The genealogy of the Institute for European Studies is not very complicated. It owes its origin to the establishment of the European Documentation Centre (EDC) in 1974 and the founding of the European Documentation and Research Centre (EDRC) in 1991, which subsequently changed its name to the Institute for European Studies (IfES) in 2011. The founding of the EDRC signalled the beginning of European Studies as a separate field of study at the University of Malta.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EDC

The European Commission’s Directorate General for Press and Information designated the Department of Economics of the then Royal University of Malta (RUM), as a European Documentation Centre (EDC) on the 2 August of 1973 following an application submitted by the late Professor Salvino Busuttil in June of that same year. The Malta EDC was the 195th established by the Commission world-wide.

The European Commission laid down two important conditions in granting the EDC. The first was that “the status of an EDC is reserved to universities that have introduced the teaching and research on European integration and is based on the academic responsibility of the professors involved in European studies.” The second was that the material was to be accessible to all disciplines.

Professor Busuttil and Professor Peter Seraccino Inglott, both of whom have passed away, planned to set up the Mediterranean Institute for Social Studies (MISS) to begin offering courses in European Studies. A formal request to the Senate of the University to approve the Institute’s statute was submitted on 25 April 1974, but the decision was shelved on 5
March 1975. In 1978, the Council finally approved the MISS statute which, however, never took charge of the EDC.

The EDC was officially inaugurated in October 1974 at 59 Old Mint Street, Valletta, a rented premises obtained through the intervention of the late Hon Dr Patrick Holland then Minister of Housing. Courses in European integration were organized in the late seventies and eighties, but some years after its inauguration, the EDC became embroiled in a court case over the lease of the premises. The University stopped paying rent in 1980 and the documents which were being sent from Brussels were re-directed to the University of Malta at Tal-Qroqq.

THE REVIVAL

On 17 December 1987, the EDC Board appointed Professor Roderick Pace Director of the Centre on a part-time basis. The reorganization was undertaken in the library of the University Building Valletta (where the Foundation for International Studies was housed) which at the time served as a book repository of the main University Library at Tal-Qroqq.

The first in a series of newsletters listing the documents and publications received from Brussels began circulation on 1 July 1988.

Since no courses in European integration were running at the University, the Commission downgraded the EDC’s status to that of a specialized EDC. Several international guest speakers were invited to fill the gap until a proper course in European Studies could be established. The first to arrive was Professor Richard W. T. Pomfret from the Bologna Center of the Johns Hopkins University in February 1988 and whose lectures were later published in the first publication of the EDC in 1989.

In 1989, it was the turn of Professor George N. Yannopolous, Chairman of the Graduate School of European and International Studies (GSEIS) at the University of Reading in the UK and Mr Heinz Tembrink from the Federation of German Industries (BDI).

THE FOUNDING OF THE EDRC

The first draft course leading to a Bachelor degree European Studies was submitted to Rector on 8 June 1988. A fortnight later, the University Senate approved a Faculty of Arts recommendation for an International Relations program to be included in the areas of study for the Bachelor of Arts degree.

Later it was decided to setup the European Documentation and Research Centre (EDRC) which would also host the EDC. On the 16 October 1991, Senate agreed to recommend the Statute of the EDRC, which had been drafted by Prof Seraccino Inglott and Roderick Pace for Council’s approval. Senate’s recommendation was approved by Council on the 30 October 1991. On the 16 November 1992, the European Commission informed the Director that the EDC had been given the status of a Comprehensive (or full) EDC.

