



**Report on the operations of Education Malta Foundation  
for the period 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019**

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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 2019 the Board held four 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. Also, with representing or forming part of delegations during Education Malta's overseas visits. 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. Meetings and promotional activities from time to time were organised at the Malta Chamber's 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), The Institute of Tourism Studies 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 2019 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. The Annual General Meetings of the EU Directorate for Education and Culture was held in March 2019 in Brussels and that of GENE in October 2019 in Malta. Education Malta was also invited to attend as a non-member of the Donor Harmonisation Group for their annual conference held in November 2019 in London, United Kingdom.

## **Overseas Contacts and Network**

Since its inception the Foundation was actively making itself known internationally. It is now a full member of the European Union ‘Study-in-Europe’ Project and the other European Union funded entity - Global Education Network Europe. 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, meet 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 March 2019 in Kiev, Ukraine and hosted the 41<sup>st</sup> GENE Roundtable in October 2019 in Valletta.

Through the active participation in these official groups a number of important contacts with other European Union national agencies that 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 decision making levels were established at these meetings.

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

### **January: London, United Kingdom**

The Chairman visited London between 21<sup>st</sup> January and 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019 accompanying the Minister for Education and Employment for the Education World Forum at the Queen Elisabeth II Conference Centre and the Education Ministers Action Group Meeting at Marlborough House. During their visit to London they visited the Campuses and met the UK based educational entities which already have a presence in Malta or collaboration with the Ministry for Education and Employment

### **March: Kiev, Ukraine**

Education Malta led a delegation made up of MCAST, ITS, QMUL St Barts and St Martin's Institute at a Students fair in Kiev organised by the EU DG Education and Culture through its 'Study in Europe' project. The fair was held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019. Over one thousand students visited the fair. 22 EU countries participated and over 50 educational entities took part. Education Malta presented on Malta's attractiveness for international students to pursue studies here.

### **March: Brussels, Belgium**

A meeting of the EU Directorate for Education and Culture was held in Brussels on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Participants from 27 European countries attended to this two day meeting during which, an overview of the main initiatives and activities held by Study in Europe in 2018 was given, including observations about the impact of study fairs and online live sessions followed by a further presentation about the projects and marketing strategy that are in the pipeline for the year 2019 / 2020.

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

Education Malta was present and had a stand at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Education Career Exhibition, Zurich EduCa Expo 2019 that was held on the 12-13 March 2019. Exhibitors from 14 countries including; Switzerland, Germany, Canada, Iran, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Malta, Spain, Belgium and Latvia participated at this event. A forum for both B to B as well as students interested to pursue studies abroad was organised as part of the Expo.

### **April: Berlin, Germany**

Education Malta participated at GENE's 40<sup>th</sup> Roundtable together with representatives from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Ministry for Education and Employment. A detailed discussion about GENE's Increase Programme took place during a fringe event before the actual Roundtable. During this session a presentation on Malta's experience in implementing the GENE programme in our schools was delivered. The remarkable rapid implementation of this programme and the positive results obtained were noted during this session.

Being GENE's 40<sup>th</sup> Roundtable, Global Education's past, present and future were the main focal points of this event. Dr Maria Flachsbarth, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development addressed the participants during a reception to celebrate this important milestone for GENE.

### **May: Berlin, Germany**

The Chairman attended the British Council's Going Global conference that was held in Berlin on 13-15 May 2019. At this event Malta was promoted as a "Blockchain Country". Ms. Nathalie Smolenski, the VP Business Development of Learning Machine, the institution that undertook a pilot project by the Ministry for Education and Employment to establish Malta as one of the first countries to have school/education certificates on Blockchain

presented a study on Blockchain in Malta and chaired a panel of experts on the subject. Substantial interest was shown in Malta's education opportunities from educational entities that were present.

### **May: Washington DC, USA**

Education Malta was present at the NAFSA's 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference held in Washington between 27 and 31 May 2019. NAFSA: Association of International Educators is the world's largest non-profit association dedicated to internationalisation of education and exchange. NAFSA has over 10,000 members and more than 3,500 institutions worldwide which are located in over 120 countries.

Education Malta's participation at this conference was organised by the EU Directorate for Education & Culture - Study in Europe. Presentations were delivered through the EU Commission Stand and various meetings were held with a number of HEI's including NY Film Academy, Lehman College, Pace University and Study in US consortium of Universities.

### **July: Milan, Italy**

Education Malta participated at the annual summer camp of Campus Party. This following an invitation through GY Academy. During this event a large number of student participants gathered to share innovation and creativity projects in the fields of ICT and Artificial Intelligence.

### **August: Moscow, Russia**

Education Malta through an official invitation from Moscow Government to the Minister for Education and Employment, participated at the Moscow City Education Forum 2019. Mr Zammit was accompanied by the Head of Quality Assurance at NCFHE, Dr Kenneth Vella.



