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The SUNY Model EU and Visit by the US Embassy to the EDRC

The EDRC welcomed Mr Elijah Waterman, the US Embassy's Public Affairs Officer, to the Centre on the 10th March. The US Embassy signed a grant agreement with the EDRC to part-fund the visit of three EDRC students to the United States in April. Professor Roderick Pace, Director of the Centre, thanked Mr Waterman for the Embassy's generous help in facilitating the students' visit and also discussed future avenues of cooperation between the Centre and the US Embassy.

In all, four EDRC students will be participating in this event, the State University of New York's (SUNY) annual Model EU, a simulation exercise which sees students from across Europe and the United States undertake the challenge of representing an EU state in mock Council of the EU sessions. The students participating are Petra Galea Debono, Pavel Jakovlev, Laura Muscat and Julia Pisani. The students will be representing Slovenia and each will participate in separate formations of the Council (including ECOFIN and the External Relations Council) as well as a session of COREPER and a separate meeting of Heads of State and Governments, namely the European Council.

The Model EU is an established part of the European Studies calendar, bringing together students from North America and Europe on an annual basis with the sessions being held alternately in Europe and North America. The universities participating this year are Jamestown; SUNY Fredonia, New Paltz, Albany and Cortland; Ithaca; Buffalo; and Buffalo State from the United States. From Europe the universities participating are Malta; Exeter (UK); Manchester (UK); Nottingham-Trent (UK); Limerick (Ireland); Lille (Belgium); Wildau (Germany); and Izmir (Turkey).



From left: Stefano Moncada, Petra Galea Debono, Julia Pisani, Laura Muscat, Roderick Pace, Elijah Waterman, Mark Harwood, Moira Catania and Jean Micallef Grimaud



The Gozo Seminar

The second dissertation seminar for final year Bachelor of European Studies students was held in Gozo on the 15 and 16 of February. 39 students and the 5 resident academic staff of the EDRC attended this seminar. The seminar was held again at the Jesuit Retreat Home, *Manresa House*, which is located in Victoria, Gozo.

The aim of the seminar was to provide students with the opportunity to present their work on the dissertation. The presentations focused on the research question/s which the dissertations will tackle, the methodology applied and any preliminary findings or specific problems encountered thus far. Following this short presentation, a discussion followed and students received feedback both from the academic staff as well as from fellow students.

The choice of the date was influenced by the need to provide students with sufficient time so that they can make adequate progress in their research. The first semester assessments in January and the Christmas recess are constraining factors and it was considered that holding the seminar in the beginning of December would be too early as most students would still be in preliminary stages of their research work. On the other hand, holding the seminar later than in February was not considered appropriate as students would have limited time to take into account the feedback received in the seminar and

adapt their research projects to meet the May submission deadline.

Given the relatively large number of students, the organisation of the sessions was more challenging this year. Following a short introductory plenary session, the seminar involved parallel sessions so that all the presentations would be covered over two days. Students were assigned into different groups for the different sessions. The seminar was very intensive with seven parallel sessions held over the two days. Presentations were grouped according to the subject of the dissertation and the academic staff with the more relevant expertise in that topic attended that particular session. Concluding plenary sessions were held at the end of each day of the seminar to wrap up the discussions. Furthermore, two other presentations were made during the seminar by the Director of the EDRC. The first presentation provided an overview of the Masters in European Studies offered by the EDRC, whilst the second presentation concerned the referencing system and other technicalities involved in writing the dissertation. The sessions were held in the two conference halls of *Manresa House*, which are equipped with excellent audio-visual facilities. All students delivered a power point presentation on their research.

Building on the experience from the first seminar held last year, preparations started early in the

academic year 2010/2011. Students were informed of the seminar in November 2010 so that they would have enough time to work on their research and to prepare their presentations, in consultation with their supervisors.

The seminar proceeded in a smooth manner and according to the agreed schedule. Students had prepared well for the seminar and they delivered very good presentations on the research that they have conducted thus far. Although not all students have made the same progress in their research work, overall most students were at an advanced stage. However, a few students discovered that they need to make more effort over the coming weeks. Students received useful feedback during the seminar so that they can improve further their research work. It was also useful for the students to learn from the experience of other students, especially about similar problems and how these are being tackled. Overall, the students' comments on the seminar were positive and it was considered to be an academically fruitful exercise.

