

Appendix D



Administration Report of Malta UNESCO Youth Association

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Introduction

Another active year for MU YA has led to another AGM, and this year has seen ample activities for committee members and active members alike.

Throughout the years 2017/2018 MU YA focused more on offering back to the local community. A series of meetings were also at the heart of this year's priorities. As a direct result of this, this year was characterised by a decrease in approved international projects abroad but nevertheless this gave space for effort being poured in local projects.

MU YA's most significant projects for this year were also supported by local and international funding opportunities. "Min Hu l-Malti? A Migration Project" was funded by Aġenzija Żgħażaġh A4U Scheme, "The GrassHopper" was funded by Erasmus+ and "Children Youth and their Environment" was co-funded by the Environmental Funding Support Scheme for Voluntary Organisation. These funding opportunities helped MU YA also maintain a healthy balance throughout the year.

On the international level, MU YA was a partner organisation in various Erasmus+ projects implemented, sending a total of 27 of its members to 6 different activities (these being of the nature of youth exchanges, training courses and advanced planning visits).

1. National projects and local activities

1.1 – Annual General Meeting

19th April 2017

Our annual AGM in 2017 was held at Kunsill Nazzjonali taz-Zghazagh premises in Floriana with the appointed Chairperson Mr. Anson Aquilina. During the AGM the Secretary General Thelma Bonello gave an overview of the activities and projects which Malta UNESCO Youth Association participated throughout the year 2016 to the date of the AGM. Bernard Bonello, Treasurer of MUYA, gave an overview about the financial aspect of the association. During this AGM, Thelma Bonello and Bernard Bonello were re-confirmed as Secretary General and Treasurer respectively for the upcoming two years. Members who attended the AGM had to vote for 1 vacant post within the committee – that of committee member. Following the election that pursued, Reece Delia was elected with the majority of votes. The committee thanked Matthew Grech for also submitting his nomination. Mr Anson Aquilina and Ms Christianne Caruana were confirmed on the Board of Vigilance for the coming year.

1.2 – “Min Hu I-Malti? A Migration Project” Exhibition & Launch

1st -11th September 2017

One of the most important projects for MUYA this year was “Min Hu I-Malti? A Migration Project”. This project started in late 2016, when artist Sara Pace first approached MUYA about her idea, and reached its culmination in 2017 through the funding received via the A4U Scheme grant offered by Aġenzija Żgħażaġh. The idea behind the project started out as a personal question into Sara Pace’s own background and genealogical roots. Ms Pace was prompted to follow this research by questions that strangers and acquaintances would ask her about her country of origin – a question that is directly related to migration and thus being at the heart of UNESCO education. It is very common that people around the world get asked this question at one point in their life – and this occurs both when abroad as well as in one’s own country of origin. In the case of Ms Pace the reply that she would get was always on the lines of ‘But you don’t look Maltese!’. This made Sara take a step back and look at herself critically, asking both what instigated people into believing that people were from another country and on a wider level what makes a person be from a given country and not another. Malta as a small island country has always been a cultural melting pot, where various people - due to it being in the centre of ancient trade routes - have come to settle and stay over the centuries. This is reflected both in the Maltese language, its’ cultural heritage, architecture, peoples’ character, and their various and sometimes opposing physical characteristics. These similarities and differences raised the question of Min hu I-Malti? - Who is the Maltese person? Is it language, accent, looks, hairstyle, body type, clothing or the way one holds themselves; their body language, that makes a person belong to a particular country? In order to attempt answering these questions, Min Hu I-Malti? was created. To launch the project, an exhibition launch event was organised on 1st September at the Malta Postal Museum. The digital installation and temporary exhibition open for general public viewing through the 2nd – 11th September 2017 for the duration of 2 weeks with the main themes being: representing migration in Malta, both present and past, economic and political. The event was covered by local press & newspapers. The results of the project are still being used widely today by Aġenzija Żgħażaġh, MUYA & Sara Pace.