The visit was fruitful from a number of aspects, besides the new contacts with Russian education institutions;

(a) Malta has already signed a MoU with Russia in 2017, concerning the mutual recognition of academic qualifications, opportunity was taken to discuss how best to promote this agreement to attract more students from Russia.

(b) Meetings were held with amongst others the Moscow Minister for External Economic & International Relations. Teaching of the English Language was considered to be an area where Malta can be of particular interest for Russian students. The visit programme included attending for a national education conference, technology exhibition, visits to educational entities including secondary level schools and bi-lateral meetings.

### **September: Helsinki, Finland**

The Chairman attended the 31<sup>st</sup> Conference of the European Association for International Education which was held in September in Helsinki. Over 6,000 delegates attended this conference, which is considered to be one of the biggest held in Europe on the internationalisation of Education.

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

Education Malta was invited to this one day conference organised by the EU Commission in collaboration with the National Agencies of Germany, UK, France and the Netherlands. The main aim of this conference that brought together 400 participants from Europe and Africa was to consider and discuss the EU's aid and support to Africa through collaboration, mobility, exchange of academics, scientists and students between the two countries in view of the African Union's Agenda 2063 – *The Africa we want*.

### **November: Shanghai, China**

Malta's Foreign Affairs Ministry together with Trade Malta organised a promotional visit to China for the China International Import Expo fair. Board Member, Ms Marisa Xuereb – member of the Board of Governors represented Education Malta as part of the delegation. Many of the exhibitors present at the Expo were EU organisations. Approximately 70 countries had stands at the Expo, including Malta that for the first time had its own stand as well. Presentations were delivered by Malta Enterprise.

Most people who visited the Malta stand were interested to learn about education in Malta and in particular English Language schools in Malta.

### **November: London, United Kingdom**

Education Malta, as a non-member of the Donor Harmonisation Group was invited to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting which was organised by the British Council – London; the Association of Commonwealth Universities; NUFFIC Holland and the Norwegian Agency for International Cooperation in HE (DIKU). The conference was held in London in November 2019. The main focus of the discussion was on attracting students from Africa to study in Europe and on the involvement of Nordic countries in central and Southern Africa as well their respective experience through scholarships and physical presence through own campuses.

## **Delegations organised to visit Malta**

A delegation from the Shanghai University of Political Science and Law (SHUPL) which was led by the President of the University visited Malta between 13 and 16 March 2019 to explore and discuss how they can establish a presence in Malta. This came as follow up to the Memorandum of Understanding signed with Education Malta and the Ministry for Education and Employment in October 2018 during the Ministerial visit to China. Interest was expressed in starting a course of Masters in European legal studies and to establish a satellite campus in Malta.

As a first step towards this, SHUPL established a partnership with GY Academy which is licensed by the NCFHE. Twenty two students from this University undertook a summer internship experience with a number of local legal firms as a first exposure to Malta in the summer 2019. This on the job experience was considered to be a part of their course of study.

In October a delegation led by the President of Guanddong University of Technology visited Malta and met with the Education Minister, the Chairman - Education Malta and the Director of International Studies at MCAST. Guanddong University of Technology and MCAST have agreed to offer Chinese students courses to be held at MCAST in Engineering in 2020. The delegation also met the Hon Evarist Bartolo at the Education Ministry.

## Conferences organised in Malta

### **Global Education Network Europe (GENE) 41<sup>st</sup> Roundtable, Valletta, Malta**

Education Malta together with GENE Secretariat successfully organised a Roundtable Conference in Malta in October 2019. The conference was attended by 77 delegates from 25 countries. The Conference was opened by Minister for Education and Employment and Ms Agatha Sobiech from EU Commission. The Chairman delivered the welcome speech to the delegates and at the end of the Conference distributed awards at a ceremony which was held at the Malta Chamber of Commerce Enterprise and Industry offices in Valletta. The three day intensive programme gave Education Malta the opportunity to showcase Malta to the foreign delegates. Units from the Ministry for Education and Employment also participated at this Roundtable.

## International Educational Entities

### Accredited/Licensed during 2019 (with foreign shareholders)

#### Higher Education Institutions

EDU operated by Digital Education Holdings LTD – licence number **2018-010** - *Jun '18 - Jun '23*

International College of Osteopathic Medicine Educational Ltd (ICOM. Ed. Ltd.)-

licence number **2018-023** *Jan '19 – Jan '24*

SMC Education Group Limited - licence number **2019-014** *Aug '19 - Aug '24*

GY Academy – licence number **2019-005** *Mar'19 - Mar '24*

#### Further and Higher Education Institutions

Apex Academy - licence number **2019-010** *Apr '19 – Apr '24*

Avanza Academy – licence number **2019-004** *Feb '19 – Feb '24*

Melita Safety Training Services - licence number **2019-2007** *Apr'19 – Mar'24*

#### Further Education Institutions

Training Malta - licence number **2019-003** *Feb'19-Feb'24*

## 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 2019 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 continuing to be registered in 2019.

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

The Chairman wishes to thank all those who throughout 2019 contributed towards the progress and success 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, Vice 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.