

# Continuous Professional Development

**The Institute for the Public Services continues to remain a pivotal point for continuous professional development of the Public Service, not only through improved and updated courses, sponsorships, and training programmes, but also with its research and publications arms.**

IPS utilises its research as a holistic approach in which it focuses on targeting areas of interest within the Public Service whilst adopting an evidence-based approach towards an improved Public Service of Excellence. Thanks to the commitment and collaboration of all stakeholders, this fourth edition takes yet another step forward in providing research articles

which are of interest and add to the knowledge towards, and to, the wider Public Administration.

The Institute for the Public Services is honoured to have served the Principal Permanent Secretary, Mr Mario Cutajar. The success and significant leadership of Mr Cutajar can be observed like what co-founder of Apple Steve Jobs explained: “You can’t connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards.” Looking back, Mr Cutajar worked formidably to achieve what civil servants proudly consider as the ‘Malta Public Service of Excellence’. Amongst many other examples, he was the mind behind the IPS Research Library, and in turning the Institute for the Public Service not merely as the training and development centre, but a powerhouse of ideas, empowerment, and best practices for tomorrow’s exigencies. His remarkable and significant leadership was built on 46 years as a public officer, light-heartedly to step down from his position by leaving the public serves “better than how I found it.”

Although an important chapter has come to an end, a new one beckons. The Institute for the Public Services welcomes the new Principal Permanent Secretary Mr. Tony Sultana. Boasting a 36-year career in the public service, Mr Sultana has been executive chairman of Malta Information and Technology (MITA), thus paving a way towards the Digital Era of the Public Service, which will enhance the five-year strategy that focuses on Technology, People, and the Service, by incorporating digital transformation.

The Institute for the Public Services bids a fond farewell to one of its beloved and visionary colleagues, Mr Sergio Galea Vincenti, who has passed away this year. Mr Galea Vincenti was a pillar in the research unit, and one of the few colleagues that one may describe as indispensable. His efforts will be carried on by his colleagues to maintain the quality of research and training in accordance with the five-year strategy.