

Appendix D



Administration Report of Malta UNESCO Youth Association

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Bonello

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Introduction

The term 2021/2022 for MUYA was about reconnecting and regaining a sense of normality in a post COVID-19 pandemic world.

This term was more active than last term as MUYA focussed on concluding several local and international projects that were started in the previous years. At the same time, more social, networking and funding opportunities are opening up again expanding opportunities for future projects.

This year a total of nine international projects were envisaged with MUYA as partner organisation, however due to the slow interest in participating in such activities, only a total of six projects were actualized. Most of the projects were postponed from 2020. Despite all, MUYA successfully managed to send 16 of its members abroad this year, with only 1 member participating more than once. Due to the backlog of postponed projects across all countries, MUYA still notices a decrease in new project proposals from international partners. Even so, the Committee is positive that slowly but surely the mobilities will ramp up once a more stable situation is ascertained across EU program countries and beyond.

MUYA's most significant projects for this year were "EDUBOARDZ" supported by the international funding opportunity ERASMUS+ which saw the involvement of 30 young people hosted in the Lija University Residence, the publishing of the book "Kelmtejn mill-Popolin" in collaboration with Zejtun Local Council and the instalment of the monument "Olive Twist" in Zejtun concluding a project spanning a total of 3 years.

1. National projects and local activities

1.1 – Annual General Meeting

19th August 2021

Malta UNESCO Youth Association annual AGM in 2021 was held at Jacob's Brew – Pay it Forward! premises in Marsascala with the appointed Chairperson Ms 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 2020 to the date of the AGM: National projects, International projects local and overseas and future projects. Following this, Reece Delia presented the financial report on behalf of the Treasurer. During this AGM, Ms Thelma Bonello, Mr Reece Delia and Mr Bernard Bonello were reconfirmed in their current roles of Secretary General, Treasurer, Committee Member respectively. Since members reconfirmed, and no contestants submitted their nomination, no voting procedures as per Statute were necessary. No changes to the statute were made for the year 2020 and thus, the previous Statute was reconfirmed. At the end of the AGM, Mr Anson Aquilina and Ms Christianne Caruana were confirmed on the Board of Vigilance for the coming year.

1.2 – Olive Twist Inauguration

4th October 2021

The project "Olive Twist" was developed through a close collaboration between the Local Council of Żejtun, the NGO Wirt iż-Żejtun and the Voluntary Organisation Malta UNESCO Youth Association (MUYA). Out of several applications, Olive Twist was one of the final 3 projects selected by the funding body – the Art in Public Spaces Programme of 2019-2021 issued by Spazju Kreattiv & the Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects (MITP). The aim of the project is that of bringing together an artistic team of seasoned artists, the majority of whom are born and raised in Żejtun itself, and the community in the picturesque town in the south of Malta, Żejtun to develop a structure that serves a landmark in one of the key central points of the town.

In October 2021 the monument was inaugurated in an event organised by the Żejtun Local Council. The event took place at the site of the monument: next to Madonna tal Hriena Church in Żejtun. The monument resembling the intertwining of the branches of the olive tree, an emblematic symbol embedded in the history of the town of Żejtun was constructed across the period of 3 years (2019-2021). The designer, artist Rune Bo Jakobsen together with residents worked to give life to ideas on paper – the monument made entirely from steel measures 4 x 3 x 3m and is set on a base of concrete which resembles an olive press. The stepping stones leading to the olive tree were made and imprinted with the help of the Żejtun community in Workshops with Żejtun Primary B and the Żejtun Corinthians Football Club nursery.

In the artist words during the launch of the sculpture: "At night the 'Olive Twist' Sculpture is like a beacon; light reflects off the silvery structure from within the central space of the trunk base – like a flickering fire creating a play of light and silhouette as one circles around it. In the different seasons one may experience a change in colour of light, like now in Autumn for Pink October breast Cancer awareness month." More details about the process of constructing the monument can be found [here](#). During the event a time capsule was buried next to the sculpture by the children. Project Coordinator Mr. Reece Delia and President Ms. Rodianne Cassar attended the launch.

1.3 – Kelmtajn mill-Popolin Inauguration

13th March 2022

The project "Kelmtajn mill-Popolin", a close collaboration between MUYA and the Local Council of Żejtun, has the primary objective of promoting the use of the Maltese language, more specifically, the use of various dialects of Maltese, through one main form of art: literature.

