



L-Università ta' Malta
Institute for European Studies

Institute for European Studies Newsletter

October 2020 | Issue 21

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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. The academic year 2019-2020 was an interesting one for the global community, the country and the Institute and while we delivered on our teaching and research, COVID-19 represented a particular challenge for all concerned. That said, this last academic year has not been only about COVID and will also be noted for;

- The intake of students on the Bachelor, MA and PhD programmes continued to be consistently high and the Institute remains the largest Institute at the University of Malta.
- For a 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. Due to COVID-19, many of its activities had to be postponed but will be held in the next academic year.
- The Institute's second annual publication, *The Future of Europe; Demisting the Debate*, was published in February 2020. The book comprises a discussion of the future of Europe debate by focusing upon the theoretical, institutional and policy dimensions of the debate and comprises 12 chapters. The book is edited by Dr Harwood, Dr Moncada and Prof Pace.
- As announced in the previous academic year, the Institute was to be the partner institution of the European International Studies Association's 2020 annual conference. The conference was to be the biggest academic conference held in Malta and was to run from 15 to 19 September. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference had to be postponed and is now scheduled for September 2021.
- The Quality Assurance Committee conducted a Mock Audit exercise with the Institute, holding a series of meetings in 2020. The exercise was an opportunity for us to reflect on how we organise our work and measure our achievements and provided a list of recommendations which we will carry forward.
- On a sad note, the Institute said farewell to Ms Anna Saliba, our Student Officer. After many years of faithful service to the University and nearly 2 decades of work in the Institute, Anna retired in July 2020. She will be sorely missed.
- On a positive note, the Institute welcomed a new member of the academic staff, Mr Andre Debattista. Mr Debattista will be teaching *Agenda Setting, European Culture and Identity* as well as *Malta-EU Relations*.
- Finally, COVID-19 necessitated many meetings, discussions, ad hoc changes and reflections during 2020. Academics had to start teaching online, administrative staff had to start working remotely. The Director would like to conclude this introduction with a note of thanks to the staff of the Institute who have been extraordinary in their commitment and hard work and who accommodated the 'new normal' of 2020 with aplomb.



Dr Mark Harwood, Director

COVID-19 and its Impact on our Work

In March 2020 the country entered a period of social distancing in an attempt to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus that was sweeping across parts of Europe. By the time of the introduction of these measures, nearly a month had passed into the second semester and we had been able to conduct several weeks of teaching, organised our book launch and also took our third year students to Gozo for the annual dissertation workshop.

However, as we moved into March it became clear that the measures being introduced would necessitate some significant changes in our work. Throughout, we were guided by the Government's measures, which included the physical closure of all educational entities, as well as the University's directives.

The measures adopted by us included;

- As we moved to online teaching, academics were asked to switch all teaching to online platforms which necessitated training. Students were kept informed of how lectures would be conducted and a system was devised to monitor that all teaching was being delivered. By the end of the semester we had ensured that all teaching had continued and student feedback was very positive.
- As we switched to online teaching we also had to evaluate the assessment process as we use a mixed range of assessment tools, especially in the second and third year. The decision was taken to continue with all non-exam assessments, such as posters and presentations. While we had initially taken a decision to stick with exams, it became clear that this represented a problem, especially the fact that some students might not have the quiet spaces in which to sit exams. To this end, we decided to shift all exams to assignments and to extend the deadline for submission of assignments into June.
- The deadline for the dissertations was also extended due to the additional written work which the assignments represented.

- In addition to the change in assessments, we also introduced new systems for coordinating the moderation process and arranged for moderators to have access to VLE so as to be able to moderate the assessments submitted.
- Throughout the period of lockdown, the Institute remained open. The Director was in attendance daily and there was a rotation system to ensure that administrative staff were also at the Institute on alternate days in the week.
- While many of these measures were temporary, from student feedback it appears that everything was managed well and there were only minimal problems.
- While several activities had to be cancelled, especially those related to our EDIC, some events were shifted online, as with the Europe Day Slogan Competition.
- To minimise the potential for spreading infections, the Institute installed a new letterbox near its entrance, solely for the posting of medical certificates. This will remain after COVID measures and should ensure that students who were previously ill do not have to enter the premises simply to submit a medical certificate.



IES entrance

Anna Saliba – A Note of Appreciation

In July 2020 the Institute bid a sad farewell to one of its longest serving members of staff, Ms Anna Saliba. Anna was with the Institute for nearly two decades and was, for the 850 alumni and our staff, the daily face of the Institute. Anna, with diligence and hard work, was a generous Student Officer who was always ready to help and guide the students. As Director of the Institute, I always found her an invaluable member of staff, coordinating our administrative work and reminding me in a timely manner when things had slipped my mind. Anna would often send reminders from home or while on vacation to remind me of pending items. Her dedication to the Institute and its students was exemplary and while she will be much missed, I am sure we will continue her sterling work – the Institute has never been just one individual and it has always been a team of academic and administrative staff working in close synergy. In our administrative offices Anna worked closely with Carmen, Stefan and Stephania and their hard work continues and while we all miss the fact that Anna is not here on a daily basis, we all wish her well for her much deserved retirement.



