



L-Università ta' Malta
Institute for European Studies

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Welcome Note

Dr Mark Harwood - Director

On behalf of the academic and administrative staff at the Institute, I would like to welcome you to the start of a new academic year and the relaunch of our newsletter. As always, the academic year 2017-2018 was an exceptionally busy one, reflecting the commitment of all those working at the Institute. From the outset, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the staff.

In a year filled with activities and major works at the Institute, the following points are of particular note:

- The **intake of students** on the Bachelor, MA and PhD programmes remains high and the Institute is now one of the largest academic entities on campus based on student numbers. In terms of Institutes, it is the largest and in terms of Centres, it is second only to the Centre for the Liberal Art and Sciences.
- The designation of the Institute as a **Europe Direct Information Centre**. The EDIC is part of a network of 450 information hubs across the Union providing EU-related information and answering queries. The Institute was already part of this network by hosting the European Documentation Centre but its new role provides an annual injection of EU funds which allows it to organise events and disseminate EU information more effectively.
- The finalisation of the **Institute's first annual publication**, *Malta's EU Presidency: a Study in a Small State Presidency of the Council of the EU*. The book comprises the first and only academic assessment of the Maltese Presidency and will be published in October 2018 by Malta University Publishing, edited by Dr Harwood, Dr Moncada and Prof Pace. The annual publication seeks to focus the Institute's research and to increase the academic knowledge on Malta and the EU.
- Major **refurbishment** works were undertaken during the summer of 2018, including the retiling of the common areas on the second floor, refurbishment of the IES



Dr Mark Harwood, Director

entrance with new flooring, doors and furnishings as well as the installation of new flooring in the EDC. The agreement is to then complete the refurbishment in 2019 by upgrading the EDC's furniture.

- The academic year also saw the successful end to the **Jean Monnet Erasmus+** grant project on "European Integration, Small States and Health" and the start of a new project with the University of Iceland entitled 'Navigating the Storm: The Challenges of Small States in Europe'. Both projects are coordinated by Prof Pace.
- In addition to the physical upgrade of the **EDC**, the library was consolidated with the acquisition of new books, the introduction of a lending service and the extension of its opening hours.
- Collaboration with other departments continued with a notable level of cooperation with the Department of International Relations within the Faculty of Arts, including a Brown Bag seminar series and a Research Seminar with Queen Mary's University (London).

Hosting the Europe Direct Information Centre

The Institute has successfully applied for a European Commission tender, entitled Selection of Host Structures for the Information Centres of The Europe Direct Network in Malta 2018-2020, to host a Europe Direct Information Centre. A number of entities applied to host the EDIC with 3 entities being chosen, namely the Institute, MEUSAC and the Gozo Chamber of Commerce. The contract involves the Institute answering EU related queries, providing information to students and the general public on the EU and organising events.

The EDIC is being managed by the Director, Dr Harwood, who has been attending organisational meetings in Brussels as well as answering any queries received by the EDIC (which number an average of 25 per month). The EDIC enables the Institute to raise its profile across University and beyond.

Queries and EU information can be obtained by visiting the EDIC Walk-in Centre at the Institute or by calling 23402998 or by emailing edic@um.edu.mt.



The EDIC Walk-In Centre on campus

The EDIC – University of Malta also runs an online page at <https://www.facebook.com/um.ediceus/>. The 3 Maltese EDICs also host a webpage at the following link: <http://europedirectmalta.info/>

Below is a list of the first series of events organized by the EDIC during 2018.

Quiz Night-Celebrating Europe Day (8th May 2018)

The European Direct Information Centre and the Institute for European Studies organised a quiz night to celebrate Europe Day at *Is-Suq tal-Belt*, Valletta. The quiz was well attended and covered all aspects of Europe from the EU to football to music and many more topics.



The winning team



Quiz Night

Each team was made up of 4 University Students and there were various gifts to be won. The winning team, *Alfred Sant Kellu raġun*, comprised third year

students from the Bachelors programme - Manuel Zarb, Luke Spiteri, Gabriel Cassar and Edward Cachia. They were presented with a €100 travel voucher each. The intension is to make this an annual event.



Students with the EDIC banner

Brexit: The Irish Context (25th April 2018)

On 25 April, EDIC University and the Institute held a public talk entitled 'BREXIT - The Irish Context'. The talk was given by Dr Liam Weeks of University College Cork and analysed Irish attitudes towards Brexit, how the UK's departure from the EU would impact the Republic and how Ireland would manage its relations with the EU after March 2019 when it would lose its land border with the EU. The event was held at Europe House with a packed audience which comprised a sizeable number of Malta's Irish community.



The audience in Europe House



Dr Liam Weeks

Employment Branding: EU Careers (27th April 2018)

The Europe Direct Information Centre and the Institute for European Studies organised two events in April 2018 to inform students about the career opportunities of working with the EU. Ms Claudine Camilleri and Mr Koen Hendrix from EPSO travelled to Malta to give presentations on how students could apply for and join the institutions as well as an overview, in a second seminar, of how the EU brands itself as an employer. Both events were well attended with an audience in excess of 120 students as well as the general public. EPSO also provided information leaflets for those attending.



Ms Claudine Cammileri of EPSO



The audience at the event

Sicily-Malta Pilot Project: Towards the European Elections: European Citizens, Let's Talk!

The European Commission launched a landmark cross-border initiative in 2018 involving Europe Direct Information Centres (EDICs) from regions on either side of a national frontier; The EDICs from either side will partner in staging 3 cross-border events, in the run up to the European Parliament (EP) elections, with a group of citizens, community organisers, decision-makers, students etc. They will form the "core group" of audience that will participate in all three events (around July 2018, November 2018, March 2019) and will be guided into an informed debate on the main stakes ahead for the EU, especially those issues that will be discussed during the campaign for the EU elections.

The aim is to facilitate the emergence of a true "European public opinion" in view of the European elections; a group of people that defines itself not according to nationality but according to the stakes they have in common on the European future, and are willing to discuss this among themselves, and be aware that via their vote they can shape EU policies.