Back in April 2021, members of the general public of all ages, who had a particular passion for writing in Maltese, both in its standard form as well as in dialect, were encouraged to submit their original pieces of literature by not later than August 2021. A call was launched publically via the social media pages of the partners organising the project. Members of the general public could take part in any one of three (3) main categories - the youth category, the adult category and a specific category for pieces written in dialect. Moreover, participants could submit more than one text, whether in the form of poetry or prose, yet only three (3) pieces would be retained for the purposes of the competition. With over fifty (50) original texts being submitted by more than 29 participants, a panel of judges composed of members of the organising partners as well as

those from associations promoting the Maltese language, was formed and had the very difficult task of evaluating all pieces submitted to ultimately determine those that would be awarded first, second and third place in each category.

In March 2022 an official event was held to close off the project. The event inaugurated the book “Kelmtejn mill-Popolin” in and showcased some of the pieces from the same book submitted under this project. This final ceremony was held in a majestic hall at the premises of the Local Council, was well attended, with a room full of guests. The ceremony was also characterised by musical interludes with Maltese ghana (folk music) and a medley of Maltese popular songs as well as a distribution of prizes to those classifying in the highest ranks in each category. Overall, this project was a huge success for MUYA, with copies of the book already present in a number of Maltese school libraries as well as the Melitensia Section of the University.

2. International Projects implemented by MU YA

2.1 – E+ Transnational Project Meeting (TPM): Learn2Play

Estonia, 4th – 8th June 2021

Maltese participants: Bernard Bonello & Anthea Xuereb

In 2020, MU YA also applied for the first “**Erasmus+ KA2 project Learn2Play**” first in May 2020 and re-submitted again in with the October 2020 deadline. Funding was awarded in January 2021. This will be a 26-month long project and the very first project of its kind for MU YA. The project will be implemented together with two partner organisations: Shokkin Group International and Fundacja ADJ, starting from April 2021 to June 2023. The aim of the project is to create 6 easily reproducible board games for youths aged between 13-18 years for the development of soft skills such as time management, problem solving, creative thinking and teamwork.

The first face to face activity for this project was a TPM held in June 2021 whereby project coordinator Mr. Bernard Bonello and Ms. Anthea Xuereb attended the activity in Estonia whereby main project implementors met to outline in more detail the rest of the project. The official [Learn2Play blog](#) was launch on the [muya.info](#) website together with variations of the official logo. All-in-all this was a great start to the project and to rekindle the sense of face-to-face meetings again! The project consists of 3 TPM activities and one TC that will take place in Estonia in the upcoming months. Since the project is being tackled by three organisations from three different countries it is imperative for the organisations to meet and discuss the flow and way forward of the project. For the first meeting, two representatives from each organisation met in Estonia were everyone met and had a brief introductory session as to break the ice and start a good working rapport. Several things were discussed over three full days but mainly everyone went through the application again and evaluated the work on each output and discussed how the work will be divided. Everyone got on a task to make sure that all deadlines are being met to be able to reach all targets set and finally an action plan was developed to identify next steps and benchmarks.

The objectives of the project are to research soft skills development needs amongst youth and create a structured approach using game-based learning through focus groups and interviews, to develop and pilot an online game development course tailored to youth workers, to design, test and promote fully developed printable educational games for soft skill development through a process of prototyping, testing and re-evaluating, to increase operational capacity of partner organizations in delivering quality educational services to young people and educators through game laboratories, training and playing events, to promote the use of educational games and spread the results of the strategic partnership among relevant stakeholders locally & internationally through physical and online multiplier events, to develop young people's soft skills by the means of educational games and equip youth workers with tools to gamify their activities.

