



**L-Università ta' Malta**  
Institute for European Studies

## **Institute for European Studies Newsletter**

### **October 2019 | Issue 20**

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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. As always, the academic year 2018-2019 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 2018 we had one of our largest number of students graduating on the Bachelors programme with 43 students graduating.
- For the second consecutive year, the Institute is hosting a **Europe Direct Information Centre** (EDIC). 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 to the Institute.
- The Institute's first annual publication, ***Malta's EU Presidency: a Study in a Small State Presidency of the Council of the EU*** was published in October 2018. The book comprises the first and only academic assessment of the Maltese Presidency and was 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. A second publication on the future of the EU will be published in November 2019.
- The Institute continued focusing on its **outreach** initiative this academic year,



*Dr Mark Harwood, Director*

focusing on the creation of promotional videos disseminated through social media, new brochures for the Bachelors, MA and PhD programmes as well as the dissemination of 2,329 promotional letters sent to all graduating students advertising the Institute's MA.

- The **EDC** increased its opening hours throughout the academic year in response to the need expressed in surveys from our students. MA students in particular were keen that the library open after working hours as many of them work fulltime.
- The Institute also continued participating in a range of international networks, including TEPSA, FEMISE and Euromesco. In 2018 the idea was discussed to organise the annual conference of the **European International Studies Association** in Malta in 2020. This will be a significant event for the Institute and the UoM in general.
- **Collaboration** with other departments continued with a notable level of cooperation with the Department of International Relations and the Faculty of Education.

## Annual publication of the Institute for European Studies

The Institute inaugurated an annual publication series in 2018 with the aim to focus the research output of the Institute and to contribute to the academic body of knowledge on Malta and the EU. The first publication in the series was published in October 2018, entitled 'Malta's EU Presidency - A Study in a Small State Presidency of the Council of the EU'. The book included chapters on:

Maximizing Influence by Leading the Council:  
Smart State Strategies for Small State Presidencies  
Anders Wivel

EU Migration and Asylum in the Aftermath of the  
2016 Migration Crisis  
Berta Fernandez and Kristiina Lilleorg

Developments in the Internal Market during  
Malta's Presidency  
Ivan Sammut

Geo-Blocking in the European Union and the  
Maltese Presidency  
Claire Ciantar

The Maltese Presidency and Social Inclusion:  
Malta's Push for LGBTIQ Rights  
Mark Harwood

Constitutional Developments in the MENA Region  
during Malta's EU Presidency  
Francesco Biagi

Malta's Presidency of the EU Council: External  
Relations in the Presidency of a Small State  
Roderick Pace

A Small State at the Wheel: Malta's Contribution  
to reaching the New European Consensus on  
Development  
Milan Pajic

Neptune's Turn: Maritime Policy During the  
Maltese Presidency  
Roderick Pace

The Parliamentary Dimension of the Council  
Presidency

Kenneth Curmi

The EU and Relocation

Petra Bishtawi

The book launch was held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018 and was opened by the Prime Minister of Malta. The book comprises the first academic assessment of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU. The book is available online as an ebook as well as in hard copy, also free, the principle aim being to contribute to knowledge.

The Institute for European Studies of the University of Malta has also finalized the publication of the second book from this series, to be published in November 2019, entitled 'The Future of the European Union'. The editorial board is composed by Dr Mark Harwood, Dr Stefano Moncada and Professor Roderick Pace.



*The book cover as published*



*The Prime Minister addressing the book launch*



## Hosting the Europe Direct Information Centre

The Institute continues to host the Europe Direct Information Centre, part of the Europe Direct network found across the EU. The aim of the Centre is to provide EU-related material, answer EU-related queries and organize events. To this end the Institute organized a series of events throughout the academic year as well as answering queries and providing EU-related material at events. The EDIC continued to work hard throughout its second year of operation and 2019-2020 will represent its final year of operation.

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 and is a continuation of the Institute's participation with the Europe Direct network through its hosting of the EDC. In this regard, Mr Stefan Bezzina has been a vital link in providing support and logistics to the running of the EDIC and the EDC, the latter of which he is manager.

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/>

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](mailto:edic@um.edu.mt).



*The EDIC Walk-In Centre on campus*



*The EDIC Walk-In Centre on campus*

## Events – IES and EDIC(UoM)

### Training seminar for Europe Direct Information Centres (Brussels, 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> October 2018)

Mr Stefan Bezzina attended a training seminar in Brussels for EDIC staff. The seminar covered some hot topics on the EU agenda such as data protection, migration and the European Elections 2019. The Publications Office of the European Union and the European Commission Library and e-Resources also featured in the programme. Furthermore time was dedicated to discuss cooperation with the Europe Direct Information Centres and the Challenges for the European debate in the Academic community.



*EDIC managers attending the training seminar in Brussels*

### Between a rock and a hard border: Conservative Party approaches (7<sup>th</sup> November 2018)

Dr David Jeffery (University of Liverpool) gave a public lecture on Brexit. This lecture outlined the tensions within the parliamentary Conservative Party towards the issue of Brexit – whether the UK should follow a hard Brexit, a soft Brexit, Canada+++, a Norway option, a WTO Brexit or give up on Brexit and remain in the European Union. This lecture also examined the views of party members, Conservative voters, and the broader public towards Brexit, and discussed future electoral issues facing the party.



*Dr Jeffery during his public lecture*

### There's more to it than Brexit: the Conservative party and international affairs since 2010 (7<sup>th</sup> November 2018)

Dr David Jeffery (University of Liverpool) gave a lecture on Brexit to European Studies students. This lecture assessed changes in the Conservative Party's approach to international affairs since 2010, including the evolving internal party debates over the target to spend 0.7% of gross national income on foreign aid, foreign intervention in Libya and Syria, the migrant crisis, the impact of Brexit on the UK's relationship with EU member states, and future opportunities and challenges to Britain's role in the world.



*Dr David Jeffery addressing European Studies students*



## European Vocational Education and Training Skills Week Quiz Night-Teacher Training for Secondary Vocational Education (14<sup>th</sup> November 2018)

EDIC University and the Institute for European Studies, in collaboration with the Faculty of Education, organized an interactive seminar as part of the European Vocational Skills Week 2018.

This was the first seminar organised by the University of Malta to celebrate and raise awareness on the importance of vocational education. The Faculty of Education is the foremost teacher education institution in Malta and has recently introduced a Master's in Teaching and Learning in different areas of Vocational Education, both on a part-time and full-time basis.