While Malta does not share a border with Italy, the decision was taken to launch a cross-border dialogue between Malta and Sicily with a trans-national audience of about 150 citizens who agree to participate in three successive events: the first in Palermo (5th July 2018), the second in Malta (16th October 2018) and the third in Trapani (26th February 2019). The Malta-Sicily project is being organised by the 3 Malta EDICs, the European Commission Representation Malta, DG Communication and EDICs Palermo, Trapani and Catania.

The first event, in Palermo on 5th July, included 80 Maltese participants, 30 of whom were university students. Dr Harwood, Prof Pace, Dr Cachia and Mr Bezzina attended from the Institute. This event was about presenting the EU, what it is and what it does, how it takes its decisions and why it matters to its citizens daily lives. The second event, to be held in Malta in October 2018, will be about presenting and discussing the challenges and the options at stake for the future evolution of the EU. The third event will then present a number of concrete subjects of interest to Sicily and Malta that fall under the competences of the EU, and will show how they can be governed differently depending on which orientation we inject in the new European Parliament. This will show that the vote in the European elections counts.



The Maltese participants in the cross-border project



The cross-border consultation event

Refurbishment of the Institute

The Institute initiated major refurbishment works during the summer of 2018. The first phase involved the refurbishment of the shared entrance to the second floor, the Institute entrance hall, the outside offices as well as the EDIC. The refurbishment involved the removal of the old flooring, the laying of new tiles and the installation of new doors.



The old entrance way to the Institute



The new entrance way

As the Institute's entrance now serves as the EDIC's walk-in centre, new furnishings were also installed, including a bespoke display unit for EU publications as well as armchairs. Below are images showing the refurbishment works.



The old entrance



The new entrance

In the EDC, the work involved the laying of new flooring. This was a particular priority as the carpet in the EDC was exceptionally old and difficult to clean. By replacing the carpet with parquet, the library has become a cleaner and healthier place for students to study.



The old entrance hall



The EDC before the refurbishment



The new Walk-in Centre



The EDC after the refurbishment

The second phase will involve the refurbishment of the EDC's furnishings, in particular the removal of all furniture and the installation of new shelving, desks, work stations and a sofa area.



The EDC after the refurbishment

Critical Perspectives on Democracy Promotion in the Mediterranean (17-18th May 2018)

The University of Malta and Queen Mary University of London organized a two-day research seminar on “Critical Perspectives on Democracy Promotion in the Mediterranean”. The research initiative took place in the context of the wider academic agreement between the UoM and Barts.

The Institute for European Studies, along with the Department of International Relations, joined forces with Queens University to discuss critical perspectives of democracy promotion in the Mediterranean, with the aim to de-centre the debate.

Various academics from Malta, the UK and the wider Mediterranean joined in a lively discussion which focused discussion in four panels, concentrating on –

- Critical Perspectives on Democracy Promotion in the Mediterranean
- Changing geopolitics and regional spheres of influence
- The political economy of democracy promotion in the Mediterranean
- New social and political transnational activism in the Mediterranean

Academics from the UoM included Dr Harwood, Dr Khakee (IR), Prof Pace (IES), Prof Fenech (History) as well as academics from Queen Mary, Birmingham University, Sabanci University, the Lebanese American University and the Carnegie Institute.

The seminar is the basis of a special issue of Mediterranean Politics due for publication in 2019.

The event was primarily financed by Malta Enterprise who also provided most of the logistical support in organizing the event.



Participants before the event



Prof. Pace addressing the seminar



Prof Fenech addressing the seminar

9th Gozo Seminar (13-14th February 2018)

The dissertation seminar for final year Bachelor of European Studies students was held at Manresa House in Gozo on 7 and 8 February 2017. This annual seminar has been organised by the Institute for European Studies since 2010 and has become an integral part in the calendar of the Institute's final year undergraduate degree programme.

It provides an opportunity for students to present their work on the dissertation and to obtain feedback from the Institute's academic staff as well as their fellow students. As in previous years, students found the experience positive and the feedback given to them to be very useful. In terms of overall comments on the quality of the workshops, the main feedback was positive though some commented that it would be useful to have the external tutors present too.



Group photo of participants in Gozo Seminar



Presentation during the Gozo Seminar

As in the previous year, some commented that it would be more useful if the seminar was to be offered earlier in the course, but overall, as in previous years, students continue to recommend the seminar taking place.

2017 Best Dissertation Award Ceremony (13th November 2017)

On 13th November 2017, 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, MA students who received the highest mark in their dissertation were also awarded with a prize.

The awardees were; Stephanie Bugeja (bachelor student) with a dissertation entitled 'The EU-China-Africa trilateral development co-operation: challenges and prospects'; and Marija Elena Borg (M.A. student) author of the dissertation Promoting entrepreneurship: 'The impact of the European Union's structural and cohesion funds on start-ups in Malta'. The prize-giving ceremony was held ahead of the Bachelor in European Studies graduation ceremony, in the presence of all graduating students and their guests. The winners were each given a book voucher and a trophy as a prize.



Marija Elena Borg Receiving her award from Dr Harwood

Placements

The Institute for European Studies has an established placement programme which has been running successfully for a number of years. The placements are offered as an elective study unit worth 4ECTS and involve practical work in various public and private entities, which have signed agreements with the Institute and are partners in this placement programme.

This year, eight students undertook placements with the European Parliament Office in Malta, the Ministry of Finance, MEUSAC, Ernst and Young, Zaar Crowdfunding platform and the NGOs KOPIN and *Kunsill Nazzjonali taz-Zghazagh*. The students carried out different tasks, depending on the core activities of the entity where they were placed, including research activities and report writing on current EU topics, assisting in the writing up of applications for EU funded projects and providing support in relation to public relations and the management of social media platforms. Through the placements, the students gain practical work experience, in the area of European studies, thus paving the way for future employment opportunities.

