



**Report on the operations of Education Malta Foundation  
for the year 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018**

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The Founders of Education Malta - The Government of Malta through the Ministry for Education and Employment and the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry, on 27 October 2016 established an autonomous non-profit Foundation. Its objective is to promote specifically the internationalization and development of Education in Malta. The Foundation will reach its objectives by bringing together and harnessing the resources of the Government and the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry. It endeavours to promote Malta as an international educational hub and to attract Foreign Direct Investment from international educational entities of repute and standing to establish a presence locally.

The Foundation is an autonomous body corporate of a non-profit making nature with a distinct legal personality.

### **Board of Governors**

The Foundation is governed by a Board of Governors which consists of five members, who are appointed as follows:-

Three members including the Chairman, appointed by the Prime Minister on the recommendation of the Minister responsible for Education in representation of the Government of Malta;

Two members appointed by the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry;

The members for the period under review were:

Mr Charles Zammit – Executive Chairman

Members of the Board

Mr Kevin Borg – Deputy Chairman

Prof Mark Brincat

Mr Mario Galea (Ms Nathalie Farrugia as Alternate)

Ms Marisa Xuereb

### **Board of Governors meetings**

During 2018 the Board held five meetings. The members although non-executive took active interest in the operations of the Foundation and contributed in different other ways besides attending the board meetings through their active support to the operations of the Foundation when required. This in view of their own area of expertise and due to the limited human resources which Education Malta employs.

### **Human Resources**

Education Malta's operations are conducted by one Executive Chairman and one Personal Assistant who also takes care of the office administration.

### **Offices**

The registered office of Education Malta Foundation is at the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry, the Exchange Buildings, Republic Street, Valletta. Board and other meetings were regularly held at the Exchange Buildings. Furthermore promotional activities were organised in these prestigious buildings in Republic Street, Valletta.

Education Malta operational offices are located at Mosta Technopark, Mosta.

## **Local working network**

Education Malta has continued to forge a full working cooperation with the National Commission for Further and Higher Education, Malta Enterprise, Identity Malta, the University of Malta, the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) and other operators, private educational entities accredited / licensed to carry on the provision of educational services in Malta. Besides cooperation on all areas of promotional activities, the Foundation endeavours to assist private educational entities to recruit students from overseas to study in Malta.

## **Marketing and Promotional**

During 2018 Education Malta has actively participated at specialised educational conferences and fairs in Europe. As full members Education Malta took an active role in the European Union, Study in Europe project and Global Education Network Europe (GENE) networks. Annual General Meetings of the EU Directorate for Education and Culture was held in June 2018 in Brussels and that of GENE in October 2018 in Brussels. Education Malta was also invited to attend as a non-member of the Donor Harmonisation Group for their annual conference held in November 2018 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Education Malta was also active in the World Association for Cooperative Education Network, (WACE) participating at this organisation's Annual General Meeting held in June in Stuttgart, Germany.

## **Overseas Contacts and Network**

Since its inception the Foundation was actively making itself known internationally. It has been accepted as a full member of the European Union 'Study-in-Europe' Project in October 2016 and the other European Union funded Global Education Network Europe, in April 2017. Education Malta, together with other twenty seven European Union member states National Agencies tasked with promoting their respective countries to attract international students to study in Europe, met from time to time to plan initiatives to attract students from

non-EU member states to study in countries forming part of the European Union. Students' fairs are organised in such countries. Education Malta led other Malta based educational institutions at one of these students' fairs which was held in May 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Through the active participation in these official groups a number of important contacts with other European Union national agencies who respectively promote the internationalization of education in their own countries have been established.

Education Malta was from time to time invited to provide information and data to both local as well as specialised international educational publications. Malta's aspirations for the internationalization of Education also featured in a number of specialised publications.

Education Malta participated at a number of overseas specialised education fairs. These specialised educational fairs are held annually in different countries. It was considered important that Education Malta is present and to advance Malta's internationalization of education aspirations with international educational institutions which participated in these events.

Conferences also offered another good networking potential through which individual contacts with Executives at the meetings with decision making levels were established.

During 2018 Education Malta hosted a number of important high level delegations to showcase Malta as a potential destination for educational institutions to establish a presence here. During these visits opportunity was taken to introduce the visitors to the operations of the Ministry for Education and Employment, the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry, the National Commission for Further and Higher Education, Malta Enterprise, Identity Malta and related Government official bodies. Other meetings were held with the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry for Education and Employment, the Governor of the Central Bank of Malta, the British High Commissioner and others as were considered to be relevant.

## **Participation at Conferences and overseas educational fairs**

### **March: Zurich, Switzerland**

ZurichEduCa Careers Expo held in Zurich Switzerland. This was a Business to Business expo and also a students' fair combined.

### **April: Prague, Czech Republic**

European Association for International Education (EAIE) held at Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic. Education Malta participated at the European Association for International Education (EAIE) seminar at Czech Technical University in Prague.

### **April: London, United Kingdom**

London City Week. The conference was organised by the United Kingdom Department for International Trade. While the conference main focus was export of financial services, it also touched on the area of education as an export in view of the fact that recently the UK Department for International Trade is also driving Education and TNE within its remit.