*Members of the audience during the event*



*Ms Therese Camilleri addressing the event*

## Quizmas (23<sup>rd</sup> December 2018)

EDIC University sponsored JEF Malta's christmas themed quiz open to all University students. EU-related questions featured as part of the activity.



*The Quizmas event*

## EU Careers Talk (22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019)

On 22 March 2019, Ms Claudine Camilleri from EPSO gave a talk to European Studies students on EU Careers. Ms. Camilleri spoke about the various opportunities which exist for our students and explained the process which they have to go through if they wish to apply for EU jobs.



*Students and staff with Ms Camilleri*

## The EU and its international trade policy (26<sup>th</sup> March 2019)

Professor Richard W.T. Pomfret (University of Adelaide, Australia) gave a public talk on the European Union's international trade policy. The European Union's international trade policy has gone through a major change in the twenty-first

century. Before 1990 trade policy was used for foreign policy purposes (to favour preferred partners) and in response to domestic policy pressures (to support farmers and other producers facing import competition). After 1990 the EU leaders made the decision that these motives were less important than the need to support the establishment of the WTO.

With its 2015 Trade for All Strategy the EU explicitly positioned itself as open to international trade and a willing partner in global value chains. This position was supported by negotiating deep trade agreements with Korea, Canada and Japan. In 2017, in the face of an unpredictable and more protectionists USA, the EU emerged as a leader of like-minded supporters of the multilateral trading system.

This lecture explored the implications of this transformation and the future prospects for the EU's international trade policy.



*Professor Richard W.T. Pomfret*

### **Internal worlds, external relations (4<sup>th</sup> April 2019)**

Ms Lida Sherafatmand, an artist from Iran who graduated from the University of Malta, gave a talk on 'Internal Worlds, External Relations' on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The event was organised jointly by the Institute for European Studies and the Department of International Relations.



*Ms Lida Sherafatmand*



*The audience during the lecture*

### **Exhibition to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the single market (8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> April; 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> May 2019)**

The Single Market is one of the principal achievements of European integration and ensures the free movement of people, goods, capital and services across the 28 member states. The exhibition commemorated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Single Market and explored the establishment of the single market, the benefits accruing from it as well as the work still needed to ensure greater freedom of movement. The exhibition was held at Valletta Campus on 8-12<sup>th</sup> April and at the Main Library (Msida Campus) on 6-10<sup>th</sup> May 2019.





*The exhibition*



*Dr Elena Grech (Head of European Commission Representation in Malta) and Dr Mark Harwood*

### **The Supremacy of EU law in practice (10<sup>th</sup> April 2019)**

EDIC University sponsored *Għaqda Studenti tal-Liġi's* event entitled 'The Supremacy of EU law in practice'. This conference took on the 10th of April 2019 at the Cavalieri Art Hotel, St Julian's.

The two-faceted conference was aimed at providing law students with a holistic understanding of the supremacy of EU law and how it works in practice.

### **Refugee journeys through the Balkan route(s) (11<sup>th</sup> April 2019)**

Dr Gemma Bird (University of Liverpool) gave a public talk at Europe House on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The talk discussed recent changes in EU border management that have limited refugees' movement across Europe, and as such, have resulted in outsourcing of refugee settlement and care to states previously described as 'transit' countries along the Balkan Route(s): Serbia and Greece. The problems related to refugee provisions and accommodation in these countries and along the Balkan Route(s) towards Western Europe were also discussed, highlighting the disparity of refugee services, housing and living conditions across the region, and acute and ongoing humanitarian crises.



*Pictures from the event*

### **Scotland, the United Kingdom and Brexit (2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019)**

Professor Hugh Bochel (University of Lincoln) was invited to give a public lecture on Scotland, the United Kingdom and Brexit on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019.

This lecture outlined some of the key changes that have taken place in Scotland and the UK, and sought to explain the reasons for the apparent growing divergence, and the implications of Brexit



for the relationship between Scotland and the rest of the UK, and indeed for the future of Scotland.



*Poster of the event*



*Dr Harwood with the winning team*



*Dr Harwood introducing the event*



*Photos from the event*

## Quiz Night-Celebrating Europe Day (8th May 2019)

The European Direct Information Centre organised a quiz night to celebrate Europe's 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. Each team was made up of 4 Students or alumni and there were various gifts to be won. The winning team, 'Veillers', comprised alumni students Kimberly Zammit, Lisa Azzopardi and Melanie Bonnici Bennett. They were presented with a €100 travel voucher each



*Photos from the event*

## Europe Day (9th May 2019)

EDIC University (together with the Institute for European Studies) set up an informational stand at the quadrangle of the main campus during which it distributed material on the EU. EDIC University also sponsored JEF Malta's Vino e Vino event which is held every year in the evening of Europe Day.



*The IES and EDIC stand on campus*

## 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 partnered 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 formed the "core group" of audience that participated in all three events (July 2018, November 2018, March 2019) and were guided in an informed debate on the main stakes ahead for the EU, especially those issues that were discussed during the campaign for the EU elections.

After the first event, in Palermo on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018, the second and third events were held in Malta on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018 and in Trapani on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019. During the Malta event around 200 people from various backgrounds, ranging from youths and students to academics, representatives of local councils and civil society from Sicily, Malta and Gozo, were engaged in discussions on their preferences for the future of the EU. The event in Malta kicked off with an introduction from the Head of the EC Representation in Malta, Elena Grech, who welcomed the participants and outlined several reasons for which Europeans should remain vigilant to protect the achievements of our Union. Dr Grech stressed that "the benefits of the Europe we live in today are not a coincidence, they are today's reality because they were yesterday's ambition" and encouraged participants to appreciate the collective responsibility of all Europeans to safeguard our accomplishments. The Head of the European Commission Representation in Italy, Beatrice Covassi, explained that we should debate over the diverging visions of our European Union and not view the EU itself as the enemy. Similar sentiments were expressed by H.E. Mario Sammartino, ambassador of Italy to Malta who encouraged that minor disagreements should not overshadow our common faith in a better future for Europe. The event was also addressed by the Acting Head of the European Parliament Liaison Office in Malta, Anna Vella Zammit, who explained why it is crucial to vote in the EU Elections 2019 and make our voices heard. The 200 participants were split into four parallel groups each discussing a specific question about the direction they would prefer the EU to take in



the future. The discussion followed up on that already held in Palermo in July where the different groups discussed the competences of the EU and whether these should change. The third and final event will be held in Trapani in February 2019.