We are encouraged by this feedback. The Gozo Seminar has surely become an annual event in the EDRC calendar! Furthermore, we are also exploring the possibility to apply this positive experience in other academic areas of the EDRC.



Third year B.A. European Studies students during the seminar in Gozo

The Euro Area in Crisis

To say that the year 2010 was a turbulent year for the Euro is surely an understatement!

Following the financial and economic crisis of 2008-2009, European governments were hoping for some stability as economic activity, at least in a number of Member States, began the road to recovery and as the situation in financial markets started to normalise. However, the sovereign debt crisis which emerged in early 2010 and affected a number of Member States on the EU periphery has rocked the fundamental principles on which the Euro Area is based. Over the past months, the crisis in the Euro Area has abated for intermittent periods, but it has never really gone away. First there was the bail out of Greece in spring 2010 and although markets quietened for some months, the turbulence re-emerged in Autumn followed by Ireland's bail out. After months of hesitation, Portugal has finally requested financial assistance from the EU in the beginning of April. A critical issue now is whether contagion to other larger Euro Area members, in particular Spain, will be avoided as this would have even more serious repercussions on the common currency.

These developments have tested the viability of the Euro Area to the limits. Various academics and economic commentators have questioned the future of the common currency and whether the countries in crisis would be better off if they forego the Euro. The discussion on the feasibility of a monetary union without a fiscal union, an issue which has long been debated in academic literature, became even more prominent in recent months.

The Heads of State or Government of the members of the Euro Area have shown determined action to defend the Euro. The Euro is a cornerstone of economic integration in Europe.

Members of the Euro Area have provided financial support to the countries in crisis, in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund. For Greece, this was done through an ad hoc arrangement of bilateral loans, but subsequently a more structured temporary mechanism was set up, through the European Financial Stability Facility and the European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism. Financial assistance to Ireland was granted under this mechanism and so would eventual assistance to Portugal. In October 2010, agreement was reached on a permanent mechanism (European Stability



Mechanism) to be established after 2013. This mechanism will involve a limited change to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. These forms of assistance are all conditional on a programme of economic and financial adjustment, implying significant fiscal consolidation over a relatively long period by the recipient countries. These measures will restrain growth and employment over the future years, with negative social repercussions, as reflected in the numerous public protests. Furthermore, the austerity measures, by impacting on economic growth, will further restrict the ability of these countries to service their debts, thus putting again in doubt their debt sustainability. Only time will tell whether these bail outs have merely served to buy time or whether they have managed to avoid sovereign defaults by the Euro Area member states concerned.

Besides this urgent crisis response, discussions in the EU also involved a preventive approach to avoid future similar crisis. The European Commission has proposed measures to strengthen the Stability and Growth Pact, including financial sanctions. Furthermore, surveillance will be extended beyond the fiscal area to macroeconomic imbalances, such as current account imbalances, divergences in competitiveness and private credit growth. In addition, the room for political manoeuvring in Council, to diverge from the Commission's recommendations, will be reduced. The plan is to reach an overall agreement with the Council and the European Parliament on the proposed legislative proposals by June of this year.

Whilst these proposals are important, the major development is probably the reform of economic governance as this will directly impact on the way economic policy is implemented. The crisis has highlighted the fact that economic policy is a common concern and thus the focus has been on

