](http://www.mrc.org.mt) is an integral part of SOS Malta. The aim of MRC is capacity building of civil society NGOs to become more effective and efficient and better equipped to operate and participate within the European Union, specifically to influence policies and plans and access EU funds. This is done through: setting up of networks, provision of training and consultation, research, projects development, providing technical assistance.

The purpose of this report is to provide the main stakeholders with an update on the work carried out from January 2007 to December 2007.

2007 was eventful, marking the initiation and implementation of various projects which had been designed in 2006. These included capacity building events for NGOs focusing on EU Structural funds and the Volservnet project. The latter included the Volserv – voluntary health services in hospital and the community, the Malta Health Network and capacity building of health NGOs. The first six months of 2007 also included the design of new projects including social economy awareness through the European Social Fund (an application has been submitted); and, a research project on volunteerism through an EU funding project (FP7). Unfortunately neither of the two project proposals were approved for EU funding due to the competitive calls under which they were submitted. However, both experiences served as valid networking opportunities with local and foreign stakeholders in the described fields.

Throughout 2007, MRC continued to provide administrative back up to the running of the European Anti Poverty Network Malta, the newly set up National Federation of NGOs of Malta as well as to the new Malta Health Network of non-governmental and not for profit organisations. It also provided administrative back-up to a new NGO called TSN Malta (the first migrant-based NGO in Malta)

Other work included:

- the application for SOS Malta to become a member of CEDAG; CEV; and Eurocarers.
- the organisation of an EAPN Europe Training in Malta;
- the organisation of focus groups for EAPN Malta as well as a People in Poverty conference focused on the theme of employment and social inclusion;
- project management consultancy to an EU funded project (EU citizenship on wheels);
- advice on EU funding.

MRC is an integral part of SOS Malta ([www.sosmalta.org](http://www.sosmalta.org)) – the latter being the mother NGO and the recognised legal entity. MRC therefore remains dependent

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regarding all legal matters, assets, financial management and employment of staff members.

## A. PROJECTS

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### A1. Training and Technical Assistance Programme on Structural Funds for NGOs 2007

With the onset of the new Cohesion Policy for 2007-2013, one of the key areas which NGOs and Civil Society Organisations required capacity-building and training in was that of EU Structural Funds. This was also recognised in the Operational Programme II Cohesion Policy 2007-2013 'Empowering People for More Jobs and A Better Quality of Life' which was issued in June 2007.<sup>1</sup>

The aim of the project which was implemented in 2007 by the Malta Resource Centre was to provide a training and technical assistance programme on EU Structural Funds, and particularly the access and management of projects financed by the European Social Fund.

The project, entitled '**A Structural Funds Training and Technical Assistance Programme for NGOs and for civil society organisations – 2007**' is still ongoing and shall be terminated in 2008. It is being part-financed by the European Union: European Social Fund Co-financing rate 75%. It should also be noted that 25% of the costs incurred in 2007 were covered by the Civil Society Fund (Forum Malta FI-Ewropa)

#### A1.1 Information Seminar

The Malta Resource Centre organised a half-day information seminar on the 26th of June at the Mediterranean Conference Centre Valletta.

The said seminar provided an opportunity for civil society organisations to acquire increased insight into the type of projects eligible under the new Operational Programme II – *Empowering People for More Jobs and a Better Quality of Life*, as well as the areas in which NGOs and similar organisations can participate.

It also provided space for discussion about the role of NGOs, civil society and local councils in the management of structural funds, with insightful presentations and interventions made by Mr. Mark Sultana from Razzett tal-Hbiberija, Fr. Edgar Busuttil from Paolo Freire Institute, Mr. Michael Parnis from the General Workers Union, and Mr. David Apap, Mayor of Gharb Local Council. Furthermore, discussion on co-financing solutions for structural funds projects also featured, with Dr. Kenneth Grech, Chairperson of the

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to pages 68 and 74 of OP II.

Non-Governmental Project Selection Committee, making an intervention about the Support to Voluntary Organisation Fund and the possibility of ensuing initiatives.

The seminar was open to representatives and members of staff of NGOs, civil society organisations, trade unions and local councils. It was advertised in the newspapers as well as publicised via e-mail shots to NGOs, CSOs and Local Councils. Approximately 75 persons attended the event.



## A1.2 Workshops

### A1.2.1 Application and Selection Process

Following the seminar, an application and selection process took place in view of the participants for the foreseen workshops. The number of participant places for the training workshops was limited to 25 so as to ensure effective interactivity and networking among the beneficiaries of the training and between the same beneficiaries and the trainers during the workshops.

Adverts were issued in the newspapers, as well as invitation notices to apply were sent by e-mail to Maltese NGOs, local councils and civil society organisations.

The selection of organisations who could participate in the training workshops was done on the basis of application forms which interested organisations submitted. The eligibility criteria for organisations to participate in the workshops were pre-determined within the Letter of Offer and its Annexes provided and approved by the Managing Authority.