2.2 – E+ Training Course: EDUBORDZ

Malta, 31st August – 7th September 2021

Maltese participants: Sean Schranz, Samuel Borg, Mariano Galea

Between the 31st August and 7th September 2021 30 youth workers and youth leaders from 9 different countries (Malta, Estonia, Romania, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Latvia, Poland, Spain and Lithuania) met together for a training course focused on developing and designing board games for educational purposed. The project, “EDUBORDZ”, was organised by the Malta UNESCO Youth Association at the University Residence in Hal-Lija, Malta, and co-funded under the Erasmus+, Key Action 1 - Learning Mobility of Individuals, programme. Directed by trainers and support staff, the training course main aim was to introduce game-based learning and gamification for youth workers/youth leaders to incorporate in own work such that it is transferable to socially relevant topics. The training course essentially enabled the discussion of youth trends in participant countries by starting with extracting information on current youth learning needs. The training course progressed by introducing game-based learning for youth workers/youth leaders to incorporate in daily activities. In addition, participants explored board games and their possible adaptation towards educational goals. In the end participants produced a set of 7 printable board game concepts applicable to youth work. These games were made available online on the Salto-youth platform so that they can be used internationally. The topics explored by the games are the following: Employability: Super Jobs, Environment: Eco Rangers, Mental Health: Sh*t Happens, Social Inclusion: Card-Unity, Decision-making: Difficult Decision, Self-confidence: Confidare, Pitching: Speak it Up!

3. Participation in the international projects abroad

3.1 – E+ Youth Exchange: “Creativity Hungary”

Organised by Open Space Association

Hungary, 16th – 24th July 2021

Maltese participants: Johnpaul Formosa, Gabriella Massa, Sean Schranz

As one of the first international projects in a post-pandemic reality, out of a required 6 participants, MUYA managed to find only 3 interested participants which was to be expected at the time. This project dealt with an extremely relevant topic for the current times: the levels of youth unemployment and inactivity. The levels of youth unemployability were largely affected by the COVID pandemic. The Youth Exchange also explored influences originating from the economy. This project aimed at giving the necessary tools to young people to ease the job-hunting process, to become more confident and to improve the level of key competences and skills by the time the youth enter the labour market.

For team leader and Committee Member Johnpaul Formosa, this project was one to remember in many ways. In his own words “the project was well executed and allowed the participants freedom to experience new creative outlets. The aim of the project was further developed through workshops and informal learning activities. The intercultural night proved a fruitful experience - the Maltese team were able to promote Malta’s culture while learning about new countries and cultures! Early on during the YE, one of the participants felt sick – something that is a very probable scenario during these times. With the help of both coordinating and sending organisations the situation was controlled such that the rest of the team was kept safe while the participant who was sick felt comfortable and was not forgotten. Overall the experience was a very positive one, with the entire team regaining some sense of culture and European citizenship after 2 years of lockdown. It also strengthened us as team. Dealing with the issues virtually assured me that I am working with professional, experienced people. Special thanks goes out to my colleagues for assisting in this situation.”

3.2 – E+ Training Course: “Gamezone”

Organised by La Villa

Bidart, France, 7th – 14th August 2021

Maltese participants: Karthick Ilango & Mariano Galea

Originally planned for February 2020, Gamezone was rescheduled for August 2021. Mr. Ilango and Mr. Galea originally shortlisted and selected for this project back in February 2020 maintained their interest and therefore they partook in the rescheduled activity. The training course was organized by Association La Villa (France) Shokkin Group (Estonia) and BE International (Czech Republic). During the 9-day training course, participants were taught how to use educational games as a method of youth work. Various forms pedagogy in teaching and games were used and a method of non-formal education. The main idea for this training course is that simulation & roleplay games is appealing and fun for everybody, making it ideal as a tool for educational work with youngsters.

In his testimonial, Committee Member Mr. Karthick Ilango, one of the participants of this TC, explained that this project revolved on educational games for adults on social issues whereby participants will be required to create games for adults. The game that his team created was about migration whereby game players were required to travel from one island to another with the help of facilitators located on another island. Each participant had a mission of their own to complete. This project saw the participation of youth workers from Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Greece, Malta, Poland, Portugal and Slovenia.

3.3 – E+ Training Course: “From Migration to Integration”

Organised by Twilight Community Group

Bosnia & Herzegovina, 27th August – 5th September 2021

Maltese participants: Michael Farrugia

The 3rd project for MUYA for the term 2021 / 2022 took place in Bosnia & Herzegovina. Out of a required 3 participants, two participants were found by the original partner NGO and Mr. Farrugia was sent on behalf of MUYA. The main aim of this Youth Exchange was to increase knowledge and understanding about migrant and refugee population, their problems and needs, to empower young people & youth workers to be advocates for activism and human rights, to increase awareness among young people about the need to help migrants and refugees in local communities through social inclusion, to inspire participants to create new methods and tools that will facilitate future networking and to share experiences and good practices in relation to migrant and refugee population in the countries of partners. Italy, Lithuania, Ireland, Malta, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Portugal, Turkey were the partner countries for this project.

