



**Founded 1964**

# **N-Mara**

**Newsletter of the National Council of Women - Malta**



**NCW AMIE Stakeholders Conference**

**AMIE Ambassadors with Mr Martin Bugelli,  
Head of EU Representation**



**NCW Cultural Visit to Gozo with  
Historian Mr Joe Attard Tabone**

**ENVOY Project - a visit to  
Slovenian Natura 2000 site**



**AMIE Press Conference  
at NCW Centre**

**AGM of the newly setup  
Association for Consumer Rights**

## Members of



International Council  
of Women

Founded 1888

Motto: "Do unto others as ye would  
that they should do unto you."



European Centre of the  
International Council of  
Women

Founded 1961

In Special Consultative  
Status with the Economic &  
Social Council of the UN.

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Founded 1964

# Il-Mara

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN - MALTA

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## Congratulations



*Ms. Marlene Bonnici*

The National Council of Women welcomes  
the appointment of Ms Marlene Bonnici to the  
role of Permanent Representative of Malta to  
the EU.

Since 2004, when the directorate became the  
managing authority for Malta's structural funds, NCW Officers worked closely  
with Ms Bonnici representing the Council on the Monitoring Committees. Ms  
Bonnici has been praised for her effective leadership, her dedication and good  
work. Ms Bonnici's experience will surely be an asset for the continuous good  
relationship between Malta and the European Union.

NCW would like to extend its congratulations to Ms Bonnici and wishes her  
great success in this new role.



*Dr. Ann Fenech*

NCW congratulates Dr Ann Fenech, man-  
aging partner of Fenech and Fenech Advocates,  
who has been awarded the 'Best in Shipping  
and Maritime Award' at the Euromoney Legal  
Media Group for the 'Europe Women in Busi-

ness Law Awards 2012'. NCW is proud that recognition has been given to her in  
the field of maritime law. Her energetic commitment in all her endeavours both  
for her family and her career has always been an outstanding quality. NCW wishes  
her continued success in her future initiatives .

### Il-Kunsill Nazzjonali tan-Nisa jinsab soddisfatti li l-Gvern habbar Servizzi Godda tas-Sahha b'Xejn.

- Servizz ieħor tas-saħħa b'xejn bħala parti mill-pjan nazzjonali dwar il-kancer. Il-Gvern se jibda joffri vaċċin kontra l-kancer tal-għonq tal-utru b'xejn lit-tfal liet kollha li għandhom tnax-il sena.
- IL-MINISTRU GHAS-SAHHA, L-ANZJANI U KURA FIL-KOMUNITÀ, LONOR. JOE CASSAR NIEHDA IL-PROGRAMM NAZZJONALI TA' SCREENING TAL-MUSRANA L-KBIRA (COLORECTAL SCREENING), Minn Ottubru li ġej se jibdeu jiġu mistiedna n-nies biex issir ilhom il-Colorectal Screening li hu programm li permezz tiegħu se tiġi eżaminata l-possibiltà ta' kanċer fil-musrana l-kbira.

### New Members

**The National Council of Women welcomes the following new members:**

Susan Bishtawi from Pembroke, Solange Decesare from Sliema,  
Margaret Frendo from Attard, Isabelle Camilleri from Zebbug,  
Pauline Azzopardi from Ibrag, Tiziana Grech from Gwardamangia.



## President's Message



Dear Members and Friends,

Everyday of our lives brings with it its joys and tribulations and during the joyful and happy moments we forget the rest. I would not like it if I were to live in a country where water is a scarcity and it takes a huge effort to procure a bucketfull of it, to me and probably to many of us who have this luxury at the flick of a tap or even a 'no touch' sensor, this would be true hardship, but

to many others this is everyday work, just as we need to travel to go to work.

The third Rio+ 20 UN Conference on environment and sustainable development took place recently, where Heads of State, ministers and over 40,000 people including civil society leaders, parliamentarians amongst others, discussed the pressing issues of the environment. This event followed that of 10 years ago and the 1992 Earth Summit, during which Agenda 21 was adopted. The Rio + 20 outcome document, entitled 'The future We Want', calls for a wide range of actions. These include, beginning the process to establish sustainable development goals, using green economy as a tool to achieve sustainable development goals, strengthening the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), promoting corporate sustainability reporting measures, taking steps to go beyond gross domestic product to assess the well-being of a country, developing a strategy for sustainable development financing and adopting a framework for tackling sustainable consumption and production. It also focuses on improving gender equity, recognizing the importance of voluntary commitments on sustainable development and stressing the need to engage civil society and incorporate science into policy, amongst other points.

One of the joint statements issued, acknowledges that globally we have never generated more wealth and yet the equality gap continues to grow. We are consuming resources faster than earth can generate them and producing more waste and pollution than earth can absorb. As Minister de Marco said – we cannot afford to meet not in 20, or 10

or even in 5 years time, only to admit again that many of our aims have remained 'on paper' For the first time since its inception, in an effort to understand the people's needs, the summit has divided civil society in nine groups, namely, children and youth, farmers, trade unions, NGOs, local authorities, science and technology, indigenous people, business and industry and women. Rio+20 is not an end but a beginning. It is time for all of us to think globally and locally.

In the last 12 months our family has been through some tribulations of a different nature, having lost a grandson, a mother and a sister, but also joys through the birth of a granddaughter and 4 other births from my nieces. Losing someone dear to us is an experience in itself, because what we feel is a total sum of what that person has meant to us throughout his or her life, with the exception of children because that experience leaves you helpless. The joys that a birth brings with it on the other hand, is appreciation of life itself, a life that should be nurtured and loved in order to grow into adulthood and the cycle repeats itself once more.

I have attended two pre budget consultation meetings since I last wrote and one of the issues that was raised was school hours or rather the possibility of extending the school hours to what they were some years ago. With many women wishing to contribute also to the economy, the main issue remains the short hours that the woman has at work, before collecting the children from school or being at home to await their arrival. In several countries, the school hours are longer when children are younger, gradually decreasing as they get older, which is not so now but was so some years ago with school finishing at 3.30 pm or even 4.00pm. There were fewer women working then, so why did the system change. We would like to hear your views about this issue as well as others that crop up in different situations that we find ourselves in. If issues are brought to the fore they can be tackled if not they remain as issues.

Whilst wishing you all a relaxing time during the holidays, please remember to look at the UV index before you venture out, so that you can take the necessary precautions.

**Mary Gaerty, President**

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## The Role of Women in Society

NCW Comments and proposals addressing the role of women in society - Pre-Budget 2013 consultation meeting.

On the 20 May 2012 with Hon Tonio Fenech, Minister of Finance, the Economy and Investment invited women's organisations for an exchange of views on the role of women in society. Also present for the consultation meeting were representatives of the Education Department and Social Services, representatives of female entrepreneurs and the Association of PSD Teachers.

The following is a summary of the points raised by NCW during the meeting.