(Left to Right) Dr Susanna Thede, Mr Stefan Bezzina, Ms Anna Saliba, Dr Jean Claude Cachia,, Ms Carmen Zammit, Dr Mark Harwood, Dr Moira Catania, Ms Stephania Vella, Dr Stefano Moncada, Prof Roderick Pac.

Annual publication of the Institute for European Studies

In 2020 we published our second book from the series 'Annual Publication of the Institute for European Studies', entitled 'The Future of the

European Union – Demisting the Debate'. This edited volume includes 14 original contributions, featuring a foreword by Giles Merrit, an introduction by the co-editors Dr. Mark Harwood, Dr. Stefano Moncada and Prof Roderick Pace.

The remaining 12 chapters include contributions from international renowned scholars, and emerging authors. The Institute for European Studies has made available, freely accessible, the whole publication, and the single individual chapters, via the institutional repository of the University of Malta

(<https://www.um.edu.mt/library/oar/handle/123456789/52313>).

The book launch was held on 13th February 2020 at the Central Bank in Valletta with an introduction by the Pro-Rector, Prof. Carmen Sammut, the key speech by His Excellency Walter Hassmann, German Ambassador to Malta, with a concluding address by the Pro-Rector Prof Godfrey Baldacchino.

The book includes chapters on:

Decoupling and Federalizing: Europe after the Multiple Crises
Sergio Fabbrini

Portrait of a Union: Redrawing a Sketch of the Whole
Dimitris N. Chrysochoou

The Future of the EU in Jean-Claude Juncker's State of the Union Speeches
Jean Claude Cachia

The Future of Europe: The View from Strasbourg During the 'Future of Europe' Debate
Mark Harwood

Europe in the World 95 Chapter Five The EU's Role in the World Trading System
Richard W.T. Pomfret

The Arab Spring and the Post-Arab Spring (2011–19): An Assessment of the European Response
Bichara Khader

The Future of European Security and Defence:
Keeping the Americans in?
Valentina Cassar

The Future of EU Defence and inter-Parliamentary
Co-operation
Roderick Pace

EU Cybersecurity Governance – Stakeholders and
Normative Intentions towards Integration
Agnes Kasper

Towards a ‘Cyber Maastricht’: Two Steps Forward,
One Step Back
Agnes Kasper & Vlad Alex Vernygora

The Steps from Dublin III to Dublin IV
Amelia Martha Matera

EU Integration and Policy (In)coherence towards
Irregular Migration
Nadia Petroni



Book launch
**The Future of the European Union –
demisting the debate**

13 February 2020 | 18:00
Binja Laparelli, Central Bank of Malta, Valletta



The event flyer



The Director addressing the book launch

On 20th July 2020 the Institute visited the President at San Anton Palace to present His Excellency with a copy of the book. Dr Harwood, Prof Pace, Dr Moncada and Mr Bezzina spent an hour discussing the book and various topics of international relations with His Excellency, Dr George Vella.



(Left to Right) Mr Stefan Bezzina, Prof Roderick Pace, His Excellency Dr George Abela, Dr Mark Harwood and Dr Stefano Moncada

Preparations for the European International Studies Association Annual Conference 2020

As outlined in 2019 Newsletter, the European International Studies Association decided to hold their 2020 annual conference in Malta. The Institute is the local partner in the organisation of this event which will represent the largest academic conference on campus and place Malta firmly on the map of the political science summer conference map. As one would expect with such a huge endeavour, preparations began in earnest in 2018/2019 and continued throughout the last

academic year. Preparations focused on three interrelated levels:

- The logistics of organising the conference, including the reservation of rooms, finding venues outside campus, ensuring IT support, childcare, catering. Much of this work is being undertaken in conjunction with Lucienne Bugeja, Operations and Events Manager. This has involved meetings with Scheduling, IT, KSU, Childcare, Precincts.
- Academic cooperation, including a series of meetings with International Relations, Public Policy, MEDAC, Conflict Resolution and Comparative and European Law. The aim was to ensure that everyone was involved in the preparations and that this was seen as a university-wide initiative and not just an Institute initiative.
- One of the main obligations will be to ensure a number of student volunteers to help with the conference. To this end, we communicated with degree+ to have those participating in the conference recognised and also sent our emails asking for volunteers, with an orientation meeting originally scheduled for June 2020.
- Beyond the coordinating work within University, we also established contacts with the public service in the hope that the Government would help support this conference.
- In December Prof Beate Jahn, President of EISA, and representatives of the Czech organising company visited Malta and the Institute organised a series of meetings across campus. These included a meeting with the Rector and the Rro-Rectors Sammut and Baldacchino.



Prof Jahn meeting the Rector, Prof. Vella

Meetings were also held with all the support staff, the Institute staff, the other departments participating as well as meetings with government representatives.

- In April Dr Harwood held a series of meetings with the organising committee and informed them that it would be difficult to host the event in 2020 as envisaged, especially as the university was being used to provide temporary space to the Medical School and the hospital. It was decided to postpone the 2020 conference, as was happening with all international conferences. The conference will now be held in September 2021.



The online portal for the conference

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 third and 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.