A total of 22 organisations were originally identified as being eligible to have representatives attending a series of intensive training workshops. These organisations were: the Association of Surgeons of Malta, the Association of Speech Language Therapists, Birdlife Malta, Cana Movement, Eden Foundation, Federation of Industries, Fondazzjoni Sir Temi Zammit, General Workers' Union, Gharb Local Council, Institute of Hospitality-Malta, Kamra tal-Periti, Kinemastik, Malta Hospice Movement, Nadur Local Council, Paolo Freire Institute, Richmond Foundation, Scouts Association of Malta,

Soroptimist International of Malta, SOS Malta, St. Joseph's Home St. Venera, YMCA Valletta, and YWCA Malta.



Eventually, during the course of the programme, four organisations (FOI, Nadur Local Council, the Association of Surgeons of Malta and Kinemastik) backed out of the programme due to other commitments and limited human resources to commit a member of staff to attend the remaining workshops. For this reason, a second call for applications was issued at the beginning of September 2007. Four other NGOs and CSOs applied and were approved to join the training programme as of the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2007. These organisations were Caritas Malta, Local Councils Association, Midwives Association, and Flimkien Ghal Ambjent Ahjar.

#### **A1.2.2 The Workshops and Course-Outline**

The Malta Resource Centre successfully carried out the projected intensive training and technical assistance programme during the months of August, September and October 2007. This course comprised of a total of fifty (50) training hours.

The training programme was the first of its kind in Malta since its aim was that of specifically training civil society and non governmental organisations (NGOs) to plan, access and manage or partner to EU Structural Fund projects.

The training workshops kicked off on the 27<sup>th</sup> of August 2007 and were held on a weekly basis until the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October.

##### **27<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> August 2007 *Workshop I (two days)***

Developing a project idea;  
Identifying partners;  
Developing a budget – identifying all the eligible and non eligible costs, estimations;  
Writing the application  
Co-funding regulations;  
Developing co-funding solutions;  
Sustainability of projects

##### **3<sup>rd</sup> September 2007 *Workshop II (one day)***

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Financial management regulations	
10 <sup>th</sup> September 2007	<b>Workshop III (one day)</b> Using the Procurement Act as a Guide; Recruitment/subcontracting of staff for projects
24 <sup>th</sup> September 2007	<b>Workshop IV (one day)</b> Using the Manual of Procedures
1 <sup>st</sup> October 2007	<b>Workshop V (one day)</b> Managing a project – project cycle management
8 <sup>th</sup> October 2007	<b>Workshop VII (one day)</b> Record keeping for audits; Financial management – (good practices)
15 <sup>th</sup> October 2007	<b>Workshop VIII (one day)</b> ESF & Trans-nationality ESF Case Studies
22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2007	<b>Workshop IX (one day)</b> Other Structural Funds (apart from ESF) and schemes of interest to Civil Society Organisations

The eight workshops covered various aspects of project application and management under Structural Funds (particularly the European Social Fund) and were geared towards providing the participants with the required tools and skills to see through successful projects between 2007 and 2013.

Pricewaterhouse Coopers provided the majority of the training, while guest speakers and officials from Contracts Department, the Foundation of Social Welfare Services, Malta Enterprise, the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality, Razzett tal-Hbiberija, Malta Environment and Planning Authority, Employment and Training Corporation, Ministry of Tourism and Culture and from the Planning and Priorities Division at the Office of the Prime Minister also delivered specific presentations.

The course also included presentations of a few best practices and experiences in Structural Funds projects carried out in three different Member States: UK, Spain and Hungary. These presentations were delivered by Mr. Ray Phillips, Director of the London Voluntary Sector Training Consortium, Ms. Vanesa Cenjor Del Rey from Fundacion Luis Vives and Mr. Tibor Peres from Autonomia (The Hungarian Foundation for Self Reliance), respectively.





Nineteen (19) organisations successfully completed the training course (based on regular attendance) and were presented with a certificate of participation at the end of the course.

Further information about the above may be accessed online:  
[www.mrc.org.mt](http://www.mrc.org.mt)

### **A1.3 Partnership Facilitation**

Unfortunately, calls for proposals for ESF were not yet issued by PPCD in the latter half of 2007 (*ie* following the end of the training programme). It was therefore difficult for MRC to follow up on participants' resort to apply and submit project proposals. Nevertheless, the Malta Resource Centre sought to encourage the participants of the training programme to brainstorm together on potential project concepts which they could submit in 2008. The idea was to encourage them to develop project concepts as well as explore the possibility of partnerships with other participating organisations or with foreign counterparts.

To such extent, the Malta Resource Centre developed a Compendium of Project Concepts – the latter all being put forth and discussed by the participants during the last couple of workshops. The Compendium of Project Concepts was developed on the basis of Partnership Facilitation forms which each participating organisation completed and submitted.

### **A1.4 Manual of Recommendations for Project and Future Training**

The remaining task to be carried out within the context of the project approved by the Managing Authority<sup>2</sup> is the development of a Manual of Recommendations for Project and Future Training. This task shall be carried out in the beginning of 2008.

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<sup>2</sup> Refer to Annex X to this report which includes the Letter of Offer & Annexes issued by the Managing Authority

## A2. Capacity Building and Training for NGO's in the Health Sector

The Malta Resource Centre organized a capacity building training session for health NGOs on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2007. The said training session was entitled '*Understanding the development of Health Directives and National Action Plans*'

### A2.1 Preparation carried out by MRC for the Capacity Building Training

**A2.1.1** Meetings with Dr. Miriam Dalmas and Dr Natasha Muscat Azzopardi regarding most imminent and emerging needs regarding the Health National Action Plan and Health EU related directives, green papers etc were held in August.