### 1. Strengthening Family-friendly measures

#### Recommendations

- The need to increase in the provision of childcare facilities through Public-Private partnerships in other areas where access is difficult
- The need for the launch of a national scheme for after-school services through public-private partnerships as another alternative, not necessarily depending on the use of school premises
- Mandatory registration of all childcare centres and facilities to ensure standards are in place. Currently 53 centres are registered and 15 are in the process or are not
- Legislation and implementation measures for the provision of child minding services

### 2. Employment

Increasing the participation rate of women in the labour market, through active labour market policies is one of the policy instruments that would affect the sustainability of Malta's pension system. However, NCW is aware that this policy needs to be combined with other policy measures for future sustainability both for current and future pensioners

(NCW is currently drawing up a report on the Reform of the Pension System in Malta with particular reference to the gender gap)

#### Recommendations

- The Introduction of a National Action Plan to address reconciliation between family life and work by addressing both men and women. Current fragmentation of measures needs to be addressed:
- A comprehensive review of flexibility and flexicurity measures in particular in the private sector to ensure that measures aim at adapting organisa-

tion of time to an individual's life cycle : youth, raising a family and old age

- Legislation covering non-transferable parental leave
- Incentives for employers in the private sector who introduce such measures for men and women
- An education campaign following the current ETC campaign to address not only behaviour but also change of mentality and values: the value of 'care' by fathers
- The positive effects leading to more stable relations in the family
- Understanding men's needs to promote 'men care' attitudes and behaviour
- Evaluation of current past financial incentives and family-friendly measures needs to be carried out to ensure objectives and targets are being achieved and to make the necessary changes for more effective outcomes



#### Measures should include:

- NSO studies to provide data on:
  - a. number of women on reduced hours; research study to obtain data on outcomes-success and failure
  - b. interviews with heads of departments, employers, beneficiaries (employees) men and women to evaluate organisation of working methods
  - c. number of women returning to work after the birth of first, second and/or third child
  - d. the effectiveness of financial measures
- Evaluating teleworking for both men and women – results to serve as indicators for future provision
- Precarious work: Addressing 'precarious work' both in the public and private sector. To address issues such as employment for the duration of a project to be followed by entitlement to full employment after a number of years (4 years)
- Entitlement to social benefits in cases of employees working with more than one employer on part-time basis or

change of employer

- Review tax regime for pensioners *who opt to go on working* to ensure it is not a disincentive
- Making the necessary changes in legislation to review pensions entitlement to widows who have been/ are in employment

### 3. Small and Medium-sized Enterprises SMEs

( NCW is currently working on a comprehensive approach to Issues addressing SMEs)

Female Entrepreneurship:

#### Recommendations

- Drawing up of a *National Action Plan on Female Entrepreneurship as part of the Small Business Act Malta* and as part of the portfolio of the Ministry for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises to be addressed as an economic issue
- Continuation of schemes to address the obstacles faced by women who run their own business activity, including entitlement to social benefits and maternity leave
  - Incentives to promote fully functioning temping agencies
  - Mentoring schemes

### 4. Addressing issues regarding teaching staff male and female both in the public and private sectors with regards to reconciliation between work and family life

### 5. Addressing undeclared work contributions

Informal work deprives workers of their social protection and society as a whole of taxes and social security. It tarnishes the image and perception of domestic work, making it a second-class job, which encourages stereotypes and drags the entire profession down. It also increases the likelihood of poverty.

#### Recommendations

- The need to carry out research in order to obtain more precise data on the regulations, working, employment conditions and social protection of domestic workers and the application of these rights in EU Member States
- Introducing legal solutions, including provisions in the areas of tax, social insurance, labour law and civil law,
- Promote information/training on the obligations and rights of employers and workers
- Provide for the certification of experience and lifelong learning to ensure that the value of this work

*continued on page 5*

## Campaign to get more women into scientific careers

Brussels, 22/06/2012 (Agence Europe) - Science is also a "girl thing". That is the message the Commission intends to drive home throughout the EU over the next three years to get more girls interested in science and encourage more women to choose research as a career.

It is often highlighted that there are not enough women in science-based sectors. While women make up more than half the EU's student population and

45% of all doctorates, they account for only one third of career researchers. The Commission is confronting this problem head-on launching a campaign on 21 June to get young women interested in studying science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM subjects). Initially the campaign will focus on 13 to 17 year-olds because it is as adolescents that youngsters make their first choices of studies. The focus will then broaden

to female students more generally, encouraging them to consider research careers.

This Commission initiative has come at precisely the right time with the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumers Council of Thursday 21 June adopting conclusions on gender equality in scientific training and climate-change decision-making.

## Aung San Suu Kyi - Nobel Peace Prize Winner

On Saturday 17 June Aung San Suu Kyi is officially awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in a 21 year belated ceremony in Oslo Norway. On Thursday 21 June, she addresses the UK Houses of Parliament in Westminster Abbey. Listening to her is an experience that no one should have missed – men or women.



She speaks optimistically about peace, dialogue and consensus, turning to all the world for support to Myanmar on its

road to democracy, be it humanitarian or political. Her Oxford education combined with her Asian traditions have laid the foundations and shaped her strong belief in non-violence, reflected in her actions, behaviour, indeed in the way she address all as her equals.

I recall her over two decades ago in the early years of her 'fight' for a better life for the people of Myanmar (Burma). Her determination, her courage and her respect for the dignity of all human beings has always struck me. In her isolation, under house arrest she experienced the suffering of so many homeless, displaced people and refugees separated from their families, and 'prisoners of conscience', all over the world. There is no bitterness in her words, rather a realistic sense of forward-looking, shared with the divided people of Myanmar who believe in her and look up to her as instrumental in bringing about change and

reform and political settlement.

Perhaps what I have cherished most all throughout these years is her conviction that freedom in everyday life can only be achieved through dialogue - a step-by-step process that requires time and effort. We, in the western world might assume that we are better off, that Myanmar is far back in time and we fifty years or more ahead. I doubt it!

Progress and complacency have blinded us, so that we no longer strive for 'others'. There is no longer the vision to achieve so that all can move forward; we are drowning in our own personal, little world of ambition, personal gain and immediate satisfaction I call upon women to come forward, to take the lead, and to work to build a sense of collective responsibility, not by imitating others but by being authentic instruments of change.

**Grace Attard, Vice-President NCW**

### continued from page 4

is recognised and that employers or clients have guarantees of the professional abilities of all employees, both male and female.

- Identify, reduce and prevent work-related risks inherent to domestic work, guarantee conditions that are no less favourable than those enjoyed by other workers in terms of health and safety at work and social security benefits, including maternity leave and retirement pensions.

### 6. Addressing the gender gap in Science and Technology

#### Recommendations

- Changing the Practice of Research Grant Evaluations to ensure gender equality
- *Promoting Women Researchers* through individual coaching, mentoring training in particular before application, preparation for interviews etc
- *Institutional Strategy*: promotion, preparation, responsibility
- Comprehensive assessment – combin-

ing quantity and quality in assessing excellence - evaluation by cross-disciplinary panels

- Ensuring *equality plans* are in place
- Create *linkages between universities and*



*enterprise to understand better in which areas they can collaborate better*

### 7. Addressing the needs of migrant women

To carry out studies on the potential of women migrants to the economy  
To monitor migrant women in undeclared work

To offer training in employability skills

### 8. Domestic Violence

#### Recommendations

- Drawing up of an Interministerial Action Plan for the early detection and prevention of domestic violence
- Creating a *bigger pool of professionals working in the field of domestic violence and access to scholarships for post graduate studies for professionals working in the field of domestic violence*:
- Setting up the necessary mechanisms to follow-up cases of separation of couples who are at risk of domestic violence. A study of the risks of continued domestic violence after separation needs to be carried out
- Adequate programmes for the police force as key elements in reducing and eliminating domestic violence
- Prevention and awareness raising ongoing programmes of domestic violence through campaigns for youth

**Grace Attard, Vice-President, NCW, EESC member**



## Spring Gozo Outing

The Environment Committee organised a full day excursion to Gozo on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2012. The group of NCW members and friends were accompanied by a professional researcher and historian Mr. Joe Attard Tabone. Our first visit was the newly restored chapel of Santa Cecilia situated in Ghajnsielem on the way to Rabat. Mr. Giovanni Zammit representing Wirt Artna explained in detail the restoration process of the chapel and how the restoration project was made possible by the publishing of a conservation order by MEPA, which believed that the property was suffering from natural deterioration, neglect and wilful damage. It was also noted that parts of the building had collapsed and others had been damaged by vandalism. The Project was completed in 2011.

The next stop was a visit to the Peasant Costume: Insights into Rural Life and Society exhibition at the Gozo Ministry Exhibition Hall. The exhibition, an extremely informative one helped us understand how these costumes, that were normally home-made, were intimately linked with the rural world.