1.3 – “Children, Youth and their Environment” Workshop & Exhibition Launch

25th – 26th November 2017

Another big project for MUYA during this term was Children, Youth and their Environment which sprouted from the interest and enthusiasm of one of the committee members, Christian Briffa. As part of his Masters dissertation in architecture, he was interested in the degree of involvement of both children and youth in the planning of the built environment around us. During the months preceding the project, Mr Briffa with his tutor, Architect Monica Audrey Galea went to St. Augustines’s primary school whereby the children themselves came up with ideas of what they would like to see in local playgrounds. Christian, his tutor and mentors from the University of Malta Faculty of the Built Environment then took the ideas collected by the children and discussed them with secondary school students from the same school in order to further develop these ideas. After the collection of these ideas a one day’s workshop was organised on the 25th November at Msida Local Playground where 4 groups of University of Malta students and other participants all in the 16-25 age group put the ideas which originated from children and developed by youths into practice – by creating the ideas themselves! In total 4 different artistic installations were created from various recyclable material and tools provided by MUYA committee members. The concepts for the installations were as follows: (i) child-friendly goal post stand which doubles up with a seating area with colourful cushions where the children can relax, (ii) an interactive gazebo with lights, hopscotch and a reading area, (iii) an interactive garden with different plants and herbs on rotating wheels and (iv) a light deflecting area with a relaxing reading spot. Groups worked with the mentoring of graduates and architects all throughout the day whilst MUYA provided the participants with packed lunches to keep them fuelled. The installations were presented on the same day to Msida Local Council, the Commissioner for Children, Aġenzija Żgħażaġh, Malta UNESCO Youth Association, Kunsill Nazzjonali

Zghazagh and Parliamentary Secretary for Youth Sport and Voluntary Organisations Dr Clifton Grima. The revamped playground with art installations was then opened to the general public on Sunday the 26th November. The event was co-funded by the Environmental Funding Support Scheme for Voluntary Organisations being offered by the Ministry For The Environment, Sustainable Development And Climate Change. This occasion was also covered extensively by local media.

1.4 – MUYA's 11th Birthday Drinks

12th February 2018

To celebrate MUYA's 11th Birthday, a small get together was organised at La Rovesciata in San Gwann. Committee members and dedicated active members came to the event in order to celebrate 11 years from the establishment of MUYA. Some drinks were offered by the committee over some food. Secretary General Thelma Bonello prepared a birthday cheese cake for this event which was liked by many of the participants. The night was an opportunity to get together once more with old committee members such founding member Ms Sara Suda and ex-treasurer Mr Daniel Mifsud Bason.

2. International projects Implemented by MUYA

2.1 – E+ Training Course: The GrassHopper

1st September – 8th September 2017

Between the 1st and 8th of December, 29 youth workers and youth leaders from 8 countries met together for the training course 'The GrassHopper' which was primarily initiated after numerous articles on social media and local newspapers which outlined the drastic increase in obesity issues in most of the participating countries. The project was aimed primarily to raise awareness on the problem between the participants themselves and henceforth present the problems to the communities of the participating countries via sets of short videos which were produced throughout the project itself. The project also aimed at equipping the participants themselves with new skills and knowledge in order to make a difference in the immediate community they frequent and also on a larger scale. The main idea was that through this training course, the participants gained access to knowledge which served to create a solid foundation of recreating a healthy lifestyle in their home environment as something they cannot live without. On a larger scale, the project aimed at making a difference to the European statistics over the coming years and as a result helped to build a healthier European Community.

3. Participation in the international projects abroad

3.1 – E+ Youth Exchange: STOP: strategies to prevent risk behaviour

Organised by Bona Spei

Figueira da Foz, Portugal, 30th May – 6th June 2017

Maltese participants: Tom Gatt, David Bonnici, Matthew Buhagiar, Mike Formosa, Richard Formosa, Jacob Cachia and Becky Saliba