*Dr Elena Grech addressing the event*



*The audience at the event*

Then, on 15 March 2019, a group of 47 Maltese citizens joined citizens from Trapani, Palermo, Agrigento and Pantelleria for the third and final transnational dialogue on the Future of Europe.

The meeting in Trapani discussed in small groups diverse issues related to the future of Europe such as the multi-annual budget, agriculture, employment, foreign relations, fiscal matters and

the environment. Alessandro Giordani - Head of Unit 'Citizens' Contact', of the European Commission explained to the participants some issues at stake in the upcoming European elections, among which the Spitzenkandidaten process and the importance of voting. Other speakers who addressed the participants in plenary were representatives of the Mayor of Trapani and of the Prefecture of Trapani. The EDIC (UoM) participated in this initiative and helped coordinate the activity.



*The Maltese participants*

## Dissertation-related activities

### 10th Gozo Seminar (19-20th February 2019)

The dissertation seminar for final year Bachelor of European Studies students was held at Manresa House in Gozo on 19 and 20 February 2019. This annual seminar has been organised by the Institute for European Studies since 2010 and has become an integral part of 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. 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.



*Group photo of participants in Gozo Seminar*



*Presentation during the Gozo Seminar*

## 2018 Best Dissertation Award Ceremony

The Institute has established an annual prize for the best dissertation in the undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes. The prize is awarded to the dissertation gaining the highest mark. In 2018 the undergraduate prize was given to Ms Rebecca Zammit for her thesis on 'The Sustainable Development Goals and the EU Development and Cooperation Policy - The Case of the Empowerment of Women in Afghanistan'. The postgraduate prize was given to Ms Glorianne Camilleri for her thesis on 'The Implementation of the Falsified Medicines Directive in Malta'.



*Glorianne Camilleri receiving her award from Dr Harwood*



*Rebecca Zammit receiving her award from Dr Harwood*



## Placements

The Institute for European Studies has been offering placement opportunities to its undergraduate students for a number of years. The placements are offered as an elective study unit and involve practical work in various public and private entities, which have signed agreements with the Institute and are partners in this placement programme. As from the academic year 2018/19, the placement programme has been extended also to the Institute's post-graduate students. Furthermore, during the year, agreements were signed with three new entities, offering additional and diverse placement opportunities to the Institute's students.

This year, 17 students undertook placements as part of their academic programme. These included three students following the Masters in European Politics, Economics and Law. The placements were carried out with 13 different entities, namely the European Parliament Office in Malta, the European Commission Representation in Malta, the Planning and Priorities Co-ordination Division, MEUSAC, Malta Business Bureau, General Retailers and Traders Union, Ernst and Young, Zaar Crowdfunding platform, TradeMalta, the European Direct Information Centre within the Institute for European Studies, the NGOs SKOP, KOPIN and *Kunsill Nazzjonali taz-Zghazagh*.

During their placements, 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 completing of applications and in the management of EU funded projects, providing support in relation to public relations and the management of social media platforms. The placements provide an opportunity to the Institute's students to gain practical work experience, in the area of European studies, thus facilitating their future employment.

### Placement Experience – Ilana Seychell (MA)

The entity I was assigned to for my placement was the Planning and Priorities Coordination Division (PPCD) within the Ministry for European Affairs and Equality. The primary purpose of choosing this

unit was mainly to gain first-hand experience of working within an entity which is involved in EU related work. While I believe that the academic aspect of the Masters in European Politics, Economics and Law has provided me with essential knowledge regarding EU affairs, and subsequently enabled the development of a broader perspective on Europe, this placement has also given me the opportunity to be able to apply this acquired knowledge.

Throughout the allotted fourteen weeks working at PPCD, I was assigned various tasks such as accompanying PPCD officials during on-the-spot checks of EU-funded projects and also attended meetings and training sessions. Throughout this placement, apart from becoming more familiar with the process relating to EU funds and the Managing Authority in Malta, I have also had the chance to practice various skills which would eventually be required of me to work in an EU affairs related area. Moreover, the experience was a fruitful one as it gave me the opportunity to work closely and learn from the professional staff at PPCD who are experts within this field. In addition, this placement has given me the chance to network with PPCD officials and receive professional feedback and guidance as well. Furthermore, it has also allowed me to reflect on my own personal future pursuits and has given me a clearer idea of the future career prospects associated with EU affairs. Therefore, I would highly recommend the placement to any student who wants to pursue a career in this field of work, since this provides an ideal opportunity to gain hands-on experience.



*Ilana Seychell*

## Placement Experience – Kirsten Xuereb (BA)

Students' academic life is mostly based on theoretical knowledge and sometimes lack the hands-on experience students eagerly desire to be able to recognize their strengths as well as any current and possible future opportunities. This is why I chose to participate in the Placement Programme offered by the Institute for European Studies.

I was assigned to *SKOP Malta – Solidarjetà u Koperazzjoni (VO/0366)*, the national platform for Maltese NGOs that work towards Development. It is also Malta's broadest network of voluntary and non-governmental organisations working in international development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

Overall, this experience has been a positive one: one which was an asset, both for my studies and for any future work possibilities. The placement involved diverse work including administrative, representative and organisational tasks as well as working in various sectors such as external relations, migration, development, environmental issues and infrastructure.

I started my placement by familiarizing myself with the organisation's goals and priorities. By time, I gained more insight and expanded both my previously gained theoretical knowledge as well as my newly gained practical knowledge. I carried out several diverse tasks, including assisting in any general day-to-day tasks, becoming a Public Relations Officer and partially a Secretary General and a representative when necessary. Besides administrative work, the tasks which I carried out involved writing articles and keeping member organisations updated on the latest developments and activities as well as using social media platforms and communicating with several people of diverse backgrounds. I also attended and minuted board meetings and meetings with other organisations, such as with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion. During the experience, I also provided suggestions, developed my ideas and followed them up.

From the simplest of actions, I have learned how to adopt and adjust to different scenarios. I have become open to more perspectives and learnt

that each case has to be dealt with differently. From this experience, I learnt how to prepare for the unexpected and so, anticipate situations, 'thinking outside of the box', being innovative and finding alternative approaches. Additionally, from this experience, I learnt not to jump to conclusions and to be more aware of possible different outcomes and interpretations.