**A2.1.2** Communication with European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) and European Patients Forum (EPF) with regards to a speaker for the seminar in November. MRC invited an expert affiliated to EPHA in order to talk about the role of NGOs with regards to National Action Plans as well as the tools they should use in order to be influential.

### A2.2 Programme

Capacity Building and Training for NGO's in the Health Sector	
'Understanding the development of Health Directives and Health National Action Plans (Health NAPs)'	
Time:	9.00am – 1.00pm
08:45	Registration
09:00	Opening
09:05	Objectives of Training
09:10	<b>Discussion 1 Presentation:</b> The role of local health NGOs in influencing European health policy and legislation. Dr. Natasha. Azzopardi Muscat
	Questions and recommendations from the floor
10:10	<b>Discussion 2 Presentation:</b> The role of NGOs in relation to NAPs <b>Presentation:</b> Dr. Miriam Dalmas
	Questions and recommendations from the floor
11:15	Coffee and Sandwich Break
11.45	<b>Discussion 3 Presentation:</b> The role of NGOs vis-à-vis lobbying in order to influence NAPs <b>Presentation:</b> Guest Speaker from the <b>European Public Health Alliance</b>
	Questions and recommendations from the floor
13:00	End

### A3. Volserv



#### A3.1 Campaigning

**MRC managed the Volserv Campaign which took place between April and May 2007. This Campaign included:**

- Meetings with designers re creation of logo
- Attended numerous TV and Radio programmes
- Publications

The Malta Resource Centre also managed the Volserv Campaign which took place between August and September 2007. The main target groups included:

1. Parishes of: Floriana, Attard and St. Julian's
2. Local Councils of Qormi, Floriana, Attard and St. Julian's
3. Students

Activities during August and September 2007 included:

- Announcements at Sunday mass
- Distribution of leaflets to the parishes
- Poster on notice boards for one month
- Distribution of posters and application forms at parishes and local councils
- Volserv banner at the parishes
- Interview with 3 volunteers on the Sunday Circle Magazine
- Set-up a Volserv stand at the University of Malta post Fresher's Week
- Distributed leaflets to Student Organizations on Campus
- Interview with 3 volunteers on the Sunday Circle Magazine
- Set-up a Volserv stand at the University of Malta post Fresher's Week
- Distributed leaflets to Student Organizations on Campus

#### A3.2 Interviewing and Assessment of Volunteers

MRC carried out the interviewing and assessment tasks related to the Volserv volunteer recruitment task. The interviewing board examined the volunteers on the criteria of aptitude and adaptability for volunteering. The applicants were in the age groups of 17 to 35, 36 to 60 and over 60 years.

### A3.3 Training

Malta Resource Centre coordinated the training for the volunteers who were recruited for Volserv. All volunteers underwent a basic course which included the following areas:

- The scope of volunteering;
- the Maltese Healthcare System;
- Communication skills;
- Basic hygiene,
- Volserv policy,
- Code of conduct.

<b>Session</b>	<b>Components</b>	<b>Speakers</b>
<b>Introduction to Volunteering in Health Care</b>	1. Introduction Volunteering	to Ms. Claudia Taylor East
	2. Introduction to Health Care in Malta	Ms. Marika Podda Connor
	3. Volserv Policy	Mr. Richard Cassar Ms. Moira Ghrixti Ms. Sabina Drago
<b>Communication Skills</b>	1. Key skills for good communication 2. Basic Empathy 3. Dealing with Difficult People	Ms. Audra Micallef Ms. Nicola Critien
<b>Session Basic Hygiene</b>	<b>Components</b> 1. Hand Hygiene 2. Vaccination 3. Transmission Based Precautions 4. Waste Disposal System at the New Hospital	<b>Speakers</b> Mr. Noel Abela
<b>Outpatients Training</b>	Mater Dei including: 1. Description of services of Outpatient clinics 2. Questions	Ms. Sabina Drago Mr. Richard Cassar
<b>Health Centre Training</b>	1. The individual 2. Primary Health Care Department: Aims, Definition 3. The Structure of PHCD – an overview 4. The Health Centre 5. Brief description of each Service given 6. The Privacy Policy of PHCD 7. Questions	Ms. Mary Borg

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### A3.4 Placements

Total number of volunteers applied	236
Total number of Volunteers interviewed:	181
Total number of Volunteers trained:	161
Total number of volunteers trained for other organizations volunteering in hospital*	16
Total number of Volunteers assisting on administration of project at MRC:	2
Total number of volunteers placed through Volserv including	140
Total number of volunteers deemed unsuitable to volunteer in the hospital	4
Volunteers unable to commence placement due to Invalidity Pension	3
Hospital	
Total number of Volunteers placed for clerical work:	6
Total number of volunteers who helped during migration	60
Total number of volunteers who dropped out <b>prior to</b> commencement of service	80
Total number of volunteers who dropped out <b>after</b> <b>commencement of service</b>	1

\* The organizations whose volunteers Volserv trained include: Daniel Delicata Memorial Foundation; Association of Breast Feeding Counsellors; Action for Breast Cancer Foundation; John XXIII Peace Lab; Breast Care Support Group

### A3.5 Organisation of Recognition Activities 2007

MRC organized the certificate-giving ceremony which was held in December at Mater Dei hospital for VolServ volunteers. 145 volunteers received their certificates for the training course that they attended throughout the year. A reception for all followed, which materialized thanks to the sponsorship by Lombard Bank plc.