3.4 – E+ Youth Exchange: “Creativity Greece”

Organised by Kids in Action

Tsaf Tsouf, Greece, 6th – 15th September 2021

Maltese participants: Johnpaul Formosa, Maria Fsadni, Daniel Ghirlando, Braden Refalo, Giancarlo Vella

In September 2021, the project Creativity Greece was held in the Tsaf Tsouf summer camp with participating countries. With the COVID situation stabilizing all across Europe, by the time this project was launched, MUYA experienced a surplus of interest from the public. The group was formed fairly quickly due to this high interest. United Kingdom, Italy, Hungary, Greece, Malta, Latvia, Ireland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Poland. This Youth Exchange aimed at coexistence and interaction of people with or without disabilities, by active participation in an organised educational, recreational and cultural program. Mr. Johnpaul Formosa, leader of the group, described one of the most touching moments experienced by himself and other participants during this project was when one of the residents of the Tsaf Tsouf summer camp having a disability that constrains him to a wheelchair, started to dance alone in the middle of the main arena of the camp. Slowly but surely the participants started to join one by one until almost everyone was dancing – showing that the power of integration is affective in these moments and all throughout the Creativity program. MUYA cannot commend enough participation in this type of project that is truly one of a kind! Thank you to the participants and to Kids in Action once again for being a leader in the Creativity project year after year without fail!

3.5 – E+ Training Course: “EDULARP - Using EDULARP Methode for Civic Education in European Context”

Organised by Fahrten-Ferne-Abenteuer Ferienwerk”

Berlin, Germany, 11th – 19th October 2021

Maltese participants: Jacob Cachia, Jodie Bonnici, Luke Hinchy

The 5th project for MUYA for the term 2021 / 2022 was the project EDULARP. This project, originally intended to be actualized in March 2020 was postponed to October 2021. Only 1 participant was replaced from the original Maltese delegation as they were no longer interested in participating. Nonetheless the required 3 participants from Malta were successfully organized by MUYA. During this 10-day project, the participants were made to use LARP (Live Action Role Play Game) which uses a combination of game, simulation and improvised theatre. Educational LARPs consist of a storytelling part in which the context and the world that participants operate in is described, the creation of characters that participants become and the rules of the game that everyone plays. LARPs can also involve some additional elements like props, scenography and intrigues that together create the complete story. This story lets participants experience unknown and play the game in the way that emphasizes valuable content, as well as develop their competences: knowledge, skills and attitudes. The concept of LARP is well known around the world, however the concept on whether it can be used for educational purposes is not yet well explored. Also, the methodology adopted to the context of youth work and Erasmus+ program is not yet developed. This is what the project successfully addressed, and by the end of the training participants were equipped with the ability to run and design LARP scenarios that tackle social problems and civic education.

3.6 – E+ Training Course: “Social Games”

Organised by Nuorisokeskus Metsäkartano

Rautavaara, Finland, 24th – 31st March 2022

Maltese participants: Max Mercieca & Rebecca Galea

The last project closing off the international projects for the term 2021 / 2022 was a project held in Finland. Two participants were sent on behalf of Malta UNESCO Youth Association. The main goal of the training course was to explore different types of games which participants can use as a tool in their youth work. Participants got to know games which increased their cooperation and trust. This training course was held in Metsäkartano youth centre is part of a network of 9 national youth centers in Finland, supervised and subsidized by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture. The project hosted a total of 12 countries: Finland, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Greece, Malta, Italy, Croatia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Ireland.

For the following 3 projects MUYA did not manage to source any interested participants:

“Gota D’Agua” Organised by Buhino, Portugal – July 2021

“Lingua Franca” with the APV already organized in November 2019 – July 2021

“Youth Sensing” APV + YE Organised by Buhino, Portugal – July 2021

4. Other Meetings & Collaborations

4.1 – Inauguration of Luqa Briffa Gardens (Gnien il-Kmandant)

22nd July 2021

On the 22nd of July, Zejtun Local Council invited MUYA officials to join the inauguration of the Luqa Briffa Gardens, official premises of MUYA as per MoU agreed with the Local Council. The event was held in the morning, and the Minister Dr Owen Bonnici was present in representation of the Ministry for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government. The event consisted of touring the different rooms within the small building, the inauguration of a new pond structure and visiting the large garden. During the event MUYA had the opportunity to meet the local beehive keeper to which the upper floor of the Luqa Briffa Gardens is reserved.