Whilst thanking the Institute for European Studies for providing such opportunities, I would definitely encourage students to take part in such a programme. These experiences should not be underestimated. Every effort leads to some progress and also positive, sometimes unexpected outcomes.



Kirsten Xuereb

## 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 2018/2019:

Agius, Jake - University of Warsaw  
Baldacchino, Maria - The Hague University  
Bonello, Bernice Theresa - University of Konstanz  
Bonello, Wayne - University of Mannheim  
Cassar, Jasmine - University of Warsaw  
Cini, James - Universite Paris 8  
Cutajar, Jasmine Maria - Universita' di Bologna  
Darmanin, Darren - University of Warsaw  
Kampe, Finia Lisette - Tallinn University  
Meli, Michela - University of Warsaw  
Micallef, Shaun - University of Tampere  
Perini, Nadine - University of Limerick  
Saliba, Marlen - University of Limerick  
Sammur, Dale - Istanbul Bilgi University  
Sciberras, Vanessa - University of Mannheim  
Scicluna, Cathia Ann - University of Tampere  
Scicluna, Laura - Universita' di Bologna  
Spearing, Faith - University of Konstanz  
Spiteri, Maryjane - The Hague University  
Spiteri, Xylona - Tallinn University  
Zammit, Ylenia - University of Essex

### **Erasmus Experience – Finia Lisette Kampe**

Spending a semester away from home, family and friends can seem both scary and exciting at the same time. I decided to give it a try and spent my Erasmus experience in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia. I was asked so many times: “Tallinn, where is that?” or “Estonia? Why would you go there?”. I began to ask myself the same question. I did not know what to expect, but that made it even more exciting.

Once I arrived, I discovered how much this city and country really had to offer. Estonia - also called the “hidden treasure of the Baltics” - really does speak for its name. The country is not only filled with a large variety of forests, lakes and national parks, but also offers an incredible amount of beaches, islands and interesting cities. Tallinn itself is a beautiful city with a cozy old town on one side and an extremely modern part on the other side. It has the perfect size to be explored in a semester abroad with a variety of parks, malls and nightlife areas!

Furthermore, Tallinn is an extremely good location for travelling through the Baltics and Scandinavia. In February I drove to northern Finland to go sledding with Reindeers and Huskies as well as watching the Northern Lights; this turned out to be one of the most memorable trips I have ever taken.

In March, the Erasmus Student Network organized a three day cruise from Tallinn to Helsinki to Stockholm on a small cruise ship full of students! These three days were filled with meeting new people, making friends and exploring two interesting cities. But also travelling through the Baltic states was incredibly easy - Tallinn is only a four hour drive away from Riga by bus. From Riga it takes another four hours to go to Vilnius. Even the bus rides were fascinating - endless kilometers of beaches and forests. The last trip of the semester brings you to St. Petersburg, Russia.

Estonia is usually well known for its advanced technology, which can be well observed at Tallinn University of Technology. The University is extremely modern and everything related to the classes is managed online. The lecturers and students come from a variety of countries, making class discussions extremely interesting. Looking back, my Erasmus semester in Tallinn was one of the most exciting times of my life. I made friends who are living all over the globe and memories that will stay with me for a long time. If I could, I would definitely do it again!



*Finia Lisette Kampe*

### Third Year of the Research Seminar Series – Ideas in Brown Bags

For the third consecutive year, the Institute for European Studies and the Department of International Relations, Faculty of Arts, held a series of research seminars, called 'Ideas in Brown Bags', focusing on key issues in European and international politics. The aim of these research in progress seminars is twofold, to increase the research output of the University of Malta by presenting the state of the art research developed by resident and visiting members, and to identify gaps where further research is needed to support policy. This initiative is co-hosted by Dr Stefano Moncada of the Institute for European Studies and Dr Angela Maria Pennisi di Floristella from the Department of International Relations.

The following research seminars have been organised in the academic year 2018-2019:

- 'Extreme Weather Events in Small Island Developing States: Challenges to Economic Development among Coastal Communities of Fiji and Mauritius', presenter Dr. Stefano Moncada, discussant Dr. Anna Khakee;
- 'Tourism policy in the Canary Islands. From the moratorium to a new age', presenter Prof. Alberto Javier Báez-García, discussant Dr. Stefano Moncada;
- 'Sect-Centric Securitization and the Exclusion from Citizenship in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates', presenter Prof. James Sater, discussant Prof. Roderick Pace;
- 'Soft Power and Tourism at a Greek regional level', presenter Mr. Kersten Calleja;
- 'Global player status? EU actorness and democracy promotion', presenter Dr. Anna Khakee, discussant Dr. Stefano Moncada.
- 'Seeing and Blindness- Philosophical underpinnings on a proposed methodology to read and interpret images for a PhD study on the visual narrative of the European Parliament advertising poster campaigns for the European Elections from 1979 to 2019', Presenter, Mr Fabrizio Ellul, discussant Dr. Stefano Moncada;

- 'Multiple actors in framing the EU's external policy: the case of the EU global security strategy', presenter Prof. Ilze Ruze, discussant Prof. James Sater.

The intention is to continue this series of seminars in 2019/2020 and to advertise more widely so as to encourage academics from other faculties and departments to participate.

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.

### The European Documentation Centre

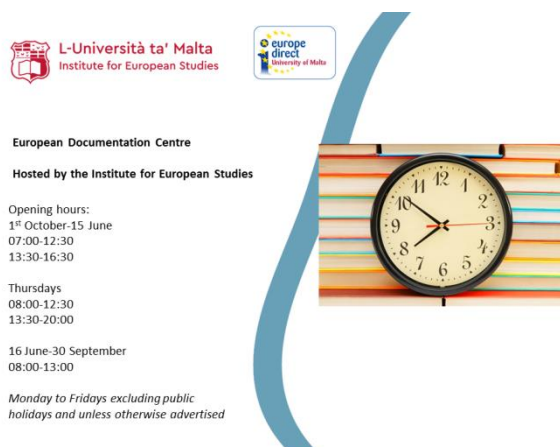
Academic year 2018/19 was a very busy but key year for the European Documentation Centre (herein after EDC). The academic year started with the yearly annual training seminar for the EDCs in Brussels (22-23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018) during which the EDC manager gave a presentation on how an EDC can co-exist with an EDIC when hosted by the same host organization and gave factual examples on how and EDC and an EDIC can co-operate and work closely to promote Europe (see below in the EDC activities section).