**Please note that the VolServ activities are recorded and updated on the MRC website <http://mrc.org.mt/page.asp?p=7122&l=1>**

### A3.6 Replacement Cost Valuation

The following table is a calculation of the financial resources saved through the services offered by the volunteers during the period July and December 2007. This calculation is based on the assumption of the national minimum wage for 2007, (138.901 Euros (LM 59.63) weekly), and the minimum average number of volunteers in the hospital per day, (circa 22 volunteers each offering 3 hours per day)

<b>Time unit</b>	<b>Financial Amount Saved</b>
Per day	231 Euros( Lm99 )*
Per week	1,384 Euros (Lm594 )
Per month	5,535 Euros (Lm2,376 )
<b>July -December 07</b>	<b>33,208 Euros (Lm 14,256 )</b>

**\* Calculated on the basis of 3.49 Euros (Lm1.50) per hour x 3 hrs x 22 volunteers each day**

It should be noted that the valuation of 33,208 Euros (Lm 14,256) for the voluntary work carried out through Volserv in 2007 is approximately three times as much as the Ministry of Health, the Elderly and Community Care actually invested in the Volserv project for the same year.

#### **A4. Project management consultancy for EU funded projects**

##### **A4.1 Tal-linja Project**

MRC in partnership with Impetus Europe Consulting Group Ltd is provided project management consultancy to an EU project lead by OASI Foundation in partnership with Integra Foundation, Richmond Foundation and Jesuit Refugee Services.

The project called *Tal-Linja* provided an opportunity for EU citizenship values to be addressed and promoted via a combination of education, youth involvement, cultural elements, and open dialogue. It does this in Malta, as one of the new EU Member States. It focused on the EU citizenship values of human dignity, equality, solidarity and pluralism and among the direct target groups of the project are youths between 16 and 18 years of age. It incorporated the principle of inclusiveness by seeking to involve youths in this age-bracket from six different categories: youths within post-secondary education, undergoing vocational/skills training, immigrant youths, youths suffering from mental health problems, illiterate youths, and working youths.

A working committee was set up to provide a forum where project decisions were to be taken. It was mainly composed of partner NGO representatives. Representatives of MRC and Impetus Europe also attended the committee meetings, which were held on a regular basis, in view of mentoring the project's progress and providing management and financial consultancy. MRC also hosted the meetings of the working committee. The committee will met at least sixteen times during the 10 month project.

MRC had originally helped OASI and the partners to develop the project concept and to submit the application for funding. It also assisted the partners in seeking to identify sponsors for the project.

Finally, MRC provided consultancy and vetted the final activity and financial reports which were successfully submitted to the European Commission in Summer 2007.

#### **A5. EAPN Europe Training in Malta – 14th, 15th and 16th June**

MRC coordinated the EAPN Europe basic training course in Malta. Participants included members of EAPN from the different EAPN national networks.

The work involved:

- a. Communication re content of training
- b. Planning and design of training programme
- c. Identification and communication with trainers
- d. Copies of material for participants
- e. Promotion and communication of event

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- f. Training, accommodation, travel, transfers and catering logistics
- g. Identifying and booking training venue
- h. Identifying and booking accommodation, meals, and transfers facilities
- i. Booking and organising translation facilities and translators
- j. Registration and hosting participants
- k. Evaluation and reporting

Most of the work was coordinated by Ms Philippa Arrigo on a freelance basis.



## B. SERVICES

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### B1. Administrative backup

#### B1.1 Administrative Back-up to EAPN Malta



##### B1.1.1 Activities

The MRC acts as a secretariat for EAPN Malta. Throughout 2007, work for and administrative backup to EAPN Malta included:

- a) participation in the work of EAPN (Europe) – Executive Committee and Bureau (Vice president); Structural Funds Task Force and General Assembly (Toledo in Spain)
- b) EAPN Malta website development and administration;
- c) Communication with the media, the government, EAPN Europe and the member organisations;
- d) Coordination of meetings: Coordination Committee meetings. (once every two months)
- e) Liaison and communication re training seminars for members abroad;
- f) Overseeing of the Employment Task Force (re NAP employment);
- g) Coordination of ad hoc working groups (such as re structural funds and open method of coordination);
- h) Development and distribution of the newsletters including an electronic update newsletter)
- i) Initial draft of the Statute for EAPN Malta – facilitating discussion for EAPN Malta to take on its own legal identity
- j) Organisation on behalf of EAPN Malta of nine focus groups with the people that EAPN Malta member organisations work with on a daily basis. The key aim of this exercise was not an academic one. It was a means to listen and to give a voice to persons facing difficulty especially to access and survive the labour market. The outcome of the focus groups was collated into a final and detailed report which was presented to the Hon Minister Dolores Christina, the Hon Minister Louis Galea, the Hon Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, the Employment and Training Corporation and the Members of the MCESD Council.

The following schedule provides a synthesis of the report.