EUROPEAN STUDIES IS LAUNCHED

In 1994, the EDRC and EDC were transferred to the Tal-Qroqq campus. In the last quarter of 1993, Professor Peter G. Xuereb was appointed Chairman (Rector’s Delegate) of the EDRC. First courses, at post graduate level, were launched soon after and the first MA student graduated in 1994 and the first M.Phil. student in 1997. A four-year Bachelor of Arts in European Studies degree programme was launched in 1995-96 and the first students were enrolled in October 1996.
A succession of external examiners were engaged throughout the years from the very beginning of the courses. These were: Professor R. J. Barry Jones from the University of Reading, who was followed by Professor Staffan Zetterholm from the University of Aalborg, Denmark; Professor Edward Moxon-Browne from the University of Limerick, Ireland; Professor Neill Nugent from Manchester Metropolitan University; Professor Donatella Viola, Università della Calabria, Italy; Professor Laura Ferriera-Periera (2010) from the University of Minho, Portugal; Professor Michelle Pace, a Maltese academic based at Roskilde University, Denmark and lastly our current appointee Professor Fulvio Attina from the University of Catania.

Gradually the academic staff component grew with the engagement of Dr Mark Harwood (2003), followed by Dr Stefano Moncada (2008), Dr Jean Micallef Grimaud (2009), Ms Moira Catania (2010), Dr Marcello Carammia (2012), Dr Susanna Thede (2013) and finally Dr Jean Claude Cachia and Ms Elaine Cordina (2015).

Professor Roderick Pace served as the Institute’s Director until the end of September 2016 when Dr Mark Harwood was chosen to fill the position by Council.

JEAN MONNET PROGRAMMES

The research and publication output of the Institute made a definite leap forward in 1994 with the first “State of the European Union” Conference. In these series of annual conferences, Maltese and international specialists in European Integration presented studies which were later published in book form by the Institute.

Professor Peter Xuereb was later awarded the first Jean Monnet Chair, (Jean Monnet Professor of European Union Law and European Integration at the University of Malta). In subsequent years he led the civil society project spanning five years, the EU-Med Project which lasted from 2002-2004 and the inter-cultural dialogue which had a duration of two years. During this time the Institute was also granted the status of a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence.

In 2012, Professor Roderick Pace was awarded a Jean Monnet Professorship and a project entitled “An Evolving EU Engaging a Changing Mediterranean Region” which facilitated the organization of three conferences on Mediterranean issues and developments in the light of the so called “Arab Spring”.

Concurrently, Dr Marcello Carammia was successful in attracting funding for a three-year Jean Monnet Module on “Agenda Setting” in the EU, one of whose outcomes was the setting up of a study-unit by the same title, which is still on offer in the current undergraduate programme of study.

At present, the Institute participates in several research and teaching projects. One of these consists of a project on migration coordinated by Yasar University in Turkey (2016).

In collaboration with the Islands and Small States Institute (ISSI) and the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Malta, the Institute is involved with a group of five universities led by the University of Maastricht in an Erasmus+ project entitled “SMSHealth: European Integration, small states and Health.”

The Institute is a partner in another Erasmus+ project on “Small States in Europe: Opportunities and Challenges” led by the University of Iceland. This project also supports the participation of University of Malta students and academic staff in summer schools in Iceland and Slovenia.

Other international links include the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), which opens up research opportunities for Ph.D. students and academic staff from all the University of Malta.

The Institute is a longstanding member of the network of Mediterranean Security Institutes (EUROMESCO) and the network of eco
Dr Hauwa Ibrahim’s visit

On the 14th March the Institute welcomed Dr Hauwa Ibrahim and Rev. Amy Post who came to lecture on the topic of preventing radicalism. Dr Ibrahim is a Nigerian human rights lawyer who was awarded the European Parliament’s Sakharov prize in 2005 for her work in defending people condemned under Sharia law and she is also a fellow at Harvard University. Along with Rev. Amy Post she gave an impassioned lecture on the ability of everyone to help prevent radicalism by promoting peace and understanding, especially the need for young people to push ahead with their ideas and dreams. It was in places where young people had no hope that radicalism took root because there was no perception of a future being lost. Dr Ibrahim’s lecture can be viewed on the Institute’s facebook page. Both Dr Ibrahim and Rev. Amy Post were in Malta to attend the opening of the art exhibition ‘Florescence’ by the Maltese/Iranian artist Lida Sherafatmand at San Anton Palace.