### **April: Oslo, Norway**

Global Education Network Europe 38<sup>th</sup> Roundtable was held in Norway between 18 to 20 April. Education Malta as a member of this EU funded network participated at this biannual roundtable conference. At present Malta, through the Ministry for Education and Employment is participating at a joint initiative with GENE in its 'Innovation and Increase Programme' concerning Non Governmental Organisations and immigrants. A strategy document has in 2018 been established between the two parties as to the way GENE can assist the challenges which the Education Department is facing with the influx of migrants from diverse countries which Malta had not previously experienced.

### **May: Johannesburg, South Africa**

On the invitation of the EU Commission for Education, Education Malta participated at a students' fair held in Johannesburg South Africa. The cost of the stand was financed by the

EU. Seventeen EU countries and thirty-three educational institutions participated at this fair. Over 2500 students visited the fair.

### **June: Brussels, Belgium**

On 7 June Education Malta as the national agency participated at the EU Commission Directorate for Education and Culture Annual General Meeting for the twenty-eight member states' education promotion agencies, which was held in Brussels. All member states were present. Mr Adrian Veale from the EU Directorate General for Education and Culture chaired the full day session. An overview of the achievements over the past three years was highlighted by the British Council UK.

Campus France advised on the strategy for the next three years. Discussions and exchanges between the participating national agencies ensued and resolutions are being followed-up. A future strategy leading to 2020 was approved. The meeting served to synergise more effectively the collective efforts to attract students from non-EU member states to study at Further and Higher Education institutions within the European Union.

### **June: Stuttgart, Germany**

On the invitation of the President of the prestigious World Association for Cooperative Education (WACE) the Chairman accompanied the Minister for Education and Employment to this weekend Symposium between the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June 2018. The new Chairman of MCAST, Mr Frederick Schembri also attended. The Minister and the two Chairmen were also invited to attend the WACE Board Meeting. The Minister spoke about Malta's recent legislation on work based learning which was enacted through parliament in March 2018. WACE is predominantly an American and Canadian network with additional European countries joining this Education / Industry organisation. Following this meeting a jointly penned article by Minister Bartolo and the Chairman appeared on Malta Today on Sunday on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018 titled "Connecting Business and Education".

### **June: Valletta, Malta**

Global Education Network Europe (GENE) together with the Education Ministry launched their programme in Malta on the 19<sup>th</sup> June at the University of Malta, Valletta Campus.

Present for the launch were the Chairman, Director General and Director EU Programmes of GENE. The Education Minister delivered the official opening address. Over sixty participants from schools, colleges and NGOs attended the day seminar. Other similar Seminars/Conferences were planned in 2019. Education Malta was the conduit for these arrangements.

### **September: Geneva, Switzerland**

Education Malta participated at the European Association for Internationalization of Education 30<sup>th</sup> Conference held in Genève between 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Over 5800 participants from 95 countries attended, as this is considered the biggest event in Europe on the internationalization of education.

Contacts were made with various participants including three Universities from the USA, Japan and Turkey which expressed interest in strategic partnerships with Further and Higher Education entities in Malta.

On Tuesday 11 September, a meeting of the EU Commission Study in Europe group was held for those member states present at the conference. The meeting dealt with the strategies and plans as to how best to promote Europe as a destination for students seeking to study outside their home countries. The meeting was hosted by the Swiss National Agency Movetia and Swissuniversities.

### **October: Brussels, Belgium**

GENE 39<sup>th</sup> Roundtable was held in Brussels, Belgium on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2018. GENE as a unique Europe-wide network discussed its work in supporting government, and non government entities tasked with general education dissemination including NGOs and the effectiveness of its programmes. Also how students from outside Europe can benefit from assistance provided by the EU to take advantage to improve their education through study at European Higher Education Institutions.

GENE have accepted Malta's invitation to hold their October 2019 Roundtable Conference for about 70 delegates from EU member states in Malta.



## **October: Beijing and Shanghai, China**

The Chairman together with the Chairman of MCAST and the Pro-Rector of the University of Malta accompanied the Minister for Education and Employment the Hon Evarist Bartolo for an official Ministerial visit to the People's Republic of China from 20<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2018. The objective of the visit was to meet the Chinese Education Minister H.E Chen Baosheng which meeting was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October and to hold meetings with other educational institutions interested in doing education business in Malta.

Education Malta signed a number of Memoranda of Understanding with Chinese Further and Higher Institutions which included:

The Shanghai University of Political Science and Law – SHUPL

Jiangsu Wantong Education Technology Development Co. Ltd.

European Chambers of Commerce League

International Educational Exchange Centre of Hebei Province

Baoxin Group – CIITC Education Consulting Co. Ltd.

The delegation visited the Campus of the Shanghai University of Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine who are already providing a joint programme with the University of Malta. They expressed interest in expanding this programme. Also visited the Shanghai University of Political Science and Law. Discussions were held as to their interest in establishing a presence in Malta.

