

## **Malta UNESCO Youth Association**

**Annual General Meeting, Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 18:30**

**At Kunsill Nazzjonali Żgħazagħ Office, Floriana**

### **Minutes of Malta UNESCO Youth Association [MUYA]'s AGM 2019**

#### ***Opening of the Meeting***

The chairman for this year's AGM, Mr Anson Aquilina, opened the session and welcomed the attendees. The Committee Member, Mr Reece Delia, was appointed to take the meeting minutes.

Subsequently, the chairman went through the agenda for the AGM.

#### ***Apologies for absences***

Mr Bernard Bonello and Mr Fabio Scicluna were not present during the meeting and had no proxies to represent them.

#### ***Confirmation of Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting [2018]***

The minutes for 2018's AGM, which took place on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and which was chaired by Ms Sarah Suda, were read out to all those present during the meeting by the chairman given that they had not been previously circulated via e-mail before the AGM. Minutes were proposed by Ms Rodianne Cassar and seconded by Mr Reece Delia.

#### ***Presentation of Annual Report***

The annual report was prepared and presented by Ms Thelma Bonello.

#### **➤ National Projects and Local Activities:**

- Following the AGM held at the KNZ premises on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018, a photoshoot was organised for the Committee members at Marsaxlokk in order to kick off the new year term;
- On 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018, Ms Rodianne Cassar and Ms Thelma Bonello were scheduled to attend an event held by the President's Office bearing the title *President's Secret Garden 2018*. The aim was to get a group of children at the President's gardens and organise a set of games revolving around a particular theme. Nonetheless, given that none of the children turned up, the event was eventually cancelled. Staff members at the President Foundation for Wellbeing for Society excused themselves and MU YA Committee members were invited to the closing ceremony of the event, yet no one was able to attend. A positive outcome of this event was that Ms Rodianne Cassar and Ms Thelma Bonello met a publisher that would eventually be used to publish the booklet produced for Game Zone;

- MUYA also received an invitation by the President of Malta to attend an event aimed at youth on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018 during which a private tour of the President's Palace was given;
- On 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018, the EUPA Grant Award Ceremony was held where MUYA was awarded Funding for Gamezone – an international project implemented locally.

➤ **International Projects implemented locally:**

- The training Course implemented locally in 2018 was called GameZone – a project which sought to use gamification and gaming methods to deliver some sort of message. The course was held between 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018 and 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018 and involved a number of workshops with participants through which they discussed various topics such as the Environment, Corruption, Disability, Media and Discrimination and had to eventually develop games to promote their messages. Ms Rodianne Cassar and Mr Bernard Bonello from the MUYA Committee were participants.

➤ **Participation in International Projects Abroad:**

- MUYA acted as a partner for a total of 13 projects during 2018, sending a total of 48 participants on various youth exchanges and training courses throughout Europe. This was a record for MUYA and the Committee would like to particularly thank Ms Maxine Bellissimo, the International Officer, for her hard work and stellar job in achieving such a great milestone for the organisation. The international projects which MUYA took part in are:
  - E+ Youth Exchange: Stories to share (Hungary – March 2018).
  - E+ Training Course: FYI- Finding your Inspiration (Italy – March to April 2018) – 2 participants were sent. The project was carried out with Madiba which one of the key partners with which MUYA regularly works.
  - E+ Youth Exchange: You-th & Heal-th (Georgia – April 2018).
  - E+ Youth Exchange: LEADER – European connections for rural development (Portugal – May 2018) – a total of 5 participants were sent.
  - E+ Youth Exchange: Mind your Body (Slovenia – July 2018) – the primary aim of this project was to promote healthy activities and a healthy lifestyle. Participants were asked to prepare different healthy recipes. Each country then had to prepare different recipes during the week for the rest of the participants based on the workshops and sessions that would have been previously held. Interesting events such as a yoga session and a vegan ice-cream making sessions were also held.
  - E+ Youth Exchange: Unity through Creativity (UK – August 2018) – Participants from 8 different countries came together for this project which had the aim of getting participants from the age of 16 to 19 (some of which came from disadvantages backgrounds) to work together to create a final showcase – dance, drama and music were held during the whole ten days in preparation of the final show. This project was so successful that Mr Christian Briffa from the MUYA Committee together with John Paul, one of the participants in the project, have applied to have this project continued in Malta.