CONCLUSION

By the end of this year just under 700 students will have graduated with a degree in European Studies since the start of the Institute’s courses in the early nineties.

Another milestone was achieved in 2017, when Petra Bishtawi completed her research and successfully defended her Ph.D. which makes her the first Ph.D. graduate. The Institute has a small but vibrant Ph.D. programme.

The Institute’s graduates have taken positions and jobs in several sectors, including the public service, the diplomatic corps, various ministries, private enterprise, the media and the EU institutions. Some have risen to very important positions – which we could not have imagined when they were studying at the Institute.

The Institute is served by an outstanding team of administrative personnel and the EDC is still at the heart of its activities.
On March 10th the Institute for European Studies in collaboration with the Department of International Relations organised a symposium on BREXIT entitled ‘BREXIT: What Next?’ The symposium was a great success with a full house in excess of 180 people. In the month when the British government triggered Article 50, it was felt timely to take stock of developments and discuss the way forward with special guests representing the key actors, namely the British government, the European Parliament and the European Commission. The symposium began with an overview of BREXIT provided by Prof. Neill Nugent. Prof. Nugent has a long history of collaboration with the Institute and taught at the College of Europe in Bruges and at Manchester Metropolitan University as well as having been the Institute’s External Examiner for a number of years. After Prof. Nugent’s concise overview of how BREXIT came about and the prospects of how the negotiations will develop the symposium proceeded to hear from the panel. The discussion began with the British High Commissioner to Malta, Mr Stuart Gill, who reiterated that BREXIT did not imply that Britain would no longer be a part of Europe but that the prospects for cooperation were now limitless as Britain sought to pursue an international future while maintaining close cooperation with its fellow Europeans. The symposium then went on to hear from the MEPs Dr Theresa Cachia Comidini and Dr Alfred Sant who both discussed the uncertainty that surrounded the immediate future as the EU tackled what was, ultimately, a first, namely the withdrawal of a member state. Finally, Dr Elena Grech, Head of the European Commission Representation to Malta highlighted how the negotiations would be a difficult process because, ultimately, no member state had wanted to find itself in this situation, of having to see a partner leave the group. The symposium was concluded with a Q&A session and then a reception. The Institute would like to thank Dr Jean Claude Cachia for his hard work in arranging much of the logistics of this symposium as well as the Department for International Relations.
The Institute for European Studies and the Department of International Relations, Faculty of Arts, launched a series of research seminars during the academic year 2016/2017, called ‘Ideas in Brown Bags’, which focus on key issues in European and international politics.

The aim of these research in progress seminars is two-fold, to increase the research output of the University of Malta by presenting the state of the art research developed by resident and visiting members, and to identify gaps where further research is needed to support policy.

The following research seminars have been organised in this year:
- ‘European Union Asylum Law: Safeguarding the Tradition of Asylum or Cementing a Fortress?’ Presenter Prof. Zulima Sanchez, discussant Dr. Isabella Calleja Ragonesi;
- The effects of a foreign aid intervention on health in an informal urban settlement: Does training matter? Presenter Dr. Stefano Moncada, discussant Dr, Anna Khakee;
- ‘Irregular migration in the EU: tensions in the development of EU migration governance’ Presenter Ms, Nadia Petroni, discussant Dr, Stefano Moncada;
- ‘The Trump Doctrine – Change or Continuity? - Assessing the prospects for the Trump Administration’s Foreign Policy in the light of US Strategic Culture’ Presenter Dr. Valentina Cassar, discussant Prof. Roderick Pace;
- ‘Health Policy in the Small States of Europe’ Presenter Dr. Gisella Orsini, discussant Dr. Stefano Moncada.