Education Malta participated at the Chinese Education Expo where major European and other worldwide countries were present to promote their respective country. Over eight presentations to potential Chinese educational entities at all levels of education including Further and Higher Education were conducted. A number of enquiries followed, which are being actively considered.

## **November: Copenhagen, Denmark**

Education Malta was invited to attend the conference organised by the Danish Danida Fellowships Centre (DFC), DIKU/SIU and Netherlands National Agency Nuffic. This was the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the *Donor Harmonisation Group Forum* which was held in Copenhagen

between 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> November 2018. A number of countries mainly from the northern part of Europe were invited. At the conference the participating National Agencies, commercial entities, donors and experts involved in capacity building programmes with, and/or for countries in development, exchanged expertise and experiences. Participants were able to share their know-how on relevant developments in policies and programmes administered by them. The overall objective of the meetings was to learn from each other and work closely to develop programmes and policies as well as seek co-operation and implementation possibilities.

### **December: London, United Kingdom**

Education Malta participated at the International Education Services (IES) Conference 5-6 December 2018. Discussions at this conference centred around challenges which the future presents in a complex and volatile environment, with maturing markets, rising political risk and increasing competition. The IES conference 2018 explored the changes happening around the education world, in markets, systems, technology and people. The event provided a discussion forum on international marketing strategies to ensure competitiveness in the global market place. The subject areas included -

**Strategy:** Exploring how the world is changing and how educational entities can navigate for success.

**Innovation:** Fresh approaches for connecting with international students worldwide and

**Intelligence:** Exploring external influences on international student recruitment, providing cutting-edge analysis for future international marketing strategies.

Separate sessions during the conference were held on the following programme streams: Higher Education international strategy; operations and marketing, international student support, and internationalization of colleges, schools and ELT providers.

## Delegations organised to visit Malta

British Council and Education Malta joined their resources to welcome a High Level delegation to Malta in March 2018 which was led by the British Council Trustee Ms Yasmin Diamond.

A number of meetings were held during the visit for the nine delegates from various UK universities who expressed interest in Malta, including meetings with University of Malta; MCAST, the Minister for Education and Employment, the Parliamentary Secretary for Sports and the British High Commissioner. A Roundtable Conference was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018 for Further and Higher Institutions. The response was very positive and encouraging in recognising the good work and progress being achieved through the various initiatives taken by Education Malta.

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Visit by Guangxi University of Science and Technology – China. Education Malta hosted a visit by Guangxi University of Science and Technology in November 2018 which was led by Vice President, Prof Xiaoyun Qin. The five member delegation's aim was to enhance Higher Educational cooperation between the Guangxi institution and the Malta institutions. This initiative will open doors to further opportunities for academics, students and researchers to engage in possible exchange of short programmes of study in between the two countries.

During this visit the delegates had the opportunity to visit and meet representatives of Institute of Tourism Studies, University of Malta and MCAST.

Guangxi University of Science and Technology signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the three Higher Education Institutions for cooperation and academics as well as student exchanges.

## **Participation in various educational initiatives amongst other**

New student visa policy; The Government, after input from Education Malta (amongst others) in April 2018 announced a new policy which allows third country national students to work up to twenty hours if they are pursuing a course of up to six weeks when undertaking studies at educational institutions in Malta. This was for a long time being requested from Higher Education Institutions who recruit foreign students to study in Malta.

## **International Educational Entities**

### **Accredited/Licensed during 2018 (with foreign shareholders)**

During 2018 with the full assistance of Education Malta, the following were granted accreditation / licence to operate in Malta by the National Commission for Further and Higher Education (NCFHE)

European Institute for Medical Studies (EIMS) - <http://www.eims.edu.mt/>  
licence number **2018-004**

FA International Foundation - <http://www.fainternational.eu> - licence number **2018-006**

EDU operated by Digital Education Holdings LTD licence number- <http://www.deh.mt/>  
licence number **2018-010**

Institute of Cellular Pharmacology - Training Academy (ICP) -<https://www.icpconcepts.com/>  
licence number **2018-013**

IJF Academy Foundation – <https://academy.ijf.org/> licence number **2018-015**

Constellation International Film Production Malta- <http://www.cifpmalta.com/>  
licence number **2018-06**

European Forensic Institute- <https://www.eufor.eu/> licence number **2018-14**

## Conclusion

Education Malta with the full support from the Ministry for Education and Employment and the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry, has during 2018 made substantial progress to penetrate into the international area of education. Considering the very limited financial and human resources the Board of Governors of the Foundation is satisfied that the objectives for which Education Malta was established are being achieved and positive results were registered in 2018.

Education Malta plans to continue promoting Malta as a unique destination for international educational entities to establish a presence. In addition it will endeavour to assist those private educational institutions which already operate in Malta to attract international students to pursue further and higher educational courses at these diverse institutions.

The Chairman wishes to thank all those who throughout 2018 contributed towards the progress of Education Malta, in particular the members of the Board of Governors, the Ministry for Education and Employment, the Minister for Education and Employment the Hon Evarist Bartolo MP, the President, Director General and the Council of the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry, the Ministry for Education and Employment's Permanent Secretary and the DG Strategy and Support.