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 Walk-In Centre on campus

Dissertation Events

11th Gozo Seminar (18-19 February 2020)

The dissertation seminar for final year Bachelor of European Studies students was held at Manresa House in Gozo on 18 and 19 February 2020. 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. 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 also. 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 the Gozo Seminar

2020 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 November 2019 the Institute was proud to present the best dissertation awards for the BA and MA programmes. This year, Ms Tamara Schembri was given the award for the BA programme.



Tamara Schembri receiving her award from Dr Harwood

On the MA programme, the award went to Mr Nigel Mifsud.



Nigel Mifsud receiving his award from Dr Harwood

Events – IES and EDIC(UoM)

EDIC Annual General Meeting (Prague, 10th-11th October 2019)

Themed, 'A Union that strives for more', the Annual General Meeting for managers of Europe Direct Information Centres (EDICs) across the EU was held in Prague on the 10 and 11 October.



(Left to right) Joe Scibberas (MEUSAC), Stefan Bezzina (EDC), Marlene Muscat (EDIC-Gozo), Julia Abid (European Commission Representation to Malta)

Joe Sciberras, manager of EDIC Valletta, hosted by MEUSAC, participated in the Meeting together with some 450 EDIC managers from across the EU to hear about and to discuss the priorities to be taken into consideration by EDICs when developing the Communication Plan for 2020. They also had the time to share best practices in communicating EU policies and actions in EU towns and regions.

The highlight of the Meeting was the political guidelines of the president-elect of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen. These priorities for the next European Commission were identified by citizens across Europe through Citizens' Dialogues, Eurobarometer surveys and in the run-up to the European Elections held in May this year. Participants were briefed on the preparations for the flagship initiative of the European Commission for the next two years – the Conference on Europe – and on the latest development in EU policies such as climate action, security, migration, trade, citizens' engagement and civic ownership, as well as the promotion of teaching and learning about the EU at all levels of education.

During the Meeting, the other two EDICs in Malta were represented by Marlene Muscat (EDIC Gozo) and Stefan Bezzina (EDIC University), accompanied by Julia Abid from the European Commission Representation in Malta. The three Maltese EDIC managers also joined forces to showcase their operations in Malta by setting up the Maltese stand at an exhibition of different

initiatives that are being taken by EDICs in all EU countries.

European Skills Week (23rd October 2019)

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 2019.

This was the second 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.



Advertising screens



Seminar participants



Dr Harwood addressing the seminar

Ancient Greek Words for a Late-Modern Union? (5th December 2019)

EDIC University and the Institute for European Studies hosted Professor Dimitris Chrysochoou (University of Athens) for a public lecture about Ancient Greek concepts and how they apply to our modern interpretation of European Integration. The public talk was well attended and included the Greek Ambassador. The ideas discussed by Prof Chrysochoou were based on his chapter in the Institute's second annual publication. In his chapter Prof. Chrysochoou discusses the European Union and ideas of the demos and illustrated how the Ancient Greek ideas of a demos are not so distant from the Union we already have.



Poster advertising the event



Prof Chryssochoou addressing the event

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Working for the European Union – Career Ambassadors

Speaker: Ms Faith Spearing, EU Careers Ambassador
Ms Abigail Mizzi

Date: Wednesday 3rd April

Time: 12:00 to 13:00

Venue: European Documentation Centre,
Institute for European Studies, UoM

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Working for the European Union – a career in Brussels

Speaker: Ms Faith Spearing, EU Careers Ambassador

Date: Wednesday 1st April

Time: 12:00 to 13:00

Venue: European Documentation Centre,
Institute for European Studies, UoM

FIND OUT WHAT NEW OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE

TIME TO START YOUR EU CAREER

Events under COVID-19

A series of events were scheduled for March-May 2020 but had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. Below is a selection of the posters which were made to advertise the events. Some events were cancelled well in advance and so no posters are available. In particular we had scheduled to hold a public talk on Artificial Intelligence and the EU as well as an exhibition on the 25th Anniversary of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Barcelona Process). The panels for this exhibition were finalised and the hope is to hold the exhibition at a later date. The Institute had also planned to hold its annual Quiz Night on 9th May, to celebrate Europe Day, as well as participate in the Europe Day events which were due to be held by JEF.

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europa direct
University of Malta

Opportunities for Improved Relations between the EU and ASEAN

Speaker: Prof. Marissa Paderon

Date: Wednesday 3rd April, 12:00 to 13:00
(including reception)

Venue: European Documentation Centre,
Institute for European Studies, UoM

Register at edic@um.edu.mt

Europe Day 2020 Events

As part of the work plan for the Europe Direct Information Centre (University of Malta) and the European Documentation Centre, which are both hosted within the Institute for European Studies (University of Malta), a slogan competition was held in May 2020. The original aim had been to organise this event on campus during the week preceding Europe Day with online ads (through social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram). The intention was to announce the winner during the Europe Day food market organised by JEF on 8th May. Due to the closure of campus the event had to shift online.

A series of ads ran during the week preceding 9th May, including paid adverts on Facebook which were then shared across Instagram. Arrangements were also made with student organisations (JEF, European Studies Organisation, the Law Students Organisation) for these adverts to be shared. A final computation by Facebook indicated that our paid adverts reached over 10,000 people.

The winning entry, with the most likes, was Kimberly Laus.



Kimberly Laus with her winning entry

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 was 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.