Further details can be found here: http://www.um.edu.mt/europeanstudies/notices/ideasinbrownbagsibbresearchseminar

For further details please contact the co-conveners of the IBB Research Seminars
Dr. Stefano Moncada, stefano.moncada@um.edu.mt and Dr. Angela Pennisi di Floristella, angela.pennisidifloristella@um.edu.mt
and visit www.um.edu.mt/europeanstudies - www.um.edu.mt/arts/int-relations
European Integration, Small States and Health - SMSHealth.eu Project

The University of Malta is the technical coordinator of the SMSHealth.eu Project. This is an EU funded project under the Erasmus + programme. The consortium is composed of university departments with a small state and (European) public health expertise, a public health institute and an independent non-profit think-tank from Malta, Estonia, Slovenia, Iceland and The Netherlands. The University of Malta is represented on this project by the Institute for European Studies, with the support of the Department of Health Services Management and the Islands & Small States Institute. Professor Roderick Pace (Institute for European Studies), Dr Natasha Azzopardi Muscat (Department of Health Services Management) and Professor Lino Briguglio (Islands & Small States Institute) are the project coordinators.

To date there are no comparative studies on small states and health systems. The SMSHealth.eu Project aims therefore to fill this gap by a deep understanding of small states’ challenges and opportunities of European integration in health.

This will be achieved through comparative research across four health policy issues (cancer, health professionals’ mobility, access to medicines, rare diseases) in Estonia, Iceland, Malta and Slovenia. The research study entails reviews of the domestic literature (particularly in the national language which may be otherwise inaccessible) as well as interviews with the main stakeholders across the identified health policy domains in the partner countries.

The knowledge gathered through the research will consequently be translated into actionable messages and policy advice for civil servants, politicians and professionals in Estonia, Iceland, Malta, Slovenia and beyond. In addition to this, the data gathered will be incorporated in educational activities at the master studies level. In details, at a local level educational material will be developed for use in the post-graduate degree courses at the University of Malta.

Each partner will also organise workshops on the above mentioned health policy issues, in order to validate research findings as well as to raise awareness among policy makers, civil servant, civil society and academia. The events will also allow the exchange of practices on how to address health issues at the intersection of European and national policy making, among the key stakeholders in small member states.

In this sense, the project will enhance the collaboration between research, policy and practice in Europe and beyond.

The University of Malta is responsible for the organisation of the small states workshop on access to medicines workshop, which was held at University of Malta Valletta Campus (Aula Magna), on 27 January 2017. Key note speakers and experts on access to medicines from Malta, Estonia, Iceland and Slovenia presented their perspectives on the topics, discussing the main project’s findings with the participants.

For more information and updates, please visit the project website.
REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC EXCHANGE WITH XIAMEN UNIVERSITY (CHINA)
BY DR STEFANO MONCADA
27-31 MARCH 2017

Introduction
The University of Malta, through the Institute for European Studies, is part of an academic exchange programme with Xiamen University, funded by the EU Erasmus+ initiative. Following a first visit to Xiamen by Prof. Roderick Pace, and a visit to Malta by Prof. Meibo Huang (from the School of Economics) in February 2017, Dr. Stefano Moncada visited Xiamen University from the 27th to the 31st of March 2017.

Schedule and Interactions
The academic exchange took place over five days, during which Dr Moncada delivered two lectures, entitled ‘Climate Change and Economic Development in Small Island Developing States’ and ‘The Euro and European Monetary Integration’.

Both lectures were well attended by students and academic staff, and the follow up questions from the audience signaled an interest in the topics discussed, and in the overall research being carried out at the University of Malta on these topics.

Further three teaching activities were organized during the visit, the first with Associate Professor Baoheng Wang, and his research team, discussing EU-Chinese trade relations, with a focus on tourism. Prof. visited Malta in May 2017. The other meetings were organised by Prof. Meibo Huang with the academic staff from the World Economy Research Center, and a further one with the students from the China Institute for International Development of Xiamen University.