The project “STOP: strategies to prevent risk behaviour” was a youth exchange stemming from a desire to experiment and promote an inclusive dimension of sport capable of overcoming physical and cultural barriers whilst also stimulating cooperation among young Europeans. Participating countries were Greece, Malta, Portugal and Italy. One of the participants, Tom Gatt described the experience as being an opportunity to mix with other youngsters from different nationalities. Mr Gatt was also impressed by the preparation of the hosting organisation as its organisation and co-ordination was what he describes as being top notch. The accommodation for the participants was based a few minutes away from Figuera’s main beach which has access to the main facilities that were used for this YE including volleyball courts, football pitches, tennis courts, basketball courts, race tracks and even gym stations. This is what Tom described as a “sports fanatic’s paradise that served to build friendships over team spots!”. Given that the topic was related to sports and risk behaviors, the trainers organised a volleyball tournament, a marathon, a yoga class and even a fitness class to achieve the objectives of the programme. There were other sessions which were normally indoors that involved brain storming sessions, presentations and group work and the purpose of these was to find ways through non-formal education to minimize risk behaviours (such as alcohol & drug abuse).

3.2 – E+ Youth Exchange: Beyond Borders (APV)

Organised by Kids in Action

Orfani Kavala, Greece 28th July – 31st July 2017

Maltese participant: Thelma Bonello

In preparation for the Youth Exchange “Beyond Borders” an Advanced Planning Visit was organised spanning from 29th - 30th July 2017(excluding travel dates). The APV took place in the Tsaf Tsouf summer camp where the exchange eventually took place. During these days one representative from each country was grouped in order to discuss the timetable which was to be implemented in the youth exchange. Thelma Bonello was the representative for MUYA. Thelma commented that the APV was very enlightening in that it gave the exact sense of what the participants were to expect from attending this youth exchange. The organiser explained that the summer camp would be populated with people having a wide range of disabilities and thus emphasised that the participants had to be mentally very well prepared. The group of youth leaders was also introduced themselves to a small group of people with disabilities and some activities were done together in a group. One session involved two people speaking to each other, however the listener was purposefully distracted by loud voices, and annoying distractions to recreate the senses that a person with autism would feel. The group leaders also discussed logistical aspects of the trip. As a recreational activity the youth leaders were also taken on a trekking trip in the mountains with some of the kids from the summer camp. Once back to Malta, a session was held with selected participants to explain the deliverables expected from attending this youth exchange and also agreements made with the organiser.

3.3 – E+ Youth Exchange: Beyond Borders

Organised by Kids in Action

Orfani Kavala, Greece 26th August – 6th September 2017

Maltese participants: Jacob Cachia, Ryan Delia, John Paul Formosa, Jonas Muscat, Shaun James Micallef and Penelope Vassallo

The project "Beyond Borders" aimed to enhance the coexistence and interaction of people with or without disabilities, by actively participating in an organized educational, recreational and cultural program. Altogether, 9 different countries participated in this project: Greece, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, UK, Spain, Hungary and Malta. The project aimed at exploring diversity and exchanging ideas. The Maltese participants were also in charge of preparing the traditional Maltese dance which they were to exhibit during the intercultural night. Each of the 6 participants chose a selected area in which they were to contribute their efforts during the 2 week period: art, music, drama, dance were some of the workshop choices. By the end of the youth exchange, all participants participated in a night whereby each of them presented what they had created during the duration of the project. The participants of "Beyond Borders" had the unique opportunity to coexist and participate in joint activities with people with disabilities, gaining experience and developing skills not only related to empathy, awareness of disability issues, but also social, communicative and artistic skills.

3.4 – E+ Youth Exchange: Accept me, accept my culture

Organised by Klub Studentov Kranj

Kranj, Slovenia, 10th May – 18th May 2017

Maltese participants: Mariano Galea, Lara Caruana, Nigel Calleja, Debbie Shaw, Miguel Mizzi and Kathleen Galea

In May, another project took place in Slovenia where by 6 Maltese participants representing MUYA participated. The project "Accept me, accept my culture" was organized between Croatia, Germany, Slovenia and Malta. Its aim was to enable young people to explore cultures, their differences and similarities through games, debates, workshops and discussions. During the project a lot of team work was put into practice in order to create games upon the basis on the individuals' childhood and national traditional games. Maltese participants said that the games were presented at a festival in Kranj, which was part of the city's Youth Week. The Maltese group concluded that throughout the whole activity they gained more exposure to real life work environments and became more culturally knowledgeable. As a result of the project, a booklet was published by the participants themselves which was accomplished through the mentoring of a youth trainer and journalism graduate.

