



LISBOAN

EPERN

EADI

EuroMeSCO

FEWISE

COUNCIL for EUROPEAN STUDIES

ecpr

European Consortium for Political Research

## Welcoming note from the new Director

### Inside this issue:

- ◊ Welcoming note from the Director
- ◊ TEPSA pre presidency conference
- ◊ Q/A session with the Dutch Finance Minister and President of the Eurogroup Jeroen Dijsselbloem
- ◊ Dr Stefano Moncada awarded the EMB Bursary of the IOI
- ◊ BA Graduates for 2016
- ◊ MA Graduates for 2016
- ◊ Best Dissertation Award 2016
- ◊ MA student in the Master Class on EU Cohesion Policy
- ◊ News from our Alumni
- ◊ EU Careers Article – Manuel Zarb
- ◊ Summer School on *Small States in Europe*

The academic year always begins with a whirlwind of activity as we welcome a group of new students to our Bachelor and Masters' programmes. From my side, this academic year is especially busy as I assume the role of Director of the Institute. Having worked at the Institute for thirteen years and having coordinated the MA programmes since 2012, it is a huge honour and privilege to assume this role and to oversee the Institute for the next four years.

I must begin by paying tribute to two academics who were intrinsic to the creation and growth of the Institute. First, I would like to pay tribute to Prof. Roderick Pace, Director of the Institute until September 2016 and second, Prof. Peter Xuereb, Chairman of the Institute until June 2016. Without our courses and our graduates, Malta would have found EU membership a more difficult prospect. The Institute should feel justly proud that the vast majority of Maltese officials working in EU related bodies are Institute graduates. At the core of that success we find Prof. Pace and Prof. Xuereb's dedication to the Institute and their hard work. We also wish Prof. Xuereb well in his new role as a judge on the EU's General Court as well as welcoming our new Chairperson, Dr Carmen Sammut, Pro-Rector.

The Institute continues to grow, our student numbers to increase. To ensure that the Institute continues to deliver at the cutting edge of European Studies, we have embarked on a review of the Bachelor's course. By gathering feedback from our alumni and analysing how European Stud-

ies is being taught abroad, we intend to review our course and ensure that we deliver the best programme possible.

The Institute has also been reorganised with the designation of an outreach coordinator, Dr Cachia, and a research coordinator, Dr Moncada. Through their offices, we hope to increase the activity and profile of the Institute as well as increasing synergies in the teaching of European Studies across campus.

The Institute has had a busy first semester with the TEPSA Pre-presidency conference in November as well as a visit by the Dutch Finance Minister and Eurogroup President, Jeroen Dijsselbloem.

Last but not least, in January 2017 our country assumed the Presidency of the Council of the EU. Our students will be contributing to the presidency through their participation as Liaison Officers with the Government, welcoming and accompanying delegations during the 6 months of the Presidency. The Institute has made logistical changes to our POS to ensure that these students can participate in the Presidency fully. The Presidency will be a key moment in modern Maltese history and will be even more significant should the UK remain on track to activate Art. 50 during the Maltese Presidency.

We hope to see you all at our events and look forward to collaborating closely with you.

Dr Mark Harwood

## TEPSA PRE PRESIDENCY CONFERENCE IN MALTA

### ***RESTORING FAITH IN THE EU: STRENGTHEN SOLIDARITY, UNITY AND DETERMINATION***

The TEPSA pre-Presidency Conference which took place at the University Campus, Valletta, came at a very important cross-road in the life of the EU. Just before the start of the Maltese presidency of the Council of the EU two important events in world politics have cast their shadow on the future of Europe, namely the election of Donald Trump by a minority of votes as the next President of the US and the June referendum in Britain where a small majority voted to pull Britain out of the Union.

The Trans-European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA) was founded in 1974 with the help of the London based Federal Trust. Prior to the start of every new presidency of the Council of the EU, it organizes a pre-presidency conference in the country concerned and presents its recommendations to the incoming presidency.