After some free time in Rabat, the

group proceeded to the picturesque Dwejra Area to visit the Dwejra Coastal Tower, where Mr. Mario Gauci welcomed the group and expertly gave a detailed description of the history and restoration of the tower. The view from the roof of the tower was exceptional, indeed a great opportunity to our group as the tower is not always open for visitors on Saturdays.



Our usual appointment with lunch followed by a delicious Gozitan ice-cream at Xlendi bay and a visit to the Ghadira ta' San Raflu was not missed.

We continued our intensive itinerary in the heat of the afternoon and proceeded to one of Mr. Joe Attard Tabone most treasured site, the Gozo Stone Circle k/a the Brockdroff Circle. Although it was

not possible to enter the grounds, Mr Joe Attard Tabone explained how he had located the site in 1965 and it was through his intervention that the site was saved from destruction by so called progress of construction. The excavations of the Gozo Stone Circle in Xaghra is a unique underground prehistoric burial site near Ggantija temples. The stone circle had been described in historical writings but subsequently lost. The secrets of the site were still hidden in libraries' archives and underground. Mr. Joe Attard Tabone established the location through the evidence of an 18<sup>th</sup> century illustration by French artist and writer Jean Houel.

Due to lack of time and the scorching sun it was decided to postpone our visit to the farmhouse which used to house the 1814 plague hospital and the walk to Santa Verna Prehistoric site.

The Environment Committee is very grateful for the kind services of Mr. Joe Attard Tabone, who planned the itinerary with great enthusiasm and ensured that the historical sites were opened and accompanied by a competent person, so that our group will acquire the best knowledge.

**Marie Demicoli,**  
**Environment Committee Rapporteur**

## NCW Commemorates the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations 2012 with a visit to Xrobb l-Għajin

The National Council of Women invited forty elderly persons from St. Vincent de Paul and Charelle Residential Home for the Elderly to spend a morning in the beautiful surroundings of Xrobb l-Għajin.

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2012, members of NCW Executive and Environment Committee, helpers from St. Vincent de Paul entertainment Committee and a group of Elderly persons filled the conference hall of Xrobb l-Għajin Nature Park.



Mr. Vince Attard President of Nature Trust gave a presentation about Xrobb l-Għajin Nature Park and its sustainable development. He explained how the area housed the Deutsche Welle Station from 1974 to 1995. In 2005 Nature Trust commissioned the preparation of an ecological appraisal of the site as part of a project to create a nature park with recommendations on afforestation,

education, biodiversity conservation and sustainable living. The area was entrusted to Nature Trust via a management agreement which was officially signed on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2007.

The Park consists of over 155,000 square meters on a jutting peninsula with scenic views visible from within the park including the Delimara peninsula, the natural arch at Ras il-Fenek and the white cliffs of Munxar.

The purpose of the Project is education, demonstration and research in sustainable environmental solutions with overall objective of increasing the use of renewable energy, wastewater management and safeguarding biodiversity.

Facilities on site are: A thirty bed hotel situated on a peninsula with unobstructed sea views from all sides and in full view of the magnificent sunrise, Conference facilities with 100 seat capacity, Catering facilities and Environmental Education Centre which includes a space designed specifically for small children

Another member of Nature Trust Malta Mr. Jeffrey Sciberras spoke about the Marine life in the Mediterranean with a vivid slide show of the different species found in the Mediterranean Sea. Mr. Sciberras emphasized that the marine

turtles had not laid any eggs on the Maltese beaches for over fifty two years. (Two days after our visit a loggerhead turtle laid her eggs in Gnejna Bay.)



In between and after the presentations, our guests were offered refreshments and drinks. They were also presented with a gift pack consisting of toiletries kindly donated by Emmanuel Cassar Limited. The National Council of Women would like to thank Nature Trust, Mr. Bugeja from the Ministry of Rural Affairs, Mr. James Carbott from SVPR, the Entertainment Committee of SVPR and members of the National Council of Women, who helped make this events a truly memorable one.

**Marie Demicoli,**  
**Environment Committee Rapporteur**

## NCW EU Flagship Project European Year for Volunteering 2011 The Way Forward, Final Conference



**The Research Study on  
Volunteering commissioned by  
the National Council of Women  
can be viewed on  
[www.ncwmalta.com](http://www.ncwmalta.com)**



The Spring General Assembly of the European Centre for the International Council of Women ECICW) was held in Athens between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May 2012. Doris Bingley, ECICW President opened the assembly. Representatives from seventeen Countries participated. Doreen Micallef represented NCW Malta. A brief description of the work and projects of each Country was presented to the assembled participants. Full Country reports were distributed electronically to all ECICW members.

Other reports were presented by the representatives of the following: *International Council of Women* ECICW represents the European regional network of ICW, and has taken part in all activities of ICW, including the Executive Committee Meeting in Barcelona in May 2011. Cosima Schenk President of ICW participates at the ECICW General Assemblies. ICW Board member Elisabeth Newman attended the ECICW Athens general assembly.

**Council of Europe.** The ECICW has been granted a participatory status with the CoE and holds a seat on the Board "Liaison Committee". Brigitte Le Gouis is our representative at the CoE. Cosima Schenk is the Alternate. *The Council of Europe* has also granted the ECICW the right to submit Collective Complaints alleging unsatisfactory application of the European Social Charter (if a State member of the CoE has taken a ministerial or juridical decree which is contrary to the decree of the European Social Charter).

**European Women's Lobby** ECICW is a member of the EWL. Rosa Artigas Norat, ECICW Treasurer, holds an elected seat on the Board of the EWL, with Doris Bingley as her Alternate. NCW Malta has Observer Status.

**United Nations:** ECICW has consultative status with the United Nations through ICW.

**Fundamental Rights Platform of the Fundamental Rights Agency** ECICW is a member of the FRA Platform; represented by ECICW General Secretary, Eleni Adam.

*The detailed reports of the above are available from ECICW Secretariat.*

ECICW participated in the *RECON (Reconstituting Democracy in Europe) Project*. This five year long study was done in 18 Universities in 12 European countries. It was financed by the European Commission and administered by Arena, the Centre for European studies at the University of Oslo, Norway. NGOs were involved in many ways in the study. ECICW was one of the partners in this study and was expected to give the necessary NGO expertise and contacts to the grass root level. The project has come to an end and the final extensive report is to be found on the website: [www.reconproject.eu](http://www.reconproject.eu). It was recommended that ECICW strengthens its ties with these institutions

President Doris Bingley then outlined the work done since the Autumn Assembly in Zurich, Switzerland mentioning the important ENVOY Project, which took place in Sicily and Malta concentrating on volunteering and substance abuse. This was an opportunity to highlight the work of ECICW and raise awareness on the importance of ECICW & ICW and their work with the Council of Europe and the United Nations.

The dissemination of the Zurich Statement calling on European Institutions and Governments to take action by supporting National programmes and initiatives to eliminate gender-based violence, by focusing on prevention,

protection and services, improve advocacy for women's empowerment and promote women's decision-making roles at all levels, especially in political and economic positions, which was agreed on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November being International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, was carried out by President Doris Bingley and acknowledgments were received from Europe, from the Maltese Authorities and the Diplomatic Mission representatives in Malta.

During the general assembly, three workshops were held on issues of concern to member organisations. These were:

- Economic independence of women
- Active aging and solidarity between generations
- Safeguarding the cultural identity of the population.

These were some of the conclusions reached at the end of these workshops:

- Countries that have achieved the highest levels of gender equality have profited not just in terms of greater social justice and stability but also in terms of their economic growth and competitiveness. The current crisis is mostly affecting women; women have more precarious jobs and so they are the first ones to suffer in a crisis. The EU should ensure that employment interruptions do not lead to disadvantages to women. The current economic crisis has played a very big role in a backlash in women's rights and equality between men and women. This has become a serious social problem and our main efforts should be that equality between men and women be enforced. EUR 2020 sets targets to reduce the amount of people who fall below the poverty line. Targeted policies are needed to reach these aims. Adequate child care





and equal pay are the aims which will help us to reach these targets. A vision for keeping pension schemes adequate is also very important. We need to guarantee women's full participation on the labour-market regardless of their level of education and in particular young women, we need to guarantee women's full access to life-long learning, ensure quality employment policies for women of all ages, all these done through the promotion of the *flexicurity* strategy applied in the current re-designing of the labour-market.