During 2019/2020, 17 undergraduate students undertook placements as part of their academic programme. The placements were carried out in 11 different entities, namely the European Parliament Office in Malta, the Ministry for Finance and Financial Services, the Planning and Priorities Co-ordination Division, MEUSAC, the Malta Chamber of SMEs, the Malta Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ernst and Young, Zaar

Crowdfunding platform, the European Direct Information Centre within the Institute for European Studies, the NGO SKOP as well as research and other work under the supervision of two resident academics of the Institute.

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 at the Malta Chamber of Commerce Experience – Jake Agius

My experience at the Malta Chamber of Commerce was very rewarding and surpassed my expectations. Being introduced into the career world, especially into the world of EU policy, business lobbying and the Maltese economic sector was a step forward in my career. It has opened my path towards a career in public policy and procurement which, personally, I had never considered. Although the COVID-19 pandemic limited my placement, forcing telework to take over, it also gave me the opportunity to take into consideration future work prospects whereby telework will be much more prominent.

The Chamber of Commerce is one of the leading voices for the private sector's interests, taking a stance in representing companies from all economic sectors. It was interesting to see this leading position being taken, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, where companies were left distraught at the confusion surrounding government schemes and benefits as enterprises had to shut down. The Chamber took careful consideration of these companies' concerns, and regularly undertook surveys and data polls for businesses to answer so as to gather the data and be able to present it to government officials. I also came across this data first-hand, and have had to

compile and assemble it in simpler format for the general public.

The work being done at the Chamber is extensive and all ties in together. For the majority of my work I had the opportunity to go over policy briefings and create presentations for major committees of the Chamber. These were all important in helping the Chamber achieve its goals, representing economic interests; thus analysing these policies was an essential task, which also inclined me towards pursuing a career path in public policy. For this, I have the placement opportunity to thank.

Apart from being immersed into the daily work, I also came across the Chamber's Master Course in Procurement and Competition Law, a course which involved most of the elements of what I had been studying at University. My mentor allowed me to take part in this course after having done my assigned tasks for the day. It helped me gain a better insight into competition law through the eyes of stakeholders and business entrepreneurs, all of which provided different examples and solutions to the issues at hand.

Personally, I truly recommend taking part in this placement at the Chamber of Commerce because it mentally prepares you for your career after University. Being able to say that I experienced the work done at the Chamber of Commerce is a privilege for me. I sincerely hope I will one day be returning to work with the Chamber of Commerce.



Jake Aguis

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 2019/2020:

First semester –

Annalise Xerri - Tampere University, Finland

Second semester –

Miguel Curmi - University of Limerick, Ireland

Nicholas Cauchi - University of Limerick, Ireland

Alexander Deeley - University of Mannheim, Germany

Claire Micallef - University of Warsaw, Poland

Chantelle Sammut - Università di Bologna, Italy

Kelly Xuereb - University of Warsaw, Poland

Jurgen Xerri - University of Warsaw, Poland

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the students travelling in the second semester faced serious problems as to whether they should remain abroad or return to Malta. This decision was also complicated by the fact that some overseas universities took time to shift to online learning while others were not clear as to how students would be assessed at the end of the semester.

International Exchange Programme – Finia Lisette Kampe

The world is exciting and I want to explore it - this was my first thought when hearing about the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP), which the University of Malta takes part in. I immediately decided to apply and was hoping that I would be given the opportunity to study

European Studies from an outside-of-Europe perspective.

On the day that I was leaving for an Erasmus+ semester to Tallinn, I received the acceptance letter for my semester abroad with ISEP. After consulting with the institute of European Studies, the amount of universities to choose from was limited - European Studies was apparently not a common subject at higher education institutions outside of Europe. Yet, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) offered a variety of classes suitable to my studies, hence becoming my first choice and the university I would eventually be attending. After applying for a student visa and having to go through slightly intimidating interviews at the American Embassy in Malta, I finally received the approval and was ready to go.

Arriving in a humid and incredibly hot North Carolina in mid-August after travelling for more than 15 hours literally took my breath away. Since I arrived late at night, my dorm was already closed and calling the janitor to open the door on the number provided would not work with a European cell phone. After running around an unfamiliar (and incredibly huge) campus, I found someone to open my room and finally got some sleep. Even though the first hours were somewhat turbulent, I settled in quickly, thanks to various welcome meetings and help from my American roommates.

The first tour around campus made me realize that almost all students (20,000) live together in dorms; in my case this meant four girls living in an apartment with a shared bathroom and kitchen, yet separate sleeping rooms. On campus, I found a massive gym, swimming pool, boulder area, as well as various tennis courts, football, softball and soccer fields, animating me to keep active while trying sports that are more popular in the United States.

Academically, the classes I attended and the professors undoubtedly fulfilled my expectations. Hearing different, even critical opinions on the EU not only broadened my knowledge and awareness of the topic but also provided me with the opportunity to give my classmates insights on a more pro-European view. Even though the classes

and examinations at UNCG are structured differently than in Malta, I felt that my home university had prepared me well for this challenge. What made the exchange even more appealing was discovering the culture of the Southern States and its many travel opportunities. As Greensboro is located close to the Appalachian Mountains and half-way between Atlanta and Washington DC, there were plenty of options for travelling, as well as other exchange students to travel with. The other part of the “full American college experience” was also present: football games, fraternity parties and, specific for North Carolina, cowboys that teach one to line dance.