4.2 – Reconnecting Youth Organisations

12th March 2022

In March, Aġenzija Żgħażaġh organized a half day workshop “Reconnecting Youth Organisations: Building hope in a post-pandemic future together” at the Excelsior Hotel, Floriana. The aim of this conference was to seek to facilitate a space where youth organisations can come together to propose ideas in the design of a strategy which seeks to develop opportunities for youth organisations within the current post-pandemic context. President Ms Rodianne Cassar and Ms Thelma Bonello attended this event on behalf of MUYA. The event started off by the registration and a short introduction. Soon after the participants of this event attended different workshops that they listed for during the registration process addressing 5 different topics chaired by different AZ youth workers. Ms Cassar and Ms Bonello attended separate workshops in order to maximize learning outcomes. Following the attendance of 2 workshop, the session was concluded by the speakers of the workshops reporting the findings discussed during the activities between the different groups. The session was closed off by the President of Aġenzija Żgħażaġh Ms. Miriam Theuma and the event was followed by lunch. This was a good opportunity bringing several youth organisations to meet and collaborate face to face once again.

4.3 – European Solidarity Corps Proposal Writing

16th March – 5th April 2022

As a result of the workshops attended during the event held in March 2022 “Reconnecting Youth Organisations” organized by Aġenzija Żgħażaġh, MUYA was also invited to partake in sessions of the European Union Programmes Agency and the same Aġenzija Żgħażaġh in relation to European Solidarity Corps application writing. These 4 workshops were held on the 16th March, 17th March, 4th April and 5th April at the Aġenzija Żgħażaġh Youth Village and provided further information on the funding of local solidarity projects through the European Solidarity Corps. These Solidarity Projects are a type of activity issued directly by the European Commission which a young person can carry out in a group of minimum five with ages between 18-30 with the aim to help to bring positive change to the local community. It is set up and implemented by young people themselves in a place where they live. The Project can last between 2 and 12months and young people can be eligible for up to 6000 euro (for an initiative that is 12 months long). The project also covers mentor fees and special expenses related to inclusion. The deadlines for this project are May and October 2022 and currently MUYA is sourcing interested youth in partaking in this opportunity.

5. Upcoming Projects and Events

5.1 – Future Participation in International projects abroad

MUYA noticed a decrease in call for applications for international projects abroad. Only one project “Visually” Organised by Ticket2Europe in Galicia, Spain that should have been actualized in 2020, is now postponed to Summer 2022. The Committee is positive that slowly but surely the mobilities will ramp up once a more stable situation is ascertained across EU program countries and beyond.

5.2 – Approved Projects

In the year 2021/2022 MUYA has also received news about the **Erasmus+ KA1 project “Get Across”** being coordinated by Committee Member Mr. Bernard Bonello. This training course will be organised by the Malta UNESCO Youth Association at Villa Psagoon, Dingli, Malta from the 9th of August to the 16th of August 2022 (5 working days 10/08 to 15/08 and 2 travel days) following the guidelines for 2021 of Key Action 1 - Mobility of youth workers, Erasmus+ programme of the European Commission. Supported by trainers and support staff, this project will include 30 youth workers and youth leaders from countries including Malta, Estonia, Latvia, Kosovo, Poland, Lithuania, Finland, and Spain.

Projects from the 2020 / 2021 term:

In 2020, MUYA also applied for the first **Erasmus+ KA2 project “Learn2Play”** also being coordinated by Committee Member Mr. Bernard Bonello. Funding was awarded in January 2021. This is a 26-month long project implemented together with two partner organisations: Shokkin Group International and Fundacja ADJ, starting from April 2021 to June 2023. The second Transnational Project Meeting (TPM #2) will be held in Marsaxlokk, Malta between the 18th – 21st August 2022. Two people from each country will be attending this TPM and the purpose of the activity is to present the games being prepared and prototyped until then. This event will be followed by the training course which will be held in Estonia in March 2023 and the TPM #3 will be held in Poland in April 2023.