more coordination of economic policy. As from the beginning of this year, the 'European Semester' was introduced, which will see Member States presenting and coordinating their economic programmes, including the national budgets, before these are agreed to in national parliaments. A further development was the Pact for the Euro which was agreed to by the Head of States and Government of the Euro Area on 14 March 2011. This followed a proposal for a Pact for Competitiveness spearheaded by France and Germany. Although the original proposal was watered down, this Pact still constitutes a further strengthening of the economic pillar of the monetary union. The Pact is also open to non-Euro Area Member States. Indeed, Denmark, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Bulgaria and Romania have decided to join – resulting in a new nomenclature – the Euro Plus Pact. The aim of the Pact is to commit participating countries to implement measures in policy areas which fall under national competence but where coordination is crucial in order to ensure macroeconomic stability and public finance sustainability. The priority policy areas identified in the Pact thus include wage setting mechanisms (such as cost of living adjustments), wage settlements in the public sector, further opening up of restricted sectors such as professional services and retail market, tax reforms aligning the effective retirement age with life expectancy, limiting early retirement schemes and tax policy coordination. In addition, the Pact also foresees that member states translate the obligations of the Stability and Growth Pact into their national legislation. Thus a significant feature of the Pact is

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that it includes issues which some Member States have not been willing to discuss at EU level, on grounds of national sovereignty. The Pact for the Euro has received its fair share of criticism, including that it is a weak agreement with non-binding targets, and that it is an additional process which will have to be integrated into the EU's system of economic governance. Furthermore, it is perceived as a way through which Germany, as the main sponsor of the bail outs in the Euro Area, ensures that the other EU Member States adhere to policy discipline. But the greatest criticism has been that it will result in a two-speed Europe – closer integration for some countries and the rest being sidelined. Non-Euro Area member states wishing to participate in the Pact have also

shown concern on whether they will be excluded from the annual discussions foreseen in the Pact.

Certainly, this is a critical time for the Euro Area and for European economic integration in general. One will have to see whether Member States will be willing to rise above their national sensitivities for a European integration objective. This will be put to the test soon, in the discussions on the Commission's recent proposal for a common corporate consolidated tax base – a priority policy area included in the Euro Plus Pact. Some countries are perceiving this to be a first step towards tax harmonisation, which has been strongly resisted by various EU Member States in the past.



Alumni Network

Given the increasing number of graduates over the years, both at BA and MA level, the EDRC considered that it would be opportune to build its alumni network. The network presently covers around 150 of our alumni. Ms Romina Zammit, a member of the administrative support staff, is in charge of this network at the EDRC. You are encouraged to ask alumni who have not responded to our call, to contact Ms Zammit at the earliest. Her email address is romina.zammit@um.edu.mt.

We consider that the EDRC newsletter provides an opportunity to include alumni news, of interest to the European Studies Community. Furthermore, this information serves to encourage current European Studies students, who may be wondering what career opportunities would be available for them, once they complete their studies.

In this issue of the newsletter, we meet three alumni: Ms Boryana Chaneva, Ms Olivia Gippner and Ms Martha Simon Delicata.

Ms Boryana Chaneva

Boryana started the Bachelor of European Studies (Honours) in 1999. At the time, before Malta joined the EU, there was little awareness of the opportunities that this degree would provide.

She graduated in 2003 and decided to immediately proceed to further her studies with an MA in European Studies. This enabled her to build further on her knowledge of European affairs and to cover the rapidly changing social and political environment of Malta in the EU. After working in Bulgaria for a human rights NGO, she returned to Malta to pursue a career in EU funding.

Boryana is currently employed with the University of Malta, where she coordinates the Junior College Eurocentre. It is a challenging and energetic job, which also provides her with the opportunity to explore and share different cultures with the students. Besides being a point of reference for those interested in benefiting from opportunities made available by the European Union through the educational programmes, she also engages students in various projects involving schools from different countries. Boryana has told us that *"In this job I have found a career which is enriching and best suits my character"*.

Boryana has found that her academic training at the EDRC was very relevant to her career. She says that *"Completing the European Studies course is like having a passport to different career paths, not necessarily restricted to the EU or the Public Service"*.



BORYANA CHANEVA graduated in 2003

Ms Olivia Gippner

Olivia graduated with a Bachelor of European Studies (Honours) from the EDRC in 2008. She told us that *"by the time I graduated from high school, I was already convinced that I wanted to pursue undergraduate studies outside of Germany. After eighteen years of living in the same town I felt intrigued by the challenges and possibilities that academic study abroad could offer"*. Olivia said that she made the final decision to pursue her studies in Malta upon reading the works of the late President Emeritus Prof Guido de Marco.