While talking to my fellow exchange students, I realized the advantages that ISEP and the University of Malta provided me with on this exchange: free housing, a free meal plan and a generous grant for the flights. None of the other students had the financial support that I received from this program on my exchange. Thank you for making this highly successful experience possible.



Finia Lisette Kampe

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

For the fourth 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 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, Dr Angela Maria Pennisi di Floristella and Prof. James Sater, from the Department of International Relations.

The following research seminars have been organised in the academic year 2019-2020:

- 'Closing loopholes rather than closing space? State regulation of norm promotion in the European Neighbourhood', presenter Dr. Anna Khakee, discussant Dr. Stefano Moncada;
- 'A study in the visual narrative of the European Parliament advertising poster campaigns for the European Elections from 1974 to 2014', presenter Mr. Fabrizio Ellul, discussant Dr. Stefano Moncada;

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak two seminars involving foreign guest speakers were postponed, and two further seminars involving PhD students were deferred.

The European Documentation Centre

Academic year 2019/20 was a different year than usual for the European Documentation Centre (herein after EDC) due to the Covid-19 situation in Malta. The academic year started with the EDC Manager participating in the EDC Pan European Working Group (PEWG) 2019 ((Seville, 26-27th September 2019). The topic of this PEWG was outreach activities and how to improve citizen dialogues.

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 before the outbreak of the pandemic situation. 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 in the Institute's book launch organized on 13th February 2020.

As for the EDC as a library, it kept its extended opening hours during semester one and was well attended by students both undergraduate and postgraduate. The EDC had to close its doors in March 2020 due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 virus in order to adhere with the university's closure to the public. The EDC will keep following the University's guidelines regarding its opening to the public.

The EDC also extended its book collection and its book loan service by adding more titles and making them available for loan. More books will be purchased by the end of 2020.

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 2020/21.

EDC Activities:

EDC Pan European Working Group (PEWG) 2019 (Seville, 26-27th September 2019)

EDC managers from various member states met in Seville in September 2019. The objectives of the PEWG on outreach were as follows:

- To motivate and support the EDC network to develop its outreach potential; organise activities and engage in debates with the academic community;
- To give impetus to the EDC training and invite PEWG members to participate in workshops/panel discussions on outreach activities in the Florence EDC Training for the entire EDC network, 1-2 December 2019;
- To contribute to the final report with Recommendations and good practices on outreach activities.

EU Projects

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

In the past three years, Professor Roderick Pace has participated in the Jean Monnet Project, Navigating the Storm, led by the University of Iceland and involving several other institutions of research and higher learning including 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 lead partner was the Centre for Small State Studies at the University of Iceland. The project has now been completed and a book is in preparation based on its results.

The second workshop of the project was hosted by the Institute for European Studies of the University of Malta on 27 September 2018 entitled "Small States and the Political Upheavals Related to Immigration". It convened at the Valletta University Campus. The workshop was organized as an open event giving the civil society and policy makers, as well as the academic community, direct access to the network and the research conducted by the partners. In conjunction with the Malta workshop the network hosted a closed roundtable for young researchers. The young researchers who participated were: Danila Rijavec, University of Ljubljana; and Akis Karatrandos, Aegean University, Rhodes. Professor Pace has written two chapters for a book which will be published this year by Palgrave and which have already been accepted for publication and are in the editing/preparatory stage.

The chapters cover the integration of migrants in the EU and migration policy in Malta (both add to around 17,000 words including bibliographies). In October 2018, as part of the project, Professor Pace finalized a curriculum on the study of migration and small states (12,000 words) which now needs updating.

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 and attended all Board meetings held in 2019/2020. Dr Harwood taught 4 undergraduate study units in 2019/2020 (EST 1030, 2140, 2234, 2236), mentored on EST 2223, taught 2 postgraduate study units (EST 5470, 5480), supervised 12 undergraduate dissertations (6 final year students, 6 second-year students), 2 MA dissertations and 1 PhD dissertation. Dr Harwood is also coordinator of the undergraduate programme as well as EDIC Manager. In 2019/2020 he also participated in the assessment of various MA dissertations across university and as an additional examiner for other programmes.

Dr Harwood's work in 2019/2020 was dominated by two separate events. The first relates to the organisation of EISA's 2020 annual conference, which was due to be held in Malta in September 2020. This event involved significant organisational preparations throughout the academic year and even though the event was eventually postponed, much of the groundwork was achieved in this year. In this way, meetings were held with various academic entities as well as administrative and support bodies to ensure that everyone was briefed on the conference and the requirements. Students were contacted and press releases issued to try and ensure that there was enough student interest for the volunteer scheme needed during the conference. Dr Harwood accompanied Prof Beate and her team when they visited Malta in December and also held extensive meetings in March and April to decide whether the conference should continue, as planned, in September 2020. While the conference has had to be postponed, Dr Harwood expressed his satisfaction that the hard work invested by all was not wasted. A special note of thanks must be given to Ms Carmen Zammit who assisted Dr Harwood throughout.