The EDC had an active logistical and organizational role in all activities hosted by EDIC University and the Institute for European Studies during the academic year 2019/2020. EDC Malta also renewed its collaboration with the other local EDIC networks and the European Commission and regularly attends monthly meetings organized by the Europe Direct network. The EDC also had a key organizational and logistical role during the second and third transnational dialogues between Malta and Sicily held in Malta (16<sup>th</sup> October 2018) and in Trapani (14<sup>th</sup> March 2019) respectively.

As for the EDC as a library, this academic year was earmarked with the introduction of extended hours every Thursday (till 20:00) throughout the whole academic year. This service had been long requested by students and patrons and was well-attended throughout the whole year. For this



reason, the EDC is considering offering a further extension to this service by opening twice a week all year round. Also, as from academic year 2018/19, the EDC opened its doors at 7am on Mondays, Tuesday, Wednesdays and Fridays thus further extending its opening hours.



The EDC also extended its book collection and its book loan service by adding more titles and making them available for loan. Over 70 new books were bought throughout academic year 2018/19 with a cost of €3,042.72 financed by various funds. Topics include, Brexit, European integration, economics, research and climate change. The EDC has attracted more patrons in 2018/2019 also thanks to paid Facebook advertisements and marketing. Users were frequently updated with news and events, collection update and services offered. The EDC also regularly orders free multiple copies of European Union publications and distributes them to the public.

In order to attract more patrons, the EDC will continue its refurbishment process with the installation of new wooden shelves matching the flooring and new furniture to replace the current fixtures. The project is expected to take place during the academic year 2019/20.

### EDC Activities:

#### Training Seminar for European Documentation Centres (Brussels, 22-23 November 2018)

EDC managers from various member states met in Brussels on 22-23 November 2018 for the annual

training seminar for European Documentation Centres.

EDCs connect with University academics and with the younger student generation. The new mandate generation agreement for EDCs requires audience engagement and debates in order to have the citizens express their views on Europe. This agreement infact, gives the permission to EDCs to have an active outreach role. Hence, EDCs have an important role in giving the factual information (the whole picture), and through the use of social media, encourage people to vote for the upcoming 2019 European Parliament elections. Since the Commission's main goal is to increase the voting turnout, events need to be organized to encourage people to vote. Events and debates need to be centred on the topics that the citizens want to talk about in view of the upcoming May 2019 elections. Citizen dialogues are being encouraged hence a session with logistical tips on how best can this be organized was given.

The EDCs need to serve as a hub for outreach to attract students and academics to debate Europe. For this reason, EDCs are to join forces with their nearby EDICs to organize events. EDCs are also encouraged to ask for financial help for event organizations from their local European Commission representations. The seminars also identified three main key points for organizing events and promote Europe:

- Having a good relation with the nearby EDIC;
- Continuous contact with the local European Commission representations;
- Having a good relation with the hosting University's Rector

EDC Malta gave a presentation on how an EDC can co-exist with an EDIC hosted by the same host organization and gave factual examples on how an EDC and an EDIC can co-operate and work closely to promote Europe.



The EDC Manager during the presentation



EDC Managers during the group work

EDCs were also encouraged to make use of the resources offered by the Publications Office and the EC library. The Publications Office offers around 150 different services and covers all EU institutions. EDCs have a privileged user access enabling them to order all publications for free and in bulk numbers. The EC library has become more users friendly and the open access filter has been added in its search engine.

The seminar ended with a group work session in which EDC managers have been divided into small groups and were given a question which they had to discuss and identify issues and propose solutions. The question that EDC Malta's group had to tackle was:

**Question 1: What are the EU policies and initiatives at stake among the academic community on which you mostly provide information and which should be taken up in the debate about the future of the EU?**

The topics that were identified were:

- Brexit;
- Budgeting;
- Discrimination;
- EU programs and scholarships;
- Migration;
- Policy-making and policy procedures;
- Use of databases and open data.

All groups presented their workings on flipcharts and a Q&A session followed. The seminar concluded that EDCs need to promote the benefits of EU membership through citizen dialogues and the use of the #EUandME website which gives a lot of information about what EU is doing for its citizens in their region, in their life and in focus.

### PhD dissertations presentation (5th February 2019)

Alan Cordina, presented his work, before being considered for transferring to the Ph.D. degree, at the Institute for European Studies. The title of his dissertation is "Implementing and Strengthening the European Common Foreign and Security Policy - the Role of Neutral States Ireland and Malta in the Council."

### Small States foreign policies: the Baltic States and Russia (20<sup>th</sup> March 2019)

Professor Gediminas Vitkus (Vilnius University, Lithuania) gave a public lecture on Small States at the European Documentation Centre on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The lecture overviewed the Eastern/Russian policy options of the Baltic States, which due to their small size and geographical position between Europe and Russia have always had, and still have, two theoretical development possibilities – either to become a "bridge" between the East and the West, or to remain a periphery, an eastern border outpost of Europe.





*The audience during the talk*

### **Consultation between the European Commission and Young people in Malta on EU's environment policy (9<sup>th</sup> April 2019)**

On April 9, EDC Malta, EDIC University and the Institute for European Studies invited young people to join the CITIZENV initiative taking place in all Member States to discuss future environmental policies of the EU. The group met the Maltese Deputy Director General, DG Environment of the European Commission, Mrs Joanna Drake, at the European Documentation Centre. The discussion, taking place in all Member States between January and May 2019 about the future priorities of EU environment policy, was held both in view of the expiry (and the evaluation) of the [7th Environment Action Programme](#) and the elaboration of the new Commission's priorities. In that respect, CITIZENV gathers the feelings, concerns and ideas of young people: the year of the European elections is indeed a good opportunity to discuss the European environment policy, and to reflect on its future. The discussion focused on 5 questions in a very friendly and participatory way, to gather ideas on what matters in the European Commission's environmental policies for youth. The following questions were discussed in small groups:

- How will our environment look like in 2030?
- How can I convince others to be environmentally conscious?
- What is the most urgent action that needs to be tackled?
- What am I ready to do on my part?

- What needs to be done in my country, hometown, and the places I go to?



*Dr Joanna Drake and participants during the group work*

## **EU Projects**

### **EDIC**

In 2018, the Institute 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 under Grant Agreement Ref: 301-14/02/2-18-9140-2236-1. The contract involved the Institute answering EU related queries, providing information to students and the general public on the EU and organising events and is now in its second year. EDIC University is 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 10 per month). While placing the Institute in a better position to deliver on its main objectives (especially No. 2 as listed in section 2), the EDIC enables the Institute to raise its profile across University and beyond. A list of events is included towards the end of this report.