Placement Experience – Matthew Cole

Being given the opportunity to apply the knowledge gained in your studies in the actual workplace is arguably the best way to understand and refine the skills and knowledge provided by your degree. This year I was fortunate enough in being chosen to undertake a work placement at the Ministry for Finance within the Research Unit. Aware that the work placement at the Ministry for Finance would be demanding, I nonetheless approached each and every placement with an open mind, considering it as an opportunity rather than a chore.

At the Ministry for Finance I found a very welcoming environment composed of individuals with a desire to constantly learn and refine their knowledge; a team which is eager to work together with the intention to deliver at the highest level in various European political fora and a group of individuals who are enthusiastic about teaching and sharing their experience in order to allow collective reflection and give room for debate. The placement at the Ministry for Finance has been very

constructive at an academic level and has helped me understand certain areas relating to the Economic and Monetary Union which I had studied for my degree, in a better way. Nevertheless, the factor which struck me most out of this experience was the opportunity to engage in discussions. This has not only helped me become more confident about expressing my views and tested my knowledge on certain areas, but most of all has exposed me to the arguments of other individuals which on a personal level, is very constructive.

With this in mind, I recommend other students to consider taking on this opportunity of a placement in European Studies, since, despite the challenges it might entail, it is the ideal stepping stone for students wanting self-betterment and to pursue a career in this field.



Matthew Cole.

Erasmus

The Institute currently holds Erasmus agreements with Tampere (2UG) in Finland; Paris 8 (2 UG) in France; Konstanz (2 UG) and Mannheim (2 UG) in Germany; Limerick (4 UG) in Ireland; Bologna (4 UG) in Italy; The Hague (2 UG) in The Netherlands; Warsaw (6 UG) in Poland; Istanbul Bilgi (2 UG) in Turkey; and Essex (1 UG) in the UK.

Postgraduate students also have the opportunity to travel on Erasmus. The Institute currently has three post-graduate agreements with universities in Hungary, Ireland and Poland.

The following students went on Erasmus Exchange during the academic year 2017/2018

Semester 1:

Ellul Dolores Maria (University of Applied Sciences - The Hague, Netherlands)

Semester 2:

Bell Owen (University of Essex, United Kingdom)

Bonding Samwel (University of Limerick, Ireland)

Cassar Ruggier Thomas Oliver (Tampere University, Finland)

Deguara Rachel (University of Limerick, Ireland)

Freznick Jan (University of Mannheim, Germany)

Schembri Tamara (Universite Paris 8 Vinciennes Paris, France)

Vassallo Kaye (University of Applied Sciences – The Hague, Netherlands)

Placement Experience – Thomas Oliver Cassar

For the first five months of the year I spent my time living in the city of Tampere in Finland. It was an opportunity that came about through the Erasmus exchange program in which I was chosen to take part.

The exchange was, on a personal and on an educational level, a remarkable experience, both due to the opportunities and challenges which I experienced during my time in Finland.

Before I left for my exchange program, when it came to applying, I had chosen Finland as my preference as it was well known for its educational system. When it came to this aspect the country's system did

not disappoint but on the contrary it left a very good impression on me. Unlike the system we have in Malta, the one adopted by Finland focuses on flexibility which allows the student to feel very independent. Apart from the system that is employed by the country what left a great impact on me were the lectures given to me on my area of study which gave me a new perspective of understanding.

However, what I greatly cherish was the experience of living by myself and not depending on others. Seeing the Northern Lights, being in minus 25 degrees environment, spending my time in saunas, and living in a culture that was different to mine undoubtedly added to the experience. But the high point of my Erasmus experience was the conversations which I had with my fellow students.



Thomas Oliver Cassar

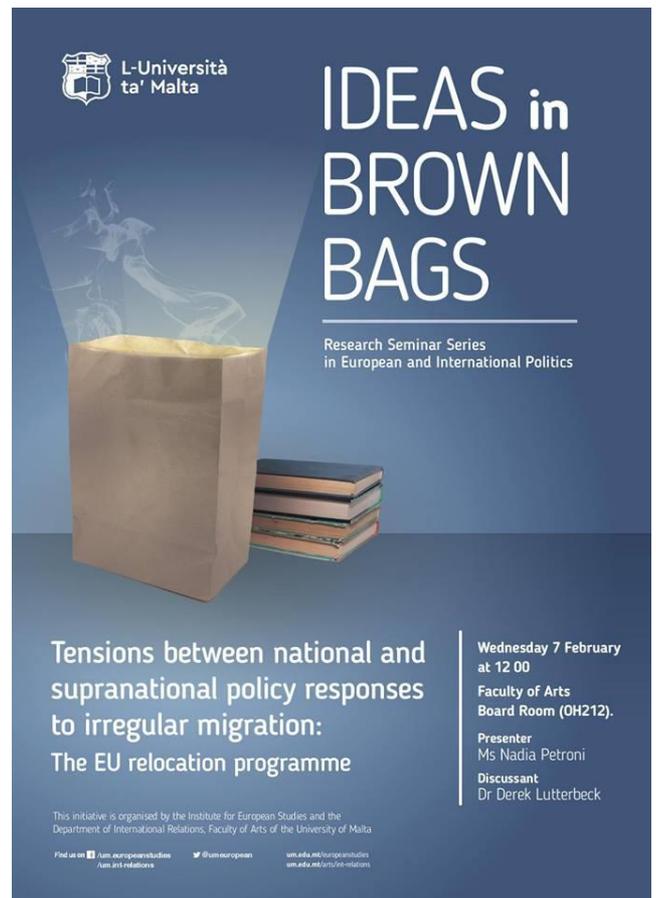
Second Year of the Research Seminar Series – Ideas in Brown Bags

The Institute for European Studies and the Department of International Relations, Faculty of Arts, organise monthly research seminars that focus on key issues in European and international politics. The aim of these research seminars is two-fold; it presents state of the art research developed by resident and visiting members of the University of Malta and identifies gaps where further research is needed to support policy.