The second event related to COVID-19 and the extra coordination needed throughout the second semester to ensure that all teaching, all administrative procedures, all supervision shifted online. While Dr Harwood continued to be present on campus daily to ensure the full coordination of these unprecedented events, he expressed his sincere thanks to the administrative staff and all lecturers for making the transition a smooth one.

In 2019/2020 Dr Harwood published (or finalised) the following papers:

Harwood, Mark (2020) 'From Euroscepticism to Euro-enthusiasm: How Malta Weathered the Financial Crisis', *South European Society and Politics*, doi.org/10.1080/13608746.1746542

Harwood, M (2020) 'Bucking the Trend - How Malta Turned its Back on Euroscepticism' in *Euroscepticism and the Future of Europe*, Pollack, J.; Schmidt, P.; Kaeding, M. (2020) (eds.). Palgrave Macmillan, UK.

Harwood, M., Moncada, S., Pace, R. (eds.) (2020) *The Future of Europe: Demisting the Debate*. Institute for European Studies, Malta.

Harwood, Mark (2020) 'The View from Strasbourg of the 'Future of Europe' Debate', chapter in Harwood, M., Moncada, S., Pace, R. (eds.) (2020) *The Future of Europe: Demisting the Debate*. Institute for European Studies, Malta.

Harwood, Mark; Cachia, Jean Claude; Ellul, Fabrizio; Sammut, Carmen (2020) 'Malta and the 2019 EP Elections – Maximising popular engagement with 'Europe'', *Review of Economics and Political Science*, doi.org/10.1108/REPS-02-2020-0032

Harwood, Mark (2020) 'Europeanization and Language: the impact of EU language status on Maltese', *Journal of Contemporary European Studies* (awaiting publication)

Harwood, Mark (2020) 'Small, Neutral and Mediterranean: the impact of BREXIT on Malta', paper prepared for the IPSA 24th World Congress of Political Science, 25-29 July 2020, Lisbon,

Portugal. The conference has been postponed to 2021 but the paper has been completed.

Harwood, M. (2020) 'Malta and the Benefits of Centralised Politics' in *Government Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic*, Jensen, M; Kluth, M; and Lynggaard, K (eds.). Palgrave, UK (awaiting publication)

Harwood, M. (2020) 'Solidarity as the Small State Mantra for Malta's EU Membership' in *European Solidarity and the Future of Europe: Views from the Capitals*, Kaeding, M; Pollak, J; Schmidt, P. (eds.) Palgrave, UK (awaiting publication).

In 2019/2020 Dr Harwood participated/attended the following conferences/events:

Delivered a speech on the EU and Vocational Education at the EDIC event organised on 23rd October 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'.

From 28th to 31st October Dr Harwood visited the University of Iceland as part of the Erasmus+ programme. He spent a week in Iceland teaching at the University's Institute of International Affairs and gave a series of talks on small states, Malta and the impact of Brexit, amongst others. He also discussed opportunities for future collaboration and participated in a public talk on Malta's membership of the European Union.

Participated in the #TranslatingEurope Workshop organised by DG Translation and the Commission Representation to Malta on 23rd November 2019. Organised the Book Launch of the Institute's second annual publication. Launched on 13th February 2020 at the Central Bank of Malta. The book, 'The Future of Europe: demisting the debate' was opened by Prof Carmen Sammut and closed by Prof. Godfrey Baldacchino with the guest speaker being the German Ambassador.

In May 2020 Dr Harwood participated in the publication launch of the book *Mapping the Rainbow: researching the diverse colours of the*

LGBTIQ community, a joint publication of the Department of Gender and Sexualities (Faculty of Social Wellbeing), MGRM, the Ministry for Justice, Equality and Governance and the Institute's EDIC. Dr Harwood chaired the panel on international cooperation and LGBTIQ rights.

In September 2020 Dr Harwood participated in the European Parliament Office event, 'Imagine Europe'. The online event comprised a discussion involving MEPs, academics and civil society on the future of Europe debate. Dr Harwood was part of the second panel involving academics.

As part of the Institute's role as an EDIC, Dr Harwood continued to assume more of responsibilities for the EDIC, acting as manager, answering queries, organising events (with help from Dr Jean Claude Cachia and Mr Stefan Bezzina). As part of this role, Dr Harwood attends monthly EDIC meetings in Valletta as well as training events abroad.

Professor Roderick Pace

In the academic year 2019-20, Professor Pace continued to lead the Institute's Ph.D. programme. He was also served as a member of the Board of the Institute for European Studies and the Board of the Islands and Small States Institute (ISSI) and a member of the editorial team of the Journal South European Society and Politics published by Routledge. He taught a number of study-units and supervised dissertations on the Bachelor and Masters degrees in European Studies courses offered by the Institute, continued to supervise and co-supervisor three Ph.D. students. He also taught a course on the Institutions of the EU at the University Gozo Campus and lectured a group of visiting students from Luther College, Iowa, USA. Prof Pace sat on examining boards of other faculties/institutes as requested. He maintained links with Euromesco, the network of Euro-Mediterranean Security Institutes of which the Institute has been a member since its inception and with the Trans-European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA) of which the Institute is also a member. He also finalized his contribution to a trans-national EU funded project (NAS) led by the University of Iceland and submitted two

chapters for the publication of a book on the project's research outcome which will appear in 2020.