The conference in Malta was held on the 10 and 11 November 2017 and the main theme was *RESTORING FAITH IN THE EU: STRENGTHEN SOLIDARITY, UNITY AND DETERMINATION*. It was inaugurated by the Hon Louis Grech MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for European Affairs and Implementation of the Electoral Manifesto who spoke about the Priorities of Malta's Presidency of the Council of the EU.

The proceedings began with brief introductory speeches by Prof Jaap de Zwaan, Secretary General of TEPSA and Professor Roderick Pace of the Institute for European Studies which organized the event. The first session was moderated by Dr Peter Agius, Head of the European Parliament Office in Malta. Around 50 representatives from the member institutes of TEPSA in the 28 member states attended the conference together with more than 60 locally based participants who included students, civil servants, members of the public and of the diplomatic corps.



*Prof. Pace addressing the John Pinder lecture*

The Hon Dr Ian Borg, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry for European Affairs and Implementation of the Electoral Manifesto responsible for the EU Presidency 2017 and EU Funds, later participated in a discussion on the Minister's presentation and the TEPSA recommendations. Late in the afternoon he also delivered the closing speech to bring to an end the first day of the conference.

The first Pinder Memorial lecture in honour of Professor John Pinder, former Chairman of the Federal Trust who passed away last year, was delivered by Professor Roderick Pace Jean Monnet Professor at the Institute for European Studies at the University of Malta. Following a brief introduction by Brendan Donnelly, Executive Director of the Federal Trust, Professor Pace spoke on John Pinder's contribution to European integration. The title of the presentation was "John Pinder: An Intellectual Leader in Politics".



In the evening delegates from TEPSA attended the conference dinner at the Hotel Excelsior and the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Mr Joop Nijssen gave the keynote speech on the three presidency programme of the EU which besides Malta includes The Netherlands and the current EU presidency Slovakia.

In this conference there were three panel discussions. The first on the "EU's Neighbourhood Policy and the Mediterranean Region: Facing up to the Economic, Environmental and Energy as well as the Security and Stability challenges", was chaired by Ms Moira Catania, Resident Academic Staff Member, Institute for European Studies, University of Malta and included as panel members Mr Stefano Mallia, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee, Prof Manfred Weissenbacher of the University of Malta and Prof Dr Hanna Ojanen from the University of Tampere.

## TEPSA PRE PRESIDENCY CONFERENCE IN MALTA (cont.)

*(Continued from page 2)*

The second panel which took place on Friday was entitled “The Migration Challenge and Strengthening Internal Solidarity in the Union”. It was chaired by Professor Jaap de Zwaan, Secretary General, TEPSA and the panel members were the Hon Carmelo Abela, Minister for Home Affairs and National Security, Ms Marlene Mizzi, MEP, Dr Roberta Metsola, MEP and Mrs Joanna Darmanin, of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO).

The third panel was on the The European Union and Brexit. It was chaired by Dr Mark Harwood, Director, Institute for European Studies, University of Malta and panel members were Mr Brendan Donnelly, Director, The Federal Trust for Education & Research, UK; Professor Wolfgang Wessels, Jean Monnet Chair ad personam University of Cologne, former Chairperson of the TEPSA Board; Mr Andrew Duff, European Policy Centre (EPC), former MEP and Dr Alfred Sant, MEP.

The Conference was closed by Professor Michael Kaeding who has just been elected Chairperson of TEPSA.

Financial support for the organization of the conference was received from the European Parliament, the European Commission, TEPSA, the Pont Program, the Federal Trust, the institute for European Studies of the University of Malta and the Ministry for European Affairs and Implementation of the Electoral Manifesto. Further details are available on the Institute of European Studies webpage at <http://www.um.edu.mt/europeanstudies/tepsa2016> and the TEPSA page at [www.tepsa.eu](http://www.tepsa.eu).