During the first six months of 2018 the following seminars were held:

- 'Trade and Gender linkages: Concepts, Definitions and Analytical Framework', by Prof. Taruna Ramessur;
- 'Migration politics and the EU', by Ms Nadia Petroni;
- 'Visual narrative of the European Parliament advertising poster campaigns in European elections', by Mr. Fabrizio Ellul;
- 'National fiscal rules and fiscal institutions in the context of the EU's Stability and Growth Pact, by Ms Moira Catania;
- 'Federalism and Regionalism of Islands and Small States in the 21st Century', by Mr. Ryan Mercieca;
- 'Capitalist Imperialism in Contemporary Theoretical Frameworks', by Prof. Filip Ilkowski, and
- 'The Norm-Entrepreneurship of a City-State with a Global Following: The Holy See and Nuclear Disarmament - The Case of the 2017 UN Treaty Prohibiting Nuclear Weapons', by Prof. Roderick Pace.

The Institute for European Studies accepts proposals to present at the next Ideas in Brown Bags series, scheduled to start in October 2018, send us an abstract and get in contact with Dr. Stefano Moncada (stefano.moncada@um.edu.mt).



The poster features the L-Università ta' Malta logo in the top left. The main title 'IDEAS in BROWN BAGS' is prominently displayed in white text against a dark blue background. Below the title, it specifies 'Research Seminar Series in European and International Politics'. A central image shows a brown paper bag with a stack of books and a faint illustration of a person's head and shoulders. The event details are listed on the right: 'Wednesday 7 February at 12 00, Faculty of Arts Board Room (DH212)', with 'Presenter Ms Nadia Petroni' and 'Discussant Dr Derek Lutterbeck'. The bottom section contains the title of the seminar: 'Tensions between national and supranational policy responses to irregular migration: The EU relocation programme', along with organizational information and social media links.

Brown Bag Poster



Brown Bag participants attending the talk by Prof Pace on the Holy See and Nuclear Disarmament

The European Documentation Centre

Academic year 2017/18 was a very busy but key year for the European Documentation Centre (herein after EDC). The academic year started with the yearly annual training seminar for the EDCs in Brussels (5-6th October 2017). This seminar, which was attended by the EDC Manager, focused on the roles of EDCs and through group discussions and interactions, several suggestions came out on how EDC managers can improve their work and better promote the EU. Focus was given to the use of the language in context when talking to people to explain the EU. This highlights the importance of citizen dialogues and events on key issues. From the seminar, it also emerged that EDCs need to be invited to regularly participate in local EU networks events and that EDCs need also to be helped in organising meetings and debates. During the two day seminar, training was also given on how to use the updated EU bookshop platform and the EC library amongst others. Information on the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage was also given.

As advised in the Brussels training seminars, the EDC improved its communication with the European Commission Representation in Malta and other local EU network correspondents. The EDC regularly participates in monthly local Europe Direct networks and lends a helping hand in activities organized by the Rep and the ED network. EDC Malta works in tandem with EDIC University on the organization of various events to promote the EU including Europe Day and public lectures.

As for the EDC as a library, in May and June 2018, the EDC extended its opening hours for the very first time by offering a once a week service till 20:00.



European Documentation Centre

Extended Opening Hours:
Until 20:00

Thursdays 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 May
Tuesday 5 June
Thursday 14 June



Poster advertising the extended opening hours

This service was long requested by students and patrons and was well attended by undergraduate and post graduate students. Consequently, the EDC aims to offer this service all year round. The EDC also extended its book collection and its book loan service by adding more titles and making them available for loan. Over 35 new books were bought this year with a cost of €1,556.26. Topics include: Brexit, European integration, economics, research and climate change.

EDC Events: Current Issues in International Taxation (4th January 2018)

During the seminar Dr Åsa Hansson (Department of Economics, Lund University, Sweden) discussed recent attempts made by international organizations such as OECD, G20 and EU and individual countries to make capital taxation possible. For instance, the number of countries that have agreed to exchange information about capital investments has increased drastically and means to shifts profits to low-tax countries have become harder. The attempts are welcome and improve the possibilities to tax capital but come at costs. Research shows that international coordination works best if all countries agree and gain from the coordination. This is unlikely to happen and small countries located far from the centre are likely to lose the most from coordination.



The audience listening to Dr Hansson

EDC Event: The EU-Turkey deal and the impact on refugee children (19th February 2018)

Professor Michelle Pace presented her forthcoming edited volume on Syrian refugee children in Europe and the Middle East: Integrating the young and

exiled (forthcoming in March 2018, Routledge Studies in Middle Eastern Society). Prof Pace started by emphasizing that this edited volume is premised on the underlying conception of refugee children as not merely a vulnerable contingent of the displaced Syrian population, but one that possesses a certain agency for change and progress. She argued that since the start of the conflict in Syria in 2011, Syrian refugee children have withstood violence, uncertainty, fear, trauma and loss. She then explained how all the contributors to this edited volume follow the journeys of these minors by reflecting on how to make their situation better and to get this knowledge to as many front liners – across European and neighbouring countries in the Middle East - as possible. For Michelle what we are experiencing is actually a European crisis and an ethical crisis rather than a “refugee or migration crisis”.

By focusing on her own contribution (to the edited volume) and the EU-Turkey deal she acknowledged that the EU finds itself in a long lasting moral conundrum when dealing with, on the one hand, what has been the most pressing issue for European citizens since the first half of 2016 (the impact of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Europe) and, on the other hand, its ethical and legal obligations - and those of its member states - under the UN convention on the rights of the child. Taking this conundrum into account how is it possible that the EU signed this deal with Erdogan (whose authoritarian leanings have been on the increase since the attempted coup of July 2016)?