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She had been to Malta only once before but the island's strategic position in the Mediterranean at the crossroads of civilizations between the Arab and the European world has appealed to her ever since.

Olivia said that *"Although my academic studies focused on European Integration, it was extremely interesting to view European politics from the Maltese perspective as a new and economically relatively small member state"*. She considers that even on a more general level, international politics and economics have a completely different impact on the Mediterranean island state of Malta compared to Germany. Olivia told us that she thoroughly enjoyed her studies at the EDRC and the first-hand experience of the initial years of Malta's EU membership, and she has come to call Malta her second home.

Following her first degree, Olivia shifted her focus to Asia and took up a Master's programme at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore. Olivia considered that the economic and social development of the small island state has been unrivalled by any of its surrounding countries, and there is much to learn from Singapore's public policy. During this course, she benefitted from getting to know better other cultures, particularly as her 70 classmates came from over 30, mainly Asian, countries. Olivia also had the opportunity to benefit from an exchange semester at Tsinghua University in Beijing, where distinguished professors included the ex-secretary general of the United Nations, Kofi Annan. During her studies in Singapore, Olivia focused on development-related issues and discovered her interest in the area of energy policy. Upon graduation, she was eager to apply the knowledge acquired during her years of study. She pursued her interest in energy policy by moving to Nepal where she worked as an energy consultant. Olivia told us that the energy scenario in this country is quite unique with fourteen hours of power cuts daily during winters. Olivia said that *"Albeit my stay in Nepal was very short, I learned a lot about global reality as well as about my very own identity and priorities when faced with the conditions of one of the poorest countries of this*

world".

Olivia was offered a position with the Institute of European Integration at the Free University of Berlin in March 2011. Olivia told us that although she was sad to leave Nepal, at the same time, she was glad *"to return to the beginning of my academic journey when I had taken up European Studies six years ago at my Alma Mater, l-Università ta` Malta"*.



OLIVIA GIPPER graduated in 2008

Ms Martha Simon Delicata

Martha graduated from the University of Malta with a B.A. Hons in European Studies in 2004 and an MA in European Studies in 2005. Subsequently, she proceeded to further her academic qualifications and in 2007 obtained a Diploma in Management from the University of Leicester.

Martha started her working career at the office of Third Country Nationals at the Ministry for Justice and Home Affairs. She held the position of a Project Officer from 2006 to 2009. Her main tasks were assisting the Director General in the Ministry on asylum and migration issues. The tasks encompassed conducting research, producing reports, liaising with various Maltese and International stakeholders involved in migration management as well as supporting project implementation. Martha was also the National Contact Point for the European Migration Network. In 2008, she completed a Chevening Fellowship on Managing Migration awarded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom.

In 2009, Martha moved on and joined the International Centre for Migration Policy Development in Vienna. During these two years, Martha has further developed her interest and expertise in migration in particular with regard to institutional rapprochement and development of operational capacity building, co-operation between African countries and EU Member States in the area of return. Martha's main effort currently involves an EU funded project with the Ministry for Justice and Home Affairs in Malta which addresses irregular migration and aims to strengthen Malta's long-term return management capacities. The project also reinforces co-operation with European Member States in the field of return.

Martha told us that *"Migration is and will remain a key global issue of the 21st century. After 5 years working on migration issues I know that this is an area where I want to further develop my expertise"*.

Martha considers that as the EDRC provides a broad thematic field, this allowed her to identify the fields that she was interested in. Martha says that the courses at the EDRC provided her *"with the necessary knowledge and gave me the solid basis I needed to launch my career"*. Martha considers that during her four years of study at the EDRC *"the small classes and individual attention facilitated access to knowledge and provided a perfect platform to generate challenging and intellectually stimulating exchanges with professors and lecturers and among students. Surely I never thought I would achieve so much in these years and I look at my past positively knowing that I had made the right choice when I decided to study at the EDRC"*.



MARTHA SIMON DELICATA graduated in 2005



EDRC Courses

The EDRC offers a wide range of courses in European studies at different levels. The EDRC has a growing contingent of full-time academic staff as well as a large number of visiting lecturers, who are specialists in their respective field and who come from other departments in the University of Malta and from the public sector.

