



**Project Launch
Conference**

Valletta, 29 March 2019

Report

(Deliverable D 2.3.6)

28 May 2019

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Partner Responsible: University of Malta

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Introduction & goals

The I-ACCESS project was publicly launched at the Project Launch Conference held in the premises of the Valletta Local Council on 29 March 2019. The main goals of the event were to outline and explain the project objectives to key stakeholders in civil society and the public and private sector, and to Valletta residents as well as the wider public.

Invitees

The invitees to the event included the Malta Union of Tourist Guides, The thirty organizations concerned with different forms of disability, and eleven travel agencies based in Valletta, Heritage Malta, the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, and the Culture Policy Drafting Team responsible for drafting Malta's National Cultural Policy 2020-2025, The Commission for Rights for Persons with Disability (CRPD), and over 10 other state agencies and NGOs concerned with cultural heritage. AN open invitation to interested Valletta residents and members of the wider public was also disseminated through the websites and social media platforms of the Valletta Local Council itself, and a number of platforms dedicated to Valletta's residents and visitors. A full list of invitees is included as Annex I.

Programme

The full programme is attached (Annex II).

Proceedings and Outcomes

Formal welcome addresses were given by the Mayor of Valletta, Mr Christian Micallef; the Head of the Department of Conservation & Built Heritage at the University of Malta, Professor JoAnn Cassar; and the

Project Leader from the Department of Architecture at the University of Palermo, Professor Renata Prescia.



Figure 1. The welcome addresses being delivered by Professor Cassar (University of Malta), Mr Micallef (Mayor of Valletta), and Professor Renata Prescia (University of Palermo).

The technical presentations that followed included:

- a presentation on 'Access' by Dr Shirley Cefai (UoM), which introduced some fundamental concepts regarding the meaning of accessibility, before presenting some of the specific challenges to accessibility being faced in Valletta as part of the I-ACCESS project;
- a presentation on 'Accessibility and Valorisation' by Prof. Cinzia Ferrara and Dr Zaira Barone (UniPa), which continued to develop the complex theme of accessibility in a cultural heritage context, as well as presenting some of the work achieved to date in Palermo as part of the I-ACCESS project;
- a presentation on 'Coordinating a Vision for the City' by Mr Christian Mifsud, from the newly formed Valletta Management Unit at Heritage Malta, which is now responsible for the management of Valletta as a World Heritage Site. During this presentation, the role of the new unit was outlined, as well as its vision for improving the interpretation of Valletta, of which the I-ACCESS project will now form an integral part.

- a presentation on 'Curb-Cuts, Accessibility and Apps' by Mr Dylan Seychell (Innovogy), who explained some of the possibilities and opportunities being offered by the emerging technologies that I-ACCESS is making use of in the development of the App.

The technical presentations were followed by a question and answer session, when attendees were able to ask questions and raise points for discussion with the presenters.

Following the coffee break, a consultation activity was held in the form of a Panel Discussion, during which the key sectors of disability and tourism were given centre stage. The discussion Panel was made up of Dr Bernard Busuttil, representing the Commission for Persons with a Disability; Mr Joseph Micallef, a former President of the Torball Society for the Blind; Dr Dane Munro, from the Institute for Tourism Travel and Culture at UoM; and Mr Dylan Seychell, from Innovogy. The discussion was moderated by Dr Reuben Grima (UoM). The different issues raised by the panellists helped create a lively discussion with full participation from the floor. As a consultation exercise, the panel discussion proved very valuable as it elicited some important feedback regarding challenges and expectations concerning the I-ACCESS project. These are reported on in greater detail in the separate report on public consultation activities (D 3.1.2).

The Launch Conference was closed with some concluding reflections by Prof. Alex Torpiano, Dean of the Faculty for the Built Environment, University of Malta, focussing on the great potential for innovative tools to improve the quality of life in historic urban centres such as Palermo and Valletta.

Attendance

The attendance sheet is annexed (Annex III).

