



**Report on the operations of Education Malta Foundation  
for the period 27 October 2016 to 31 December 2017**

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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

Prof Mark Brincat

Mr Mario Galea

Ms Marisa Xuereb

## **Board of Governors meetings**

The Board held seven meetings. The members although non-executive 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 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 is situated 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.

In September 2017 Education Malta moved its operational offices at Mosta Technopark.

## **Local working network**

Education Malta has established 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.

## **Marketing and Promotional**

Education Malta has actively participated at specialised educational conferences and fairs in Europe. It also took an active role in the European Union, Study in Europe and Global Education Network Europe (GENE) networks.

As 2017 is the first year of operations its marketing and promotional activities were restricted mainly due to financial funding arrangements. The main and primary tool to reach the objectives of the Foundation was considered by the Board to be the development a new website. Extensive work was undertaken to construct and upload a brand new website. After the required research and development the website was launched and was fully operational on 1 November 2017.

## Overseas Contacts

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, thus joined the other twenty seven European Union member states National Agencies tasked with promoting their respective countries to attract international students to study in Europe.

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

Education Malta participated at a number of overseas specialised education Fairs. A number of specialised educational fairs are held annually. It was considered important that Education Malta is present and advances Malta’s internationalisation of education aspirations with international educational institutions which participate in these events.

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

During 2017 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.

On occasions meetings were organised for the visitors with the Education Minister, the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister.

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

### **January: Malta**

Malta EU Presidency 2017 – Conference on The State of Digital Education: Engaging with Connected, Blended, and Open Learning.

### **February: Berlin, Germany**

Berlin Conference on Education and Culture hosted by the British Council (UK) and DAAD (Germany) in preparation of the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

### **April: Brussels, Belgium**

Global Education Network Europe – Malta application for membership in this network group was formally accepted.

### **May: London, United Kingdom**

Going Global Conference held in London. This was on the invitation of the British Council. A Roundtable meeting was organised jointly by the British Council and Universities UK International for Education Malta where a presentation was delivered to leading UK Universities.

### **July: Switzerland**

Meetings held with the following:

Organisers of the annual ZurichEduExpo, which takes place in March and is aimed at both business to business as well as for students.

Swissuniversities on possible interest by Swiss Universities to include Malta in their study abroad network.

### **September: Seville, Spain**

European Association for the Internationalisation of Education (EAIE) which was held in Seville, Spain. Several contacts were made with firms providing international platforms matching international Universities and students who were willing to undertake studies abroad.

### **October: Cyprus**

Global Education Network Europe – Roundtable Conference – Cyprus. Education Malta presented on Malta’s potential for educational entities to establish a presence.

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

Universities UK International Conference hosted over one hundred and fifty UK Universities decision makers for a one day seminar. Education Malta hosted a ‘world café’ style table for delegates to promote the internationalisation of education in Malta.

### **November: Stockholm, Sweden**

Donor Harmonisation Group Conference was held in Sweden to discuss opportunities for African (mainly Sub Sahara countries) students studying in Europe. Education Malta was invited to participate by one of the organisers, the Dutch National Education Agency – Nuffic.

## Delegations organised to visit Malta

*High level delegation visit to Malta led by the British Council Chief Executive, Sir Ciaran Devane.* Sir Ciaran lead a delegation of high profile University Vice Chancellors to Malta, on 3 and 4 May 2017. Meetings were held with the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, the British High Commissioner, the Minister for Education and Employment and the Minister for Justice and Culture.

*The Chairman and the Director of Programmes at Global Education Network Europe* were hosted by Education Malta in November 2017. Meetings were held at the Ministry for Education and Employment and officials from the Education Ministry to run a GENE driven Innovation and Increased programme during 2018. This is mainly funded by the European Union through an additional contribution from the Ministry. The programme will start in 2018.

Dr Vangelis Tsiligiris was hosted from 27<sup>th</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017. During the visit Dr Tsiligiris met with the members of the Board of Governors of Education Malta, the Education and Employment Minister, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry for Education and Employment, the Governor of the Central Bank of Malta, the Chief Executive of Malta Enterprise, the British Deputy High Commissioner for Malta and representatives of private educational entities already operating in Malta. The meetings were as a prelude for a study report commissioned by Education Malta. The objective of the research study is to advise on how Malta can effectively promote itself to attract educational institutions of repute to establish a presence in Malta. This in particular within a Brexit background. Also how the already locally active private educational institutions can be more effective to attract international students to study in Malta.

## **Participation in various educational initiatives**

- EASO – European Asylum Support Office – Education Malta contributed towards the placement for about three hundred students over a period of three to four years in International schools in Malta.
- Issue of Expression of Interest for an International School at Mtarfa - Education Malta was involved and advised on the drafting of the Expression of Interest document.
- Education Malta was present at ongoing meetings held with Central Visa Unit (OPM), Identity Malta and the Education Ministry concerning the granting of student VISAs.
- The Foundation was also involved with the new Government Project ‘Learning Machine’ – a Pilot programme on Blockcerts which is to establish an infrastructure for academic credentials on the Blockchain.

## **Interviews and features in international Magazines**

Education Malta featured in the following publications:-

- Obbcom, a publication distributed at the Saint Petersburg Economic Forum along Russia’s leading newspaper.
- Lufthansa in flight publication of a Malta feature.
- PIE News Magazine - UK

## **International Educational Entities**

### **Accredited/Licensed during 2017 (with foreign shareholders)**

- Valletta Higher Education Institute (Istituto Universitario Digitale di Animazione e Videogiochi (IUDAV) Scola Formazione Battipalia (SA) Italy - BA Hons in Digital Arts, specialising in Animation and video games – November 2016
- Pegaso International University – online degree courses – February 2017
- Malta City College– UoM Valletta Campus – (Business Management – MBA’s) August 2017
- Transcontinental Institute of Higher Education (connection with Corinthia) – Executive MBA- September 2017.
- Neos Educational Services- Switzerland – online / blended courses - September 2017
- United Campus of Malta – September 2017
- Valletta International College– June 2017
- Northumbria University – Newcastle, joint degrees in Nursing with MCAST July 2017

## **Conclusion**

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.