## Q/A session with the Dutch Finance Minister and President of the Eurogroup Jeroen Dijsselbloem

On the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016, the Institute for European Studies in collaboration with the Embassy of the Kingdom of The Netherlands organised a Question and Answer Session with the Dutch Finance Minister and President of the Eurogroup Jeroen Dijsselbloem. The event was moderated by Dr. Mark Harwood, Director of the Institute for European Studies and the pro-rector, Dr Carmen Sammut welcomed the Dutch Minister at the University of Malta.

In his introductory remarks, the Dutch Finance Minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem highlighted some similarities between the Netherlands and Malta. He mentioned that both countries have a small open economy yet a strong financial sector. In this regard, he explained the advantage that a Banking Union offers to small states since it sets common standards and plays a supervisory role for all banks operating within the Member States. Minister Dijsselbloem said that this would increase the credibility of the banking sector in the small Member States.

The audience was then invited to ask some follow-up questions. Students from the Institute for European Stud-

ies asked questions related to the significance of the EU Council Presidency for small states such as the Netherlands and Malta, the election of Donald Trump, the rise of far-right movements in Europe, and the impact of Brexit on the future of the European Union.

With regards to the Presidency, the Dutch Minister stated that the smallness of a Member State does not imply an ineffective Presidency. He explained that small states can be very influential and successful in forging agreements between Member States. Minister Dijsselbloem noted that the Dutch Presidency coincided with the increase in migration from Syria . Nonetheless, the Netherlands still managed to introduce the Anti-Tax Avoidance Directive (ATAD) and to draft a plan for a possible Banking Union.

Students then asked a number of questions related to the financial crisis. Minister Dijsselbloem replied that the worse was over in the Eurozone area. He referred to the fact that all the Member States were registering economic growth, which should reach an average of 2% in the forthcoming year.



## Q/A session with the Dutch Finance Minister and President of the Eurogroup Jeroen Dijsselbloem (cont.)

*(Continued from page 3)*

The Election of Donald Trump, the rise of the far-right in Europe, and Brexit were also popular issues tackled by the President of the Eurogroup. On the election of Donald Trump, Minister Dijsselbloem said that his election will not have any impact on the economic policies of the EU despite his apparent opposition to international trade deals. On the rise of the far-right in Europe, Minister Dijsselbloem declared that the forthcoming elections in Europe should not provide any surprises, however, one must be cautious. On Brexit, Minister Dijsselbloem believed that it is going to be a lose-lose affair since it might take years to reach an agreement. This could lead to instability which would threaten the European financial sectors.

The Institute for European Studies would like to thank the Embassy for the Kingdom of The Netherlands for its collaboration in organising the Q/A event with Minister Dijsselbloem.



## Dr Stefano Moncada awarded the EMB Bursary of the IOI

Dr. Stefano Moncada, member of the academic staff of the Institute for European Studies and lecturer in European Studies was awarded The 2016 Elisabeth Mann Borgese (EMB) Bursary of the International Ocean Institute (IOI). The Bursary is financed through the IOI and constitutes a further recognition and acknowledgement of the role of Prof. E. Mann Borgese, founder of IOI, and of her considerable achievements.

Dr. Stefano Moncada will carry out research entitled “Climate Coping Strategies, Economic Wellbeing and Sustainability in Vulnerable Coastal Communities”. The research is to identify the coping strategies adopted in reaction to climate variability and change, and to discuss their implications for economic wellbeing and for long-term sustainability. The research intends to investigate this in the context of vulnerable coastal communities in small islands, supporting research and teaching activities between the national and regional centres working in the field of sustainable uses of Ocean resources.

Present at the ceremony were Pro-Rector Professor Joseph Cacciattolo, Professor Louis Cassar, Dr Stefano Moncada, Ms Antonella Vassallo (IOI Managing Director) and the previous EMB Bursary award winner Ms Kristina Edwards.