Students and staff members from the Institute of European Studies engaged in a lively discussion with Prof Pace. Topics in the nuanced debate included the challenges of the EU’s executive (and main decision making body) which still relies on unanimity, reactions to the “crisis” from Germany, Sweden, Greece, Italy, Malta and also from Syrians themselves, the rise in anti-elitism, the role of social media in facilitating the expression of strong emotions like fear, anger and frustration, the neoliberal architecture of global politics and the economics of migration management.



The poster advertising the event



The audience at the event

EDC Events: The Discreet charm of STV (Single Transferable Vote) (26th April 2018)

Dr Liam Weeks (University College Cork, Ireland) gave a public lecture in which the focus was on the voting system used in Malta and Ireland to elect members to the houses of parliament. Why this and what are the consequences for the two countries of this unusual voting system? Should there be reform of STV? These questions and others were discussed in this lecture.

EU Projects

European Integration, Small States and Health - SMSHealth.eu Project (1st September 2015 to 31st August 2018)

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 Valetta 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. Professor Pace is the Institute's lead academic administering the project on behalf of the University of Malta

Navigating the Storm: The Challenges of Small States in Europe (Jean Monnet Network Project co-funded by Erasmus+ programme of the EU) - 1 September 2017 and ends on 31 August 2020

The University of Iceland is the lead partner, with nine other universities participating in the project: The University of Copenhagen, Vilnius University, Tallinn University of Technology, University of St. Andrews, the University of Malta, University of Ljubljana, Lund University, University of Zagreb, and the University of the Aegean in Rhodes. The Centre for Small State Studies is run under the auspices of the Institute of International Affairs at the University of Iceland. During the next three years the ten higher education institutions will develop close cooperation in the field of small state studies. The grant will be used to host workshops, roundtables for young researchers, publish academic papers, policy recommendations, and at the end of the project an academic book.

The central objectives of this project are:

1. to examine the 'coping strategies' of small states in the current political turmoil, in terms of policy, resources and focus
2. to consolidate and expand the current network of European HEI's focusing on small state studies
3. to produce advances in knowledge that will facilitate the development of teaching in small state studies in relation to EU studies

4. to raise awareness and influence policy and practice on the challenges of small states in Europe. A workshop entitled Small States and the Political Upheavals Related to Immigration will be organized by the Institute for European Studies on 27th September 2018. The workshop will focus on small states and migration.

Professor Pace is the Institute's lead academic administering the project on behalf of the University of Malta

Small States in Europe: Towards a Cross-Disciplinary Approach (co-funded by the Erasmus + programme of the EU) - 1 November 2016 and ends on 31 October 2018

The University of Iceland is the lead partner, with nine other universities participating in the project: The University of Copenhagen, Vilnius University, Tallinn University of Technology, University of St. Andrews, the University of Malta, Queen Mary University of London, University of Ljubljana, Lund University and Comenius University in Bratislava. The Centre for Small State Studies is run under the auspices of the Institute of International Affairs at the University of Iceland.

The primary objective of this partnership is to create a pan-European consortium of experts in small state studies that will train young teachers and researchers from International Relations and Political Science as well as other disciplines, such as Economics, Business, Public Administration and Law, in applying insights from small state studies to their research and teaching.

The kick-off meeting for the project was held at the Queen Mary University of London on February 7. As part of this project the partners will organize two summer academies in Reykjavík, and intensive study programs in Ljubljana and Vilnius. At the end of the project the consortium will have developed four new and innovative inter-disciplinary curricula in small state studies based on four teaching and research themes (TRT's). TRT 1: Small states: Foreign policy and economic security; TRT 2: Small states addressing the migration crisis; TRT 3: Small states in international law; TRT 4: Small states and the challenges of good governance.

Pia Hansson, Director of the Centre for Small State Studies, Tómas Joensen, Project Manager at the Centre for Small State Studies and Baldur Thórhallsson, Professor of Political Science at the University of Iceland developed the project and are in charge of its implementation on behalf of the University of Iceland in cooperation with academics from the other nine universities.

The Institute for European Studies will organize a workshop on 28th September 2018 as part of the requirements of this project. Professor Pace is the Institute's lead academic administering the project on behalf of the University of Malta

Publications and Activities of Institute Academics

Dr Mark Harwood

Dr Harwood is Director of the Institute and Senior Lecturer. In addition to chairing all internal boards, Dr Harwood has been a member of the University's Admissions Board since October 2015.

In 2017/2018 Dr Harwood published (or finalised) the following papers:

Harwood, Mark (2018) 'Malta - Small and peripheral but aiming for the core of Europe' in *The Future of Europe*, Pollack, J.; Schmidt, P.; Kaeding, M. (eds.). Palgrave Macmillan, UK.

Harwood, Mark (2018) 'The Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU and Social Inclusion', *The Eye of the Storm: Malta's EU Presidency - a Study into a Small State Presidency of the Council of the EU*, Malta University Publishing, Malta.

Harwood, M., Moncada, S., and Pace, P. (eds.) (2018) *Malta's EU Presidency: A Study in a Small State Presidency of the Council of the EU*, Malta University Publishing, Malta.

Harwood, M., Moncada, S., and Pace, P. (2018) 'A Successful Small Country Presidency' in *Malta's EU Presidency: A Study in a Small State Presidency of the Council of the EU*, Malta University Publishing, Malta.

Harwood, Mark (2018) 'From Eurosceptic to Euro-enthusiast politics: how Maltese Euroscepticism has struggled in the face of economic prosperity', paper prepared for the ECPR General Conference, Universitat Hamburg, Hamburg, 22-25 August 2018.

Harwood, Mark (2018) 'Democratisation without Coercion: Parliamentary Bodies in the Mediterranean', paper presented at Queen Mary/UoM Research Seminar on Critical Perspectives on Democracy Promotion in the Mediterranean, 17-18 May 2018, Malta.

In 2017/2018 Dr Harwood participated/attended the following conferences/events:

- Friday 6th October. European Studies Organisation. Public talk in collaboration with Pulse. Meet Your Future! Dr. Miriam

Dalli, Dr. Therese Comodini Cachia and Dr. Mark Harwood constituted the panel.