Professor Pace was a member of the editorial board of the Institute's annual publication *The Future of the European Union: Demisting the Debate* and wrote one of the book's chapters and co-edited the introduction (vide below).

Publications

1. Co-edited with Mark Harwood and Stefano Moncada, *The Future of the European Union: Demisting the Debate*, BDL, Institute for European Studies, 2020. 243 pages.
2. "The Future of EU Defence and Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation" in Harwood, Moncada & Pace (eds.) (2000). Pages 147-165.
3. "Malta" in Bertelsmann Stiftung (ed.) (2000). *Europe's Coherence Gap in External Crisis and Conflict Management: Political Rhetoric and Institutional Practices in the EU and its Member States*. Verlag Bertelsmann Stiftung. Pages 245-254.
4. "Dissecting the Exceptional Case: Malta" (2000) in Morlino Leonardo and Sottilotta C. M. (eds.) (2000) *The Politics of the Eurozone Crisis in Southern Europe: A Comparative Reappraisal*. Palgrave Macmillan. Pages 109-130.
5. "The Non-Identical Mediterranean Island States: Cyprus and Malta" in Baldacchino G. and Wivel A. (eds.) *Handbook of the Politics of Small States*. Edward Elgar Publishers, 2020. Pages 131-149.

Two other chapters on migration in a book to be published by Palgrave this year will be recorded as soon as they are published. They have been submitted, refereed and accepted, and are in the editing stage.

Dr Susanna Thede

Dr Susanna Thede was on sabbatical the first semester of this academic year, which she used to progress research in ongoing projects, initiate new research projects and extend her international research collaboration. Concentrated effort was placed on ongoing research projects on the political-economy foundations of tariff

negotiations in the World Trade Organisation (joint with Professor Oliver Lorz at Department of International Economics, RWTH Aachen University, Germany) and the dynamic investment behaviour of multinational firms (joint with Associate Professor Patrik Karpaty at Örebro University School of Business, Sweden).

Three new research projects were initiated. In a project with Professor Richard Pomfret at International Trade Institute, University of Adelaide, Dr Thede will investigate political-economy implications of the prospective EU-Australia Trade agreement. Professor Pomfret has previously visited the Institute for European Studies to provide guest lectures, public talks and contribute to the Institute's annual publication. An application for ERASMUS+ funding was made to deepen and extend this collaboration through a bilateral staff exchange. In a project led by Professor Lars Persson at Research Institute of Industrial Economics, Sweden, she will contribute to research how FDI by multinational business groups can promote a sustainable restructuring process in host countries and how transfers of new green technologies are affected by host country institutions. A funding application for this project has been submitted to the Swedish Research Council. Work was also initiated on a project investigating the civilising commerce hypothesis, which states that stronger trade exposure improves institutional quality. The project aim is to test this hypothesis, and if it can be validated, draw upon theoretical models in the field to identify underlying determinants. Funding for this project was received from the UoM Research Seed Fund 2020. In November, Dr Thede became an affiliated researcher at Örebro University School of Business, Sweden, which allows her to share resources not available at UoM, better communicate research outcomes and strengthen her international network. This further enhances the visibility of research performed at UoM and introduces opportunities for deeper UoM/ORU collaboration. Dr Thede also published the policy brief "Taking Stock of Brexit" in the Institute's series (3/2020).

She participated in the annual conference of the Swedish Network for European Studies in Economics and Business in Lund to present the

working paper 'The Effect of Corruption Experience on FDI: Evidence from Swedish Manufacturing Enterprises' (joint with Patrik Karpaty) and went on a research collaboration visit to Örebro University School of Business in November. Unfortunately, other planned research visits and conference participation had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak. She will present her work at the European Economic Association on-line conference in August.

During the academic year, she worked as supervisor and mentor and taught several study units (using interactive on-line teaching methods after the COVID-19 outbreak). She also acted as BA exams and dissertation coordinator and as board member of the Institute's PhD committee and the Institute Board. Dr Thede also acted as referee for the Open Economies Review. She is a member of the European Economic Association and her work is listed on ORCID, 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. To this end a series of three papers, co-authored, were submitted to international specialized journals and are, at the moment of writing, under review.

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

- 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 March 2020, hosted by the Secretariat online.
- Attended as Lead Author (LA) an online meeting of the Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC), on the 25th March 2020.
- Presented a paper entitled 'Exacerbating Poverty: Climate Change Impacts in Coastal Communities of Mauritius', at an online conference held by the University of Mauritius on the 1st of May 2020;

Dr Moncada, during the period October 2019 May 2020, published the following material:

- Leal Filho, W., Barbir, J., Nagy, G. J., Sima, M., Kalbus, A., Paletta, A., Villamizar, A., Martinez, R., Azeiteiro, U., Pereira, M., Mussetta, P., Ivars, J., Baltazar Andrade Guerra, J., da Silva Neiva, S., Moncada, S., Galdies, C., Klavins, M., Nikolova, M., Radu Gogu, C., Lateef Balogun, A., Bouredji A., Bonoli, A., Barbir, J. (2020). Reviewing the role of ecosystems services in the sustainability of the urban environment: A multi-country analysis. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 121338. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2020.121338>
- Harwood, M., Moncada, S., and Pace, R (eds) (2020). *The Future of European Union*

– *Demisting the Debate*. University of Malta. BDL Publishing.