*From left: Professor Louis Cassar, Pro-Rector Professor Joseph Cacciattolo, Ms Antonella Vassallo (IOI Managing Director), Dr Stefano Moncada, Ms Kristina Edwards, Ben Rizzo.*

*From left: Ms Antonella Vassallo (IOI Managing Director), Dr Stefano Moncada*



## BA Graduates for 2013/2016

### BA

Salem Rizzo Alexander

### BA (Hons)

Abdilla Sarah

Andrejevic Nikola

Apap Andre

Azzopardi Claire

Bonnici Bernice

Bonnici Bennett Melanie

Borg Nicholas

Briffa Roberta

Busuttil Kimberly

Callus Gayle Lynn

Camilleri Daniel

Cardona Andrea

Cassar Valentina

Catania Charmaine

Ciantar Kylie

Cortis Kurt

Debrincat Andrea

Dimech Steve

Falzon Jan

Farrugia Dunlop Kirsten

Formosa Michelle

Grech Lateo Loretta

Grixti Adelaide

Mangion Alexia

Micallef Gabriel

Micallef Martina Francesca

Mifsud Emily

Pace Gabrielle

Schembri Stephanie Marie

Vella Bernard

Vella Keith

Vella Steve

Vella Brincat Raisa Marie

Zammit Kimberly

Zerafa Rodrick

## MA Graduates for 2016

Bowers Analise

Camilleri Andrea

Caruana Angel

Ciantar Erik

Cutajar Luke Emanuel

Ebejer Claude

Farrugia Graziella Sina

Fenech Gonzi Rachel

Grech William

Kristensen Majbritt

Spiteri Stefan

Zammit Paul

## Best Dissertation Award 2016

On the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016, the Institute for European Studies held a small reception for its new graduates. During this reception, Dr Mark Harwood, Director of the Institute, announced the winners of the Best Dissertation Award. For the first time, five students received the highest mark in their dissertation and each received an award. The awardees were; Sarah Abdilla with a dissertation on the EU CIP Funding Scheme and Maltese SMEs; Kimberly Busuttil who analysed the EU educational mobility programmes and youth employability; Bernard Vella who looked at the EU Development Cooperation in Post-Conflict Countries with a case study on Sudan; Raisa Vella Brincat who focused on European Parliament's Influence on the CFSP with a case study of the EU's Policy towards Libya; and Kimberly Zammit who analysed New Anti-System Parties in the European Union.

The Institute for European Studies would like to congratulate all its graduates and wish them the best of luck for their future.



## MA student in the Master Class on EU Cohesion Policy

Miglė Džiugytė, masters by research student in European Integration, together with other 30 participants (PhD and early career researchers) attended the Master Class on EU Cohesion Policy, which took place during the European Week of Regions and Cities (EWRC) 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> October 2016. This programme was organized by the European Commission's DG Regional and Urban Policy (DG Regio), the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the Regional Studies Association (RSA).

Participants of the Master Class were invited to attend the EWRC Opening Session in the European Parliament and EWRC official reception including RegioStars 2016 Awards in Bozar. These sessions were also attended by the DG Regio Corina Crețu, MEP Lambert Van Nistelrooij and other politicians and academics.



*EWRC opening session in the European Parliament*

During these four days 30 participants have presented their research papers followed by feedback sessions from policy-makers and officials working in DG Regio, CoR, and the European Parliament Research Service.



*Master class participants (taken from the facebook page of the regional studies association)*

The main goal of these research papers and presentations was to exchange ideas and views between researchers and policy-makers, facilitate academic networking, and raise awareness of the research being conducted in the field of the EU Cohesion Policy. Master Class participants not only were introduced to the methods used to link the researchers and policy-makers, but were also actively involved in discussing new ways to bridge the gap between them.

There were two main underlying messages that echoed throughout the EWRC. First, both researchers and the European Commission officials asserted lack of communication, i.e. the successes of EU regional funding were not as visible as they should be according to the level of their presence. In some countries EU regional funding makes up the largest part of public spending. The second message stated that local (regional) policy-makers need to be engaged more, that is greater territorial focus rather than only strong national focus.