- The Role of Fiscal Policy for Sustainable Economic Growth – Seminar European Commission Representation in Malta and the Malta Fiscal Advisory Council. Intercontinental Malta, Monday 23rd October 2017.
- The European Commission's Reflection Paper on the Future of EU Finances, MEUSAC. November 13th 2017, Le Meriden Ballutta.
- FEMISE Annual Conference 7-9 February 2018 Malta, Excelsior. Neighbours of Neighbours: Relation and Cooperation of the EU-Med towards Africa
- European Semester: Malta's 2018 Country report. Presentation organised by the European Commission Delegation to Malta, Westin Dragonara, Malta, 22nd March 2018.
- Participated in a panel discussion organised by JEF on 'Our European Identity' at the Quadrant, 9th May 2018. The event was organised as part of Europe Day celebrations and the panel included Dr Roberta Metsola, Dr Alfred Sant and Mr Neil Portelli (MEUSAC).
- In May the Institute and Malta Enterprise organised a Research Seminar with Queen Mary and the Department of International Relations (Faculty of Arts) on Critical Perspectives on Democracy Promotion in the Mediterranean. The event was funded by Malta Enterprise as well as by a grant from Queen Mary and the Institute.
- Europa Advisory Forum – Dr Harwood was invited to be a board member of this new forum created under MEUSAC and involving the Ministry for European Affairs. The initiative is to launch a Maltese version of the Swedish initiative, Europaforum Hassleholm.
- Attended the ECPR Annual conference at Universitat Hamburg, Hamburg, 22-25 August 2018 and presented a paper on Maltese Euroscepticism.

As part of the Institute's new role as an EDIC, Dr Harwood has assumed most of responsibilities for this new function, acting as manager, answering queries, organising events (with significant help from Dr Jean Claude Cachia and Mr Stefan Bezzina). As

part of this new role, Dr Harwood attends monthly EDIC meetings in Valletta as well as training events abroad. In 2018 he attended the following EDIC-related events –

- Europe Direct Information Centre Newcomer Training, organised by DG Communications, Brussels 8/9 March 2018.
- Annual General Meeting of the EDIC network ‘Meet, Ask, Discuss and join the European elections campaign!’ held in Brussels in June 2018.

During 2017/2018 Dr Harwood, along with the Institute’s Outreach Coordinator, Dr Cachia, oversaw several promotional activities, including promotional videos for the EDIC. Meetings were held with the Education Ministry in March and April regarding scholarships, internships and EU careers as well as hosting a visit by a group of students from the University of Amsterdam, who visited on 12th April 2018.

Professor Roderick Pace

Professor Roderick Pace is a Jean Monnet Chair holder. His main teaching and research interests at the Institute are: theories of European integration; small states and the EU, Euro-Mediterranean Relations and diplomacy; the external relations of the EU, migration, Malta in the EU and national and European elections in Malta. He has also been holding seminar based classes on the Future of Europe and shortly he will launch a course on the southern member states of the EU.

Since 2009, Professor Pace has been a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal South European Society and Politics, edited by Susanna Varney and Anna Bosco, published by Taylor and Francis, and cited in the Social Sciences citation network. He is also a member of the Islands and Small States’ Institute of the University of Malta. He supervises students’ theses and dissertations at the Bachelor, Masters and doctoral level. Professor Pace is the lead person on behalf of the institute on two EU funded projects on small states which comprise the organization of two workshops in Malta in 2018 (see 3.10.3 and 3.10.4) and a third three-year project just concluded on small states and Health. He is currently co-editing the publication of the papers of this project.

International engagements -

Kick-off meeting for the Jean Monnet Networks Erasmus+ project Navigating the Storm in Tallinn, Estonia (28th November 2017)

Professor Pace attended a kick-off meeting Navigating the Storm: The Challenges of Small States in Europe (see section 3.10.3). The network partners gathered at a start-up meeting in Tallinn where the work procedures, quality control measures, research methods and communication channels of the project were discussed and implemented accordingly.

Health system challenges in small European states: What should the EU prioritize post 2020? (26th April 2018) - As part of the EU ERASMUS+ project “SMSHealth.eu - European Integration, Small States and Health”, Professor Pace gave a presentation in Brussels on the 26 April, 2018 on future challenges and the role of the EU in the health domain and small states. The University of Malta participates in this project through a collaborative venture between the Institute for European Studies, the Islands and Small States Institute and the Department of Health Services Management which is the scientific coordinator for this multi-country project.

The event was held at the Maastricht University in Brussels (Belgium) and the University of Malta was represented by Dr Natasha Azzopardi Muscat (Senior Lecturer Health Services Management), Prof Roderick Pace (Institute for European Studies) and Dr Gianpaolo Tomaselli (Research Support Officer). The event was chaired by Prof Helmut Brand and Dr Timo Clemens from Maastricht University. Dr Natasha Azzopardi Muscat presented the key findings from research conducted during the last three years within health systems of four small states across Europe (Malta, Estonia, Iceland, and Slovenia).

TEPSA Vienna EU Pre-Presidency Conference (7-8th June 2018) - This Pre-Presidency Conference brought together around 90 academics and researchers from the broad TEPSA network, policy-makers, media and civil society in order to discuss the agenda and challenges of the upcoming Council Presidency. Besides many lively discussions, the conference also provided ample networking opportunities for researchers from both EU and non-EU countries.

The conference was opened by Dr Franz Fischler (President of the Board of Trustees of the IHS), Prof. Jaap de Zwaan (TEPSA Secretary General, and Dr Katrin Auel (Head of Research Group European Governance and Public finance at the IHS). Paul Schmidt (Director of the Austrian Society for European politics) later presented the upcoming TEPSA-edited book "The Future of Europe – Views from the Capitals" and its Austrian chapter.