Doctoral Degree

The EDRC launched the **Doctoral degree in European Studies** in 2009. Studies for the Ph.D. Degree extend over three years, if conducted on a full-time basis, or six years if on a part-time basis. This degree involves intensive research on a specific EU-related topic and the preparation of a thesis which shall not exceed 100,000 words. The EDRC will allow only a limited number of applicants in line with its available resources and will offer research supervision in the areas of expertise of its academic staff, which particularly involve the economic and political areas of European Studies. Doctoral students will contribute to build further the research competence of the EDRC, which, over the past years, has conducted extensive academic research on European issues, particularly on those related to the Mediterranean region and to Malta's EU membership.

Masters Programme

The EDRC has been offering its **Master of Arts in European Studies** since 1994. This is a taught course covering 12 months of full-time study or 24 months of part-time study. The course is an interdisciplinary programme, covering European politics, economics and law. Students are offered a wide range of electives covering various policy topics. Lectures are conducted on a seminar basis. Students are also required to prepare a dissertation of between 15,000 and 20,000 words. The aim of the MA programme is to provide students with a broad knowledge of EU policy topics but with a deeper specialised

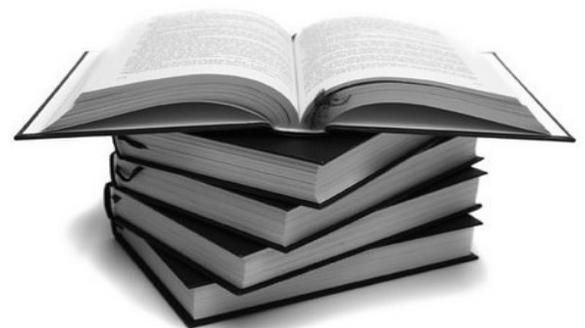
understanding of particular issues.

Bachelor Programme

The Bachelor of European Studies (Honours) offered by the EDRC is well established now, having been offered since 1994. This is a 3 year full-time programme which provides students with a sound and comprehensive knowledge of the European Union. The course is multi-disciplinary, involving the political, economic, legal and historical aspects of European Integration. Students are required to take a number of compulsory units covering the most important basic aspects of European integration and are offered a wide range of elective units on various EU policy topics. Students must also prepare a dissertation of between 10,000 and 15,000 words.

Diploma in European Studies

The Diploma in European Studies is the latest course offered by the EDRC, having been launched last year. This is an evening taught programme which is spread over two years. The lectures cover the essential knowledge of the politics, history, economics and law of the European Union. This course is particularly relevant to persons employed in the public or private sector who deal with the EU institutions and with EU-related issues on a regular basis. It is also of interest to journalists, who deal with various EU related topics in their work. As the EU now affects various aspects of our daily life, the Diploma in European Studies is of interest to all members of the public, who wish to study the EU in a systematic manner.





Climate News

On the 29th of October 2010 the European Commission issued Guidelines on Wind Energy in Protected Areas, recognizing the potential negative impacts of poorly sited or designed wind farms on vulnerable species and habitats. The guidelines apply to the Natura 2000 network – an EU-wide ecological network of nearly 26,000 sites covering almost 18% of the EU's land area. Wind energy deployment is not automatically excluded from the Natura 2000 network. The guidelines highlight the importance of strategic planning and quality assessment of new developments, and contain best practice examples. Wind energy is expected to play a significant role in reaching the EU target of obtaining 20% of its energy consumption from renewable sources by 2020.

(more on: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/guidance_en.htm)

EU Commissioners Piebalgs, Hedegaard and Füle announced "**Climate Change Windows**". Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs, the Commissioner for Climate Action Connie Hedegaard and the Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Stefan Füle announced specific climate change "windows" in all EU regional Investment Facilities. These "windows" indicate the financing and enable tracking of all climate change related projects funded by the EU, the European Investment Bank and other European Finance Institutions through these facilities. They encompass both public and private investments in strategic areas like transport, energy, environment, water, sanitation and forests.