Master Class on EU Cohesion Policy granted an invaluable experience at the heart of the EU. The connections made during the four days within the academia of the European countries started new friendships and paved the way for future research collaborations. Additionally, direct encounter with policy-makers and members of RSA, CoR and other institutions have indicated what is expected from the researcher at the policy-making level. First-hand experience in the working place of researchers gave an understanding of the processes inside the EU.

## News from our Alumni



During her time at the University as a European Studies Student at the Institute for European Studies, Kimberly Zammit has been well aware of the 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union. This upcoming Presidency is an important opportunity for Malta and hence as a newly European Studies

Graduate she was enthusiastic in participating in the opportunities which the Presidency will create. Currently, she is undergoing an Internship where she is well involved in the preparations of Informal Meetings happening in Malta during the six-month Presidency. Moreover, as from the start of the Presidency Kimberly will be acting as a Liaison Officer with the different European delegations who will be coming to Malta for meetings. The first part of 2017 will definitely be a busy time for Malta as a member state of the European Union along with many workers, including herself, who are working on making this Presidency a success story for the smallest member of the EU.



Analise Bowers holds a Bachelors degree in European Studies (Honours) and has also recently graduated with a Masters in European Politics, Economics and Law. Whilst working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs a few years ago she became interested in European affairs and this led her to read for her first degree in European Studies. Her interest in contemporary Europe,

the European Institutions and EU related matters was further enhanced during her internship at the Maltese High Commission in London. While studying for her Masters she started working as an EU Fund Officer at the Planning and Priority Coordination Division, which is the Managing Authority that was set up to manage pre and post accession funds for Malta. Both her degrees have proven to be relevant in her current job, as they have provided her with the methods and skills required to critically assess and interpret information about European institutions and organizations. Moreover, they have provided her with a vast knowledge about the management of EU funding and the distribution of funds and grants through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF), amongst others.



When Daniel had to decide what degree to choose at University he opted for a Bachelor in European Studies with International Relations, and he has certainly not regretted this decision. This three-year course was comprised of diverse topics falling into different dimensions including the Macro-economic and micro-economic backgrounds of the European Union, the legal order of the EU and various

types of policy and decision-making procedures.

During his final year at University, students were each assigned a dissertation topic. His research paper, entitled “*The Impact of Migration on Small States in the European Union, the cases of Malta, Cyprus and Luxembourg*”,

focused on the effects of regular or irregular migration from a macro-economic point of view. The results of this study concluded, that migration had a significantly different impact on the three chosen EU small states, leading to job and economic growth in Malta and Luxembourg, but deflation in Cyprus.

Daniel is currently working as Press Officer within the Media and Marketing team of the Presidency of the Council of the EU Department at the Ministry for European Affairs. His responsibilities include structuring the role and plans of Malta's Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2017; media monitoring; public relations; the writing of articles and press releases; media centre management; branding, communication and marketing; and co-ordination with Communication Officers between various Ministries of the Maltese Government.

## EU Careers Article – Manuel Zarb

As part of my role as EU Careers Ambassador, I shall be organising a number of talks on possible careers within the European Union institutions, as well as in Brussels more generally. My job is to make sure that students learn about possible careers in Europe, get to know the pros and cons of such a decision, and can easily get answers to their questions in this regard.

With the great problems Europe is facing right now, there is an even greater demand for motivated, talented and intelligent young people to work in the institutions. I am confident that many Maltese students are capable of meeting this demand, and encourage them to apply for the different jobs available. Graduate students are encouraged to apply in Spring, translators and linguists can apply in summer, while individuals who possess work experience but no qualifications in European affairs can apply in Autumn.

Careers in the European Union offer numerous benefits. The greatest advantage, of course, is the experience of working abroad in Brussels or Strasbourg, thriving cities which are very welcoming to those from all backgrounds. Whether you work in the Commission, Parliament or Council, you will also be working with people from all over Europe.

The work itself, which can be challenging but also rewarding, also tends to be very varied – EU staff often switch their area of work every few years, so you could be working in Communications, Trade, Foreign Affairs and the Environment, over a short span of your career.