- E+ Youth Exchange: 4Equality (September 2018)
- E+ Training Course: Wings of Youth Work (Slovenia – November 2018) – as per feedback obtained from the participants, this project was not well organised but the opportunity was a good one. Participants visited a coal museum in Slovenia, organised an Intercultural Evening and had short walks in the countryside. Parts 2 and 3 of this project are scheduled for February 2019.
- E+ Youth Exchange: Game Time (Germany, Essen – November 2018) – this project essentially centred on how to organise digital games. Contacts were made during this project to foster new partnerships across Europe.
- E+ Training Course: Really Including Inclusion (UK – end of November 2018).
- E+ Youth Exchange: A Race for Tolerancy (UK – November 2018).
- E+ Training Course: Youth Exchange Leadership Skills (Italy – January 2019) – this was an Advanced Planning Visit for one of the projects scheduled for 2019 which centres on the theme of youth leadership. Leaders attending delved into how leadership skills can affect a youth exchange and how different leadership styles can have an impact on groups. Real-life cases of what should be done in different scenarios were also given. The whole point was to take the skills learned and apply them to real-life cases. This APV was directly related to a project scheduled to continue in May 2019 (skill transfer and train the trainer (youth leader) session) – and Youth Exchanges in June and July 2019.
- E+ Training Course: Humanity on the Road (January 2019 – Poland).

➤ **Other meetings and collaborations :**

- Meeting with the National Commission of UNESCO in Malta– Ms Rodianne Cassar and Ms Thelma Bonello managed to meet 2 out of a committee of 13 people to discuss ways of how the Commission could support us. It came to MUYA’s attention that the National Commission meets once in 45 days and that their main activity is the Art Camp. Anson Aquilina went on to explain that the National Commission is a government entity while MUYA is a UNESCO entity. He added that the UNESCO should have a desk at the Foreign Ministry in Malta but there is this dispute between Ministry of Education and Ministry of Foreign Affairs as to under whose realm the entity should fall. The Ministry of Education appoints the members on the Board of the said National Commission, then the Commission works directly with Ministry for Foreign Affairs.
- Meeting with ACT – March and July 2018 (introduction at the beginning and discussion on possible venues for MUYA).
- Meeting on Skype from South Korea with the International Peace Youth Group – a NGO who wants to create a Peace Convention. While the concept was acceptable, more information about the organization itself led to the belief that the roots or the organisation itself were not in line with those of MUYA and thus the project was dropped.
- Other Meetings with parish priests and local councils were held to identify a suitable venue for MUYA.

- In October 2018, an information meeting was organised to discuss updates in the law for Voluntary Organisations. In particular, from then onwards, the Ultimate Beneficial Owners of all Voluntary Organisations in Malta are to be disclosed in an attempt to curb cybercrime and terrorism. During the meeting, Mr Bernard Bonello and Ms Thelma Bonello attending on behalf of MUYA were giving examples of how terrorists were funding their projects through voluntary organisations and hence the importance of being transparent. The application on behalf of MUYA was registered and submitted in person by Ms Rodianne Cassar.

➤ **Future and Upcoming Projects**

- *Upcoming Youth Exchanges and Training Courses*
  - Wings of Youth Work (March 2019, May 2019)
  - Y.E.L.S (May 2019; YEs – June and July 2019)
  - Update to transnational (February, March 2019)
  - Humanities Hand (April 2019 – Love Life Generation)
  - Visual Dreamers (Shokkin Group Italia – April 2019)
  - Make it Rural (April 2019)
  - You got Talent
- 2<sup>nd</sup> World Cultural Heritage Youth Symposium to be held Greece between 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> April 2019 – the scope of this meeting is to sign a resolution of protection of world cultural heritage and present it to UNESCO as well as to devise ways of protection against crimes committed on world heritage sites and protecting cultural diversity. Visits to the Olympia Museum, Archives and Archimedes Museum will also be held. Mr Reece Delia and Ms Rodianne Cassar will attend on behalf of MUYA.