Alexander Schallenberg, Director General at the Austrian Federal Government shared Austria's priorities during its upcoming EU Council Presidency and the meaning of its motto "A Europe that protects". It is a tradition that the TEPSA network formulates recommendations to every incoming EU Council Presidency. This time Dr Funda Tekin (TEPSA Board member) presented the TEPSA recommendations, that focused on the topics of security, migration, the next Multiannual Financial Framework and the Brexit negotiations and handed them over to the representative of the Austrian government.

The first day of the conference concluded with three parallel sessions, discussing security and border control, the European Energy Union and Digital Europe and Communication respectively.

Due to the South East Europe focus of the conference, the second day started with a panel discussion on the Western Balkans. The panelists Prof Danijela Jacimovic (University of Montenegro), Lejla Ramic-Mesihovic (Foreign Policy Initiative Bosnia-Herzegovina), Dr Irena Rajchinovska Pandeva (Ss. Cyril and Methodius University Skopje) and Dr Klaus Woelfer (Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs) discussed the challenges and prospects of further integration of the region as well as the challenges of the Danube region.

After the panel discussion, the conference participants split up in three parallel sessions to discuss the development of the European Monetary Union, the Multiannual Financial Framework and Migration Policy respectively. Prof Michael Kaeding (Chairman of the TEPSA Board) concluded the Pre-Presidency Conference by thanking all participants for the active contributions, the organisers and all supporters, namely the Central European Initiative, Wissenschaft-Forschung Niederoesterreich, the

Austrian Society for European Politics, Oesterreichische Nationalbank, the Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, the European Commission's Erasmus+ Programme and Europe for Citizens Programme and the Federal Trust for education and research.

12th EISA Pan-European Conference on International Relations in Prague (12th-15th September 2018) - Professor Pace attended the 12th EISA (European International Studies Association) Pan-European Conference on International Relations, organised in collaboration with CEEISA (Central and East European International Studies Association) in Prague. The theme of the conference was 'A New Hope: Back to the Future of International Relations'. He was part of panel in which he presented a joint paper with Kenneth Curmi on Parliamentary diplomacy and small state parliaments.

Publications

"Winning Against the Trend: Labour's Victory in the 2011 Maltese Parliamentary Election", *South European Society and Politics*, Volume 22, No 4 published on line on 25 December 2017 and later appeared in the print version of the journal.

"Values and Moral Ends: The Holy See and the EU on Nuclear Disarmament" paper presented in a Brown Bags seminar in May 2018.

With Eleanora Poli, George Tzogopoulos, Adonis Pegasiou – Chapter on the Mediterranean countries in Tim Oliver's edited volume "Europe's Brexit: EU Perspectives on Britain's Vote to Leave". Agenda Publishing Limited, UK (www.agendapub.com).

With Kenneth Curmi, paper presented at the EISA conference in Prague, September 2018, "Small Countries, Small Parliaments and Parliamentary Diplomacy: The Maltese Experience in a comparative setting."

Work in Progress

With Marcello Carammia (Senior Lecturer at the Institute) Professor Pace has submitted a chapter in a book to be published by Palgrave on the political systems of small states.

Working on a contribution to a Handbook on Small States (pub. Edward Elgar).

About to be published a chapter on migration and refugees in the Central Mediterranean in a book which will shortly appear in Italy (chapter in Italian).

In advance stage for publication a chapter on Malta and the Euro crisis to be published shortly in an edited book by Palgrave.

Submitted a chapter for the Oxford Encyclopaedia of European Union Politics (on invitation)

Forthcoming in October 2018, contribution to the jointly edited volume on Malta's Presidency of the Council of the EU published by the Institute for European Studies.

Co-editing papers on SMS Health Project just concluded.

Dr Susanna Thede

Dr Susanna Thede has been coordinating the MA degree and acted as board member of the Institute's PhD committee and the Institute Board. She taught seven study units at the Institute and supervised a number of BA students. In the last academic year, Dr. Thede published two articles in international peer-reviewed outlets;

Hansson, Å., Olofsdotter, K. & Thede, S. 2018, "Do Swedish multinationals pay less in taxes than domestic firms?", *The World Economy*, vol. 41, no. 2, pp. 393-413.

Thede, S. 2018, "A simple model of job task offshoring and social insurance", *International Economics and Economic Policy* (forthcoming) .

Together with Professor Oliver Lorz at RWTH Aachen University she has finalised the working paper "Tariff Overhang and Aid: Theory and Evidence" (MAGKS Papers on Economics 201803, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Faculty of Business Administration and Economics, Department of Economics). The paper currently undergoes a major revision for the Journal of International Economics, the leading academic journal in the field of International Economics.

Together with Associate Professor Patrik Karpaty at Örebro University she has started working on the project "Multinationals, Investment and Corruption". The project is at a phase of data retrieval, collection, matching and analysis facilitated by support from the University's Annual Research Fund (Project id: EUSRPO2-18).

In the last academic year, Dr Thede has acted as referee for the Journal of Mediterranean Studies, the Southern Economic Journal and the World Economy.

She is listed on google scholar, research gate and publons.

Dr Stefano Moncada

Dr. Moncada, is research coordinator within the Institute for European studies, and lectures on the following topics within the BA and MA programmes: 'Research Methodology and Writing Skills (EST2229); Development Studies and the EU (EST2210); Sustainable Development and the EU (EST3201); EU Development Policy (EST5460); The European Union and Climate Change (EST5520). Dr Moncada also offers some teaching hours to other Faculties, Institutes and Centres, delivering on topics linked to his expertise, that is EU development policy and climate change.

Dr. Moncada was awarded the University of Malta 2017 research fund awarded in March 2018, on a project entitled 'Building resilience to climate-sensitive health risks in vulnerable communities of small island states'. This project, still on-going, aims to identify health risks from climate change, and possible coping strategies that could be adopted in a small island state context. Little is known about the relationship between climate and health in small island states, especially the effects of vector borne and other communicable diseases, deaths and injury due to extreme weather events. A mixed methods approach, inclusive of participatory focus groups, household surveys, and econometric analysis, will be adopted to assess health vulnerability in coastal communities of Malta and Mauritius, and to profile households that engage in practices that may strengthen resilience, thereby generating evidence to inform relevant policy.