EUROPEAN ANTI POVERTY NETWORK  
MALTA

Listening and giving a voice  
2007

**Employment challenges and opportunities for persons experiencing social exclusion and poverty**

**SYNTHESIS OF RECOMMENDATIONS GIVEN BY PARTICIPANTS OF THE FOCUS GROUPS**

- a) The need for sensitization of employers and co-workers in regard to the problems and issues which socially excluded persons experience in general and possibly at the place of work;
- b) The need for customer-friendly and specialised training to be provided to government officials and persons dealing directly with socially excluded persons on issues of employment;
- c) The urgent need for extended and more accessible childcare facilities and/or childcare schemes which cater specifically for socially excluded persons in various parts of the country;
- d) The provision of specialised and targeted training (skills, adaptability, empowerment) for the different groups of socially excluded persons;
- e) The establishment of more structures which are aimed at assisting specific groups of socially excluded persons in finding employment and in dealing with employment issues;
- f) The introduction and implementation of more positive discrimination measures (policy, schemes and incentives for the employment of socially excluded persons);
- g) Policy which seeks to ensure a substantial degree of complementarity between the social benefit system and employment opportunities for socially excluded persons (i.e. replacing the system as it is at present, where many socially excluded persons find that it pays more to simply remain on relief than to work and earn too little to get by);
- h) The need to address the issue of underpaid third country nationals – an issue which is affecting third country nationals themselves as well as Maltese persons in terms of entering employment;
- i) Policy aimed at the increased provision of flexicurity measures;
- j) The need to address discrimination and stereotypical attitudes, particularly during interviews and at the place of work;
- k) The importance of establishing volunteering structures which allow persons who are registered as unemployed (and receiving unemployment benefits) to gain hands-on skills which can also be recognised through a certification system;
- l) Improved transport facilities for socially excluded persons (disabled, etc) seeking to go to work and/or attend training courses;
- m) Increased involvement and consultation of socially excluded persons themselves (or representatives) in policy and decision-making processes.

- k) On **4th October 2007** EAPN Malta held a conference with the theme 'Employment challenges and opportunities for persons experiencing social exclusion and poverty'. The conference provided an opportunity for socially excluded persons to voice their concerns and recommendations with politicians, policy makers, unions and service providers. All logistical arrangements were made by MRC as well as coordination of the programme and liaison with speakers. *The schedule below includes the programme for the event.* Over seventy persons (including persons experiencing poverty or social exclusion, service providers and public officers from various ministries and agencies) attended the event.

CONFERENCE 2007

Employment challenges and opportunities for persons experiencing social exclusion and poverty

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> October 2007  
Time: 9.00am – 2.00pm  
Venue: St James Cavalier Valletta

Programme

- 08.30 Registration
- 09.00 **Opening Speech** Hon Minister Dolores Christina – Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity
- 09.05 **Objectives of the Conference** Mr Godfrey Kenely Chairperson EAPN Malta
- 9.15 **Presentation, Experiences and Discussion 1:**
- Presentation on key challenges being faced by socially excluded persons when seeking employment – Ms Philippa Arrigo and Dr Marvin Formosa
  - Two experiences by socially excluded persons seeking employment
  - Projects, programmes or services supporting persons seeking to enter employment and are facing social exclusion and poverty – Ms Doris Gauci CEO Richmond Foundation
  - Discussion
- 10.00 **Presentation, Experiences and Discussion 2:**
- Presentation on key challenges being faced by persons who are outside employment and are facing social exclusion and poverty – Ms Philippa Arrigo and Dr Marvin Formosa
  - Two experiences by persons who are outside employment and are facing social exclusion and poverty
  - Projects, programmes or services supporting persons who are outside employment and are facing social exclusion and poverty – Mr Charles Miceli Caritas Malta
  - Discussion
- 10.45 **Presentation, Experiences and Discussion 3:**
- Key challenges being faced by socially excluded persons at the place of work – Ms Philippa Arrigo and Dr Marvin Formosa
  - Two experiences by socially excluded persons at the place of work
  - Projects, programmes or services supporting persons who are in employment and are facing social exclusion and poverty – Mr Ron Colombo – Malta Society of the Blind
  - Discussion
- 11.30 Coffee Break and snack
- 11.50 **Responding to the presentations, experiences and discussions**  
Employment and Training Corporation (ETC)  
The Trade unions view –UHM  
The Policy makers' view  
– Labour MP Hon Marie Louise Coleiro Preca  
– Hon Minister Louis Galea - Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment (MEYE) (*cancelled*)
- 12.45 Comments, Questions and recommendations from the floor
- 1.30 **Key points highlighted during the Conference**  
Points to influence the way forward to more inclusive employment policies and practices - Fr Edgar Busutill – Centre for Faith and Justice
- 1.50 **Closing Speech** Dr Marisa Scerri - Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity
- 2.00 End

RT Chair: Godfrey Kenely; RT Rapporteur: Ms Philippa Arrigo

### B1.1.2 Output of administrative back and services to EAPN Malta:

- a) Meetings with MFSS in preparation for the National Conference on social inclusion
- b) Report of conference workshop (26th January)
- c) CSR paper with EDRC
- d) Working Groups document
- e) Action Plan 2007
- f) EAPN Europe Training in Malta (14th, 15th and 16th June)
- g) Coordination Committee meetings (throughout 2007)
- h) Working Groups Meetings (throughout 2007)
- i) Campus FM Radio Programme – Poverty and Youth (17th April)
- j) MISCO interview regarding the Lisbon Agenda
- k) Focus group meetings with nine target groups regarding the theme of employment and social exclusion (July and August)
- l) National Conference for People Experiencing Poverty (Oct 2007)  
*Employment challenges and opportunities for persons experiencing social exclusion and poverty.*