Besides, there are many more practical benefits. Starting salaries are very generous, especially for graduate and linguist applicants, and you will be offered the opportunity to learn a new language or two (all provided for by the EU). Depending on the nature of your work, there could also be allowances for travel costs, and subsidies for accommoda-

tion in your new home city.

Of course, a career in the EU is not for everyone. Moving to a new country, meeting new people and settling in to a completely new environment can be a bit scary as well as exciting. Fortunately, the Maltese communities in Brussels and Strasbourg are very welcoming. It's good to mix with people from different countries, but rest assured that a part of home will also be there waiting for you when you make the leap into an EU Career.

The decision to try, ultimately, is up to you. An EU Career is not an easy decision, and the interviews to join are demanding. Nevertheless, if you have the drive and the courage, I am confident you will be able to succeed.



## Summer School on *Small States in Europe: Opportunities and Challenges* at the Centre for Small States Studies - Háskóli Íslands

My experience at the two-week seminar in Iceland has doubtlessly been a constructive academic opportunity that enriched my knowledge on small state study and research skills in general. Apart from upholding an intensive analysis on the topic, the course encompassed the academic views of several prominent academics including Prof. Baldur Thorharllsson and Prof. Anders Wivel, who engaged students in their discussions throughout.

The multidisciplinary approach of the course enabled the debates to cover several theories governing small state

study. Most of the discussions unfolded specifically around the recent academic shift to smart state strategy, due to the increasing importance of soft power in the world order. This theory was discussed in relation to the EU's framework and the role that it is serving as an "alliance shelter" to small states. Interactive participation was upheld through country-specific case studies on contemporary scenarios, including the effect of migration on the Mediterranean frontline islands. Moreover, the course programme incorporated a familiarisation process with the national political scenario through several visits to the Icelandic institutions

## Summer School on *Small States in Europe: Opportunities and Challenges at the Centre for Small States Studies - Háskóli Íslands (cont.)*

(Continued from page 8)

and meetings with local politicians.

Beyond the academic aspect, this experience provided me with the opportunity to visit Iceland, which unique beauty exceeded my expectations. Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude towards the Institute for European Studies, particularly Professor Roderick Pace and the staff at the Centre for Small States Studies at the University of Iceland for making such an opportunity possible, a dream come true.

Steve Vella



INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA  
TAL-QROQQ  
MSIDA MSD 2080  
MALTA

Phone: +356 2340 2001 / 2998 / 2136 / 3098  
Fax: +356 2340 2651  
Email: [europeanstudies@um.edu.mt](mailto:europeanstudies@um.edu.mt)  
Website: [www.um.edu.mt/europeanstudies](http://www.um.edu.mt/europeanstudies)



Institute for European Studies



@EuropeanStuds

The Institute for European Studies is a multi-disciplinary teaching and research Institute within the University of Malta. It runs full-time courses leading to the Bachelor of European Studies degree and to qualifications at MA and PhD level. Each year Maltese and international students enrol in its degree programmes, and through the ERASMUS Programme it offers a number of student and staff exchanges with universities and institutions of higher learning abroad. All of the Institute's courses are fully in line with Bologna Process guidelines.

Founded in 1992 as the European Documentation and Research Centre (EDRC), the Institute was granted the status of a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence in 2004. The Institute is engaged in various research and publication activities in European Integration Studies and is a member of the Trans-European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA), the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), EPERN, EADI, and the two Euro-Mediterranean networks, EuroMeSCo and FEMISE. The Institute is also a member of the Council for European Studies (hosted at Columbia University).

The research interests of its staff include comparative politics and history of the European Union (EU); EU institutions; EU external relations and enlargement; small states in the EU; Malta in the EU; Euro-Mediterranean relations; Stability and Growth Pact; economic governance of the euro area; Europe 2020; EU development policies, climate change, international economics, economic causes and consequences of globalisation and EU trade and cohesion policy.