- Active ageing must first be defined and this can be done in several ways by keeping people engaged in different ways, acting as mentors to people of younger generations who will replace them to facilitate take-over in jobs, etc., learning new skill by using life long learning programmes, joining an association, participation by contributing to civil society, keeping good health by diet and exercising, investing in social relations and friends not only of their own generation and to be active in own neighbourhood. There is not only the financial aspect of the situations but also the social benefits of such a life.
- Globalisation should respect and safeguard all cultures. Each country should ensure that they are safeguarding the law of the country and secondly that they are safeguarding the cultures of the people concerned but at the same time there should be integration. Many countries, such as Britain, have become one large multicultural society. Some countries feel that their society is being drastically changed by immigration. So one must ensure and safeguard the cultural identity.

The following Statement was issued on the last day of ECICW GA

**Economic contribution of women** In Athens on the 20<sup>th</sup> May, ECICW considered current problems affecting women in Europe.

Subjects discussed by women from 17 member countries included:

- the economic independence and social inclusion of women
- active ageing and solidarity between generations
- safeguarding cultural identities, while respecting European traditions and legislation

ECICW-CECIF agreed that the economic contribution of women is needed to

galvanize full recovery from the severe economic recession affecting European countries.

ECICW-CECIF calls upon governments and the European institutions to take every action to ensure that the contribution and experience of women, who have already suffered the effects of unemployment and reduced social security in most countries, are actively involved at every level in the economic and social recovery in their countries.

The Host Council of Greece organized a Seminar with the theme "European Society in Economic & Social Crisis - Women balancing the Output" Mrs. Effi Kalligari, President of the National Council of Women of Greece opened the event.

The next speaker was Mrs Stratigari, an expert who is actively involved in human rights, followed by Prof Spinelli, professor emeritus on criminology and a sociologist who had a very interesting study to present on human trafficking and ECICW President Doris Bingley closed the seminar by saying that it is important to exchange ideas and inspire each other in order to make the most of our limited time. Women are agents of transformation. Having a voice in these fora is essential as women's perspective has a weight in addressing the economic crisis, recovery and beyond.

The seminar's outcome acknowledged that it is well documented that such crisis affects mostly women; women have more precarious jobs and so they are the first ones to suffer in a crisis. Austerity measures will have serious consequences on living conditions of working women. Such situation mean that: - The poverty among women is growing, both for working and retired women. - The crisis is demanding cuts in social spending and could destroy the efforts made so far to implement the tools for reconciliation. - The crisis may weaken workers' rights, so slowly achieved over the years.

These Economic challenges will also increase situations such as Domestic Violence, Trafficking in human beings and Prostitution.

The MFHR (Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights) and AFEM (Association of Women of Southern Europe) have issued recommendations that European institutions should take measures to reinforce social rights in order to exit the economic crisis. This is being supported by many European and international associations. While Lisbon Treaty includes values, social rights and gender equality, the measures currently taken have no social

dimension whatsoever.

ECICW believes that *Investment in women* is just smart business. Equipping women from all backgrounds with the education, skills and support systems necessary to be successful managers, business leaders and entrepreneurs is one of the most important means to ensuring economic growth.

A good policy supporting women's economic empowerment from education to job training to child care to financial literacy to micro-finance and beyond holds the potential for change and growth.



### Future challenges

The ECICW continues its work to empower women and to promote their participation in decision-making at national and European levels; to support Human Rights and to eliminate all kinds of discrimination; to encourage sustainable development and peace.

ECICW plan of action for 2012 is based on Europe 2020. Doris Bingley urged all National Councils to engage with stakeholders to build partnerships and promote quality assured education and training to empower women. Councils were advised to develop life - long learning programmes to enhance skills which include computer literacy and encourage entrepreneurship. By assisting women to achieve economic independence we help eliminate violence and poverty.

The next general assembly of ECICW will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> September in Seoul, Korea to coincide with the General Assembly of ICW-CIF which will be held between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> September and during which elections will be held for a new board.

**Doreen Micallef**  
**NCW Malta**

## United States Trafficking Report Trafficking in Persons Report June 2012

The USA State Department issued a report for the year 2012 on Trafficking in Persons.

The Report provides a clear analysis of the state of modern slavery. This year's *Trafficking in Persons Report* focuses on how to make victim protection - part of the 3P Paradigm of prevention, prosecution, and protection - most effective for helping survivors get their lives back on track. In the report there are specific guides and examples of what victim protection looks like when it succeeds, as well as when it fails. But if a single notion should guide the way governments and caregivers come to the aid of victims, it is the goal of restoring what was lost and providing meaningful choices for the path forward. And that requires listening to their experiences and incorporating their perspectives, to make a reality of the concept "nothing about them without them."

On June 19 Secretary Clinton said: "This report ... gives a clear and honest assessment of where all of us are making progress on our commitments and where we are either standing still or even sliding backwards. ... This year's report tells us that we are making a lot of progress. Twenty-nine countries were upgraded from a lower tier to a higher one, which means that their governments are taking the right steps. This could mean enacting strong laws, stepping up their investigations and prosecutions, or simply laying out a roadmap of steps they will take to respond."

The Countries are classified in Tiers. Malta is back on Tier 2 after being in tier 2WL (2 Watch List) in 2010 & 2011. This shows progress. Countries in Tier 2 are those whose governments do not fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's minimum standards but

are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

Malta is a source, transit, and destination country for women and children subjected to sex trafficking. The approximately 4,500 irregular African migrants currently residing in Malta from African countries may be vulnerable to human trafficking in the country's informal labor market. There were reports that Malta may be a transit country for African women subjected to sex trafficking in continental Europe. The government progressed this year in its commitment to fight human trafficking, including through victim identification and the prosecution of trafficking offenders. The government created its first national anti-trafficking action plan and allocated funds to implement the plan.

The full report is found under Country Narratives J-M - <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/192587.pdf>

**Doris Bingley**  
**Hon General Secretary**

## My Experience

I am married and a mother of three boys, when my youngest started school; I felt I should pursue further studies so that I could contribute to the household income when my husband retires from the Armed Forces of Malta.

Having left school with more or less no qualifications, I decided to consult the National Council of Women as I knew the organisation offered educational classes, through the department of life long learning, to women who would like to return to the labour market or further their education. Through their advice I attended classes to achieve an O and A level Standard in Education and also set for the European Computer Driving licence. With great support and encouragement I managed to overcome many obstacles and achieved good results.

I decided to enroll at University as a mature student and apply for a degree in Theology. The duration of the course was for three years, full time. This was not an easy decision as I knew I had to



find the time to study besides my duties as a wife and mother of three. I had great faith in God and thanks to the

encouragement of the National Council of Women, genuine friends and family I took up the challenge. There were times when I was utterly exhausted but my faith in God kept me going.

When I received the result that I had achieved a degree in Theology, I immediately contacted the National Council of Women to thank them for their support and I hope to encourage other women who perhaps did not have the opportunity to continue their schooling when they were younger and wish to further their studies for their personal achievements or for any other reason.

The National Council of Women through their educational support to adult learners is doing sterling work as it is so supportive towards the dignity of men and women.

**Antonia Aquilina, Zejtun**

## NCW pays tribute to NCW members Mary Anne Bugeja and Irene Cutajar

The National Council of Women is deeply sorry at the sudden demise of Mary Anne Bugeja at the young age of 37. She represented the MUMN on NCW's Central Committee and was a very active member

of the Health Committee

Irene Cutajar, a member of NCW for many years was a dedicated wife and mother, an excellent hostess and a very sporty lady. She enjoyed learning IT and

attended many courses at NCW together with her husband Prof. Lino Cutajar.