Future Collaborations
The School of Economics, especially the Department of World Economy, has showed an interest in continuing the cooperation among our universities, looking at possible ways to conduct common research in the area of economic development of emerging market economies, development aid, and international trade. Additionally, both Prof. Wang and Dr Moncada expressed the wish to start involving students, funding permitting, in future exchange programmes.

Personal remarks & Suggestions
The Xiamen University campus is modern and fully functional, with excellent infrastructure facilities (fully equipped lecture rooms, sport facilities, short and long term accommodation, shops, library, wifi which includes eduroam). The majority of the academic staff speaks very good English, and communication does not seem to represent a problem. Staff and students are invariably very polite, and generous with their time and assistance to visiting staff/students.

First lecture on ‘Climate Change and Economic Development in Small Island Developing States’, attended by over 100 people.
Dr Alfred Sant shares his knowledge with University Students

On Monday 20th February, Dr Alfred Sant, currently an MEP representing Malta in the European Parliament, visited the University of Malta. He gave a guest lecture to share his knowledge on trade and EU trade policy with third year students currently studying European Studies.

Dr Sant began his talk by delving into the origins of trade, explaining that trade started as a way for countries to gain access to resources and materials which their land did not provide them with. He continued to explain Mercantilism and Imperialism and described how these schools of thought intertwined and separated as the importance of trade grew. Dr Sant linked this importance to the foundation of the European Union, and demonstrated the key role trade has played in the relations between the 28 member states. Speaking from personal experience, Dr Sant brought an original aspect to the currently evolving issues, advancing the concept of ‘gated globalisation’ as a possible means forward. Dr Sant’s talk was certainly an intriguing take on trade policy, and the discussion that followed brought new ideas that helped us think about EU trade policy from a different perspective. (Text: Michaela Rizzo, Bachelor of European Studies student.)

What say does the Commission have in setting the agenda of the European Union?

Added value, better regulation and stakeholder participation were the focus of the presentation given by Mr Peter Barany from the Agenda Planning Unit of the Secretariat General of the European Commission.

While on a two day visit where Mr Barany also addressed the Interministerial Committee for European Affairs on the topic, European Studies students were invited to focus on the role of the Commission in terms of the political validation of proposals coming from DGs, the criteria used by the Commission for proposals to be included in the Work Programme and how these are scrutinised in line with overall Commission priorities, the President’s priorities and joint legislative priorities.

He further explained the importance of the inter-institutional dimension in the annual cycle launched by the State of the Union speech and leading to the adoption of the Work Programme.
Kailyze Attard’s experience at The Malta Business Bureau

As part of the European studies course outline, an opportunity to conduct placements in EU related fields is given to Bachelor’s students. Ms Attard was assigned to the Malta Business Bureau (MBB) - an organization which promotes the interests of the Maltese business sector at an EU level.

Founded in 1996, the MBB is the joint EU-business advisory office of the Malta Chamber of Commerce, enterprise and Industry and the Malta Hotels and Restaurants Association. The MBB liaises directly with its counterparts both locally and abroad, including the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Maltese Permanent Representation in Brussels and other pan-European Business organizations such as Business Europe, Eurochambres and HOTREC on all EU Policy and funding issues affecting Maltese business interests.

Consequently, MBB plays an important role in ensuring that Maltese businesses are conversant with the latest EU developments and arising opportunities. With a Head office in Malta and a Representation office in Brussels, MBB oversees different sectors such as EU Policy and lobbying, Business support through the Enterprise European Network Programme and EU Funds and projects - examples of the latter include "Design for Europe", 'Design Shots' and 'Innovation Leaders: Improving Knowledge on EU direct Funds'. MBB is also active in the energy efficiency field and sustainability. Recently, it has embarked on the 'Investing in Energy' project which aims to improve energy efficiency with SMEs engaged in the manufacturing and wholesale sectors. Moreover MBB is the co-owner of the ZAAR platform - a project giving birth to the concept of crowdfunding in Malta. It could be described as the collection of small monetary contributions by the general public to support or finance a particular initiative, project or venture. The crowdfunding platform is managed by the Foundation for the Promotion of Entrepreneurial Initiatives, an entity set up by the MBB and the University of Malta in 2015.