ANNEX I

List of Invited Entities

Associations for people with disability

NAME	WEBSITE	EMAIL ADDRESS
MFOPD (Malta Federation of Organisations Persons with Disability)	www.mfopd.org	info@mfopd.org
Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability	https://crpd.org.mt/	helpdesk@crpd.org.mt
Equal partners foundation	http://www.equalpartners.org.mt/	info@equalpartners.org.mt
Agenzija Sapport	https://sapport.gov.mt/	sapport@gov.mt
Apex Community Care Ltd	https://apex.com.mt/en/home.htm	aaron@apex.com.mt
Id-Dar Tal-Providenza	https://www.dartalprovidenza.org/	info@dartalprovidenza.org
Autism Parents Association	https://www.autismparentsassociation.com/	www.autismparentsassociation.com
FITA - Foundation for Information Technology Accessibility	https://fitamalta.eu/	info@fitamalta.eu
Deaf People Association (Malta)	http://www.deafmalta.com/	info@deafmalta.com
Down Syndrome Association	http://www.dsa.org.mt/	info@dsa.org.mt dsamalta1981@gmail.com
Dreams of Horses Therapy Farm	http://www.dreamsofhorsesfarm.com/	dreamsofhorsesfarm@gmail.com
Hand in hand ltd	https://www.handinhandmalta.com/	contact@handinhandmalta.com
Arka Foundation	https://www.facebook.com/pg/www.arkafoundation.org/about/?ref=page_internal	arka@maltanet.net
ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Malta) Support Group	https://www.adhdmalta.org.mt/	adhdmalta@gmail.com

Dar Il-Kaptan	http://www.darilkaptan.org/	info@darilkaptan.org
Dar Pirotta		dar.pirotta@onvol.net
Disabled By Accident		clia@unicare.com.mt
Fondazzjoni Wens, Dar Residenzjali għall- Persuni b' Dizabilità	http://www.fondazzjoniwens.com/contact-us.html	ilwens@go.net.mt
Gozo Aid For The Visually Impaired (G A V I)		gdc@maltanet.net
Inspire Foundation	https://inspire.org.mt/	info@inspire.org.mt
Malta Cochlear Implant Association		vdsam@onvol.net
Malta Wheelchair Dancesport Association	http://www.maltawda.com/	info@maltawda.com
Malta Society Of The Blind	http://maltasocietyoftheblind.org/	socblindmalta@go.net.mt
National Parents' Society of Persons with Disability	http://www.npspd.org/	npspdsociety@gmail.com
Physically Handicapped Rehabilitation Fund	no website found	administrator@phrfmalta.com
Paravolley Malta	http://www.paravolley.eu/organisation/member-countries/malta/	paravolleymalta@gmail.com
S.T.A.N.D. Is-Sehem Tagħna għal Avvanz tal-Persuna b' Dizabilità (Striving Towards Ability Not Disability)		standmalta1995@gmail.com
Saint Lazarus Foundation		info@saintlazarus.org
Service Dogs Malta Foundation	http://www.servicedogsmalta.org/	no email found

Transport for Disabled Persons	http://maltacooperativefederation.co.op/about-us/maltese-cooperatives-members-of-mcf/transport-for-disabled-persons-co-operative/	info@tdpmalta.com
The Monday Club For Mentally & Physically Disabled		pipfuslee@onvol.net
Torball Society Of The Blind		torballmalta@gmail.com

Travel Agents based in Valletta

NAME	WEBSITE	EMAIL ADDRESS
Britannia Tours	https://bsl.com.mt/	info@bsl.com.mt
Bianchi Travel Ltd	http://www.bianchi.com.mt/EN.Bianchi_Travel.aspx	info@bianchi.com.mt
FCM Travel Solutions	https://fcm.com.mt/	info@mt.fcm.travel
Economicard Worldwide Ltd	http://www.gmint.com/en/home.htm	maritimeservices@gmint.com
A & V von Brockdorff Travel Ltd	https://www.avonbrockdorff.com/	info@avbsl.com
Cassar & Cooper (Holdings) Ltd	http://www.cassar-cooper.com/Travel.html	travel@cassar-cooper.com
Cordina Steamship & Airline Co Ltd	http://cordv.tripod.com/	_cordbros@excite.com
NSTS Student & Youth Travel	https://www.nstsmalta.org/	nsts@nsts.org
Olivair Travel Ltd	www.borvier.com/	olivair@borvier.com
smsmondial Travel	https://www.smsmondial.com.mt/	https://www.smsmondial.com.mt/contact/valletta/
Vjaggi Untours	vjaggiuntours.com.mt/contact/	mark.farrugia@untours.com.mt

Schools in Valletta

NAME	WEBSITE	EMAIL ADDRESS
St Albert The Great College	http://www.stalbert.edu.mt/	no email found
Kulleġg San Gorg Preca Primarja Valletta	https://sgpc.skola.edu.mt/	stgorgpreca.college@ilearn.edu.mt
School of Art (Bakery Street)		mavc.schoolofart@ilearn.edu.mt