3.5 – E+ Youth Exchange: Film me: Inclusion

Organised by Mozgóképmás Egyesület

Sopron, Hungary, 10th December – 17th December 2017

Maltese participants: Ylenia Dubretic, Marija Elena Borg, Bridget Borg, Dylan Busuttil and Christine Said

Between the 10th and 17th December, 5 Maltese participated in a youth exchange which took place in Sopron, Hungary situated very close to the Austrian border. This project revolved entirely around the reduction of barriers to inclusion and bridging the gaps in this respect through simple interaction. One of the participants said that having to live and work alongside 30 other individuals for a whole week was an experience for them and they were impressed by the ice-breaking activities, hands-on workshops and daily social events which helped strengthen the bond between the participants themselves. Another participant commented that the trainers for this TC were entertaining and they offered their support to the participants and every step along the way with very engaging workshops. Maltese participants particularly enjoyed the filming process since it was something completely new for them. When they were left to their own devices, they managed to successfully create something meaningful in order to bring awareness towards social exclusion and its effects. The project's final outcomes were several video clips promoting the topic of social inclusion. Participants said that overall this TC was a wonderful, nurturing learning experience and that they look forward to something similar.

3.6 – E+ Training Course: Lead the Ship

Organised by VIVID

Olomouc, Czech Republic, 6th February – 13th February 2017

Maltese participants: Claude Ebejer, Nicolette Bajada and Lynn Grima

On the first week of February 2018, 31 European youths from 11 countries (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal and Spain) gathered in Olomouc, Czech Republic for the Erasmus+ Training Course, "Lead the Ship". Throughout the project, participants had the opportunity to experience diverse learning methods to enhance their leadership skills in two aspects: leading their own life and leading teams in a group setup. Emotional intelligence was an underlying concept in the training sessions, that were aimed to assist participants to develop skills related to: self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy and social skills. Participants commented that what they treasured the most was the opportunity to listen to first hand leadership experiences from various civil society trainees and also private experts. They commented that they will treasure this multicultural learning experience and promised that they will do their best at encouraging active participation in Erasmus+ projects as they provide space valuable for informal development of soft skills. Finally, they thanked MUYA for this opportunity!

4. Other Meetings & Collaborations

4.1 – Radio Interview

31st May 2017

On May 31st, President Rodianne Cassar and Public Relations Officer Fabio Scicluna were interviewed about MU YA, on local radio station Radju Marija, by Clifford Galea. The program "Minn Kull Aspett" gave a brief explanation and description of MU YA to radio listeners. A discussion about future projects and activities down the line ensued.

4.2 – Youth Village: JChallenge

10th – 12th November 2017

Through the 10th – 12th of November, MU YA was invited to join the "Youth Village: JChallenge" activity organised by the Group Zghazagh Gudja in Gudja Local Playground. On this weekend various informative stalls were set up together with a main stage at the centre in which workshops and discussions were organised by the attendees of the event together with Grupp Zghazagh Gudja. The aim was to provide a challenge to visitors related to the NGO stand. In the case of MU YA a balloon was provided to visitors and after a brief explanation about the workings of MU YA and more specifically UNESCO participants had to write a total of three words on the balloon that made them think of UNESCO principals and values after which they were to take a photo. Once the "challenge" was accomplished an award sticker was given to the participant. The event was to group various entities such as organisations in order to promote the value of integration between different communities and giving the necessary platform for participation and information in a public event. The general public attended the activities and got a chance to get to know about different NGOs operating in Malta. The President of Malta, H.E Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, and Prime Minister Dr Joseph Muscat amongst others, also visited the event.