**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 27<sup>th</sup> 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

## 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. Dr Harwood is coordinator of the undergraduate programme and during 2018-2019 was also Erasmus Coordinator. In terms of the current Programme of Studies, Dr Harwood has been

working on the launch of two new study units which should represent important additions to our Programme of Studies. The first will be the EU Simulation Unit due to be launched in the second semester in collaboration with Mr Neil Kerr, former Maltese Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU. The second will be a new European Culture and Identity study unit due to be launched also in the second semester.

In 2018/2019 Dr Harwood published (or finalised) the following papers:

Harwood, Mark (2019) 'Democratisation without Coercion: Parliamentary Bodies as Democracy Promoters in the Mediterranean', *Parliamentary Affairs*, Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/pa/gsz020>

Harwood, Mark (2019) 'From Euroscepticism to Euro-enthusiasm: How Malta Weathered the Financial Crisis', *South European Society and Politics* (awaiting publication)

Harwood, Mark (2019) 'Bucking the Trend: How Malta Turned its Back on Euroscepticism', in *The Future of Europe (Volume 2)*, Pollack, J.; Schmidt, P.; Kaeding, M. (eds.). Palgrave Macmillan, UK. (awaiting publication)

Harwood, Mark (2019) 'The View from Strasbourg of the 'Future of Europe' Debate', chapter as part of the Institute for European Studies annual publication 2019 (awaiting publication).

Harwood, Mark (2019) 'European Elections in Malta: the dynamics of a second-order election in a two-party system', papers prepared for the ECPR General Conference, University of Wroclaw, Poland, 5-7 September 2019.

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, R. (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, R. (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.

In 2018/2019 Dr Harwood participated/attended the following conferences/events:

Participated in the Open Workshop, 'Small States and the Political Upheavals Related to Immigration', organised at the University of Malta (September 2018). Chaired the morning session which included presentations by Pia Hansson, Tomas Joensen, Roderick Pace, Primoz Pevcin and Hillary Briffa.

Participated in the Open Workshop, 'Small States in Europe: towards a cross-disciplinary approach', organised at the University of Malta, September 2018.

Organised the Book Launch of the Institute's first annual publication. Launched on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October at Europe House in Valletta. The book, 'Malta's EU Presidency: a Study in a Small State Presidency of the Council of the EU' was attended by the Prime Minister and the Rector and included a panel discussion.

Participated in the University's Strategic Development Process on 17<sup>th</sup> October at the Old University Building in Valletta. Also acted as Rapporteur for the Working group on Societal Impact on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, co-chaired by Dr Maureen Cole. The minutes of the meeting were uploaded to the relevant portal. Participated in follow-up meetings of the chairs/rapporteurs to finalise the group's recommendations.

Delivered a speech on the EU and Vocational Education at the EDIC event organised on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at the UoM. The event, organised in collaboration with the Faculty of Education was an event to bring together practitioners in the field, entitled 'European Vocational Education and Training Skills Week – Teacher Training for Secondary Vocational Education'.

TV appearance on *Ras imb Ras*, TVM, on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018 to advertise the Institute's new publication.

Guest Speaker at the ALDE Conference organised in Valletta on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Gave a talk on 'Contending visions of political renewal in Europe

today' as part of the conference on 'Young People and Political Renewal in Europe Today'.

Interviewed for the Business Agenda magazine, Issue 35, Winter 2018/2019 as part of their cover story on 'BREXIT: is it crunch time for Britain's Relationship with the bloc and Malta'.

Gave a public talk to the Philosophy Sharing Society, Casino Gozitana, Gozo, Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January &:30pm on the topic of 'Euroscpticism and national identity: BREXIT and Malta'.

Gave an interview to TVM on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019 on Brexit and the consequence of the vote in the British Parliament to reject Theresa May's BREXIT deal.

Organised and participated in the Institute's Gozo Thesis Seminar, 19/20<sup>th</sup> February, Gozo.

Participated as a Panel Member in a public discussion on 'Brexit and Us'. Organised by the European Parliament Office in Malta, Europe House, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019

Article in the Times, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019, as a response to the EP opinion piece 'Tolerance to diversity, equal pay and the environment: Students' outlook on 2019 European Parliament elections'.

Participated in a panel discussion organised by the European Studies Organisation to celebrate Europe Day, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019, University of Malta. The event was titled 'What's in store for Europe?'

Led a delegation of Institute students to the Ministry for European Affairs for a formal meeting with the Minister and representatives of the EU Secretariat on the occasion of Europe Day, 9<sup>th</sup> May, Auberge d'Aragon.

Chaired a panel as part of the LGBTIQ Symposium organised by the Department of Gender Studies within the Faculty of Social Wellbeing, 10<sup>th</sup> May, University of Malta.

Visit to the EU institutions, 20-22/05/19. Led a workshop on the future of the EU at Malta's Permanent Representation to the EU on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> and then attended the General Affairs Council on 21<sup>st</sup> May, COREPER on 22<sup>nd</sup> May as well as the

Maritime and Shipping Working group meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

In preparation for the EISA annual conference due to be held in Malta in September 2020, Dr Harwood welcomed Dr Victoria Basham and members of the Czech organisational team (Lukas Cop and Prokop Kolinsky) to the Institute on 28/29 May.

Participated in the 2019 EUCamp monitoring campaign led by Roma Tre and the European Election Monitoring Centre. Participated in the data gathering for the country team for Malta, monitoring the EP election campaigns in Malta. The Malta team was led by Prof. Carmen Sammut.

Attended the UACES Research Conference on the Future of Europe, held at Manchester University, 8-10 July 2019.

Delivered paper 'European Elections in Malta: the dynamics of a second-order election in a two-party system', Paper prepared for the panel 'What Actually Happened? Analysing the 2019 Euroelections in Southern Europe', ECPR General Conference 2019, University of Wroclaw, Poland

Attended the Finnish Presidency and European Commission 'High level Conference on Advancing LGBTI equality in the EU: from 2020 and beyond', 23/24 September 2019, Brussels.

As part of the Institute's role as an EDIC, Dr Harwood has assumed most of responsibilities for this new function, acting as manager, answering queries, organising events (with 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 2019 he attended the following EDIC meetings

Attended EDIC meeting in preparation for the Cross-border consultation project between Malta and Sicily, in preparation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> event, on 27<sup>th</sup> September at Europe House.