➤ **Pending Applications and Collaborations**

- Eleo and the Bubble Planet
- Finding Headquarters for MUYA and obtaining a Legal Persona – Ms Thelma Bonello found a Government-owned site which could potentially be interesting to use as our headquarters. We will therefore be submitting an application form with LANDS over the next days in order to understand who the current owner is. Anson suggested that we look at a list of vacant sites published by LANDS every few days (a list of properties that need to be renovated) and to apply for those that seem interested by bidding. Noel Spiteri, a contact provided by Anson, is to be contacted (ex-director of LANDS Authority).
- Mr Bernard Bonello has submitted LEAD, an ERASMUS+ training course that should be held in Dingli, Malta with 30 participants from 8 countries which will have the objective of making out of youth workers future leaders and of giving them the competent tools to create future leaders. This application is currently being processed by the EUPA and we are currently awaiting results.
- Creativity Malta is another project we have submitted for ERASMUS+ which is proposed to be held in November 2019 with a total of 35 participants hailing from 5 countries. The idea of the project is to promote equality through the creative arts while spreading the message of the importance of active citizenship, equality and

European values attained through fashion, music and dance. This project will be led by participants, trainers and workshop leaders.

- Project SIMFONIJA, submitted under the the Creative Communities Fund of the Malta Arts Council, if accepted, will seek to hold 9 workshops centring on multicultural music culminating in a concert scheduled to be held in November 2019.

The Annual Report was proposed by Ms Rodianne Cassar and seconded by Mr Christian Briffa.

#### ***Presentation of Treasurer's Report***

The committee member, Mr Reece Delia, presented the financial report for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 on behalf of MU YA's Treasurer, Mr Bernard Bonello. Mr Delia explained in detail that most income came from grants on local projects, member and participant fees and refunds issued from host organisations while the events for which funds were spent, mostly related to accounting services, committee meetings, travel refunds as well as disbursements related to local projects (predominantly the project Game Zone). There was a general consensus that the positive cash flow situation, amounting to a total of €2,919, should be used to invest further in new and interesting projects for MU YA.

Mr Anson Aquilina commented that it would be best to prepare an extract from the Balance Sheet to identify the movement in cash flow year on year. This will be prepared by Mr Reece Delia and shared accordingly.

The treasurer's report was proposed by Ms Thelma Bonello and seconded by Ms Maxine Bellissimo.

#### ***Notice/s of Motion***

None

#### ***Voting on Notice/s of Motion***

None

#### ***Committee Nominations***

Mr Anson Aquilina read out the positions up for election in the AGM, together with the nominees. Ms Thelma Bonello, Mr Reece Delia and Mr Bernard Bonello were re-confirmed as members of the Committee, yet with the following positions/roles:

- Ms Thelma Bonello – Secretary General
- Mr Reece Delia – Treasurer
- Mr Bernard Bonello – Committee Member

There was no need of election as there were three nominations for the three vacant posts available.

#### ***Board of Vigilance***

Mr Anson Aquilina and Ms Christianne Caruana were confirmed on the Board of Vigilance for the coming year.

#### ***Closure***

The President, Ms Rodianne Cassar thanked the attendees and closed the meeting.

Mr Anson Aquilina concluded the AGM by congratulating the Committee for its work and remarked how the organisation is growing organisation from health to health. He remarked that, although nominations for new Committee Members should be embraced, there is very good synergy between the current Committee Members. He congratulated the Committee for the record achieved in 2018 and wished MUYA nothing both success in the twelfth year since its creation.