They will be greatly missed by all of us at NCW.



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## AMIE Project Update

### Press Conference at the National Council of Women Centre

As part of NCW's work package in the AMIE Project a press conference was organised on Wednesday 16th May 2012 at NCW Buildings Blata l-Bajda to inform the media on the progress of the project to date. A number of journalists from local media attended as well as group of Trade Union members from Latvia who were in Malta at the time. The Trade Union

Members were very enthusiastic about the work of the council and would like to keep further contact with the National Council of Women. They were invited to attend by Ms Grace Attard, three of the members were especially interested as their work involves initiatives dealing with Gender Equality. Ms Mariella Scicluna represented Malta Business Bureau, Ms Maryrose Francica represented Foundation for Women Entrepreneurs and Ms Grace Attard represented NCW on Ms Nadya Anne Mangion's behalf.



### AMIE NCW Stakeholders Conference at Dar l-Ewropa

The AMIE Stakeholders Conference was held on Friday 25th May 2012 at Dar L-Ewropa Valletta. This conference brought together members from the entrepreneurship sector, the AMIE ambassadors and partners in Malta, 30 Ambassadors on the project from Serbia and Croatia as well as journalists from local media.

Dr Jason Azzopardi MP opened the conference stating that encouraging role models for female entrepreneurship is a laudable initiative. He said that over the last three years the number of women entrepreneurs in Malta increased due to various initiatives such as tax credits and other incentives. Ms Anna Danti from the Enterprise and Industry Directorate at the European Commission said that 85% of jobs in Europe are carried out in SMEs. The emphasis has to be on cultivating entrepreneurial skills, cultural perceptions, opportunities and ideas that exist in the economy and networking. Role models are important in order to increase empowerment and self-confidence. The European Commission has in the pipeline an entrepreneurship action plan.

Ms Leonie Baldacchino, University lecturer on entrepreneurship presented local findings from a research study she has carried out. She said that the educational system in Malta prepares students to become good employees creating a gap in the system - employers. Encouragement from parents towards children to become entrepreneurs is rare. Coverage or emphasis from the media on female entrepreneurship is scarce. Entrepreneurship is a matter of hard work but it is achievable and a desirable career option.



Serbian Ambassador Ms Marija Stevanovic said that in Serbia entrepreneurship is presented to citizens as a normal way of life and not just as an alternative. Entrepreneurship exists at all levels of education in Serbia. The message is that being well educated, hard

working and having your own company is the way to be.

Dr Katie Birch Reach Beyond Foundation, spoke about Intuition in Entrepreneurship, sustainability of the project initiative, in which teachers in schools have an important role to play. She said that intuition is of vital intelligence for entrepreneurs. It enables one to face risk using an inner guidance, an immediate insight, an inner learning.

Dr Anna Maria Darmanin Vice-President EESC, spoke about the EU experience wherein older people could expose their work experiences to younger people. The EESC brings together different actors in civil society and is active also in the area of entrepreneurship. She spoke of the importance of being digitally literate, creativity and innovation as well as the importance of the social media.

Comments from the audience followed. The Malta Ambassadors went on to recount their experiences of the different activities carried out during the AMIE project to date. The conference was brought to an end with a networking lunch where all present were able to socialize and forge new friendships and business contacts.

**Nadyanne Mangion, NCW Malta**

### Directive for Self-employed workers and their partners -

*NCW calls for introduction of necessary measures*

The National Council of Women (NCW) has called for the introduction of the necessary measures to ensure the implementation of the EU directive on self-employed workers and assisting spouses who will enjoy better social protection, including the right to maternity leave for the first time.

The directive on self-employed workers and their partners (Directive 2010/41/EU) repeals and replaces an earlier law (Directive 86/613/EEC) and improves the social protection rights of millions of European women in the labour market, strengthening female entrepreneurship. At present, only about 30 per cent of

women in Europe, and 18 per cent in Malta, are entrepreneurs.

Annual employment figures from the Labour Force Survey reveal a marked increase in the percentage of women in the workforce since 2003, but at just 40 per cent, Malta still ranks last in the EU in this area.

NCW vice-president Grace Attard said the NCW would like to see a bigger focus by the authorities on female entrepreneurship, as it is "the perfect road to growth". In particular, she referred to the importance of implementing the EU directive on self-employed workers and their partners, which entered into force in August 2010. EU member states had to introduce the directive into their national laws within two years.

The NCW welcomed the government's

successful efforts to reach an agreement on the extension of paid maternity leave with the social partners within the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development. By means of this agreement, which has been approved by the Employment Relationships Board, the extension of maternity leave by four weeks spread over a two-year period, will be paid by the government with a fixed amount of €160 per week. Mothers who are on maternity leave as from 2 January 2012 are entitled to these provisions. The NCW considers this development as another important step following the publication of a legal notice regulating temping agencies, which came into force on 5 December 2011.

**continued on page 12**

## EESC News

### EESC Conference on Activation of senior citizens - Humanising working conditions for senior workers

The conference was jointly organised by the Coordinating Group "EU Year of Active Ageing and solidarity between Generations 2012" and the EESC Labour Market Observatory (LMO). After a brief introduction by Xavier Verbotven, Vice-President of the Coordinating Group for the Year 2012, the opening session was addressed by Karel Van Damme, Member of the Office of the Belgian Minister for Employment and Leina Samuel, Advisor at the DG Employment Social Affairs and Inclusion. The conference was addressed by representatives of Eurofound, ETUC, AGE Platform Europe, Volkswagen, UNIZO (Employers Organisation for the SME and the Self-employed).

#### Salient points from the Conference

Trends in the economic dependency ratio (the ratio of benefit recipients to working population) are far more important than demographic ratios in determining future funding requirements for pension provision. In view of population ageing in Europe, the Commission also feels that systematically drawing on existing employment potential is by far the most effective strategy.

Longevity - Life Expectancy (Eurostat May 2012) men 72 years, women 81 years. However in terms of healthy years these figures are reduced by 9 years. This factor needs to be taken into consideration in further pension reform. Managing demographic change requires a broad-based approach addressing a range of economic, social and political factors, which may include legal immigration as part of the response.

Managing population ageing to make full use of available employment potential through a targeted growth policy and by increasing the number of high-quality jobs with compulsory social security contributions.

Training in age management both by the public and private sector. This requires a package of measures to ensure that people in all age categories (working life cycle) really have a chance of finding

employment and remaining in work over the longer term - organising work to accommodate ageing at every stage of a person's career. Age distribution must not lead to reducing the numbers of older workers in the labour force.

There is the need to change current measures re collective redundancies - the 'last in first out' should be replaced by a balanced distribution of age. Companies need to come up with ideas on how to adapt work organisation that is compatible with different age groups.

#### Making greater use of older people's employment potential

There are wide differences between the EU Member States: in Sweden, 70% of older people are employed (equivalent to the Lisbon target for total employment). In other countries, including Malta only around one third of people - 30% - aged 55 to 64 are in employment. The strong performance of the three Nordic countries (Sweden, Denmark and Finland) should be highlighted.

Further study shows that the high rates of employment of older people are compatible with different institutional structures, which give an idea of the level of employment potential that may currently be lying untapped in Europe.

Raising the retirement age needs to ensure that people can work longer, by creating jobs and designing them so that people can work until the statutory retirement age. Efforts to increase employment levels of older people based mainly on changes to pension systems are far from enough. This will require systematic reform to develop work that accommodates older people.

- It is not only a question of adapting jobs specifically to older workers, but also of.
- Working conditions and the working environment must be adapted to accommodate workers of quite different ages.
- A key element of all measures should be responsibility on the part of public authorities and companies, and individual willingness to work for longer, which also requires a positive attitude to lifelong learning and preventive health care.