Innovation, initiative, freedom to express yourself and giving ideas are some of the most important elements that encourage students like myself to take chances and challenge ourselves in order to achieve greatness, not in just our studies but also for our future in an inclusive Europe. Such placements do not only open doors for traineeships with MBB but also give the necessary aid and information regarding business and the world of entrepreneurship in relation to EU funds.

“When I joined the Malta Business Bureau, I wanted to give young people the opportunity to develop themselves, and to shape a new future for the organisation. In 2010, the MBB initiated a business-academia collaboration whereby a number of students from the Institute of European Students within the University of Malta were given the opportunity to undergo a period of accredited traineeship. Since then, tens of University students have undergone a traineeship with us in our Malta and Brussels offices. It gives me great satisfaction to see that a number of graduates from the Institute of European Studies are now key members of my team. Others play prominent roles within the public and private sector.” MBB CEO Joe Tanti, MSc

Being able to take part in these placements is important in order to gain experience and put into practice what is taught at University. Despite the fact that there is a big difference between the lecture room environment and the work environment, having good knowledge of the different EU policies and regulations is extremely useful.
Apart from one's own initiative, such an experience would have definitely not been possible without the coordination of the Institute and MBB, both of which gave all the necessary guidelines and are focused on helping the students shape a better future for themselves.

As a student, her personal experience till now was very positive and gave her the opportunity to not only put into practice what she has been learning in the past two years at University but also to explore more what jobs she would like to pursue. Getting outside her comfort zone and participating in activities which she did not usually engage in helped her to gain more confidence in what she does, helping her to grow and reach her potential at a personal level.

Rebecca MacKay’s Erasmus Experience

Rebecca Mackay’s Erasmus experience started on the 8th of February 2017. She was offered a chance to go study Political Sciences with the University of Bologna for 5 months. She is currently situated in Forli, which is a small town with a population of roughly 120,000 people. UniBo has campus in Ravenna and Cesena as well. Luckily, Ms Mackay has a good understanding of the language and the Maltese culture and traditions are similar to the Italian culture and traditions so moving to Italy and settling down in her apartment was not a big problem.

Class started a week later. The majority of students were Italian since the campus in Forli is very small but there were international students as well. She made friends with a Croatian, Georgian, Finnish, Russian and Chinese as well as Italians. The first impression she gained about the University was that it is very modern and very relaxed. Lectures are not held every day and there is no set time table, meaning lectures are not held during the same days every week. Her first class was called Intelligence and Political Decision Making. Ms Mackay has never studied anything about intelligence before, but it was very interesting to see how the intelligence can affect political decision making. The class also involved getting to know the intelligence structures of many different countries and it was interesting also to have debates and discussions with the students in class when they talked about their countries. The lecturer also showed particular interest in Malta and they spent two lectures debating the role and importance of small islands in the European Union and the international phora.

As mentioned before, students are very welcoming to foreigners and they showed them around the campus. During a week and a half without lectures Rebecca spent that time travelling around Italy. Rebecca and her friends visited Rome, Milan, Verona, Venice, Cesena, Faenza and other small towns close to Forli. Along the way, they made new friends, both Italian and international.

Going on Erasmus has always been a personal goal of Ms Mackay. Apart from having the opportunity to study in one of the world’s most prestigious and well known Universities, she also learnt how to be independent and fend for herself.
Owen Zammit’s experience at MUESAC

Mr Zammit’s placement was carried out at MEUSAC - a government funded entity that is in charge of mainly disseminating information that has to do with the EU to the general public. During his placement he worked with the funding department inside the Committee where different applications for funding are dealt with.