(more on: http://europa-eu-un.org/articles/en/article_10433_en.htm)

The Council of the EU has adopted the first **CO2 emission standards for small vans** in the EU, introducing a limit of 175g CO2/km for the average CO2 emissions from light commercial vehicles registered in the EU. The limit will apply to small vans of average mass, while specific targets for individual vehicles will vary according to their weight. The target will be phased in between 2014 and 2017. A long-term target for

CO2 emissions of light commercial vehicles in 2020 (147g CO2/km) has been included. From 2014 onwards, producers will have to pay a penalty if their fleet fails to meet the target: a maximum penalty of EUR 95 per car for exceeding the target has been agreed. From 2017, full compliance will be required from carmakers.

(more on:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/envir/120914.pdf)

The European Commission, in March 2011, has issued four guidance documents to support coherent implementation of the **EU Directive on carbon capture and storage (CCS Directive)**. The four documents, mainly addressed to national authorities in EU Member States and other relevant stakeholders, elaborate on key provisions of the CCS Directive, which establishes a legal framework for the environmentally safe geological storage of CO2. The first document outlines a framework for managing the life-cycle risks of CO2 storage. The other documents address: the characterization of the storage complex, CO2 stream composition, monitoring and corrective measures; the criteria for transferring responsibility for storage sites to the Member State; and financial security. The deadline for Member States to transpose the CCS Directive into national law is 25 June 2011.

(more on:

http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/lowcarbon/ccs_implementation_en.htm)

The Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has released a **statistical overview of climate change aid**, through a brief titled "Tracking Aid in Support of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Developing Countries.". The OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) helps to monitor the implementation of the commitments under the UNFCCC, including those reached at COP 15 in Copenhagen in 2009, through which developed countries agreed to provide "new and additional resources" for adaptation and mitigation "approaching US\$30 billion for the period 2010-12," and to reach "a goal of mobilising jointly

US\$100 billion dollars a year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries". This brief indicates that, in 2008-2009, members of the OECD's DAC provided on average US\$9.3 billion per year in bilateral official development assistance (ODA) to help developing countries reduce emissions, enhance greenhouse gas sinks or integrate climate change concerns in their development objectives. The overview indicates that this represented 7.1% of their total bilateral ODA commitments during this period. It also notes that, in addition to undertaking bilateral aid activities, DAC members also contribute to multilateral agencies active in the field of climate, although it is necessary to estimate the share of these contributions that can be counted as addressing climate change concerns and the DAC Secretariat is still working with the World Bank and other multilateral agencies on climate change markers.

(more on:

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/24/22/47477193.pdf>)

(Information edited by Stefano Moncada and adapted from Climate-L.org)



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European Documentation & Research Centre (EDRC) was established at the University of Malta in 1992 and was granted in 2004 the status *Jean Monnet European Centre of Excellence* by the European Commission. It operates as a research and teaching centre in the area of European policy studies. In addition to publishing papers, studies and books on developments in the EU and on EU-Malta and Euro-Mediterranean relations, it organises conferences and seminars for a wide range of audiences and publishes a regular Newsletter.



TEPSA

the Trans European
Policy Studies Association

Lisboan Network

The first conference of the Lisbon network on teaching and researching the Lisbon Treaty will take place in Brussels in mid-June. The EDRC as a member of TEPSA is part of this network. The EDRC is participating in this first conference. There are seven thematic working groups which are:

- The Institutions chaired by Edward Best
- International Theories and Governance chaired by Simon Bulmer
- Area of Freedom, Security and Justice chaired by Paul Luif
- Economic and Financial Policy chaired by Andras Inotai
- The Lisbon Treaty in the short, medium and Long Term perspective chaired by Wilfried Loth and
- The Legal, quasi-constitutional nature of the Lisbon Treaty chaired by Lucia Rossi.

LISBOAN is a network of 67 partner institutes from 32 European countries (including most TEPSA institutes) and is coordinated by the Jean Monnet Chair of Professor Wessels, University of Cologne. This multi-disciplinary project, which receives financial support from the European Union's Lifelong Learning Programme, aims at improving teaching and research on the Treaty of Lisbon.