#### Work for older people and work done by older people

Demographic change also provides opportunities for the economy and employment. On the one hand, older people are becoming more important as consumers, which creates employment opportunities for other age groups too. On the other hand, an ageing society also provides considerable employment potential on the supply side.

#### Humanisation of working conditions - active ageing:

- Incentives to encourage older workers to remain in the labour market.
- Making working longer attractive and not an advantage over younger workers
- Adapting job content for older workers - there are more older workers in countries with better quality jobs
- Relationships with colleagues: changing mentalities of society towards older workers
- Training at an early age, through formal education (national curriculum) for young people and lifelong learning programmes to change mentalities
- Quality jobs irrespective of age:

#### Reducing stress at work

- Well-being
- Learning opportunities (lifelong learning)
- Work/life balance
- Alongside collective agreements the need for agreements on skills policy, diversity policy etc

#### Examples of good practice at the workplace:

- Designing of material, cement packs to lower weight etc
- Switching to less strenuous jobs

#### Examples of good practice of active ageing:

- Volkswagen Knowledge Transfer Initiatives - mentoring, training and networking
- Programme built on 3 pillars: Respect, Recognition and Responsibility - growing globally

More details are to be found on Eurofound website: <http://www.eurofound.euroa.eu>

**Grace Attard, EESC member**

#### continues from page 11

Employers stand to gain from this measure, as they will be able to employ trained personnel on a temporary basis when workers are on long leave (in this case mothers before and after they give birth). The interim period necessary for a fully functioning temping agency/ies requires a number of measures to address the needs of both employers and workers.

Among other things, NCW has recommended the introduction of schemes by the Employment and Training Corporation for the provision of supply workers during maternity and paternity leave, a further increase in the number of affordable and accessible care services for children through public private partnerships and the use of structural

funds, as well as the introduction of a legal provision to increase paternity leave by including a non-transferable period in paternal leave to encourage the sharing of care responsibilities between mothers and fathers. The full article written by Francesca Vella appeared on May 20<sup>th</sup> in the Malta Independent and can be viewed on [www.ncwmalta.com](http://www.ncwmalta.com)



## Youth Education and Employment within the Europe 2020 Strategy

Conference organised jointly by the Group III of the EESC and the Bulgarian Economic and Social Council, the Bulgarian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and the Representation of the European Commission was held in Sofia, Bulgaria on Friday 8 June.

Koos RICHELLE, Director-General, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion - European Commission gave an overview of the different programmes that the Commission is offering in collaboration with member states to address youth education and vocational training to reduce youth unemployment with particular reference to the current financial crisis.

The first thematic session centred on "The Role of the universities for the training and realization of young people". The session was chaired and moderated by Michael Smyth, Head of the School of Economics at the University of Ulster, Member of Group III - EESC.

Interventions were made by a representative of the Lithuanian Youth Council, the Rector of the University of National and World Economy (UNWE),

Bulgaria and the Rector of the Agricultural University, Austria.

The second thematic session centred on "Policies and measures for prevention of early school leaving" chaired and moderated by Maureen O'NEILL, Director of Faith in Older People, UK and Vice-President of Group III - EESC. Interventions were made by Grace Attard, Vice-President of the National Council of Women in Malta, former Secondary school teacher and Member of the Bureau of Group III and Yanka Takeva, Bulgaria, Member of the Bulgarian ESC, Rapporteur on the EESC opinion "Policies to reduce early leaving of the educational system".

The Third thematic session centred on "Supporting growth and jobs - an agenda for the modernisation of Europe's higher education systems" chaired and moderated by Krzysztof PATER, Poland President of the Labour Market Observatory and Member of the Bureau of Group III - EESC. Interventions were made by: Juraj Stern, Slovakia, Professor at the Faculty of Business Management of the University of Bratislava, Slovakia, Co-Rapporteur for the EESC opinion SOC/429 on the

Modernisation of Higher Education and Member of the Bureau of Group III - EESC and Neno Pavlov, Vice-President of the Bulgarian ESC (Group III), Professor at the University of National and World Economy.

Conclusions and closing remarks were made by Lalko Dulevski, President of the Bulgarian ESC and Member of Group III - EESC and Luca Jahier, President of Group III - EESC. The joint conference was an excellent opportunity to share examples of best practice between member states. During the very interactive discussion, the representatives of Bulgaria had the opportunity to bring forward proposals to address the needs of Bulgarian youths in areas that require particular attention, such as vocational training in agriculture.

There was keen interest in the presentation of Malta's strategy presented by Grace Attard in addressing early school leaving, which included measures by the Education Department, MCAST, ETC and ITS and copies of the presentation, with relevant websites were distributed. In the course of the discussion, Grace Attard discovered positive existing links between Malta and Bulgaria in the field of education.

**Grace Attard,**  
**NCW Vice-President, EESC member**

## European Women's Lobby (EWL)

### Report

Doris Bingley ECICW President and Doreen Micallef NCW Malta attended the EWL General Assembly in Budapest Hungary in May 2012. Brigitte Triems, President of the EWL stated that 2012 is the year of active aging and intergenerational solidarity and the EWL is using the opportunity of this year to look at gender equality and women's rights.

Mr. Laszlo Andor, European Commissioner responsible for employment, social affairs and inclusion sent a video message stating that EU's long standing efforts to address gender inequality have been very evident. Women have difficulties since they are less represented in the work force, work for less years since they are out of work to bear children, etc.

The keynote Speech entitled "A life-cycle approach to gender equality" was given by Diane Elson, Economist at University of Essex, UK. Care can be unpaid (family members, neighbours, friends, volunteers) and it is gendered (women provide more of it than men). A lack of care services leads women to take part time paid work or not to enter labour market at all. Despite working as many or longer hours in total as men, women are poorer in old age. Older people provide care as well as receiving care. Grandparents provide care

for grandchildren as well. In view of these facts, we should think of the 3 R's:

1. Recognize - provide carers' allowances and pension credits but the challenge is will this perpetuate gender inequality in labour market?
2. Reduce - invest in paid care services. Here the challenge is will this perpetuate gender inequality in the labour market?
3. Redistribute - get men to do a bigger share, through publically funded rights, to paid leave for care responsibilities. However will this be enough to change social stereotypes?

During a panel discussion entitled "The mirror of our lives: from pay to pensions", Platon Tinios, Economist at University of Piraeus, Greece spoke of 'Protecting older women and the pension gender gap'. Older women's interests are frequently taken for granted due to insufficient representation in decision taking and since they are frequently victims of unintended consequences. Older women form a kind of stranded generation. Traditional gender roles are the stereotypes which are still behind the facts and figures. The traditional division of domestic tasks maintain economic inequalities between men and women.

A second panel entitled "Her Future: Solidarity between generations", was dedicated to the Intergenerational solidarity in

women with disabilities. It was argued that policies and social movements in favour of women with disabilities are scarce.

Another presentation argued that migrant women are often victims of conflict in their home country. Their inability to speak the host language is the major stumbling block in their integration in the community they move to. Often, many of them are sexually abused and live in poverty and all these factors together give the women a low self-esteem.

On occasion of the European Year of active ageing and solidarity between generations 2012, EWL presented a manifesto entitled "Women's rights and gender equality from a life-cycle perspective".

Rosa Artigas Norat, ECICW Treasurer has been elected on the EWL Board.

A full report can be viewed on [www.womenlobby.com](http://www.womenlobby.com)



**Doreen Micallef**  
**NCW Malta**

## Envoy Project 2<sup>nd</sup> Event - Pembroke Malta

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Event of the ENVOY Project (European Network For Volunteers and Youth) was held in Malta between the 24<sup>th</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2012. The Lead partners were Unione Dei Comuni delle Valli Joniche dei Peloritani (Italy) and the Municipal Partners being Antonovo (Bulgaria), Crnomelj (Slovenia) & Pembroke (Malta).