Working in an office environment has been a great experience since it was Mr Zammit’s very first time to work in such an environment where two of his colleagues there also studied European Studies at University. During his placement at MEUSAC he had the chance to work on different types of applications of EU funds that range from ERDF to Erasmus+. Learning the difficulties of such applications and also learning to deal with different organisations and entities that are applying for these funds was a great experience.

Something which Mr Zammit had to use during his work there was flexibility. What he mean by flexibility is that many times different tasks are required to fill in applications that range one very broad and different subjects. This means that as you are trying to make the application be as competitive as possible, you need to inform yourself about the project even by searching on the internet about that particular subject.

An example would be the building of culverts under roads in rural areas - he had to research on the subject so that he could describe this process on the application whilst making clear its relevance for Malta’s dry climat characteristics.

Mr Zammit also learnt the process that these offices use when it comes to meeting deadlines for applications. Another thing which he liked during this job exposure was that as a job it entails meeting many people from different sectors of society and the importance of understanding their particular needs when it comes to meeting their wishes for funding.

Vanessa Fink’s Experience as Liaison Officer

Before applying, Ms Fink was not quite sure what a Liaison Officer actually does. Before the start of the Maltese Presidency from January to June, all the other Liaison Officers were all assigned to one Member State of the EU and had to attend meetings in order to learn about the role.

The role consists of picking up the Head of the Delegation and the rest of the delegation from the airport, accompanying them to the hotel, taking them to meetings and assisting them in any way possible and most of all, to make them feel welcome in Malta.

The first time at the ministerial lounge, the Ambassador was waiting with Vanessa to greet the minister. She was so glad about that, because she was so nervous and did not know what to say. After being introduced to the minister, she had to make sure that all the cars would be ready for him to bring him to the hotel and then to the meetings at the Grand Master’s Palace. A police security escorted them all the time. The first day went badly.

However, after learning how to handle some stressful situations that this job can bring about, the following days went better. The most rewarding experience was the Summit of the Head of States. Seeing all these VIPs so close up and in real life was amazing.

Being a liaison officer can be very stressful but it is very interesting at the same time since it includes helping the minister and his delegation as best as possible, working close with the police officers and making friends with other liaison officers.
Luanne Galea’s experience at the MEUSAC

Luanne Galea is a second year student at the University of Malta reading a degree in European Studies. During this year, she was given the opportunity to apply for a placement within a private or a public entity, dealing with EU-related issues. Ms Galea was chosen to carry out her placement at the Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee in Valletta, also known as MEUSAC.

MEUSAC’s aims are to engage the civil society in the EU decision-making process, through a consultative process between the citizens and NGOs, to be proactive when it comes to EU policy and legislations, as well as help and support NGOs and local councils with the identification and the participating in EU funding programmes and opportunities.

The various tasks she was assigned helped her in getting a better idea of what this kind of work entails, and speaking from experience of being a student who did not have an idea of what to do after graduating, Ms Galea must say that this experience has truly helped her in deciding what to look for in one year’s time.

Personally, she encourage students to go that extra mile and opt to choose placements when taking European Studies, as this experience certainly helps the student to expand their knowledge and understand more what awaits after the student life.

Gozo Seminar

The annual dissertation seminar of final year Bachelor of European Studies students was held on 7 and 8 February 2017 at the Manresa Retreat House in Gozo. In this seminar, the final year students produced a fifteen-minute presentation on their dissertations with feedback provided by both students and the academic staff. During the two-day seminar, three parallel sessions were held with students allocated to different groups according to their dissertation topics and areas of interests. Students were provided feedback on various areas including research questions, data analysis and theoretical frameworks. The Institute received positive feedback on this annual seminar, as students were provided with the opportunity to discuss their ideas and make the required changes before they finalise their work.
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 1991 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.