

## The Ministry for Gozo and the University Gozo Centre

### **Hon. Giovanna Debono**

*Minister for Gozo*

The establishment of the University Gozo Centre is undoubtedly another achievement in which the Ministry for Gozo has been involved well before its foundation fifteen years ago. In fact, it was through the Ministry for Gozo's initiative that such an ambitious project was launched and promoted notwithstanding the difficulties and discouraging logistical problems such a proposal creates. However this proposal fortunately met with the approval of the then rector of the University, Rev. Prof. Peter Serracino Inglott, but most of all with the acceptance of Professor Lino Briguglio, who from the start believed that such a project could indeed succeed and flourish. There is no doubt that the Professor's particular attachment to Gozo was a determining factor in his decision to accept the important role of being the first founder/director of this centre.

Proof of the importance and validity of the decision taken fifteen years ago are the numerous courses and services which have been offered at this centre during these years, and most of all the number of Gozitan and also Maltese students who have graduated or benefited in some other way through these courses and services. Suffice it to say that since its opening, the University Gozo Centre has seen about three hundred students acquiring degrees or diplomas from the courses held within its premises, whilst hundreds of others have attended short courses dealing with a wide spectrum of subjects. One must mention amongst these, the recent courses which were co-financed under the European Social Fund and which attracted a considerable number of Gozitan participants. Another praiseworthy feat is undoubtedly the coordination of a Masters Degree in Islands



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and Small States, which has seen ten graduates successfully completing the first course while another five are presently in their final year of the second course held at this Centre.

Indeed since the day it was founded, the University Gozo Centre has never looked back, with regular increases being registered in the attendance to all courses and activities held. One must also laud the initiative taken by the centre's administration in the organisation of cultural activities which have by now become established as annual events. There is no doubt that the Centre is now firmly established in Gozo and is providing golden educational opportunities for those who would otherwise have been held back from furthering their studies. Through its

establishment, the University Gozo Centre has managed to create a link between the leading educational institution and Gozo, thus fostering and enhancing the educational services on the island. To this effect the Ministry for Gozo has always been at the back of this initiative constantly extending its support through the deployment of staff, the provision of equipment and materials required for maintenance of premises and other matters as necessary.

It is with pleasure that we note the success story of this truly esteemed Centre in Gozo. Thus we look forward to continue with our incessant support and collaboration required for the administration, maintenance and development of this Centre, in order for it to keep giving the prestigious services and facilities as it has been doing during the past fifteen years.

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*The graduates who followed the course leading to the degree of Master of Arts in Islands and Small States Studies with Professor Lino Briguglio, Director of the University Gozo Centre, just after the conferment of the degree, on 28 November, 2006. The course was offered at the University Gozo Centre between 2003 and 2006.*



*The Offices of the Ministry for Gozo at St Francis Square Victoria Gozo. The University Gozo Centre finds ongoing support from the Ministry for Gozo.*

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