The event was put up at the Bay Street Hotel Complex Conference Hall, and the delegations stayed at the Bay Street Hotel Complex itself, being both convenient and also a perfect location for the delegations as it is central and matched all their needs.

The Event's theme was :

### **Volunteering in the field of Fighting Drugs and Alcohol**

The opening ceremony was conducted by Evelyn Vella Brincat being also the head of the Maltese Delegation as well as the moderator on the local Event. The Mayor of Pembroke Mr Joe Zammit welcomed all to Pembroke and augured us all good luck in our work. Dottoressa Angela D'Arrigo, the ENVOY Project Coordinator spoke about the importance of this project and the reason behind it and Dottoressa Angela Caspanello who also stressed on the importance

of introducing the youths into the voluntary sector as they are tomorrow's generation.

The event had speakers from Antonovo (Bulgaria) Ms Mariella Petrova Kancheva who is the Executive Director of RAM "Central Stara Planina" and from Crnomelj (Slovenia), Mr Peter Crnic the Director of RIC (Razvojno Information Center), Mrs Connie Tonna & Mr



Pierre Galea from AAA (Association for Abandoned Animals), Mrs Judith Debono from Lions Mдина & Mrs Doris Bingley from NCW (National Council of Women).

Over the days of the event, we visited the San Blas Rehabilitation Centre where we met youths who had alcohol and drug addiction problems. We had a

guided tour of Marsaxlokk and Mдина. In Mдина, we were welcomed by the Mдина Deputy Mayor and given free entrance to Mдина Experience which our delegations thoroughly enjoyed.

We visited Gozo where we conducted a study visit to Arka Foundation which was followed by a cultural visit to the Cittadella, lunch and a visit to Ta' Pinu Sanctuary. Another study visit, this time, to Oasi Foundation concluded the Gozo visit and left all the delegation feeling so much more informed and aware of the problems around us.

This Event was a great success, and it was a success thanks to all who worked tirelessly on it namely:

Pembroke Local Council Staff: Mr Kevin Borg, Mrs Alison Grixti, & Ms Kirsty Rizzo.

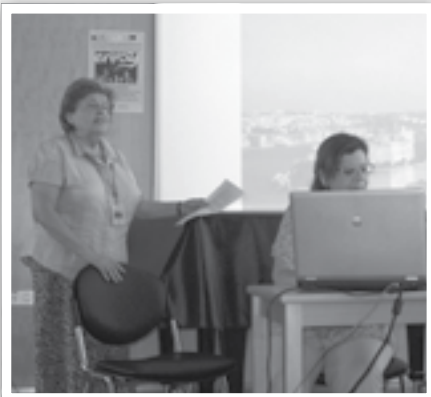
Special thanks go to The Minister for Resources & Rural Affairs, The Hon. George Pullicino, The Minister of Education Environment, The Hon. Dr Mario De Marco, The Minister for Justice, Dialogue & The Family, The Hon. Dr Chris Said, Mдина Mayor & Deputy Mayor, Malta Tourism Authority, Emmanuel Delicata Winemaker Ltd, Meridiana Wine Estate and the Good Causes Fund.

**Evelyn Vella Brincat**  
**Head of the Maltese Delegation**

## Envoy Project 3<sup>rd</sup> Event - Crnomelj, Slovenia

The Theme for this event was **Sustainable Development.**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Envoy event was held in Crnomelj, Slovenia. The Maltese delegation this time consisted of two new members, namely Mrs Marie Demicoli the Ambassador for Active Ageing and Mr Mario Gauci from Nature Trust.



The first on site visit was a long walk in the forest leading us to a lake where people fish and on to The TRIS Kanizarica Industrial Park. This was previously a coal mine which was turned into an industrial park. A visit to the Mining Museum and the mine itself showed us how an area that was previously in a pitiful state was turned into a sustainable development site.

We met Madame Mayor Mojca Cemas

Stejevanovic who together with Mr Peter Crnic as Director of RIC Bela Krajina, welcomed us on our visit to Crnomelj.

Various visits were conducted namely to Cvitkovic Craft Farm in Adlesici, The Beekeeping Path in Zunici and Sokcev Dvor House. The latter being recognised by UNESCO for their local craft including their Easter Egg Decoration, Weaving and embroidery and classic stitching. We were also lucky to visit the RIVER KOLPA, which has been awarded the title of **European Destination of Excellence 2010** in Vinica. In the evening, we were invited to a barbecue held each year in honour of the firemen and their excellent and important work.

Another visit was to an old church which is no longer being used as a church but as a civic hall. Often civil marriages take place here and because of the acoustic hall, small concerts being held in the Crnomelj, often prefer this place. The grounds of this church hold many graves of important and rich people, while the roof hosts many bats. While walking about in the centre of Crnomelj, we visited a school of music, and old house which is being renovated into this wonderful school. The delegation was then taken to visit Gric, a village that is being cared for by volunteers and environmental bodies. Mr Tone Starc, a volunteer, gave a wonderful presentation on the village and the group was invited to walk from Gric to Gricki Kal, stopping at the Grdanji

Skdnj Cave, inside which, a temperature of 8 degrees persisted. This is the place, where each year, a Christmas Concert is held. The group was taken to an eco-farm for dinner. Only here does the endemic species Black Proteus live. We tried to see it but I guess we were too noisy for it to make the awaited appearance, although we waited patiently for some time.

Fun time was also allocated to the delegations when they were taken rafting on the Kolpa river which separates Slovenia from Croatia. Some had the opportunity to spend a couple of hours rafting, some could even swim from Slovenia to Croatia, whereas others had a wonderful sleep on the river bank. Most of the group were proud owners of a good suntan and an excellent experience. I must say, the Slovenians are fun!

During an informal head of delegation meeting, it was proposed that the next event, the 4<sup>th</sup> Envoy Project Event to be held in Bulgaria, should be held between the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2012. This still need to be confirmed by our host, the Bulgarian Delegation.

As every good thing comes to an end, a goodbye party in Zupancevec Hram Tourist Farm was held in honour of all the delegations, all the volunteers and youths working on the Envoy Project. Our trip back home started early on the last day, giving us a couple of hours visiting Ljubljana.

**Evelyn Vella Brincat**  
**Head of the Maltese Delegation**



## Diary of Events

### April

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Laqgħa ta' konsultazzjoni dwar Standards ta' Kwalita Ambjentali fil qasam tal-Politika dwar l-Ilma. Mary Gaerty attended
- 4<sup>th</sup> Half day of Recollection at the National Council of Women
- 6<sup>th</sup> 8th Women's Empowerment towards Equality Cyprus
- 9<sup>th</sup> MCESD Meeting Grace Attard and Doris Bingley  
Executive Committee Meeting
- 11<sup>th</sup> Laqgħa ta' Konsultazzjoni f'Għawdex: il-Prevenzjoni, it-tnaqqis u l-Kontroll tal-Hsejjes
- 12<sup>th</sup> Public Lecture, "Creating a Common Future - Need for a Visionary Europe at UOM Campus Valletta  
Sexual Health Seminar at Mater Dei Auditorium Francesca Chetcuti attended  
AMIE PROJECT Talk to inmates at Corradino Prison. Mary Gaerty attended
- 13<sup>th</sup> Official Opening tas-Sena Ewropea għal Anzjanita Attiva u s-Solidarjeta bejn il-Generazzjonijiet Konferenza Marie Demicoli participated.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Creating a Common Future
- 15<sup>th</sup> Preparations and chairing of Extraordinary Executive Committee meeting in preparation for First AGM to launch Malta Consumers Association to be held on 15 May
- 16<sup>th</sup> Invitation of Latvian Trade Union to visit NCW Centre on the 16 May at 12.00 noon
- 16<sup>th</sup> Study of MCESD regulations re MCESD Civil Society Act that was approved by Parliament last week. Proposed amendments are to be sent today by Civil Society Committee to Minister Said and to Chair MCESD Mr Potertlli Meetings re Preparations for Conference to be held in October on the Rights of the Unborn Child
- 16<sup>th</sup> CSO meeting Doris Bingley attended  
E. Cubed Consultants Ltd. Meeting re: Budget speech for 2012 Mary Gaerty and Nadyanne Mangion attended
- 19<sup>th</sup> MEUSAC information session, Bridging Age Gaps through EU Funding
- 20<sup>th</sup> MEUSAC LIFE+ information Session  
MCESD Civil Society Group meeting with the Hon. Minister Chris Said
- 23<sup>rd</sup> EU Flagship Project Research Document presented to Minister Chris Said - Grace Attard & Doris Bingley
- 26<sup>th</sup> Water Sustainability Seminar Mary Gaerty attended  
Consumer Affair Council - The Regulatory Authority furthering the Welfare of Consumers.
- 27<sup>th</sup> ICT Microsoft Meeting at Mdina Doris Bingley & Marie Demicoli participated
- 30<sup>th</sup> MCESD civil society committee meeting. Grace Attard and Marie Demicoli attended