What follows is a brief summary of the research activities (conferences, workshops, seminars, etc) attended by Dr Moncada:

- Co-organised a special session entitled 'Climate Change Adaptation and Development in Small Island Developing States', in occasion of the biannual conference 'Adaptation Futures'. More information can be obtained from the following link: <https://adaptationfutures2018.capetown/>;
- In occasion of the bi-annual conference 'Adaptation Futures', held in Cape Town, he presented a paper entitled 'Climate Coping

Strategies and Long-Term Adaptive Capacity in Vulnerable Coastal Communities of SIDS’;

- Presented a paper entitled ‘Extreme Weather Events in Small Island Developing States: Barriers to Climate Change Adaptation among Coastal Communities in a Remote Island of Fiji’ at the workshop Dealing with Climate Change on Small Islands: Toward Effective and Sustainable Adaptation? Organised by the University of Gottingen in Hannover (Germany).

Dr Moncada, during the period October 2017-October 2018, published the following material:

- Moncada, S., Spiteri, J., and Briguglio, M., (2018). Environmental Economics - Special Consideration for Small States. In Briguglio, L. (eds). *Handbook of Small States: Economic, Social and Environmental Issues*. Oxford: Routledge.
- Moncada, S., Briguglio, L., Bambrick, H., Kelman, I., (2018). Guest editorial for the special issue on ‘Development and Climate Change in Small Island Developing States’. *International Journal of Climate Change Strategies and Management*, Volume 10, Issue 2 pp. 214-216
<https://doi.org/10.1108/IJCCSM-03-2018-184>.
- Formosa, S., Briguglio, L., Moncada, S., (2017). Assessing the Vulnerability of Small Island Developing States to Sea-Level Rise. *Occasional Papers on Islands and Small States. Islands and Small States Institute, University of Malta*. 2017/1. ISSN 1024-6282.

Dr Moncada also undertaken reviews for the following peer-reviewed journals: Sustainability; Climate; Energies; Disasters; Climatic Change; International Journal for Environmental Research and Public Health; Environments; International Journal of Climate Change Strategies and Management; Area; Science of the Total Environment. For further information access the following website
<https://publons.com/author/702745/stefano-moncada#profile>

Dr. Moncada is the focal point of the Climate Change Platform of the University of Malta, representing the Institute for European Studies, and coordinating research and communication activities in field of climate change. Further information can be accessed from the following website:
<https://www.um.edu.mt/islands/climate>

Dr Moncada also coordinated for the Institute for European Studies, for the second consecutive year, the research seminar series entitled ‘Ideas in Brown Bags’, organised jointly with the Department of International Relations. Together with Prof. Roderick Pace and Dr Mark Harwood, Dr Moncada coordinated the publication of the edited volume entitled ‘Malta's EU Presidency - A Study in a Small State Presidency of the Council of the EU’, and currently coordinating the call for contributions for a further publication entitled ‘The Future of Europe’.

Dr Jean Claude Cachia

Dr Cachia was employed by the University of Malta in October 2016. During the academic year 2017-2018, Dr Cachia was responsible for five modules, these being European Security, Political Parties in Europe, Small States and the EU, Research Methodology and Writing Skills (Undergrad level) and Research Methods (at Masters Level). Dr Cachia was also supervisor of seven undergraduate dissertations and is currently supervising one Masters dissertation.

With regards to the administrative work, Dr Cachia was given the outreach coordination. In February, he gave a presentation on the BA Course to the Junior College Students and together with Dr Harwood and the administrative staff, he organised the Quiz Night held on Europe’s Day in Valletta. He also collaborated with JEF to organize Europe Day Events within the University of Malta. During ‘Europe Day’ the Institute had its own stand where students could ask for information about the various courses being offered. With Stefan Bezzina, he worked on the banners for the Institute, but also, the BA and MA leaflets and other material to be used for the promotion of the Institute. In November, he organised a seminar for Dr. Kamusella from the University of St Andrews who discussed the idea of a nation state. He also organized a series of events for Dr Weeks who held a talk on BREXIT at Europe House in Valleta on the 26th April 2018 and two

other seminars for our students on the 27th April 2018 on Ireland and its political system.

Dr Cachia also attended the Political Association Conference in in April 2018 where he presented a paper (co-written with Mr. Andre Debattista) on Malta's Institutions. Dr Cachia is currently writing a number of chapters for a book concerning the impact of Europeanization on the political parties of small states.

Ms Moira Catania

Ms Moira Catania joined the academic staff of the Institute in October 2010. Her lecturing duties have mainly involved study units on economics and economic integration to undergraduates as well as Masters students. During the academic year 2017/18, she has lectured the following study units: Introductory Micro-Economics for European Studies, Economics of European Integration and European Economic and Monetary Union. She has also supervised two students for their undergraduate dissertations. For the past two years, Ms Catania has also been responsible for coordinating the Institute's placement programme.

During the academic year 2017-18, Ms Moira Catania's research effort continued to be focused on budgetary institutions, including legislative budgeting, as part of her PhD work. In particular, the work on the empirical data to assess the relationship between budget institutions and fiscal discipline was continued and results were discussed with her supervisors, Dr M.J. Baimbridge and Dr I. Litsios, University of Bradford, in December 2017. Furthermore, the final stage of data analysis on the case study on Malta, including the data generated through interviews, was carried out during the last quarter of 2017. Subsequently, work proceeded on the writing up of the thesis, with the first drafts of four chapters completed.

During the year, Ms Catania has also continued to follow developments in the Euro Area, particularly regarding economic governance. She has also continued to follow closely economic and fiscal developments in Malta and has participated in events organised by the European Commission representation in Malta as well as by the Central Bank of Malta.