4.3 – Membership in the KNZ (Kunsill Nazzjonali taz-Zghazagh) – 25th Anniversary

21st October 2017

MU YA has been a member of KNZ since 2009. During 2017-2018 MU YA has continued contributing to the organisation's activities by participating in most of their meetings and other events such as the commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of KNZ held on the 21st October 2017 at San Antonio Hotel, Bugibba. The committee was represented by two members, Thelma Bonello and Fabio Scicluna.

4.4 – Membership in Aġenzija Żgħażaġh

In August 2011 MU YA became part of Aġenzija Żgħażaġh. During the past year, MU YA has actively collaborated with the organisation, by participating in their events and disseminating the results of its own projects through them. Through its network Aġenzija Żgħażaġh has also assisted MU YA in wide-spreading the results of "Min Hu l-Malti?" which was funded through the A4U scheme offered by Aġenzija Żgħażaġh itself. To this day Aġenzija Żgħażaġh is still promoting these results and actively encouraging MU YA for a project followup. MU YA's committee is very grateful to Aġenzija Żgħażaġh to all its support and help provided and hopes that this fruitful collaboration will continue.

4.5 – Meeting with the Head of the Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations

28th November 2017

As a result of the JChallenge activity which took place in November, MU YA committee was invited to meet the Head of the Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations, Mr Ryan Borg. Rodianne Cassar and Thelma Bonello attended this fruitful meeting which served to give a background about MU YA to Mr Borg and to also find grounds of mutual interests.

4.6 – Meeting with Minister for Education and Employment

2nd February 2018

MU YA has recently been working on establishing a close relationship to the National Commission of UNESCO in Malta. For this reason, President Ms Cassar and Secretary General Ms Bonello met with the Minister for Education and Employment, Mr Evarist Bartolo, responsible for the Commission. The meeting focused on getting more information about the Commission and its establishment thereof which.

4.7 – Meeting with the President

7th February 2018

MUYA committee was invited to once again to meet Her Excellency Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, the President of Malta. The President's team invited MUYA's committee members at her personal residence in the San' Anton Gardens. The President said that she is very interested in Malta UNESCO Youth Association and its activities. When question about the association's activities throughout the year, MUYA gave an overview of the main projects throughout the year including "Min Hu I-Malti? A Migration Project" and "Children, Youth and their Environment". The discussion then centred the possible collaboration of MUYA with The President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society (PFWS). A contact point between The President and MUYA was set to enable this communication.

5. Upcoming Projects and Events

5.1 – Future Participation in International projects abroad

MUYA is currently working on participating in a number of international projects abroad that are now accepted and will actualize in the coming year. Amongst these are: “**Stories to share**” organised by Second Floor Second Room in Hungary between 24th March - 30th March, “**Finding Your Inspiration – Inspire and Empower Young People**” organised by Madiba and will take place in Italy between the 29th March to 4th April 2018, “**Youth and Health**” organised by Youth For the World in Georgia between the 11th April – 22nd April and “**A Race for Tolerancy. A Youth Exchange about bringing it out**” organised by Mostar Friedensprojekt e.V. in the UK in June / July 2018.

5.2 – Pending applications

MUYA has submitted one project applications to the Maltese National Agency, EUPA which is and Erasmus+ Training Course named “**Game Zone**” which envisions the participation of 29 youths and youth workers from 8 different countries. The project is requesting an EU grant of around 20,000 €+. The decision of the Maltese National Agency on funding will be announced in the coming months. In that case, the project(s) will be implemented throughout the duration of a whole week in late autumn of 2018.

MUYA has also submitted “**InterACT - An Online Platform Promoting Language Use in the Maltese Islands**” through the Voluntary Organisations Project Scheme for 2018 which if granted, will see the creation of this platform which primarily focuses on the development of language attributes of Maltese Youths.

MUYA also posted a self nomination for the **European Charlemagne Youth Award** for “Min Hu I-Malti? A Migration Project”. Since this was one of the most successful project throughout this term both MUYA and artist Sara Pace deemed that it would be a good contender in these awards which are awarded for the best project ideas of the year all across Europe.