### May

- 2<sup>nd</sup> E. Cubed Consultants Ltd. Meeting re: Budget speech for 2012 Mary Gaerty attended
- 4<sup>th</sup> NCPE Launch of I'm not Racist but .....Project Grace Attard and Mary Gaerty attended
- 5<sup>th</sup> Malta Midwives Association Official Opening of New Premises Mary Gaerty attended
- 8<sup>th</sup> Consultation Meeting at the Ministry of Finance Mary Gaerty attended
- 9<sup>th</sup> AMIE Project partners meeting Nadyanne Mangion, Marie Demicoli and Grace Attard participated  
Invitation by Commission representation in Malta and EU Parliament Office to celebrate Europe Day 9 May 2012
- 10<sup>th</sup> Mothers in Management Seminar Mary Gaerty attended  
Invitation to talk by Leo Bormans, author of worldwide best seller 'The World Book of Happiness' on positive thinking for citizens at the Old University Building, Valletta
- 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> European Women's Lobby General Assembly in Budapest Doris Bingley and Doreen Micallef attended.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting  
Rights and Obligations Consultation Meeting on the National Children's Policy Mary Gaerty attended.
- 15<sup>th</sup> The first Annual General Meeting of the newly set up Association for Consumer Rights Malta
- 16<sup>th</sup> AMIE Project Press Conference at the National Council of Women  
Grace Attard and Marie Demicoli participated. GA was invited to attend the ceremony presenting H.E. Eddie Fench Adami, President Emeritus the Schumann Award for being the key to Malta's membership in the EU and for his contribution to the European Project at EU level. GA was invited by the Italian Embassy to commemorate Italian National Day. The British High Commissioner invited GA to celebrate the Queen's Birthday on June 15
- 17<sup>th</sup> Reception to welcome the New American Ambassador Mary Gaerty.  
Monitoring Committee Meeting Therese Cassola attended
- 17<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> ECICW Spring General Assembly presided by ECICW President Doris Bingley in Athens, Greece. Doreen Micallef attended as NCW delegate
- 19<sup>th</sup> Green jobs in small States Launch of the Publication Evelyn Vella Brincat attended  
St Aloysius College Sixth Form students participation in the youth project - Your Europe... Your Say! Grace Attard helped the students in their participation in the project for planet session at the EESC in Brussels
- 21<sup>st</sup> Environment Committee Meeting  
Consultation Meeting with the Hon. Minister Tonio Fenech Minister for Finance Mary Gaerty and Grace Attard attended

- 25<sup>th</sup> AMIE PROJECT Final Conference organized by National Council of Women. Grace Attard and Marie Demicoli participated
- 26<sup>th</sup> Seminar, "I-Ambjent tagħna Is-Saħħa tagħna" organised by Fondazzjoni IDEAT Priscilla Muscat participated.
- 27<sup>th</sup> PN Kunsill Generali Mary Gaerty attended
- 28<sup>th</sup> Enhancing Policy Development Stakeholders Training Session
- 30<sup>th</sup> Is-Seba Programm ta Azzjoni Ambjentali u Rio+ 20 Mary Gaerty attended  
Labour Market Observatory LMO Seminar on Addressing Early School Leavers and Youth Unemployment in the current financial crisis - presentation by Grace Attard

### June

- 1<sup>st</sup> Partit Laburista Konferenza Id f' Id - Soċjeta Gusta
- 4<sup>th</sup> Consultation pre-budget Meeting with the Hon Minister Tonio Fenech, Minister of Finance needs of children. Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley participated.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Cerimonja ta' Tifkira Għien Hasting Sette Guigno Mary Gaerty attended
- 9<sup>th</sup> Gozo Outing organized by the Environment Committee
- 11<sup>th</sup> National Day of Russia Reception hosted by the Russian Ambassador
- 12<sup>th</sup> Konferenza Nazzjonali Gzira - Regjun fl-Unjoni Ewropeja  
CCMI Conference celebrating the 10th anniversary since its establishment in the EESC Grace Attard participated
- 13<sup>th</sup> NCPE Gender Mainstreaming in Practice Final Conference - Doris Bingley attended.
- 14<sup>th</sup> MEUSAC Consultation Meeting L-Isfidi u l-Opportunitajiet għat-turizmu marittimu u dak Kostali. Doris Bingley attended.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Start Up Stronger Together Female Entrepreneurs Across Europe Conference Doris Bingley, Therese Cassola and Marie Demicoli attended
- 16<sup>th</sup> National Association of Pensioners Annual General Meeting Doris Bingley attended
- 18<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting
- 20<sup>th</sup> NCW celebrate the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generation with an outing to Xrobb L- Għagin.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Seminar on the European qualification Framework - National Awards system and the 3rd Edition of the Revised referencing Report. Marie Demicoli attended  
Grace Attard and Doris Bingley Consultation Meeting with the Hon. Minister Jason Azzopardi  
Volunteering in Town seminar organized by the Association of Local Councils Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended
- 23<sup>rd</sup> MCVS Training session on Communications

## Forthcoming Events

### Literary Evening on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm

The Environment Committee would like to invite NCW members and friends to send their literary works to be included in the forthcoming Literary Evening at the Café Deux Baronnes on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm.

Maltese traditional Fitra with Salad, ice-cream and soft drink will be served. Members and friends will be able to enjoy the splendid view of sunset over the Grand Harbour next to the Upper Barrakka in Valletta. Price 10 Euros

Literary Contributions should be sent to NCW Centre on email [ncwmalta@camline.net.mt](mailto:ncwmalta@camline.net.mt) or by post

National Council of Women, Environment Committee, Flat 3, Mountbatten Street, Blata l-Bajda

**Booking for the event by Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2012.** For further information phone 21248881/21246982

### Maltese, English and Mathematics Classes at NCW

NCW in conjunction with the Directorate of Lifelong Learning are holding morning classes for *English, Maltese and Mathematics* at the National Council of Women Centre Mountbatten Street Blata l-Bajda. These classes will help those that would like to improve their Maltese, English and Mathematics starting in October 2012.

ECDL evening and morning courses will also start in October.

For booking and further details please contact the office on  
21248881 or 21246982 between 9.30am and 2.30pm  
or email [ncwmalta@camline.net.mt](mailto:ncwmalta@camline.net.mt)

### Better Gender Balance in Forthcoming National Elections

The National Council of Women welcomes the steps taken by political parties to improve the participation of women in decision-making with an increase, albeit small, of a number of women in their decision-making structures. NCW calls on Government to establish a 40% quota for both sexes as minimum requirement in the forthcoming General Elections 2012-2013. Due to the short time available for elections, Government and political parties should immediately reach agreement within their decision-making internal structures and make public the measures they are to take to comply with the recommendations for elections. Other measures include the zipper system, alternating women and men throughout the list. NCW executive members will be meeting relevant stakeholders to ensure that there is more balance in the nomination of candidates and to urge the public to support the valuable potential of female candidates

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