Participated in and chaired group as part of the European Commission event, 'Second transnational dialogue between Italy and Malta'. Moderated Group 2 discussion on 'investing more in reinforcing the resilience of the Eurozone or on

the mobility of youth?'. Event held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018, Intercontinental Hotel, St Julians.

Delivered a speech on the EU and Vocational Education at the EDIC event organised on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at the UoM. The event, organised in collaboration with the Faculty of Education was an event to bring together practitioners in the field, entitled 'European Vocational Education and Training Skills Week – Teacher Training for Secondary Vocational Education'.

Meeting with the EP Office, 18<sup>th</sup> February, to coordinate the EP campaign video slots for Institute students with MAKs students.

### **Professor Roderick Pace**

In the academic year 2018-19, Professor Pace continued to lead the Institute's Ph.D. programme. He was reconfirmed on the Board of the Institute for European Studies and the Board of the Islands and Small States Institute (ISSI). Professor Pace participated in several seminars and workshops organized at the University of Malta, including the "Brown Bags" series co-hosted by the Institute and the Department of International Relations. Professor Pace also contributed to the EDIC's transnational dialogue in Malta by chairing one of the groups and attended all three transnational dialogues of the *Sicily-Malta Pilot Project: Towards the European Elections: European Citizens, Let's Talk!*

He also served on ad hoc examining boards for other Faculties. In the meantime, Professor Pace also contributed to some EU-funded projects which will be described below. He intends to continue using of the residual funding from these projects to help in the further strengthening of the EDC holdings.

During the year Professor Pace continued to sit on the Editorial Board of the Journal South European Society and Politics, published by Taylor and Francis.

Professor Pace also collaborated with Dr Mark Harwood, Institute Director, and Dr Stefano Moncada in the editing and production of the



Institute's annual publication entitled: "Malta's EU Presidency: A Study in a Small State Presidency of the Council of the EU" published by the Malta University Press.

Professor Pace contributed two chapters to this book: "Malta's Presidency of the EU Council: External Relations in the Presidency of a Small State" (pages 75-91) and "Neptune's Turn: Maritime Policy During the Maltese Presidency" (pages 106-118).

During the year he also worked on several other monographs and co-authored publications some of which have appeared and others are in the preparation/printing process (vide list below).

### Other Published Works

- Malta and the European Union" in The Oxford Encyclopedia of European Union Politics. Edited by Finn Laursen (Chief Editor). April. DOI: 10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.013.1114. Accessible at the official web-page.
- <https://oxfordre.com/politics/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.001.0001/acrefore-9780190228637-e-1114>.
- "Malta: Un piccolo Stato insulare sul fronte Migratorio" in De Cesaris Valerio and Diodato Emilio (eds.) *Il Confine Mediterraneo: L' Europa di fronte agli sbarchi dei migrant*. Carocci editori. Italy. ISBN978-88-430-9316-8. Pages 35-56.
- Co-authored with Dr Marcello Carammia, "Malta: Unstoppable Labour?" in Lorenzo De Sio, Mark N. Franklin & Luana Russo (eds.) *The European Parliament Elections of 2019*. LUISS University Press – Pola Srl.. ISBN (print) 978-88-6105-411-0. ISBN (ebook) 978-88-6105-424-0.
- Co-authored with E. Poli, G. Tzogopoulos and A. Pegasiou, "Mediterranean Member States: Italy, Greece, Cyprus and Malta", in Tim Oliver (ed.) *Europe's BREXIT: EU Perspectives on Britain's Vote to Leave*, Agenda Publishing, Newcastle, UK.

### In Line for Publication

With Dr Harwood and Dr Moncada, Professor Pace is co-editing and writing a chapter for the

Institute's second annual publication which is focused on the Future of Europe.

He also completed a chapter entitled "The non-Identical Mediterranean Island States: Cyprus and Malta" to appear in a forthcoming publication *Handbook on the Politics of Small States*, Edward Elgar publishers.

Another chapter which is complete and is with the publishers is entitled "Malta and the Euro-Crisis: Dissecting the Exceptional Case", which forms part of a book on the financial crisis and southern Europe to be published by Palgrave.

With Marcello Carammia, Professor Pace has completed a chapter entitled "Malta: Party Politics in a Small State" which will be appearing in a publication by MacMillan.

### Projects

Professor Pace is the project administrator of an EU funded project entitled *Navigating the Storm: The Challenges of Small States in Europe* (Jean Monnet Network Project co-funded by Erasmus+ programme of the EU) which is led by the University of Iceland (see projects section).

In 2018, Professor Pace has successfully concluded the following two projects:

1. *Small States in Europe: Towards a Cross-Disciplinary Approach*;
2. SMSHealth.eu - European Integration, Small States and Health

Professor Pace is currently working on a project to assess the EU's "Whole of Government Approach" to international crises. It is led by the Brussels based Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) and the Bertelsmann Foundation, Germany.

### 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 MA and BA students.

In the last academic year, Dr. Thede has worked together with Professor Oliver Lorz at RWTH Aachen University on a (one-year) revision of the 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) for the top journal in the research field of International Economics, Journal of International Economics, and continued her work on multinationals, investment and corruption with Associate Professor Patrik Karpaty at Örebro University. At the finalisation stage of the former project, the paper was presented at the European Trade Study Group in Warsaw (September 2019). The latter project is currently at a stage where preliminary evidence is presented at International conferences for feedback. The working paper 'The Effect of Corruption Experience on FDI: Evidence from Swedish Manufacturing Enterprises' has been presented at the Western International Association conference in San Francisco (July 2019) and will be presented at the Swedish Network for European Studies in Economics and Business conference in Lund this fall. In addition, she and Dr Karpaty have initiated the project 'Do Investment Agreements Protect Against Corruption? A Study of Swedish Firms' Foreign Investment Behaviour' facilitated by support from the University's Research Fund (Project ID: EUSRP02-19). As part of her ongoing work, Dr Thede has visited RWTH Aachen University (November 2019) and Örebro University (July 2019).