Related documents may be downloaded:

- Opening speech by the Hon Minister Dolores Christina Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity (**Maltese**)
- Objectives of Conference and Report - Mr Godfrey Kenely Chairman EAPN Malta (**Maltese** and **English**)
- Closing speech Dr Marisa Scerri Director (Policy Development and Programme Implementation) Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity (**Maltese** and **English**)

- m) EAPN Malta Focus Groups Report - Listening and giving a voice 2007 - *Employment challenges and opportunities for persons experiencing social exclusion and poverty*, November 2007 (English version) [Click here](#) for access to the report.
- n) EAPN Malta Focus Groups Rapport - *Jingħata widen u leħen 2007 - Sfidi u opportunitajiet għall-impjeg ta'persuni li jesperjenzaw l-eskluzjoni soċjali u l-faqar*. November 2007 (Maltese version) [Click here](#) for access to the report.

## B1.2 Administrative Back-up to Malta Health Network



### B1.2.1 Activities and Outputs

The Malta Health Network (MHN) was initiated informally at the start of 2007 following an invitation by Malta Resource Centre (MRC) to all health NGOs.

On the 15th February 2007, MRC had invited health NGOs and groups to discuss the idea of setting up a network of health NGOs in Malta. The NGOs and groups present for the meeting agreed to set up the first Coordination Committee made of representatives from different organisations in order to start the process of setting up the network. A coordination Committee was therefore set up in April 2007, made up of different representatives from different NGOs and groups. The committee held several meetings to set the aims and objectives of the network and to draft a statute to give the network a legal status as an association. The latter step was deemed important in view of having the network affiliated with the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA). Over 100 local, national, regional and European non-governmental (NGOs) and not-for-profit organisations are members of the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA). EPHA membership organisations work individually and collectively to promote and protect the health interests of people living in Europe.

The signing of the statute and the election of the first Executive Committee was held on 13th November 2007 at St James Cavalier Valetta at 13.30. Following the first meeting of the Executive Committee and the election of the President, vice-president, secretary and a treasurer a press conference was held. The PR was addressed by the newly elected President of MHN Mr Anthony Guillaumier, Mr Godfrey Kenely MRC Director and the Hon Minister Louis Deguara.

The objectives of the Malta Health Network are:

- a) To give patients a voice on health related issues in Malta and beyond
- b) To influence health related policies and practices for the welfare of the community.
- c) To establish a framework to facilitate communication on health related and patient concerns between NGOs, Not for Profit Organisations (NPOs) and Patient Representations Groups (PRGs) and the Ministries / authorities and the community.
- d) To promote the representation of Health NGOs, NPOs and PRGs in National, European and International fora.

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The Malta Health Network's main responsibility is to give a voice to the patients and health service users. The executive committee will be working to develop the necessary systems to allow this. The Malta Resource Centre is providing administrative back up to the Malta Health Network including the provision of a base, facilitation of events, meetings, communication and documentation.

***Please note that the MHN activities are recorded and regularly updated by MRC on the its website***  
<http://mrc.org.mt/page.asp?p=17222&l=1>

### B1.3 Administrative back-up to the National Federation of NGOs of Malta



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF NGOS  
OF MALTA

The National Federation of NGOs of Malta was founded in April 2007. The mission of the Federation is to represent the interests of NGOs operating in Malta, and to strengthen the role of NGOs within civil society.

#### B1.3.1 Activities and Outputs

The Malta Resource Centre provided administrative back-up to the Federation throughout 2007. The Malta Resource Centre provided the following services:

- a) Organised the meetings of the steering Group for the setting up of the Federation;
- b) Supported and coordinated the drafting of the Statute of the National Federation of NGOs of Malta with the Founding member organisations; and election of first Executive Committee 2007-2009;
- c) Hosted the Executive Committee meetings;
- d) Set up web page with information on the Federation <http://mrc.org.mt/page.asp?p=17221&l=1> ;
- e) Coordination of applications of new members (Membership Application Forms);
- f) Promotion of the Federation and its aims, encouraging new NGOs to join;
- g) Developed related databases of NGOs and members (available upon request)
- h) Coordination and distribution of NFNM e-newsletters issued in July 2007 and November 2007. For access to the latter newsletters, refer to <http://mrc.org.mt/page.asp?p=17221&l=1> ;
- i) Dissemination and issuing of press releases on behalf of NFNM (eg. Press release re VOA 31st October 2007)
- j) Dissemination and coordination of a research questionnaire on behalf of NFNM. The research was carried out October and November 2007. It focused on how NGOs are consulted in Malta. (To download the questionnaire [click here](#)). The analysis of the feedback received through the questionnaire is being carried out by MRC and shall be made available in a report in the beginning of 2008. The said report shall form the basis for discussion for a roundtable event which NFNM is planning to organize in on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2008 (see section (k) below).
- k) Logistical arrangements and contacting of speakers for NFNM a Round Table event scheduled for the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2008, to discuss the role of NGOs in a democratic society. Mr. Gerard Legris from the EU Commission Transparency Unit will be addressing the Round Table as a