- Pace, R., Harwood, M., and Moncada, S (2020). Europe's Lifelong Companion? The Debate on the Future of Europe. In Harwood, M., Moncada, S., and Pace, R (eds). *The Future of European Union – Demisting the Debate*. University of Malta. BDL Publishing.
- Moncada, S. & Bambrick, H. (2019): Extreme weather events in Small Island Developing States: barriers to climate change adaptation among coastal communities in a remote island of Fiji. In: Klöck, C. & Fink, M. (eds.): *Dealing with climate change on small islands: towards effective and sustainable adaptation?* (pp. 217–247). Göttingen: Göttingen University Press. <https://doi.org/10.17875/gup2019-1218> <https://univerlag.uni-goettingen.de/handle/3/isbn-978-3-86395-435-2.10>
- Briguglio, L., & Moncada, S. (2019). The Benefits and Downsides of Multidisciplinary Education Relating to Climate Change. In *Climate Change and the Role of Education* (pp. 169-187). Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-32898-6_10 <https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783030328979#>

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) in 2016, and in 2020 promoted to Coordinating Lead Author (CLA) for 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 continued to represent the Institute for European Studies in the European Association of Development and Training Institutes (EADI), co-convenor of the working group 'Climate-Resilient Development and Transformational Change', under which he has been organizing a series of online webinars in preparation for the upcoming 2021 EADI general conference organized in The Hague.

Dr Jean Claude Cachia

I was employed by the University of Malta in October 2015. During the academic year 2019/2020 I 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). I was also supervisor of eight undergraduate dissertations, and I am currently supervising three masters dissertations and co-supervising a PhD candidate.

With regards to the administrative work, I was the Gozo seminar and MA coordinator. I have organized the Gozo Seminar for the second time for our final year students which was held at the

Manresa retreat house in February 2020. Over 50 students attended the seminar and gave a 15 minute presentation on their dissertations. My responsibilities as MA coordinator were to meet with the new students at the beginning of the academic year to give them further information on our MA programme, process the MA applications and interview applicants for the MA by taught and research, process the exam and assignment questions, process the MA dissertation titles and set up the board of examiners, work with the Director of the Institute, Dr. Mark Harwood on the material to use to promote our MA courses and give presentations on the various courses offered by the Institute.

As part of my research, I have published a chapter on Juncker's vision on the future of Europe which was published on the Institute for European Studies book on the future of Europe. This was published in 2020. I have also co-written with Dr. Mario Vassallo a paper on migration in Malta which was published in the collection of essays titled Public Life III. I have co-written an article on the European Elections in Malta with Dr. Harwood, Prof Sammut and Mr Ellul which was published in The Review of Economics and Political Science Journal and co-presented a paper with Mr Andre Debattista on the discourse used by the President of the European Commission on the Covid-19 in the ECPR virtual conference which was held between 24 and 27 August 2020.

Dr Moira Catania

Moira Catania lectures in economics and European economic integration. During the academic year 2019/2020, she lectured the following study units to under-graduate students: Introductory Macro-Economics for European Studies, Economics of European Integration 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 his undergraduate dissertation and is currently supervising one student for his post-graduate dissertation. She is also co-supervising one student for her post-graduate

research degree (Master of Arts in European Integration Studies).

During the academic year, Moira Catania continued to coordinate the Institute's placement programme. During the year, an additional agreement was signed with a new entity, thus offering more diverse placement opportunities to the Institute's students. During 2019/2020, her administrative work also comprised coordination of the Institute's outgoing Erasmus student exchange. This was particularly challenging this year due to the exceptional circumstances resulting from the covid-19 pandemic. In particular, most students who were on Erasmus exchange during the second semester decided to return to Malta as travel bans were introduced in March 2020. In liaison with the University's International Office, support was provided to the students involved during the process of their repatriation as well as during their transition to online learning and assessment. Furthermore, a few students decided to terminate their Erasmus learning agreement and they were also offered the necessary support when shifting to the Institute's programme of studies.

In December 2019, Moira Catania was conferred the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by the University of Bradford, UK for her thesis titled 'Budget Institutions in the Euro Area'. Her promotion to Lecturer was approved by Council in February 2020.

During the academic year 2019-2020, Moira Catania's research work was focused on producing an article based on the research work included in one of the Chapters of her PhD thesis. This article, which has been produced together with her PhD supervisors, Dr Mark Baimbridge and Dr Ioannis Litsios, is titled 'National budget institutions in the Euro Area – a common form of fiscal governance?' and is in line for publication.

During the year, Moira Catania also continued to follow developments in the Euro Area, particularly regarding economic governance. In February, she attended a one-day conference on 'Rethinking the European Fiscal Framework' in Brussels, organised by the European Fiscal Board, in collaboration with the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) and Amsterdam Centre of European Studies (ACES). She has also continued to follow closely economic and fiscal developments in Malta. In particular, during the year she has been monitoring the economic impact of the covid-19 pandemic and the economic response of both the Maltese government as well as at a European level. In April 2020, she has attended an online debate on the covid-19 crisis and the positions of EU member states regarding a common European response organised by the Trans European Policy Studies Association.