In the last academic year, Dr Thede has acted as referee for the South African Journal of Economics and the Institute's annual publication. 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 conducted research in the area of EU development policy and climate change, with a focus on Small Island Developing States. He continued his multi-annual project entitled 'Building resilience to climate-sensitive risks in vulnerable communities of small island states', with fieldwork in the Mauritius and Kiribati. This project aims to identify risks from climate change, and possible coping strategies that could be adopted in a small island state context. There isn't sufficient knowledge about the relationship between climate change impacts and development in small island developing states, especially the effects of extreme weather events on livelihoods. A mixed methods approach, inclusive of participatory focus groups, household surveys, and econometric analysis, is being adopted simultaneously in several SIDS in order to assess vulnerabilities of coastal communities, and to profile actions that may strengthen resilience, thereby generating evidence to inform relevant policy, especially at EU level.

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

Presented a paper entitled 'Extreme Weather Events in Small Island Developing States: Challenges to Economic Development among Coastal Communities of Fiji and Mauritius', at the research seminar series 'Ideas in Brown Bags', organised by the Institute for European Studies and the Department of International Relations in November 2018;

Presented a paper entitled 'Exacerbating Poverty: Climate Change Impacts in Coastal Communities of Mauritius', at the University of Mauritius in June 2019;

Attended as Lead Author (LA) the first meeting of the Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC), in Milan from the 4th to the 7th March 2019.

Attended the Executive Committee of the (ExCo) meeting of the European Association of Development and Training Institutes (EADI), on the 4th and the 5th of April, in Ljubljana, hosted by the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Dr Moncada, during the period October 2018 October 2019, published the following material:

Moncada, S. (2019). Democracy in Small States – Persisting against All Odds, The Round Table, DOI: 10.1080/00358533.2019.1658359

Briguglio, L., Vella, M., Moncada, S. (2019). Economic growth and the concept of diminishing marginal governance. Journal of Economic Studies, 46/4. DOI 10.1108/JES-04-2018-0146

Moncada, S., Bambrick, H., and Briguglio, M., (2019) The health impacts of a community biogas facility in an informal Urban settlement: does training matter? Journal of Development Effectiveness, DOI: 10.1080/19439342.2019.1638434

Harwood, M; Moncada, S.; Pace, R. (2018) (eds.) Malta's EU Presidency: A Study in a Small State Presidency of the Council of the EU, Malta University Press, Malta.

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 Stefano Moncada has been selected as a lead author of the Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC), co-leading the chapter on development and economic impacts. The MedECC is working to finalise the first MedECC assessment report (MAR1), moving toward an improved scientific assessment of climate and environmental change and their consequences in the Mediterranean Basin. The MedECC is supported by a series of institutions and international organizations, among which the United Nations Mediterranean Action Plan, the Union for the Mediterranean, the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. More information is

available at the following website <http://www.medecc.org/>

Dr Moncada also coordinated for the Institute for European Studies, for the third 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 (in press in October 2019) of the edited volume entitled 'The Future of the European Union', and currently coordinating the call for contributions for a further publication on a key policy area of the EU.

### **Dr Jean Claude Cachia**

During the academic year 2018/2019 Dr Cachia was responsible for five modules including European Security, Political Parties in Europe, Small States and the EU, Research Methodology and Writing Skills (Undergrad level) and Research Methods (at Masters Level). He was also supervisor of five undergraduate dissertations, and co-supervisor of an MA student from the Department of Public Policy and is also currently supervising two masters dissertations and is serving as co-supervisor of a PhD candidate.

With regards to the administrative work, Dr Cachia was responsible for the Institute's Outreach, the Gozo Seminar and was also in charge of the Undergraduate dissertation coordination. When it comes to the Outreach Coordination, he has organized a number of events alongside Mr. Stefan Bezzina. These included an event on Brexit by Dr. David Jeffery from the University of Liverpool which was held on the 8th November 2018 at the Valletta Campus. Another seminar on migration was held on the 11th April 2019. This seminar saw the participation of Dr. Gemma Bird from the University of Liverpool. Another event was held on the 2nd May 2019 at the Valletta Campus with Prof. Hugh Bochel from the University of Lincoln which dealt with Scotland and Brexit. Other events included a presentation by Mr. Jonathan Vassallo from the PPCD to our students which was held on the 15th February 2019, a discussion with Ms. Claudine Camilleri from EPSO and event held on EU Careers at the Sixth Form and MCAST in Gozo held in April 2019



and the Europe Day events held on Campus and the Quiz Night which was held on the 9th May at the Suq tal-Belt in Valletta.

Dr Cachia has also organized the Gozo Seminar for our final year students which was held at the Manresa retreat house in February 2019. He also worked on the dissertation list which meant finalising the dissertation titles and the board of examiners which were approved in April 2019. Dr Cachia attended the Political Association Conference in Nottingham in April 2019 where he presented a paper with Mr. Andre Debattista on Domestic Politics and regional instability with a case study on Malta. He has also submitted two abstracts. One is based on Juncker's vision on the future of Europe which will be published in the Institute's Journal on the future of Europe and the other co-written with Dr. Mario Vassallo which will be published in the collection of essays titled Public Life in Malta III.

#### **Ms Moira Catania**

Moira Catania lectures in economics and European economic integration. During the academic year 2018-19, she lectured the following study units to under-graduate students: Introductory Micro-Economics for European Studies and European Economic and Monetary Union. She also co-ordinated and lectured in the study unit: Economic and Financial Issues in the Euro Zone, to the Institute's Masters students. She supervised one student for her undergraduate dissertation. During the academic year, Moira Catania continued to coordinate the Institute's placement programme. As from 2018-19,

placement opportunities are being offered also to Masters students. Furthermore, during the year, agreements were signed with three new entities offering new and diverse placement opportunities to students.

During the academic year 2018-19, Moira Catania's research effort was focused on completing her PhD thesis on: Budget Institutions in the Euro Area – quality of budget institutions, legislative budgeting and implications for fiscal discipline, which she carried out under the supervision of Dr M.J. Baimbridge and Dr I. Litsios at the University of Bradford, UK. In October 2018, she presented her research work in the 6th Annual International Conference on Law, Economics and Politics (AICLEP), organised by FLE Learning, held in Oxford, UK. In June 2019, she also presented her work at the Doctoral Research Conference organised by the Faculty of Management, Law and Social Sciences of the University of Bradford, UK. Moira Catania submitted her thesis in April 2019. Subsequently, she successfully defended her thesis in August 2019 and the examiners awarded a pass without corrections.

During the year, Moira Catania 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. She participated in events organised by the European Commission representation in Malta, regarding the 2019 Country Report for Malta and the future Cohesion Policy Funding in Malta, as well as in a discussion on the economic, social and environmental sustainability of Malta's growth model.