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guest speaker. The Round Table will discuss “The Role of NGOs in policy-making and planning in Malta and in the EU” and the “NGO key challenges: sustainability, independence and participation in public policy”. [Draft Programme](#) (click to download)

#### B1.4 Administrative back-up to TSN Malta



The Third-Country-National Support Network Malta was established on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2007. It is the first migrant-based organisation to be founded locally. The scope of the NGO is that of representing the interests of third country nationals who are living in Malta, at local, EU and international levels. The organization aims at providing support, service and empowerment to third country nationals enabling them to live as dignified persons within Maltese society, with due regard to their obligations and fundamental rights. Its main thrust is that of building bridges between third-country nationals living in Malta and Maltese and EU citizens. It aims to build these bridges by promoting intercultural dialogue and understanding as well as the integration and participation of third country nationals in Malta.

##### B1.4.1 Activities and Output

The Malta Resource Centre provided administrative back-up to TSN Malta from its inception – including:

- a) Drafting of the founding Statute which may be accessed online: <http://www.mrc.org.mt/page.asp?p=6845&l=1>
- b) Sending out of Agenda and Minutes for the Executive Committee
- c) Minute-taking
- d) Set up an e-mail account: [tsn@mrc.org.mt](mailto:tsn@mrc.org.mt)
- e) Updating temporary webpage (on [www.mrc.org](http://www.mrc.org)) with information about TSN Malta
- f) Drafting of press release
- g) EU funding and drafting of application

## B2. Office and meeting facilities

**Service aim:** provide small and medium voluntary organisations and groups with working and meeting facilities

Further details are available in the MRC website <http://www.mrc.org.mt/page.asp?p=7453>

The following NGOs / networks made use of MRC from January to June 2007:., *Tal-Linja* Project partners including *OASI Foundation, JRS, Richmond Foundation and Integra Foundation*, European Anti Poverty Network Malta, Malta Health Network, The National Federation of NGOs of Malta, Guide Dogs Association, Malta Association of the Blind, TSN Malta.

A number of training workshops for the VolServ volunteers were held at MRC. Furthermore, Malta University Services used the premises for a one day training course.

## B3. Provision of information to NGOs through the website and email shots

MRC provided a variety of information to Maltese NGOs through its website and e-mail shots. The following is a list of titles of some of the e-mail shots dispatched to NGOs by MRC in 2007:

- ✉ CMEA Epilepsy Conference
- ✉ 'Charity Begins at Home' - Vanessa Macdonald
- ✉ 2nd Meeting Minutes of the Structural Funds Monitoring Committee
- ✉ ERDF and ESF call for proposals issued
- ✉ Malta Quality Group Brainstorming Session
- ✉ NFNM Roundtable 26th January 2008 - The role of NGOs in a Democratic Society
- ✉ VOA Commissioner announced
- ✉ Minutes and Agenda of the Structural Funds Monitoring Committee
- ✉ National Conference on Community Care 2007
- ✉ Press release - First Malta Health Network set up
- ✉ NFNM Questionnaire - NGOs' Consultative Role - 2007
- ✉ Press release - NGOs and CSOs complete EU Structural Funds Training
- ✉ National Federation of NGOs of Malta - Newsletter November 2007
- ✉ World Psoriasis Day - conference on the 3rd November 2007 at Corinthia San Gorg
- ✉ Voluntary Organisations Act published in the Gov Gazette
- ✉ NGOs - Seminar and Malta Health Network official launch 13th Nov 07
- ✉ The role of NGOs and trade unions in Malta in combating discrimination

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- ✚ Migration
- ✚ MDGs seminar 17th October 2007
- ✚ Seminar - The Interrelation between Physical and Mental Health
- ✚ Enhancing the role of Women in Political Decision Making - NCW Course
- ✚ EU Structural Funds Training - two vacancies for participants
- ✚ 50th Anniversary of the European Social Fund
- ✚ Release of Public Officers to Work with Voluntary Organisations
- ✚ Position of the National Federation of NGOs of Malta (NFNM) regarding the newly added draft VOA
- ✚ Diploma course in Education for Sustainable Development
- ✚ Invitation to Join the National Federation of NGOs of Malta
- ✚ Meeting re NGO representatives on the EU Structural Funds Monitoring Committee
- ✚ WORLD AWARENESS DAY AGAINST ELDER ABUSE
- ✚ EU Structural Funds Training for NGOs, CSOs and Local Councils
- ✚ The European Parliament in the Life of Maltese Citizens
- ✚ Talk on ADHD
- ✚ An invitation by NCW - conference 22nd May
- ✚ Seminar at Caring Awareness Fair - Friday 18th for NGOs
- ✚ Support the European Disability Forum signature campaign
- ✚ 23 NGOs set up the first National Federation of NGOs of Malta
- ✚ invitation to all NGOs by Fondazzjoni Temi Zammit (FTZ)
- ✚ Resource for NGOs and groups to organise committee meetings and training events
- ✚ E.U Projects for your attention
- ✚ Networking Health NGOs and patient groups to have a stronger voice

#### **B4. MRC Capacity Building Consultancy**

During 2007, MRC provided consultancy services to:

- Kamra Tal- Periti regarding an EU Structural Funds project (January )
- Hospice Movement regarding EU funding
- YMCA Valletta regarding a financial proposal for a cultural project
- Local Council Association regarding ESF (Nov/ Dec)
- TSN Malta regarding EU funding (Nov/ Dec)

## C. AFFILIATIONS

### C1. European Council for non-profit organisations (CEDAG)

CEDAG, the European council for non-profit organizations, is a network of non-profit organisations from across the European Union member states. Its members are regional and national umbrella bodies for the non-profit sector; together which represent over 50,000 non-profit organisations with over 9 million individual members.