Mueums and attractions in Valletta

NAME	WEBSITE	EMAIL ADDRESS
Malta Postal Museum	http://www.maltapostalmuseum.com/	info@maltapostalmuseum.com
Malta 5D	https://malta5d.com/	mariella@malta5d.com
The Malta Experience	https://www.themaltaexperience.com/	info@themaltaexperience.com
Casa Rocca Piccola	https://www.casaroccapiccola.com/	enquiries@casaroccapiccola.com
Malta Crafts	https://maltacrafts.gov.mt/contactus/	maltacrafts@gov.mt
Mediterranean Conference centre	https://www.mcc.com.mt/	https://www.mcc.com.mt/?m=contact
MICAS (Malta International Contemporary Art Space)	https://micas.art/	info@micas.art

Other organizations

NAME	WEBSITE	EMAIL ADDRESS
Malta Society of Arts	http://artsmalta.org/contact-us	info@artsmalta.org
Cultural Policy 2020-2025 Drafting Team	Department of Culture	juliet.borg-sant@gov.mt
Valletta 2018 Foundation	https://valletta2018.org/	info@valletta2018.org

Arts Council Malta	https:// www.artscouncilmalta.org/	info.acm@artscouncilmalta.org
Valletta Alive Foundation	http:// www.vallettaalivefoundation.org/	vallettaalive@gmail.com
Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti	http://www.patrimonju.org/	info@patrimonju.org
Spazju Kreattiv	https://www.kreattivita.org/en/	https://www.kreattivita.org/ 9624-2/
Superintendence of Cultural Heritage	https://culture.gov.mt/en/ culturalheritage/Pages/ Default.aspx	heritage.superintendence@gov.mt
Din l-Art Helwa	https://dinlarthelwa.org/	info@dinlarthelwa.org
WirtArtna	http://www.wirtartna.org/	info@wirtartna.org
Valletta Management Unit		ruben.d.abela@gov.mt
Flimkien għal Ambjent Aħjar (FAA)	http://faa.org.mt/	contact@faa.org.mt
Valletta Residents Revival (facebook community with 344 members)	https://www.facebook.com/ groups/1609759889287946/	
Belt Valletta (oldest facebook community for Valletta)	https://www.facebook.com/ beltvalletta/	m.me/beltvalletta
ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites)	http://malta.icomos.org/	http://malta.icomos.org/ contact.html
MAP Co-Re (The Malta Association of Professional Conservator-Restorers)		mapcore2008@gmail.com
Malta Tourism Authority	http://www.mta.com.mt/	kevin.fsadni@visitmalta.com
Malta Union of Tourist Guides	http://www.wftga.org/malta- union-tourist-guides	charmaine.mifsud@visitmalta.com, mutgsecretary@gmail.com
FATTA Federated Association of Travel & Tourism Agents Malta	http://fatta.org/	admin@fatta.org
Transport Malta	http://www.transport.gov.mt/	info.tm@transport.gov.mt

Malta Tourism Authority	http://www.mta.com.mt/	http://www.mta.com.mt/contactus.aspx
		info@visitmalta.com
Kamra tal-Periti	https://kamratalperiti.org/	info@kamratalperiti.org
Heritage Malta	http://heritagemalta.org/	info@heritagemalta.org
Valletta Local Council	https://localgovernment.gov.mt/en/lc/Valletta/Pages/default.aspx	valletta.lc@gov.mt

University of Malta

NAME	WEBSITE	EMAIL ADDRESS
Access Disability Support Unit	https://www.um.edu.mt/services/student-services/access	info@um.edu.mt
University of the 3rd Age	https://www.um.edu.mt/socialwellbeing	marvin.formosa@um.edu.mt
Institute of Tourism, Travel and Culture	https://www.um.edu.mt/ittc	
Faculty of Social Wellbeing	https://www.um.edu.mt/socialwellbeing	socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt
Marketing and Communications - Newspoint, NOC	https://www.um.edu.mt/newspoint	newspoint@um.edu.mt
SACES (The Society for Architecture & Civil Engineering Students)	http://www.sacesmalta.org/	info@sacesmalta.org
Faculty for the Built Environment	https://www.um.edu.mt/ben	m.me/uom.builtenvironment

ANNEX II
Programme