Created in 1989, CEDAG promotes the recognition of the non-profit sector by the EU, in particular the economic contribution of non-profit organisations, their non-profit and democratic management approach, their general interest character and their services oriented towards people, and to promote a legislative framework, including in terms of tax, to help the sector develop:

- CEDAG works for right of the sector to be consulted on EU policies of interest to it;
- CEDAG offers a forum for non-profit organisations across the EU to exchange examples of best practices in the non-profit sector.

SOS Malta became a member of CEDAG in August 2007. In so doing the staff within the Malta Resource Centre became increasingly involved in the activities of CEDAG and the associated Missing Link project.

Philippa Arrigo attended a couple of meetings on behalf of MRC. Furthermore, through its CEDAG membership, the Malta Resource Centre joined an EU project which had been running since May 2006.

The Missing Link project was funded under the European Commission's Call for proposals *Promotion of active European citizenship* DG EAC 46/05. The project was co-financed from the partner councils of the UK, NCVO, SCVO, NICVA, WCVA; the other original partners included The Wheel, Ireland; the Estonian NGO Round Table; the World of NGOs, Austria; the Centre for Information Service, Co-operation and Development of NGOs, Slovenia.

It was hosted at CEDAG, the European Council for Non-Profit Organisations and their support allowed for the continuation of a Network Officer at their office in Brussels until December 2007.

According to the final report by consultant Brian Harvey, the Missing Link project began as a one-year pilot project designed to explore the possibility of creating a European framework of national umbrella bodies of non-governmental organizations so that their concerns may be voiced at European level and made a part of the European dialogue of civil society.

Eventually, though, the national platforms involved in the project increasingly recognized that the link between the national organisations and European institutions was to remain a crucial element for a more engaged civil society and more active citizenship. To such end, it was decided to make the Missing Link permanent.

Philippa Arrigo from MRC formed part of a working group together with Oliver Henman NCVO, Lisa McElherron NICVA and Ariane Rodert from Social Forum (Sweden) to form the terms of reference for the new Missing Link structure.

It was at such point that MRC recognized the fact that issues which CEDAG and the Missing Link were addressing related increasingly more to the activities and remit of the National Federation of NGOs in Malta (NFNM). This was particularly the case since NFNM has the capacity and mandate to represent its Members (NGOs) - something which SOS Malta and its Malta Resource Centre cannot really do, since the latter does not have a membership system. For this reason, it was decided that MRC would not renew its membership of CEDAG and the Missing Link in 2008, and instead to pass these on to the Federation.

## **C2. European Volunteer Centre (CEV)**

The European Volunteer Centre (Centre européen du volontariat, CEV) is a European network of currently 60 mainly national and regional volunteer centres and volunteer development agencies across Europe, that together work to support and promote voluntary activity. CEV channels the collective priorities and concerns of its member organisations to the institutions of the European Union. It also acts as a central forum for the exchange of policy, practice and information on volunteering. The member organisations of CEV represent thousands of volunteer organisations, associations and other voluntary and community groups at local, regional, national and in some cases international level.

In view of its work with volunteers, particularly within the Volserv project, SOS Malta decided to become a Member of CEV in December 2007. SOS Malta plans to partner with CEV and other Members on EU projects in 2008.

## **C3. European Association Working for Carers (Eurocarers)**

Eurocarers, European Association Working for Carers, seeks to represent and act on behalf of all informal carers, irrespective of their age or the particular health need of the person they are caring for. It pursues philanthropic, educational and scientific ends with regard to the representation of carers. Among its principal aims are:

- Contributing to policy development at national as well as European level supported by evidence-based research:
  - by acting as a voice for informal carers and issues relevant to carers
  - by 'translating' relevant EU policy developments to members operating at national and regional level.
- The exchange, gathering and dissemination of experience, expertise and good practice, as well as innovations

In view of its work within the Volserv project, as well as the administrative back-up services which it was about to start providing to the Malta Health Network, SOS Malta decided to become an Associate Member of Eurocarers in July 2008. Its involvement as Associate Member helps SOS Malta and its staff in being informed

about developments in other Member States and at EU level as regards policies affecting volunteers and informal carers.

## **D. LOOKING AT 2008**

SOS Malta shall, through its Malta Resource Centre, continue to provide the following services during 2008:

- Facilities and resources for small and medium-sized NGOs (Voluntary Organisations)*
- Capacity-building consultancy services to existing and emerging voluntary organisations (based in Malta).*
- Technical Assistance and consultancy for EU Funding:*
- Administrative Backup Services to Networks and NGOs;*
- Coordination of volunteering services.*

Claudia Taylor East  
Malta Resource Centre  
SOS Malta

January 2008

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